so greatly enlarged the limits, and opened or not, an upsurge of activity will exceed the exploits which have which, in its range and intensity, will excel the exploits which have so greatly enlarged the limits, and

opened territories of the planet, whether newly
inhabitants of the first year of this

objective of the Ten

exceeded our fondest expectations.

fidelity with which we pursue these

tasks to be undertaken in the second

phase of the Ten Year Plan.

Our

second phase, now auspiciously

ended. The success crowning the

initial stage in its unfoldment has

continued. For American Bahá'ís, and for all Bahá'ís alike, the tasks enumerated for the second phase are:

1. Increase rapidly the number of Bahá'í workers.
2. Preserve the pioneer prizes we have won in virgin areas allotted to the United States and occupied last year.
3. The maintenance of local Assembly status in all cities where it has been established.
4. The steady multiplication of isolated believers, groups and local Assemblies in all areas where National Spiritual Assemblies are to be formed during the World Crusade. For American Bahá'ís this means Alaska, the republics of Central and South America, South and West Africa, Europe, Japan and the South Pacific Islands.
5. Complete arrangements for purchase of Temple sites. Sites have already been purchased in Panama and Johannesburg, leaving sites to be purchased in Stockholm, Rome and Santiago.
6. The establishment of Funds for National Bahá'í Headquarters in capital cities of Sovereign States and in chief cities of listed Dependencies.
For the United States this means Anchorage, Brussels, Copenhagen, Helsingfors, Johannesburg, Lisbon, Luxemburg, Madrid, Oslo, Stockholm, Suva, The Hague, Tokyo. 7. Translation of Bahá’í literature into the languages assigned to the United States.
9. The inauguration of National Bahá’í endowments intended to prepare for the formation of the new National Assemblies.
10. Expedite the legal incorporation of local Assemblies.
11. The establishment of a Publishing Trust.
Beloved friends! The conquest of pioneer areas last year was indeed spectacular. These eleven tasks are far more formidable undertakings, not to be achieved by heroic individuals but dependent upon a great new impetus felt throughout the entire American Bahá’í Community.
—National Spiritual Assembly

EIGHT BAHÁ’Í HEADQUARTERS
U. S. Project for World Crusade

The National Spiritual Assembly has received a directive from the Guardian which assigns for the American believers a weighty and important project for the second year of the Ten Year Plan.

We are to take steps to purchase a Ḥazíratu’l-Quds in the following cities: Anchorage, Alaska; Lima, Peru; Johannesburg, South Africa; Bern, Switzerland; Panama City, Panama; Tokyo, Japan; Rome, Italy; Suva, Fiji Islands.

These should not be elaborate structures, but modest houses which can serve at present as local Ḥazíratu’l-Quds but which will be converted into National Ḥazíratu’l-Quds as soon as National Assemblies are formed.

Beloved friends! This far-reaching and dramatic undertaking involves very important considerations.

First, we note tremendous acceleration in the rate of Bahá’í progress. The Bahá’ís of the United States and Canada did not have a Ḥazíratu’l-Quds until 1939, though a national office had been maintained since 1925.

Second, we note the diversity of the places assigned to the Bahá’ís of the United States—three in the Western Hemisphere, two in Europe, one in Africa, one in the Far East and one in the Isles of the Pacific.

Third, we reflect upon the fact that a Ḥazíratu’l-Quds represents the active functioning of a national administrative body—the national means needed for the release of its powers.

Fourth, it must surely occur to us that in this project a considerable investment is involved, representing a gift from the American Bahá’í community to the new World Order.

Thus we see the Ten Year Plan in its perspective and fulfillment: first, teaching; second, consolidation; and third, the formation of a new National Spiritual Assembly.

Here is a marvelous privilege and a mighty challenge. To undertake it we call upon our inner spirit of faith; to carry it out, we augment our collective powers many-fold.

This is but the first announcement of the project. Plans and information will be reported from time to time.

—National Spiritual Assembly

PIONEERS AND THE RIGHT AND DUTY TO TEACH

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to clarify to the believers their right and duty to enter the pioneer field. Pioneering is an application of the principle under which every Bahá’í has the right and duty to deliver the Message.

However, since pioneering involves travel and settlement, the believers who can sustain themselves financially are in a different position from those who need budgets. Wherever budgets are not needed, the believer is free to go and settle wherever he chooses. He needs no special permission or authority to do so. But he will surely notify the National Spiritual Assembly or its Intercontinental Teaching Committee of his intention, as a matter of courtesy and necessary information, like any report of a change of residence. Once the National Spiritual Assembly or Committee is informed, the believer is classified as a pioneer and all possible service rendered.

It is only in the particular and special case where a pioneer settlement might adversely affect the teaching work—in this case the administrative body must act for the protection of the Faith.

Except for this one obvious consideration, which is the rare exception, the individual or Bahá’í family able to pioneer is perfectly free to do so and will receive the grateful appreciation of all fellow-believers.

—National Spiritual Assembly

WHAT TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE PIONEER?

Today many Bahá’ís, especially the youth, look forward to living and serving the Faith in parts of the world that were practically unknown to us prior to May 1, 1953. A question that many believers ask is:

“What kind of educational programs should be planned for our children and youth who will be the future pioneers?”

There is no single answer to this important question. In the first place, revolutionary changes are taking place in every corner of the earth and it is impossible to predict today what the next five or ten years, or even three years, will bring in the realms of politics, economics, education, scientific and social advancement.

Some of the countries to which we are now carrying the Message of Bahá’u’lláh are among the foremost nations according to present standards of civilization, and anyone planning to serve the Faith in those places may be guided in his preparations by the needs and opportunities existing in our own country.

There are other countries, however, whose peoples do not yet enjoy what the western world regards as the basic minimums in daily comforts and conveniences. Those who can go out to live among such peoples, to help encourage and stimulate their initiative and capacities, to teach them the basic principles of modern agriculture, production, health and welfare, are indeed the servants of mankind. The following suggestions compiled from extensive examination of government and other reliable documents, as well as from letters by Bahá’í pioneers, may be of some assistance in planning educational programs for Bahá’í boys and girls.

Teachers. All over the world there is a shortage of teachers. For the particular needs of the Ten Year Crusade, there are opportunities especially for young men teachers of intermediate and high school grades who also possess some skill in such things as simple carpentry, tool repair, elementary agriculture, poultry raising or animal husbandry. Some background in anthropology is usually required. Rich opportunities for service will be found by those teachers who are willing to live in isolated, primitive villages and become part of the life of the people.
Nurses. Graduate nurses, with native ability to improvise and to adjust to unprofessional environments, are in great demand. There is need in some areas for nurses who have had hospital management and administrative experience, and who are qualified to teach and supervise native student nurses.

Doctors. International health organizations occasionally have openings for experts in the field of medicine, but because this is a highly specialized field here is not the place to outline requirements. The various intercontinental teaching committees will be glad to refer questions to Bahá'í doctors who are qualified to supply details.

Construction workers, carpenters, electricians, tool repair and automotive repairmen. The entire world is suffering from lack of housing. Almost total absence of transportation and shipping facilities in some areas has made it impossible to secure essential building materials. The rapid deterioration of wood and metal in some climates calls for constant preservation and repair.

Stenographers. This type of worker can secure a position almost anywhere. However, there is decreasing disposition on the part of government agencies to employ stenographers whose transportation must be paid to a foreign post.

Agriculturalists. There are often openings in areas where governments are endeavoring to teach and encourage the indigenous people to increase production and the variety of foods.

Radio operators and technicians, weather forecasters, and similar workers are often needed in isolated posts.

And in many areas beauty shops, laundries, dry cleaning establishments and shoe repair shops are urgently needed.

Employment opportunities for highly specialized workers are not numerous in most pioneer areas. Government technical aid programs will continue to call for the services of experts for surveys, pilot studies and special experiments, but for the most part the need is for the type of workers generally to be found in the small towns and villages throughout our country rather than for specialists who tend to congregate in thickly populated areas.

Besides education and training for a profession or trade as a means of livelihood, prospective Bahá'í pioneers would do well to acquire such skills as first aid, home nursing, simple handcrafts, simple sewing, shoe repair, gardening, as a means for contacting and serving people in a personal, neighborly way. Knowledge of other languages is also helpful, particularly in areas under the control of governments whose official language is other than English.

We must dismiss from our minds the idea that any American can find employment anywhere in the world. This is not true today. In many places the employment of non-natives is limited to persons from the country that has political jurisdiction over that area. Furthermore, native peoples themselves have pro-
gressed in education and experience to the point where they are well qualified to serve, not only as laborers, but as primary school teachers, practical nurses, office clerks, and traders. This is a trend to which Bahá'ís will lend their wholehearted support, particularly in the areas in which they pioneer.

Important as it is to have a trade or profession by which to earn a living, it is even more essential to possess those qualities of character and behavior by which the Bahá'í must be distinguished among men. The Guardian has given complete guidance for this preparation in The Advent of Divine Justice, wherein the prospective pioneer will also find practical suggestions for all other aspects of preparation as well.

Prepared by Charlotte Linfoot at the request of The National Spiritual Assembly.

PILGRIMS' NOTES

The following reference in a letter written on behalf of the Guardian was published in Bahá'í News, June 1927, and is reprinted here at the request of The National Spiritual Assembly.

"Regarding the notes taken by pilgrims at Haifa. The Guardian has stated that he is unwilling to sign the notes of any pilgrim, in order that the literature consulted by the believers shall not be unduly extended... This means that the notes of pilgrims do not carry the authority resident in the Guardian's letters written over his own signature. On the other hand, each pilgrim brings back information and suggestions of a most precious character, and it is the privilege of all the friends to share in the spiritual results of these visits."

CORRECTIONS IN CABLE FROM THE GUARDIAN

The National Spiritual Assembly has been directed to make the following corrections in the text of the Guardian's cable of March 29, published in the April Bahá'í News:

Second paragraph, first sentence, should read: "(This) triumphant soul (is) now gathered (to the) distinguished band (of her) co-workers..." and "Mediterranean (Sea) attest the magnificence (of the)...

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

This precious glimpse of Marlon Jack shows the happy, radiant spirit of this "immortal heroine." With the picture come a few references, in the form of pilgrim's notes, to remarks about Miss Jack made by the beloved Guardian. Their purport is that Miss Jack did not bring many believers into the Cause, but her spirit was very wonderful. She had a serenity that was the result of her faith. Very few have attained that degree of serene faith — confident faith. 'Abdu'l-Bahá used to joke with her. He called her "General Jack". She was a Canadian believer and the Canadians should be proud of her.

As directed by the Guardian, a Memorial gathering is to be held in the Bahá'í House of Worship at Wilmette, at 8:00 P.M. Saturday, July 3, 1954.

WORLD CRUSADE

EIGHTH PIONEER REPORT

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States is happy to announce the arrival of the following pioneers at their posts in World Crusade goal areas.

ARRIVALS IN VIRGIN AREAS
Mr. Howard Gilliland arrived in Labrador, April 29, 1954.
Mrs. H. J. Snider arrived in Key West, Florida, (no date given)
Mr. Haig Kevorian arrived in the Gallapagos Islands, May 29, 1954.

ARRIVALS IN CONSOLIDATION AREAS
Mr. Fred A. Kluss arrived in Santa Ana, El Salvador, October 15, 1955.

This report is published in the July, 1954, issue of Bahá'í News.
any event there are by now several hundred people, probably, who know something about us. We have very few books, having brought only 8 with us, but what we have are well-circulated and well-thumbed.”

Mr. and Mrs. Hope in Angola have had their visa extended and are busy getting established and acquainted. One way they have found to make friends and also a little money is giving English lessons. They write: “We have held a couple of informal gatherings and have had some good discussions on the Faith. One woman, an American, wishes to learn more and we are waiting to meet with her and her husband. Things appear brighter now that we are in Luanda and can make long-range plans. Our hope is a weekly fireside or class. We are also having more contact with the natives and may be able to give the message to a group of them through a contact and friend.”

Miss Ottillie Rhein on Mauritius Island writes that she now has a residence visa and thus can make plans to remain. She writes of the place in general: “Mauritius has no native population so to speak. One is either descended from the ‘Master or his slaves’. People in government service rarely ever stay any longer than 3-5 years. Most everyone is glad to get away again and you can’t blame them after you know what man did to Mauritius since his arrival and settlement on this island. Several years ago they swamped the place with electric stoves and all sorts of appliances far too heavy for the generators. As a result electricity is very much curtailed, which means spoiled meat and food poisoning.”

Bill Foster has recently gone from Monrovia, Liberia, where he worked so faithfully for two and a half years and helped establish the Assembly there in April, 1953, to Casablanca where he has already has a position and will soon be joined by his wife and children.

Fred and Beth Laws have been in Basutoland 7 months now, have traveled over the area extensively and become well acquainted with the country and many of its people. They have been able to show people by their actions that their Faith means service; deeds, not words alone. At one school Fred has built and installed a potter’s wheel, the first such wheel in Basutoland. They have made warm and friendly contacts at other schools.

The Allen’s, John and Valera, have been in Swaziland about a month and already have driven over 2,000 miles in that area getting familiar with the country and conditions. They are already learning to speak Zulu and showing slides on America at schools there.

Marguerite Sears was in the U.S. briefly this Spring. She left for Johannesburg at the end of May. On the subject of pioneering in general she told two members of this committee: “When one finally gets to his pioneer post he finds that he is still basically the same person. People think that some spiritual alchemy will change them into new beings when they arrive at their pioneer posts. This is not the case. They find that after the glow of departure has passed, they have brought along with them the same desirable and undesirable characteristics which they had at home. The aggressive ones remain aggressive, the passive likewise, and they find that their pioneer fellows are the same. Study of the Covenant, according to the Guardian, is the only source of the ‘fire of the love of God’ and only through the love of God can we love our fellow man. In the final analysis when we get accustomed to the bad coffee, or strange food and get a job and become established, the only thing important is the mass of humanity to whom we may talk which gradually opens like a flower and eventually says ‘can I, too, become a Bahá’í?’”

Marguerite further explained, and we see evidences of this in many of the letters from the pioneers, that if we are to really succeed in these great tasks, the idea which must be basic at all times is: how to be of real service, in the fullest and highest sense, to the people.

**PIONEER LETTERS**

The National Spiritual Assembly shares the following passages from pioneer letters with the Bahá'í community, in keeping with its policy of informing the believers about the unfoldment of the World Crusade. The excerpts cited here are presented in an attempt to give some of the incidents which show the character of the newly-opened territories and reflect the spirit of the pioneers in these far-flung outposts.

**Excerpts from Pioneer Letters to the Africa Teaching Committee**

**French Somaliland**: Fred Schechter spent three months in Djibouti and since leaving because of his inability to obtain a visa extension is attempting arrangements for an Egyptian Bahá’í to take up in French Somaliland where he left off. He writes of French Somaliland:

“Djibouti is divided into various sections. There is what may be termed the European residential area; the business part divided into Greek owned shops, Indian and Arab shops, and the big shipping agencies; then there is the Arab quarter; and finally, the huge shack-town where the vast majority of the Somalis live. With this diverse population, the languages used are also diverse. The population can’t exceed 25,000, and the languages are Arabic, Somali, French, Greek, Gujarati, Italian, and combinations of all of them. Arabic could be considered the lingua franca here as it is throughout the East, then French. If two people, a Greek and a Frenchman can’t speak each other’s language, they speak Arabic.

“Most of the people are Muslim; the rest Roman Catholic or Greek Orthodox. There are two fairly large mosques and numerous smaller ones scattered throughout the city. There’s one church.

“Almost the entire population of French Somaliland lives in Djibouti. There are a few thousand nomadic shepherds tending their flocks in the hills around the Ethiopian border. . . . There’s a great potential. If the tremendous differences of culture, language, etc., could be blended, Djibouti would be a model city.

**Northern Territories Protectorate**: Julius A. G. Edwards from Jamaica, pioneering in his brief three months at Tamale, Northern Territories of the Gold Coast Colony, was able to confirm three residents there who are now carrying on as an organized group. These new believers have written applications to the African Committee in such language as the following:

“I humbly beg to apply for admission in the Bahá’í Faith. I have gone through Bahá’u’lláh and the New Era, The Dispensation of
Bahá’u’lláh, Your Experience as a Bahá’í, in study classes with Mr. Edwards, and I am fully satisfied with the stations of the following figures of the Faith: The Bab as Precursor and Prophet, Bahá’u’lláh as the Prophet of the age, 'Abdu’l-Bahá as the Center of the Covenant, Interpreter and Exemplar of the Faith.

"I shall be too happy to conform to the administrative principles set forth by 'Abdu’l-Bahá which invokes Shoghi Effendi as the Guardian.

"It is a pleasure to me that Africa is not forgotten by bringing this modern Faith to us. This Bahá’í Faith embraces all aspects of life. I extend my love to all Bahá’ís in the East and West; I hope that Peace, Love and Unity shall prevail."

Following is an excerpt from a subsequent report of this newly-organized Bahá’í group which also told of local actions taken by the group:

"It was decided that regular study classes for the group, especially for deepening purposes, be held every Wednesday at 5:30 P.M. and that another class be held each Sunday for the benefit of contacts at the same hour.

"Mr. Edwards strongly advised that there must be team work and group action in every step of the way, meaning that there must be consultation on all matters before any action whatsoever is taken on decisions, unanimous or by majority vote. The meeting adjourned until next Sunday at 5:30 P.M."

Rex and Mary Collison and Dunduzu Chisiza, Ruanda-Urundi
Ruanda-Urundi, March 11, 1954

"Our passports have been renewed for another 2 years.

"We seem to have reached the limit of English-speaking contacts here. Of these we think two will probably become Bahá’ís in time but we have found it very difficult for various reasons to find time when they are able and willing to meet with us either in their own homes or here.

"We are not at all discouraged as to the eventual progress of the Faith in R-U. Although education is conspicuously lacking, many people here are thinking for themselves. Many are eager to talk with us directly. Teaching through a translator is most difficult for all concerned. He indeed is a rare interpreter who doesn’t take most of the spirit out of anything in transmitting it. Because of our inability to get in touch with people and talk to them directly, we are convinced that someone who speaks French should be here with us. Isn’t there someone, preferably a couple or a man, who knows French and would like to come to this beautiful and rapidly developing country? Direct teaching must be done sooner or later—the sooner the better.

"Toward the end of January we made a trip to Kampala and were away three weeks in all. We were lucky in having no rains and good roads (for Africa) both ways. Came back in record time—almost 600 miles in 2 days. Drove here and looked after the house while we were away... It was wonderful seeing all our friends again after seven rather lonely months."

Helen and Robert Miller, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa.
Johannesburg, March, 1954

"For a number of years, prior to the middle of 1953, Reginald Turvey of Johannesburg, and Agnes Carey of Durban, were the two members of the Faith residing in South Africa. Since that time Johannesburg has become a veritable hub of Bahá’í activity. The first pioneers to arrive under the Ten-Year Plan on South Africa soil were Bill, Marguerite and Michael Sears, who arrived in July. In August they were followed by Bahiyih and Harry Ford, and Ruth and Bishop Brown, the latter two settling in Durban. The Sears, Fords and Mr. Turvey organized a group in Johannesburg in August. Soon after, the Sears left on an extensive and very successful teaching tour of Central and East Africa.

"Teaching has, of necessity, progressed very slowly, due to the instructions of the Guardian, for the conditions for spreading the Faith in South Africa are as difficult as anywhere in the world. A Sunday evening discussion group at the Fords’ apartment building was eventually turned into a full-fledged Bahá’í Study Group, out of which two people have expressed a desire to declare themselves at the March second Feast. The death of Harry Ford provided a very strong teaching medium through the impressive Bahá’í Service, and through the Spirit generated other hearts have become receptive, and there are at least eight coming to a Fireside to hear John Robarts. Out of this Fireside, we hope that another class can be formed. There were exactly nineteen at the funeral.

"Bob, Helen, Karen, Bob and Gretchen Miller arrived in early December to settle in Johannesburg. Bahá’ís visitors have been coming in a steady stream. Frederick and Beth Laws were here for a few days, enroute from Kenya to their new post in Basutoland. The Lowell Johnsons are in Capetown, are very active there, and do a splendid job of meeting ships and entertaining incoming Bahá’ís. Kenneth, Roberta and Roger Christian stayed for several days before proceeding to their goal at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. The Bishop Browns have made several trips from Durban, the last of which was at the time Mr. Brown read the funeral service for Harry Ford. Lyle and Eleanor Haedle, arriving in December, stayed in Durban for a time, visited in Johannesburg, and at the present time are seeing friends in Southern Rhodesia. The latest additions to the South Africa Bahá’í family are John, Audrey, Patrick and Mina Robarts from Canada, whose goal is Bechuanaland. Doris Ballard of Colorado and England is expected to arrive in this city at any moment, and she will live with Bahiyih Ford. Ted Cardell is the only pioneer in Southwest Africa, and we keep in close touch with him, as Southwest Africa and the Union of South Africa are together in the Ten-Year Plan.

"The formation of a Local Spiritual Assembly is assured by April. How great is the Power of God!"

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Hope, Angola, Luanda, February 2, 1954

"I will pioneer to Africa, just a few words, one sentence, spoken on the platform of the Intercontinental Conference in Wilmette. It seemed impossible at the time that this dream would materialize, yet here I sit in a city I had never before known existing—praising God for the miracles He has performed and will continue to perform. Laws, customs, prejudices, financial limitations, language; these are not barriers for Him.

"Angola is a rich Portuguese colony and is being preserved chiefly as a suburb of Portugal itself. Its laws were enacted to protect Portuguese labor and Capital. For an American to find work here is almost impossible unless specially trained, yet if it be the Will..."
of Bahá'u'lláh, I shall find employment, thus enabling me to remain here as a part of the Ten Year Crusade.

"Here in a European atmosphere one can almost forget that a few miles away lay the wilds of Africa. While many natives can be seen daily in the streets of Luanda, clad in their native garments, also to be seen are those who have become part of the Portuguese society and are granted citizenship. Class prejudice is more dominant here than color prejudice as known in the United States.

"The natives are quite docile and are brought in from the bush to perform all the manual labor. One gets the impression that he is back in the slave years of America while watching them work. There is little joy in their lives and they appear resignedly to accept their fate. Many of their ancestors actually were slaves as the bulk of the slaves shipped to America and Brazil came from Portuguese Angola.

"It is so apparent that only prayer and the mercy of God can alleviate the diversified sufferings of the inhabitants of the world and I can appreciate the Guardian's intense interest in the long-suffering Africans. I believe, of all the possessions that a pioneer takes with him, the most useful and indispensable is his prayer book. We not only must teach, we must, above all else, pray.

"The easiest way to enter Angola is through business. They welcome American Capital as there is a great need for American dollars. Coffee is the only sizable export to the United States and this is not enough to offset the amount of imports from that country. There are few large concerns here because of the red tape imposed by the Government. They prefer to have Americans with capital invest their money locally, forming corporations under Portuguese regulations. There are several highly successful business ventures here with room for others."

Frederick and Elizabeth Laws, Basutoland.

"Six and one-half weeks out of New York, our slow boat to East Africa set us down in Mombasa on April 26 — five days too late for Nairobi's election. It took five more days to reach our goal and learn that, although we were not needed for help in forming the Assembly, our assistance was still essential.

Nairobi is big and scattered; transportation was a real problem to which we brought the Ford as a partial answer. Wednesday afternoon meetings at our house had to accommodate upwards of twenty. Sunday, at the United Kenya Club, there were often thirty or more, with seldom an occasion when there was not someone hearing the Faith for the first time. Almost every week there was one or more who were ready to declare their faith.

"Africans, Indians, Persians, English and Americans — these were our people. From a dozen tribes and half a dozen nations we came together to listen and learn and teach. English and Persian, Maragoli, Kikuyu and Swahili — these were the languages heard at our meetings. We read the Writings, we told about the Faith, but there was one element that accomplished more than all our talking. We were a living group practicing the principles of the Kingdom of God on Earth.

"At length the Guardian's cable exploded in our midst setting afire the hearts of our members. Fourteen volunteered to go to new territory. Our Commercante, Freddie Schechter, was the first; then Ted Cardell, the Alai's, Claire Gung, and ourselves. We chose the overland safari down through the heart of East Africa to the virgin territory of Basutoland. Three thousand miles of 'virgin' roads — the trip was rough but had its compensations. We arrived on October 13.

"An island of native culture in the sea of Apartheid, Basutoland's unique position as a completely native reserve offers a challenge that only the Faith can meet. Missionaries have been here since 1833. They came shortly after the nation was founded by Moshesh from the remnants of many tribes scattered by the infamous Taaha, the Attila of South Africa. Thanks largely to Moshesh's attitude toward the Missionaries and white man's learning, the Basuto are a highly literate people. They herd and farm and there are many thousands of them who work in mines in the Union. Their mixed origin accounts in part for the high level of intelligence they display.

"This is our present field of work. We have toured the country from North to South acquainting ourselves with the land and the people and them with us. It is a beautiful country, mountainous and healthful. Its people a happy people. Truly it is a land of promise. We have presented the Faith to one European family. Cautioned to be very slow in teaching in South Africa, we are quietly laying the foundation for a major campaign to be opened as soon as we are fully and permanently settled. May Bahá'u'lláh grant that time come soon! With hearts full of love and eagerness to serve the beloved Faith, we tell this little story in the hope that it may inspire others to enlist under the pioneering standard and share with us the joys of a service that cannot elsewhere be equalled nor will ever again be offered when these days are done."

"If you know of a couple who would like to retire and still be in business, there is a good opportunity at Quthing (Basutoland). With a relatively small capital, a much needed hotel could be built where there is none. As little as $10,000 would be adequate to begin with. In construction out here a dollar is worth about two at home . . . . Any hotel that is able to provide a palatable cuisine would be like the better mousetrap. The orange river valley can be dammed to provide for irrigation and power. A sizeable lake would make a good resort spot, too, of which there are not too many in the mountains where it is relatively cool in summer. How soon the dam project will open is undecided, but surveys are now under way to calculate the potential."

Cape Verde Islands: Two weeks after their arrival, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Menking write that they are very fortunate in finding a house and that since Howard came there as a Commercante (businessman), it appears they will be assured of a residence visa. They write: "We have made many wonderful friends here and we are looking forward to the time when we can invite them into our home to get better acquainted with them. We have loaned some of our books out already, some Portuguese New Eras that we brought from Lisbon. We stocked up on a good supply of literature in Lisbon so we have enough to last for a long time."

Cape Verde Islands: In the Canary Islands, Gertrude Eisenberg has had the opportunity to meet many traveling people and amongst those to hear the story of the World Faith has been an Arab artist, the first of
the North African tribe of the “Berbers” to become interested in the Faith. Gertrude is conducting English classes and establishing contacts.

Elsie Austin, Tangier, Morocco International Zone

“The Tangier area, though one of the most accessible and easily entered of the North African areas, poses many real problems for Bahá’í pioneering.

“Americans desiring to come to Tangier need only a valid passport. No bonds or residence deposits of any kind are required of them. Since the United States is a member of the International Committee which governs the International Zone and city of Tangier.

“Living conditions in Tangier are good, but extremely high. Housing is expensive. Furnishings, clothing and medicines are the same. Food is relatively cheap. A family coming to Tangier or a lone Bahá’í will need about 150 to 200 dollars a month to keep the average standard of living.

“Employment conditions are poor. There are many American firms in Tangier but their policy is to hire the local persons (French, Spanish or Arab) and their wages are very low. Local persons who have homes already established can make it since they do not have to establish a home. Tangier is a war period city. In peace times it suffers severe depression. I have the impression that many businesses here are merely fronts behind which foreign capital hides its war emergency funds. Business and business practices do not have the moral standards Americans are accustomed to.

“Unless one speaks French or Spanish rather fluently he will be economically handicapped in trying to find work.”

“Our first effort in this city has been directed to establishing ourselves as worthy individuals. We have all made good contacts socially and have won the respect of individuals. The American pioneer has contacted the American Embassy, the American School and various other individuals. The Persian pioneers have contacted an outstanding Arab family and have made them warm personal friends. All of our friends and contacts official and non-official know that we are Bahá’ís.

“The Group meets about three times a week. It has had stationery printed and a group seal. It is establishing a library of Bahá’í literature in the three most widely spoken languages in Tangier. All members of the Group are enrolled in language classes somewhere in order to perfect our knowledge of French, Spanish and Arabic.

“The American pioneer has made good use of the color slides brought from the states. These include a series on the Temple, the Dedication and the Bahá’í schools. Her one regret is that she did not bring a projector. Every time the slides are shown it is necessary to borrow a projector from the American School principal. These slides are an excellent teaching medium as they show the status of the Faith. She has even added some of the old black and white slides on the Goal of the New World order showing the properties of the Faith in other lands and the wide varieties of peoples in it. In this connection, the next best teaching aid to the slides has been the copy of The Bahá’í World she brought along.

“The Persian pioneers have done outstanding work in contacting a prominent Arab family here. The wife is deeply interested in the Faith and can discuss its principles with enthusiasm.

“One of the Persian friends here has contacted the masses quite frequently.

“One of our greatest teaching difficulties is the language problem. Even among ourselves we have a hard time and our meetings have to proceed with translations and signs. But then the language of the heart always rescues us. We pray that this universal language will come to our aid in communicating with all people.

“We have obtained Arabic and Spanish help and we try to show every kindness and interest to them, hoping to open their hearts to us.

“It has been our happy privilege to be visited by the pioneers from Casablanca and from Rabat. During Christmas week these friends joined us here in Tangier and tried to help the Persian friends in the residence difficulties. We met Mr. and Mrs. Masrour and Mrs. Chradet. (Pictures were taken and we hope to send you some of these.) Also, in December, the wonderful Mr. M. Mustafa, who went to the Spanish Sahara. He is a wonderful soul and inspired and cheered us all during those dark days when it seemed as if the Persian friends would not receive their residence permits.

“We are also very fortunate in that we see some of the Ceuta pioneers at least every six weeks. Mrs. Jannsen and the Flemmings all bank in Tangier. Hence when they come they always arrange for a visit with us. Recently the American pioneer in Tangier went to Ceuta for a visit and came back with glowing reports of the set-up there. It is wonderful. The friends have taken a little villa together. It is high on a hill facing the straits surrounded by both Arab and Spanish families. Though unable to speak of the Faith they have, by living the life, drawn all around them as friends. As they are the only Americans in Ceuta, the whole city knows them and observes them with keen interest. They have quite a lot of acreage around the villa which they would love to buy. They see visions of a school for the village children and a playground. John Fleming, being the only man is looked upon with real awe. He is a wonderful fellow. He has had some hospital and practical experience and to him come all the hurt and wounded of the village for help, first aid. (The week I was there a father brought his boy who had just fallen and had a terrible face cut. The friends have entered an Arab boy in the Spanish school there and have plans to do the same for a girl. They have had real hardships in many ways but they make a wonderful and merry household and I really was inspired by the visit there.) Incidentally living in Ceuta is very very cheap, much different from Tangier. However the climate is very damp and moist. I give this information so that others considering a place to strengthen may know of it.

“Here in Tangier we ask your prayers that our difficulties may be overcome, and that we may be assisted to achieve the strength, wisdom and guidance we need for our area. You would be happy to see our unity in tests, trials, achievements and all the adventures which come to us. We are deeply grateful for the blessing of this Bahá’í companionship we have.

“We are joyously waiting for the new pioneers, and praying that our new assembly will materialize and become a point of strength and illumination in North Africa, thus rendering happy the heart of the Beloved Guardian.

JULY, 1954
Excerpts from Pioneer Letters to the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee
John Leonard, (en route to the Falkland Islands.)

On writing to isolated pioneers:
"Having experienced the unbounded love and generosity of the friends myself, I know how it feels—what it can do to lighten one's load and intensify tenfold one's efforts."

On Puerto Rico: "The wonderful Baha'is of Puerto Rico send you, and all their fellow believers, their deep love. They are wonderful!"

At the airport in Fort of Spain, Trinidad, John had a remarkable conversation with three of the guards, a Catholic, a Muslim and an "intellectual." John writes, "Every step in our conversation seemed to lead logically to the next one ... We all felt a warm, deep sense of gratitude at meeting one another. The intellectual couldn't ask enough questions, and said he was definitely going to look up the Baha'i Faith and study about it.

"My most moving contact was with the Muslim, who lived his faith intensely, yet refused to go along with aspects which he felt were not in accord with his own obviously enlightened, deeply spiritual view of Islam. He told me much of what he felt, also asked me many questions about the Baha'i Faith. At the end of the evening he told me he thought my Faith had more to offer him of what he truly loved and believed in than his own. His whole heart was in every word. My own heart almost burst at the beauty of his spirit, and I was consumed with gratitude to Baha'u'llah, Who had arranged this heavenly gathering.

From Montevideo: "Last night I gathered with the friends ... and learned of the death of Dorothy Baker. Looking into the eyes of these friends and feeling their great grief over the loss of someone they deeply loved, I could only feel that her spirit will guide the Crusade in South America just as Louis Gregory inspires the people of Africa. "The confirmations of Baha'u'llah are marvelously evident.

"Wonderful assistance is being manifested in Montevideo, and I believe there are some new contacts. Two are artists, extremely intelligent, sensitive and fine human beings, one of whom is obviously so interested in the Faith that his face simply burns with intensity whenever he hears anything about it ... "This is 'it', so to speak. In two days I set sail, on the wings of your prayers, for the Falkland Islands ... I've been getting more impatient by the minute ... it's a wonderful feeling to think that the journey at last is almost over.

"I'm keenly aware of your love and your prayers—from all of you—and doubtless they do me more good than letters. Actually I'm far from feeling alone—I feel as if I never had so much company in my whole life ... Please God I may serve our Beloved well."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CANADA

Ontario Summer Conference
The Ontario Summer Conference is to be held at Geneva Park, Lake Couchiching, from July 31 to August 7.

The week of study will feature courses on "The Living Framework", experience in consultation; "Essential Principles of the Faith"; and "World Order Unfolds", by a pilgrim recently returned from Haifa.

For further information write;
Mrs. Noreen Keith-Beattie
34 Thorncrest Road
Toronto 18, Ontario, Canada
CENTRAL AMERICA

With the Fourth Annual Convention, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, April 22 to 25, Central America closed the first year of the World Crusade—a year of hard and intense work and of glorious victories.

Through the wonderful guidance and encouragement of the beloved Guardian, the fine collaboration of the United States Bahá'í Community, and the dedication and heroic efforts of active believers in the territory, these Crusade Goals were won:

1. Establishment of all the Virgin Areas in Central America, to wit: Bahamas, British Honduras, Dutch West Indies, Margarita Island.

2. Establishment of two out of three Virgin Goals in the Pacific: Gilbert and Ellice Islands, and Tuamotu Archipelago. (The remaining one, Marshall Islands, is about to be filled, God willing.)

3. Purchase of a beautiful hilltop commanding Panama City and environs as site for the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkár in Central America.

Since all the efforts of the National Spiritual Assembly of Central America were concentrated this last year in winning these Goals, the Consolidation Goals have suffered and, accordingly, there exists a very grave emergency which can only be met through the immediate settlement of pioneer consolidators in the critical spots. In Honduras and Nicaragua existing Assemblies are being lost, in Martinique there is not a single believer, other countries still need help, such as, Cuba (Cienfuegos), Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Panama. There are no words to express our gratitude for the selfless believers who are arising to help in this work, but more help is needed, and at once, if the World Crusade Goals are to be fulfilled.

The attendance of Katharine McLaughlin, as representative of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, at the Convention was of great aid. The members of the newly-formed Auxiliary Board of the American Hands are about to lend their aid. Nevertheless, it is felt that all this will not be sufficient if pioneers do not settle the critical spots.

Anyone desiring to help in this vital work may write:
The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central America Sr. Esteban Canales, Secy. Apartado 513 Panama City, Panama

PERSIA

Annual Election Report

The membership of the National Spiritual Assembly of Persia for the current year, with officers, has been reported: Chairman, Shu'a'u'lláh Alá'i; Vice-Chairman, Kazim Kazimzadeh; Secretary; 'Ali-Akbar Furútan; Treasurer, Dhiqárílláh Khadem; Válíyú'lláh Varqá, Jalál Kházhéz, Dr. 'Ali Muḥammad Barafrúktí, Munír Dirákhshán, Adélaide Sharp.

FIRST PAMPHLET IN MODERN GREEK

The first Bahá'í publication in Modern Greek has appeared in Athens in the form of a translation of the 24-page introductory pamphlet The Dawn of World Civilization.

SOUTH AMERICA

The work of consolidation and extension of the Faith on the South American Continent got off to a good start in April when Gay and Mario Rodriguez left their home in Lima, Peru to settle in Huancayo, Peru and give the Message to the people of the highlands. They had their first public meeting on May 23 for the Declaration of the Báb, with an attendance of 33 people! Twelve of those attending were so interested that they stayed until one-thirty in the morning. They had two newspaper articles published before the meeting, one a half-page spread with a big picture of the Temple, and the other a follow-up article announcing the public meeting. Some of the guests came as a result of the publicity. They are planning one public meeting a month and the Bahá'ís of Lima and Callao, Peru, will take turns visiting them and speaking for their meetings. Mario and Gay are so on fire with the desire to teach the Faith and so enthusiastic about their new friends that they cannot but have success.

Peru is not alone in being able to point with pride to their own pioneers who have gone out in response to the Guardian's plea to extend the boundaries of the Faith and to work toward the establishment of the ten new National Assemblies in South America. Chile also can boast of its own pioneer family, Nery and René Rogel, who left Osorno to go with their three small children to Comodoro Rivadavia, Argentina, to spread the Glad Tidings and thus establish still another new Bahá'í group on the continent.

Thus the Bahá'ís of South America are beginning to vie with each other in their service to the Cause, and from the efforts of such devoted souls as these will come into being the first National Spiritual Assembly of some country on the Continent. Only Bahá'u'lláh knows which country will be blessed in winning that great honor.

Dorothy Campbell, for the National Spiritual Assembly of South America.
Dear Bahá’í Friends:

In this issue of Bahá’í News appears a list of goal cities which are to be the focus of our Bahá’í teaching work this year. A Spiritual Assembly is to be elected in each of these cities by 1963, so that the total number of 300 Bahá’í communities within the United States desired by the Guardian may be attained.

It should be noted that forty of these goal cities are, as of June 15, without any resident Bahá’ís. Some of the cities which were so listed last year have been moved into the columns of cities showing resident Bahá’ís, through the devotion of those who arose to settle them last year. Others have disappeared from the list entirely, through the formation of Local Spiritual Assemblies.

The great movement of pioneers within the United States is an essential part of the World Crusade, “the noblest collective enterprise undertaken by the followers of the Most Great Name for the propagation and establishment of His Faith over the entire face of the planet” (Shoghi Effendi).

With the support of the National Spiritual Assembly, the American National Teaching Committee is reaching out to every believer in the United States, through its Area Teaching Committees and the Local Spiritual Assemblies and calling for settlement of every virgin goal city, development as rapidly as possible of sufficient membership to establish assemblies, the intensive and continuous teaching effort required to preserve every spiritual prize already won, and awareness on the part of each believer that he must feel it his sacred privilege to guide some soul into the shelter of the Faith this year.

The National Teaching Committee calls each believer to undertake his tasks on the home front in this second phase of the World Crusade. All are requested to study the role of the individual at every level of the home front teaching plan (printed on pages 6 and 7 of the June, 1954, Bahá’í News) and to find ways to serve in specific situations.

Any offers to help may be addressed to: American National Teaching Committee, Jesma Herbert, Secretary, 725 South Alvaredo Street, Los Angeles 57, California.

The National Teaching Committee, through its Area Teaching Committees, will exert all effort to bring to assembly status all Bahá’í localities outside established Bahá’í Communities, to offer help and support to small communities whose status is insecure; and will encourage volunteer activities by individuals, unified action by groups, extension teaching by communities, and the attendance of all believers, whether in communities, in groups, or in isolated status, at all Area Conferences and State Conventions.

We are humbly seeking the prayers of the believers of the United States for our guidance and support.

—AMERICAN NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE
Jesma Herbert, Secretary

### GOAL CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE WORLD CRUSADE AT HOME

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**SOUVENIR OF 'ABDU'L-BAHA**

The Forty-Second Annual Souvenir of 'Abdu'l-Bahá was held on Saturday, June 26, 1954, at the Bahá’í Center in Teaneck, New Jersey. This meeting is held to commemorate 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to America in 1912. On Saturday, June 29, of that year, He personally gave a Unity Feast for some 450 of His friends on the same grounds.

After a program at Evergreen Cabin on the theme "Bahá'u'lláh—The Light of the World", which featured the reading of the address given by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1912, the friends adjourned to the grove of pine trees where the first Unity Feast was held, for a service of prayers and readings from the Writings of the Bahá’í Faith.

In the evening, at an informal gathering in the cabin, pictures of Haifa were shown.

**AMERICAN INDIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE**

Contact with Hopi Leaders

Through the May 18, 1954, Arizona Republic of Phoenix, the Hopi Sun Chief, Dan Kachongeva (Kachongeva), issued a call "to all people of good will" to attend a Council at the Hopi Pueblo.

Avaling themselves of this opportunity, members of the American Indian Teaching Committee and the Phoenix Bahá’í Community attended the Council. The representatives arrived at the Hopi Pueblo of Hotevilla the night of May 21.

On May 22 the Council was held, not under the sun, as planned, but in the sacred Kiva, the Hopi ceremonial chamber, where there was shelter from the blowing sand. The admittance of visitors to the Kiva was unprecedented.

Through an interpreter, Chief Kachongeva stated that the Hopi, as a people, had obtained permission from the Supreme Being to occupy their land and were the original and only legitimate occupants. Their religious and political systems had been given through the instruction of a Great Brother. They had asked their Great Brother to be their leader, but He had answered that only after they had succeeded in living the good life he advocated would He lead them.

These conservative Hopi believe that their faith is not the only way, but that it is the way they have been
given and must follow. Hopi means "the peaceful one" and the Hopi does not bear arms. He is industrious and works and prays for the benefit of all mankind. He has accepted the hardships brought by white occupation of his homeland because it is the fulfillment of ancient prophecy. The conservative Hopi await the fulfillment of their further prophecy of a third and most horrible world war in which they will not participate. After this war, they believe, a new and happier day, with a new way of life, will dawn.

After presenting other, present-day problems of Hopi life the leader asked the visitors to speak. A Bahá'í spokesman presented the greetings of the Bahá'í World Community and told of the Bahá'í faith in one God and one people with all men as brothers.

Contact with Other Tribes

Encouraging progress with Sioux contacts is reported from Devil's Lake, North Dakota.

Teaching contacts with the Assiniboin, Colville, Coeur d'Alenes, Chippewa and Chinook tribes are reported from Spokane, Washington, as well as mention of the Faith to members of twenty other tribes.

At the Chief's request and through the American Indian Service Committee, the pioneer in Cherokee, South Carolina, has placed a selection of Bahá'í books and pamphlets in the Chief's office so that he may lend them to his people.

A Bahá'í was invited by the editor of an important Indian publication in the Northwest to accompany his group on a research and social trip. The publication is sponsored by the United American Indian, a service organization including 150 families of 47 different tribes. These Indians have heard of the Bahá'í Faith through their publication and in their meetings. Their leader has asked the Bahá'í pioneer to help these people by organizing lectures on the importance of mutual respect, unity of purpose and taking counsel together for the common good.

INTER-RACIAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

A two-hour period was given to discussion of the report of the National Inter-racial Teaching Committee during the Convention. There had been ample evidences of an upsurge in the efforts put forth by Bahá'ís all over the country to attract Negro believers to the Faith. The Committee representative reported that numerous letters had been sent to the secretary of the Committee. These letters were being recorded in the Committee's permanent files, giving admirable testimony to the happy results obtained when Negro speakers had been invited to share the platform with Bahá'í speakers and when such Negro leaders also shared our views on the Oneness of Mankind.

The National Spiritual Assembly is authorizing the Committee to offer suggestions and assistance to local inter-racial committees appointed by the Local Spiritual Assemblies in their efforts to put into action the following programs:

1. Increased efforts on the part of Local Spiritual Assemblies to bring in more Negro believers.
2. Local Assembly sponsored study of the Institute booklet entitled Faith in Action: Bettering Human Relations. This booklet is for sale through the Bahá'í Publishing Committee for 60 cents.
3. A public meeting in each local community during Brotherhood Week in February, worked on the Bahá'í theme: "The Oneness of Mankind." This meeting has the approval of the National Spiritual Assembly and should be considered as a special national Bahá'í event to be conducted annually.

The Inter-Racial Teaching Committee will welcome letters containing ideas for new techniques and new slants toward attracting new believers of the Negro group.

Please send your reports to:
The Inter-racial Teaching Committee
Miss Lydia Martin, Secretary
11529 Kelton Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio.

BAHÁ'Í SERVICE FOR THE BLIND

New Braille Publication

The committee announces that the pamphlet, Bahá'í Teachings For A World Faith, has been published in Braille. Copies embossed in Braille Grade Two are available now and priced at $1.25 per copy.

The committee suggests the use of this new Braille pamphlet along with The Mission of Bahá'u'lláh (Jubilee pamphlet) and Communion with God to assemblies, groups and individual believers for their contact and teaching work with the blind.

The set of these three pamphlets may be purchased for only $3.80.

Kindly send remittance with order to:
Bahá'í Service for the Blind
616 North Oxford Avenue
Los Angeles 4, California

AREA CONFERENCES

Since Ridván, Area Conferences have multiplied across the United States. Keyed to the twin theme of dispersal to new areas and teaching on the home front, their purpose is to aid in establishing and deepening Bahá'í Communities throughout the country. Areas reporting May Conferences were:

New England States: Springfield and Boston, Massachusetts.
East Central States: Mansfield, Ohio.

Gulf States: New Orleans, Louisiana; Dallas, Texas; Jackson, Mississippi.
Southwestern States: Sacramento, Santa Paula, Chula Vista, Pasadena and Berkeley, California; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Salt Lake City, Utah; Reno, Nevada.

Most of these meetings were for the presentation of reports by delegates to the Annual Convention; reports which formed the basis for
consultation on means for achieving the immediate goals in each area, as integral parts of the total pattern of the World Crusade.

INTER-COMMUNITY

COOPERATION

The Elmhurst, Illinois, Bahá'í Community, confronted with the possibility of losing Assembly status, consulted with friends in nearby Addison Township and Lombard on means for intensifying teaching efforts. Together, they established several firesides each week in the Bahá'í homes of the three communities. Assembly consultations were multiplied. Consultation and cooperation generated an unforgettable, contagious spirit. Results: Elmhurst is a community with 13 believers, Addison Township attained Assembly status and Lombard is an active group of 5 Bahá'ís. The friends of this area, having tasted the fruits of cooperative Bahá'í teaching are considering neighboring communities as extension goals.

In a similar spirit, the Bahá'í Communities of Burlingame, Millbrae and San Mateo, California, combine their efforts for the presentation of a monthly public meeting.

BAHA'I ON THE CAMPUS

After months of inactivity, when there were no Bahá'ís on the campus, the University Bahá'í Club of the University of Washington, in Seattle, was reorganized this spring. Following the stated purpose in its constitution “to stimulate interest in and discussion of religion among college students”, discussion evenings were organized. These meetings, advertised by forty posters placed throughout the campus and augmented by weekly articles in the University of Washington Daily and a Bahá'í exhibit in the Husky Memorial Building have made people ask, “What is Bahá’í?” Bahá'ís on the campus are arranging that all shall have opportunities to get the answer.

BAHA'I ON THE AIR

Edward R. Murrow's program, "This I Believe", featured a Bahá'í on May 20. This was not a direct Bahá'í talk, but included mention of the Faith and quotations from the Writings on this nation-wide broadcast.

Madison, Wisconsin, Bahá'ís presented a fifteen-minute television program over station WMTV.

An estimated half-million viewers of WMAR, Baltimore, Maryland's most powerful TV station, saw an interview in which a believer presented the Bahá'í Teachings on Peace.

NATIONAL BAHÁ’Í Addresses

NATIONAL BAHÁ’Í ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS: 536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois.

NATIONAL TREASURER: 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois. Make checks Payable to: National Bahá’í Fund

BAHÁ’Í PUBLISHING COMMITTEE: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Believers of Anchorage, Alaska, have dispersed to Seward, Valdez and Ketchikan, Alaska. The "Top of the World", a new publication distributed to hotels, restaurants, travel offices and the International Airport in and around Anchorage, Alaska, has included the Bahá’í World Faith in its list of churches without any solicitation on the part of Bahá’ís; tacit recognition that the Faith is part of the way of life in those northern lands.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which maintains a very active program of news publicity, has had an unusual opportunity to present the Bahá'í Faith through a column entitled "Guide for Daily Living". This regular feature of the Milwaukee Sentinel is opened to the Milwaukee Spiritual Assembly about once a year.

Bahá'ís of Atlanta, Georgia, have had confirmation of their extension work in Stockbridge, Georgia, in the declaration of a new believer in that city.

Fargo, North Dakota held a large public meeting on the first day of Ridván.

The Glendale, California, Bahá'í Community has acquired a new Bahá'í Center with seating capacity for about fifty people.

The Hawaii Bulletin reports the following items:

Mrs. Daisy Sabin, from Maui, Territory of Hawaii, recently spent three days presenting the Message of Bahá'u'lláh to residents of the Hansen's Disease Settlement on the island of Molokai leper colony. Copies of Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era were placed in the Molokai Library for the use of the many people who responded to the Teachings.

Members of the Maui Bahá'í community are holding "breakfast firesides" to coincide with the monthly fifteen-minute Bahá'í radio program. Tapes available through the Bahá'í Press Service have been used with great success on this combined presentation of the Faith.

Mrs. Stewart Atwater of Honduras, former member of the National Spiritual Assembly of Central America, spoke before a capacity audience at the Bahá'í Center in Honolulu. Mrs. Atwater was instrumental in establishing the first Bahá'í Summer School in Central America, which has been named "Karbila."

The Los Angeles, California, Bahá'í Community donated a copy of Bahá'í World, Volume XI, to the Public Library, at the library's request. Bahá'í fireside meetings for Spanish-speaking people have been established on the first Saturday of each month at the Los Angeles Bahá'í Center.

Average non-Bahá'í attendance at the Manhattan Beach, California, weekly and bi-weekly firesides was 38 during this past year.

At the suggestion of pioneers in Nassau, Bahamas, Bahá'ís of the Miami, Florida, Bahá'í Community collected 17 cartons of second-hand school books and sent them for distribution to the Outer Islands. The Miami Community, in addition to a very active program, has had the added bounty recently of special meetings with pioneers. Mrs. Sheila Rice-Wray, returning from the Central American Convention in Costa Rica, brought a report and spoke at an especially arranged public meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Matthisen, in the States on business connected with establishing themselves in their pioneer post, spoke at several firesides and luncheon meetings. Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Snider, returning to their pioneer post from the convention in Wilmette, presented a report of that gathering, underlining the Guardian's message for the second year of the World Crusade.

The New York City Bahá'í Community commemorated Ridván with
DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Bahá’í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá’ís and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahá’í House of Worship A Capella Choir.

BAHÁ’Í NEWS will publish regularly the weekly features of readings used. The programs for the month of June follow:

Order of Devotions — June 6, 1954

MAN should know his own self, and know those things which lead to exaltation or to baseness, to shame or to honor, to affluence or to poverty.

CHORAL SELECTION
Bow Down Thine Ear—Haydn M. Morgan

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS
Bahá’í Prayers, p. 94
Gleanings, pp. 288-290; p. 143
Bahá’í World Faith, pp. 107-108

OLD TESTAMENT

PSALM 1

NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 6:3-15

QUR’AN

Sura L-7-11, 14, 15

CHORAL SELECTION
If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments—W. H. Monk

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS
Gleanings, CXXII, p. 259; p. 326-327
Gleanings, XCV, p. 240
Prayers and Meditations, LXI, p. 94

CHORAL SELECTION
Now We Sing Thy Praise—Trumbull

Order of Devotions — June 6, 1954

Noble have I created thee, yet thou hast abused thyself. Rise then unto that for which thou wast created.

—Bahá’u’lláh

CHORAL SELECTION
Arise, O God, and Show Thy Might—Haydn-Morgan

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS
Prayers and Meditations, XL, p. 56
Gleanings, p. 295; p. 287

OLD TESTAMENT

Proverbs 27:1-6

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 3:1-6, 13-16; 7:1-6

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS
The Hidden Words of Bahá’u’lláh, (from the Arabic) Nos. 22, 1, 26, 27

CHORAL SELECTION
Create in Me, O God, a Pure Heart—Brahms

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS
Gleanings, 270-271, p. 335
Gleanings, CXXX, p. 285
Prayers and Meditations, IV, p. 6

CHORAL SELECTION
Now God Be Praised—Melchior Vulpius

Order of Devotions — June 27, 1954

Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust? That we may exalt him above the other. Ponder at all times in your hearts how we were created. Since We have created you all from one same substance, it is incumbent on you to be even as one soul, to walk with the same feet, eat with the same mouth and dwell in the same land, that from your being, by your deeds and actions, the signs of oneness and the essence of detachment may be made manifest.

—Bahá’u’lláh

CHORAL SELECTION
Grieve Not the Holy Spirit of God—Lamb

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS
Prayers and Meditations, LXI, p. 94

BRAHMAVARD-GITA (Hindu Scriptures)

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 9:5-6; Malachi 2:10; Deuteronomy 6:15; Leviticus 19:26

NEW TESTAMENT

The Acts 17:26; 1 John 2:3-11; Galatians 5:13

QUR’AN

Sura XLI: 32

CHORAL SELECTION
From the Sweet-Scented Stream—(A Prayer of Bahá’u’lláh)—Charles Wolcott

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS
The Hidden Words of Bahá’u’lláh, (from the Arabic) No. 68; Gleanings, pp. 288-290; pp. 214-215
The World Order of Bahá’u’lláh, pp. 202-205; Gleanings, p. 240
Prayers and Meditations, XXII, p. 29

CHORAL SELECTION
How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place—Brahms

DIRECTORY CHANGE

The address of the San Francisco Spiritual Assembly was incorrectly listed in the May issue of BAHÁ’Í NEWS. It should read:

Mrs. Florence C. Haake, Secy.

451-14th Avenue

San Francisco 18, California

Since there is both a street and an avenue, it is important to make this correction.

COLORED REPRINT OF TEMPLE DEDICATION STORY

Many Bahá’ís were impressed with the full-color photograph of the Bahá’í Temple and the illustrated feature article on the Temple and the Bahá’í Faith published in the Chicago Sunday Tribune at the time of the dedication. A reprint of this has now been made in full color, with the permission of the Tribune.

The article is entitled “Temple of Light” and in it the Temple, the story of its building, the development of the Faith in this country, and the principles for which it stands are beautifully portrayed. The inscriptions over the exterior doorways are listed. Describing the Temple the article states: “Like India’s Taj Mahal, it is an extraordinary achievement in architecture. But the Taj is a tomb... while this notable edifice in a Chicago suburb, also entitled to world fame, is a temple for meditation, prayer, and devotion to the brotherhood of mankind... the soft radiance of peace, for which the Bahá’í’s forever pray, floods the unique and glorious structure...”

This four-page folder on white enameled paper is useful for all types of teaching, contact, and publicity work, and it is hoped that wide distribution will be made of this item. (See next page for further description and prices.)
"AMERICA'S SPIRITUAL MISSION"

The American National Teaching Committee states that many believers, who hear the "Divine Plan" or "Tablets of the Divine Plan" referred to, are not aware that these are published in the booklet America's Spiritual Mission.

These Tablets, were revealed by Abdu'l-Bahá in 1916-17 for the American Bahá'ís, outlining their teaching responsibilities around the world. It was following this that Martha Root began her historic journeys, the John Hyde Durans went to Australia, Fanny Knebloeck went to South Africa and other Bahá'ís arose to put the Divine Plan into effect.

The Guardian refers frequently to the primacy conferred upon the American Bahá'í Community as the "chosen trustees of (this) Divine Plan", the "executors of Abdu'l-Bahá's Plan", and speaks, in his momentous letters of March, 1951, November, 1951, June 1952 and October, 1952, of "the Grand Design delineated in Abdu'l-Bahá's immortal Tablets," and of the course of the World Crusade as "chartered by Abdu'l-Bahá's infallible Pen."

Every American Bahá'í, to be completely attuned to the World Crusade, should be thoroughly familiar with America's Spiritual Mission.

The Bahá'í Publishing Committee has this booklet; self-cover, 54 pp.

Per copy ...... $ .20

NEW PUBLICATIONS


(minimum order) 10 copies ... $ .75
100 copies ... $6.00

Public Meeting Cards. Double card, perforated, top portion of which carries a quotation from Abdu'l-Bahá. Lower portion is an address card for contacts who wish to be informed of future Bahá'í meetings.

100 copies ... $ 1.75
500 copies ... $ 7.50
1000 copies ... $13.00

Faith in Action. Prepared by the Bahá'í Inter-Racial Teaching Committee of 1953-54, this clearly organized study of the Bahá'í approach to human relations is ideal for either group or personal deepening. 26 pages, 8½" x 14", mimeographed. At present there is only a small supply made available by the Bahá'í Inter-Racial Committee for distribution by the Publishing Committee.

Per copy ...... $ .60

The Religion of Humanity. By Horace Holley. Prepared by the National Spiritual Assembly especially for presentation to public figures (see page 7, June Bahá'í News), this pamphlet is also useful for firesides and personal contacts.

(minimum order) 10 copies ... $1.00
50 copies ... $4.50

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HOLY DAYS
July 9, Martyrdom of the Bab

FEASTS
July 13, Kalimát, Words
August 1, Kalám, Perfection
August 20, Asmá', Names

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
July 2, 3, 4, 5
July 30, 31, August 1

BAHÁ'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP
Visiting Hours
Weekdays: 10:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
7:30 P.M.-9:00 P.M.

Sundays: 10:30 A.M.-9:00 P.M.

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30, lasting until 4:15. (No guided tours will be conducted during the service of worship.)

MARRIAGES

"Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace . . ."

Binghamton, New York-Miss Ida Lovell Noyes to Mr. Ward Harvey Hawley, April 19, 1954.

Binghamton, New York-Miss Dau­na Dee Robinson to Mr. James Edward Parsons, June 13, 1954.

IN MEMORIAM

"Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life."

Mr. William Preston
Epping, New Hampshire
January 11, 1954

Mrs. Loretta Latimer
Topeka, Kansas
April 20, 1954

Mrs. Mabel Byron
Monroe, Washington
May 5, 1954

Mr. Alfred E. Anderson
Kenosha, Wisconsin
May 13, 1954

Mr. Walter Buchanan
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
May 28, 1954

Mrs. Minerva Preble
Washington 8, D. C.
May 28, 1954

Mr. William J. Wheaton
San Francisco 10, California
May 28, 1954

BAHÁ'Í NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá'í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the tenth day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHÁ'Í NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1954-1956: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Managing Editor; Mr. David Ned Blackmer, Assistant Editor; Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Edna True.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Change of Address should be reported directly to National Bahá'í Administrative Headquarters, 536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
REPORT TO THE BELIEVERS

World Crusade Budget
SECOND YEAR

Dearly Beloved Friends:

This report covers the results of our combined efforts in support of our Budget for the first six weeks (May 1 to June 15, 1954) of this Bahá’í Year. The Resolve Plan which is designed to produce a minimum of $150,000 from Local Assemblies and Groups, and $325,000 from individual believers, stands as follows:

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<th>Total Resolves to June 15, 1954</th>
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<td>Local Assemblies and Groups</td>
<td>$12,170.00</td>
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<td>Individual Believers</td>
<td>25,124.02</td>
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<td><strong>Total Resolves</strong></td>
<td><strong>$37,294.02</strong></td>
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Thus far, only 15 Assemblies, 5 groups, and 174 individuals have sent their Resolves to the National Treasurer’s Office, as represented by the figures quoted above.

Actual contributions received during this same period (May 1 to June 15, 1954) amounted to:

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<tr>
<td>From Local Assemblies and Groups</td>
<td>$1,226.34</td>
<td>$12,641.25</td>
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<td>From Individual Believers</td>
<td>4,463.34</td>
<td>14,566.95</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,690.68</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,208.20</strong></td>
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On the basis of an average monthly Budget requirement of approximately $40,000 in relation to our total Budget of $475,000, we should have received for this six-week period, total contributions of at least $85,000. This means that we have fallen short approximately $27,000 in contributions as of June 15.

Actual working capital available to your National Assembly from all sources, which must sustain many of our valiant pioneers in the far-flung teaching fields, cover the operating expenses of the National Offices, and maintain the increasingly important Temple activities, has reached an alarmingly low point of approximately $8,000.

We are aware that many Assemblies, Groups, and Individuals are giving prayerful consideration to the amount of their Resolves before transmitting them to the National Treasurer. However, in view of the urgency of our financial problem, we hope that not only will the Resolves start pouring in, but that contributions toward the Resolves may also begin without delay, wherever possible.

The miraculous accomplishments that we were privileged to witness and, in such a large measure, to participate in during the opening year of our Crusade, were made possible by translating our love and devotion to our beloved Guardian into obedience to his directions, and by the spirit of unity which animated the American Bahá’í Community in its zeal to support the Crusade.

It seems fitting that we capture this spirit of love and unity in our determination to meet every objective placed before us during this important Second Year of the Crusade, the most vital of which is success in meeting our total National Budget, without which none of the other objectives can fully flourish nor reach complete fruition.

Faithfully yours,
NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

P.S. — For the convenience of those who have misplaced the Resolve form which accompanied the Budget statement in the May issue of Baha’i News, a duplicate form is enclosed.
WORLD CRUSADE RESOLVE PLAN
1954-1955

"God does not ask from any soul except according to his ability . . .
Whosoever comes with one good act, God will give him tenfold . . .
O ye lovers of the Beauty of the True One! Become ye self-sacrificing.
Become ye self-sacrificing."

--'Abdu'l-Bahá

NATIONAL BUDGET—Total amount ..............................................$475,000.00

Estimated subscriptions by Local Assemblies and Groups —
Minimum of .................................................................$150,000.00

The Local Assemblies and Groups should subscribe to the Resolve Plan on a basis of their past experience and an evaluation of their greatest capacity this year to support the Fund.

Estimated subscriptions by individual believers —
Minimum of .................................................................$325,000.00

Contributions under the Resolve Plan are in addition to those made directly to the International Fund in Haifa and in support of Local Funds.

Guide for Individual Believers

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(Anyone is free to choose his own category which may be greater or smaller than the amounts listed above)

(All Local Assemblies and individuals are requested to indicate the amount of their resolve on this form)

WORLD CRUSADE RESOLVE PLAN

NATIONAL BAHÁ'Í Treasurer
112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois

Our/My Resolve is to contribute this year ...........................................

Payment(s) will be made:

- Every 19 days
- Every 30 Days
- Quarterly

(Make checks payable to: NATIONAL BAHÁ'Í FUND.)

Signature ________________________
Local Assembly or individual

Address ________________________

Date ________________________
THE GUARDIAN EXPECTS AN UPSURGE OF ACTIVITY

As the Guardian cabled the entire Bahá’í world at the time of the Conventions, he hopes that the dynamic spirit which was generated during the first year of the Plan will be augmented during the second year of the Plan, and all the Bahá’ís arise everywhere with renewed effort in order to spread the Glad-Tidings. This year must mark a very substantial increase in the number of Bahá’ís throughout the world — on the homefronts, in the consolidation areas, and in the virgin areas. Particular attention should be paid to the homefronts and the consolidation areas. As the Guardian indicates, he is expecting “an upsurge of activity which, in its range and intensity, will exceed the exploits which have so greatly enlarged the limits, and noised abroad the fame, of the Cause of God.”

The Guardian urges that all the Bahá’ís center their complete attention on the obligations of the Ten Year Crusade. He feels that no new activities should be undertaken of any type, whether of a local or a national nature. The friends must concentrate on the goals of the Ten Year Crusade, which are principally national and universal. For instance, no local Hazíratu’l-Quds should be considered during the Ten Year Crusade, no projects on a national scale should be considered which do not definitely relate themselves to the prosecution of the Ten Year Crusade. Funds should not be used for any purpose except the objects of the Ten Year Crusade.

We are embarked upon the greatest spiritual drama the world has ever witnessed; and it is going to require the sacrifice of every individual, every community and every Assembly, whether local or national, in order to reach the goals. The Guardian feels they can be reached if we will concentrate and not allow our attention to be diverted for a moment for any purpose whatsoever.

(The excerpts published above were taken from a letter written on behalf of the Guardian by his Assistant Secretary, dated May 6, 1954.)

COMMENTARY: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Beloved Friends:

The foregoing message from Haifa is a call to our “dynamic spirit” — the spirit generated during Jubilee and the first year of the World Crusade. Shoghi Effendi expects nothing less than an “upsurge” of activity representing devotion to the Plan. The Plan is within the realm of our capacity, but we must concentrate our time, energy, thought and resources upon its task and not dissipate them on secondary matters.

This concentration can be expressed over a wide field of important work: pioneering in a virgin goal, pioneering in a consolidation area, proclamation of the Faith, specialized efforts among Indians and Negroes, — service in the continental areas and service on the home front.

Let us learn how to center our complete attention upon the obligations of the Ten Year Crusade, and by daily prayer and meditation attain a renewal of life within the blessed spiritual realm in which the Guardian is the radiantly Interpreter of the divine Will and the conqueror of the Kingdom. We must count our resources by pennies and our time by minutes. Nothing is too small to be used for the World Crusade!

— NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

DESIGNS WANTED FOR MASHRIQU’L-ADHKAR TO BE BUILT IN PERSIA

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States and National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Canada

Dear Bahá’í Friends:

Very active consideration is now being given to the erection of the Mashriqu’l-Adhkár for Persia. The Guardian has asked the Persian Bahá’ís to submit plans for this noble edifice. They have provided him with some plans.

Owing to the great importance of this unique structure, the beloved Guardian feels submissions should be made by Bahá’í architects from many parts of the world; and he is therefore asking your Assemblies to submit plans for this sacred enterprise. Will you please let the friends know that the Guardian will appreciate any submissions anyone might wish to make.

In height, the building should be not more than 70 meters, although he feels perhaps a building 85 meters high is sufficient. The building should be wider than the Temple in Chicago, so as to accommodate more people. The interior plans should be so set up as to develop a spaciousness.

Of course, it is understood by that the building should be circular in shape, and nine-sided.

The Guardian does not wish detailed blueprint drawings, but he would like a general drawing of the proposals which anyone wishes to submit.

It is probably best that the friends submit their proposals to the National Assembly, so that the National
Assembly may in turn send them on directly here to the Holy Land.

The Guardian sends you his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

(signed) Leroy Ioas, Asst. Secy.

COMMENTARY: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Beloved Friends:

The letter written on behalf of the Guardian by his Assistant Secretary brings to our attention a Bahá’í project of intense historical interest and spiritual significance.

To think that we are drawing near to the blessed hour when a House of Worship can be constructed in Bahá’u’lláh’s native land — the cradle of the Faith — and the Guardian has termed Iran — is to realize with what majestic, what awful Power the divine Will is manifested in the Day of God. For in that empire all things resisted the Dawn of the Sun of Truth. Life itself was organized as a denial of the light of faith — then with incredible swiftness the dark clouds are banished and the Day.

The appeal is particularly directed to believers who can prepare architectural plans — a general drawing of the proposals. This general drawing and any other relevant data are to be submitted to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States by American believers, and the National Assembly in turn will transmit all suggestions to the Guardian.

Here indeed is a theme to inspire the creative architect!

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR BAHÁ’I SCHOOLS

He (the Guardian) thinks the less time spent on such topics as “Current Events in the Light of the Bahá’í Faith” and “The Bahá’í Faith and Modern Science” the better. There is no harm in having an evening lecture by a qualified speaker once on each of these subjects, but he certainly does not feel that much time should be spent on them, for the very simple reason that there is so little that can be said on the subject. The Bahá’ís are not scientists, and cannot very well go into details of the relation of the Bahá’í Faith to Modern Science; and “Current Events in the Light of the Bahá’í Faith” is also a topic which can be dealt with briefly.

He feels that the most important thing for the Bahá’í Schools all over the world at present to do is to strongly impress upon the Bahá’ís the urgency of arising not only to fulfill pioneer goals and to consolidate the work on the home front, which is getting weaker every year instead of stronger, but also to bring home to the friends the necessity of dispersing.

He is quite serious in stating that he believes that even in the large cities, such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, Baltimore, etc., the Cause would not suffer if the membership were reduced to fifteen. The Bahá’ís, who have been struggling for practically fifty years to attract people to the Faith in these immense cities, have been wholly unsuccessful, when one considers the slight numerical increase in the voting lists. He therefore feels that they had better go out and teach in towns and villages. They will be safer, in case war should break out, and they will be better off spiritually, away from these centers of intense materialism, where so much time is wasted on trivialities and non-essentials.

The Bahá’ís must realize that they belong to a world-wide Order, and not an American civilization. They must try and introduce the Bahá’í atmosphere of life and thought into their Summer Schools, rather than making the Summer School an episode and a pleasant vacation period, during which they learn a little more about the Faith.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

THE QUESTION OF DISPERSAL

Views of the National Spiritual Assembly

Beloved Friends:

What is this about dispersal? What are the pilgrims bringing back from the Guardian? What are we expected to do?

These and many similar questions are now being raised in the American Bahá’í Community. A spirit of uncertainty and anxiety can be discerned here and there.

In order to place the situation before the friends with all available facts and on the sound basis of loving devotion to the best interests of the Faith, the National Spiritual Assembly presents its views for consideration by the friends.

We recall the emphasis laid during Jubilee by ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Rúbiyyih Khánum, the Guardian’s representative, upon the need for dispersal by Bahá’ís from larger communities for pioneer service in America or abroad. The institution of the local assembly, she pointed out, could be maintained by a dozen or so members, making it possible for the remaining Bahá’ís to disperse and pioneer. In her talks the Guardian’s representative spoke plainly about the destructive forces threatening the larger American cities.

In essence, except for the element of timing, these statements were not new and revolutionary warnings. In many passages the Bahá’í literature available for years has forewarned the world of the meaning of the Day of God. “Beseech ye the one true God to grant that all men may be graciously assisted to fulfill that which is acceptable in Our sight. Soon will the present-day order be rolled up, and a new one spread out in its stead.” Or: “So blind hath become the human heart that neither the disruption of the city, nor the reduction of the mountain in dust, nor even the cleaving of the earth, can shake off its torpor. The allusions made in the Scriptures have been unfolded, and the signs recorded therein have been revealed, and the prophetic cry is continually being raised. And yet all, except such
as God was pleased to guide, are bewildered in the drunkenness of their heedlessness." Moreover, in *The Promised Day Is Come*, Shoghi Effendi dramatically expounded the whole thesis of the fatality of our time in terms of the rejection of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh by church and state. For years we have been prepared for the climax of that divine action whose purpose is to cleanse and purify the world and establish the Christ-Promised Kingdom among men. Therefore, when pilgrims bring later statements of the Guardian, these statements conform to the meaning of things already known. They fit into the pattern of truth already possessed.

What is new is not fact but awareness that the Divine action will not forever be deferred but operates at its own appointed and mysterious hour.

What have we of truth assured beyond debate?

First, the tasks of the World Crusade itself which call for the dispersal of a great body of pioneers to virgin and to consolidation areas throughout the world. The needs of the Ten Year Plan are at present far, far from being met. Second, the spiritual glory and reward of arising voluntarily, leaving one's home, and settling in some new city out of loving sacrifice for the Faith. Third, the undoubted truth that the call for dispersal of American Bahá'ís lays a great moral responsibility upon us all. It is more than an opportunity or invitation — dispersal represents a moral obligation to each who can respond and therefore a failure involving spiritual suffering for those who do not respond. As far as the National Assembly can discern, hundreds and hundreds of American Bahá'ís had been expected to disperse before now. Each later pilgrim brings sterner warning that the Day of God is a reality — the world will be purged of its godless materialism and its tyrannical superstitions, and the hour is at hand. Fourth, that our response as Bahá'ís is not that of panic but of devotion. We are not trying to flee to some refuge, but we are trying to offer the Teachings to a new body of people and build up a new community here or abroad. This matter of right motivation is of paramount importance.

Finally, the Home-Front Teaching Plan lists a large number of American cities where settlers are urgently needed. These goals have been selected as fairly representative of the distribution of population throughout the United States. The Ten Year Plan calls for 306 local assemblies by 1963. It is possible for a far greater number of American Bahá'ís to settle in another town in their own country than abroad. Thus, the feeling of profound urgency (which is being felt outside as well as inside the Bahá'í community) now stirring the hearts of devoted believers, can express itself in a common plan the success of which will vastly strengthen the Faith in America. The goal cities were not chosen because they are all immune to destruction in war or other catastrophe. But every existing Assembly must be preserved, as the

Between Haifa and 'Akká lies the Shrine at Bahjí, here seen from the air. The small room with the pyramidal roof, situated on the near corner of the group of buildings is the Tomb of Bahá'u'lláh.
Beloved friends! There is no doubt but that these are fateful days. No man knows what tomorrow will bring. But the Baha’i knows that the Divine purpose is to purify the world and establish the Kingdom. He recalls the mighty roll of martyrs who consciously yielded up their lives under torture because they would not disavow their precious faith. The Baha’i has supreme assurance of immortality. These being the fundamentals of life he can with conviction meet the great issues of the current time and, without the fear or the hysteria which overtake non-believers, make his greatest contributions to the triumph of the new world order of Baha’u’llah.

Our first and last responsibility remains the achievement of the Ten Year Plan: “He verily will aid every one who sideth Him, and will remember every one who remembereth Him.”

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

TEACHING COMMITTEES AND THE WORLD CRUSADE

Beloved Friends:

Do the American believers realize that our whole collective administrative effort to carry out the projects of the World Crusade assigned to the United States is channeled through five Teaching Committees? That these Committees are an organic institution for concentrating facilities and direction upon five great areas of the world?

1. American National Teaching Committee. This Committee (with its Area Committees to help) has responsibility for maintaining all established local Assemblies, developing groups to Assembly status, placing pioneers in goal cities, assisting the pioneers to form groups — all with the ultimate aim of three hundred Assemblies by 1953.

   To visualize this degree of responsibility — at the end of the first year of the Ten Year Plan we elected nine new Assemblies, restored two old ones, but lost fourteen — a net loss of three!

2. Africa Teaching Committee. Study again the African territories allotted to the United States in the Guardian’s Ten Year Plan. Realize how far away, how varied, how new the conditions which this Committee meets and deals with in the performance of its great task. The high drama of pioneer settlement evolves into the epic story of consolidation, with the arrangements subject to unexpected change from time to time from sources beyond Baha’i control. The work of this Committee during the first year of the Ten Year Plan was arduous but its results superb.

   To settle in any U.S. African area, apply to:

   Africa Teaching Committee
   Mrs. Sylvia Parmalee, Secy.
   4700, 47th Street, N.W.
   Washington 16, D.C.

3. Asia Teaching Committee. The other four Committees had foundations of prior experience upon which to build. The Asia Committee occupies a new field in which American believers had no administrative participation before the Crusade began. Much of its territory has special restrictions of travel and settlement, housing, jobs, etc. Despite these obstacles, pioneers went forth to nearly all United States areas, and pioneers are actively trying to enter those not yet occupied on account of travel and settlement restrictions.

   To adventure in the Asia territory submit your application to:

   Asia Teaching Committee
   Miss Charlotte M. Linfoot, Secy.
   156 Nova Drive
   Piedmont 10, California

4. European Teaching Committee. This Committee entered its field in 1946 and had attained signal results in the ten countries of Western Europe when the World Crusade began. It has maintained a European office in Geneva, has developed Italy and Switzerland to National Assembly status, raised up local Assemblies and groups in other countries, conducted the Third Intercontinental Teaching Conference in Stockholm, and now under the Ten Year Plan widens its area of effort. There are many languages into which Baha’i texts are to be translated, virgin goals to fill, Temple sites to acquire, Haziratu’l-Quds to be bought or built, new National Spiritual Assemblies to establish, etc. Here is a firm and solid foundation on which the new world order can be raised.

   To pioneer in the European area, address:

   European Teaching Committee
   Miss Edna M. True, Chairman
   418 Forest Avenue
   Wilmette, Illinois

5. Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee. This Committee has responsibility for all pioneer areas assigned to the United States in the Western World, including the task of forming National Assemblies in Alaska and in the countries of Central and South America. This is the most stupendous task carried by the American Baha’is in the consolidation field under the Ten Year Plan. Many workers are needed to achieve this task — Spanish or Portuguese-speaking Baha’is — in addition to the gallant Baha’is in Central and South America.

   Those who can work in the Western Hemisphere are to correspond with:

   Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee,
   Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, Secy.
   73 College Road West
   Princeton, New Jersey

   Our teaching efforts are now reinforced by those of the new Auxiliary Board of nine, each of whom will take circuits either in Canada, the United States, Central or South America, but the ultimate energy derives from the body of believers. More volunteers are needed in all areas!

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

MEMORIAL IN TEMPLE IN TRIBUTE TO MARION JACK

On Saturday evening, July 3, over two hundred believers gathered at the House of Worship in Wilmette to honor a pioneer, Marion Jack, on whom a very great station was conferred by the Guardian. Acting upon the advice of the Guardian, the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, in association with the Canadian National Assembly and through the European Teaching Committee, prepared the program in tribute to this “Immortal heroine,” printed at the right.

In his opening remarks, the chairman, Mr. Paul Haney, Head of the Cause, cited these words of the Guardian, cabled in 1947, which indicate Marion Jack’s steadfastness.

“Advise encourage extend assistance through European Teaching Committee beloved Marion Jack who over decade dauntlessly held fort exemplified spirit worthy emulation entire North American Bahai Community.”

Mr. Haney then read the Guard-
ian's cable received by the National Assembly in March, 1954, which said, "Mourn loss of immortal heroine. Marion Jack, greatly loved and deeply admired by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, a shining example to pioneers of present and future generations of East and West, surpassed in constancy, dedication, self-abnegation and fearlessness by none except the incomparable Martha Root."

Her unremitting, highly-meritorious activities in the course of almost half a century, both in North America and Southeast Europe, attaining their climax in the darkest, most dangerous phase of the second World War, shed imperishable lustre on contemporary Baha'í history. This triumphant soul is now surpassing, both in North America in the most dangerous phase of the second World War, and in West, surpassed in constancy, dedication, self-abnegation and fearlessness by none except the incomparable Martha Root.

Her unremitting, highly-meritorious activities in the course of almost half a century, both in North America and Southeast Europe, attaining their climax in the darkest, most dangerous phase of the second World War, shed imperishable lustre on contemporary Baha'í history. This triumphant soul is now surpassing, both in North America and West, surpassed in constancy, dedication, self-abnegation and fearlessness by none except the incomparable Martha Root.

Mrs. Amelia Collins, Hand of the Cause, who was present when news of Marion Jack's passing reached the Guardian, recalled that one of her first duties in Haifa had been to write a letter on behalf of the Guardian. "We have a pattern for the pioneers—a perfect pattern—Marion Jack." Hearing about her passing, the Guardian was not grieved, but his face was radiant. In closing, Mrs. Collins said that if each pioneer can win just a little of the joy and solitude the Guardian has shown Marion Jack, they will have attained their stations.
from that threatened country but Jackie refused, preferring, as she put it, "to remain at the switch."

Mr. Gustav Lowe, one of her devoted students who came into the Faith through her says this of the obstacles she encountered with the approach of war:

"When World War II broke out she had to discontinue her meetings: Sofia became the center of European systems. Neither she nor I (a German citizen of secondary quality) could dare to be seen together. I kept contact with her through 'neutral' Bulgarian citizens. She was in financial difficulties because her funds did not get to her, but her spirit was unbroken."

"In October 1940, when I finally got my visa for the United States, I dared to call her on the phone and even to see her. She had moved to a cheaper hotel. Her room was probably too small for two people and we met in the lobby. I told her of my plans to go to the United States and . . . invited her to come along and promised that I would take care of her. But she declined. She told me that the Guardian had permitted her to go to Switzerland rather than wait for the German invasion of Bulgaria that was expected daily. She considered it her duty to stay in Sofia and would neither seek security in Switzerland nor in her native Canada nor in the United States.

"We exchanged letters until Bulgaria became part of the Iron Curtain and she indicated that it was too dangerous to receive my letters and to write to me."

Though soft-spoken, extremely kind, loving and friendly, Marion Jack possessed a courage and indomitable spirit which merited the special nickname, "General Jack", lovingly bestowed upon her by 'Abdu'l-Baha. Serene, assured in her complete faith, she never swerved from her chosen service to the Faith which she loved far better than life itself. Now, resting among British soldiers in the English Cemetery in Sofia, her spirit will continue to pour out its bounties upon the land she loved so well.

These words from a letter our beloved Guardian wrote to the European Teaching Committee in May, 1954, give the most poignant glimpse of the true quality of Marion's services to the Cause and the heroic conditions under which she lived and worked.

"Young or old could never find a more inspiring pioneer in whose footsteps to walk than this wonderful soul.

"For over thirty years, with an enlarged heart and many other ailments, she remained at her post in Bulgaria. Never well-to-do, she often suffered actual poverty and want: want of heat, want of clothing, want of food, when her money failed to reach her, because Bulgaria had come under the Soviet zone of influence. She was bombed, lost her possessions, she was evacuated, she lived in drafty, cold dormitories for many, many months in the country, she returned, valiant, to the capital of Bulgaria after the war and continued, on foot, to carry out her teaching work.

"The Guardian himself urged her strongly, when the war first began to threaten to cut her off in Bulgaria, to go to Switzerland. She was a Canadian subject and ran great risks by remaining, not to mention the danger and the privations of war. However, she begged the Guardian not to insist, and assured him her one desire was to remain with her spiritual children. This she did up to the last breath of her glorious life. Her tomb will become a national shrine, immensely loved and revered, as the Faith rises in stature in that country.

"He thinks that every Bahá’í and most particularly those who have left their homes and gone to serve in foreign fields, should know of, and turn their gaze to, Marion Jack."

Closing that portion of the program held in Foundation Hall, Mr. Horace Holley, Hand of the Cause, recalled Marion Jack as he knew her in Green Acre, an artist. He said:

"How Marion Jack was able to lay aside the being of the artisan and assume more and more that of saint and martyr is what we should contemplate."

He then cited the Tablet of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (Bahá’í World Faith, pages 354-55) in which He reaffirmed Bahá’ulláh’s promise that holy and inspired souls would arise to labor ceaselessly for the Faith of God.

"In closing, Mr. Holley quoted this passage from Gleanings:

"The Book of God is wide open, and His Word is summoning mankind unto Him. No more than a mere handful, however, hath been found willing to cleave to His Cause, or to become the instruments for its promotion. These few have been endued with the Divine Elixir that can, alone, transmute into purest gold the dross of the world, and have been empowered to administer the infallible remedy for all the ills that afflicting the children of men."

(page 183)

The program in Foundation Hall concluded, the entire assemblage went reverently to the Auditorium of the House of Worship for readings dedicated to the "distinguished band" of which Marion Jack was one. The evening ended with all standing, united, for the reading of the Tablet of Visitation.

RECOGNITION OF HOLY DAYS

The Spiritual Assembly of Dumont, N.J., has reported that the Public School System has given permission for Bahá’í children to be absent from classes on Bahá’í Holy Days.
Main entrance of Stanford School in Santiago, Chile. The Baha’is who own and operate this institution offer “primary and high school education in English, room, board and love” to the children of pioneers who are leaving for posts where it would be impracticable to take children. The school understands the need for clothing and personal allowances for the children. Prospective pioneers who are interested in this offer should write their respective National Spiritual Assemblies for details of the plan. (See Baha’i News, March, 1954, page 5.)

Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings respectively, the regular attendants, at this writing, can be listed as 10, and 5 others attend the various classes intermittently.

For two consecutive weeks a family of seven, who are Seventh-Day Adventists, attended the Wednesday evening Fireside. A series of evening meetings in their own church have, they have explained, kept them from coming again, but they seem interested and we are planning to have a special evening for them as it has to be tied up with the Bible. Fortunately, Gail Curwin has made a deep study of the Bible and is well equipped to handle such a group.

Our real prize, who is already a flame for Baha’u’llah, is a young 22-year-old Nassau policeman who, with about twenty others on the police force, was recruited from Barbados. Some are also from Trindad. He is well educated and a student and is getting the Teachings principally through his own reading. Mr. Curwin contacted him first and talked to him about the Faith, he says, apparently no response. Then one evening he dropped in at the Wednesday evening Fireside when the lesson subject happened to be “Prayer.” He stayed on after we had all left and said to Mrs. Curwin, “Won’t you teach me how to pray?”

He lives at the police barracks and is telling everyone one of his fellow-policemen who will give him an ear, about the Teachings. One Sunday evening he called the Matthisen home by phone and said, “This is urgent. Can you come over to the barracks as I need help in telling someone about the Faith.” Needless to say, Mr. Matthisen jumped into the car and was off. The man he had interested was a diesel engine a boat from Barbados, which makes regular trips to Nassau and other islands. The next evening they came to the Matthisen home and spent the time reading and talking about the Faith. The engineer, before leaving Nassau, requested another copy of the New Era for his assistant engineer. And thus the message spreads.

The young policeman comes from Anglican background but he told us he never could make himself join the church. When leaving for the Bahamas his mother asked him if he didn’t think he ought to join the church, and even then he couldn’t bring himself to do it. He said recently, “Now I know why!” We are not pushing him in any way — just giving him more books whenever he asks for them. He is now reading Some Answered Questions and his comment expressed a few days ago “Isn’t it wonderful?” tells his reaction. Before his day off he calls and says: “I’m off tomorrow, I would like to come out” and he spends the whole day with us, reading and resting. He also drops in at the Curwins for a chat ever so often.

We are happy to report that we now have a weekly column in the week-end edition of the daily newspaper The Guardian which had its inception in 1844. Our column is called “The Treasure Chest” compiled by A. Channel, the pen name used by Nina Matthisen, who compiles it. In it different subjects are used each week with quotes from various sources on the particular subject chosen for the week. It has been running now for three weeks and we hope and pray it will continue and gradually under various names we will introduce Baha’i precepts, but we are being very patient and going very slow on it. So far the subjects used have been “Life”, “The World”, “A Friend” and gradually such subjects as Prayer, Work, Liberty, Pain, Education, Tests,
will be used. Eventually we will submit “The Golden Rules” of all religions, but are biding our time on that.

On June 13th, we inaugurated a regular Sunday afternoon Worship Service at 3:30. The readings are selected each week by a different member of our group. In time we will be able, we hope, to invite non-Bahá'ís to attend, but for the present we feel it is another step in attracting the confirmations from on high.

Excerpts from Pioneer Letters to the Asia Teaching Committee

From Harry Clark
Brunei, March 21, 1954

Friday afternoon we went on a very interesting trip with the inspector of schools, visiting three schools and spending the night in the teacher’s house in Bokok. At Baru Baru we watched the preparation of dried shrimp and drank plentifully of green coconut water, an ambrosial refreshment. At Bokok we learned that the school and house for the teacher were built by the kampong people because they wanted education for their children...

Going up stream from Bokok we came to a little clearing, and from there a Chinese man guided us down a short jungle trail to a Dyak longhouse, the village of Simbatang. We climbed the traditional notched log to the entrance and were introduced to the headman, who did not look as if he had ever taken a head in his life. To the rhythm of two gongs, one of the men did a slow graceful dance pantomime. The light in the longhouse was not bright enough for pictures but the Dyaks were delighted to pose in the sun.

So far teaching looks very difficult. Many people in the town know there are three Bahá’ís in their midst, but aside from a little idle curiosity as to how some of the laws of the Faith compare to Islam, no one has given the matter any more thought.

Brunei, April 30.

Brunei is an exceptionally honest community and state. It is well governed and the citizens are attached to the Sultán who is a fine man... To us the country seems quite backward but the people are putting forth effort to catch up. The principal social problem is boredom. The Sultán is very religious and has attributed Brunei’s immense good fortune to God. The foundations for a four million dollar mosque are now being built.

From Charles Duncan
Brunei, May 21, 1954.

Things are rather quiet now. It is the month of Ramadán. In June there will be a three-day celebration of Queen Elizabeth’s birthday at Kuala Belait. If we can arrange accommodations we will attend. We get very little news, but John (Fozdar) hears from his mother who is in Saigon. She recently had a talk with one of the Buddhist leaders who was so impressed that he said he would do anything she suggested. She asked permission to give a lecture. In her address to 500 she said the Indians had brought Buddhism to Indo-China centuries ago and now she comes from India with news of the greater Buddha. A young Bahá’í who teaches school there has gone up tremendously in public esteem since her talk and now everyone stops him on the street to shake his hand.

From Virginia Breaks
Truk, Caroline Islands, April 6, 1954.

Sunday I had guests (compatriots) for brunch and in the afternoon Nor and Klosi (Micronesian boys) brought two girls to call. Mostly they wanted me to take their pictures. The girls are extremely shy—wouldn’t say a word in English —so you can imagine that conversation was a bit difficult. However, they were all smiles when I invited them to come to see some transparencies Friday night. The girls are from the Mortlocks, have never been out of Truk atoll, and would like to see pictures of the other islands of the United States. I can see making friends with girls here will be quite a problem. Although Nor was somewhat shy at first, now we are old friends and he is quite at ease here.

Truk, April 18, 1954.

Gradually the people I’m associated with find out that I am a Bahá’í. There are several who have asked and whom I’ve told as much as possible. Last Sunday I talked more to Nor, but there doesn’t seem to be much progress with him. Maybe I haven’t found the right approach yet. At least he talked more than before, if that means anything. I often think of what a friend said to me about finding out first what the people really want, what they are seeking. It is still a hard question for me. Many of them, like Nor, who are around the American bases, want more material things. They naturally take up, superficially at least, American ways.

With Nor, I keep trying to give him the feeling of our closeness to all parts of the world and to all peoples. I have talked to him about what man is, what makes us different from animals, and I have identified these things as teaching of Bahá’u’lláh. I have tried different things, unity of the Prophets especially. He had never heard of Muhammad until I told him. Also I’ve told him at various times about the principles. Do not think that I limit my efforts to this boy — it is just that making friends and gaining confidence of the people is slow.

We have an arrangement here so that we can get some magazines by air mail from Guam. The rest of the time I’m here I’m going to get Life and Holiday because I find these two are most interesting to the students. Illustrated articles are what they like. They have practically worn out the issues of Holiday I brought with me, and the Life with the article about coral reefs and atolls is literally in pieces. They cannot understand the words in these but they do pretty well.

When I speak of pioneering I take it for granted that you know I do use the prayers constantly, and read. I feel your prayers. I know we are working together.

“Verily your light shall illumine the whole world, your spirituality shall affect the heart of things. You shall in truth become the lighted torches of the globe. Fear not, neither be dismayed, for your light shall penetrate the densest darkness. This is the Promise of God, which I give unto you. Rise! and serve the Power of God.”

Paris Talks, Page 168

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Winter School

The Yerrinbool Bahá’í School will hold a Winter session from August 29 to September 6. The theme for
teaching is to "Equip believers for the Ten Year Crusade". The session is to be run on a community basis.

FRANCE
Teaching in France

New efforts to reach the French populace are being initiated in response to a letter from the Guardian, through the Secretary-General of the International Council. After urging the Paris Baha'is to pioneer, at least in the goal cities of France, he adds:

"The Guardian would like to again direct your attention to the great importance of teaching the Faith to the French population. He hopes that soon many new friends will enter the Faith and that most of them will be French. These French could then teach and confirm other French. This is the goal in all countries: that the native peoples become Baha'i in order that they may teach the Faith to their compatriots." (Translated from the French Journal Baha'i)

GERMANY
Convention Report Summary

As a summary of Baha'i experience common to all at the end of the fateful first year of the Ten Year Crusade, we quote the concluding paragraph from the Annual Convention report of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Germany and Austria.

"The first year of the Ten Year Crusade, now just ended, has made it clear that, within this gigantic Plan, all that is petty and trivial must be absolutely laid aside in the path of service to the Holy Cause; that as a national Baha'i Community we are inseparably bound with the Baha'i World Community; that the tasks assigned to our community will be shared by the believers of all lands; and we are forced to realize that we must more and more think and conduct ourselves in all our undertakings and planning, within the framework of the great undertaking. The year has given us certainty that the Spirit of Baha'u'llah activates the religious awakening, that the unfoldment of the oneness of mankind through the spirit of the new Revelation runs ahead of and travels in the midst of all other striving toward the uniting of mankind."

IRAQ
First Year Achievements

In Iraq, as throughout the world, the story of the first year of the Ten Year Crusade is one of triumph over the forces of many circumstances. Although much remains to be done, there are many reasons to rejoice in the victories already won. In the virgin areas of Hadhramaut and Kuria-Muria Islands, Baha'is are established. Although the pioneer who opened the Seychelles Islands was forced to leave, he was able before his departure to teach the Word of Baha'u'llah to a native teacher. Consolidation pioneers, including many from Persia, have assured two local assemblies in the Trucial Sheikhs and another in Kuwait, where the community numbers over fifty believers.

On the island of Cyprus and in Tripoli, Libya, and Izmir, Turkey, Iraqi pioneers have established themselves to serve under other National Spiritual Assemblies.

LIBYA
The Means for Progress

One avenue of pioneering open to nearly everyone is that of giving the funds needed in building the world society of tomorrow. It may surprise some of the friends remaining at home to learn that many in the field are contributing to the support of home-front activities. The pioneers who have gone from a half-dozen countries to settle in Libya do not seek publicity but their record of giving might be an inspiration to other believers. The friends in Libya have not received any financial assistance from any national assembly but they have made donations to no less than three national spiritual assemblies. In addition, they have sent money directly to Haifa and both local assemblies have initiated the African Fund which is under the direction of the Hand of the Cause in Kampala.

These pioneers have also given or loaned more than one thousand dollars to unemployed settlers in Africa.

SOUTH AMERICA
Publicity in Peru

Teaching work in Huancayo, Peru, is accompanied by excellent publicity from a sympathetic press. Ultima Lora in its July 4 issue carried in its entirety one of the Guardian's telling statements on the character and purposes of the Baha'i Faith, as a two-column article with a half-inch headline.

AMERICAN INDIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE

The recent survey of Assemblies and Area Teaching Committees, seeking information on Indians now members of the Faith, the tribes they represent, and the names of tribes contacted, was occasioned by a request of the Guardian for information, and by the enclosed excerpt from a letter from Leroy Joas, Secretary-General of the International Baha'i Council, Haifa, April 7, 1954:

"The Guardian stated he was gratified to see the large number of tribes which had been recently contacted in connection with the teaching of the Faith. However, he is very anxious that these contacts be changed into converts for the Faith. As you know, he attaches the utmost importance to the teaching of the American Indians; and he hopes your Committee will concentrate to see that actual converts are made among these tribes, so that the converts themselves can in turn teach their own people. He hopes that you will be able to give him in the near future a further report of conversions which have been made amongst these various tribes."

It is sincerely hoped that those Assemblies and Area Teaching Committees who have not yet reported, will do so speedily, and that all the friends will take to their hearts the expressed wish of the Guardian, that among these splendid contacts there may become converts to our Faith. News of such success is eagerly awaited.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE TEACHING COMMITTEE

The Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee would like to place two facts before you:
1. The recurrent theme of the beloved Guardian: the call to us, the Bahá'ís, to disperse.

2. The tremendous need for consolidation workers in Latin America.

There appears to be a mistaken idea on the part of many Bahá'ís that the Latin American work is finished. It has just begun.

Do you realize that 26 National Spiritual Assemblies must be established in that area in less than 9 years? Do you know that the number of local assemblies must be more than doubled? Do you know that many countries have only one local assembly, and that one often extremely weak? Can you imagine the amount that must be done to build a National Assembly in a country where there is only one weak assembly?

Do you know that more National Spiritual Assemblies must be established in the Western Hemisphere than in any other part of the world—21 National Assemblies. (Today there are 12 in the entire world.)

Can you not see the need for pioneers to strengthen existing assemblies, to build new assemblies, to open virgin areas?

Some countries—goals for National Assemblies—have no consolidators, nor activities, and are losing their assemblies. Only consolidators can do the permanent type of work needed desperately in these areas if the former work is not to be lost and the goals of the World Crusade gravely jeopardized.

In describing "the alarming reality" and "appealing for the dispatch of consolidators urgently needed to fulfill the difficult goals," the National Teaching Committee of Central America writes, "We are wondering if the friends in the States do not realize the importance and urgency of this work and that reason do not feel impelled to make the efforts and sacrifices necessary, or what is the trouble? . . . Perhaps they do not think of Central America as true pioneer territory but rather as a place to set up private life . . . We urge speed, speed and more speed, and sacrifices, courage and determination on the part of the volunteers, or we fear for what will happen . . . We are praying fervently that something will happen soon . . ."

The most needy countries in Central America, in the order of their urgency, are:

Nicaragua
Honduras
Guatemala
Mexico
Cuba

In addition, Martinique, a consolidation, has not a single believer on the entire island.

South America, to whose Convention the Guardian cabled "Urge redouble efforts pioneering and multiplication of centers", writes, "The countries where we need pioneers most urgently are Ecuador, Bolivia, and Paraguay, since there is only one assembly in each of them."

"A person with an income of $100 per month could live very well in the following cities: La Paz, Sucre and Cochabamba, Bolivia; Córdoba, Mendoza and Rosario, Argentina; Osorno and Punta Arenas, Chile; they could live comfortably in Arequipa, Cuzco and Trujillo, Peru; they could live modestly in Quito, Ecuador and Asunción, Paraguay.

"Anywhere on the Continent, North Americans could earn their living teaching English after a month or two to get started . . ."

It was to the believers of North America that the Tablets of the Divine Plan were addressed. To volunteer for a Latin American country, or any other of the 58 goal areas of the Western Hemisphere, contact the National Spiritual Assembly or: Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, Secy., 73 College Road West, Princeton, New Jersey

THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD

Call for Material, Volume 1954-56

The Guardian especially emphasizes the importance of Bahá'í World "as it is placed in so many libraries the world over, and as it is the only thing of its kind which presents to the public an idea of what we are accomplishing and what we stand for." These volumes contain material which, as the Guardian says, "faithfully and vividly portrays, in all its essential features, its far-reaching ramifications and most arresting aspects, the all-encompassing Faith of Bahá'u'lláh."

The Bahá'í World provides an international record of the Faith which is of increasingly vital importance to Bahá'ís of every part of the world, not only in the United States. In the words of the Guardian: "This unique record of world-wide Bahá'í activity . . . stands unexcelled and unapproached by any publication of its kind in the varied literature of our beloved Cause."

All material for this international record of the progress of the Faith is assembled by the Editorial Committee for submission to Shoghi Effendi, who makes final selection of the contents for each volume. So that this material may be brought together for presentation to the Guardian, The Bahá'í World Editorial Committee for the volume 1954-56 requests the following kinds of material:

I. Articles: on Bahá'í topics or universal topics closely related to the Faith, written by Bahá'ís or sympathetic non-Bahá'ís who are outstanding in a particular field. Articles should not exceed 5,000 words in length.

II. Accounts of Special Bahá'í Events: such as, regional or international conferences, pioneer experiences in opening new territories, stories showing how the Bahá'í Faith is being recognized by the non-Bahá'í world.

III. References to the Bahá'í Faith in magazines and books:
A. By non-Bahá'í writers
B. By Bahá'í writers in non-Bahá'í publications. Please give the complete and exact reference, including title, name of publication, date and page. If possible, send clippings or reprints.

IV. Appreciations of the Bahá'í Faith: Published statements by prominent personages, concerning the Faith.

V. Documents relating to the expanding institutions of the Faith:
A. Certificates of Incorporation of Assemblies
B. Official recognition of Bahá'í Holy Days, such as permission to be absent from work or school for such observances.
C. Licenses to perform Bahá'í marriages.

Please send two clear photostatic copies of each document.

VI. Photographs: Three clear glossy prints of each picture are requested, no smaller than 5 x 7 inches, if possible.
A. Conferences
B. Conventions
C. Summer Schools
D. First Assemblies
E. Newly-incorporated Assemblies
F. Outstanding Bahá'í exhibits, arranged for special occasions.

Wherever appropriate and possible,
show Bahá'ís in action, rather than in posed attitudes.

All written copy should be typed, double-space, and submitted in duplicate, the original and first carbon. Send material of all kinds to:

Bahá'í World Editorial Committee
Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Secy.
P. O. Box 285
Waukegan, Illinois, U.S.A.

AREA CONFERENCES

The East Central States Area Teaching Bulletin reports a successful Area Conference at Mansfield, Ohio. A two-day Conference was held July 10-11 at the Louhelen Bahá'í School, at which Mrs. Margery McCormick, member of the American Auxiliary Board and the National Spiritual Assembly, presented a part of the program. Another Conference is to be held at Louhelen on September 4 and 5.

The Southwest Area Teaching Committee has scheduled an Area Conference at Geyerville Bahá'í School for July 17. Mrs. Florence Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board of the American Hands of the Cause, will be a featured speaker.

BAHÁ'Í ON THE AIR

Station KBTV, Denver, Colorado, interviewed Mr. Jamshed Fozdar in a fifteen-minute program on the subject “Women's Rights in Southeast Asia”. Mr. Fozdar's mother, one of three most outstanding women in southeast Asia, is a Bahá'í. In this connection it was possible to mention the Faith several times.

Mr. Reginald King gave a fifteen-minute talk on the Faith over station KOLO, Reno, Nevada.

A fifteen-minute script on “A World Religion”, keyed to observance of the anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Báb, was presented the evening of July 8 over station KBOW, Butte, Montana.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

An Anchorage, Alaska, Bahá'í has assumed the costs of printing 2000 copies of an Eskimo-English teaching pamphlet. Publication of this teaching aid, blocked last year for lack of funds and now proceeding with the approval of the National Spiritual Assembly and the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, marks a big step forward in reaching the people native to Alaska.

The Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Bahá'í Group has initiated a Childen's Hour with the study of God and His Messengers.

The Butte, Montana, Bahá'í Community observed the Souvenir of ‘Abdu'l-Bahá in one of the Forest Service parks near the city. Directional signs guiding friends to the site also brought the name “Bahá'í” to the attention of motorists on a much-traveled highway.

DENVER, Colorado, Bahá'ís have scheduled a series of study classes, based on Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era, to be held in various parks of the city through the summer months. Printed schedules of these classes were sent to all contacts. This activity is in addition to usual summer activity such as picnics in the mountains with talks on the Faith. Regular firesides in homes throughout the city continue.

Flagstaff, Arizona, Bahá'ís report the establishment of a regular children's study class.

From New York City comes news of the passing of Dr. Alain Locke, Bahá'í, noted Negro educator and author, the first American Negro Rhodes scholar. In the early 1920's Dr. Locke visited the Guardian in Haifa and wrote an article about his impressions of that visit for Volume I of the Bahá'í World. Quotations from the Bahá'í Writings and Bahá'í Prayers were read at Dr. Locke's funeral.

In Reno, Nevada, a talk was given by a Bahá'í speaker on the “Oneness of the World of Humanity” before a luncheon meeting of United Nations Association members. Also in Reno, as a result of cooperation with the Inter-Racial Teaching Committee program, several Negroes have become interested in the Faith.

GARDEN CLUB AT TEMPLE

The June meeting of the Illinois Garden Club was held in Foundation Hall at the Bahá'í House of Worship in Wilmette, Illinois. A report on the meeting says:

“Another instance of the power of the Temple as a teaching medium, of which our Beloved Master, Abdu'l-Bahá, frequently spoke, was seen on June fourth when some members of the Illinois Garden Club met at the Temple for an illustrated talk upon the Temple Gardens. Hilbert E. Dahl, Landscape Architect of the Gardens, showed slides of the Temple, of the development of the gardens, and of the gardens as they now appear and, while speaking in his professional capacity upon a technical subject, the purpose and significance of the Temple as a spiritual institution was outlined as the motivating objective in the garden design. From whatever aspect the Temple is considered it stands vibrantly expressive of the universality and potency of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.”

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Bahá'í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá'ís and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahá'í House of Worship A Cappella Choir.

The programs for the month of July follow:

Order of Devotions — July 4, 1954

Religion is the greatest of all means for the establishment of order in the world and for the peaceful contentment of all that dwell therein.

— Bahá'u'lláh

BAHÁ'Í SACRED WRITINGS

Bahá’í Prayers, p. 9


Gleanings, pp. 94-95

CHORAL SELECTION

Let All the Nations Praise the Lord—Vociferous Leisring

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 2:5-4, 9-6:2: 52:7-10

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 5:8-13; Revelation 21:1-7

CHORAL SELECTION

Glory to God in the Highest—G. B. Pergeolosi

BAHÁ'Í SACRED WRITINGS

Gleanings, pp. 286-287; 249-250; CXX, p. 254

Bahá’í Prayers, p. 78

CHORAL SELECTION

In Solemne Silence—Ippolito-Ivanof

Order of Devotions — July 11, 1954

Why is it that the advent of every true Manifestation of God hath been accompanied by such strife and tumult, by such tyranny and upheaval?—Bahá'u'lláh

CHORAL SELECTION

Blessing, Glory and Wisdom and Thanks—G. Wagner

What Tongue Can Tell Thy Greatness, Lord—G. Wagner

BAHÁ'Í SACRED WRITINGS

Prayers and Meditations, LXI, p. 96

The Kitáb-i-íqan, pp. 4, 5, 6

Gleanings, pp. 56-58
NEW TESTAMENT
Luke 20:3-19

QUR'AN
Sura III:171-181

CHORAL SELECTION
Hear My Cry, O God—Alexander Koplyzoff
BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
The Kitab-i-Iqan, pp. 12-13, 14-15; pp. 217, 91-92, 93
Prayers and Meditations, IV, p. 6

CHORAL SELECTION
Out of the Deep—Christooph W. von Gluck

Order of Devotions — July 18, 1954
Whoso keepeth the commandments of God shall attain everlasting felicity. —Bahá'u'lláh

CHORAL SELECTION
If Ye Love Me—W. H. Monk

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
Prayer of Bahá'u'lláh

OLD TESTAMENT
Deuteronomy 6:1-4; Exodus 20:1-15, 12-17; Leviticus 19:18

NEW TESTAMENT
Matthew 10:16-21; Mark 12:28-31; John 15:5-12

QUR'AN
Sura XXIV: 30-34

CHORAL SELECTION
Teach Me, O Lord—Thomas Attwood

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
Selections, p. 200; The Hidden Words, From the Arabic, No. 39; Gleanings, pp. 333-354; CXI, p. 217

PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS
I, p. 14

CHORAL SELECTION
Let Thy Holy Presence—P. Tschenskoff

The readings for July 25 are the same as those presented on May 19.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The God Who Walks With Men
By Horace Holley. A stirring new approach to the way God keeps His Covenant with man. Presented in lucid, imaginative prose, this pamphlet carries conviction in every line and induces conviction in the heart of its reader. Featured by the National Committee for intimate firesides and personal contacts.

(minimum order) 10 Copies $ .75
100 Copies $7.00

Price Reduced on Bahá’í World Set
Bahá’í World, Volumes II, III, IV, V, VI, VIII, IX, X and XI, constitute a set of these books still available. Bought singly, the set costs $49.50. The Publishing Committee now offers the 9 volumes for $44.50, a saving of $5.00, and will deliver them, at this reduced price, any-

where in the U.S. Here is an opportunity for communities and individuals to place vital documentation in their libraries at a saving.

Nine volume “set” (net) ... $44.50

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEASTS
August 1, Kamál, Perfection
August 20, Asmá, Names
September 8, 'Izzat, Might
September 27, Masúhiyát, Will

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
July 30, 31, August 1
September 3, 4, 5, 6

BAHÁ’Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP
Visiting Hours
Weekdays: 10:30 A.M.—4:30 P.M.
7:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M.
Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—9:00 P.M.

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30, lasting until 4:15. (No guided tours will be conducted during the service of worship.)

BAHÁ’Í NEWS

ADDRESS:
536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois

O. B. Alex, By-laws

Change of Address should be reported directly to National Baha’i Administrative Headquarters, 536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

BAHÁ’Í NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community. Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the tenth day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHÁ’Í NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1954-1955: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Managing Editor; Mr. David Ned Blackmer, Assistant Editor; Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Edna True.

Editorial Office: 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

MARRIAGES

“Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace . . .”

—Bahá’u’lláh

Berkeley, California—Miss Inez Lawson to Mr. Raymon Dones, May 16, 1954.
San Francisco, California—Miss Cecelia Ann Seals to Mr. Vernon Eugene Skovgaard, June 6, 1954.
Teaneck Assembly, West Englewood, New Jersey—Miss Caroline Marie Biedermann to Mr. Eric Opel, June 12, 1954.

Chicago, Illinois—Miss Ruth J. English to Mr. Lorenzo E. Moore, June 12, 1954.

IN MEMORIAM

“Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life.”

—Baha’u’llah

Mr. Morris S. Bush
Buffalo, N. Y.
December, 1933

Mr. Henry L. Green
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
May 21, 1954

Mr. Frank E. Kaley
Topeka, Kansas
May 26, 1954

Mrs. Albert D. (Rose) Robinson
Chicago, Illinois
June 1, 1954

Mr. Kenneth Calhoun
St. Augustine, Florida
(no date given)
"DELIGHTED PROGRESS"

Message from the Guardian


—SHOGHI

August 5, 1954

COMMENTARY: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Beloved Friends:
The joyous and loving cable from the Guardian reprinted above was his response to a message sent him from the July-August meeting of the National Spiritual Assembly in which the Assembly reported on current activities including the development of consolidation pioneer projects for Finland, France, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico. The Guardian's pleasure at the success of the work for the World Crusade is our supreme goal and highest reward.

In this connection may the National Spiritual Assembly ask all American believers pioneering on the home front to make contact with the American National Teaching Committee in order to report their goal, date of arrival, new local address, etc. Full reports cannot be sent to Shoghi Effendi on this campaign unless the friends coordinate their projects with the national committee concerned.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

MAINTENANCE OF ASSEMBLIES

Message from the Guardian

Information incorrect. Maintenance all Assemblies vital.

—SHOGHI

July 23, 1954

COMMENTARY: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Dear friends:
We share with you a cable received from the Guardian on July 23, written in reply to a National Spiritual Assembly request for advice concerning a statement he has been alleged to have made to the effect that every Baha'i should scatter, and many feel that this means that Assembly status need not be maintained in large industrial cities or in goal cities.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

EXPLANATIONS AND DIRECTIVES

Written on Behalf of the Guardian by His Secretary

He was very pleased to note that a Certificate of Excellence was awarded to the Publishing Committee. There is no doubt that we cannot make our publications too attractive, especially as they are being so much more widely circulated than before. He placed the Certificate in the mansion in Bahji.

The Pioneer Record

The phenomenal progress which has been made throughout the Baha'i world in settling the virgin countries during the first year of the Ten Year Crusade has been a source of great joy and comfort to the Guardian. Over-worked and often tired out as he is, the news of the arrival of pioneers in over one hundred posts has, one might almost say, kept him going. He is very proud of their achievements — the American pioneers and all their co-workers who have arisen to answer this mighty call. However, this is only the beginning. The next step is to keep these virgin areas open and settled with at least one pioneer, and preferably, of course, two or three; and to get pioneers into the few remaining countries outside the Soviet zone of influence.

He thinks that, in spite of a few lapses from duty, so to speak, the record is remarkable, and that your Assembly and your Committees handling the pioneers in different continents have every reason to feel proud and gratified over your success.

The pioneers themselves must realize that not only are they fulfilling the wishes of Baha'u'llah, and doing that which He longed to do; namely, to go, if necessary on foot, and carry His Father's Message to all the regions of the earth; but they are enhancing the prestige of the Faith to a remarkable degree in the eyes of the public, and especially in the eyes of officials. There is no doubt that the rapid forward march of the Faith recently has attracted a far greater measure of attention on the part of thoughtful people, and people of position in society and in educational fields, than has been the case for almost one hundred years.

Therefore, each pioneer must feel his responsibility very heavily, and understand that his calling is far above the average; and his duty to remain at his post a very pressing one indeed.

The Auxiliary Board

The Guardian feels sure that the Auxiliary Boards recently appointed by the Hands of the Cause will stimulate and help the teaching work, which of course includes pioneer work, and be a prop and mainstay to the often over-worked and overburdened National Spiritual Assemblies, as well as to the Hands of the Cause who are carrying, usually, heavy administrative loads in addition to their exalted position as Hands.

The general principle is that the National Spiritual Assembly to which a country has been allotted is responsible for the progress of the Faith there, and the unfolding of its administrative activities, regardless of whether the territory in ques-
tion is the possession of a nation other than that which the National Assembly in question represents.

In other words, your Assembly might be carrying out teaching work in British, Portuguese, Spanish or French territories, and the British, Portuguese, Spanish or French Assemblies would have nothing to do with the matter.

Concern over the Home Front

He is very concerned over the work on the homefront. The American Bahá'ís have, with devotion, enthusiasm and confidence, gone out to answer the pioneer call all over the world, but he does not feel that they have made an adequate response to the needs of the work in the United States.

He has been told that some of the friends are disturbed over reports brought back by the pilgrims concerning the dangers facing America in the future whenever another world conflagration breaks out.

He does not feel that the Bahá'ís should waste time dwelling on the dark side of things. Any intelligent person can understand from the experiences of the last world war, and keeping abreast of what modern science has developed in the way of weapons for any future war, that big cities all over the world are going to be in tremendous danger. This is what the Guardian has said to the pilgrims.

Entirely aside from this, he has urged the Bahá'ís, for the sake of serving the Faith, to go out from these centers of intense materialism, where life nowadays is so hurried and grinding and, dispersing to towns and villages, carry the Message far and wide through the cities of the American Union. He strongly believes that the field outside the big cities is more fertile, that the Bahá'ís in the end will be happier for having made this move, and that, in case of an outbreak of war, it stands to reason they will be safer, just the way any other person living in the country, or away from the big industrial areas, is safer.

Pilgrim's Notes

It is remarks such as these that the pilgrims have carried back in their notes. He sees no cause for alarm, but he certainly believes that the Bahá'ís should weigh these thoughts, and take action for the sake of spreading the Faith of Bahá-'ulláh, and for their own ultimate happiness as well. Indeed the two things go together.

Increase in Local Assemblies

He hopes that during the present year there will be a great surge forward on the home front, that the number of Assemblies will be markedly multiplied, and that also there will be more incorporations of Spiritual Assemblies. The Ten Year Plan, if the friends will study it, comprises not only glamorous goals far afield, but extremely important ones near at hand. If these are not achieved, the Plan will have failed.

He knows from his past experience, and his long association with the American Bahá'ís in the service of the Faith, that they are capable of arising and meeting the requirements of the hour, and he feels sure that, at this period in their Bahá'í history, they are going to demonstrate their sterling qualities just as they always have in the past.

Temple Dependency

As he has already informed your Assembly, he feels that the first Bahá'í institution to be built in the neighborhood of the Temple at Wilmette should be a Home for the Aged. There are a number of reasons for this. First of all, it need not be a very expensive undertaking in the beginning, or require a tremendous outlay of capital. Second, he believes that it is now time for the Bahá'ís to show the people of the world that our aim of rendering service to humanity is a concrete thing, and not confined to words. Until now, the Bahá'ís have not been in any position to create philanthropic institutions, and they have often been criticized for this. He feels therefore that in a small way they can now begin, through the founding of this first institution in the neighborhood of the Temple.

Bahá'í Symbol on Tombstones

In regard to your question regarding the use of the Greatest Name on tombstones of Bahá'ís, the Guardian considers this too sacred to be placed in such a position in general use, and the friends should not use it on their tombstones. They can use quotations from the Teachings, if they wish to, but not the Greatest Name. Naturally, if anyone has already used it, it does not matter.

Marriage to a Non-Bahá'í

The general principle in regard to the marriage of a Bahá'í to a non-Bahá'í is as follows: If a Bahá'í marries a non-Bahá'í who wishes to have the religious ceremony of his own sect carried out, it must be quite clear that, first, the Bahá'í partner is understood to be a Bahá'í by religion, and not to accept the religion of the other party to the marriage through having his or her religious ceremony; and second, the ceremony must be of a nature which does not commit the Bahá'í to any declaration of faith in a religion other than his own.

Under these circumstances, the Bahá'í can partake of the religious ceremony of his non-Bahá'í partner. The Bahá'í should insist on having the Bahá'í ceremony carried out before or after the non-Bahá'í one, on the same day.

Beloved Friends:

The foregoing communication consists of excerpts taken from a letter to the National Assembly on behalf of the Guardian by his Secretary. It presents us with explanations and directives requested by the National Assembly on current questions, and will be greatly appreciated by the friends.

The headings supplied for identification of separate subjects were of course not a part of the original letter from Haifa.

The Guardian's great message published as an annex in this issue of Bahá'í News came as a postscript to the letter written on his behalf dated June 20.

The Assemblies and individual believers are to apply whatever directives come to us from Haifa except those which as in the case of the Temple dependency can only be carried out by the national body.

—National Spiritual Assembly

AUSTRALIAN HAND OF CAUSE APPOINTS TWO ASSISTANTS

From the Bahá'í News Bulletin of Australia and New Zealand, June, 1954, we learn that, on instruction of the Guardian, Clara Dunn, Hand of the Cause of the Australian Continent, has appointed two assistants who, with her, comprise the Board. Those appointed by the Hand of the Cause are H. C. Featherstone and Thelma Parks.

SEPTEMBER, 1954

R. RABBANI, Secretary

June 20, 1954

COMMENTARY: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
SETTLEMENT OF GOAL CITIES

Beloved Friends:

The National Spiritual Assembly has received a letter written on behalf of the Guardian by the Assistant Secretary, which states that the Bahá'ís who disperse should consider as their first obligation, if they do not settle outside the United States, the settlement of one of the goal cities of the Crusade in the United States. We quote two paragraphs from this communication dated July 11, 1954:

"In letters which have been received from many individuals, the Guardian has noted that they wish to disperse from large cities; but in few instances do they speak of settling in the goal cities of the Ten Year Plan. They write of settling in this city, or that city or some other city, but in few cases have any mentioned settling in a goal city selected by the National Assembly. The Guardian feels this is something the National Assembly, the National Teaching Committee and the local Assemblies should take in hand very actively, so that any Bahá'ís who disperse should consider as their first obligation, if they do not settle outside of the United States, that they settle in one of the goal cities of the Crusade in the United States."

This direction gives a new emphasis to the plan adopted last year for the establishment of a total of 300 local Assemblies by 1963. Without a general plan, and coordination of efforts of individual pioneers, local Assemblies and Teaching Committees, the successful outcome could well be missed.

Will this direction, then, be discussed and shared with the believers at Feasts, Conferences and School sessions, so that we may move steadily forward as one organic body with concentrated energy and single aim. Prospective pioneers should get in touch with the American National Teaching Committee or the Intercontinental Teaching Committee for the area they prefer.

It will not be overlooked that by pointing our settlements to the definite list of goal cities, the Guardian refutes any misunderstanding which might arise as to the essential purpose of dispersal. We are not fleeing from danger but we are establishing the Bahá'í community in as many different parts of the world as we can by 1963. It is a World Faith, germinating a World Order, and the sign of this universality must be clearly apparent to all mankind by 1963. That is the shining goal. The peril and the destruction are accompanying factors but they are not, and never can be, substitute goals.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

"... The Queen of Carmel enthroned on God’s Mountain crowned in glowing gold, robed in shimmering white, girdled in emerald green, enchanting every eye from air, sea, plain and hill." (quoted from the Guardian’s cable of October, 1953)
"LOVE ME, THAT I MAY LOVE THEE"

Beloved Friends:

As we find ourselves in the era of proclamation, pioneer settlement and world-wide expansion of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, it is imperative that we adapt ourselves inwardly and spiritually to the new needs and opportunities of this time. Too many attitudes and habits from the past era continue to limit the powers of our souls.

The former Bahá'í era established the administrative institutions. Its keynote was discipline, since a large body of individuals were obliged to recognize the important new factor of authority vested in the institution. Authority vested in an institution, not a form of personal prestige, was a new reality. In discovering it we underwent painful experience and much useful initiative was dampened and discouraged.

Today as we survey ourselves as a community we find many local bodies in existence which have enrolled no new believers in years. The Bahá'ís attend to the formalities of their Assembly but inspire no vigorous teaching efforts. Why should this be? Why should there be lack of unity, lack of cooperation—such a minimum of spiritual life that we continue to exist but do not develop and evolve?

The reason, essentially, is that we remain imprisoned within our own human personality and rarely transcend its limitations. Our relations with other Bahá'ís are confined within the mutual limitations of personalities. Politeness and courtesy are no substitute for that all-embracing love which is the gift of God to His people in this age.

What is the reason for our limitation? Because the adjustments of personalities necessarily involve complications of human feeling and opinion, while relationship to the Creative Word creates oneness among diverse peoples.

In some cases the love of leadership and power keeps a community in ferment year after year. In other cases jealousies are aroused when any Bahá'í courageously attempts to undertake more vigorous teaching work. A community tends to revolve around two centers of personality, so that the element of disunity always exists as a potential beneath the surface.

This is a desperate crisis, and we can only emerge from it as individuals making, each one, a supreme effort to purify and re-invigorate his own individual self.

As physical pain is evidence of some illness, so unhappiness is the evidence of spiritual sickness. We should begin with every appearance of unhappiness in our Bahá'í lives and face it determinedly as a symptom of conditions that must be healed. Prayer and meditation, not argument and aimless discussion—intense and concentrated prayer—are the healing remedy which a loving Father provides for his erring children.

Through prayer and meditation we can begin to discern the true self within—the spiritual being which God created in the mystery of a life of flesh—and holding fast to that assurance, strive to attain more and more perfect light from the Source. The true Bahá'í life is happy, spontaneous, energetic, creative. It blesses not only the individual who has learned to live this life but all other persons encountered along the way. This life is a luminous surface reflecting love and ardor everywhere. A small community of Bahá'ís who love God would have a power of service surpassing the capacity of hundreds of indifferent souls.

This way forward, from the human to the spiritual being, is surely the immediate step we all must humbly strive to make. Surrounded as we are today with gravest of world issues and events, we can only meet them in a spiritual realm because in the human realm they shatter and destroy.

It would be well if, in many communities where unhappiness and dis-sension have reigned, the believers could undergo a condition of true repentance, each for the wrong done to the others—tear away the thick veils of personality, and find each other as children of God.

This compassionate, wise, divine mission was the Master's; and in His Tablets to the friends we find again the power of true faith.

Consider these words: "The spiritual love of God maketh man pure and holy and clotheth him with the garment of virtue and purity. And when man attacheth his heart wholly to God and becometh related to the Blessed Perfection, the divine bounty will dawn. This love is not physical, nay, rather, it is absolutely spiritual."

"The souls whose consciences are enlightened through the light of the love of God, they are like unto shining lights and resemble stars of holiness in the heaven of purity.

"The real and great love is the love of God. That is holy above the imaginations and thoughts of men . . .

"Therefore, O ye friends of God, you must in perfect purity attain spiritual unity and agreement to a degree that you may express one spirit and one life." (Bahá'í World Faith, page 365)

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

INCORPORATION OF ASSEMBLIES

The Spiritual Assembly of Oak Park, Illinois, was legally incorporated on February 16, 1954.

The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of St. Louis, Missouri, was legally incorporated on June 14, 1954. The document was certified by the Secretary of State of Missouri.

These actions make about 85 duly incorporated local Assemblies in the United States.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

WORLD RELIGION DAY

Included in National List of Special Events

The rise of World Religion Day to a place of prominence and public influence in the United States is attested by the action of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in requesting the National Spiritual Assembly to fill out a form giving all necessary information about World Religion Day.

Their national bulletin referred to as "Special Days, Weeks and Months in 1955" went to press on August 15 and well before that date the data was supplied.

Adopted in October, 1949, the first World Religion Day was observed as a public relations project on the third Sunday of January, 1950, and has been regularly held on the third Sunday of January since that year. World Religion Day is also observed by National Spiritual Assemblies and local Assemblies outside the United States.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Dear Friends:

The important Assembly of the World Council of Churches is to be
held in Evanston in mid-August. A Bahá’í Committee was appointed to deal with this meeting and reports that the central voting group will be made up from member churches representing 150 million people. Christian leaders from 48 countries on both sides of the Iron Curtain will attend. This Assembly will probably be the most representative Christian gathering ever held. Christian leaders are also aware that it may be the most explosive.

What are they going to talk about?

The main theme of the Assembly sounds uncontroversial enough: “Christ, the Hope of the World.” Yet that title contains a question which, before it is answered, may draw a dramatic line between Christian theologians in every part of the world. In this Assembly they must come to grips with such questions as the “Return,” the “Second Coming,” the “End of the World,” the “Day of Judgment” and the “Establishment of the Father’s Kingdom on Earth.” The greatest Christian scholars are divided on these questions and they will probably remain divided. So, as of now, what constitutes Christian Hope is far from clear in many minds and there is no common message of hope to give mankind.

What can we do about it?

1. We can inform ourselves of the Teachings of our Faith regarding the return of Christ. We can meet with other believers and study Some Answered Questions, which tells of the birth of Christ, the Second Coming, the Resurrection, etc. In this book the Master speaks with authority about many of these questions which have troubled Christians down through the ages.

2. We can use for firesides and radio broadcasts specially prepared recordings: “The Return of Christ” and “The Promised One.” The tape recordings of these talks can be secured from the Bahá’í Press Service, 6543 N. Campbell Avenue, Chicago, 45, Illinois.

3. The “Return of Christ” on record can be secured from the Audio-Visual Education Committee. This Committee is now producing “Words for the World.” Both of these recordings have been used successfully at firesides in preparing inquirers for the Bahá’í story.

What is the National Spiritual Assembly doing about the Assembly of the World Council of Churches?

1. Issues of the Christian Century, widely read by Protestant clergy around the world, will carry a picture and a cordial invitation to the delegates and their friends to visit the Temple.

Similar invitations will be placed in all North Shore papers. Posters bearing this same invitation will be placed in store windows.

2. The Council delegates have two free periods. Sunday afternoon, August 22nd, and Thursday night, August 26th. Horace Holley will speak on “The Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh” in the Foundation Hall of the Temple, at 8:00 P.M. Aug. 26. The Sunday afternoon services will be planned with the Council attendees in mind.

3. A telegram of greeting and good wishes will be sent to the opening session of the Assembly by the National Spiritual Assembly.

What do we hope to accomplish by these preparations?

Our great hope is to alert the friends everywhere to the challenge this Assembly of the World Council of Churches will present to them, so they may take advantage of it to tell of the Bahá’í teachings on these subjects.

We do not expect to make converts of the visiting clergy but we do expect to make friends for the Faith, through tours of the Temple and gifts of suitable literature especially prepared for this occasion. We expect that the Bahá’í Faith will be understood and its principles appreciated during this coming Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

News of the Assembly will be broadcast on Radio and Television and appear in newspapers. Tremendous interest will be stimulated among vast numbers of people who will be talking about this event.

The important thing to remember is that liberal Christian thinking regarding Bible prophecy, “The Return,” etc., has changed profoundly the last two years. Millions of Christians will be made conscious of the “Return” or “Second Coming,” thanks to the Council Assembly. The World Council of Churches is not likely to meet again this century in the U. S. Christian leaders from all over the world are being brought to the very doors of the Temple.

American Bahá’ís are being presented with this God-given teaching opportunity. It is the hope of the NSA that all believers will arise and take full advantage of the many opportunities which will result from the Evanston Christian Assembly.

Sincerely,

National Spiritual Assembly

BAHÁ’Í IN THE NEWS

A photograph of the Temple has been sent to the United States Information Agency, Religious Information Section, to be used in an exhibit of the religious life of America to be sent abroad.

Wilmette Life, June 3, devoted its front cover to a very attractive close-up picture of members of the Wilmette Garden Club in one of the Temple gardens. The occasion was a meeting of members of Illinois Garden Clubs addressed by Mr. Hilbert Dahl, landscape architect, in Temple Foundation Hall on June 4.


The editors of P. F. Collier & Son have submitted for revision a very biased article on the Faith in National Encyclopedia, and a new article approved by the Reviewing Committee has been accepted for publication in the next edition. The statement is accompanied by an illustration of the House of Worship.

Through Miss Gwenne D. Sholtis the National Assembly has received a copy of a newspaper published in Santiago, Chile, in which the editors gave an accurate brief outline of the Faith in response to a request for information received from a reader.
The New York Assembly has sent a copy of the Israeli paper Forward for July 18, 1954, a roto supplement, containing a very attractive photo of the completed Shrine of the Báb with a factual reference.

The Shrine of the Báb is also illustrated in the July issue of Michigan Architect and Engineer, a copy of which has come from Mr. Edwin Earley.

In the small magazine Fellowship in Prayer, April, 1954, the Master's Prayer for All Nations is reproduced, and a very sympathetic reference also appears concerning the tragic death of Dorothy Beecher Baker, one of the advisors of this publication.

Speaking of Women, April, 1954, an International Quarterly, contains two Baha'i articles: "Bahá’í Broadcast In Canada," by Lloyd Gardner (Script written by Annie B. Romer) and a brief story on Tahirih written by F. Kazemzadeh.

The Woman’s Forum of Nassau County, Long Island, has in its May, 1954, issue an excerpt from Hidden Words and also a notice of the participation of the Bahá’ís of Long Island in the exhibits maintained at the Eleventh Annual Forum, March 30.

In the July issue of American Motorist, a national magazine which has a very large circulation, on page 31, under "Books for Motorists and Tourists", is a write-up which states:

The Spell of the Temple by Allen Boyer McDaniel... is the story of the fabulous Bahá’í Temple on Grosse Point Bluff, on Lake Michigan, near Chicago. As an engineer, Mr. McDaniel helped to build the temple which is a travel objective for folks headed toward that area.

The Chicago Sunday Tribune on July 4 in its Neighborhood Section ran an article about the members of the Ioas family under the heading "Family Helps Strengthen Shines of Bahá’í Religion." Signed by staff writer Louise Hutchinson, the article listed the many activities and outstanding achievements of members of the family over three generations of devotion to the Faith.

Revision of a Bahá’í article in a book entitled A Handbook of Denominations, published in 1947, has been made by the author, Frank S. Mead, Editor, Fleming H. Revell Co., and submitted to the National Spiritual Assembly for final approval.

—National Spiritual Assembly

TEMPORARY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Appeal for Cooperation

American Bahá’ís who go on a journey or on vacation and are temporarily absent from home have been requesting the national headquarters to use a temporary address for sending copies of Bahá’í News, as the believer is anxious to see his current issue without delay.

Unfortunately this practice has produced an impossible situation for the national staff, combined as it is with the large amount of extra work involved in postal returns from addresses which have changed without advance notice to the National Spiritual Assembly.

Will the believers appreciate the unnecessary expense involved in postage due bills of $15.00 in some months, plus hours per week of staff time in remailing copies to new addresses when they finally arrive.

The National Spiritual Assembly can no longer make up for the failure of the friends to take care of their own changes of address at their own local Post Office, when mail must be forwarded to them elsewhere, or for their assumption that the staff can act as a Post Office to take care of temporary changes of address.

The method to be followed in the headquarters for mailing of Bahá’í News hereafter is simple. A copy will be sent each American Bahá’í at the permanent address on our list. If any copy is returned undelivered by the Post Office, it will be retained here. A believer not receiving a copy because of a change of address not reported to the National Spiritual Assembly can obtain a new copy at the rate of 10 cents each.

Every effort will continue to be made to maintain a full and correct address list of the Bahá’í community, as hitherto, but the National Spiritual Assembly must safeguard its funds and its staff facilities for efficiency as well as for the sake of justice. A little thoughtfulness on the part of the individual can be a great help at national headquarters.

—National Spiritual Assembly

KAMPALA SITE PURCHASED FOR HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The purchase of a site for the future Mashriqu’l-Adam of Kampala, Uganda, has been announced in Africa News, publication of the Africa Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the British Isles. After many months of work, a special committee, acting with the advice of the Guardian, concluded negotiations for six acres of land located about one mile south of the municipal boundaries. From the elevation where the Temple will be reared there is a beautiful view of Lake Victoria and much of Kampala.

TRANSLATIONS IN INDIA

Translations of Bahá’í literature into the Baluchi, Panjabi, Tibetan, Javanese, Manipuri, Pasho, Nien, Mentawi, Georgian, Pali, as well as the Siamese and Modern Chinese languages have been completed, according to the Bahá’í News Bulletin of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of India, Pakistan and Burma. Translations into Thá, Ossete and Annamese are in process. From the same source it is reported that the Djakarta group has completed translation of Bahá’u’lláh and the New Era into Indonesian. This is now being reviewed preparatory to printing.

PIONEER LETTERS

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to share the following passages from pioneer letters, in keeping with its policy of keeping the Bahá’í world informed of the spirit and some of the incidents which characterize the unfoldment of the World Crusade.

Excerpts from Pioneer Letters to the Asia Teaching Committee

From Stanley Bolton, Jr.
Tonga, March 31, 1954

Tonga is quite isolated. Not, perhaps, as much as some Pacific Islands, but by American or Australian standards very much so. We have a regular monthly steamer from New Zealand which does the round trip to Suva, Tonga, Niue, Samoa, Savaii and back to New Zealand. Oc-
casionally, perhaps once in three months or more, we have a ship from the American mainland either direct or via Tahiti, and an occasional one from Australia. The flying boat, also from New Zealand via Suva, comes with alternative breaks of six and two weeks.

There is no newspaper, only a daily news sheet. But this is hard to get hold of unless you are in government circles and then when you do, is almost unreadable, so badly is it produced. Certainly it is days behind. Therefore the only real contact with the outside world is the radio, programs coming from Suva, New Zealand and Australia. America can also be picked up but is generally not listened to. There is no radio in Tonga itself except a cable station which is the one direct and permanent contact with the outside world.

In spite of this isolation Tonga is a veritable paradise. Some would say that because of this isolation it has remained a Pacific paradise. Others are hard in their criticism of lack of facilities and amenities and spend no little time cursing the quiet and solitude which is so much a part of island life.

The island of Tongatapu which, together with a few smaller islands, makes up one of the three groups comprising the whole of Tonga, is the main island. Being coral, it is perfectly flat and surrounded by extensive and far-reaching reefs. The weather is tropical, but not oppressively so as it is in Fiji or Samoa. The people are extremely likeable and friendly. There is good reason for these islands to be called the Friendly Islands. Walk down the street and at the drop of a hat a dozen conversations commence. Within the first hour of my arrival chatting to such a casual acquaintance, quite without purpose or trying, I was able to give a little of the Message.

The Tongans are friendly, open, childfree and generally, by our standards, without ambition or responsibility. It is probably for this reason that the ownership of all land is vested ultimately in the government through a quite rigidly observed system of aristocracy. Nobility of birth, from royalty down through the nobles and chieftain classes to the commoners, in spite of the natural and inevitable inroad of democratic ideas, still carries with it many privileges and traditional rights denied those of lower birth. This social system is even reflected in the language which, until the advent of missions and organized government, was merely a spoken language, in that different words for the same thing are used on occasion of addressing a person of higher or lower rank.

The European population is limited to government officials, government employees, managers and officials of commercial houses and ministers of the church. A few of the Europeans have been here many years, some all their life, having been born here. Among these most are related. But for the most part, the European population is a floating population which is constantly changing. As contracts, usually for three years, terminate they return from where they have come. There is a mixed Tongan-white population which is fairly well educated and speaks both Tongan and English fluently. They command a good deal of influence and power. By far the majority of the population is native Tongan in custom, language, culture, in fact, all but religion. A Wesleyan stronghold, there are also sizeable groups of Mormons and Catholics. The Europeans are generally Church of England.

There is veritably no tourist trade. Conditions do not warrant it, and while they are a convenient excuse, the fact is that immigration of any sort, regardless of who it might be, is discouraged and tourism is kept to an absolute minimum as official policy. Allegedly, the only people allowed to stay are employees under contract or people who have friends here whom they wish to visit. Since it is virtually impossible for a private individual (European) to buy land or a house except by renting or transferring a long term lease, of which there are few available and no further ones being issued, the only alternative for the casual visitor is to lodge at the boarding house. This of course leaves much to be desired. However, once here, I am sure that landing permits can be extended and a house, with a little difficulty or waiting, can be obtained.

I was very interested to read that some friends are trying to come here to settle and pioneer. Actually I heard some time ago through the grapevine, commonly called “coconut news” here, that their permits had been granted and sent off. I was delighted to discover that they were Bahá’is. With all the publicity
of the Royal visit there has been an amazing demand for entry permits. The secretary to the Premier told me that they have been receiving as many as two hundred applications each mail. Among them doubtless are some Bahá'í applicants. Most of them, except a few select, such as scientists, research men and journalists, are politely refused. For my own part, my entry here, I have discovered, has been a minor miracle.

Unaware of all of these difficulties when I applied I naturally assumed that a landing permit was the logical result of application, but I have since learned differently. I wrote to the Minister of Police for a landing permit a few days after my arrival back in Australia from the Holy Land. Realizing the poor mail service, and that all departments would be upside down with the Royal visit merely a few weeks off, I decided to cable. I received an immediate reply granting me six months. It was not until the eve of my departure that a formal application form was forwarded to me to fill in and I am sure must have arrived some considerable time after I did in Tonga. There was not time for me to receive a formal permit. I simply traveled on the strength of the cable and, of course, it was accepted. This all seemed very ordinary at the time but it has been only since my arrival that I learned from all sorts of sources that my case was unusual. Once established here there should be little difficulty in the future, since it is always possible for friends to visit residents.

Do pray for the work here. Prayer is the great binding force in this Ten Year Crusade and is a way all Bahá'ís can help gain in the world of the spirit those victories that must accrue to the pioneers in the world of reality.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

From the Bahá'í Youth Letter comes the announcement that the activity of South Australian youth has necessitated the formation of a South Australian Youth Group. This, it is hoped will develop into a Regional Youth Committee.

CANADA

Maritimes Conference

The Maritimes Provinces Annual Summer Conference, held this year in Shediac, New Brunswick, was keyed to the theme "The Unfoldment of the Faith Under the Guardian". Special emphasis was laid on study of the Guardian's messages.
CENTRAL AMERICA

"Instituto Cultural Indigena Bahá'í" Holds Formal Inauguration

In Chichicastenango, Departamento del Quiche, Guatemala, the "Instituto Cultural Indigena Bahá'í" was formally inaugurated, June 5. With the approval of the "Cofradía", the Indian Municipal government which includes 60 cantons, and the Ladiño government of the town, Louise Caswell and Jenny Taylor held a program introducing the school and its services to some 50 guests. This consisted, chiefly, of an exhibition of the school's facilities, a sincere welcome from the teachers, and refreshments. All present were told that the institute was theirs, established for their benefit. Fifteen members of the "Cofradía" attended, en masse, a sign of acceptance which the Indian people understand.

Although the program marked the formal opening, the Institute has functioned for some time, its members serving quietly, patiently, demonstrating its purpose by deeds.

Stolid, work-weary boys and girls taught to read, to develop their native skills, to play; a sick mother nursed to health — by such means the people came to know and trust the school and its personnel. Now, a recognized institution, the Institute can bring an even greater beneficial influence into the lives of the people of Chichicastenango and the surrounding territory.

And, for the first time, a fireside was held with the family of one of the Indian pupils.

Textbooks for Pioneers

The Asian Teaching Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central America requests that friends search their cellars and attics for old textbooks in English. These are needed in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, where there is a possibility that a school may be opened by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fernie, pioneers in that area. The Committee will act as forwarding agent. Believers who have textbooks to contribute to this project should write:

Asian Teaching Committee
Mr. James Barrett, Secy.
Box 1386
Cristobal, Panama
Canal Zone

First Gilbertese Believer

On June 1, 1954, the first Gilbertese believer, Mr. Peter Kanere of Buota, Abiand, became a declared follower of Bahá'u'lláh, the Asian Teaching Committee of Central America reports.

EXCERPTS FROM GLEANINGS STRESSED BY THE GUARDIAN

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to share with the believers the following quotations from Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh. This is a compilation made by Jessie Reveil, who says that these words were the theme of the Guardian all winter. Page numbers are given to the friends who wish to read the complete sections from which these passages have been taken.

"The world is in travail, and its agitation waxeth day by day. Its face is turned toward waywardness and unbelief. Such shall be its plight, that to disclose it now would not be meet and seemly. Its perversity will long continue. And when the appointed hour is come, there shall suddenly appear that which shall cause the limbs of mankind to quake. Then, and only then, will the Divine Standard be unfurled, and the Nightingale of Paradise warble its melody." Page 118-119

"O ye that are bereft of understanding! A severe trial pursueth you, and will suddenly overtake you. Bestir yourselves, that haply it may pass and inflict no harm upon you." Page 169

"So blind hath become the human heart that neither the disruption of the city, nor the reduction of the mountain in dust, nor even the cleaving of the earth, can shake off its torpor. The allusions made in the Scriptures have not been unfolded, and the signs recorded therein have not been revealed, and the prophetic cry is continually being raised. And yet all, except such as God was pleased to guide, are bewildered in the drunkenness of their heedlessness!" Page 39

"Soon shall the blasts of His chastisement beat upon you, and the dust of hell ensnare you. Those men who, having amassed the vanities and ornaments of the earth, have turned away disdainfully from God — these have lost both this world and the world to come. Ere long, will God, with the Hand of Power, strip them of their possessions, and divest them of the robe of His bounty. To this they themselves shall soon witness. Thou, too, shalt testify." Page 299

"We have a fixed time for you, O peoples. If ye fail, at that appointed hour, to turn towards God, He, verily, will lay violent hold on you, and will cause grievous afflictions to assail you from every direction. How severe, indeed, is the chastisement with which your Lord will then chastise you!" Page 214

"The fierce gales and whirlwinds of the world and its peoples can never shake the foundation upon which the rock-like stability of My chosen ones is based." Page 341

"Ere long the world and all that is therein shall be as a thing forgotten, and all honor shall belong to the loved ones of thy Lord, the All-Glorious, the Most Beautiful." Page 306

"If he be kindled with the fire of His love, if he forgoeth all created things, the words he uttereth shall set on fire them that hear him." Page 335

"Wert thou to consider this world, and realize how fleeting are the things that pertain unto it, thou wouldst choose to tread no path except the path of service to the Cause of thy Lord. None would have the power to deter thee from celebrating His praise, though all men should arise to oppose thee." Page 314

"Center your energies in the propagation of the Faith of God. Whoso is worthy of so high a calling, let him arise and promote it. Whoso is unable, it is his duty to appoint him who will, in his stead, proclaim this Revelation, whose power hath caused the foundations of the mightiest structures to quake, every mountain to be crushed into dust, and every soul to be dumbfounded. Should the greatness of this Day be revealed in its fulness, every man would forsake his myriad lives in his longing to partake, though it be for one moment, of its great glory — how much more this world and its corruptible treasures!" Pages 190-197
AN APPEAL FROM THE AMERICAN NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

Three States, North Carolina, South Carolina and Vermont, valued and hard won spiritual prizes of the First Seven Year Plan, are now without Local Spiritual Assemblies.

The American Bahá'í Community has relinquished a salient portion of their God Given Mission, an assignment of the First Seven Year Plan celebrated with such remembered joy at the Centenary Convention in 1944, when we were able to gladden our beloved Guardian's heart by the establishment of Local Spiritual Assemblies in every remaining state of the United States, as well as in each Province in Canada.

What must he feel to learn that this victorious achievement was transitory; that we have allowed this victory to slip from our grasp through the dissolution of three assemblies: Brattleboro, Vermont, North Augusta, South Carolina and Greensboro, North Carolina.

Re-establishment of these three Assemblies is the primary goal of the Home Front Crusade this year.

Where are the settlers who can reclaim these assemblies and bring joy once more to the heart of Shoghi Effendi?

Please do not delay if you can offer so tremendous and timely a service to the Faith. We wait for your letters.

AMERICAN NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE, Jesma Herbert, Secretary
725 Alvarado Street, Los Angeles 57, California

NATIONAL NEWS

EUROPEAN TEACHING COMMITTEE

Benelux Conference and Summer School

The Third Benelux Bahá'í Conference, June 5-7, followed by the First Benelux Bahá'í Summer School sessions, June 8-15, was attended by some seventy believers from nine countries.

Drs. Hermann Grossmann and Adelbert Mühlheudel, Hands of the Cause, spoke during the opening meetings of the Conference, held in De Pietersberg Auditorium in Oosterbeek near Arnhem, Holland. They traced the development of the Faith from the earliest days through the establishment of the institution of the Hands of the Cause and the appointment of their Auxiliary Boards, pointing out the duty and privilege of each Bahá'í to serve as a spearhead for constructive forces in building a new world. The second and third days of the Conference were given to reports from various countries and regional committees, and consultation on specific problems of the Benelux area. Addresses were distributed, mimeographed in the several languages used, and all discussion was translated simultaneously, on the spot, into French, Dutch, German and English.

The Summer School was keyed to the Ten Year Crusade and its implications for the Benelux nations. To launch these considerations, Miss Honor Kempton read the Guardian's message, point by point. The work for each of the Benelux countries was then charted on a blackboard and consultation held on immediate steps to be taken toward attainment of the goals outlined. Settlers volunteered to go to extension teaching areas in all three countries and plans were made for close cooperation between these pioneers and the mother communities. Problems of incorporation were discussed and the example of the "Foundation Bahá'í Literature", the legally recognized, tax-exempt organization set up in Holland as an immediate initial step, was studied. Funds were established for creating a Foundation Bahá'í Quds in Holland and Luxembourg and contributions made to a similar Fund already existing for Belgium. "Multiplication of Assemblies, Groups and isolated centers", the Guardian's words, were the theme, and the remainder of the sessions was devoted to discussion of details bearing on the teaching needed for the realization of this goal.

At the last session, the friends stood together for the reading of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's "Tablet of Visitation". At its close, all remained together in silence for nearly five minutes, bound in great unity of spirit, in renewed dedication to the tasks ahead.

At a meeting held immediately after the final session, the Benelux Regional Committee attacked its problems of coordinating the teaching effort and made initial plans for next year's Benelux Bahá'í Conference and Summer School.

UNITED STATES AFRICA TEACHING COMMITTEE

New Arrivals

After many delays, Mrs. Elizabeth Stamp, from New York, arrived on the island of St. Helena May 4. She is in one of the most isolated spots in the world. Boats go there only about once a month and when a boat does arrive, she says, it is a holiday for everyone but the shopkeepers and the post office.

She writes that she has already made known her Faith, has had many inquiries from people and is proceeding to get settled. She asks our thoughts and prayers for her in this isolated spot.

Goals for This Year

To build up the eleven virgin areas assigned to us in Africa, all of which have settlers or pioneers in the process of establishing themselves; for consolidating the area of South Africa and Liberia, each of which has one local assembly; all of this will be helped and stimulated immeasurably by the institution, new to us this year, of the Hand of the Cause, Mr. Musa Banini, living in Uganda, and Auxiliary Board of nine (announced in July BAHÁ'Í NEWS). Pioneers can thus come into closer contact with other friends through visits and innumerable ways the Hand and board will be able to help with teaching work in both remote and nearby areas of Africa.

In Africa one of the most thrilling teaching experiences, which took place during Ridván 1954, stemmed from the British Cameroons. Here, last October, Enoch Olinga, from...
Kampala, Uganda, settled and began teaching the Faith. By April 21st an assembly was formed in Victoria, British Cameroons, and during the Ridván period in British Togoland, French Togoland, French Cameroons, Ashanti Protectorate, Northern Territory Protectorate (of Gold Coast). Our committee has been in closest touch with David Tanyi, the pioneer to French Togoland, as it is one of the new areas assigned to us. He is serving with the utmost devotion and detachment, telling those whom he comes in touch with of the Faith. Already one new believer is about to be enrolled and he is overjoyed at this. With him in Lome, French Togoland, are two American pioneers, Miss Mavis Nyman and Mrs. Vivian Wesson, who arrived early in May, so they can form a Bahá’í Group and work together.

News of new believers enrolled also comes from the Collisons, of Ruanda-Urundi, adjacent to the Belgian Congo. They write of being eager for help from Bahá’í pioneers, but say that a knowledge of French is absolutely necessary. The Collisons, not knowing French, feel quite handicapped in their teaching work.

Bill Sears has recently been to Haifa and his notes, naturally, deal largely with the methods and importance of teaching in South Africa. Over and over again these general principles are reiterated; pioneers going to Africa must efface themselves, they must realize that in going to Africa they go to teach the native African people, not the Europeans or others who have migrated there. Pioneers must show by actions, not by words alone, that they love the Africans and have come to Africa to serve them and show their love for them. The Guardian considers Uganda the place in Africa where the Bahá’í Faith has been most successfully taught, and urges pioneers in other areas to emulate them. He said it was the small things that were done that touched the hearts and won people to the Faith. In teaching the native Africans his advice was “to select those taught carefully, teach them thoroughly, strengthen them in their understanding. Give them the message in such a way as to create in them a desire to teach. Then the task is accomplished. Then let the whites disperse.” Thus it is stressed that the Bahá’í pioneers teach some of the Africans well and then let them go ahead and teach others, in their own way. Surely we are seeing an excellent example of this in the story of the pioneering of Enoch Olinga and the pioneers from Victoria. Lastly, as has been said many times previously, the Guardian is anxious that pioneers throughout Africa hold strongly and uncompromisingly to the principles of the Faith; taking no sides whatsoever in politics, not even indirectly, not ever appearing to side against authorities, never taking sides but maintaining strict silence on all such matters. And, finally, his message to Africa, as it is to Bahá’ís all over the world is: disperse and scatter. Teach the Faith; when an assembly is formed, move on to a new place and begin all over again.

**NATIONAL REFERENCE LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

The National Reference Library Committee would like to call attention to a suggestion of the National Assembly made in “The Home Front Teaching Plan” wherein each individual is asked: “To make the sacred Bahá’í literature his daily companion through study and meditation of such works as Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh.”

If you have not already set up a program of study in compliance with this directive, we offer work on the preparation of reference material under the direction of this Committee as an ideal deepening technique.

The following projects are under way, headed up by the individuals noted:

- Detailed indexing of Bahá’í literature in preparation of a master index:
  - Mrs. Dorothy Petersen
    - 4437 W. Lisbon Avenue
    - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- Preparation of Concordance of Bahá’u’lláh’s Writings:
  - Mrs. Marian C. Lippitt
    - 1423-B Jackson Street
    - Charleston, West Virginia

- Compilation and indexing of references to Bible text:
  - Mrs. Gene Crist
    - 3025 Newmark St., N.W.
    - Washington, D. C.

- Compilation and indexing of references to text of Qur’án and other Scriptures:
  - Mrs. Kathleen Javid
    - 2008 Spencer Lane
    - Middletown, Ohio

Previous experience is not necessary. Anyone able to recognize nouns and verbs can qualify as a Concordance worker. Instructions will be sent if you contact one of the above members or write to:

- National Reference Library Committee
  - Mrs. Marian C. Lippitt, Secy.
  - 1423-B Jackson Street
  - Charleston, West Virginia

The Committee is still soliciting other kinds of help, too, such as contributions of books and pamphlets; preparation of special compilations; donations of reference material personally compiled, etc. Suggestions are solicited also for non-Bahá’í literature which is considered important to be included ultimately in our National Reference Library as assistance in preparing Bahá’í talks or promoting the teaching effort. Correspondence regarding these should also be addressed to the Secretary.

There is no time limit on any of these projects, so whatever is undertaken is, as it should be, always secondary to teaching activities. The fruit of these efforts will not be realized soon. The Committee hopes, however, to become within the next years a center of reference, even before the actual Reference Library materializes. The goal is to relieve the National Spiritual Assembly and even the Guardian, of the burden of supplying such answers to questions as are available in the texts of our Teachings.

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**National Bahá’í Addresses**

**NATIONAL Bahá’í ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS:**
- 538 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois.

**NATIONAL TREASURER:**
- 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

**Make checks Payable to:**
- National Bahá’í Fund

**Bahá’í Publishing Committee:**
- 100 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

**Bahá’í News:**
- Editorial Office:
  - 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

**Subscription and change of address:**
- 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.
Displays presenting the Baha‘i Story to

TEMPLE GUIDING COMMITTEE

Since the Dedication of the Baha‘i House of Worship last spring the number of visitors has increased dramatically, as these figures for the month of July show:

- 1952... 4,535 visitors
- 1953... 16,120 visitors
- 1954... 17,456 visitors

Of these last, 11,093 visited the Temple during the week, 6,363 on Sundays.

Many and varied groups have visited the Temple. One of the most outstanding during July was a tour, sponsored by the Y.W.C.A. Student Department, of 185 young people, aged 20-35, in which 39 countries and 41 colleges were represented. Children’s groups often arrange for tours. The largest group in July consisted of 103 children, 9-13-years-old, from the High Ridge Y.M.C.A., with their leaders. The visit to the Temple is an annual event for this Y.M.C.A., and the children look forward to the trip. There is a recording, pictures and souvenir folders expressly for children.

For those who ask whether there are tangible results of visits to the Temple, we quote this letter, recently received:

“The spirit of the Bahá‘í Cause has been very easy for me to accept and understand. Each day I thank God for having led me to visit the Temple. In October the (local) Assembly accepted me as a believer.”

The typical visit to the House of Worship has been designed so that each visitor may take away with him a definite idea of what Bahá‘ís believe. The tour starts with a recording which tells who Baha’u’llah is, what a Bahá‘í is, something about the Teachings and a few facts about the architecture and physical features of the Temple. This recording is played to accompany slides which are shown in Foundation Hall. Guests are then conducted through the exhibits, shown on these pages in the order they appear at the Temple. A guide accompanies each group to answer any questions which may be asked. After being invited to sign the guest register, if they wish, and look over the literature which is available, visitors go up to the main Auditorium where, it is explained, there is no talking. Many after looking around, sit down; some to pray and meditate, others to read the souvenir folder or simply to rest, to feel the spirit of peace and tranquility one finds at the Maqriqu’l-Adhkár — the place of the mention of God.

BAHA‘I PRESS SERVICE

The Bahá‘í Press Service publicity release on the Martyrdom of the Báb, and the first memorial service held at the Shrine of the Báb in Haifa since its completion, was published wholly or in part by 54 newspapers in 45 cities, reaching a total circulation of over 4,210,000 people.

BAHA‘I ON THE AIR

The Inter-Faith Radio Committee of the Milwaukee County Council of Churches requested Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Bahá‘ís to present a 30-minute program on station WTMJ on Sunday, July 25. A member of the Local Spiritual Assembly spoke on
“Religious Unity for Mankind.” This makes three broadcasts over WTMJ for the Bahá’í World Faith instead of only one for the 1953-1954 schedule.

Another Bahá’í has had a script accepted for Edward R. Murrow’s “This I Believe” program, to be heard on stations throughout the nation. The author has quoted Bahá’u’lláh in the script.

Radio Station WCBM Baltimore, Maryland, carried a ten-minute program on “Temple-Symbol of the Bahá’í World Faith.”

WILM, Wilmington, Delaware, is presenting the Bahá’í message through a two-week series of discussions keyed to the World Council of Churches meetings in Evanston. Copies of Christ’s Promise Fulfilled are offered to listeners.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Bahá’ís of Quincy, Illinois, upon invitation from the president of the Association, presented the teachings of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh before the regular meeting of the Quincy-Adams County Ministerial Association.

Boise and Ada County, Idaho, Bahá’ís have secured the use of the Art Gallery for a regular Sunday Morning Devotional Hour. A children’s class also is held, in another room of the museum.

The Bahá’í Group of the Canal Zone, Southern Area, formed last April, announces the first public meeting to be held in their area. A series of radio broadcasts entitled “Prescription for Living” is planned to coincide with this “public launch-ing” of the Faith in that area.

Presentations of books to the Dover Public Library and to the Dean of Dover State College for the college library have been arranged by Bahá’ís of Dover, Delaware. The Congregational Church in Dover has invited the Bahá’ís to present the Faith before the Young Married Couples Group.

A Bahá’í Children’s Reception in San Fernando, California, gathered over 100 children, parents and friends of many races and nationalities for festivities expressing the unity of mankind.

Regular newspaper advertising has resulted in larger firesides in Emporia, Kansas. Settlers are moving to a larger home to be able to accommodate larger groups of seekers.

Wichita, Kansas, believers invite traveling Bahá’ís to spend a night in their city. Contacts are numerous and a fireside can be arranged on a few hours’ notice.

BAHA’I WORLD VOLUMES GO TO WORK IN PIONEER POSTS AROUND THE WORLD

Response during Convention to sending Bahá’í World books to pioneers in the far-flung outposts of the Faith was most enthusiastic. The Publishing Committee has, therefore secured permission from the National Assembly to continue the gift plan.

Many of you have had the joy of hearing from some pioneer working in another land. Letters we have seen from pioneers testify to their delight in the World volumes and the extreme usefulness of these books in
teaching. This is simply further confirmation of the Guardian's words, which say the Bab's World will "... without the slightest doubt, if generously and vigorously supported, arouse unprecedented interest among all classes of civilized society."

In order to help you to support the Bab's World "generously and vigorously," the Publishing Committee offers this plan:

1. You inform us how many volumes IX, X, or XI you wish to send.
2. We select pioneers who want these volumes (from a list showing which of these three volumes each pioneer wants).
3. We enclose a gift card with your name and address.
4. You pay only list price.
5. We wrap for overseas mailing; pay all shipping costs, including foreign postage. If you have sent parcels abroad, especially recently since the rise in rates, you know that this represents a substantial saving to you.

The National Assembly wishes these mailings to be handled by the Publishing office because extreme caution is needed in some areas. We keep up-to-date on restrictions and do everything possible to protect pioneers from the consequences of indiscretions in mailing.

Individuals and groups of the friends are urged to consider this as well as local communities. When the cost is too large for one person, two or more sharing the initial expense can make possible a teaching effort in one of the pioneer fronts which otherwise might not be made.

The following are a few excerpts from letters of pioneers who have received, or who would like to receive, Bab's World volumes as gifts. Many pioneers still have no volumes of the Bab's World.

From the Canary Islands

"The World Book came and right at the perfect moment... when we had our very best friend here. He was fascinated and paged and paged it through... Today I am to see a girl... who is going to Venezuela. Imagine my delight to see something about Venezuela in the book! It will be kept very busy, right off, and in such a tiny island where the people feel very isolated... it will help to show the scope, and this kind of thing impresses them. They feel as though they are isolated from important things. At times we feel forgotten too, but when... a note comes such as the one of your present to us, we know how great is the love of God that His servants remember one another."

From Antwerp, Belgium

"How one wishes the day had more hours to drink in more deeply this wealth of information and Bab's experience... for every word is a well-spring of inspiration. I have invited my closest contact for next Sunday to browse through the Bab's World together."

From Japan

"Mr. Torii, the blind brother here, is collecting for a Bab'sh Library for Kyoto and so those World volumes would be most acceptable."

From Basutoland

"We are about to enter into a program of teaching in a native village... this particular copy (Volume XI) has much that will be of interest to those whom we hope to bring into the Faith... we welcome the gift for our own interest and enlightenment as well."

"If, God willing, we are able to assist in establishing an Assembly here, the book will be offered as part of the Assembly library, and become a permanent part of the work here in Lesuto."

From Sicily

"The World Books would be very valuable in our teaching work, both because they show just what the Faith is accomplishing all over the world and because of the illustrations. These are especially valuable in a country of one religion, as here, because the people need to realize the Faith has support in other countries."

-Bab's Publishing Committee

NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY FOR THE FAITH

The Buffalo Courier-Express recently carried a three-column account, with a picture, of the activities of a Bab'sh in Hamburg, New York, who holds a regular international gathering at her home. The Faith is presented at these meetings and the newspaper account gave teachings of Bahá'u'lláh on the oneness of mankind and the oneness of religion.

An account of the Martyrdom of the Bab and articles on the travels of Babá's pioneers were carried in The Milwaukee Journal, which prints regular notices of Babá's meetings. The National Spiritual Assembly release on the H-Bomb has been used, according to reports from Flagstaff and Prescott, Arizona, and Boise, Idaho.

In Anchorage, Alaska, The Times gave a brief mention of the Martyrdom of the Bab, while the Anchorage Daily News printed an excellent write-up, using material on the Shrine of the Bab provided by the Babá's Press Service.

Publicity in the local newspapers as well as in the publications of the nearby Army Air Base has been reported from Dover, Delaware.

NORTH SHORE TOWN MEETING

Stemming from the 1950 "Paths to Peace" meeting, held in Winnetka, the North Shore Town Meeting held May 24, 1954, developed the theme of "The H-Bomb and You". Thirty-four civic, social, religious and political groups cooperated to stage a mass meeting in the auditorium of the Technological Institute at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

In the steering committee meetings responsible for this gathering, Babá's expressed the point of view of the Faith on the subject and arranged that a statement of the Babá's position be printed with the group of 250-word declarations presented to each of the 1,100 persons attending the Town Meeting. This is the statement, subsequently distributed by the National Spiritual Assembly, which has been carried in newspapers in many parts of the country. Literature was distributed from an information table in the lobby after the meeting.

Representatives of participating organizations sat on the platform during the program. Mr. Horace Holley, Hand of the Cause, and Mrs. Margery McCormick, member of the Auxiliary Board, listened as Mr. Norman Cousins, world traveler and editor of the Saturday Review of Literature, and resource speakers attempted to outline the basis for the world's dislocations and suggest solutions. A "lack of enforceable justice", a need for a demonstration of love and understanding and an appeal for cooperation with a vitalized United Nations were stressed.
The first Bahá’í Group of Athens, Greece, holding a Nineteen Day Feast at the site of the temple of Apollo, visited by Saint Paul. From left to right: Amim Banáni, Sheila Banáni, Suzanne Banáni, Carole Allen and Dwight Allen.

AUDIO-VISUAL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

"Words for the World"

The National Spiritual Assembly has authorized the re-production of a new set of Words for the World, identical with the original two sixteen-inch radio transcriptions as to program content and sequence, but in a ten-inch size for home use.

The Audio-Visual Education Committee has produced this item in response to the widespread interest aroused among the believers by the original transcriptions of Words for the World, used by various broadcasting stations. Many broadcasting stations in the United States and Canada are equipped to play the new recording.

The records’ four ten-inch sides have three programs of 4 1/2 minutes each, which can be played separately or as a group of three. Made of microgroove records are de­

written for catalog of available sub­jects to Audio-Visual Education Committee, 126 Evergreen Place West Englewood, New Jersey

Corrections

The following corrections should be made in the August issue of Bahá’í News page 5:

Column 1, line 10 from bottom — "solitude" should be changed to read "solictude".

Column 3, line 3 of footnotes — "1953" should be changed to read "1955".

These corrections are necessitated by printer’s errors in revising proof. The caption under the picture of the Italo-Swiss Convention on page 9 of the July Bahá’í News is in­

New Audio-Visual Teaching Mediums

Haifa, A Name You Will Remember. 70 frames of the latest scenes of the completed Shrine of the Bab, Bahá’í and Gardens, with script $3.00

New Rental Library, available on a rental basis to Assemblies, Groups, Librarians, settlers and consolidators. One SVE and A/O Filmstrip Projector and any five of a large series of educational, and Life magazine series filmstrips; one month’s rental $6.00

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Bahá’í Prayers (General) Prayers of universal appeal and application, ideal as a gift for anyone, Bahá’í or non-Bahá’í. 4 by 6 1/2 inches, 112 pages, bound in old ivory Span-O-Tone.

Each $1.25
Bahá’í Prayers (Combined) All the prayers of the General edition plus occasional prayers of special significance for Bahá’ís, such as The Obligatory Prayers, The Tablet of Ahmad, Prayers for Marriage. Both editions have been carefully checked for authenticity of translation. 4 by 6¼ inches, 189 pages, bound in green, simulated morocco.

Each ..................................$1.50

Life After Death. By Florence Pinchon. Bahá’í teachings on immortality, convincingly expounded and carrying a message of assurance for the increasing human anxieties of our day. This special edition has been prepared for the World Council of Churches Committee for use in their contact work. Bahá’ís should find a wide use for this pamphlet, which gives the Bahá’í attitude of serene faith in the face of death. Standard small pamphlet size, deep green and white cover.

(minimum order) 10 copies ...$ .50
100 copies ...$4.00

The God Who Walks With Men By Horace Holley. A stirring new approach to the way God keeps His Covenant with man. Presented in lucid, imaginative prose, this pamphlet carries conviction in every line and induces conviction in the heart of its reader. Featured by the National Committee for intimate firesides and personal contacts.

(minimum order) 10 Copies ...$.75
100 Copies ...$7.00


(minimum order) 10 copies ...$ .75
100 copies ...$6.00

HOLY DAYS
October 29, Birth of the Bab

FEASTS
September 8, ‘Izfat, Might
September 27, Maghribat, Will
October 16, ‘Am, Knowledge

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
September 3, 4, 5, 6
October 8, 9, 10

Price Reduced on Bahá’í World Set
Bahá’í World, Volumes II, III, IV, V, VI, VIII, IX, X and XI, constitute a set of those books still available. Bought singly, the set costs $49.50. The Publishing Committee now offers the 9 volumes for $44.50, a saving of $5.00, and will deliver them, at this reduced price, anywhere in the U.S. Here is an opportunity for communities and individuals to place vital documentation in their libraries at a saving.

Nine volume “set” (net) ....$44.50

Please address all inquiries and orders for publishing items to:
Bahá’í Publishing Committee
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

BAHÁ’Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting Hours
Weekdays: 10:30 A.M.—4:30 P.M.
7:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M.

Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—9:00 P.M.

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15. (No guided tours will be conducted during the program of worship.)

IN MEMORIAM

“Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It beauteoth joy and is the hearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life.”

—BAHÁ’U’LLÁH

Mr. Arturo Biaggi
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico
April, 1954

Mrs. Betty Swenson
Kenosha, Wisconsin
May 17, 1954

Mrs. Daisy Schaub
Fruitport, Michigan
May 28, 1954

Mrs. Agda Swenson
New York, New York
May 30, 1954

Mrs. Phillipine Zindars
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
May, 1954

Mr. Frank Whitbeck
Jersey City, New Jersey
June, 1954

Mr. Joseph Silva
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
July 2, 1954

Mrs. Connie Wolcott
Tacoma, Washington
July 9, 1954

Mr. Presley Holliday
Seattle, Washington
July 15, 1954

Mrs. Cora Harper
New York, New York
July 21, 1954

Mr. Victor Costart
Dover, New Hampshire
(no date given)
Baha’i Directory
United States
1954-1955

National Baha’i Administrative Headquarters, 536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois
Office of the Treasurer, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois
Office of Publishing Committee, 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Paul E. Haney, Chairman
Mr. Charles Wolcott, Vice Chairman
Mr. Horace Holley, Secretary
Miss Edna True, Recording Secretary

Mr. H. Borrah Kavelin, Treasurer
Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Lawrence Hautz
Mr. Robert McLaughlin
Mrs. Margery McCormick

INTERCONTINENTAL TEACHING

European Teaching Committee
Functions: To plan and supervise the teaching work in the new territories assigned to the United States in the World Crusade in the European area; to promote the consolidation of the Faith in the 8 remaining goal countries of Europe as well as in France and in Finland; to assist in the establishment of separate National Spiritual Assemblies in Switzerland and Italy, and to carry out all other related objectives in the European area assigned to the United States, under the supervision of the National Spiritual Assembly.

Miss Edna True, Chairman
Dr. Katherine True, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Julia Shows, Secretary, 4465 Kirk St., Skokie, Ill.
Mr. David Ned Blackmer
Mr. Henry Jarvis
Mr. Edwin Mattoon
Mrs. Clara Wood

U.S. Africa Teaching Committee
Functions: To plan and supervise the teaching work in the new territories assigned to the United States in the Global Crusade in the African area; to promote consolidation of the Faith in Liberia and South Africa; to carry out all other related objectives in the African area assigned to the United States, under the jurisdiction of the National Spiritual Assembly.

Mrs. Edna Williams, Chairman
Mr. Albert James, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Sylvia Parmelee, Secretary, 4700 - 47th St., N.W., Washington 15, D.C.
Mrs. Hazel C. Langrall, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Amoz Gibson
Mrs. Marie Rice
Mr. Rexford Parmelee

U.S. Asia Teaching Committee
Functions: To plan and supervise the opening of the remaining virgin territories assigned to the United States in the Global Crusade in the Asian area; to plan and supervise the teaching work in all the new territories assigned to the United States in the Asian area; to establish National Assemblies in Japan and in the South Pacific Islands; to carry out all other related objectives in the Asian area assigned to the United States under the supervision of the National Spiritual Assembly.

Mr. Ali M. Yazdi, Chairman
Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Secretary, 112 Linden Ave., Wilmette, Ill.
Mrs. Mamie Seto
Miss Gladysse Linfoot
Mrs. Marion Yazdi
Mr. Anthony Y. Seto
Mrs. Lorana Kerfoot
Mrs. Dorothy Peterson
Miss Marjorie Wheeler
Mrs. Myrtle Wendler

Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee
Functions: To plan and supervise the teaching work in the four virgin Western Hemisphere territories assigned to the United States in the Global Crusade; to promote the consolidation of the Faith in Hawaii and Puerto Rico and the establishment of a National Spiritual Assembly in Alaska; to promote teaching among Eskimos; to assist the National Assemblies of Central and South America in the formation of twenty new National Spiritual Assemblies in the Central and South American areas; to carry out all other related objectives in the Western Hemisphere assigned to the United States under the supervision of the National Spiritual Assembly.

Mr. Wm. deForge, Chairman
Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, Secretary, 73 College Rd., West, Princeton, N. J.
Miss Dorothya Morrell
Mrs. Nura Mobne
Mr. Wm. Towart
Mr. Keith deFolo
Miss Gale March
Mrs. Efiia Mae Mikael

Teaching Committee for Hawaii
(Under the supervision of the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee)

Mrs. Mabel J. Van Valkenberg, convener
Mrs. Lillian Chou, Maui Secretary, 380 Lanai St., Kahului, Maui, T.H.
Mrs. Shirley Lombard, Oahu Secretary, 2044 Lanihuli Dr., Honolulu, T.H.
Mrs. Dorothy Beers
Mr. Rolf K. Macalister
Miss Margaret Daniels
Mrs. Daisy Sabin
DIRECTORY

Mr. Alvin Kubala
Mrs. Rose Kubala

Teaching Committee for Alaska
(Under the supervision of the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee)
Mr. Verne Stout, Chairman
Mrs. Evelyn Huffman, Secretary, Box 857, Anchorage
Mr. Arthur Gregory
Miss Betty Becker
Mrs. Lucile Donnelly
Mr. Donald M. Donnelly
Mr. Lawrence Olson
Mr. Leslie MacLellan

Northern Peoples Teaching Committee
Functions: To contact and teach the Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts.
Mrs. Frances Wells, Chairman
Mrs. Janet Stout, Secretary, 1628 - 10th Ave., Anchorage
Mrs. Ann Ashen
Mr. George Keefe
Mrs. George Keefe
Mrs. Georgine Moul

INTERNATIONAL

United Nations
Functions: To represent the National Spiritual Assembly in relation to matters concerning United Nations.
Miss Isabel Silk
Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh, 225 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N.Y.
Mr. Rafi Mottahedeh
Mrs. Hilda Yen Male
Mrs. Mary L. Burnett
Mr. Peter Gravina
Dr. Firuz Kazemzadeh
Mrs. Habib Sabet

Bahá’í World Editorial Committee Vol. XIII (1954-1956)
Functions: To gather materials from all available sources throughout the Bahá’í International Community for the biennial volume, edit and arrange it in accordance with the established plan of contents, and transmit it to the Guardian for his selection and final approval. The materials to be gathered include annual and special reports, statistical data, articles and verse, articles on subjects assigned, photographs and documents.
Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Chairman
Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Secretary, P.O. Box 285, Waukegan, Ill.
Mrs. Gertrude Henning
Mrs. Eleanor S. Hutchens
Dr. Garreta Busey
Miss Pearl Pohl
Mrs. Alice Simmons Cox

TEMPLE

Temple Worship
Functions: To assume full responsibility under the general direction of the National Spiritual Assembly, for planning and conducting the services of worship in Temple auditorium, including music. Such services are, until further notice, to be held at 3:30 P.M. every Sunday.
Mrs. Gertrude Henning, Chairman-Treasurer
Miss Hortense Bredehorst, Secretary, 1331 N. 13th St., DeKalb, Ill.
Miss Ruth Dasher
Mrs. Sarah S. Walrath
Mr. Joseph Peter
Mr. Monroe Joos
Mr. Horace Holley
Mrs. Florence Gibson
Mrs. Mary Lou Martin

Temple Public Meetings
Functions: To conduct public meetings for proclamation of the Faith in Bahá’í Temple Foundation Hall.
Mr. Ellsworth Blackwell, Chairman
Mrs. Mildred Blackmer, Cor. Secretary, 1502 Fowler Ave., Evanston, Ill.
Miss Hortense Bredehorst
Mrs. Mary Lou Martin
Miss Yvonne Harrop
Mrs. Dtha Cooper
Mrs. Gloria Pughley

Temple Guides
Functions: To maintain guide service for Temple visitors.
Mrs. Margerite Ullrich, Chairman

Mrs. Dorothy Redson, Secretary, 681 Garland Ave., Winnetka, Ill.
Mrs. Edna Coleman
Mrs. Leona Jackson
Mrs. Carol Hautz
Mr. Clarence Ulrich
Miss Yvonne Harrop
Mr. Robert C. Lewis
Mr. Jesse Robinson
Mrs. Viola Tuttle
Mr. Charles Reimer
Mr. Joseph Peter
Mr. Paul Pettit

Temple Children’s School
Functions: To conduct classes in Temple Foundation for children of different age groups.
Miss Barbara Hannen, Chairman
Mrs. Mary Rodman, Secretary, 2220 Oak St., Northbrook, Ill.
Mr. Richard McCurdy
Mrs. Banu Hassan Green
Mrs. Minnie Hadley
Mrs. Jean Hutchinson
Mrs. Barbara McCurdy
Mrs. Betty Fiedler
Mrs. Betty Geller
Mr. Joseph Hannen
Mrs. Betty de Araujo

Temple Ushers
Functions: To provide for ushers at the Sunday afternoon public service of worship in Temple auditorium and the monthly Sunday evening meeting in Temple Foundation Hall.

Mr. Harvey Redson, Chairman  
Mr. Carl Hannen, Secretary, 1938 Harrison St., Glenview, Ill.  
Mr. E. W. Van Meer  
Mr. Paul Pettit  
Mr. Lloyd Robinson  
Mr. Joseph Hannen  
Mr. Sohary Hannen  

Temple Hospitality  

Functions: To act on behalf of the National Spiritual Assembly in the reception of distinguished visitors to the Bahá'í House of Worship.  

NATIONAL TEACHING  

American National Teaching Committee  

Functions: To stimulate nation-wide participation in the World Crusade; to foster teaching and study of the Faith by believers; to plan programs for the public proclamation of the Faith; to supervise and coordinate the work of the Area Teaching Committees; to assist in the attainment by the American Bahá'í community of the specific goal of 300 Assemblies by 1953; to arrange for inter-area circuits; to arrange for settlement projects on a wide scale; to collaborate with the Indian and Negro Committees.  

Mr. Charles Wolcott, Chairman  
Mrs. Jesma Herbert, Secretary, 725 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles 5, Calif.  
Mrs. Beatrice Buckley  
Mr. Robert Buckley  
Mr. Elwyn Van Zandt  
Mrs. Gertrude Jacoby  
Mrs. Harriet Wolcott  

Area Teaching Committees  

Functions: To arrange for circuits within the area; to encourage settlement in goal cities within the area; to stimulate extension teaching by Assemblies; to hold conferences for the believers to keep abreast of the World Crusade and the progress of the area goals; to circulate a bulletin; to provide for enrollment of believers outside of Assembly cities through Assemblies carrying on extension projects or through persons specified by the Area Teaching Committees.  

New England States  

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island  
Mrs. Ethelinda Merson, Chairman, Secretary, 190 Locust St., Falmouth, Mass.  
Mr. Herbert Gould  
Dr. Samuel G. Mcisellan  
Mrs. Mildred Hyde  
Dr. Elizabeth K. Ober  
Mr. Donald Cruickshank  
Mr. Chas. S. Krug  

North Atlantic States  

New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania  
Mr. Alai Kalantar, Chairman  
Mr. Aaron Bowen, Secretary-Treasurer, 14-16 Cornell Ave., Yonkers, N. Y.  
Mr. Paul Pearsall  
Miss Ruth Blackburn  
Mrs. Beatrice Thigpen  
Mrs. Florence Steinhauer  
Mr. Frederick Sudhop  
Mrs. Vera Deats  

Central States  

Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois  
Mr. Charles Reiner, Chairman  
Mrs. Edna Voigt, Secretary, 1918 Hi-Mount Blvd., Milwaukee 8, Wis.  
Mrs. Vivian Fellows  
Mr. Herbert Suhr  
Mr. Lawrence Hautz  
Mrs. Diana Cheeks  
Mrs. Dorothy Osthelder  
Miss Arden Thur  
Mrs. Lillian Erby  

South Atlantic States  

South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee  
Mrs. Olive Alexander, Chairman  
Miss Ida Solomon, Secretary, 137 N.W. 11th Ave., Miami, Fla.  
Mrs. Hazel Gleason  
Mrs. Dawn Belcher  
Dr. Mary Ketcham  
Mrs. A. Louise Taylor  
Mrs. Louise Matthias  

East Central States  

Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky  
Mr. Frank Meese, Chairman  
Mrs. Laura Post, Secretary, 15721 Holmur St., Detroit 35, Mich.  
Mrs. Mabel Long  
Mr. Lester Long  
Mrs. Helen Eggleston  
Mr. Wm. R. Lacey  
Mrs. Hazel Meese  

South Atlantic States  

West Virginia, Virginia, Dist. of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina  
Mr. Edgar Olson, Chairman  
Mrs. Harold M. Bowman, Secretary, 4508 Riverdale Rd., Riverdale, Maryland  
Mrs. Flora Brooks  
Mrs. Etta Woodlen  
Dr. Wm. Brooks  
Mrs. Marjorie Nixon  
Miss Louise Jackson  
Mr. Edw. G. Lippitt, Sr.  

Gulf States  

Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas  
Miss Ethlyn Campbell, Chairman  
Miss D. Thelma Jackson, Secretary, 1228 Milam Bldg., San Antonio 5, Texas  
Mrs. Mary Rublee  
Mr. Kenneth Brown  
Mr. Edward Gray  
Mrs. Allene Squires
South Central States
Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas
Mrs. Velma Sherrill, Chairman
Mrs. Mildred Birkett, Secretary, 1215 San Jacinto Ct., St. Louis 10, Mo.
Mrs. Margaret Rube
Mr. Lloyd Sherrill
Mrs. May Brown
Dr. David Rube
Mrs. Edith Love

North Central States
North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska
Mr. Tyndall O. Morrill, Chairman
Miss Margaret Detwiler, Secretary, 111 No. 5th St., Fargo, N. D.
Mrs. Esther B. Morrill
Mrs. Vera Esinhart
Mrs. Edna Atkins

Rocky Mountain States
Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming
Mr. John W. Conkling, Chairman
Mrs. Clair Schenider, Secretary, 3800 S. Galapago, Englewood, Colo.
Mrs. Edna Andrews
Mrs. Mary L. Ewing
Mrs. Pauline Thorson
Mrs. Gladys Roberts
Mr. Douglas Suhm

Southwestern States
California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah
Mr. Francis Johnson, Chairman
Mrs. Loraine Johnson, Secretary, 1001 W. Solano Dr., Phoenix, Arizona
Mr. John C. Eichenauer III
Miss Edith Goranson
Miss Nayan Hartfield
Mrs. Joy Kortemeyer
Mr. W. Faye
Mr. Kenneth Moyer

Northwestern States
Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana
Mr. Harold Neff, Chairman
Mrs. Helen Wilks, Secretary, 12710 - 11th N. W., Seattle 7, Wash.
Mrs. Ethelyn Lindstrom
Mrs. Linda Croquetter
Mrs. Hazel Mori
Mr. Geo. Washington
Mr. Marvin Newport

American Indian Service Committee
Functions: To establish Bahá’í communities among Indians; to stimulate a nation-wide effort to carry the message to the members of the Indian race; to develop favorable attitudes toward the Faith among Indian leaders; to provide for translation of the teachings in the Indian languages specified by the Guardian.
Mr. Francis Johnson, Chairman
Mrs. Nancy Phillips, Secretary, 736 Encanto Dr., S. E., Phoenix, Ariz.
Mr. Reginald King
Mr. Robert McKusick
Mrs. Martha Kink
Mr. Eli P. Powlas
Mrs. Charmion McKusick
Mr. Wallace J. Heath

Bahá’í Inter-Racial Teaching
Functions: To contact American Negro leaders; to encourage local Assemblies and groups to emphasize teaching among Negroes; to develop activities which will increase contact with Negro populations; to foster wider understanding of the teachings on the principle of the oneness of mankind.
Miss Lydia Martin
Mr. Philip Savilles
Mr. Edwin Barham
Mrs. Edwin Barham
Mrs. Ludmila Van Sombeek
Mrs. Betty Koyl
Mr. Ellsworth Blackwell
Mr. George Brawley
Mr. Horner Dyer
Mrs. Horner Dyer

PROCLAMATION

Bahá’í Press Service
Function: To plan and conduct press and radio publicity on national Bahá’í activities and to assist local Assemblies in the conduct of their press and radio programs; to survey and recommend methods for proclamation of the Faith.
Mr. Alfred Reed, Chairman
Mr. Richard Thomas, Secretary, 6943 N. Campbell Ave., Chicago 45, Ill.
Mrs. Alice Simmons Cox

Questionnaires
Functions: To prepare and distribute material answering basic questions about the Bahá’í teachings, including questionnaire cards and other means of producing inquiries for Bahá’í literature.
Mr. Ward Calhoon, Chairman
Mrs. Vera Nickel, Secretary, 10980 W. Fond du lac Rd., Milwaukee 9, Wis.
Mr. Herbert Suhm

Mrs. Emil Gross
Mrs. Sylvia Calhoon
Mr. Emil Gross
Mrs. Helen Niss
Mr. Hal Nickel

Souvenir of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá
Function: To conduct the annual gathering commemorating the Unity Feast on the Roy Wilhelm property in West Englewood, N. J., given by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá on June 29, 1912.
Mrs. Amy Raubitschek, 1113 Bromley Ave., West Englewood, N. J.
Miss Carol Kelsey
Mrs. Marguerite Ellingham
Mrs. Edith Inglis
Mr. Paul Wright
Mrs. Aimee Wright
Mrs. Carrie Kinney
Mr. Donald Kinney
Mrs. Maud Gaudreaux
Mrs. Mary T. Carter
1954-1955

National Reference Library
Function: To assemble and organize necessary materials for a future Baha'i Reference Library to be located in the Temple area.
- Mrs. Marion C. Lippitt, 1429 B. Jackson St., Charleston, W. Va.
- Mrs. Dorothy V. Petersen
- Mrs. May Stebbins
- Mrs. Mariam Haney
- Miss Garnette Crawford
- Mrs. Gene Crist
- Mr. Lawrence Hautz
- Mrs. Juliet A. Cole
- Mrs. Kathleen Javid
- Mrs. Sarah M. Russell

Public Library Committee
Function: To encourage the placement and use of Baha'i literature in Public Libraries.
- Dr. Garreta Busey, Chairman
- Miss Flora Hottes, Secretary, 406 W. Iowa St., Urbana, Ill.

Service to the Blind
Function: To prepare and distribute Baha'i literature for the blind.
- Mrs. Amidée Gibson, Chairman
- Mrs. Margaret H. Whitehouse, Secretary, 804 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Apt. D, Glendale 5, Calif.
- Mrs. Emely Schieman
- Mr. Ernest Schieman
- Mr. John F. Gibson

Consolidation

Child Education
Functions: To prepare Baha'i material suitable for teaching children; to promote child education activities in local communities and to foster parent education from the Baha'i point of view.
- Mrs. Dale S. Cole, Chairman
- Mrs. Dorothy Fisher, Secretary, 7153 Bryan St., Philadelphia 19, Pa.
- Mrs. Amy Dwelly
- Miss Phyllis Hall
- Mrs. Stella Menifee
- Mrs. Martha Rafaat
- Mr. John Trauger
- Mr. David Bond

National Youth
Functions: To encourage teaching activities by Baha'i Youth; to assist in the development of local youth groups; to edit and publish a National Youth Bulletin; to conduct an annual Baha'i Youth Day; to arrange Youth Conferences; to make available to Area Committees upon request teaching aids and suggestions for attracting and deepening of Youth.
- Mr. John McHenry, Jr., Chairman
- Miss Karin Hogberg, Secretary, Box 1053, Stanford, Calif.
- Mrs. Carrole Allen
- Mr. Ben Bentley
- Miss Margot Boesch
- Mrs. Frances Jones
- Mr. Cha. Cornell
- Mr. Michael Marney
- Miss Helena Somerhalder
- Miss Marsha Wolfcot
- Miss Gail Allen

Service

Baha'i News Editorial
Function: To edit Baha'i News for the National Spiritual Assembly, in accordance with the principles defined by the Guardian of the Faith.
- Mrs. Eunice Braun, 110 Linden Ave., Wilmette, Ill.
- Mr. David Ned Blackmer
- Miss Edna M. True
- Mrs. Beatrice Ashton

Publishing
Functions: To print and sell the literature approved and authorized by the National Spiritual Assembly.
- Mrs. Eunice Braun, Business Manager, 110 Linden Ave., Wilmette, Ill.
- Mr. David Ned Blackmer

Sales
Function: To sell photographs, ring stones and other materials authorized by the National Spiritual Assembly; to conduct the sale of this material and Baha'i literature in the Temple foundation.
- Mrs. Sarah S. Walrath, Secretary, 508 W. Foster, Chicago 40, Ill.
- Mr. Marshall Tyler
- Mrs. Caroline Tyler
- Mr. M. D. Roach
- Mrs. Agnes Mitchell

Reviewing
Function: To pass upon the accuracy of manuscripts concerning the Faith submitted by members of the Baha'i community, and to make recommendations to the National Spiritual Assembly as to the current need for any particular article or book manuscript reviewed.
- Mrs. Eleanor Sweeney Hutchens, Chairman-Secretary, 307 S. Prairie, Champaign, Ill.
- Mrs. Mabel Hyde Paine
- Mrs. Maye Harvey Gift

Audio-Visual Education
Function: To prepare and distribute audio-visual material approved by the National Spiritual Assembly.
- Mr. Cha. Cornell
- Mr. Archie Tichenor, Secretary, 72 Delaware Ave., Dumont, N. J.
- Mr. Donald Kinney
- Mr. Burton Dezendorf
- Mrs. Sara Harris
- Mr. Joseph Noyes
- Mr. Donald Stewart
- Mr. Paul Wright
- Mr. Victor Alexander
- Mr. Robert King
- Mr. Mosenor Rafaat
- Mr. Donald Harvey

Legal
Function: To provide legal aid and advice on matters referred to it by the National Spiritual Assembly.
- Mr. Horace Holley, 538 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Ill.
- Mr. Alan McCormick
Mr. Robert McLaughlin  
Mr. Paul Haney  
Mr. Samuel Kraus  

**Pamphlet Survey (Special Committee)**  
Functions: To review pamphlet manuscripts on hand and make recommendations as to need of new pamphlets for public teaching.  
Mr. O. Z. Whitehead, Secretary, 26 E. 81st St., New York, N. Y.  
Mr. Keith dePolo  
Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh  

**Advisory Committee on Military Affairs**  
Function: To keep the National Spiritual Assembly and the Bahá'í community informed on Government regulations concerning military service.  
Mr. Paul Haney  
Mr. Rexford Parmelee  

**Archives**  
Function: To maintain the National Archives and organize the contents thereof; to receive and preserve materials suitable for the National Archives.  
Mr. Carl Scheffler, Chairman  
Mrs. May Scheffler, Secretary, 112 Linden Ave., Wilmette, Ill.  
Mr. Walter Deppe  
Mr. Rouhollah Zargarpur  

**TRUSTEE COMMITTEES**  
**MAINTENANCE**  

Green Acre Bahá'í Institute  
Mr. H. B. Kavelin, Properties Representative  
43-21 Morgan St., Little Neck, L. I., N. Y.  

Green Acre Properties  
Mr. H. B. Kavelin, Properties Representative  

Wilson Trustees  
Mrs. Helen LaVey, Properties Representative  

Mathews Trustees  
Functions: To maintain and operate the School properties and grounds under the general supervision of the Trustees.  
Mr. Fernando Grasselli, Chairman  
Mr. John Creitz, Secretary-Treasurer, 2507 W. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs, Colo.  
Mr. Clarence Schneider  
Miss Opella Crum  
Mrs. Louise Matthews  
Miss Patience Kindness  
Mrs. Elizabeth Runyan  
Dr. Walter Peterson, Jr.  
Mr. John Conkling  

Bosch Trustees  
Functions: To maintain and operate the School properties and grounds under the general supervision of the Trustees.  
Mr. Thomas Lisota  
Mr. Alfred Zahi  
Mrs. Alla Dakerhof  
Mr. Michael Marney  
Mr. Roderick Hanke  
Mr. Adolph Boesch  

Convention Arrangements  
Functions: To make all necessary advance arrangements for the Convention Delegates and visitors; to coordinate the work of the sub-arrangements committee and all other committees concerned, and to provide adequate facilities for serving food, Bahá'í exhibits, etc., in consultation with the Temple Maintenance Committee.  
Mrs. Dorothy Redson, Chairman, 881 Garland Ave., Winnetka, Ill.  
Mr. J. Harvey Redson  
Mr. Donald Stewart  
Mrs. Eleanor Stewart  
Mr. Wyatt Cooper  
Mrs. Dortha Cooper  
Mr. Earl Winston  

Annual and State Conventions  

State Convention Planning Committee  
Miss Charlotte Linfoot  
Mr. Horace Holley  
Mr. Charles Wolcott  

Annual Convention Planning Committee  
Miss Charlotte Linfoot  
Mr. Lawrence Hautz  
Mrs. Margery McCormick  

Wilhelm Trustees  
Functions: To maintain and operate the School properties and grounds under the general supervision of the Trustees.  
Mr. Curtis Kelsey, Chairman  
Mrs. Amy Raubitschek, Secretary, 1113 Bromley Ave., West Englewood, N. J.  
Mrs. Clifford Ellingham  
Mr. Donald Kinney  
Mr. Robert Schmitz  
Mr. Allen Kelsey  

Eggleston Trustees  
Functions: To maintain and operate the School properties and grounds under the general supervision of the Trustees.  
Mr. Clinton Wideman, Chairman  
Mrs. Rebecca Wideman, Secretary, 3198 S. State Rd., Davison, Mich.  
Mr. Robert Markovich  
Mr. John Felitzky  
Mr. Milton Chapin  
Mr. Wm. H. Smith  
Mr. Leo Cochran  
Mr. Harold Johnson  
Mr. Wm. Parker  
Mr. Norman Wiley, Jr.  
Mr. Lewis Eggleston, Jr.  
Mr. Harry Mills  

Temple Maintenance and Grounds  
Functions: To represent the Trustees in planning and
directing the work of the permanent staff in the maintenance of Temple buildings and grounds.

Mr. J. Harvey Redston, Chairman
Mr. Joseph Peter, Secretary, 4419 S. Trumbull Ave., Chicago 32, Ill.
Mr. Robert S. Hammond
Mr. Donald Stewart
Mr. L. Wyatt Cooper
Mr. Hilbert E. Dahl
Mr. Lawrence Hautz

Mr. Fred Riefeschneider
Mr. Wm. Henning

**Temple Landscape**

Functions: To plan and supervise the work of completing the landscaping of the House of Worship, under the general direction of the Temple Trustees.

Mr. Clarence Ulrich, 219 Forest Ave., Oak Park, Ill.
Mr. Robert McLaughlin
Mr. Lawrence Hautz
Mr. James Hammond

### ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES

#### Alabama
- Birmingham: Mrs. Verna A. Inglis, 1318 11th Ave., So.

#### Alaska
- Anchorage: Miss Betty Becker, Box 45
- Anchorage Recording Dist.: Mrs. Jackie G. Houde, P.O. Box 1285, Spenard

#### Arizona
- No. Phoenix: Mrs. Lorraine Johnson, 1001 W. Solano Dr., Phoenix
- Phoenix: Mrs. Mabel W. Dunham, 1106 E. Oak St.
- Tucson: Mrs. Martha E. Shuman, 5347 E. 20th St., Tucson
- Yuma: Mrs. Dorothy Sherman, #1 Father Garces Homes

#### Arkansas
- Little Rock: Mrs. Mary E. Conatser, 3101 Madison St.

#### California (North)
- Berkeley: Mr. Jerome Sandusky, 2411 Grant St.
- Cloverdale Twp.: Mrs. Johanna Vasoni, R. 1, Box 243 C, Geyserville
- Fresno: Mrs. Della Brandin, 355 Yosemite Ave., Z 4
- Millbrae: Mrs. Viviana Listoa, 61 Camino Alto
- Oakland: Mr. Paul S. Jones, 88 Glen Ave., Z 11
- Palo Alto: Mrs. Joyce Dahl, P.O. Box 238
- Sacramento: Mrs. Mozelle Bourget, 3906 McKinley Blvd.
- San Francisco: Mrs. Florence C. Haake, 461-14th Ave., Z 18
- San Mateo: Mrs. Lee Lopes, 1318 Mt. Diablo Ave.
- Sausalito Twp.: Mrs. Lois Stockton, R. 1, Box 179 A, Mill Valley

#### California (South)
- Alhambra: Mrs. Mayme Glass, 505 N. Electric Ave.
- Alhambra Jud. Dist.: Mrs. Dorothy Hayes, 6845 N. Temple City Blvd., Arcadia
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- Burbank: Mrs. Lou Vella Wills, 250 N. Orchard Dr.
- Chula Vista: Mrs. Zelma J. Krug, 166-3rd Ave., Apt. 1
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- Glendale: Mrs. Garmette Whitefield, 1017 Boynton St., Z 5
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- Inglewood Jud. Dist.: Mrs. Althe G. Hagen, 5560 Marburn Ave., Los Angeles 43
- Long Beach: Mrs. Mattie Russel Allen, 2305 E. 7th St., Z 4
- Los Angeles: Mrs. Gertrude M. Jacoby, 5725 Katherine Ave., Van Nuys
- Monrovia: Mrs. Bessie C. Duckett, 149 Norumbega Dr.
- Pasadena: Mrs. Katrina Valentine, 943 N. El Molino Ave.
- Pasadena Jud. Dist.: Mrs. Beatrice Buckley, 753 E. Poppyfields Dr., Altadena
- San Bernardino: Mrs. Aliene V. Fletcher, 772 Campus Way
- San Diego: Mrs. Arma Meade, 4143 Sunset Rd.
- Santa Barbara: Mrs. Angela Connaughton, 1836 Anacapa St.
- Santa Monica: Mrs. Josephine Gardner, 1054 A Third St.
- South Bay Jud. Dist.: Mrs. Ardis C. Bergeron, 4229 W. 187th St., Lawndale
- South Gate: Miss Mary Ellen Reese, 2575 Indiana Ave.
- West Hollywood: Mr. Robt. H. King, 1221 1/2 N. Sweetzer Ave., Hollywood 49

Whittier Jud. Dist.: Mrs. Grace E. Jensen, 10547 S. Gunn Rd., Whittier

#### Colorado
- Colorado Springs: Mrs. Gladys Roberts, 915 N. Hancock Ave.
- Denver: To be reported.
- Jefferson County: Mrs. Elizabeth Clark, Rt. 1, Evergreen

#### Connecticut
- Greenwich: Mrs. Muriel Michels, 8 Richmond Dr., Old Greenwich
- New Haven: Miss Clara Monson, 831 Elm St.

#### Delaware
- Wilmington: Mrs. Mabel Johnson, 1114 West St., Z 1

#### District of Columbia
- Washington: Miss Bernice Bernardo, 3111 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Z 9

#### Florida
- Miami: Miss Ida Solomon, 137 N.W. 11th Ave.
- Orange County: Mr. Fred F. Minnich, 1109 Santa Anita Rd., Orlando

#### Georgia
- Atlanta: Miss Doris Ebbert, 1247 Sells Ave., S.W.

#### Hawaii
- Honolulu: Miss Henriette From, 2336 Beckwith St.
- Maui: Mrs. Mabel J. Van Valkenburg, Kihei, Maui

#### Idaho
- Ada Country: Mrs. Mildred R. Cossey, P.O. Box 994, Boise
- Boise: Miss Elizabeth Adelmann, P.O. Box 585

#### Illinois (North)
- Addison Twp.: Mrs. Mildred Smith, Milton & West, Elmhurst 23
- Batavia: Mrs. Lorane G. Kerfoot, 133 N. Mallory Ave.
- Chicago: Mrs. Myrkle Wendler, 4038 N. Ashland Ave., Z 13
- Elmhurst: Miss Phyllis Rachau, 438 Fairview Ave.
- Evanston: Mr. L. Wyatt Cooper, 1380 Dewey Ave.
- Maywood: Mr. George W. Amerson, 801 S. 7th Ave.
- Oak Park: Mrs. Ruth LaRocque, 728 Gunderson Ave.
- Waikéken: Mrs. Harriet Terry, 1522 Meirose Ave.
- Wilmette: Mrs. Eleanor Stewart, 121 Linden Ave.
- Winnetka: Mrs. Dorothy F. Redson, 581 Garland Ave.

#### Illinois (South)
- Champaign: Mr. Edgar G. Harris, 203 Ellis Ave.
- Danville: Mrs. Shirley Cannell, 720 E. Madison
- Peoria: Mrs. Emiie Zeigler, 1012 N. Glen Oak Ave.
- Quincy: Mrs. Eunice Hanawalt, 524 Spring St.
- Springfield: Mrs. Gretchen Schultz, 2168 S. Renfro
- Urbana: Mrs. Mabel Paine, 606 W. Pennsylvania Ave.

#### Indiana
- Fort Wayne: Mrs. Elma Wilson, 222 N. Anthony Blvd.
- Indianapolis: Miss Leah A. Spencer, 1215 Continental Hotel
- South Bend: Mrs. Jane Rowe, 1220 Corby Blvd.

#### Iowa
- Cedar Rapids: Miss Edna Mackinson, 94-2nd Ave., S.W.
- Waterloo: Mr. Aaron L. Roff, 917 Hartman St.

#### Kansas
- Topeka: Mrs. Bertha Campbell, 463 Huntington

#### Kentucky
**Louisiana**
New Orleans: Mrs. Margaret O. Maurer, 1623 Gen. Taylor, Z 15

**Maine**
Eliot: Mrs. Emily T. Pearsall, Beech Road
Portland: Mrs. Thelma Rivers, 276 Woodfords St.

**Maryland**
Baltimore: Miss Alma S. Reise, 3120 St. Paul St., Apt. 116, G Z 18
Prince George’s County: Mrs. Flora Brooks, 5023 36th Ave., S.E., Washington 21, D.C.

**Massachusetts**
Beverly: Mr. Richard S. Cladding, 90 McKay St.
Boston: Mrs. Marlan Repper, Baha’i Center, 687 Boylston St.
Cambridge: Mrs. Louise K. Sayward, 50 Follen St.
Springfield: Mrs. Elsa R. Bates, 90 Princeton St., Z 9
Worcester: Mrs. Sally Pierce, 8 Kimball St.

**Michigan**
Ann Arbor: Mrs. Lillian B. Keller, 1309 Prescott Ave.
Battle Creek: Mrs. Melba D. Nummally, 179 Chetla St.
Dearborn: Mrs. Mabel E. Vicary, 2834 Campbell Ave.
Detroit: Mrs. Mabel P. Long, 8039 Beaverland Ave., Z 39
Flint: Mrs. Evelyn Bratt, 1541 Stone St.
Grand Rapids: Mrs. Viola T. Thomson, 414 Clancy Ave., N.E. Z 3
Muskegon: Mrs. Emma A. Allen, 1433 Nolen St.
Royal Oak Twp.: Miss DeMaris Lovetta Morris, 21341 Parkside, Ferndale 20
Royal Oak: Mrs. Shirley A. Baldwin, 907 E. Third St.

**Minnesota**
Duluth: Mr. Robert Cameron, 2515 Kruger Road

**Mississippi**
Jackson: Mrs. Stevie Flinn, 724 Wingfield

**Missouri**
Independence: Mrs. Fran Williams, 1317 S. Crane
Kansas City: Mrs. Madelon Becktel, 4222 Olive St.
St. Louis: Mrs. Mildred Birkett, 1215 San Jacinto Ct., Z 10

**Montana**
Butte: Mr. George D. Miller, 604 W. Park
Great Falls: Mrs. Vera W. Foutch, 2004 5th Ave., So.
Helena: Mrs. Gladys E. Endress, 449 W. Main St.

**Nebraska**
Omaha: Mrs. Wendell R. Lane, 1112 N. 17th St.

**Neveda**
Reno: Mrs. Ethel Mccoli, 702 W. 6th

**New Hampshire**
Portsmouth: Mrs. Nelia Gustafson, 77 Circuit Rd.

**New Jersey**
Dumont: Mrs. Emily Kalant, 314 Washington Ave.
East Orange: Mrs. Arlie B. Wright, 105 Leslie St.
Englewood: Mr. Nathaniel J. Douglas, 42 E. Forest Ave.
Jersey City: Miss June E. Davenport, P.O. Box 499, Journal Sq. Ata.
Montclair: Mrs. Catherine M. Healy, 45 N. Fullerton Ave.
Newark: Mrs. Kathryn M. Potter, 204 Clark St., R.F.D. 1

**New Mexico**
Albuquerque: Mrs. Mary L. Ewing, 1330 Arizona N.E.
Bernalillo County: Mrs. Rosemarie Smith, R.R. 1, Box 1760, Albuquerque

**New York (East)**
Mount Vernon: Mrs. Mary Campbell, 10 N. Fulton Ave.
New York: Mr. Peter Gravina, 423 E. 71st St.
Yonkers: Mrs. Lilian Rogers, 64 Locust Ave., Z 2

**New York (West)**
Binghamton: Mrs. Betsy J. Richard, 42 Lincoln Ave.
Buffalo: Mrs. Elizabeth M. Patterson, 333 Ontario St.
Hamburg Twp.: Miss Kathryn M. Potter, 204 Clark St., R.F.D. 1

**New York (East)**
Jamestown: Mrs. Ida L. Pickett, 110½ Cheney St
Rochester: Miss Elizabeth Brooks, 158 Merriman St.
Seneca Twp.: Mrs. Marguerite Frollo, Canandaigua Rd., Geneva
Syracuse: Mr. Albert D. Heist, Jr., 221 Bennington Dr.
Waterloo: Mr. John E. Flood, Box 814

**North Carolina**
None

**North Dakota**
Fargo: Mrs. Adeline Willson, 318 - 19th St., No.

**Ohio**
Cincinnati: Mrs. Lorene Dustan, 2533 Homestead Pl., Z 11
Cleveland: To be reported.
Columbus: Mrs. Margarete Acobe, 777 Franklin Ave., Z 5
Dayton: Mrs. Marion Imig, 1517 Princeton Dr., Z 5
Lima: Mrs. Mae Vaughn, 509 N. Collett St.

**Oklahoma**
Oklahoma City: Mrs. Alice C. Entzminger, 511½ N.W. 13th St.

**Oregon**
Portland: Mrs. Dorothy C. Henderson, 4933 E. Burnside, Apt. 9, Z 15

**Pennsylvania**
Philadelphia: Miss Sophia A. Reiger, 3301 Powelton Ave., Z 4
Pittsburgh: Mrs. Victoria Richards, 665 College Ave., Z 32
Scranton: Mrs. Helen Beck, 429 Quincy Ave.
West Chester: Mrs. Edna Mascolo, 114 W. Chestnut St.

**Puerto Rico**
(Area not defined): Miss Margot Mierss, Munoz Rivera 598, Ray Piedras

**Rhode Island**
Providence: Mrs. Edith Carpenter, 113 Congress Ave.

**South Carolina**
None

**South Dakota**
Sioux Falls: Mrs. Nida Kern, 537 N. French

**Tennessee**
Memphis: Miss Johanna Zimmerman, Box 5913
Nashville: Miss Nellie J. Roche, 2323 Elliston Pl., Z 5

**Texas**
Dallas: Mrs. Allene Squires, 5527 Druid Lane
Houston: Mr. Walter D. Powell, Sr., 3616 Bastrop St.
San Antonio: Mrs. Patricia Sheppard, 315 Fresnado

**Utah**
Salt Lake City: Mrs. Ethel C. Ayer, 1361 E. 17th South St.

**Vermont**
None

**Virginia**
Alexandria: Mrs. Marjorie Nixon, 316 S. Fairfax St.
Arlington: Mrs. Lucille M. Bridge, 1622 N. McKinley Rd.

**Washington**
Kirkland: Mrs. Margaret V. Bailey, 204 19th Ave.
Richmond Highlands: Mrs. Elmerene Neff, 1816 Linden Ave., Seattle 33
Seattle: Mrs. Doris Dahl, 5645 60th Ave., S. Z 8
Spokane: Mrs. Rose M. Bates, W. 3017 Euclid Ave., Z 12
Tacoma: Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, 414 S. Tacoma Ave., Z 2

**West Virginia**
Charleston: Mrs. Marian C. Lippitt, 1424 B Jackson St.

**Wisconsin**
Brookfield Twp.: Mrs. Lillian Erby, Rt. 4, Box 443, Waukesha
Green Bay: Miss Florence Delany, 1015 Cherry St.
Kenosha: Mr. Louis J. Voelz, 6108 Sheridan Rd.
Madison: Miss Helen Svendsen, 501 Woodward Grove
Milwaukee: Mr. Elmer Schwandes, 3206 S. 22nd St.
Racine: Mrs. Anna Nelsen, 4067 Victory Ave.
Shorewood: Mrs. Rea Brown, 3514 N. Murray Ave.
Waukesha: Mrs. Elizabeth J. Burgess, 217 Wisconsin Ave.
Wauwatosa: Mrs. Maud Reinhelez, 2552 N. 63rd St.
Whitefish Bay: Miss Petry L. Pohn, 5400 N. Lake Dr.

**Wyoming**
Laramie: Mrs. Solveig V. Corbit, P.O. Box 112
AMERICAN BAHÁ’ÍS
IN THE TIME
OF WORLD PERIL

A World Crusade Message
from the Guardian

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ’ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.
Dear and valued co-workers:

The American Bahá'í Community, in this, the opening year of the second phase of the World Spiritual Crusade upon which it has embarked, finds itself standing on the threshold of the seventh decade of its existence. It leaves behind it, as it enters the second decade of the second Bahá'í century, sixty years crowded with events and marked by exploits, so stirring and momentous that they stand unsurpassed in the annals of any other Bahá'í community with the sole exception of its venerable sister community in Bahá'u'lláh's native land.

Chief Executive of Divine Plan

The first to respond to the call of the New Day in the Western world; for many years, in concert with the small band of Canadian believers residing in its immediate neighborhood, the sole champion of the newly proclaimed Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh; foremost in its decisive contribution to the creation of the pattern, the erection of the fabric, the enlargement of the limits, and the consolidation of the institutions of the embryonic World Order, the child of that same Covenant and the harbinger of a still unborn world civilization; singled out by the Pen of the Center of that same Covenant for a unique and imperishable bounty as the principal custodian and chief executor of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan; doubly honored in the course of His extensive visit to the shores of its homeland through the distinction conferred by Him on the community's two leading centers, the one as the site where He laid the corner-stone of the holiest House of Worship in the Bahá'í world, and the other the scene of the proclamation of His Father's Covenant; the triumphant prosecutor of two successive historic Plans, boldly initiated by its elected representatives for the propagation of the Faith it has espoused in the land of its birth, in the Dominion of Canada, in Central and South America and in the continent of Europe and for the erection of its own House of Worship, the Mother Temple of the West; outstanding in its role as the defender of the Faith, as the supporter of its down-trodden, long-persecuted sister communities in both the Asiatic and African continents, and as the formulator of the national Bahá'í constitution, embodying the by-laws regulating the internal affairs of the members of the Bahá'í communities; incomparable throughout the Bahá'í world as the dynamic agent responsible for the opening of the vast majority of the over two hundred sovereign States and chief Dependencies of the globe to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh; surpassing even its over a hundred-year old sister community in the cradle of that Faith in the number and variety of isolated centers, groups and local Assemblies it has succeeded in establishing over the face of the Union stretching from the Atlantic seaboard and from Alaska to Mexico; noteworthy in the rapid accumulation and wise expenditure of material resources, often involving a self-sacrifice reminiscent of the self-sacrifice of the Dawn-Breakers of the Apostolic Age of the Faith, for the sole purpose of systematically propagating the Faith it has pledged itself to serve, of enhancing its prestige, of multiplying and perfecting its administrative agencies, of enriching its literature, of erecting its edifices, of launching its manifold enterprises, of succoring the needy among the members of its sister communities, of warding off the dangers confronting it from time to time through the malice of its enemies — the American Bahá'í community, boasting of such a record of exalted service, can well afford to contemplate the immediate future, with its severe challenge, its complex problems, its hazards, tests and trials, with equanimity and confidence.

For there can be no doubt that the entire community, limited as is its numerical strength and circumscribed as are its meager resources, in comparison with the vastness of the field stretching before it, the prodigious efforts demanded of it, and the complexity of the problems it must resolve, stands at a most critical juncture in its history.

America Passing Through Crisis

Moreover, the country of which it forms a part, is passing through a crisis which, in its spiritual, moral, social and political aspects, is of extreme seriousness — a seriousness which to a superficial observer is liable to be dangerously under-estimated.

The steady and alarming deterioration in the standard of morality is exemplified by the appalling increase of crime, by political corruption in ever-widening and ever higher circles, by the loosening of the sacred ties of marriage, by the inordinate craving for pleasure and diversion, and by the marked and progressive
slackening of parental control, is no doubt the most arresting and distressing aspect of the decline that has set in, and can be clearly perceived, in the fortunes of the entire nation.

Parallel with this, and pervading all departments of life, — an evil which the nation, and indeed all those within the capitalist system, though to a lesser degree, share with that State and its satellites regarded as the sworn enemies of that system — is the crass materialism, which lays excessive and ever-increasing emphasis on material well-being, forgetful of those things of the spirit on which alone a sure and stable foundation can be laid for human society. It is this same cancerous materialism, born originally in Europe, carried to excess in the North American continent, contaminating the Asiatic peoples and nations, spreading its ominous tentacles to the borders of Africa, and now invading its very heart, which Bahá'u'lláh in unequivocal and emphatic language denounced in His Writings, comparing it to a devouring flame and regarding it as the chief factor in precipitating the dire ordeals and world-shaking crises that must necessarily involve the burning of cities and the spread of terror and consternation in the hearts of men. Indeed a foretaste of the devastation which this consuming fire will wreak upon the world, and with which it will lay waste the cities of the nations participating in this tragic world-engulfing contest, has been afforded by the last World War, marking the second stage in the global havoc which humanity, forgetful of its God and heedless of the clear warnings uttered by His appointed Messenger for this day, must, alas, inevitably experience. It is this same all-pervasive, pernicious materialism against which the voice of the Center of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant was raised, with pathetic persistence, from platform and pulpit, in His addresses to the heedless multitudes, which, on the morrow of His fateful visit to both Europe and America, found themselves suddenly swept into the vortex of a tempest which in its range and severity was unsurpassed in the world's history.

Collateral with this ominous laxity in morals, and this progressive stress laid on man's material pursuits and well-being, is the darkening of the political horizon, as witnessed by the widening of the gulf separating the protagonists of two antagonistic schools of thought which, however divergent in their ideologies, are to be commonly condemned by the upholders of the standard of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh for their materialistic philosophies and their neglect of those spiritual values and eternal verities on which alone a stable flourishing civilization can be ultimately established. The multiplication, the diversity and the increasing destructive power of armaments to which both sides, in this world contest, caught in a whirlpool of fear, suspicion and hatred, are rapidly contributing; the outbreak of two successive bloody conflicts, entangling still further the American nation in the affairs of a distracted world, entailing a considerable loss in blood and treasure, swelling the national budget and progressively depreciating the currency of the State; the confusion, the vacillation, the suspicions besetting the European and Asiatic nations in their attitude to the American nation; the overwhelming accretion of strength to the arch enemy of the system championed by the American Union in consequence of the realignment of the Powers in the Asiatic continent and particularly in the Far East — these have, moreover, contributed their share, in recent years, to the deterioration of a situation which, if not remedied, is bound to involve the American nation in a catastrophe of undreamed-of dimensions and of untold consequences to the social structure, the standard and conception of the American people and government.

No less serious is the stress and strain imposed on the fabric of American society through the fundamental and persistent neglect, by the governed and governors alike, of the supreme, the inescapable and urgent duty — so repeatedly and graphically represented and stressed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in His arraignment of the basic weaknesses in the social fabric of the nation — of remedying, while there is yet time, through a revolutionary change in the concept and attitude of the average white American toward his Negro fellow-citizen, a situation which, if allowed to drift, will, in the words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, cause the streets of American cities to run with blood, aggravating thereby the havoc which the fearful weapons of destruction, raining from the air, and amassed by a ruthless, a vigilant, a powerful and inveterate enemy, will wreak upon those same cities.

The American nation, of which the community of the Most Great Name forms as yet a negligible and infinitesimal part, stands, indeed, from whichever angle one observes its immediate fortunes, in grave peril. The woes and tribulations which threaten it are partly avoidable, but mostly inevitable and God-sent, for by reason of them a government and people clinging tenaciously to the obsolescent doctrine of absolute sovereignty and upholding a political system, manifestly at variance with the needs of a world already contracted into a neighborhood and crying out for unity, will find itself purged of its anachronistic conceptions, and prepared to play a preponderating role, as foretold by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, in the hoisting of the Standard of the Lesser Peace, in the unification of mankind, and in the establishment of a world federal government on this planet. These same fiery tribulations will not only firmly weld the American nation to its sister nations
in both hemispheres, but will through their cleansing effect, purge it thoroughly of the accumulated dross which ingrained racial prejudice, rampant materialism, widespread ungodliness and moral laxity have combined, in the course of successive generations, to produce, and which have prevented her thus far from assuming the role of world spiritual leadership forecast by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s unerring pen—a role which she is bound to fulfill through travail and sorrow.

American Bahá’ís Stand at Cross-Roads

The American Bahá’í community, the leaven destined to leaven the whole, cannot hope, at this critical juncture in the fortunes of a struggling, perilously situated, spiritually moribund nation, to either escape the trials with which the nation is confronted, nor claim to be wholly immune from the evils that stain its character.

At so critical a period, at so challenging an hour, the members of the Bahá’í community, invested by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá with a primacy which can, through neglect and apathy, be allowed to lose its vital power and driving force, are immersed in a task, and are faced with responsibilities, which a World Spiritual Crusade, the third and greatest collective enterprise embarked upon in American Bahá’í history, has thrust upon them before the eyes of their admiring and expectant sister communities throughout the world. They now stand at the cross-roads, unable to relax for a moment, or hesitate as to which road they should tread, or to allow any decline in the high standard they have, for no less than six decades, undeviatingly upheld. Nay, if this primacy is to be safe-guarded and enhanced, a consecration, not only on the part of a chosen few, to every single objective of the Ten-Year Plan to which they are now pledged, and a pouring out of substance, not only by those of limited means, but by the richest and wealthiest, in a degree involving the truest sacrifice, for the purpose of insuring the attainment of the aims and purposes of the Plan in its present phase of development, are imperative and can brook no delay.

The mighty and laudable effort exerted, by a considerable number of pioneers, in the course of the opening phase of this world-encircling Crusade, in the virgin territories of the globe, must, if this primacy is to remain unimpaired, be increased, doubled, nay trebled, and must manifest itself not only in foreign fields where the prizes so laboriously won during the last twelve months, must, at whatever sacrifice, be meticulously preserved, but throughout the entire length and breadth of the American Union, and particularly in the goal cities, where hitherto the work has stagnated, and which must, in the year now entered, become the scene of the finest exploits which the homefront has yet seen.

A veritable exodus from the large cities where a considerable number of believers have, over a period of years, congregated, both on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, as well as in the heart of the country, and where, owing to the tempo and the distractions of city life, the progress of the Faith has been retarded, must signify the inauguration of this most intensive and challenging phase of the Crusade on the homefront. Most certainly and emphatically must the lead be given by the two focal centers of Bahá’í activity which rank among the oldest of and occupy the most honored position among, the cities throughout the American Union, the one as the mother city of the North American continent, the other named by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá the City of the Covenant. Indeed, so grave are the exigencies of the present hour, and so critical the political position of the country, that were a bare fifteen adult Bahá’ís to be left in each of these cities, over which unsuspected dangers are hanging, it would still be regarded as adequate for the maintenance of their local Spiritual Assemblies.

World Crusade Tasks

While this vital process of multiplication of Bahá’í isolated centers, groups and local Assemblies is being accelerated, through a rapid and unprecedented dispersion of believers, and as the result of the initiation of vigorous teaching activities, through individuals as well as administrative agencies, the incorporation of fullfledged local Assemblies—a process which has been noticeably slackening in recent years—must be given immediate attention by the community’s elected national representatives, reinforcing, thereby, the foundations of local Bahá’í communities, and paving the way for the establishment, in a not too distant future, of local Bahá’í endowments.

The inauguration of the first Dependency of the Mašriqú’l-Adhkár, the first link to be forged destined to bind the Community of the Most Great Name to the general public, expectant to witness the first evidences of direct Bahá’í service to humanity as a complement to Bahá’í worship, is yet another task which must be conscientiously tackled and fulfilled in the course of the second phase of this Ten-Year Plan. The consummation of this project must synchronize with the termination of the landscaping of the area surrounding the Temple—a double achievement that will mark yet another stage in the materialization of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s often expressed and cherished hopes for this holiest House of Worship in the Bahá’í world.

Yet another task, of extreme urgency and of great spiritual significance, is the selection and purchase of the site of the future Mašriqú’l-Adhkár in Sweden, as well as the appropriation of sufficient funds during the coming two years, for the establishment, on however
modest a scale, of a national Hazíratu'l-Quds in Anchorage, Alaska, in Panama City and in the capital of Peru, in Suva, in Tokyo and in Johannesburg, and the lending of financial assistance to the Italo-Swiss National Assembly, the proud daughter of the American Bahá'í Community, for the erection of a similar national center in the Italian and Swiss capitals.

Of no less importance, though involving a smaller outlay of funds, is the establishment of token endowments in the afore-mentioned cities, in anticipation of the formation of an independent National Spiritual Assembly in each of them, at a later stage in the execution of this stupendous Plan.

The translation and publication of Bahá'í literature in the European and American Indian languages, allocated to your Assembly and its European Teaching Committee under the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan, is yet another objective of this second phase of this World Crusade, a task that must be resolutely pursued and speedily consummated in order to facilitate the intensive teaching activity which, at a later stage, must be conducted for the purpose of converting a considerable number of the minority races in both Europe and America to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

The all-important teaching enterprises in France and Finland, designed to broaden the basis of the infant Administrative Order in both countries, and extend the ramifications of the Faith to their chief towns and cities, is yet another responsibility which should be promptly discharged, as an indispensable preliminary to the establishment in each of these two countries of an independent National Assembly.

Finally, the establishment of a Bahá'í Publishing Trust, similar in its essentials to the institution already functioning in the British Isles, and which must serve as a model for other National Assemblies in both the East and the West, is a matter to which prompt and earnest attention must be directed in the course of the second phase of the Plan, and which will require full and speedy consultation with the national elected representatives of the British Bahá'í community.

A systematic campaign designed to proclaim the Faith to the masses through the press and radio must moreover be launched and maintained with vigilance, persistence and vigor.

The American Bahá'í Community—the champion builders of an Order which posterity will hail as the harbinger of a civilization to be regarded as the fairest fruit of the Revelation proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh; the principal Trustee of a Plan which future generations will acclaim as one of the two greatest legacies left by the Center of His Covenant; marching in the van of a Crusade which history will recognize as the most momentous spiritual enterprise launched in modern times; beset by the same anxieties and perils by which the nation of which it forms a part finds itself, to an unprecedented degree, afflicted and surrounded—such a community is, at this hour, experiencing the impact of a challenge unique in its sixty years of existence.

**Challenge to Each Individual Bahá'í**

In its meteoric career its fortunes have risen so swiftly; its exploits have so greatly multiplied, its spirit in times of emergency has swelled and risen so high, it has earned on such occasions the applause and excited the admiration, of its sister communities throughout both hemispheres to such a degree, that it cannot, at this critical hour in its destinies, suffer this golden opportunity to slip from its grasp, or this priceless privilege to be irretrievably forfeited.

This challenge, so severe and insistent, and yet so glorious, faces no doubt primarily the individual believer on whom, in the last resort, depends the fate of the entire community. He it is who constitutes the warp and woof on which the quality and pattern of the whole fabric must depend. He it is who acts as one of the countless links in the mighty chain that now girdles the globe. He it is who serves as one of the multitude of bricks which support the structure and insure the stability of the administrative edifice now being raised in every part of the world. Without his support, at once whole-hearted, continuous and generous, every measure adopted, and every plan formulated, by the Body which acts as the national representative of the community to which he belongs, is foredoomed to failure. The World Center of the Faith itself is paralyzed if such a support on the part of the rank and file of the community is denied it. The Author of the Divine Plan Himself is impeded in His Purpose if the proper instruments for the execution of His design are lacking. The sustaining strength of Bahá'u'lláh Himself, the Founder of the Faith, will be withheld from every and each individual who fails in the long run to arise and play his part.

The administrative agencies of a divinely conceived Administrative Order at long last erected and relatively perfected stand in dire need of the individual believer to come forward and utilize them with undeviating purpose, serene confidence and exemplary dedication. The heart of the Guardian cannot but leap with joy, and his mind derive fresh inspiration, at every evidence testifying to the response of the individual to his allotted task. The unseen legions, standing rank upon rank, and eager to pour forth from the Kingdom on high the full measure of their celestial strength on the individual participants of this incom-
parably glorious Crusade, are powerless unless and until each potential crusader decides for himself, and perseveres in his determination, to rush into the arena of service ready to sacrifice his all for the Cause he is called upon to champion.

Appeal for Dedication

It is therefore imperative for the individual American believer, and particularly for the affluent, the independent, the comfort-loving and those obsessed by material pursuits, to step forward, and dedicate their resources, their time, their very lives to a Cause of such transcendence that no human eye can even dimly perceive its glory. Let them resolve, instantly and unhesitatingly, to place, each according to his circumstances, his share on the altar of Bahá’í sacrifice, lest, on a sudden, unforeseen calamities rob them of a considerable portion of the earthly things they have amassed.

Now if ever is the time to tread the path which the Dawn-Breakers of a previous age have so magnificently trodden. Now is the time to carry out, in the spirit and in the letter, the fervent wish so pathetically voiced by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Who longed, as attested in the Tablets of the Divine Plan, to “travel though on foot and in the utmost poverty” and raise “in cities, villages, mountains, deserts and oceans” the call of “Ya! Bahá’u’l-Abhá!”

Then, and only then, can the members of this community hasten the advent of the day when, as prophesied by His Pen, “heavenly illumination” will “stream from their country” “to all the peoples of the world.” Then, and only then will they find themselves “securely established upon the throne of an everlasting dominion.”

That the members of this community, of either sex and of every age, of whatever race or background, however limited in experience, capacity and knowledge, may arise as one man, and seize with both hands the God-given opportunities now presented to them through the dispensations of an all-loving, ever-watchful, ever-sustaining Providence, and lend thereby a tremendous impetus to the propelling forces mysteriously guiding the operations of this newly-launched, unspeakably potent, world-encompassing Crusade, is one of the dearest wishes which a loving and longing heart holds for them at this great turning point in the fortunes of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh in the American continent.

Your true brother,

July 28, 1954

Beloved Friends:

So majestic and compelling is the foregoing communication from Shoghi Effendi that any observations from the National Spiritual Assembly must be humble indeed.

What we have in this text is one of those superlative letters which the Guardian has addressed to North America from time to time since the Guardianship began in 1921.

The present letter rises to a supreme height of tender power and blessed understanding. Whatever he is called upon to do, the Guardian’s capacity fills and overflows the measure of the need.

He addresses the American Bahá’ís collectively and individually. He acclaims their achievements, describes their duty, points out the perils of the hour, and appeals for consecration. We are to make the great spiritual decision which is true and complete renunciation of self and dependence upon the Spirit of Bahá’u’lláh.

The importance and value of this message is incalculable, to community and to individual Bahá’ís. It is a gift from a higher realm. Well is it for whosoever realizes its worth and cherishes its bounty. Let us wear it as a shield against the poisoned arrows of self, doubt, indifference and inertia; let us wear it as a buckler against the destructive physical weapons of a warring world.

It presents a text to be assimilated, meditated upon, pondered over, and discussed reverently by groups, communities and all Bahá’í institutions concerned.

In reality the Guardian bestows upon us the power to meet this crisis and to establish the basis on which the world order is to be built. The National Assembly confidently awaits a magnificent, an overwhelming response throughout the United States—an evidence of the love of the Faith surpassing all achievements and heroic deeds of our glorious past!

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
TEACHING MISSIONS BY MEMBERS OF AUXILIARY BOARD

Report by American Hands of the Cause

The Guardian’s directives concerning the appointment and functions of Auxiliary Boards for Asia, Africa, Europe and the Western Hemisphere have already been published.

In a letter written to the National Spiritual Assembly by the Guardian’s Secretary on his behalf dated June 20 we find this further reference:

“The Guardian feels sure that the Auxiliary Boards recently appointed by the Hands of the Cause will stimulate and help the teaching work, which of course includes pioneer work, and be a prop and mainstay to the often overworked and overburdened National Spiritual Assemblies as well as to the Hands of the Cause who are carrying, usually, heavy administrative loads in addition to their exalted position as Hands.”

In this first report to the believers, the American Hands express their grateful appreciation of the co-operation freely given by the National Assemblies, National Committees, Area Committees and local Assemblies involved in the arranging of circuit teaching schedules assigned to the members of the Auxiliary Board appointed (as already announced) for the Western Hemisphere. They take occasion to express their genuine satisfaction also with the devotion and efficiency with which the Board members have accepted and carried out projects already assigned and under way.

It is impossible in the space allotted to attempt to report more than a brief summary of the circuits, to show the far-reaching area covered by their travels, omitting unfortunately the vivid details of their public addresses and Bahá’í discussions which are contributing a new and vital element of inspiration to the Bahá’í communities of North and Latin America.

Before developing specific projects, the areas which Board members might cover were defined, so that all parts of the Western Hemisphere can be brought into this work. The prime intention is to stimulate the development of our Bahá’í communities in order to assure the fulfilment of the consolidation work assigned to the Western Hemisphere in the Ten Year Plan; and to contact and encourage the pioneers already settled in virgin goals of the four National Assemblies concerned with this Hemisphere and its outlying pioneer posts.

The summary is presented chronologically.

1. Rowland Estall spent July 1-18 visiting the Bahá’í Communities of St. John’s, Newfoundland; Sydney, Nova Scotia (Cape Breton Island); Magdalen Islands, where a pioneer occupies this virgin post; the Maritimes Summer Conference at Shediac, New Brunswick; and Charlottetown and Prince Edward Island.

2. William deForge has visited Green Acre and Louhelen Schools, and Bahá’í Centers in New England. Later he will travel to cities along the Atlantic Coast as far south as Florida. A third project under consideration will be visits to Central America not covered by Katherine McLaughlin and Esteban Canales.

3. Margery McCormick has visited Louhelen School and is preparing for a tour to fifteen Bahá’í Centers in South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

4. Katherine McLaughlin visited Green Acre and has served in Central America, visiting Mexico City, Puebla, San Salvador, Santa Ana, Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Taulobe and Managua.

5. Dr. Sarah Pereira during August visited the two Ohio centers of Munroe Falls and Mansfield. On August 28 she attended the first Bahá’í Summer Conference held at Blue Ridge, North Carolina, attended by seventy-five believers from thirteen States.

6. Florence Mayberry has visited Geyersville and Temerity Bahá’í Schools. She started early in September on a Canadian-United States tour which included the Bahá’í Summer Conference at Banff; the Canadian Centers of Nelson, Pentictone, Vernon, Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Yellowknife and Fort William. Her visits to American Bahá’í Centers include Duluth, St. Paul, Fargo; three Centers in Montana; four in Idaho; nine in Washington; five in Oregon.

7. Margot Worley has visited Green Acre and has made visits to Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Asunción, Santiago, Valparaíso and Osorno. A visit was to be made to Punta Arenas if possible.

8. Esteban Canales has been assigned a circuit including Mexico City, Puebla, Guatemala City, Chichicastenango, San Salvador, Santa Ana, Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Taulobe, Managua, Panama City, Colon. His circuit requires the time from August 16 to November 15, except for dates of National Assembly meeting which he attends.

9. Gayle Woolson’s assignment calls for a month’s teaching work in Guayaquil, and visits to Bahá’í Centers in Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia.

The schedules listed above, it is clear, establish a new teaching plan of considerable magnitude, made
Beloved Friends:

One subject treated by the Guardian in his surpassing message of July 28 calls for special comment and attention. As the friends no doubt noted in reading this message, Shoghi Effendi lays great emphasis on the matter of interracial amity and accord.

"No less serious is the stress and strain imposed on the fabric of American society through the fundamental and persistent neglect, by the governed and governors alike, of the supreme, the inescapable and urgent duty—so repeatedly and graphically represented and stressed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in His arraignment of the basic weaknesses in the social fabric of the nation—of remedying, while there is yet time, through a revolutionary change in the concept and attitude of the average white American toward His Negro fellow-citizen, a situation which, if allowed to drift, will, in the words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, cause the streets of American cities to run with blood, aggravating thereby the havoc which the fearful weapons of destruction, raining from the air, and amassed by a ruthless, vigilant, a powerful and inveterate enemy, will wreak upon those same cities."

While the oncoming of destructive war has become destined, not subject to alteration by human will at this stage, the Guardian's phrases while there is yet time, and if allowed to drift, indicate that in this realm the Bahá'ís still have power to mitigate a condition which, unchecked, will "cause the streets of American cities to run with blood."

Words cannot express the solemn responsibility we all bear to strive to produce a "revolutionary change in the concept and attitude of the average white American toward His Negro fellow-citizen."

Contemplating the import of this statement, we realize the several lines of effort we can and must collectively as well as individually undertake at once.

These efforts include: response to and participation by committees and groups in the announced plans of our National Interracial Teaching Committee; creation of a spirit of unity so strong that it will consciously or unconsciously affect every Negro we encounter with respect for and interest in the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh; continuous resolve to influence the white people we encounter to accept the principle of the oneness of mankind; true solidarity in every Bahá'í community whose members represent more than one race; local public programs for promotion of that principle in all who can be attracted, white or colored alike.

The Master Himself foresaw and foretold the calamitous results of American race prejudice. The recent Supreme Court decision seems to mark the beginning of the period of crisis in this area of human relations.

—National Spiritual Assembly

**PIioneer Settlements on Home Front**

Beloved Friends:

The Guardian's concern over the work on the home front affects every American Bahá'í. Pioneer settlements in the United States goal cities represent a vital task of the Ten Year Plan and therefore involve the devotion and honor of our entire community.

The passages quoted in the September issue of Bahá'í News (pages 1-2) were taken from the Secretary's letter written on behalf of the Guardian on June 20. They clear away any misunderstanding aroused by rumors about, and secondhand knowledge of, pilgrims' notes. "If these are not achieved, the Plan will fail." What could be more important, more challenging?

Now may a great number of the friends in the larger cities arise and "demonstrate their sterling qualities." Indeed, recent reports from the American National Teaching Committee show that the new upsurge has already begun.

—National Spiritual Assembly
BAHA'I IN THE NEWS

In Protection, trade magazine of Travelers Insurance Co., 40,000 circulation, August 1954 issue, we find a feature article of two pages about Lawrence Hautz and the Faith. It carries two illustrations — Bahá'ís meeting the President of India, and Mr. Hautz presenting a steel plough to a native farmer at Old Delhi.

Through Miss Margaret Lentz we receive a clipping from Der Stern, a German publication widely read in Vienna, which reports the antagonism of Protestant and Catholic clergy to the plan of erecting a Bahá'í House of Worship near Frankfurt by the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, the land for which has already been purchased. The mayor of Eschborn, Graf, has taken no action to annul the Bahá'í plans. The illustrations include a picture of the mayor, a Bahá'í ringstone, the peasant who made the first sale of land to the Bahá'ís, a large picture of the Wilmette Temple and a view of local residents who share the opinion of the clergy.

The news of this clerical protest was also published recently in Chicago Daily News on August 27 as a special item from Bonn, Germany. "German news magazines are making a minor sensation of proposals that a Bahá'í temple, similar to the one in Wilmette, Ill., be built at Eschborn, near Frankfort." This same item was published in The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, on August 31, the Chicago Daily Tribune on September 14, and doubtless in other papers who subscribe to the same news service.

Mystic: The Magazine of the Supernatural, published in Evanston, Illinois, carried on the front cover of its October 1954 issue a reproduction of the picture of the Temple taken by The Chicago Sunday Tribune in 1944. The picture is referred to as "Symbol of the Oneness of Mankind."

The Los Angeles Examiner on July 8 carried in a columnist feature article the information that the wife of former State Attorney-General Robert Kenny "has for months been working on an island off Africa as a Bahá'í missionary." A similar item was published in San Francisco Examiner on June 30.

From Mrs. Shirley A. Morris has come a copy of Israeli magazine Shalom, received from Israel Tourist Information, New York, containing an article on "The Land of
Faith" illustrated with views of the Jezzar Pasha Mosque, the Holy Ark, Italian Synagogue, Celebration of High Mass, Church of the Dormition, and the Shrine of the Báb.

The Weekend Guardian, Sunday, June 27, published in Nassau, publishes a feature entitled "The Treasure Chest" compiled by A. Channel from various sources. On that date an excerpt was included from 'Abbas Effendi.

The Denver Post, June 13, features a story on "Couple To Become Bahá'í Missionaries" concerning the plans of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Schneider to sell their home and pioneer abroad for the Faith.

On the same date, in a column entitled "Answers to What They Want to Know," Sunday News, New York City, gave information about the Cause.

In its July 3 issue, The Arizona Republic, Phoenix, carried a photograph of the Francis Johnson family and a feature article about their acceptance of the Faith and their Bahá'í activities—a human interest story.

—National Spiritual Assembly

WORLD CRUSADE

NINTH PIONEER REPORT

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States is happy to announce the arrival of the following pioneers at their posts in World Crusade goal areas.

ARRIVALS IN VIRGIN AREAS

Mr. and Mrs. Elias Sabri, with their four children, arrived in Djibouti, French Somaliland, May 6, 1954.

Mrs. Louise Groger arrived in Castro, Chiloe Island, Chile, June 15, 1954.

Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Blakeley arrived in Nuku'alofa, Tonga Islands, July 12, 1954.

Mrs. Marcia Steward Atwater arrived in Majuro, Marshall Islands, August 7, 1954.

Miss Marjorie Wheeler arrived in Whitehorse, Yukon, August 18, 1954.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Mattoon arrived in Key West, Florida, August 24, 1954.

ARRIVALS IN CONSOLIDATION AREAS

Mr. Milton Heath arrived in San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 28, 1953.

Mr. Grant C. Hadden arrived in Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, May 6, 1954.

Mr. Merritt W. Bates arrived in Mexico City, Mexico, June 19, 1954.

Mrs. Sara Kenny arrived in Nice, France, from Madeira, June 20, 1954.

Mrs. Ella Duffield arrived in Nice, France, from Madeira, June 20, 1954.

Mrs. Isabel Kent arrived in Cienfuegos, Cuba, July 9, 1954.

Mr. Stanley Bagley arrived in Châteauroux, France, from Palermo, Sicily, July 23, 1954.

Mrs. Dora E. Worth arrived in San Jose, Costa Rica, July 26, 1954.

Miss Margot Miessler arrived in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 3, 1954.


Miss Elizabeth H. Cheney arrived in Monterrey, Mexico, August 26, 1954.

Mrs. Ellen Sims arrived in Asuncion, Paraguay, in August, 1954.

Miss Lucile Webster arrived in Tokyo, Japan, in August, 1954.

Miss Margaret Pirkey arrived in Ketchikan, Alaska, September 5, 1954.

TEMPLE LAND IN JOHANNESBURG

On June 6, 1954, twenty-two Bahá'ís, including children, gathered on the newly purchased site of the future Mashriqu'l-Adhkar in Johannesburg, South Africa, to offer prayers of thanksgiving that the first major goal assigned by the Guardian had been accomplished.

Seated along a rock ledge, high above the city, every member of the group glorified in prayer the power of Bahá'u'lláh that had brought them from different lands, that had unified them in effort, that had enabled them to secure this area of ground which would be sacred to the ages yet to come. The session closed with a prayer for Shoghi Effendi, through whose guidance, direction and inspiration, victories—such as this were being won in every part of the planet.

A special prayer was offered on behalf of Harry Ford, the first pioneer to give his life in South Africa. Through his teaching efforts, the first two new believers in South Africa were led to the Faith. He was among the first to begin the search for the Temple land. All present felt that it was indeed significant that as they prayed, they could look down the hillside to the very spot where Harry Ford lay buried.

The selection of this property came as the result of the united efforts of the entire Bahá'í Community through a search which the group began when the pioneers first came to Johannesburg nearly eleven months before. Now, atop one of the highest points in the area, on "their own land," overlooking the city and its suburbs in every direction, believers from Pretoria and Johannesburg in South Africa, from Mbabane in Swaziland, and from Mafeking in Bechuanaland, linked their hearts in these prayers of thanks for the goal already achieved, and prayers of guidance to help them to accomplish those objectives yet remaining.

Many stayed for individual prayers, to gather a few souvenir stones, and to take pictures. At the hour of noon they turned to the north-north-east to recite the noon-day prayer facing 'Aká, the Qiblih of the Bahá'í world.

As the last of the group began their descent from the hilltop, they paused beside an acacia tree for a final prayer. A fresh breeze stirred across the valley. In the mind came a vision of the future when great crowds would stream up this hillside to pray within the House of Worship. These words of Bahá'u'lláh arose spontaneously:

"Blessed is the spot, and the house, and the place, and the city, and the heart, and the mountain, and the refuge, and the cave, and the valley, and the land, and the sea, and the island, and the meadow where mention of God hath been made, and His praise glorified."

HOUSE OF WORSHIP SITE IN PANAMA CANAL ZONE

Through the cooperation of Bahá'ís of many countries, a site for the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkar of Central America has been purchased. The five-
The view at the left is the vista looking directly north from the site of the future Mashriqu’-Adhkár in Johannesburg, Union of South Africa. When there is no haze, the Voortrekker’s (Pioneer’s) Monument in Pretoria is clearly visible. The property lies in the Emmarentia district, on the highest ground in that area. The lake in the center is formed by the Emmarentia Dam. Just to the left of the Dam area, but not visible in this picture, is the cemetery where Harry Ford is buried.

At the right is a group of the Baha’is who gathered at the site of the newly-purchased Temple property to mark the achievement of the first major goal assigned by the Guardian. From left to right, seated in front: Audrey Robarts, Margaret Ford; seated, second row: Marguerite Sears, Valena Allen, Doris Ballard, Rose Selesnik, Dawn Selesnik, Bula Stewart, Eleanor Hadden, Alice Kidder, Helen Miller, Robert Miller, Jr.; standing, rear: William Sears, Sr., Michael Sears, John Robarts, Patrick Robarts, Grant Hadden, Lyall Hadden, John Allen, Nina Robarts, Karen Miller. Behind the group may be seen buildings in the Johannesburg suburbs.

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The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to share the following passages from pioneer letters, in keeping with its policy of keeping the Baha’i world informed of the spirit and some of the incidents which characterize the unfoldment of the World Crusade.

**PIONEER LETTERS**

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**Excerpts from Pioneer Letters to the Asia Teaching Committee**

From Stanley Bolton, Jr.

**Nuku’alofa, Tonga**

“I am known quite widely here now and have settled in reasonably well. It will probably seem as incredible to you as it does to me that I am teaching at the Tonga High School. My appointment as acting Senior Master is something that sounds like a fairy story more than anything else. But then the old adage, ‘Truth is stranger than fiction’, is probably more applicable to Baha’is than anyone else. I was approached quite out of the blue to take on the job and even when they were told that I had no teaching experience they still insisted that I should take it. They are desperate for teachers and anyone who can help out is considered an angel.

“The other day a group of about a dozen youngsters, girls and boys, came up to me after science and I could see there was something on their mind. One of the prefects acted as spokesman, and, pointing to my ring, asked what the sign meant. I was surprised they should take the trouble to ask me but, of course, pleased as punch. I thought to myself that here is just an example of the inquiring child mind. I was happy to tell them the story; what it was, what it meant and a little about the Baha’i Faith. When I finished there was an awkward but meaningful silence. Then the prefect who was the spokesman said, ‘Yes, we know. We read about it in Pix (magazine) in the library and saw your picture.’ I was astonished and tickled pink. It seemed surprising that they should see that small picture in a Pix over a year old and connect it with me. The fact was, they were checking to make sure it was I. Of course it went around the school like wildfire, and in a day or two even the headmaster was talking to me about it. So now the whole school knows I am a Baha’i and Pix has taught them silently without a word from me.”

From William H. Maxwell, Jr.,

**with the armed forces in Korea; September, 1954.**

“A native Korean contact, Captain, informed me tonight that he wanted to become a Baha’i now. I was really quite shocked as I’ve scarcely known him a month and a half. He has read Faith for Freedom and tonight he promised to begin a study of New Era. The story of this contact is interesting.

‘He is a captain in the Korean army, speaks excellent English, and tonight mentioned the possibility of translating the New Era. He knows Japanese well (was taught by Japanese teachers), has had three years of college and plans to go to America to study when he is discharged. I secured a position teaching algebra at night here at the education center. One night he showed up in class with the announcement that he wanted to brush up on mathematics (which he really did not need), and after class he wanted to talk about college life in America, and so a friendship was begun. Since that time he has been teaching me Korean and after these difficult sessions we study together a textbook.
on economics three nights per week. Tomorrow we agreed to commence a serious study of the Faith. For three years he and his wife have been considering joining a religion. They all seemed to have too many faults', he said, 'but this one is different.' I never before realized so much joy is concomitant with seeing a 'far-away' person accept the Light of Bahá'ú'lláh. And this land sorely needs that vitalizing Light.'

From Edith Danielsen,
Cook Islands, September, 1954.

'The second volume of Hidden Words (Arabic) has gone to press. This is in Rarotongan Maori. While there is some variation in meaning and spelling from island to island, it is well understood by all of them except Niue which doesn't actually belong to the Cook group. The Maoris of New Zealand, I am told, will not understand this Rarotongan Maori, except for a few very old people. We are now working on the translation of the single sheet, Basic Facts of the Bahá'í Faith, by Kenneth Christian. It has taken five sessions to complete the first column of the first page.

'I asked a Maori who had heard nothing of the Bahá'í Faith to read back to me in English the section we had finished so that I might see what kind of sense it made to him. The shock was terrible; I was sick as to what it was like. He told me how he was told to come and talk with me about the Faith. We discussed it for an hour and a half and he took home with him the sheet on Basic Facts of the Bahá'í Faith. He is fully in agreement with everything he has been told so far. I was very happy when he complimented me on what he called my ability to use words he could understand, and to speak convincingly without 'preaching.' It is truly a joy to be told how you are doing, for most of the time we work in a sort of blackout.

'Last Friday I stopped by home in the middle of a progressive dinner party and found two unknown women talking on our private verandah. They were two pioneers on their own way home. Their visas had expired and they could not renew them without leaving the island for at least four months. They, and we, had hoped to see Mildred Mottahedeh, but we could not get in touch with her for she was on her way to Tahiti.

'Dulcie and I have had opportunity to mention the Faith to quite a number of New Zealanders coming through. We hope this will have a helping effect on the great task to be done in that country in the next ten years. If so, it will compensate for these months of seeing so few manifestations of progress with our own work here.'

Excerpts from Pioneer Letters to the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee

From John Leonard
Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, South Atlantic, August 23, 1954.

'We are still in the depths of material winter, but the Divine Spring-time has burst forth into bloom. The first and greatest news is that there is now another person here in Stanley, using the Obligatory Prayers, the Ahmad Tablet, and other Bahá'í prayers. She is firm in the Covenant, and confirmed by the Holy Spirit. She has known about the Faith less than a month.

'It is all the blessing and bounty of our beloved Guardian — and the greatest bounty of all is the increased ability to turn toward him at all times.

'The most wonderful opportunities for service have been popping up. I have been called upon to serve as the emergency night time operator on the Stanley telephone switchboard when the old man who normally handles the job can't show up for work—had eight days straight, and tonight is another. Last week, the visiting nurse called me to stay with a very sick woman who was in a coma. She died before I arrived, but I slept in the house with the old man, her husband, until the funeral took place. Tonight over the radio he had placed an announcement of those people to whom he felt especially grateful for their services in connection with the recent illness and death of his wife. They were the doctor, the visiting nurse, and myself.'

'As a substitute for other visual aids (of which I have none) I have been taking around to people my collection of personal photographs, including pictures of the Temple, the Master, Rúhíyyih Khánum, and Mr. Samandari. Many people have seen these and been most impressed. In one home they have requested me to return weekly to tell them about religion and similar subjects, and to have discussions.

'They are most eager and ardent. While I was doing the eight day stint on the telephone exchange, a young marine dropped in one night to talk about religion. A handsome, likable, and most intelligent young chap, he had come to the point of questioning and rejecting his Roman Catholic allegiance, and he wanted to know how I felt about things. I told him, and now he has become very friendly and interested, and is asking for more discussions.

'One prays for unity and steadfastness for all the friends, that we may become a magnet to attract the unlimited Divine Confirmations, soar above the limitations of the earthly world, and become so burning with love that we can ignite a great flame in mankind.

'The Falkland Islands has a new radio transmitter, and it is just possible that you could pick it up. They broadcast on 581 KC. Our time is the same as Eastern Daylight Saving Time, and the broadcast period is roughly from 7 to 9 in the evening. If any of you manage to pick it up, everyone here will be pleased to hear about it. Incidentally, my talks are usually given on either Monday or Thursday evenings at 7:30 P.M., though the present schedule is irregular.'
THE TIME IS NOW

Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh who has spent four months visiting Bahá'í pioneers, communities and groups in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, has sent a stirring report of her observations of the urgent need in those critical areas, not only for the comforting Message of Bahá'u'lláh but also for more Bahá'í pioneers. Every “potential crusader” will wish to give prayerful consideration to the following excerpts selected by the National Spiritual Assembly from Mrs. Mottahedeh’s letter written from the Fiji Islands, August 14, 1954:

“On May 13th I left New York for London where I joined my husband. Fortunately we were able to travel together until I left Tokyo for Manila. From London our route took us swiftly through Paris, Mtnich, London where I joined my husband. From London our route took us swiftly through Paris, Mtnich, and would not change places with the privileged classes shut their eyes to the pressing problems around them. The native peoples are bewildered by the rapidly advancing tide of Western civilization and the numerous sects of Christianity which try to convert them. The people, even in small islands, divide themselves according to race, religion and class, and face each other with bitterness, indifference or hopelessness. The whole helpless body of Asia cries out in desperation for the solution which only the Bahá'í Faith can bring. We, who call ourselves Bahá'ís, say that we love humanity and that we desire the oneness of the human race. Here is where we can be the living demonstration of the sincerity of our beliefs. The pioneers and young communities are like beacon lights in a rapidly darkening world. As the darkness deepens these suffering people must have some light to guide them in their hour of desperation. Asleep they may still be and the search for the awakening ones is slow and long and fraught with many heartaches. Yet the light of hope and guidance must be kindled now before the darkness sets in.

“Do we love the comforts of our homes and the questionable security of our present economic status more than we love humanity? Are we clinging to the material non-essentials of our lives more than to the will of Bahá'u'lláh? Are we willing to sacrifice a little to hurry forward the Most Great Peace for which the world so hunger? These are the questions which every Bahá'í must ponder in his heart. The time has come to rouse ourselves from the accustomed round of our lives and to put forth that supreme effort to bring the healing medicine of Bahá'u'lláh to the sick body of the world. There is no minute to be lost. Asia and the Pacific desperately need teachers with dedicated hearts. Now is the time to prove that we are worthy to bear the name ‘Bahá’í’. No petty consideration can be allowed to stand in the way. Come while you still can. Your fellow Bahá’ís, struggling in this vast field, need your help. Is it possible to turn a deaf ear to their appeal?

“If you fear to face the discomforts of an unknown way of life, remember that there are thousands of Europeans who live here by choice and would not change places with your way of life. Asia and the Pacific are full of beautiful places and interesting people. Those who come here to live never wish to leave. Many of these people have children who receive as good an education as our children at home. Every big country or island has its medical service. Native food is generally good, bountiful and cheap, and many Europeans prefer it to imported food. Work is sometimes difficult to obtain and pioneers should arrange to be self-sustaining for the first six months until a situation can be found. Wages are lower but so are living costs. There are great varieties of climate and it is not too
difficult to become accustomed to even the very hot places. In fact, there is no problem of living which is really insurmountable. With patience and persistence there is always a workable solution.

"The pioneer needs great wisdom and endless patience. Teaching work must often go at a snail's pace and when it must, the gains are all the sweeter. Always the pioneer is sustained by the promise of ultimate victory.

"Come, dear friends! A world of adventure in the spirit awaits and a cup of joy is prepared for you. An immortality in heaven and on earth is assured to the people of Bahá who arise to the Guardian's call. The time is now!"

Bahá'ís desiring to consider the possibilities of pioneering in the goal countries of Asia and the Pacific Islands should write to:

Asia Teaching Committee, Charlotte Linfoot, Secretary, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CENTRAL AMERICA

The first native Central American believers to volunteer as permanent pioneers have reached their post. Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Monje, with their three small children, have settled in the consolidation goal city of Puntarenas, Costa Rica.

More pioneers and settlers are needed, both from Central America and the United States, to establish the centers necessary as a foundation for the formation of ten National Spiritual Assemblies in Central America during the World Crusade. In Nicaragua, Guatemala and Martinique the needs are especially pressing. Knowledge of the French language would be helpful to anyone desiring to enter Martinique.

GERMANY

Temple Progress

The Temple Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Germany and Austria reports a lively interest in the Temple project since announcement of purchase of about 4½ acres of land on the Steinbacher Höhe near Eschborn for the Bahá'í House of Worship in Germany. The amount paid for the land was about $12,200.

On the evening of July 10, the day the contracts were signed, a session of members of the town council of Eschborn was addressed by the chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Germany, to acquaint them with the principles of the Bahá'í Faith and the purpose of the Temple. To this open session the mayor of Eschborn had invited representatives of the Protestant clergy. Many questions were asked and answered. One member of the clergy took a stand against the Temple project, while others spoke of the Faith with great respect. Great interest was aroused among newspapers, and articles on the "Temple of Eschborn" appeared in newspapers of Frankfurt/Main and of Berlin. In a radio interview broadcast from the Frankfurt radio station a representative of the Protestant clergy of Eschborn spoke against and the Mayor of Eschborn for the Bahá'í Temple project.

On Sunday August 8 a public meeting of protest was called by the Protestant clergy of Eschborn, inviting all Christian believers of Eschborn and neighboring villages, Protestant and Catholic, to attend. Pamphlets protesting against the Temple were posted on the door of the Protestant church in Eschborn and in other places in the villages. The National Spiritual Assembly heard of this protest meeting through a radio station announcement and arranged for a Press Conference to be held on Saturday afternoon, August 7, in Frankfurt. Representatives were sent to the Press Conference by well-known newspapers of Frankfurt and environs as well as by the Frankfurt radio station. The Conference, planned to last one hour, continued for over three hours because of the great interest shown in the Temple project and the principles of the Bahá'í Faith.

A second Press Conference, with reporters of illustrated journals, was held in Eschborn, and photographs taken, an hour before the protest meeting was scheduled.

At 3 p.m. on August 8 the public meeting, held in the sports hall of the school of Eschborn, was opened with a trumpet chorus. The hall was completely filled, with 800 to 1000 people. Leaders of the Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy spoke about the Bahá'í Faith. The chief speaker, pastor of a church in a neighboring village, read passages from Esslemont's Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era. He spoke respectfully of the Author of the Faith and of the Principles, and according to the Temple Committee's report, "proclaimed that only Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He cannot enter one of the nine doors of the Bahá'í Temple because in the Christian teachings there can be only one door, and that the Christians have to wait till Jesus Christ will come again, and that everybody who thinks that Jesus Christ has already come must be a heretic."

The week after this public assembly many articles appeared in the newspapers about the Temple and the non-tolerant attitude of the churches.

Designs for the Temple are being received by the National Spiritual Assembly until the competition closes on November 30, 1954.

INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BURMA

The Tenth Anniversary of the Bahá'í School at Panchgani, India, was celebrated at the school August 1, 1954.

The regular Summer School of India will be held in Panchgani from October 16-23, exclusive. The National Youth Committee is in charge of arrangements.

Summer schools also will be held both in Pakistan and in Burma.
EUROPEAN TEACHING COMMITTEE

In many of his messages since the launching of the Ten Year Crusade, the Guardian has referred to the need for sustained pioneering effort in Europe. Three areas in particular are very much on his heart: Spitzbergen, Finland and France.

In his most recent message, “American Bahá'ís in the Time of World Peril” he says:

“The all-important teaching enterprises in France and Finland, designed to broaden the basis of the infant Administrative Order in both countries, and extend the ramifications of the Faith to their chief towns and cities, is yet another responsibility which should be promptly discharged, as an indispensable preliminary to the establishment in each of these two countries of an independent National Assembly.”

In a letter to the European Teaching Committee, written through his secretary, dated May 24, 1954, he says:

“He hopes that in the near future you will be able to find self-supporting pioneers for France... who will settle in the goal cities, and promote the work.

“He is most anxious that, when the way becomes open, a pioneer will get through to Spitzbergen.”

A letter from the International Bahá'í Council, dated June 27, 1954 and signed by the Secretary-General, said, “At one time the Guardian stated he thought at least fifty Americans should go to Europe during the coming year. He also said they should be self-supporting.”

The present condition of the National Fund makes it obvious that believers whose training will permit them to find employment in these areas should give most serious consideration to the task. Further, if the pioneer is self-supporting within his goal area, his position is more secure than one dependent upon funds from sources outside his assigned country. Europe offers many opportunities for employment. Job requirements and work permit regulations vary from country to country, so that each pioneer’s situation must be considered individually, in the light of his qualifications and the area to which he wishes to go. In general, teachers, secretaries, engineers or construction workers find employment with relative ease, but there are many other possibilities. An exception is Spitzbergen, where the major industry is coal mining and the approval of the director of the mining company must be secured. Yet this restriction is a chance for a believer to familiarize some phase of mining to perform a signal service which will gladden the Guardian’s heart.

For specific information about current job opportunities in France, Finland, Spitzbergen and the other goal countries of Europe write to:

European Teaching Committee
418 Forest Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois.

For those of the friends who have pensions, it may be pointed out that these are payable abroad, in areas where the money will buy more than in the United States. Social Security payments are made in all countries with which the United States is not at war or which are not within a zone of Soviet domination.

Knowledge of the language of the goal country is helpful, essential in some cases, but it is not an insurmountable barrier. Any language can be learned more easily and more quickly in the country of its origin than elsewhere.

While France, Finland and Spitzbergen are of prime concern, the Guardian is also anxious to see a substantial influx of American believers into the other goal countries of Europe. Well within the time still remaining in the World Crusade, the European continent must see the rise of thirteen National Bahá'í Assemblies. The deteriorating world conditions outside the Bahá'í sphere make it imperative that these areas be reinforced while there is yet time.

The European Teaching Committee issues this appeal to the American believers, confident that meditation upon the situation in the light of the Guardian’s words will lead those of pioneer spirit to arise to meet this opportunity.

AMERICAN NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

We have plenty of:

- Application Blanks
- Goal Lists (or see July Bahá'í News)
- Information on the goal city of your choice for all Bahá'ís who wish to heed the Guardian’s call for dispersal to goal cities.

Precious time is passing.

“Mount Your Steeds, O Heroes of God.”

American National Teaching Committee,
Mrs. Jesma Herbert, Secy.
725 South Alvarado Street,
Los Angeles, 57, Calif.

INTERNATIONAL BAHÁ'Í TEACHING PROJECT

CENTERS ON HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Story of the Christian Conference at Evanston

When it was announced several years ago that the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches, representing some 160 million Protestants from all over the world, would be held in Evanston, Illinois, in August 1954, only a few minutes from the Bahá’í Temple in Wilmette, Illinois, some of us began to get excited. When it was later announced that the main theme of this Assembly would be “The Christian Hope” (later revised to “Christ, the Hope of the World”) we felt sure that the Hand of God was at work.

An advisory commission of 25 outstanding theologians was appointed by the World Council of Churches to define the Christian hope. The first report of this commission caused much confusion and anguish in liberal American Protestant ranks. This report, largely dominated by European theologians, stated rather bluntly that there was no hope unless and until Christ returned. The Europeans spoke with such conviction and persistence about the Second Coming in the two or three year period of preliminary discussions before the Evanston Assembly meeting that gradually American liberal Christian leaders, who had privately never believed in “The Return” and Bible prophecies concerning the “Latter Day” theme, were forced to re-examine their position regarding eschatology (“the doctrine of last things”). There was doubt in high Christian circles, therefore, that the Assembly at Evanston would agree on what constituted Christian hope.
Committee Plans

In the early part of this year the National Spiritual Assembly appointed a Committee to make some plans regarding the Evanston Assembly meeting. This committee expected great things to happen and great things did result.

Two new pieces of literature were prepared. Christ’s Promise Fulfilled, with a wonderful introduction by George Townsend, includes that portion of Some Answered Questions dealing with Some Christian Subjects. Also included were the Master’s statements regarding Manifestations and Cycles. Since this booklet has to do with many vital Christian questions which have caused controversy down through the ages we thought it would be of especial value at this time.

With the advent of the H-Bomb and the increased interest now being shown in eschatology, an excellent pamphlet entitled The Bahá’í Teachings on Life After Death was reprinted from England.

Following are some of the steps undertaken to make delegates and visitors at the Evanston Assembly Bahá’í-conscious:

1. Attractive ads inviting delegates and visitors to visit the Bahá’í Temple were run in the Christian Century which is read by Christian leaders all over the world.
2. Ads were also run in North Shore local papers.
3. An official invitation to delegates and visitors to visit the Temple was extended by the National Spiritual Assembly.
4. Attractive posters with a picture in color of the Temple were placed in strategic spots in Evanston.
5. Personal invitations to attend a lecture on the Faith and Sunday Worship Services were sent to the delegates.
6. The House of Worship was kept open during the entire month of August from 10:30 A.M. until 9:00 P.M.
7. The Temple was floodlighted each evening for two weeks.
8. The National Spiritual Assembly sent an invitation to the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Dr. Visser ’t Hooft.
9. Some 1800 delegates, accredited visitors, official observers and members of the Press assigned to the Conference, visited the Temple. Extra guides, on duty at all times met visitors and answered questions.
10. Visitors were presented with gift envelopes of literature, consisting of The Bahá’í House of Worship, Christ’s Promise Fulfilled, The Bahá’í Teaching on Life After Death, and the radio pamphlet The Promised Day of God.
11. A list of the names of all delegates to the Assembly with their Evanston addresses was secured. Colored post cards of the Temple were printed with an invitation to attend a talk on the Bahá’í Faith given in Foundation Hall by Mr. Horace Holley. These invitations were placed in personally addressed envelopes and delivered to the various addresses listed.
12. Mr. Holley’s talk, prepared for the delegates to the World Council of Churches Conference, is being put into pamphlet form. Twenty-five copies of this pamphlet will be sent to the various National Spiritual Assemblies in different parts of the world, for distribution to the delegates to this Assembly, whose names will be provided, at the discretion of each National Spiritual Assembly. Our teaching effort actually extended throughout the world!

Great Interest in the Temple

From the very first day visitors from the Evanston Assembly began to come to the Temple. In answering a question of one of the early inquirers, a Bahá’í guide quoted Lord Curzon. The lady, a bit startled, replied, “Lord Curzon was my father.”

One of the faithful guides was a former Lutheran minister. To say that quite a few clergymen were greatly surprised to be warmly greeted at the Temple by a former seminary colleague would be putting it mildly.

Many who visited the Temple in the early days of the Assembly told others. As a result there was a steady stream of visitors. Then, one night during the first week, the delegates and visitors were taken in chartered busses right by the illuminated Temple on their way to a concert. This ride aroused much interest in the Bahá’í House of Worship.

On Sunday, August 22nd, some 2200 visited the Temple and the auditorium was well filled for the Worship program. The service was most impressive, with readings from most of the Holy Books and the atmosphere spiritually charged. It seemed very fitting that Lew Ayers, the movie actor, should turn up at this exciting moment to take some pictures for a religious film he is producing. He had already been to the Bahá’í Shrines in the Holy Land. Thursday evening, August 26th, Horace Holley gave a magnificent address on the Faith to a large audience in Foundation Hall.

The General Assembly

Now something about the Assembly itself: After about ten days of discussion and debate in small groups on the main theme (Christian Hope), a statement commenting on the group reports was presented to the Assembly delegates. American influence tended to tone down the European emphasis on the second coming of Christ and the end of history. Americans and Asians were not happy with this interpretation. They hoped, rather feebly, that somehow the Kingdom could be established on earth (in history). The Chicago Daily Tribune of August 26, in headlines on the front page stated “World Council of Churches Splits Over Christ’s Coming Again. Impossible To Reach Vote”. It should be noted that this Assembly in Evanston had the greatest Press coverage of any conference ever held in the United States except the Republican Convention of 1952.

Bishop Hanns Lilje, the Main Theme coordinating group chairman, mentioned some of the weak points in the 51-page report, which was to be sent to all Assembly churches for further study and prayer. He said:

(a) “The report obviously lacks that tone of joyful expectancy which was one of the most powerful motives of the missionary movement of the church.”

(b) “It has been felt that the Church’s conceptions of the hopes given to her will be inadequate as long as she can not speak more joyfully and more hopefully about them.”

Then Bishop Lilje pointed out that there was special criticism of the fact that the report does not speak clearly enough of the personal hopes of the individual Christian in relation to death and resurrection.

From the Bahá’í point of view it is interesting to note that, perhaps for the first time in modern Bahá’í history, an Assembly representing liberal Christians from all over the world are on record as believing in
the Second Coming of Christ and Bible prophecies. The European Christians placed more emphasis on and showed more interest in this question than others but it was the consensus that there will be a Second Coming. Bishop Lüije said: "The Bible must be determinative for all statements of Christian hope: the Christian hope is not based on human expectations but on God’s promise in the Scriptures."

A New Teaching Opportunity

By focussing attention on several basic issues, the World Council of Churches is conditioning many minds for the Bahá’í Faith. For example, the great need for religious unity was frequently stressed. A strong statement was made against all forms of race prejudices, and belief in Bible prophecies and the Second Coming of Christ was repeatedly affirmed. Thanks to the Evanston Assembly of the World Council, millions of people have become or will become interested in the Return of Christ, the Judgment Day and the Latter Day theme. (We stress this latter fact because liberal Christian leaders heretofore have shown little interest in eschatology and Bible prophecy).

As followers of Bahá’u’lláh we know that, aside from the Bahá’í Scriptures, there is no authoritative statement or interpretation of the "latter day" prophecies and promises. Therefore, we must proclaim the Glad Tidings. In the words of our beloved Guardian, "Ours is the duty to hold aloft and undimmed the torch of Divine Guidance as the shades of night descend upon and ultimately engulf the entire human race." "Ours is the function amidst the perils and agonies of this day to witness to the vision, to proclaim the approach of that re-created society, that Christ Promised Kingdom, the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh." The Source of Hope

Someone has said that the greatest casualty of our time has been the loss of hope, the loss of faith in the future. The recent Evanston Assembly, according to most reports, failed to provide any firm basis for hope. Some think it may have added to the confusion of our times; therefore, as Bahá’ís, we must seize every opportunity to proclaim the glad tidings of Bahá’u’lláh. We must realize that a new page has turned in Bahá’í history.

We have wonderful literature which should be distributed widely and on a scale never before attempted. Christ’s Promise Fulfilled, Bahá’í Teachings on Life after Death, the Promised Day of God are most appropriate at this time. In the light of the Evanston Assembly, the Promise of All Ages appears to be an ideal introductory book. For those who wish to teach the teachings, the Glad Tidings of Bahá’u’lláh, with the very fine introduction by George Townshend, should have great appeal. The new twenty-five cent edition of Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Stanwood Cobb presents the Bahá’í hope to a despairing world.

If the crisis today seems unprecedented we must remember that the spiritual power promised and available today is also unprecedented. We close this report with this dynamic message from the Guardian. "Today as never before the magnet which attracts the blessings from on High is teaching the Faith of God. The Hosts of the Supreme Concourse are waiting, patiently, for the Bahá’í Woman to step forth with pure devotion and consecration to teach the Cause of God, so that they may rush to His aid and assistance. It is the Guardian’s prayer that the friends will treble their efforts as the time is short and alas, the workers too few. Let those who wish to achieve immortality step forth and raise the Divine call—they will be astonished at the spiritual victories they will gain."

—BAHÁ’I COMMITTEE ON THE SECOND ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

MARGERY MCCORMICK

WINSTON EVANS

CONTACTS

A Follow-Up Plan by the World Council of Churches Committee

After the last World Crusade Message from our devoted Guardian, this is not the time for words but it is the time for action—action on a scale never before attempted in the United States.

To get to the heart of the matter, the World Crusade largely depends on the American Bahá’í community. The health and vitality of the American Bahá’í community at this crucial hour depends on the teaching effort on the home front. In his last message the Guardian indicated that the teaching effort had stagnated but that the current year must produce "the finest exploits which the home front has yet seen."

What can the American Bahá’í community do in this time of world peril? First, we must realize that this may be the last chance for some of us to arise and play our part in this glorious crusade—that in reality the Crusade activities are our very salvation. If we lose ourselves in the home front teaching effort we will be truly amazed at the spiritual victories we will gain.

Contacts are the weakest link in our teaching effort. Nothing revitalizes the individual and the community like fresh contacts. In the final analysis the success of the Crusade and in a large measure the fate of every soul depend upon the individual and the collective teaching effort this year. Therefore, contacts must be made, and they can be made—by the thousands!

A short while ago a plan for developing contacts on a grand scale was presented, by the committee appointed to plan for the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Evanston, to the Na-
national Spiritual Assembly and received this body’s enthusiastic endorsement. Since the Evanston Assembly dealt largely with the Christian Hope, this committee thought much about the Bahá’í hope and how it could best be presented to a despairing world. We are confident that any individual or community can literally be revitalized if they will make use of this workable plan which has been tried and tested.

A few weeks ago a friend and mother of two college students phoned to say she had read Phillip Wylie’s Tomorrow and that she was petrified. In this book Wylie takes two mid-western cities through an atomic war. It is so realistic that Civil Defense groups are urging people to read it, to overcome apathy regarding Civil Defense activities. Tomorrow leaves the reader in a rather tragic and hopeless state.

We thought we would try an experiment on our friend after she had finished with Wylie’s book, so we talked along these lines—“Would you like to know about the day after Tomorrow? Would you like to read Tomorrow and Tomorrow? It gives you a firm basis for hope in the future. Your children and their children will live in a world of peace. This is not a Pollyanna book. It presents the world picture realistically yet hopefully.” Our friend’s response to the reading of Tomorrow and Tomorrow was thrilling. She bought two copies and began to tell her friends. Her daughter bought two copies of Prescription for Living to take away to college.

In the last twelve months thinking people in every age group have suffered a great loss of hope. Therefore, Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Stanwood Cobb should have a wide appeal and give hope to thousands. It has a special appeal to young people. (copies of this book should be placed on every college campus) men in the armed forces, parents, all who read Wylie’s book which has been on best seller lists this year, all who have been interested in the United Nations and World Federalist movements.

We list below those who read Tomorrow and Tomorrow. The important thing to stress is the fact that all of these people seemed eager to read the book. Many did not know it was a Bahá’í book, but all responded to the book’s message.

(1) Home maker and mother of two college students.
(2) Teacher.
(3) Technician at Veterans Hospital.
(4) Indian student at Fisk University.
(5) Two Vanderbilt University students.
(6) A Persian student at Peabody College.
(7) Several in local Civil Defense office.
(8) Director of City Library.
(9) Book seller.
(10) Insurance man and World Federalist.
(11) President of local United Nations Association.
(12) Insurance company official.
(13) A shoe company executive.
(14) Head of a government department.
(15) A Yale graduate.
(16) An attorney.
(17) A professor in the School of Religion. (This professor talked about the book to his class.)

What was the response? To quote only one statement which came unsolicited from a Vanderbilt student: “I have been deeply impressed by Tomorrow and Tomorrow. I believe it should be taught in all schools just as much as a student’s geography book. In fact, it should be read by everyone. It has been most reassuring to me.”

As a result of this experiment, the National Spiritual Assembly authorized the Bahá’í Publishing Committee to publish a large quantity of the complete text of Tomorrow and Tomorrow in booklet form, which made possible a $2.25 edition of this book, formerly available only in the $1.50 edition. Bahá’ís everywhere will be deeply grateful for Stanwood Cobb’s gracious and complete cooperation in this project. The aim is to bring the message of the Faith to as many as possible in the time which remains. An excellent follow-up book, especially for younger readers, is Prescription for Living and, of course, The Promise of All Ages should have wide appeal.

Now a few words on how to present Tomorrow and Tomorrow. It is not necessary to even mention Bahá’í to the prospective reader. Just say something to this effect: “This is a book which is giving hope about the future to many.” If one presents it as a Bahá’í book, one could say Tomorrow and Tomorrow gives the basis for Bahá’í hope in a future world organization and an era of peace.

The recent Evanston Assembly of the World Council of Churches gave little hope to a despairing world. As the old lights dim and go out it is the duty of the Bahá’ís to keep alive these universal and God-given truths. We must proclaim to the world that there is a light to guide us through the darkness of these times.

If the American teaching effort has stagnated, obviously we must make a tremendous effort while there is yet time. The plan or the project may be perfect but the law of habit sometimes binds us like chains.

With all our hearts and minds we must believe the great promises of assistance enshrined in our glorious Teachings. In the words of the Master, “It is known and clear that to-day the Divine assistance encompasses those who deliver the message. And if the work of delivering the message be neglected the assistance shall be entirely cut off. Under all conditions the message must be delivered, but with wisdom”. Finally, these words from our beloved Guardian, “Today as never before the magnet which attracts the blessings from on high is teaching the faith of God….”

AREA CONFERENCES

Throughout the United States, Area Teaching Conferences are playing an important role in orienting the energies of the friends to the home front tasks of the World Crusade. Reports of some of these conferences, as given in the various Area Teaching Committee bulletins, follow.

Central Atlantic States

The Central Atlantic States Area Teaching Committee held a Conference August 28, 29 and 30 at Blue Ridge Assembly, North Carolina. Blue Ridge Assembly, a meeting place in the mountains, far from the noise and distractions of city life, was an ideal spot for consultation.

The highlight of the conference was hearing the Guardian’s message, “American Bahá’ís in the Time of World Peril.” Discussion of the message, under the leadership of Dr. Sarah Pereira, member of the Auxiliary Board, led to consideration of immediate practical steps to be
Believers gathered at Blue Ridge Assembly, North Carolina, for the first major Baha'i Conference to be held in the South.

taken toward achieving the tasks the Guardian has outlined.

Another session, panel discussion of Christ's Promise Fulfilled, led to plans for public meetings in various communities key to this theme.

At the close of the conference a spontaneous contribution to the National Fund was sent from the assembled members to the National Spiritual Assembly.

Central States

At the Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette, the Central States Area Teaching Committee arranged a conference which was held in the Temple Foundation Hall on Saturday, September 18.

Again, the Guardian's message of July 28 set the key for consultation. Mrs. Margery McCormick and Mr. Winston Evans then reported on the results of the recent meeting of the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches, held in Evanston. (See page 9-11.)

To close the conference, Mr. Horace Holley, Hand of the Cause of God, Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly, spoke on "What is Happening to the Baha'is." Mr. Holley reviewed the development of the American Baha'i community to its present position of responsibility in the forefront of the Global Crusade, pointing out the necessity to the individual believer to arise in the service of the Faith at this moment of destiny in the affairs of the Baha'i world and of all humankind.

East Central States

Louhelen Baha'i School was the site of an East Central States Area Teaching Conference held over the week-end of September 4-5. Consultation on mutual problems in terms of arriving at consistent, sustained action characterized the conference sessions.

East Central States Area Teaching Committee members also attended conferences in the following cities as coordinators of inter-community activity.

The Baha'is of Dayton, Ohio, and ten nearby cities and towns gathered at a picnic-conference in Walnut Hills Park on Sunday, July 25, to consult on extension teaching work in their area. Recent successes were reported and new projects discussed in a profound spirit of unity in service to the Faith.

Baha'i group members and individual believers gathered in Kokomo, Indiana, Sunday, July 25, from throughout the state of Indiana, to consult on plans for inter-community action toward bringing each spearhead of the home-front campaign to assembly status.

Forthcoming Conferences

The next Central States Area Teaching Conference is to be held October 2-3 in Urbana, Illinois, in the Union Building of Illinois University.

The South Atlantic States Area Teaching Committee has scheduled conferences in ten localities throughout its area for October 8-15 on the theme "Faith in Action".

Baha'is of Cincinnati, Ohio, plan a conference, to include all Baha'is living in areas around the city, for November 14.

State Conventions will be held throughout the United States on December 5, 1954.

ALASKA

In Alaska, the Area Teaching Committee has taken Nome, Kotzebue and Point Barrow as goal cities to be filled by next Riqvian, while at the same time reinforcing cities filled last year.

Contact with Eskimos of the Kobuk tribe has been made in Selvik, just north of the Arctic Circle.

Pioneers in Unalaska have organized a children's class. Children of non-Baha'i parents as well as Baha'i children attend.

HAWAII

Teaching efforts in the Hawaiian Islands take many forms.

As the result of a talk given as part of a comparative religions course, contact has been made with prisoners at Oahu prison. The marked transformation of one of these men has been favorably noted by the prison officials, and he has been given permission to present several talks on the Baha'i Faith at Sunday services in the prison chapel. Baha'i articles, written by inmates, are published weekly in the prison newspaper. Two members of the Oahu Baha'i community visit the prison each week.

Service men at the Kaneohe Marine base also heard a talk on the Baha'i Faith in connection with a course in comparative religions.

Members of the Java Club, an inter-religious group of service men sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, invited a Baha'i to speak to them on the Faith.

In conjunction with the regular monthly Baha'i radio broadcast, a fireside luncheon is held. After the broadcast, the questions of contacts are answered.

A public meeting was held at the Honolulu Baha'i Center, keyed to the World Council of Churches meeting in Evanston, Illinois. A talk, "The Promised One Has Come", was presented.

Visits to Kula Sanatorium to discuss the Faith with patients, picnics with contacts to discuss the Faith and presentations of books also figure among the activities of the believers.

Maui News, the most widely circulated newspaper on the island of Maui, Territory of Hawaii, now carries a weekly column entitled "Baha'i World Faith", containing quotations from the Writings. A picture of the Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette, together with an article on the Faith, appeared on the religious news page of the Honolulu Ad-
This makes 15,324 more visitors in 1954 than for the same period in 1953. While a conscientious effort is made to keep accurate count of visitors, the Temple Guides Committee is sure that more people visit the Temple than are counted.

It is interesting to note from the records kept that the Bahá’ís who have given so freely of their time and energy to service at the Temple have been comparatively few. Many have come from great distances and some have served two days a week. Without them it would have been impossible to take care of the vast throngs of people.

It is difficult to understand why more Bahá’ís, especially those who live in the vicinity of the Temple, do not avail themselves of the opportunity to assist in this important, interesting and thrilling Bahá’í activity. The results are most gratifying, as attested by the following letter from one member of a group which had toured the building:

"I wish to express my appreciation for the excellent tour arranged for our group. (Your representative) was certainly an interesting and inspiring guide. The discussion period was so stimulating that we had to continue it out on the lawn because of closing time."

**TEMPLE GUIDES COMMITTEE**

The peak season for visitors to the Temple during 1954 is nearly over. From January 1 to September 1 this year the number has increased considerably over 1953, as shown here.

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**AUDIO-VISUAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Audio-Visual Education Committee offers Assemblies, Groups and libraries a stock of Bahá’í photographs on consignment, to be paid for when sold, with a margin of profit for the local fund. Write for information and a catalog of views available.

Another special catalog on projection and recording equipment and a new plan of distribution, may also be had upon request. Some closeout items, cameras, screens, record players and recorders are to be sold for less than wholesale cost.

Audio-Visual Education Committee
126 Evergreen Place
West Englewood, New Jersey

**THORNTON CHASE MEMORIAL**

As instructed by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, the Bahá’ís of Los Angeles, California, each year commemorate the passing away in their city of Mr. Thornton Chase.

Thornton Chase, the first Bahá’í of the Occident, accepted the Faith in 1894. In April, 1907, he visited ‘Abdu’l-Bahá at the prison in ‘Akká, later writing an account of his pilgrimage. He died in 1912, a few days before ‘Abdu’l-Bahá arrived in California.

The commemorative program this year was arranged by the Bahá’í community of Inglewood, California.

**DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP**

The Bahá’í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá’ís and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahá’í House of Worship A Capella Choir.

The programs for the month of September follow:

Order of Devotions—September 5, 1954

Magnify the name of the one true God, and adorn yourselves with the ornament of His remembrance, and illuminate your hearts with the light of His love. —Bahá’u’lláh

**CHORAL SELECTION**

Prayers and Meditations LXXX, p. 132

_3:30-3:55_

**OLD TESTAMENT**

Psalm XXVII

**NEW TESTAMENT**

John 14:15-28
From the Sweet-Scented Streams.

Sheet music edition prepared for solo voice of the prayer of Bahá’u’lláh, with music by Charles Wolcott. Cover has an attractive drawing of Temple with this caption: "From the Sweet-Scented Streams is sung occasionally by the Bahá’í a cappella choir at the Bahá’í House of Worship, pictured above, in Wilmette, Illinois." An item that can be appropriately presented to any music lover. A nice gift item. 12 pages, 9 x 12 inches.

Per copy $ .75
10 copies $ 6.00

Tomorrow and Tomorrow, booklet. The full text of the book by Stanwood Cobb, prepared in saddle-stitched, pamphlet form. A large quantity has been printed to effect a low price in preparation for a campaign to use this booklet extensively in contact work throughout the country. Details of the plan can be found on page 12. 82 pages, 7 x 4 1/2. Paper cover. Specify booklet in ordering.

Per copy $ .25
20 copies $ 4.50

Divine Art of Living, Discussion Outline. Revised edition of outline prepared by Marian Lippitt. Seven Round Table Discussions based on the well-known text, The Divine Art of Living, on problems concerning the individual and his pattern of personal living. The seven topics cover such subjects as "Better Understanding of Yourself," "A Pattern of Life that Eliminates Frustration" and others that bring out the need for the Revelation of God for this day. Questions such as "Is it possible to be happy in these days of world unrest?", "Must we accept all illness and suffering as punishment?", "What should our attitude be toward someone we know is doing wrong?" are presented for discussion with references to portions of the text applying to them. Lively and interesting firesides can be planned around this discussion outline since it approaches the human heart on the level of life’s personal needs, where must human hearts must first be reached.

Per copy $ .20
6 copies $ 1.00

Life After Death. By Florence Pinchon. Bahá’í teachings on immortality, convincingly expounded and carrying a message of assurance for the increasing human anxieties of our day. This special edition has been prepared for the World Council of Churches Committee for use in their contact work. Bahá’ís should find a wide use for this pamphlet, which gives the Bahá’í attitude of serene faith in the face of death. Standard small pamphlet size, deep green and white cover.

(minimum order) 10 copies $ .50
100 copies $ 4.00

Please address all inquiries and orders for publishing items to:
Bahá’í Publishing Committee
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois
MARRIAGES

“Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace...”

—BAHA’U’LLAH

Lisbon, Portugal—Miss Charlotte Stirrett to Mr. Joao Jose Fiuza da Silva Pinto, July 29, 1954.

Sakura-bashi, Osaka, Japan—Miss Nehrat Momtari to Mr. Robert Imagire, August 7, 1954.

IN MEMORIAM

“Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life.”

—BAHA’U’LLAH

Mrs. Mabel Sawdey
Shelby, Montana
July 24, 1954

Mr. Horace B. Austin
Dumont, New Jersey
July 29, 1954

Mrs. Della C. Quinlan
Montclair, New Jersey
July 30, 1954

BAHA’I DIRECTORY CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

NATIONAL TEACHING

Bahá’í Inter-Racial Teaching
Miss Lydia J. Martin, Secretary; 11529 Kelton Avenue, Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Proclamation

Service to the Blind
Mrs. Margaret H. Whitehouse, Secretary; 616 North Oxford Avenue, Los Angeles 4, California.

Assembly Secretaries

California (North)
Berkeley: Mrs. Alice Dent, Secy. Pro Tem; 851 Jones Street.

Mr. Albert D. Robinson
Chicago, Illinois
August 25, 1954

Mr. A. C. Wilder
Waukegan, Illinois
August 9, 1954

Mr. William Loveday
Burlington, Vermont
(date not reported)

Mr. Robert H. Scott
San Francisco, California
(date not reported)

National Bahá’í Addresses

NATIONAL BAHÁ’I ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS:
536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois.

NATIONAL TREASURER:
112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

Make checks Payable to:
National Bahá’í Fund

BAHÁ’I PUBLISHING COMMITTEE:
110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

BAHÁ’I NEWS:
Editorial Office:
110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

Subscription and change of address:
112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois

BAHÁ’I HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting hours
Weekdays and Saturdays: 1:00 P.M.—4:00 P.M.
(Sunday only will be open)
Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
(entire building will be open)
Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15. (No guided tours will be conducted during the program of worship.)

Holy Days and Anniversaries celebrated at the Bahá’í House of Worship
Birth of the Báb, October 20
Birth of Bahá’u’lláh, November 12
Day of the Covenant, November 26

The meeting begins at 8:00 P.M. of the day preceding the anniversary date.

Baha’i News is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the tenth day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHÁ’I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1954-1955: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Managing Editor; Mr. David Ned Blackmer, Assistant Editor; Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Edna True.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Report to the Believers

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

As of August 31, 1954

Dearly Beloved Friends:

The gift of love, of generous approval, of inspiration, and of guidance which our beloved Guardian has so richly bestowed upon every American believer in his glorious message of July 28 is one which all of us will cherish and strive, in the days that lie ahead, to fully merit.

It is noteworthy that so much stress has been laid by our Guardian on the role which the individual believer can and must fill in the Crusade. Perhaps, as individuals, we have not fully realized our true importance in the Divine Plan now being unfolded. Each of us should read and re-read these forceful words of our beloved Guardian which are directed to the heart of every individual: “Without his support, at once whole-hearted, continuous and generous, every measure adopted, and every plan formulated, by the Body which acts as the national representative of the community to which he belongs, is foredoomed to failure. The World Center of the Faith itself is paralyzed if such a support on the part of the rank and file of the community is denied it. The Author of the Divine Plan Himself is impeded in His Purpose if the proper instruments for the execution of His design are lacking. The sustaining strength of Bahá'u'lláh Himself, the Founder of the Faith, will be withheld from every and each individual who fails in the long run to arise and play his part.”

This is where we stand, financially, as of August 31, 1954:

World Crusade Budget for entire Year

1954-55 ........................................... $475,000

Budget requirements for the four-month period from May 1 to August 31, 1954 @ $40,000 per month ........................................... $160,000

Actual receipts from contributions by Assemblies, Groups and Individuals during this four-month period total only ........................................... 110,000

This represents a Deficit for this period of ........................................... $50,000

Under the Resolve Plan adopted for this year it was set forth on a basis whereby 3,375 believers would contribute an aggregate of ............................... $325,000

As of August 31, only 525 believers have sent in their Resolves. The total represented by all of these Resolves is ............... 78,000

Under this same plan Assemblies and Groups were to contribute a minimum of ........................................... $150,000

As of August 31, only 78 Assemblies and 21 Groups have sent in their Resolves. The total represented by all of these Resolves is ............... 49,000

Assuming that all of these Resolves by Assemblies, Groups and Individuals are fully met, the total we would receive is only ........................................... $127,000

May we all, in the words of our beloved Guardian, “... arise as one man, and seize with both hands the God-given opportunities now presented to...” us.

May our response be worthy of our Trust.

May we all walk the pathway that leads to the fulfillment of our noble objectives.

Faithfully yours,

—National Spiritual Assembly

P. S. — For the convenience of those who have misplaced the Resolve form which accompanied the Budget statement in the May issue of Bahá’í News, a duplicate form is enclosed.
WORLD CRUSADE RESOLVE PLAN
1954-1955

"God does not ask from any soul except according to his ability... Whosoever comes with one good act, God will give him tenfold... O ye lovers of the Beauty of the True One! Become ye self-sacrificing. Become ye self-sacrificing."

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

NATIONAL BUDGET—Total amount ......................... $475,000.00

Estimated subscriptions by Local Assemblies and Groups —
Minimum of ........................................... $150,000.00

The Local Assemblies and Groups should subscribe to the Resolve Plan on a basis of their past experience and an evaluation of their greatest capacity this year to support the Fund.

Estimated subscriptions by individual believers —
Minimum of ........................................... $325,000.00

Contributions under the Resolve Plan are in addition to those made directly to the International Fund in Haifa and in support of Local Funds.

Guide for Individual Believers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Every 30 Days</th>
<th>Every 19 Days</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>19 Months</td>
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<tr>
<th>Believers to give</th>
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(Anyone is free to choose his own category which may be greater or smaller than the amounts listed above)

(All Local Assemblies and individuals are requested to indicate the amount of their resolve on this form)

WORLD CRUSADE RESOLVE PLAN

NATIONAL BAHÁ'Í TREASURER
112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois

Our/My Resolve is to contribute this year ......................... $ ... Payment(s) will be made:
Every 19 days —
Every 30 Days —
Quarterly —
or ...

(Make checks payable to: NATIONAL BAHÁ'Í FUND.)

Signature _____________________________
Local Assembly or individual

Address ______________________________

Date ________________________________
A SUCCESSION OF VICTORIES

Communication from the Beloved Guardian

The opening months of the second phase of the Ten-Year Plan have witnessed, on the American, the European, the African, the Asiatic and the Australian fronts, a succession of victories rivalling, in their variety, rapidity and significance, the prodigious efforts exerted, and the superb exploits achieved, during the first twelve months of the Global Crusade, by the mighty company of the stalwart Knights of Bahá'u'lláh in well nigh a hundred virgin territories scattered over the face of the planet.

Seven virgin territories have been opened to the Faith since the announcement on the morrow of the Rívdván Festival, raising the total number of the Sovereign States and Dependencies enlisted under the banner of the Cause of God to two hundred and thirty-five. The number of the unopened territories outside of the Soviet Orbit has now shrunk to eight, namely: Spitzbergen, Anticosti Island, St. Thomas Island, Nio­bar Islands, Cocos Island, Socotra Island, Loyalty Islands, and the Chagos Archipelago. The following pioneers have been inscribed on the Roll of Honor since my last sixth periodic announcement: Elizabeth Stamp, St. Helena; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fitzner, Portuguese Timor; Elise Schreiber, Spanish Guinea; Violet Hoehnke, Admiralty Islands; Shahpour Rowhani and Ardeshir Farrodi, Bhutan; Mehraban Sohaili, Comoro Islands; Marcia Atwater, Marshall Islands.

The number of Bahá'í centers scattered over the continents and islands of the globe has now passed the three thousand mark. A contract has been signed for the purchase of a three-acre plot as the site of the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkar of Europe, situated on a plateau near the Taurus Hills in the vicinity of the City of Frankfurt. A thirty thousand square meter property located on the banks of the Tigris has been acquired as the site of the future Mashriqu'l-Adhkar of the Holy City of Baghdad. A plot lying in the outskirts of New Delhi has been secured at the price of a hundred thousand rupees as the site of the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkar of the Indian sub-continent. A twelve thousand dollar plot has been bought in Johannesburg as the site of the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkar of South Africa.

A five-year Plan has been initiated in Bahá'u'lláh's native land designed to raise twelve million tumans for the projected construction of the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkar in the cradle of the Faith. A six thousand dollar plot has been purchased in the vicinity of the resting-place of the Greatest Holy Leaf and registered in the name of the newly established Israel Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles. A property has been acquired opposite the Mother Temple of the West to serve as a possible site for the first Dependency of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar of Wilmette. A contract has been signed, pending registration of a house valued at ten thousand dollars and situated in the immediate neighborhood of the Báb's Sepulcher, in the name of the recently established Israel Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada. Preliminary steps have been taken for the acquisition of two plots, the one situated on the ridge of Mt. Carmel, the other to the west of the Báb's resting-place and for their subsequent registration in the name of the Israel Branches of the National Spiritual Assemblies of the Bahá'ís of Persia and of Australia and New Zealand, respectively. A national Ḥażíratu'l-Quds has been purchased in Kabul and one in Johannesburg. Arrangements will soon be completed for the purchase of a building costing over eighteen thousand dollars for a national Ḥażíratu'l-Quds in Tunis. Funds totalling over one hundred thousand dollars have been initiated for the purchase of similar institutions in Anchorage, Asunción, Auckland, Bahrayn, Beirut, Bern, Bogota, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Ciudad Trujillo, Colombo, Copenhagen, Guatemala, Havana, Helsingfors, Istanbul, Jakarta, Johannesburg, LaPaz, Lima, Lisbon, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Managua, Mexico City, Montevideo, Oslo, Panama City, Port-au-Prince, Quito, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, San José, Santiago, San Salvador, Stockholm, Suva, Tegucigalpa, The Hague, Tokyo, and Vienna, as well as for the acquisition of the Garden of Rívdván in Baghdad, the transfer of the remains of the wife of the Báb in Shiráz and for the purchase of the sites associated with Bahá'u'lláh's exile in Istanbul and in Adrianople. The initiation of these Funds has been made possible to a notable extent as a result of the successive contributions made by the Hand of the Cause, Amelia Collins, outstanding benefactress of the Faith, for the furtherance of some of the most vital objectives of the Ten-Year Plan. Negotiations are now afoot aiming at the acquisition of the fortress of Chihriq including its precincts involving the expenditure
of a sum of over two hundred thousand tunmans. Preliminary documents have been signed in connection with the purchase from the Development Authority of the State of Israel of five houses, situated at the foot of Mt. Carmel and adjoining the last terrace of the Báb’s Shrine, for a sum of approximately sixty thousand dollars.

The phenomenal progress of the African Campaign, alike in the teaching and administrative spheres of Bahá’í activity, has been maintained, most conspicuously in the heart of that continent, as evidenced by the over-swelling number of African converts, now numbering over seven hundred, three hundred and eighty of which have been added in the course of a single year. The number of Bahá’ís centers now spread over the face of this continent is a hundred and ninety-five. The number of African tribes represented in the Faith in this same continent has reached eighty-five. The African languages into which Bahá’í literature has been translated now number thirty-four, whilst the number of African local spiritual assemblies has swelled to fifty.

I feel the hour is now ripe for the adoption of preliminary measures designed to pave the way for the simultaneous erection during Riḍván of 1956 of three pillars of the future Universal House of Justice in the North, the South and the very heart of this long dormant continent. The first of these pillars will be designated the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Central and East Africa; the second the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of South and West Africa; and the third the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of North-West Africa. Responsibility for the convocation of the three epoch-making conventions, to be held in Kampala, Johannesburg and Tunis, preparatory to the emergence of these three national administrative institutions of the fast-evolving Administrative Order of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh in the African continent will devolve upon the British, the United States and the Egyptian Spiritual Assemblies, respectively.

The jurisdiction of the first Assembly will embrace Uganda, Tanganyika, Kenya, the Belgian Congo, Ruanda-Urundi, French Equatorial Africa, Zanzibar, the Comoro Islands and the Seychelles. That of the second will extend over the Union of South Africa, South-West Africa, Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, Mozambique, Angola, Bechuanaland, Basutoland, Swaziland, Nyasaland, Zululand, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion Island and St. Helena. That of the third will include Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco (Int. Zone), Spanish Morocco, French Morocco, Spanish Sahara, Rio de Oro, Spanish Guinea, Ashanti Protectorate, French Cameroons, British Cameroons, Northern Territories Protectorate, French Togoland, British Togoland, Gambia, Portuguese Guinea, French West Africa, the Gold Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Madeira, the Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, and St. Thomas Island.

Abyssinia, Libya, Eritrea, British, French and Italian Somaliland and Socotra Island will, as of Riḍván of that same year, fall within the administrative jurisdiction of the Egyptian National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of North-East Africa. All African territories originally allocated to the United States, the Persian, the Egyptian, the Indian, and the British National Spiritual Assemblies will continue, in the course of the Ten-Year Plan, to benefit from the advantages of sustained assistance by these Assemblies—an assistance that will enable them to assume an ever-increasing share in the steadily expanding activities of the nascent National Spiritual Assemblies.

Only local spiritual assemblies duly constituted during Riḍván 1955 will be qualified to elect delegates to these four historic conventions to be convened during the succeeding year.

I call upon the Hand of the Cause, Mírza Banú, to act as my representative at each of the three Conventions destined to culminate in the emergence of these three momentous institutions. I moreover invite the Chairman of the United States, the British and the Egyptian National Spiritual Assemblies to convene the aforementioned Conventions falling within the respective jurisdiction of these Assemblies and urge as many members of the African Auxiliary Board as possible to attend the sessions, and lend their support to the deliberations of these gatherings. I feel, moreover, moved at this juncture to stress the urgent necessity for all groups established throughout the African continent as well as in the islands situated in its neighborhood—already four score in number—to seize their present golden opportunity during the fast-fleeting months separating them from next Riḍván, and exert every effort to attain assembly status which will enable them to participate in the election of, and contribute to the broadening of the foundations of the projected National Spiritual Assemblies.

I earnestly appeal to all Bahá’í communities, and in particular to their national elected representatives in Latin America, Europe, Asia and Australia to brace themselves and vie with one another in emulating the example of their African sister communities ranking among the youngest in the Bahá’í world. I entreat them, through a greater dispersal and an intensification of teaching activity, to lend an unprecedented impetus to the multiplication of local spiritual assemblies in their respective areas, accelerating thereby the dynamic process of the formation of National Spiritual Assemblies—a process destined to usher in the third and most brilliant phase, and constituting unquestionably the noblest objective, of the most stupendous crusade ever launched in the course of eleven decades of Bahá’í history.

Share this message with the Hands of the Cause and the National Spiritual Assemblies throughout the Bahá’í World.

—SHÁHí

NOVEMBER, 1954

October 1, 1954.

COMMENTARY: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Beloved Friends:

The Guardian’s letter of October 1, 1954 is an astounding, yet to-be-expected, paean of spiritual achievement by the believers of East and West, and a plan for the formation of three new National Spiritual Assemblies in 1956 exceeding our most daring hopes.

This communication moves with a power not connected with human affairs outside the world community of Bahá’u’lláh. A recapitulation of its definite facts and statements reveals the energetic and rapid progress within the Faith, while current happenings continue to dramatize the deadlock which hold the nations in their frantic effort to escape their destiny.

1. The opening of seven more vir-
gin territories since Ridván.
2. There are now Bahá'ís in 235 countries and territorial divisions.
3. Nine more Knights of Bahá'u'lláh have been named.
4. There are now more than 3000 Bahá'í centers.
5. Land for the first Temple in Europe has been acquired, and lands have have also been purchased at Baghdad, New Delhi and Johannesburg; the Persian Bahá'í plan to raise within five years the funds needed to construct their Mashriqu'l-Adhkar.
6. In the Holy Land, lands and properties have been or are to be acquired for registration in the name of the Israel Branches of the National Spiritual Assemblies of the British Isles, Canada, Persia, Australia and New Zealand.
7. The National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, through the Temple Trustees, have purchased a tract on the corner of Sheridan Road and Linden Avenue, Wilmette, facing the Temple land.
8. Two national Hazíratu'l-Quds have been purchased—in Kabul and Johannesburg. Another is to be acquired in Tunis.
9. Funds are accumulating for the purchase of similar Hazíratu'l-Quds in 43 cities of East and West.
10. The Garden of Ridván in Baghdad will also be purchased from these funds, the remains of the wife of the Báb in Shiraz are to be transferred and sites in Istanbul and Adrianople associated with Bahá'u'lláh's exile secured.
11. Mrs. Amelia E. Collins, Hand of the Cause, has made successive contributions to these funds.
12. Other plans under way are the acquisition of the fortress of Chihriq and the purchase of five houses at the foot of Mt. Carmel in Haifa.
13. "Phenomenal progress" is the Guardian's description of the advance of the Faith in Africa. There are now over seven hundred believers with 185 Bahá'í centers, representing 85 African tribes, the literature having been translated into thirty-four languages.
14. Bahá'ís throughout the world will be thrilled and grateful to learn that on the foundation now laid in Africa, the Guardian sets 1956 as the date for the formation of three regional National Spiritual Assemblies at Conventions to be convened by the National Spiritual Assemblies of the British Isles, the United States and Egypt.

15. Finally, Shoghi Effendi appeals to all Bahá'í communities to "brace themselves" and "vie with one another" in emulating the "example of their African sister communities."

"There could be no more convincing proof of the Divine Power than these facts; and no greater inspiration for all of us to redouble our efforts. The Bahá'í world builds up while the non-Bahá'í world breaks down."

—National Spiritual Assembly

**National Spiritual Assembly**

"THE DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE"

The following excerpt has been taken from a letter written on behalf of the Guardian by the Assistant Secretary dated August 22, 1954, to Mr. Willard P. Hatch:

"We have now entered the second phase of the great Spiritual Crusade. The goal of this phase is the rapid multiplicity of the number of Bahá'ís throughout the world, in virgin areas, in consolidation areas, and on the home front."

"The Guardian has pointed out that the most important service anyone can render the Faith today is to teach the Cause of God. The degree of importance of areas of service is first, pioneering in a virgin area of the Crusade, second, pioneering in one of the consolidation areas abroad, and third, settling in one of the goal cities of the home front; and, finally, teaching with redoubled effort wherever a Bahá'í may reside."

—National Spiritual Assembly

**ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY**

Mr. Lawrence Hautz retired from the National Spiritual Assembly in September in order to pioneer in the foreign field with Mrs. Hautz.

An election to fill this vacancy was called by mail. A tellers' committee of three, appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly, has counted the ballots and reports that Mr. Ellsworth Blackwell has been elected.

149 ballots were received and one proved defective. The 148 counted votes were cast for 41 different persons, the tally varying from the highest vote, 22, down to one vote each for 21 persons.

The ten next highest votes were received by Dr. Katharine True, Mr. Wm. deForge, Mr. Curtis Kelsey, Mr. Amoz Gibson, Dr. Sarah Pereira, Mrs. Jesma Herbert, Mr. R. Y. Mottahedeh, Mr. Winston Evans, Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh and Dr. David Ruhe.

**YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE CONVENTION**

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The annual call for the State Conventions will soon be issued to every voting believer in the United States, whether he be a member of a local community, member of a group, an isolated Bahá'í or a home front pioneer.

Of the thousands who will receive the call a certain number will be unable to attend because of illness or some other compelling reason.

These remarks are addressed not to them but to the overwhelming majority who are able to attend if they make up their minds to do so.

The State Conventions were instituted by the Guardian in 1944, in order to permit Bahá'ís outside the local communities to have the privilege of voting for the delegate or delegates assigned to their State or Electoral District, and to provide opportunity for a great deepening of the spirit of fellowship among Bahá'ís throughout the United States.

The State Convention, like the National Convention, has two functions — consultation on current Bahá'í plans, and the election. The mechanics are simple, and the State Convention call supplies to each Bahá'í all the information he needs as to where and when his State Convention is to be held, where to mail his ballot if unable to attend, and as to the Agenda and procedure.

Study and reflection on the Agenda, and on the qualifications of the delegate or delegates to be elected, should be conducted by the individual voter in advance.

The great need is to strengthen the organic processes of the American Bahá'í community and to intensify the spirit of fellowship in the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

We are passing through a crucial stage in the spiritual destiny of man—
kind. The Bahá’í communities throughout the world will be subjected to unprecedented tests and shocks. Now, while there is yet time, we must prepare ourselves as individuals and as members of a world community to meet these tests and stand ready to proclaim the Message to a despairing world.

Participation in the State Convention is one of the important means at our disposition as we sincerely seek worthiness to serve the blessed Faith in its most desperate days. To mail our ballot and refrain from attendance is not enough. The State Conventions must generate new sources of power which can elevate the whole national community. The State Conventions must initiate a higher and more sacred type of association among Bahá’ís. We are the Army of the Lord of Hosts. The Commander summons us to the training field where we can learn the use of our spiritual weapons and grasp the strategy of achievement.

Beloved friends! We Bahá’ís have a sacred obligation to strengthen the organic functions of the Faith, and this means attendance at Nineteen Day Feasts, service on Assemblies when elected and on Committees when appointed, and constructive participation in the State Convention.

The Faith progresses by the inter-penetration of the Holy Spirit with the minds and hearts of men. When we affirm our decision to participate, we help raise the Bahá’í community to the higher level of inspiration and understanding.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

ARMY RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Responsibilities of Commanders

Department of the Army
Washington 25, D.C.
21 May 1954

Army Regulations
No. 060-20

"...

   —To insure the effectiveness of the religious services held in their command, commanders will give such services a due share of their attention.

b. Sunday.—In order that military personnel may be free to attend such services as they may desire, commanders will reduce military duty and labor on Sunday to the measure of strict necessity. So far as possible, athletic or recreational activities held on Sunday will be scheduled so as not to interfere with attendance at services of worship.

c. Weekday.—In those instances where military requirements permit, commanders are authorized to excuse from duty military personnel who are required by the tenets of their faith to observe certain customs and/or who desire to attend religious services on—
   (1) A day other than Sunday in the case of members of denominations that observe another weekly holy day; or
   (2) Weekdays which carry the ecclesiastical obligations of Sunday or which are recognized as having special religious importance.

d. Attendance.—Personnel desiring to attend services, either on post or in adjacent communities, may be absent for such period as will enable them to be at their places of worship as publicly announced, provided no serious interference with their military training or duty is occasioned thereby (see AR 600-115). Attendance at religious services will not be made compulsory.

Dear Friends:

The foregoing Army Regulation has great interest for Bahá’ís in the armed forces. It not only enables them to attend Bahá’í religious services if these can be arranged, but also to celebrate Anniversaries and Holy Days.

The National Assembly hopes that the friends will take advantage of these opportunities.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

CORRECTIONS IN MESSAGE FROM THE GUARDIAN

The following corrections have been made to the attention of the National Spiritual Assembly by the Guardian, in a letter sent by Jessie Revell under date of September 30, 1954.

These corrections are to be made in the text of the Guardian’s message “American Bahá’ís in the Time of World Peril”, published as an insert in the September Bahá’í News.

Page 1—2nd column, 5th line from the bottom. The word “is” should be “as”; should read “morality as exemplified”.

Page 2—1st column, 5th line from bottom. The word “and” is omitted: should be “stable and flourishing”.

Page 3—1st column, 1st complete paragraph, 5th line. “the” should be “this”; should read “which this nation is confronted”.

Page 3—1st column, 2nd paragraph, 2nd line. “of the Bahá’í Community” should be “of a community”.

Page 4—1st column, 1st full paragraph, 2nd line. The word “national” is omitted: should be “of token national endowments”.

Page 4—1st column, last paragraph, 4th line from the bottom. “Trustee” should be “Trustees”.

Page 5—1st column, 3rd paragraph from the bottom, next to the last line. Quotation marks should be before “the call of—and quotation marks should be omitted before Ya-Bahá’u’l-Abhá”.

Page 5—1st column, next to the last paragraph. Quotation marks should be placed after “stream” on the 3rd line and omitted after “country” on the 4th line.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CANADA

New Center Established

In Vernon, British Columbia, a permanent Bahá’í center has been established. As a result, teaching activity has been accelerated.

International Picnic

Bahá’ís of Canada and the United States held a study picnic near Newfane, New York, on September 12. The sessions included consideration of the theme “Proclaiming the Faith” and discussion of the effective use of special days for attracting attention to the Bahá’í message.

Vancouver Public Meeting

In Vancouver, British Columbia, a public meeting attracted about 100 people to hear Mr. Rex King speak on the Bahá’í Faith. Mr. King, en route to Anchorage, Alaska, to pioneer also was interviewed on radio by Jack Webster, a popular radio commentator.
GERMANY
European Conference in Frankfurt
From October 1 to 3, Baha’is of many countries met in the Haziratu’l-Quds in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, at the invitation of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Germany and the European Hands of the Cause. This first Baha’i European Conference to meet in Germany was called to develop plans for and coordinate action in the work of the second phase of the Ten-Year Crusade.

NATIONAL NEWS
AMERICAN INDIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE
Deeds, Not Words...
Despite devoted efforts in making contacts among Indian populations and in following up every advantage, no American Indian believers have yet been enrolled since the opening of the Ten-Year Crusade. At the close of the first year of the Crusade, the Guardian, through his Assistant-Secretary, stated that “he was gratified to see the large number of tribes which had been recently contacted in connection with the teaching of the Faith. He is very anxious that these contacts be changed into converts for the Faith.” Although responsibility for undertaking this challenging task lies with the American Indian Service Committee, it extends to all believers who can, in some way, bring the message of Bahá’u’lláh to the Indian friends in a manner which will touch their hearts and turn them to His Faith.

True of all teaching, it is especially significant here that the Bahá’í walk with his new Indian friends patiently, wisely, and all the way. Some of the friends understand this, and from them we have learned a great deal. A Bahá’í whose understanding of the problem has brought tangible results writes, “The Indians are not anxious for another ‘preaching to’, at least until they have had an opportunity to test the quality of the ‘preacher’. Quiet, sincere friendliness, demonstration of faith in daily living, service and honest interest in their problems will gain a lot more than talk and arguments. Isn’t there some way you can tell the friends that if they wish to ‘talk with the Indians’ they must first listen; that if they wish to teach they must first learn? When anyone starts to lecture a red man he closes his face up like a neatly packaged box and his soul, his mind, and I even think his ears, depart to some other plane while the body goes through the polite motion of listening.” When we rely more upon deeds than words, then it is sure that the Indian will have more interest in the core of the matter, those teachings of which he has first seen a demonstration. Special committees cannot do this. Each one of us must find the way to reach the heart of an American Indian. This task does not belong to any other people or any other time.

Pioneers in the Field
Mr. Earl H. Christensen, from Wilmette, Illinois, has established at Macy, Nebraska, where he is working for the re-establishment of the Indian Assembly there, as the Guardian has desired. Some of the former believers there have been contacted but they are very elderly and ill. A fresh start must be made.

Grace Dean, formerly at the Bylai, Arizona, Day School (Apache Reservation), has joined home front pioneers Mr. and Mrs. James Stone in Gallup, New Mexico. At her new post she will teach in the elementary grades of the public schools and will also be free to teach the Faith, which was not possible while she was working for the government Indian Service.

Mrs. Catherine Arenas has arrived at Ignacio, Colorado, where she will work to teach the Faith among the Southern Ute people of that area.

Ethel Murray at Cherokee, North Carolina, has completed the translation of a compilation of Bahá’í writings into the Cherokee language. The compilation is to be published as soon as type for the Cherokee alphabet is found.

UNITED STATES AFRICA TEACHING COMMITTEE
Mr. Musá Banání, Hand of the Cause in Kampala prepares and distributes a Newsletter to all friends in Africa at frequent intervals. It is truly inspiring and we wish we could share it in toto with the friends. Since space is limited we will give some of the most important excerpts from his bulletin dated Sept. 8:
NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE

The National Bahá'í Youth Committee has adopted “World Unity Through World Faith” as its general theme for this year's activities.

Workshop type conferences scheduled on October 23 and 24 set the key, "A Foundation is Being Laid". These teaching conferences, held in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Washington and West Virginia, were organized to present the Divine Plan and the immediate needs of the World Crusade in relation to practical action each youth can take toward fulfilling his responsibilities in the Ten-Year Plan.

This conference ushers in National Bahá'í Youth week.

A second conference entitled “A Crusade is in Progress” is scheduled for February 20, 1955.

LOUEHLEN WINTER SESSION

The Louhelen Bahá'í School Winter Session will begin with devotions at 9:00 A.M. Sunday, December 26, and continue through Sunday afternoon, January 2.

The theme of the Winter Session is “The World Crusade—A Deeper Understanding”. Two classes will be offered, one on “The Guardianship”, the other on “Some Answered Questions”.

The annual New Year's Day public meeting will be held on Saturday, January 1.

We look forward to a great spiritual deepening through our consultation and association at the Winter Session. Reservations must be limited to thirty persons, so the friends are asked to plan early. Arrivals may be scheduled for any time on Saturday. For reservations and further information please write to:

The Registrar
Louhelen Bahá'í School
3208 South State Road
Davison, Michigan

AREA CONFERENCES

Bulletins of the various Area Teaching Committees report conferences scheduled. Seen together, these conferences give a picture of Bahá'í study and association over large sections of the nation. In addition to those conferences covered in the last issue of Bahá'í News, the following Area Teaching Conferences were reported for the month of October.

OREGON

Eugene, October 3

CALIFORNIA

Fresno, October 3

San Diego, October 3

Santa Barbara, October 3

Pasadena, October 10

San Mateo, October 10

Utah

Salt Lake City, October 10

NEVADA

Reno, October 2

ARIZONA

Tucson, October 10

Phoenix, October 16

MISSOURI

Kansas City, October 17

BAHÁ'Í ON THE AIR

In San Francisco, station KSAN-TV carried the Bahá'í message in a five-minute broadcast.

The Arlington, Virginia, Bahá'í Community presented a thirty minute program, “The Religion of Today”, over station WEAM.

WMRP, Flint, Michigan, broadcast the tape recording “The Promised One of All Religions” and closed the fifteen minute program with a recording of “From the Sweet-Scented Streams”, announcing the song as a prayer of Bahá'ulláh.

Three minutes on “The Frank Farrell Show”, station WABC, New York, were devoted to questions and answers about the Faith.

BAHÁ'Í SERVICE FOR THE BLIND

Literature for the Blind 1954-1955

PAMPHLETS

• Communion With God ........... $ .65
• Nine Inscriptions Booklet..... .15
• World Order Through World Faith ........................................... 1.25
• Faith for Freedom ............. 1.25
• The Bahá'í House of Worship (This Faith—This Temple. Braille Edition, April, 1952) 1.25
• The Open Door (1935) .......... .65
• The Mission of Bahá'ulláh (The Jubilee Pamphlet—1953) ........... 1.80
• Communion With God .......... .75
• Bahá'í Teachings for a World Faith ...................................... 1.25
The program for October 24 is the same as that presented on May 2.
The program for October 31 is the same as that presented on June 13.

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<th>National Bahá’í Addresses</th>
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<td><strong>National Bahá’í Administrative Headquarters:</strong></td>
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<td>536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois.</td>
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<td><strong>National Treasurer:</strong></td>
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<td>112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.</td>
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<td>National Bahá’í Fund</td>
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<td><strong>Bahá’í Publishing Committee:</strong></td>
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<td>112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.</td>
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<td>112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois</td>
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<td>Subscription and change of address:</td>
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**PUBLICATIONS**


Per copy .................. $ .20
6 copies .................. $1.00

From the Sweet-Scented Streams. Sheet music edition prepared for solo voice of the prayer of Bahá’u’lláh, with music by Charles Wcott. Cover has an attractive drawing of Temple with this caption: "From the Sweet-Scented Streams is sung occasionally by the Bahá’í A Cappella choir at the Bahá’í House of Worship, pictured above, in Wilmette, Illinois." An item that can be appropriately presented to any music lover. A nice gift item. 12 pages, 9 x 12 inches.

Per copy .................. $ .75
10 copies .................. $ 6.00

**Tomorrow and Tomorrow,** booklet. The full text of the book by Stanwood Cobb, prepared in saddle-stitched, pamphlet form. A large quantity has been printed to effect a low price in preparation for a campaign to use this booklet extensively in contact work throughout the country, 82 pages, 7 x 4½. Paper cover. Specify booklet in ordering.

Per copy .................. $ .25
20 copies .................. 4.50

**Divine Art of Living, Discussion Outline.** Revised edition of outline prepared by Marian Lippitt. Seven Round Table Discussions based on the well-known text, *The Divine Art of Living,* on problems concerning the individual and his pattern of personal living. The seven topics cover such subjects as “Better Understanding of Yourself,” “A Pattern of Life that Eliminates Frustration” and others that bring out the need for the Revelation of God for this day. Questions such as “Is it possible to be happy in these days of world unrest?”, “Must we accept all illness and suffering as punishment?” “What should our attitude toward someone we know is doing wrong?” are presented for discussion with references to portions of the text applying to them. Lively and interesting firesides can be planned around this discussion outline since it approaches the human heart on the level of life’s personal needs, where must human hearts must first be reached.

Per copy .................. $ .20
6 copies .................. $1.00

**Kitáb-i-Iqán, Study Guide.** By Horace Holley. Reprint of item that has been out of print for many years. The Introduction to this guide states, “The Kitáb-i-Iqán is the key to the study of comparative religion, in establishing the oneness of all the successive Manifestations, His return from age to age, the reasons for the periodic rise and fall of religions.” This study guide helps in working out a helpful method of approach by indicating the dominant themes and their text references in this book which the Guardian states is “unsurpassed among the Writings of the Author of the Bahá’í Revelation.”

Per copy .................. $ .20
6 copies .................. $1.00

**DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP**

The Bahá’í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá’ís and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahá’í House of Worship A Cappella Choir.

The programs for the month of October follow.

The readings for October 3 are the same as those presented on April 18.
The readings for October 10 are the same as those presented on March 28.

Order of Devotions—October 17, 1954

The potentialities inherent in the station of man, the full measure of his destiny on earth, the unique excellence of his reality, must all be manifested in this promised Day of God.

**CHORAL SELECTION**

Like as a Father Bendeth—Johann Sebastian Bach

**BAHÁ’I SACRED WRITINGS**

Prayers and Meditations, CXIX, p. 205
Gleanings, pp. 254, 206-207
OLD TESTAMENT

Hosea 14
NEW TESTAMENT

II Thessalonians 2:1-13

**CHORAL SELECTION**

O Light Divine — Alexander Archangelsky

**QUR’AN**

Sura XXXII:15-29

**BAHÁ’I SACRED WRITINGS**

Prayers and Meditations, pp. 252-232

**CHORAL SELECTION**

Lo, in the Time Appointed—Healey Willan
MARRIAGES

"Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace..." —Baha'u'llah

Portland, Oregon—Mrs. Marjorie Taylor to Mr. A. T. Thompson. (date not reported)
Washington, D.C.—Miss Carolyn Pre­vost to Mr. Walter R. Wooten, August 7, 1954.

IN MEMORIAM

"Death proffereth unto every con­fident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life."

—Baha'u'llah

Miss Emma Blackwell
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
July 27, 1954
Mr. John David McCall
Englewood, New Jersey
August 24, 1954
Prof. Glen A. Shook
Eliot, Maine
(no date reported)
Mr. Arthur H. Jones

BAHA'I DIRECTORY CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

Great Falls, Montana
August 5, 1954
Mrs. James F. (Roberta) Percy
Los Angeles, California
September 9, 1954
Mrs. Leona C. Nein
Dayton, Ohio
September 3, 1954
Mr. F. L. Loveless
Topeka, Kansas
September 1, 1954
Mrs. Edith Haynes
Wolfboro, New Hampshire
(date not reported)

BAHA'I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá'í World Community.

BAHA'I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1954-1955: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Managing Editor; Mr. David Ned Blackmer, Assistant Editor; Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Edna True.

Change of Address should be reported directly to National Bahá'í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

(continued on next page)
"IN ACCEPTING BABA'ULLAH"

A Letter from Shoghi Effendi

"In regard to the question you have asked him: you are naturally quite free to do as you please; he can only give you his sincere advice. He feels that before coming to any decision you should think clearly about the matter and not be governed entirely by emotions.

"In accepting Baba'ullah you have accepted Christ in His appearance as the Father, as He Himself so clearly foretold. The Catholic Church does not believe this; on the contrary, it still awaits the return of Christ. If you decide, in order to be buried next to your dear husband, to return to the church, you either would have to, in good faith, deny Baba'ullah or you would be just using the church as a means to satisfying a desire of your own, which would certainly not be an upright and conscientious thing to do.

"When you think that your husband's soul is now free of the limitations of this world, and that he no doubt is beginning to see religious truth in its true light and to appreciate the station of Baba'ullah, you should ask yourself whether he would wish you to leave the truth for this day and re-enter the church just for the sake of your dust being near his dust? Your spirit, when you pass away, will be near his spirit; of what importance, then, is the body? He will pray for your guidance in this matter."

COMMENTARY: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Dear Friends:

The National Spiritual Assembly calls attention to the excerpts printed above, taken from a letter written on the Guardian's behalf by the Secretary, dated July 28, 1950.

This letter deals with a personal problem arising from the desire of a believer to be buried in her husband's plot in a religious cemetery. The answer defines the issue in the light of the Teachings, and will no doubt assist others in a similar stage of development.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

NINE-POINTED STAR FOR HEADSTONE

The friends recall that in a recent issue of Baha'i News the Guardian's statement appeared in which Shoghi Effendi said we are not to use the symbol of the Greatest Name on markers for graves of believers. Now in the following cable, dated October 22, the Guardian approves the use of the nine-pointed star concerning which the NSA had written him: "Approve star for graves."

The friends are free to act in the matter without further administrative action.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

THE HOME FRONT

The American National Teaching Committee submitted a detailed report on the status of goal cities as of September 30. It would be helpful if every believer could study these fifteen pages of factual information.

Here are a few highlights:

Virgin Goals: As of that date there were 22 cities having 5 or more Baha'is, 8 with four; 22 with three, 40 with two, and 32 with one pioneer.


—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

RECOGNITION OF BAHAI HOLY DAYS

The Bahais of Aurora, Illinois, have received letters from the Superintendent of Schools and from the Secretary of the Board of Education stating that parents of Baha'i children may request that the children be excused on Baha'i Holy Days.

The Superintendent of Public Schools, Beverly, Massachusetts has granted the "privilege of dismissal," for observance of Baha'i Holy Days, to believers included in the list prepared by the local Assembly and filed with the Superintendent.

The letter reporting this to the National Spiritual Assembly was dated November 4, 1954.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
WORLD RELIGION DAY
LISTED BY UNITED STATES
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The believers will be very interested to learn that copies of the pamphlet entitled Special Days, Weeks and Months, 1953, in which World Religion Day is listed, can be obtained. The publication is prepared and distributed by Domestic Distribution Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington 6, D.C.

On page 3, under January, World Religion Day is listed; and on page 44 its Baha'i sponsorship is reported.

To secure copies send order to Chamber of Commerce as above, 10 copies at 25c each; 50 copies at 20c each; over 50 at 15c each.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

BAHA'I IN THE NEWS

A daily paper published in the Canary Islands refers to Mrs. George True as a "North American enamoured of this island, its dress and its customs."

The Illinois Agricultural Association, State Farm Bureau Publication, used the April, 1948 front cover for a large picture of the Temple, being the 11th in their series of historical and picturesque Illinois cover subjects. The description given is factual and accurate.

The back cover of U.S. Steel News, October, 1954, carries a picture of the Temple set in a colored border with descriptive text entitled "Beauty in Concrete." While the emphasis is on the material employed in construction, the editorial comment is very favorable.

The book review page of Washington Post-Times-Herald, October 3, refers to a new book in these terms: "Almost illustrative of one of the last pictures in the book—Baha'i's declaring the fundamentals of their belief that 'All prophets of God proclaim the same faith'—Harpers brings forth this week a photographic survey of the religions of the world, Truth is One, by Henry James Forman and Roland Gammon."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer, September 26, carried a feature story on Eva Mae Barrow, High School teacher.

The Asia Teaching Committee has received clippings, in Chinese, of articles written by a believer in Formosa. One article, published May 22, 1953, presented material on the Faith appearing in News Week of May 11, 1953. The other article was published December 15, 1953, on the history and principles of the Faith.

An article in Blasdell Frontier Herald, Blasdell, Erie County, N.Y., on September 2, described an international gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Fringle. "The purpose of these meetings is to carry out one of the fundamental principles of the Bahai World Faith—'There is but one race of people, the human race.'"

The Evening Star, Washington, D.C., on September 6 ran the AP story about the pioneer settlement of Lewiston, Idaho, by Robert and Shirley Niss.

"Baha'is in Israel" was the title of an article appearing in The Jewish Independent, Cleveland, Ohio, on September 24. This article features the Shrine of the Bab.

Under heading "Chicago's Seven Wonders," Chicago Sun-Times, October 3, ran photographs of seven scenes or buildings, selected by seven distinguished citizens asked to "nominate seven wonders of the area." The Baha'i House of Worship is included in the seven.

As an echo of the Evanston Christian Conference, it is interesting to note the following reference to the Faith in a letter written by a member of the Presbyterian Church of England, published in British Weekly, August 28, 1954:

"One cannot be surprised that our Christian Churches are not as full as they might be if the spirit behind the Free Church of Scotland statement is accepted at its face value by men and women who do not subscribe to any faith. Nor can one wonder at the rapid growth in Christian countries of the new Bahai World Faith which is also gaining many adherents among the peoples of Asia and Africa. For that faith has as its motive force a burning belief in the Fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of all men, of all creeds and races, and, here is the point, like the early Christian Church, it practices what it preaches. Perhaps, after all, this new Bahai Faith is the answer to the apparently irreparable dishon of the Christian Church!"

A biographical sketch of the late Basil Taylor published in the Washington Post-Times-Herald on September 2, refers to him as "one of the country's leading authorities in mosaic concrete work." Mr. Taylor, in charge of the work on the exterior ornamentation of the Temple under the contract executed with Mr. Earley, died late in August.

A book entitled Not As A Stranger, by Martin Thompson, published by Scribner, carries a brief reference to the Faith on page 47, of a disparaging character.

A pamphlet on Your Religious Activities, published at Wayne University, lists the Baha'i Club under "Campus Religious Organizations," with this description: "The worldwide Bahai Club consists of Bahai's (believers of the Baha'i World Faith) and those interested in its universal principles."

Socialdemokrateren, Copenhagen, April 17, 1954, covered the Baha'i Regional Conference of Scandinavia, presented a brief outline of the teachings, and used a photograph of Abdul'al-Baha unfortunately presented as Shoghi Effendi.

The Conference was also written up by another Copenhagen paper, Nationaltidend, on April 17. This story ran a photo of seven of the Baha'i Conference leaders.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

WORLD CRUSADE

TENTH PIONEER REPORT

The National Spiritual assembly of the Baha'is of the United States is happy to announce the arrival of the following pioneers at their posts in World Crusade goal areas.

ARRIVALS IN VIRGIN AREAS

Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Clifford Haywood, Jr., with their children, Carol Joy and Ann Marie, arrived in Agana, Guam, Mariana Islands, October 11, 1954.

ARRIVALS IN CONSOLIDATION AREAS

Mrs. Rachel Maria Foster arrived in Guadalajara, Mexico, March 15, 1954.

MRS. Emma L. Lawrence arrived in Golfito, Costa Rica, September 2, 1954.


Mrs. Rose Perkal arrived in Anchorage, Alaska, September 3, 1954.
Miss Lotus Grace Petersen arrived in Helsinki, Finland, September 21, 1954.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Howard arrived in Mexico D.F., September 24, 1954.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Y. Sato arrived in Kowloon, Hong Kong, October 1, 1954.

Mrs. Mabel Amidon arrived in Anchorage, Alaska, October 2, 1954.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Reimholz arrived in Capetown, Union of South Africa, October 10, 1954.

**FRANKFURT CONFERENCE**

In the Conference called by the Hands of the Cause of God in Europe, held at the national Hazírat-u’l-Quds of the German Bahá'ís in Frankfurt, October 1st to 3rd, 1954, all who were privileged to attend were enriched by witnessing the birth of a new phase of unified activity amongst all the institutions of the Faith and the believers of Europe. Hearts were stirred to realize that in this historic meeting, two great powers flowing from the Covenant of God—the one through the National Spiritual Assemblies at work in Europe, the other through the Hands of the Cause and their Auxiliary Board—met and were fused in the common task created by our beloved Guardian's mighty vision of the Ten-Year Crusade.

The Conference was called together by the four Hands of the Cause of God in Europe. It was their first meeting with the Auxiliary Board and the first opportunity for consultation between the Hands and the National Spiritual Assemblies. Our dear and honored Hand of the Cause, Mr. George Townshend, was prevented by illness from attending, but his spirit, which had already gained of our Guardian's history, marked the Conference. In their travels and letters, they were privileged to attend the first national consultation between the Hands and the Board and the first opportunity for detailed consultation on the way in which the Hands of the Cause and their Auxiliary Board might best cooperate with the National Spiritual Assemblies and their Teaching Committees. In their travels and letters, the members of the Board were asked to explain to others the understanding which the Conference had gained of our Guardian's instructions on this matter. Recommendations were sent to the five N.S.A.'s to suggest the fullest interchange of knowledge of conditions and plans for the growth of the Faith.

Great attention was also paid to the functions of Board members, and many suggestions were set down for

First All-European Conference of Hands of the Cause with the Auxiliary Board for Europe, held in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, October 1 - 3, 1954. The Hands of the Cause seated at the head table are, left to right: Dr. Hermann Grossmann, Ugo Giachery and Dr. Adelbert Mühlschlegel. This picture was taken in the Assembly Room of the Hazírat-u’l-Quds of the Bahá'ís of Germany and Austria.
The first Bahá’í group of Macao, and friends, at a meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Y. Seto, of Hong Kong, China.

their guidance. The Conference realized that the Board is in fact a new reservoir of energy and encouragement for local communities and individual believers, and everything possible was done to clarify the members’ tasks and invite their activity. Experiences shared by Dr. Grossmann from his recent travels in Britain pointed a way for Board members in their relations with the friends.

The Conference then spent most of two days examining each goal of the second phase of the Ten-Year Crusade. Reports were made by the N.S.A.’s on progress within their areas of responsibility, methods of work were compared, and prayerful thought was given to ways of increasing the tempo of achievement. This part of the Conference was brought to bear on many problems the friends, for the various Funds require a unified and unstinting support of all friends, and Board members alike to awaken the consciousness that the Crusade depends upon the generous support of the friends, the Conference called upon N.S.A. and Board members alike to awaken the friends to the need of the Continental Fund. Part and parcel of this discussion was the consciousness that the Crusade depends upon the unified and unstinting support of all the friends, for the various Funds “are the life-blood of the Community and work cannot be carried forward unless the life-blood is constantly circulating.” The Conference hoped that the delegates might carry back to their home communities a new vision of this vital and urgent matter.

There were, in addition to these consultations, three memorable events. Our prayers on the site of the Maqṣūr-i-ʿAdhkār, beautifully placed on high ground with the City of Frankfurt at its feet and a lovely semi-circle of high hills opposite, filled our eyes with a picture of the future. In the Unity Feast, a banquet exquisitely prepared and served as the Hands counselled us, joyous to take on our shoulders the tasks of the Ten-Year Crusade, conscious that the whole world is like the Ha(Gravity)lratu’l-Quds and that we move through it with a new sense of worship, service, and love for all mankind.

—MAKON HOFFMAN
Member of Auxiliary Board for Europe

ITALY-SWITZERLAND

The Italo-Swiss Joint Summer School was held September 17-24 in Bex les Bains in Switzerland, and was attended by as many as 75 friends. Dr. Ugo R. Gachery, Hand of the Cause, discussed the Ten-Year Crusade, and Profs. Zeine-Zeine of Beirut lectured on the Kitāb-i-ʿIqān. For these sessions all the friends were together. Smaller groups, by language, were formed for study of Bahá’í Administration.

NATIONAL NEWS

NATIONAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE

A new policy has been outlined by the National Spiritual Assembly for the National Library Committee this year: Owing to lack of funds, the Committee cannot, itself, place books in libraries, but urges assemblies, groups, and individuals to undertake this activity themselves. This is an important teaching service, which ought to be carried out locally. The Committee is ready to give advice wherever it is needed.

We urge the Bahá’ís throughout the country to become patrons of the libraries in their home towns and to draw out Bahá’í books regularly. This is important, because, unless
the Bahá’í books circulate, librarians are reluctant to fill their shelves with them. Keep the books circulating and add new ones from time to time. If your assembly is sponsoring a goal city, make friends with the librarian and see that a few well-chosen introductory books are on her shelves. Books in hard covers should always be selected. It is difficult for libraries to handle paper-covered books.

The following is a list of books specially recommended for public libraries by this Committee.

A. Introductory books, for libraries in cities where the Faith is little known:
1. Paris Tales, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá
4. The Heart of the Gospel, George Townshend
5. The Spell of the Temple, Allen McDaniels
6. Portals to Freedom, Howard Ives
7. This Earth One Country, Emerio Sala (if reprinted: not presently available)
8. The Divine Art of Living, Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá (Compilation)
9. The Bahá’í World (Any recent volume)

B. Books for libraries which already have introductory books on the Faith:
1. Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh
2. God Passes By, Shoghi Effendi
3. The Promise of All Ages, George Townshend
4. Mysticism, Science and Revelation, Dr. Glenn Shook

Note: The Bahá’í World Faith has not been included in this list because it contains passages meant only for Bahá’ís, which, unless one knows their background, seem to contradict more general Teachings.

When you have given a book to a library, please notify this Committee so that we can keep our files up to date.

The friends are reminded that some libraries are willing to arrange displays for World Religion Day. However, since these libraries represent the whole public, they should not be expected to give special prominence to any one faith. Bahá’ís should be content if only a modest part of such an exhibit is devoted to Bahá’í books.

It is to be hoped that Area Teaching Committees and those responsible for the agendas of State Conventions will make a place in their programs for the discussion of library activity, especially in goal cities.

**ARE YOU AN EXPERIENCED**

- architect
- civil engineer
- construction engineer
- safety inspector
- fire prevention inspector
- junior high school teacher
- school superintendent
- soil conservationist
- general statistician
- training supervisor
- personnel technician
- business administrator
- tabulating machine operator
- clerk-stenographer
- court reporter
- electronic engineer
- and under 55 years of age? If so, why not try to get a job in one of the World Crusade countries in the Pacific? For more information, write to:
  - Asia Teaching Committee,
  - 115 Linden Avenue,
  - Wilmette, Illinois

**BAHÁ’Í YOUTH**

The Bahá’í Youth Bulletin reports Bahá’í activity on the campuses of the University of North Carolina, Arizona University, Wayne University, Washington University and Stanford University. Frequently carried on by two or three devoted youth, the work in these centers of learning ranges from personal contact, particularly with foreign students, to public meetings. Several universities have recognized a Bahá’í Club as an accepted campus organization and Bahá’í students as leaders in vital religious activity.

In Denver, six Bahá’í youth introduced the Faith to a non-denominational religious group of college-age Negroes and laid plans to spend a week-end at Tempeity Bahá’í School with some thirty of these new friends for the purpose of studying the Teachings of the Bahá’í Faith more deeply.

The National Bahá’í Youth Committee requests that all Bahá’í youth (ages 15 to 21), young adults and assembly secretaries who are not now receiving the Bahá’í Youth Bulletin write to:

National Bahá’í Youth Committee
Box 1053
Stanford, California

**AREA CONFERENCES**

Reports gathered from Area Teaching Committee Bulletins indicate that Area Conferences are stimulating new activity toward the fulfilling of the goals of the World Crusade.

Nine conferences held in the Southwestern Area during October were well attended. An interchange of information on employment and housing possibilities in goal cities, the need for settlers, teaching among Negro and Indian populations, were among the subjects for consultation. A suggestion was made that Area Conferences be scheduled in the smaller communities, to give the support and prestige of such a gathering to groups building toward assembly status.

Northwestern Area Conferences, held at Eugene and Astoria, Oregon, were reported as “very successful.” A high attendance was reported for the Area Teaching Conference of the South Central States.

A two-day Central Atlantic States Area Conference held in Charleston, West Virginia, culminated in a public meeting which aroused new interest in the Faith. In the Central Atlantic area, conferences have been scheduled for November 20, in Washington, D.C. and January 15, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

More than 120 believers from some 50 cities and towns in 10 states at...
tended the East Central States Area Teaching Conference held at LouHel-en Bahá’í School. The last of October another conference was held at Muskegon, Michigan. 

A report gleaned, like this one, from limited sources cannot show the full scale of activity, yet there are indications that these successes are being duplicated throughout the country.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

The Elmhurst, Illinois, Bahá’í Assembly reports:

"On September 26 a Town Meeting of the Air, sponsored by the United Nations Committee of Lombard, Illinois, was held in Elmhurst, with Trygve Lie as speaker. The back of the program also listed the Bahá’í World Faith as one of the sponsors. Several Bahá’ís of this area attended this meeting. At the reception which followed, a representative of the Bahá’ís presented Trygve Lie with Bahá’í literature which he graciously accepted."

The Crusade Committee of the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of New York City reports that more than 25 Bahá’ís have dispersed from New York since Rídván, 1954.

Bahá’ís of Great Falls, Helena, Butte and Missoula, Montana held a Montana Teaching Conference in Helena. The book Faith in Action was studied, section by section.

Two pioneers in Warren, Ohio, the only Bahá’ís for some miles around, wanted a Teaching Conference in their town. They invited Bahá’ís in Eastern Ohio to meet in Warren at the Y.W.C.A. Many came and a successful Conference resulted. Excellent publicity was given in the local paper. Hot lunch was served. Children were cared for. "The thoroughness of preparation and attention to details has not been surpassed in large communities . . . and here just two Bahá’ís did it,” said the East Central States Area Teaching Bulletin.

PROGRESS IN HOME FRONT GOALS

Eleven months ago, according to the Stockton Bahá’í Bulletin, there were no Bahá’ís in that California city. Today, nine members carry on activities which include at least two regular weekly firesides, a children’s class, public meetings and the observance of a full Bahá’í calendar. This goal city, the responsibility of the Berkeley, California, Bahá’í Assembly looks confidently toward the establishment of an assembly next Rídván.

The Gulf States Creusaider reports that Fort Worth, Texas, a virgin goal city a few months ago, now has eight members, half of whom became Bahá’ís in Fort Worth. The Creusaider also reports that Galveston, another virgin goal, now has a small group established.

The Northwestern Area Teaching Committee bulletin carries the news of the establishment of a Bahá’í group in the virgin goal city of Missoula, Montana.

News of progress in the achievement of home front objectives can be shared with the Bahá’í world if communities will report their activities in furtherance of the World Crusade promptly to Bahá’í News.

BAHA’I EXHIBITS AT STATE FAIRS

The Bahá’í booth sponsored by the Sacramento Spiritual Assembly at the California State Fair was awarded a grand prize by unanimous decision of the judges. Fifty-one exhibits of church, educational and non-profit professional nature were judged in this group. The plaque awarded, a 9 x 12 inch piece of black walnut to which is attached a polished brass plate, is engraved: "For Structural Beauty and Outstanding Educational Exhibit, California State Fair, 1954, to The Bahá’í World Faith."

During the Fair, many visitors to this outstanding booth signed the Guest Register and over 1800 pieces of literature were given out.

The Bahá’í project at the New York State Fair held in Syracuse, September 4-11, made it possible to reach 1,500,000 people. Attendance at the Fair, the largest in its history, reached some 450,000. During the eight days, approximately 200,000 people passed the Bahá’í exhibit and were familiarized with the name Bahá’í and its goal. Paid advertising appeared in four newspapers with some 400,000 circulation. These papers also carried publicity about the Bahá’í Faith, the booth and those who helped to staff it. A TV interview which showed a model of the Bahá’í House of Worship in Wilmette, brought information on the Bahá’í purpose and principles to an audience of 500,000.

To make this coordinated proclamation effort possible, forty-one friends and seven Bahá’í communities gave enthusiastic cooperation. Plans for the 1955 exhibit are already being made.

In Boise, Idaho, Ada County and Boise Bahá’ís united to sponsor a booth at the Western Idaho State Fair. Total attendance at the Fair was estimated at 100,000. Literature was distributed freely at the Bahá’í exhibit, which was designed to present the idea of Progressive Revelation culminating in the Bahá’í principles.

NEWSPAPER MENTION OF THE BAHÁ’Í FAITH

In Alaska, the Anchorage Daily News printed, almost in its entirety, the National Spiritual Assembly’s re-
lease on the H-Bomb under a three-column headline "H-Bomb Represents Spiritual Crisis Says Bahá'í Assembly." The same newspaper also featured a story "Bahá'í Faith Members Observe Proclamation Day" under a five-column head.

Associated Press dispatches from Edmonton, Canada, were printed in the Anchorage Times and the Anchorage News, announcing the coming of a Bahá'í pioneer to Alaska and telling of his speaking to Bahá'í communities.

The Delaware State News of Dover, Delaware, has given regular space up to 8 column inches for Bahá'í announcements on the church page. This is used for regular presentation of the Bahá'í principles as well as for announcements of meetings.

One month's publicity in the Flint Journal, the Flint News-Advertiser, the Davison Index, the Genesee County Herald, the Owosso Argus Press, the Clio Messenger and the Flushing Observer, totalled 51 column inches according to the Flint, Michigan, Bahá'í Assembly.

The Pasadena (Calif.) independent carried a two-column story on the Bahá'í programs presented in that city in connection with United Nations Week.

DEVOlATIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Bahá'í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá'ís and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahá'í House of Worship A Capella Choir.

The programs for the month of November follow.

The readings for November 7 are the same as those presented on July 4.

Order of Devotions—November 14, 1954

The Word of God is like unto a tree: its planting ground must be the hearts of the people.

CHORAL SELECTION
O Wisdom! Spirit of the Holy God—T. Tertum Noble

BABA' SACRED WRITINGS
Prayers and Meditations, IV, p. 6
Gleanings, p. 67; Cl, p. 226; XCIX, p. 290

OLD TESTAMENT
Psalm 19

NEW TESTAMENT
John 1:1-5; 14:17

CHORAL SELECTION
Teach Me, O Lord—Thomas Attwood

QUR'AN
Sura III: 25-29

BABA' SACRED WRITINGS

Prayers and Meditations, II, p. 4

CHORAL SELECTION
How Down Thine Ear, O Lord—Haydn

Morgan

The readings for November 21 are the same as those presented on May 18.

The readings for November 28 are the same as those presented on April 25.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Challenge to Chaos: The Mission of the Bahá'í Faith. By Horace Holley. Talk given at Bahá'í Temple in Foundation Hall for delegates to World Council of Churches, planned to give the Bahá'í solution to fundamental religious questions involved in the World Council proceedings. Shows the plan of religious revelation through the ages and the purpose of the experience through which mankind is passing today. 24-page, small, standard size pamphlet.

(minimum order) 10 copies—$1.00
100 copies—$4.00

Bahá'í Calendar, 1955. Illustrated with a world map, depicting the movement of the pioneers. Shows the territories opened before the beginning of the World Crusade in green (for growth), and the territories opened since in red (for sacrifice). A colorful graphic account of achievement. Feast Days and Holy Days are in color and other essential information pertaining to Nineteen Day Feast, Fast Days, days on which work should be suspended, on back of calendar. Black, red and green on white, 9 x 12.

Each .......................... $ .25
5 copies .......................... $1.00


Per copy .......................... $ .20
6 copies .......................... $1.00

NOTICE

If your order represents a change of librarian or a change of address, be sure to specify this.

Please address all inquiries and orders for publishing items to:

Bahá'í Publishing Committee
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

FEASTS

December 12, Masá'il, Questions
December 31, Sháraf, Honors
January 19, Súfán, Sovereignty

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

December 10, 11, 12
January 7, 8, 9

BAHA'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting hours
Weekdays and Saturdays:
1:00 P.M.—4:00 P.M.
(All the Auditorium only will be open)
Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
(All the building will be open)

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15 (No guided tours will be conducted during the program of worship.)

National Bahá'í Addresses

NATIONAL BAHA'I ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS:
536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois.

NATIONAL TREASURER:
112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

Make checks Payable to:
National Bahá'í Fund

BAHA'I PUBLISHING COMMITTEE:
110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois

BAHA'I NEWS:
Editorial Office:
110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

Subscription and change of address:
110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.
“Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity.

—BAHA’U’LLAH

Berkeley, California—Miss Marlene McGinnis to Mr. Charles Cornell, July 10, 1954.


Brussels, Belgium—Miss Francine Nys to Mr. Benjamin Levy, September 18, 1954.

San Diego, California—Miss Muriel Stillson to Mr. Percy Falcón, September 19, 1954.

Topeka, Kansas—Mrs. Doreene Holliday to Mr. Charles E. Brown. (date not reported)

DECEMBER, 1954

Mrs. Marie Baniuks
Phoenix, Arizona
September 26, 1954

Mr. Frederick M. Hall
North Hollywood, California
September 26, 1954

Mrs. Gertrude M. Hough
Monrovia, California
October 4, 1954

Mrs. Helen O. Kissam Keeler
Asbury Park, New Jersey
October 19, 1954

Mr. Willard Pelton
Lawton, Michigan
October 19, 1954.

Mrs. Frank Chant
Marlboro, New Hampshire
October 20, 1954

“Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life.”

—BAHA’U’LLAH

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Santa Barbara, California
July 13, 1954

Mrs. Anna Becker
Bellrose, Long Island, New York
September 20, 1954

Mrs. Anna Eldridge
Lincoln Park, Michigan
September 22, 1954

Mrs. Marie Bauks
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"I HAIL, WITH FEELINGS OF THANKFULNESS"
A Message From The Guardian

I hail, with feelings of thankfulness and relief, the signature, on the eve of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's ascension, of a contract for the immediate expropriation, by the Israeli Finance Minister, on the recommendation of the Mayor of the City of Haifa, of a thirteen-hundred meter plot, owned by the sister of Fareed, notorious enemy of the Center of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant. This historic act paves the way for the early transfer of the title in the vicinity of the Bab's Mausoleum, situated in the vicinity of the Bab's Sepulcher, overlooking the Tomb of the Bab and the resting-places of the Brother and the Mother of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and which, through deliberate neglect, has been allowed to become an eyesore to all those who thron the embelished precincts of a Mausoleum rightly regarded as the second holiest Shrine in the Bahá'í world.

The ownership of this plot will now enable us to locate the site, excavate the foundations, and erect the structure, of the International Bahá'í Archives, designed by the Hand of the Cause, Mason Remey, President of the International Bahá'í Council, which will serve as the permanent and befitting repository for the priceless and numerous relics associated with the Twin Founders of the Faith, with the Perfect Exemplar of its teachings and with its heroes, saints and martyrs, and the building of which constitutes one of the foremost objectives of the Ten-Year Plan.

The raising of this Edifice will in turn herald the construction, in the course of successive epochs of the Formative Age of the Faith, of several other structures, which will serve as the administrative seats of such divinely appointed institutions as the Guardianship, the Hands of the Cause, and the Universal House of Justice. These Edifices will, in the shape of a far-flung arc, and following a harmonizing style of architecture, surround the resting-places of the Bab, ranking as foremost among the members of her sex in the Bahá'í Dispensation, of her Brother, offered up as a ransom by Bahá'u'lláh for the quickening of the world and its unification, and of their Mother, proclaimed by Him to be His chosen "consort in all the worlds of God". The ultimate completion of this stupendous undertaking will mark the culmination of the development of a world-wide divinely-appointed Administrative Order whose beginnings may be traced as far back as the concluding years of the Heroic Age of the Faith.

This vast and irresistible process, unexampled in the spiritual history of mankind, and which will synchronize with two no less significant developments - the establishment of the Lesser Peace and the evolution of Bahá'í national and local institutions - the one outside and the other within the Bahá'í world - will attain its final consummation, in the Golden Age of the Faith, through the raising of the standard of the Most Great Peace, and the emergence, in the plenitude of its power and glory, of the focal Center of the agencies constituting the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh. The final establishment of this seat of the future Bahá'í World Commonwealth will signalize at once the proclamation of the sovereignty of the Founder of our Faith and the advent of the Kingdom of the Father repeatedly lauded and promised by Jesus Christ.

This World Order will, in turn, in the course of successive Dispensations of the Bahá'í Cycle, yield its fairest fruit through the birth and flowering of a civilization, divinely inspired, unique in its features, world-embracing in its scope, and fundamentally spiritual in its character - a civilization destined as it unfolds to derive its initial impulse from the spirit animating the very institutions which, in their embryonic state, are now stirring in the womb of the present Formative Age of the Faith.

Advise share this message with the Hands of the Cause and the members of the National Spiritual Assemblies throughout the Bahá'í world.

November 27, 1954

COMMENTARY: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
Beloved Friends:
A wave of joyous gratitude will sweep across the Bahá'í World when Bahá'ís read and meditate on the beloved Guardian's Message of November 27, reproduced above.
Every believer will understand and appreciate how much it means to the Guardian to be able at last to secure for the Faith this particular piece of land in Haifa. First, it represents...
by action of the Israeli government a victory over a Covenant-breaker whose stubbornness has deprived the Faith of a small area occupying so important a position in the Bahá’í holdings on Mount Carmel. Second, it enables the Guardian to proceed with his plans to construct the International Bahá’í Archives — “one of the foremost objectives of the Ten-Year Plan.”

And third, it prepares the way for the raising of the other structures needed to complete the World Center of the Faith, thus enabling believers to foresee the tremendous enlargement of the Guardian’s facilities to achieve the final success of the world mission of the Faith of God.

Events that take place at the World Center are unique — far above the influence of events taking place in any other part of the Bahá’í World. Therefore this victory has ultimate significance beyond our ability to comprehend today.

Let us, in this blessed hour of a divinely-given victory, show our gratitude in deeds and not merely in words.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

WORLD RELIGION DAY

Observance of World Religion Day on the third Sunday of January, established in 1950 by the National Spiritual Assembly as an annual Bahá’í event, will take place this year on January 16, 1955. Always an effective means of contact with the public, press and radio, it assumes even more importance this year because of the official recognition given it by the United States Chamber of Commerce in its booklet, Special Days, Weeks and Months.

Every Assembly and group is urged to observe this occasion with a public meeting, local publicity, advertising, radio programs, firesides, displays, or some other befitting program.

The Bahá’í Press Service has issued a national press release to newspaper wire services and feature syndicates. It is also sending to Assembly and group press representatives a copy of that release, a suggested local news release, and suggested advertisements.

Also available from Bahá’í Press Service are scripts and tape recordings. “A World Religion” is an interview program for two voices, while “Birth of World Religion” is for one voice.

“The aim of World Religion Day,” says the release from Bahá’í Press Service, “is to provide a sound foundation of hope that the God of mankind has not ceased to reveal His love and guidance to humanity in its time of direst need,” and to proclaim that “religion is not dead—it is reborn in the Bahá’í revelation, with its world-unifying spirit and majestic World Plan for the redemption of a stricken society.”

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

CORRESPONDENCE WITH NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The workers at the headquarters in Wilmette would like to request the friends, in addressing letters to the National Spiritual Assembly, to include their full address in the letter itself, and not merely write it out on the envelope.

Much valuable time will be saved if this very general business practice is maintained.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

NEW DELHI SITE PURCHASED FOR HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Bahá’í News Bulletin issued by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of India, Pakistan and Burma announces the purchase of the site for Mashriqu’l-Adhkar, southeast of New Delhi, the capital of India, in the district of Bahapur. This site, inspected by most of the Hands of the Cause who attended the Fourth Intercontinental Conference and later approved by the Guardian, comprises about 74,000 square yards situated on a height overlooking parts of Old as well as New Delhi.

“Pur” in Hindi indicates the locality belonging to some certain person or name. It is an interesting coincidence that this site is located in a district which, from ancient times, has been called “Bahapur”.

The transaction, concluded September 19, fulfills yet another goal of the Ten Year Crusade.

LONDON HAZIRATU’L-QUDS

The acquisition of a building at 27, Rutland Gate, in the City of Westminster, adjoining Knightsbridge, London, has successfully terminated a long, trying search for premises suitable for a Hazíratu’l-Quds. Owing to the good condition of the building it was found possible to arrange for occupation in late December, and for a dedication service early in January, 1955, to coincide with the winter Teaching Conference.

This report from Great Britain closes as follows:

“The inspiration and impetus which the spiritual forces released on this historic occasion, are expected to exert a profound effect on the achievement of the other goals still before us.”

PIONEER LETTERS

The following reports from National Committees dealing with pioneer work in the World Crusade are given in order to share with all believers some of the details in the unfoldment of this great plan.

Excerpts from Pioneer Letters to the Asia Teaching Committee

The Asia Teaching Committee is happy to share these excerpts with the friends, showing the progress and unfoldment of the World Crusade in the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

GILBERT ISLANDS

From James Barrett, Secy., Asia Teaching Committee, Panama Canal Zone.

September 26, 1954. “With regard to the Fernies, it was a happy moment for this committee to be able to report the inclusion of the first Gilbertese Bahá’í into the Faith on 1 June, 1954. This historic event took place on Abaiang Is., and as a consequence, the Bahá’í group there now totals three.

“In addition, the Fernies notified us of their intention to open a school on Abaiang Island as a result of a petition of the native chiefs, who have long felt the need of a school open to all natives, irrespective of whether they be Catholic, Protestant or ‘Pagan’. The Fernies applied for official permission from the Governor, and although word has not been received as to the final result, circumstances have led us to believe that all is now in order. Conse-
KOREA
From William H. Maxwell, Jr.,
Seoul, Korea.
November 3, 1954. Bill sends copies of "announcements" sent in October to Bahá'ís that "The Bahá'ís serving with the US army in Korea in unity with the Bahá'ís of Korea will celebrate the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the Bahá'í World Faith, on November 12, 1954, in Seoul, Korea. In addition there were to be general consultation and public meetings, in which all Bahá'ís would participate, and readings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh were to be read in Japanese by Mr. Sang-Soon Oh, Korea's leading poet.

A letter dated November 16 reports that the Commemoration was an outstanding success. Five Americans and four Koreans participated. The group of youth who heard the public address were so eager to speak with the Americans that they found themselves carrying on two or three conversations at the same time. The greatest joy, as reported in Bill's letter, was the discovery that Mr. Sang-Soon Oh is a Bahá'í. This Bill did not know when he was assigned to find him and ask him to read at the public meeting. On introducing himself to this great man as a Bahá'í, Mr. Sang-Soon Oh, with the greatest emphasis, responded: "I'm a Bahá'í!"

Thirty-one years ago Mr. Sang-Soon Oh had learned of the Faith from Agnes Alexander and, although he had not in all these years met another Bahá'í, this has been his faith. He and Bill talked for more than an hour while dignitaries bowed and paid their respects to the poet. With what joy he must have read the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh at the meeting!

And now, Bill writes, another meeting is planned for December 25 when all the Korean Bahá'ís, the American Bahá'ís, and interested friends will again offer the healing Words of Bahá'u'lláh to these suffering peoples. Translation of some of the Writings in Korean is virtually completed and Mr. Sang-Soon Oh has offered to assist in the final revision.

Teaching among the Eskimos and Indians continues. This has been going forward for several years in Saskatchewan. At Shannonville, Ontario, a Bahá'í family finds many ways to reach the residents of the near-by reservation through community activities, and Hawaiian children. The recent appointment of a Canadian pioneer to a new post in the Department of Northern Affairs opens new opportunities for service to the Eskimos and for teaching the Faith.

Beaulac Conference
The Quebec Regional Teaching Conference is holding a Winter Session at Beaulac from December 26 to January 2. Courses by three Bahá'í speakers, discussion and buzz sessions, together with winter sports are on the weeklong program.

Maritime Fall Conference
The Maritime Fall Conference, held at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, was key to the theme "Augmenting the Dynamic Spirit in the Ten Year Crusade." Reports from assemblies, groups and isolated believers throughout the Maritime Provinces and consultation on means for bringing thought and faith into the realm of action resulted in an animated exchange of views. The Conference closed with a devotional evening held at Vernon Bridge.

GERMANY
The Bahá'í Temple Site in Eschborn
Despite many reports and statements appearing in the press throughout West Germany regarding the proposed erection of a Bahá'í Temple in Eschborn, land for which was purchased in July, 1954, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Germany and Austria observed silence and watched developments.

In September, through the Press and Radio Committee of that institution, an official statement of position was sent to press and radio representatives. After reviewing the events making a statement necessary and giving a brief overview of Bahá'í history and teachings, the committee's communiqué says:

"We do not seek to establish this World Order through war and strife, but seek, rather, to establish it by spiritual means through the develop-
ment of our institutions peacefully, through the laying aside of all prejudice and through trusting consultation. One command of Bahá'u'lláh to His followers is to be loyal to every just government and never to take part in any seditious activity against such a government. The projected Temple structure, whose nine doors are open to all, is the symbol of the spiritual oneness of all mankind. In it the Word of God as written in all the Holy Scriptures will be given to the world without comment, sermon or ceremony, and without a paid clergy. This House of Worship is one step on the road to freedom and the New World Order. In this sense we also participate through delegates in the non-governmental organizations of the United Nations.

"We would like to ask Christians of all denominations in our country to take to heart the words in the New Testament: 'Test everything and retain that which is good,' and we beg also that all people of good will, independently and without prejudice, will search out the indivisible truth and will earnestly investigate the guiding Message of Bahá'u'lláh.'"

JAPAN

Mr. Tokujiro Torii, Vice Principal of the Kyoto School for the Blind, was chosen last spring from among more than 100,000 blind in Japan to represent them at three conferences in Europe. Mr. Torii, the second believer in Japan to accept the Faith, was thus able to visit Bahá'í centers in India, Iraq and Europe. It was through Mr. Torii's efforts that Bahá'í literature, including Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era, was published in Japanese Braille.

UNIVERSAL NEWS

UNITED STATES AFRICA TEACHING COMMITTEE

Eleven New Assemblies Needed in Africa by April, 1955

With time now growing so short in which to fulfill our obligations to form new assemblies in Africa by next April, we wish to remind the friends again, as we did in the report to the State Conventions, that pioneers who can go to Africa on a self-sustaining basis are desperately needed. We are responsible for the formation of eleven new assemblies by April. Can we once again give this matter earnest and prayerful consideration? Read again the Guardian's challenging message in November Bahá'í News and see what each of us can do to help bring into being the great plan of Bahá'u'lláh for the future.

If you can go immediately on this basis, please get in touch with:

The U.S. Africa Teaching Committee
Sylvia Parmalee, Secy.
4700 47th Street, N.W.
Washington 16, D.C.

PIONEERS NEEDED

Bahá'í pioneers are especially needed in the following places in the Western Hemisphere—

Nome, Alaska
Hawaii
(on an unsettled island)
Martinique
Ecuador

Bahá'ís interested in going to the Hawaiian post or Martinique should have a private income, as work is not available. Potential pioneers to any of the foregoing places should write to:

Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, Executive Secretary
Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee
73 College Road West
Princeton, New Jersey

AMERICAN INDIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE

First Sioux Enrollment

The American Indian Service Committee reports the enrollment of Mrs. Mary Louise Swift Eagle, of Fort Totten, North Dakota, who is, to the Committee's best knowledge, the first Sioux Indian to accept the Faith. It is hoped that the step taken by Mrs. Swift Eagle, a Carlisle College graduate, will mark the beginning of a wide recognition of Bahá'u'lláh by the Sioux.

BAHÁ'Í PRESS SERVICE

The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh

Reports from Bahá'í communities, received by the Bahá'í Press Service through the first week of December, show that news of the observance of the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh was published in 88 newspapers in 71 cities of the United States, with a total circulation of over 7,500,000, and more than 480 column-inches of information.

BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS

Truth Is One, by Henry James Forman and Roland Gammon, "The Story of the World's Great Living Religions in Pictures and Text," deals with the religions of mankind in the spirit of unity. The various faiths are briefly but sympathetically described. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York, it is a beautifully illustrated volume. In this pageant of religion the Bahá'í Faith is

Dancing of the Winnebago Indians at Macy, Nebraska, a three-day ceremony in which the Bahá'í pioneer was invited to participate.
included, with reproduction of two photographs.

Book-of-the-Month Club News for November, 1954, announces the selection of the book distributed in December—Song of the Sky, by Guy Murchie, a member of the American Bahá’í Community. In it, Clifton Fadiman writes a report on Mr. Murchie’s book which praises it highly. The News presents a brief sketch of the author and refers to him as a Bahá’í. He is also presented as a Bahá’í in the publisher’s pamphlet about the book, prepared for booksellers.

Song of the Sky itself mentions Bahá’u’lláh twice, and His name appears in the index of the book. Mr. Murchie’s work is in the “best seller” class, and the Faith is therefore being brought to the attention of hundreds of thousands.

The second selection of 100 contributions to Edward R. Murrow’s radio program This I Believe has been published by Simon and Schuster, New York. The contributors include such well known persons as Bernard Baruch, Ralph J. Bunche, Sir Charles Darwin, Paul H. Douglas and Arnold J. Toynbee. It is gratifying to report that the script presented by Mr. Robert B. Powers, American Bahá’í, is included in this volume. Mr. Powers quotes from five Sacred Scriptures, including Bahá’í.

Fate Magazine for January, 1955, contains a reprint of one of the Master’s talks in Some Answered Questions under the title “‘Abdu’l-Bahá Discusses Reincarnation.” On the first page of this the editors printed a picture of the Bahá’í House of Worship.

Land Reborn, bimonthly magazine on the Holy Land published by American Christian Palestine Committee, New York, has in its October, 1954, issue a full page on “Bahá’í — the fourth religion” (i.e., of Israel). This is a very sympathetic and appreciative statement, illustrated by a photo of a portion of Haifa as seen through one of the gates of the Bahá’í Gardens.

Social Whirl, a weekly published in New York, contains an article on the Faith introduced by a statement about Mr. Frank Sawyer of the local Bahá’í community, illustrated with a photo of Mr. Sawyer and a photo of a Bahá’í fireside group of inter-racial character. “Having no color line or racial segregation in this faith, people of all races find equality with each other because they are equal before God.”

Rotarian Magazine for December 1954, under “Personailia,” has an item about Mr. Leroy Ioss, member of Rotary International, which refers to him as one of the four Hands of the Cause residing in Haifa and Secretary-General of the International Bahá’í Council.

Mystic Magazine, October, 1954, illustrates its front cover with a photo of the House of Worship referred to as “symbol of the Oneness of Religion.”

General Motors publishes a house organ, Friends, distributed locally by Chevrolet dealers. The December, 1954, number has a two-page spread featuring nine photos of different churches, mosques, synagogues and temples. Among them we find an illustration of the Bahá’í House of Worship, “one of many faiths with small but dedicated membership.”

West Virginia State Magazine, September, 1954, “Architectural Issue,” features the Bahá’í House of Worship in an article on “Services Rendered By a Landscape Architect” by Carl Berg of Berg and Dahl, Landscape Architects. This interesting article mentions the landscape design made by Mr. Dahl and is illustrated by “Bahá’í Temple Gardens” and a ground plan of the landscape design.

AREA TEACHING CONFERENCES

The East Central States Area Teaching Bulletin reports participation by seven different communities in the last teaching conference held in Cincinnati, Ohio. A visiting Bahá’í from Rotterdam, the Netherlands, also was present.

At a public meeting opening the Central States Area Teaching Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, held November 20-21, Miss Arden Thur showed slides of India, Hong Kong and the Holy Land.

One hundred participants at the Central States Area Teaching Conference held in Urbana, Illinois, consulted on practical steps in achieving home front goals.

The Central Atlantic States Area Teaching Conference, held in Washington, D.C., on November 20, beside proclamation of the Faith to students of Howard University (see p. 6) afforded believers an opportunity for consultation on teaching problems with a member of the Auxiliary Board, Mr. William de Forge.

Greensboro, North Carolina, announces plans for the Central Atlantic States Area Teaching Conference to be held there on Saturday and Sunday, January 15 and 16.

The Gulfstate Crewsider gives news that the Fall Area Teaching Conference was held in five localities, with the theme “The Ten-Year Crusade for a Better World.” Consultation and discussion in all groups was reported as being specific and informative.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Anchorage, Alaska, reports that the Fund for building the Alaskan Mansion-Quds has passed the $2000.00 mark.

In Birmingham, Alabama, a meeting of believers from the entire state was devoted to intensive study of the Guardian’s message, “American Bahá’ís in the Time of World Peril.” At the Los Angeles, California, Bahá’í Center a seminar was held on the “Declaration of Trust and By-Laws”.

Sarasota, Florida, reports a unique demonstration of the universality of the Bahá’í Faith. A man of Muslim origin, associated with a well-known Circus, died. All other religious bodies of Sarasota had refused the circus authorities their services in conducting the funeral, when the Bahá’í heard of the situation and asked whether they might help. The authorities accepted the offer gratefully. At a dignified funeral, attended by many people from the circus, Bahá’ís presented the story of the man’s background, the relation between the Muhammadan Faith and the Bahá’í Faith and closed with prayers and
readings from the Qur'an and the Bahá'í Writings. Members of the Circus who attended asked for copies of the program and detailed explanations of the significance of the Words read, to send to members of the troupe on tour.

Students of Howard University, in Washington, D.C., making a tour of the national capital, telephoned the Bahá'í Center to ask whether they might attend a meeting on that day. They were welcomed at a session of the Central Atlantic States Area Teaching Conference, then in progress. Bahá'ís at the Conference had to stand to make room for a contingent of some sixty students from this outstanding inter-racial university, to whom the Message of the Bahá'í Faith was forcefully presented.

INTER-RACIAL EVENTS

Birmingham Public Meeting

The Bahá'í Inter-Racial Committee, in cooperation with the Birmingham, Alabama, Local Spiritual Assembly, conducted a public meeting on November 28.

The subject was "Unity—The Keynote for Today!" Dr. George Mitchell, Regional Director for the Southern Regional Council on Race Relations, as a non-Bahá'í speaker, gave the economic and social aspect of the question. Mr. Ellsworth Blackwell, member of the National Spiritual Assembly and the Inter-Racial Committee, followed Dr. Mitchell's talk by presenting the Bahá'í view of the implications of unity.

About a hundred people attended the meeting.

NAACP—Bahá'í Cooperation

Mr. U. Simpson Tate, Special Counsel for the Southwest Region of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, spoke at a Bahá'í public meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 8. About 60 people attended the Albuquerque meeting which was also addressed by Muriel Ives Barrow, Bahá'í of Santa Fe. Both the Bahá'í and non-Bahá'í speaker spoke on the theme "The Most Challenging Issue."

Bahá'ís took part in the Third Annual Convention of the New Mexico State Conference of Branches of the NAACP, held in Roswell, New Mexico.

In New Mexico, Bahá'ís are cooperating closely with this organization and some hold executive posts in its branches. This has led to opportunities to present the Bahá'í principles. At the Convention, at the request of the Conference President, the first business session was opened with the reading of a Bahá'í prayer.

Inter-Racial Work in Alaska

At the invitation of the NAACP, Mr. Rex King presented a talk, "Let's Join the Human Race!", in which he gave the Bahá'í principle of the oneness of humanity. He shared the platform with a Negro Chaplain from Fort Richardson and officers of the NAACP, one of whom is a Bahá'í. Regular firesides are held, with Negroes of the area attending.

FROM AREA BULLETINS

The following evidence of increased and sustained teaching activity is an indication of response by the believers to the needs of the home front in the World Crusade.

Public meetings, regular firesides, fellowship meetings, Bahá'í observances, and inter-group activities are reported from Birmingham, Alabama; Anchorage, Anchorage Recording District, Juneau and Unalaska, Alaska; Flagstaff, Prescott and Tucson, Arizona; Little Rock and North Little Rock, Arkansas; Antelope Judicial District, Glendale Judicial District, Healdsburg, Healdsburg Township, Huntington Park, Martinez, Menlo Park, Monrovia, Oceanside, Pasadena, Redding, San Luis Obispo and Stockton, California; Wilmington, Delaware; Honolulu, Maui and Oahu, Hawaii; Ada County and Boise, Idaho; Aurora, and Quincy, Illinois; Davenport, Iowa City, Manchester and Waterloo, Iowa; Emporia and Wichita, Kansas; New Orleans, Louisiana; Ann Arbor, Davison, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Royal Oak and Royal Oak Township, Michigan; Jackson (outside), Mississippi; St. Joseph, Missouri; Reno and Sparks, Nevada; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Greensboro, North Carolina; Fort Worth, Galveston, San Antonio, Texas; Logan and Ogden, Utah; Alexandria and Arlington, Virginia; Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Washington, D.C.

The Southwestern Bahá'í Area Bulletin prints a résumé of vital facts about goal cities in its area and invites prospective pioneers to write for more detailed information. The November issue covers the goal cities of Burlington and Pomona, California.

CHILD EDUCATION

Los Angeles Bahá'í School

The Child Education Committee of the Local Assembly of Los Angeles, California, has regular classes for Nursery (under 3 years), 3 to 5-year-old, 6 to 8-year-old, and 9 to 11-year-old children, as well as for Junior High School, High School, Young Adult and Adult groups.

Albuquerque Children Visit Indian Pueblo

As part of their regular program for the children's group, the Albuquerque Children's Committee once a month takes the children as visitors to services of different churches and faiths. One of these visits was to an Indian pueblo. The children were warmly welcomed, and they played with and presented gifts of candy to the Indian children. Pictures were taken, with the permission of the adults, and the entire group was invited to return.

In addition to these two reports, the Healdsburg Township, California, Bahá'í Group has organized a class for children; the Anchorage, Alaska, Assembly, in beginning its children's classes for the winter season, issued a special invitation, through the newspapers, to members of minority groups; and children's classes are being conducted by the Dallas, Texas, community regularly each Sunday morning.

BAHÁ'Í ON THE AIR

Little Rock, Arkansas, reports the announcement of a public meeting over station KARK. KARK-TV showed 4½ minutes of slides by Mrs.
TEMERITY BAHA'I SCHOOL

Temerity Bahá'í School near Colorado Springs, Colorado, formerly International School, will have a four-week summer session beginning July 9 and ending August 5. Details of the program will be announced later in Baha'i News, but all who would like to receive a program schedule direct may write to: Mrs. Gladys Roberts, Secy. Temerity Bahá'í School 915 North Hancock St. Colorado Springs, Colorado

Baha'i News Deadline

The first of the month preceding the month of issue has been set as the date when all material for Baha'i News should be received at the Editorial offices, 110 Linden Ave., Wilmette, III. For example, news which is to appear in the February issue should reach this address by January 1. This is done to meet a new schedule, planned so that Baha'i News may reach the believers as early as possible in each month.

"Star of the West" for Haifa

Believers who would like to contribute any of the following issues of Star of the West for the Haifa Library are asked to send them to the Bahá'í Publishing Committee.

Vol. I, issues 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19; Vol. II, issues 1, 2, 6, 18, 19; Vol. III, issues 1, 4, 5, 8; Vol. IV, issues 8, 10, 11; Vol. V, issue 18; Vol. VII, issue 2; Vol. XIV, issue 8; Vol. XXIII, issue 5; Vol. XXIV, issue 12.

Devotional Programs at House of Worship

The Bahá'í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá'ís and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahá'í House of Worship A Cappella Choir.

The programs for the month of December follow.

The readings for December 5 are the same as those presented on May 23, 1954.

The readings for December 12 are the same as those presented on August 8, 1954.

Order of Devotions—December 19, 1954

We testify that when He (Jesus) came into the world, He shed the splendor of His glory upon all created things...Through His power, born of almighty God, the eyes of the blind were opened, and the soul of the sinner sanctified.

—Baha’u’llah

Choral Selection

Almighty God of Our Fathers—Will James

Baha'i Sacred Writings

Unto the Hearts of Thy Servants (A Prayer of Baha'u'llah); Gleanings, p. 78, p. 62; The Promised Day Is Come, p. 31.

Old Testament

Deuteronomy 18:15; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2

Choral Selection

Break Forth 0 Beauteous Heavenly Light—Johann Sebastian Bach

New Testament

John 1:14; Luke 2:1, 33

Sufian

Sura 3:40-44; Sura 2:254

Choral Selection

Today Christ Is Born—Helen Willan

Baha'i Sacred Writings

The Kilbighan, pp. 94-95; Gleanings, pp. 85-86

Baha'i Prayers, p. 45

Choral Selection

Glory to God in the Highest—Pergolesi

The readings for December 26 are the same as those presented on October 17, 1954.

Discount on Quantity Orders

Beginning January 1, 1955, the 10% discount allowed on literature orders of $10.00 and over (with exception of NBR items) will apply only to orders sent in by community librarians (either Group or Assembly), National, Area and Intercontinental Teaching Committees, Summer Schools, and other National Committees. There is one exception. A pioneer, or isolated believer, who must carry on the teaching activity entirely alone will qualify for the discount if his status is clearly indicated on the order. The purpose of the discount is to help communities to build up their book distribution service. This accumulated discount creates a "working fund" enabling the librarian or book sales committee to pay bills promptly and also to keep a good supply of Baha'i literature available at all times to members of the community. Any Baha'i community, however small, whether or not it has assembly status, can have a librarian, someone who is responsible for this service, and thus take advantage of the discount. It is therefore important that each community give attention to this. Recently the National Assembly sent a request to local communities, requesting them to appoint a suitable and efficient Librarian (or Book Sales Committee) to...
keep literature in stock and attractively displayed in order to stimulate reading and sale of Baha’i material. Consistent effort in this direction will not only aid directly in attaining a World Crusade objective, the establishing of a Baha’i Publishing Trust, but also will greatly augment local teaching efforts.

To secure your discount, please give your status on all orders (community librarian, personal, national committee, pioneer or isolated believer).

If your order represents a change of librarian or a change of address, be sure to specify this.

Please address all inquiries and orders for publishing items to:
Baha’i Publishing Committee
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Challenge to Chaos: The Mission of the Baha’i Faith. By Horace Holley. Talks given at Baha’i Temple in Foundation Hall for delegates to World Council of Churches, planned to give the Baha’i solution to fundamental religious questions involved in the World Council proceedings. Shows the plan of religious revelation through the ages and the purpose of the experience through which mankind is passing today. 24-page, small, standard size pamphlet.

(motion order) 10 copies $ .50
100 copies $ 4.00

Baha’i Calendar, 1955. Illustrated with a world map, depicting the movement of the pioneers. Shows the territories opened before the beginning of the World Crusade in green (for growth), and the territories opened since in red (for sacrifice). A colorful graphic account of achievement. Feast Days and Holy Days are in color and other essential information pertaining to Nineteen Day Feast, Fast Days, days on which work should be suspended, on back of calendar. Black, red and green on white, 9 x 12.

Each $ .25
5 copies $ 1.00

Out of Print

Since the June, 1954, listing of out of print items, the following publications have gone out of print and are no longer available:

A Baha’i Declaration of Human Obligations and Rights
Questions the World Is Asking
Security for a Failing World (book)

Three Daily Obligatory Prayers
A School of World Religion

World Order Unfolds

IN MEMORIAM

"Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life."

—Baha’u’llah

Miss Bernice Yvonne Best
Allendale, South Carolina
June 14, 1954

Mr. Frederick R. Nickelson
Camas, Washington
June, 1954

Mrs. Christine Monroe
Seattle, Washington
October 26, 1954

BAHA’I DIRECTORY CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

ASSOCIATION SECRETARIES

Puerto Rico
Mrs. Barbara Barrett, Box 1869, San Juan 8, P.R.

California (North)
Berkeley: Miss Esther B. Linebaugh, 1242 Josephine Street, Zone 3

California (South)
Pasadena: Mrs. Katrina Valentine, 60-A Grand Oaks Avenue, Zone 8

New York (West)
Hamburg Twp.: Mrs. Edith McLaren, Secy. pro tem., 264 Clark Street

BAHA’I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Baha’i World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHA’I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1954-1955: Mrs. Evnice Braun, Managing Editor; Mr. David Ned Blackmer, Assistant Editor; Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Edna True.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Baha’i Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
"PRAYING PROGRESS HER SOUL"

The following message was cabled to the National Spiritual Assembly on December 23, 1954, by the Guardian, concerning the passing of Mrs. Gertrude Struven: "Grieve news, praying progress her soul (in) Kingdom."

—Shoghi

TWO LETTERS FROM HAIFA

The National Spiritual Assembly has chosen excerpts from two letters for publication in Baha'i News on account of their general interest and importance. The letters were written on behalf of the Guardian by his Secretary and addressed on July 17, 1851, and June 6, 1954, to Mr. Rex King.

Love and Unity

"The most important thing for the believers is, of course, to be united and to really love each other for the sake of God. (Otherwise it is not possible to love everyone). However, if communities wait until love and complete harmony are established before teaching, the teaching work will come to a standstill. Both sides must be cultivated; whilst actively teaching the friends must themselves be taught and deepened in the spirit of the Faith, which brings love and unity."

Baha'i Greeting

"The Baha'is are free to greet each other with Allah-u-Abha when they meet, if they want to, but they should avoid anything which to outsiders, in a western country, might seem like some strange Oriental password. We must be very firm on principles and laws, but very normal and natural in our ways, so as to attract strangers."

Passage on Will and Testament

"The statement in the Will of 'Abdu'l-Baha* does not imply that the Hands of the Cause of God have been given the authority to overrule the Guardian. 'Abdu'l-Baha could not have provided for a conflict of authority in the Faith. This is obvious, in view of His own words, which you will find on page 13 [p. 11 of 1944 U.S. edition] of the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha. "The mighty stronghold shall remain impregnable and safe through obedience to him who is the guardian of the Cause of God. It is incumbent upon... the Hands of the Cause of God to show their obedience, submissiveness and subordination unto the guardian of the Cause of God, to turn unto him and be lowly before him. He that opposes him hath opposed the True One,' etc."

*The passage in the Master's Will which provides for the successor to the Guardian, in which reference is made to the Hands of the Cause.

THE CHALLENGE — SEVERE, INSISTENT, GLORIOUS

A message from the National Spiritual Assembly to the 1954 State Conventions (published in response to requests from a number of state conventions)

Beloved Friends:

We are now in the second stage of the unfoldment of the World Crusade. Last year we were concentrating upon the filling of virgin goals—a call to the sense of heroism and sacrifice which has always distinguished the followers of Bahá'u'lláh; and that call has been gloriously answered by Bahá'ís of East and West. Now the call is for massive achievements requiring the energy of the entire Bahá'í Community; the purchase or construction of the first Temple dependency, a home for the aged; for the acquisition of Temple lands and for Haziras in many parts of the world. In addition we have the challenge of the home front, and large scale consolidation settlement in Latin America, European lands, Alaska and Hawaii, South and West Africa, and Japan, and the Philippine Islands, in addition to reinforcing the original pioneers in their virgin goals.

There is nothing which the National Spiritual Assembly can add to the Guardian's insistent and glorious words concerning the achievements marking this second stage of the World Crusade. The focus has shifted from effort to understand what is to be done to effort to accomplish it. This movement from reason to will distinguishes a spiritual Crusade, in that only the Call of God can summon the necessary response consisting of complete sacrifice of fortune and of life.

The present challenge is also severe in that we are now living in the world of peril which the Guardian disclosed to us in his recent incomparable message to America. Indeed, as our hearts are yielded up in obedience to the Guardian's will, we recall a passage in the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh which hitherto has seemed not to be directed to Bahá'ís and others in our own time.
“We have a fixed time for you, O peoples. If ye fail, at the appointed hour, to turn towards God, He, verily, will lay violent hold on you, and will cause grievous afflictions to assault you from every direction.” (Gl. 214).

The only effective manner to present Bahá’u’lláh’s Message to the world of humanity today, is by establishing the Temples, the Ḥáẓírás, the Temple dependency and the new National Spiritual Assemblies, in addition to our customary mode of teaching through firesides, public lectures and the other facilities in which we are already trained.

The massive public Bahá’í achievement alone can, in adequate measure, break through the fatal spiritual torpor in which human society is now engulfed. For in carrying out on schedule the Guardian’s Ten Year Plan we attain nearness to God and serve with a power higher than our own.

“Arise, therefore, and, with the whole enthusiasm of your hearts, with all the eagerness of your souls, the full fervor of your will, and the concentrated efforts of your entire being, strive to attain the paradise of His presence . . . ” (Gl. 321).

The World Crusade, beloved friends, is the Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh in the world of action. Severe, insistent and glorious is our existence in that world!

—National Spiritual Assembly

**RECOGNITION OF BAHÁ’I HOLY DAYS**

The Superintendent of the Burbank Unified School District (Burbank, California) wrote the local Assembly on December 6, 1954, and stated that arrangements can be made concerning absences of Bahá’í children from school on Bahá’í Holy Days.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Baḥá’ís Look to the Future

The teachings of Bahá’u’lláh show men how a just society—for all kinds of people—may be evolved. The growing Bahá’í world community is a laboratory where the principles of Bahá’u’lláh are being applied in human relations, where the future institutions of justice are taking shape, where Bahá’ís are learning how to act justly and to develop methods for the just conduct of their own affairs.


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**WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET — STATUS AS OF JANUARY 1, 1955**

**Dearest Beloved Friends:**

With a heart filled with gratitude, your National Assembly wishes to share with all of the friends who heeded our beloved Guardian’s wishes as expressed in his stirring message of July 28, the encouraging results from contributions that have poured into the National Treasurer’s Office from individuals, Groups and Local Assemblies during the month of December.

Let us refresh ourselves with these words: “The heart of the Guardian cannot but leap with joy, and his mind derive fresh inspiration, at every evidence testifying to the response of the individual to his allotted task.”

“It is therefore imperative for the individual American believer . . . to step forward, and dedicate their resources, their time, their very lives to a Cause of such transcendence that no human eye can even dimly perceive its glory. Let them resolve, instantly and unhesitatingly, to place, each according to his circumstances, his share on the altar of Bahá’í sacrifice . . .”

During December, the following contributions were received:

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<th>From: Assemblies and Groups</th>
<th>$13,836.09</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>36,718.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temple Fund</td>
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<td>Shrine of the Báb Fund</td>
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<td>World Center Fund</td>
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<td>Shrine of Báb &amp; Temple Landscaping</td>
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<td>Proceeds from Sales Committee</td>
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**From: Estate of Grace Proudfoot**

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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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It is noteworthy that among the contributions received from “individuals” one Bahá’í family contributed over $11,000.00 as an additional generous and sacrificial donation which swelled their contributions thus far during this Bahá’í Year to almost $19,000.00.

As against total Budget requirements for the eight-month period from May 1, 1954 to January 1, 1955 of $320,000.00 we have received a total of $245,466.00 representing a deficit for this eight-month period of $74,534.00.

We will succeed in fulfilling our total Budget requirements of $475,000.00 if we are able to maintain the same level of contributions during the last four months of this Bahá’í Year as in the month of December.

As the miracles in our beloved Faith multiply throughout the far corners of the globe, let our hearts swell with pride and thanksgiving that the spirit of devotion and sacrifice being manifested by our heroic pioneers in far-off places is being matched on the home front by increased application to our appointed tasks, a greater awareness of the needs of our objectives, and a new spirit of generosity and sacrifice in meeting our financial goal.

Faithfully yours,

—National Spiritual Assembly

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**She of the future Mashriqu’l-Adhkár to be built in the village of Eschborn, near Frankfurt, Germany**
TEACHING MISSIONS BY MEMBERS OF AUXILIARY BOARD

Second Report by American Hands of the Cause

In the October, 1954 issue of Baha'i News the American Hands reported on the teaching work carried out by the nine Auxiliary Board members since their appointment at Convention time. This report carries their schedules forward to January, 1955, and includes missions definitely assigned to April. These extensive schedules, planned to cover every community and many groups in Canada and the United States, and a selected list of centers in Central and South America, would be impossible without the generous budget assigned by the United States National Assembly, and the sacrifice made by Board members.

The purpose of these visits is to re-emphasize basic Baha'i teachings and to encourage support of the goals of the World Crusade. Lack of space makes it impossible to present the many interesting and important local engagements carried out.

1. Rowland Estall has carried on weekend visits to centers in the Province of Quebec. Detailed report not yet received.

2. William deForge has visited Rocky Mount, North Carolina; North Augusta, South Carolina; Augusta, Georgia; St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Orlando, Miami, Miami Beach, Key West, Florida; and on his return trip north has visited Greensboro, North Carolina and made a second visit to Rocky Mount. During February Mr. deForge will carry out a mission taking him to Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Puerto Rico and St. Thomas.

3. Florence Mayberry has made visits to Great Falls, Helena, Butte, and Missoula, Montana; Spokane, Washington; Lewiston, Grangeville, Boise and Ada County, Idaho; Pendleton, Oregon; Walla Walla, Pasco, Yakima, Wenatchee, Seattle, Tacoma, Bremerton and Olympia, Washington. Baha'i centers in Oregon and Northern California are to be visited, including Reno and Sparks, Nevada. Missions are being arranged for her to visit Baha'i centers in Arizona and New Mexico, including El Paso, Texas, in March, and Nevada, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming on her way to and from the National Convention.

To the list of places visited by Mrs. Mayberry between early September and the middle of December these are also to be included: Kanloops, Salmon Arm, New Westminster and West Vancouver, B.C., Whitehorse, Yukon Territory; Saskatoon, Regina, Sask.; Brandon, Minnedosa, Winnipeg, St. James, Manitoba; Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Minn. A total of 53 centers has been covered.

4. Margery McCormick has visited the following centers in Ontario: Forest, London, Ingersol, George-town, Hamilton, St. Catherine, Toronto, Forest Hill, North York, Scarborough, Pickering, Oshawa; and in Michigan, Royal Oak, Detroit, Flint, Louiehen School, Lansing and Kalamazoo. The cities visited in the States listed in October report were Sioux Falls, Omaha, Kansas City, Topeka, Oklahoma City, Wichita, Tulsa, Little Rock, St. Louis, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Waterloo. She returns to Michigan in February to visit the remaining centers. In January and early February Mrs. McCormick visits cities of Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; New Orleans, Louisiana; Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas. The centers in Indiana and Wisconsin are also to be visited this year.

5. Katherine McLaughlin is carrying on a mission during January and February which includes visits to centers in Venezuela, and such centers in Colombia and other countries as are determined by consultation in Latin America.

6. Dr. Sarah Pereira is meeting with believers in West Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky on weekend trips. Detailed schedule to be reported.

7. Esteban Canales has been assigned a mission involving intensive teaching work in Baha'i centers of Mexico.

8. Gayle Woolson has reported intensive teaching work in La Paz, Bolivia; Guayaquil, Riobamba, Quito, San Rafael, Ibarra and Otaval, Ecuador.

9. Margot Worley has visited communities in Chile, Paraguay and Brazil, assisting in their preparation for formation of National Spiritual Assemblies during the Ten Year Plan.

—AMERICAN HANDS OF THE CAUSE

Corinne True
Horace Holley
Pual E. Haney

What Is Happening to the Bahá'ís?

Talk given at Central States Area Conference, September 18, 1954

By Horace Holley

Dear Spiritual Friends:

What is happening to the Baha'is? In order to attempt to deal with this vital question, let us take three different stages in the development of the Baha'i Community and see how, in these three stages, different conditions have become manifest until we find ourselves today in the most mysterious condition the world has ever seen.

Years ago, while the Master was still in this world, I had occasion one
day to call on Roy Wilhelm, who had a little office down town in New York City, which for many years was practically the Bahá'í Center of the United States. Roy was very excited on that occasion. He had received a Tablet from the Master and he handed to me the original Tablet to read, and I have never forgotten it. It was reprinted on page 384 of the Bahá'í World Faith.

"All the people of the world are, as thou dost observe, in the sleep of negligence. They have forgotten God altogether... They are, like unto the loathsome worms, trying to lodge in the depth of the ground, while a single flood of rain sweeps all their nests and lodging away. Nevertheless, they do not come to their senses. Where is the majesty of the Emperor of Russia? Where is the might of the German Emperor? Where is the greatness of the Emperor of Austria? In a short time all these palaces were turned into ruins and all these pretentious edifices underwent destruction. They left no fruit and no trace, save eternal ruin."

That was during the years of the first world war, and the Master saw the end in the beginning, and through this Tablet He brought into the hearts of believers the realization that the basis of modern civilization had already been destroyed.

About this time He revealed the following Tablet directly to the believers: "If thou seest to be intoxicated with the cup of the Most Mighty Gift, cut thyself from the world and be quit of self and desire. Exert thyself night and day until spiritual powers may penetrate thy heart and soul. Abandon the body and the material, until merciful powers may become manifest; because not until the soil is become pure will it develop through the heavenly bounty; not until the heart is purified, will the radiance of the Sun of Truth shine therein. I beg of God, that thou wilt day by day increase the purity of thy heart, the cheerfulness of thy soul, the light of thy insight, and the search for Truth."

In those two Tablets, revealed possibly in the year 1919, we see the great contrast, the great abyss which has risen in this world between the collapse of the old order and the peoples pertaining to the old order and the rise of the new creation in the hearts of the Bahá'ís. That is our starting-point as we try to deal with this subject, "What is happening to the Bahá'ís?"

All of us who have come into the Faith bring all that we have accumulated with us, of ideas, of impressions, of values, of emotions, of reactions, of envies, of jealousies, everything that we happen to have, we bring with us into the Cause of God.

A certain number of people think that they are Bahá'ís when they can take a certain statement and say, "I believe this to be truth," but belief is no longer faith. There are other people who take a step farther, they are stronger in their personalities, they have conviction on what they believe, but conviction is only faith in action. A person of strong conviction can quite sincerely be convinced about things that are entirely wrong and useless; so when we meet sincere people, people of ardor, of strong conviction, we have to examine the values they are trying to express, and we never find that people who end in conviction have attained the essence of faith. Faith is not feeling; faith is the ability to think ourselves from one world to another; faith is being reborn. It is the element of will in the human personality that has to be influenced and that is the last thing that we give up. We can change our feelings, we can change our ideas, but to give up our will is the miracle of human life.

All of His life, the Master, in His travels, His Tablets, was trying to confer upon us the realization of the necessity of giving up our wills and the way that we might succeed. So we had years in the development in the Bahá'í community from that time on, and then the Guardian came a few years later and we went through the discipline of establishing institutions, which delimited the power and the influence and the authority of the individual. Therefore, it was a time of discipline, and for a number of years a time of great confusion, because it was easier to go along by inertia the old path than to stop short and realize that God, Himself, had created these institutions for which we had no respect, because we didn't like four or five out of the nine elected in a given year; so we lost the meaning of institutions as we contemplated personalities.

The Guardian let this process go on for a certain length of time until October 8, 1952, when he wrote us a letter launching the world-embracing spiritual crusade. He said, for example, "Hail with feelings of humble thankfulness and unbounded joy, opening of the Holy Year commemorating the centenary of the rise of the Orb of Bahá'u'lláh's most sublime Revelation, marking the consummation of the six thousand year cycle ushered in by Adam, glorified by all past prophets and sealed with the blood of the Author of the Bábí Dispensation."

Then he went on to say "hour propitious to proclaim to the entire Bahá'í world the projected launching on the occasion of the convocation of the approaching Intercontinental Conferences on the four continents of the globe the fateful, soul-stirring, decade-long, world-embracing Spiritual Crusade... aiming at the immediate extension of Bahá'u'lláh's spiritual dominion as well as the eventual establishment of the structure of His administrative order in all remaining Sovereign States, and Principal Dependencies... scattered over the surface of the entire planet."

Now this was like an examination given to people, who had been through an educational university, to see how proficient they had become; how much faith they possessed that could be translated into heroic self-sacrificial acts. And God be praised, the first year of the ten-year plan in its results, delighted the Guardian's heart. The souls were found who have arisen to the condition of real faith.

(to be continued)
Hands of the Cause for the European Continent with members of their Auxiliary Board at the Conference held in Frankfurt, Germany, October 1-3, 1954. (See pages 3, 4, BAHÁ’I NEWS, December, 1954.) Seated, left to right: are the Hands of the Cause: Dr. Hermann Grossmann, Dr. Ugo Giachery and Dr. Adelbert Muhlschlegel. Standing, from left to right: Dr. Eugen Schmidt, Tove Deleuran, Anna Grossmann, Louis Henzen, Marlon Hofman, Angeline Giachery and Dorothy Ferraby. Missing are: Dr. George Townshend, Hand of the Cause, and Elsa Steinmetz and Joel Marangella, members of the Auxiliary Board.

Mr. Frank A. Baker arrived in Granada, Windward Islands, British West Indies, November 18, 1954.

Dr. Luella K. Beecher arrived in Granada, Windward Islands, British West Indies, November 18, 1954.

Mrs. Mildred Mehl arrived in Famagusta, Cyprus (British NSA), November 26, 1954.

Miss Frances Jones arrived in Famagusta, Cyprus, (British NSA), November 26, 1954.

ARIVALS IN CONSOLIDATION AREAS

Mrs. Lorraine Horvath Landau arrived in Anchorage, Alaska, September 12, 1954.

Mrs. Mary Jane Fowler arrived in Valdez, Alaska, September 24, 1954.

Mrs. Hildegarde Doty arrived in Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, October 1, 1954.

Mr. Rex King arrived in Anchorage, Alaska, November 8, 1954.

Mrs. E. R. Mathews arrived in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in December 1954.

Miss Ophelia Crum arrived in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in December 1954.


Mr. and Mrs. Don Witzel arrived in Managua, Nicaragua, November 12, 1954.

Mrs. Edward A. Young arrived in Cuernavaca, Mexico (date not reported).

Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Bode arrived in Cuernavaca, Mexico (date not reported).

PIONEER LETTERS

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to share the following passages from pioneer letters, in keeping with its policy of keeping the Baha’i world informed of the spirit and some of the incidents which characterize the unfoldment of the World Crusade.

Excerpts from Pioneer Letters to the Asia Teaching Committee

BRUNEI

From Charles Duncan, October 28, 1954. "At long last I am leading the type of life that I expected to find in Brunei. I have recently moved to the kampong ayer. This is the part of the city that is built in the river. The main section of the kampong ayer is in the middle of the river and can be reached only by boats (hence Brunei is known as the Venice of the East). However, part of it is near the bank of the river and can be approached by boat or a maze of rather rickety bridges. The section I live in is called "Kampang China" which might be translated as ‘Chinatown.’ I am the only non-Chinese living there. I have a small room in the front corner of the house, the windows of which give two very nice views of the river which is quite wide. I can see the river flowing under my room through the cracks between the floor boards. This house, like all the others in the kampong ayer, has walls made of unpainted boards, the roof is thatched with palm leaves and the whole house is built on stilts which sink down into the mud. When the tide is low, it is possible for a person in a boat to pass underneath; but when the tide is high, the water is only about four feet below the floor. The population of the kampong ayer is about 11,000 although it is only about 1/2 miles long and 2 or 3 blocks wide. Except for Kampang China the population is mostly Malay and Kadayan... the houses have practically no furniture in them, the people ordinarily sit on the floor, eat on the floor, and sleep on the floor. They spread mats on the floor, use a pillow and a blanket. Sometimes it gets quite cold and you feel as if you were going to freeze to death. The first couple of nights I found sleeping on the floor a little uncomfortable, but now that I am used to it, I sleep quite well. I could buy a mattress, but they cost $40. I think the price ridiculous. Also a mattress would reduce the size of the room and would be very inconvenient.

"Our house is not so crowded as some. There are only 11 people staying here. "They speak only Chinese and Malay although two of the younger fellows know a smattering of English. In spite of the language barrier, they are extremely warm, friendly, lovable people. They all know that I am a Baha‘i but I haven’t been able to tell them more than that. They see the picture of ‘Abdu’l-Baha that I have on my desk and ask whether it is my father. My Malay vocabulary
is not extensive enough to say that He is the Center of the Covenant.

"So far the last couple of weeks have been my happiest in Brunei. In addition to this is the good news that we expect to enroll our first Baha’is next week at the 19-Day Feast. She is an Indian and was born a caste Hindu, but the family later accepted Christianity and she was educated as a Christian. She married a Muslim and to pacify the family of her husband became a Muslim. She, more than many others, was quick to see the Oneness of Religion as expounded by Baha’u’llah. She loves the Teachings, is firm in the Covenant, and feels unworthy to become a Baha’i.

"Please continue to pray for us pioneers as we pray also that you at home may achieve your tasks which are much greater than ours."

JAPAN
From Barbara Sims, Secy., Tokyo, Japan, Local Spiritual Assembly.

October 25, 1954. "Our National Teaching Committee which was formed in June has now had three meetings with another coming up soon. Their main purpose is to encourage, coordinate and report on all teaching activities throughout Japan. At present firesides are being held in Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Kyoto, Yomaguchi-shi and Hyogo-ken and extension teaching work is being done in Kobe, Hiroshima and Nagoya. Strong efforts are being made to expand teaching work on the island of Kyushu. Pioneers who are able to move are being encouraged to move to cities where there are few or no Baha’is. Robert Imagire and his wife have moved to Kyoto to help with the work there.

"Advanced classes are being held in Tokyo for people who have become interested in the Faith through firesides and also deepening classes are being held on such subjects as history of the Faith and Administration.

"A two day Japan Teaching Conference was held in Sept. It is the first time in the history of the Faith in Japan that such an event has taken place. It was held at Atami, a sea-side town between Tokyo and Nagoya. Thirty-two believers attended and all talks, discussions and prayers were held in three languages, Japanese, Persian and English. How we long for the day when the auxiliary language will be in existence. The conference was a wonderful demonstration of the unity among the believers in Japan. It is hoped that this will be the first of many such conferences.

"Translation work is progressing. The new translation of Baha’u’llah and the New Era is nearing completion. Prayers are being translated for a Japanese prayer book. The small introductory pamphlet is being revised and additions are being made.

"The Tokyo LSA is in the process of being incorporated and that should be finished in November. Steps have been made toward the purchase of a Hazratu’ll-Qods. It is hoped that this will be accomplished before the end of the year.

"Several of the Iranian and American pioneers who hope to remain in this country indefinitely are studying Japanese thereby hoping to really integrate into the community and Japanese way of life and to teach more effectively."

Excerpts from Pioneer Letters to the Africa Teaching Committee

BASUTOLAND
From Fred and Beth Laws.

"At the open Feast today, there were eight adults, one youth and fourteen children. We played American and Sesuto records on the gramaphone and had tea, biscuits and cake. The little children danced to the Sesuto and Negro spirituals. This is our first fireside. These friends have expressed their great joy and gladness that we can be with them. They say that God sent us here. They have conferred upon us Basuto names: for Fred, 'Lerato' and for Beth, 'Malerato'. 'Lerato' is literally 'love', and means 'lover of mankind'. 'Malerato' is the feminine form.

"Our friends (their Basuto African hosts), the Mohapis, have just left us after the first lesson about Baha’u’llah. They believed everything we told them. They were so happy, they could hardly go home, just across the door-yard, these pure-hearted ones. Yesterday, Sunday, nine adults and quite a number of children came, and we all had tea, music and prayers out under the trees. They will come every Sunday, in increasing numbers from greater and greater distances. One young man came in on his bicycle from a town 40 miles away. He had heard we were here. Mr. Mohapi now wants his son, the high school science teacher, to translate the Baha’i prayers for him. Frederick is helping Mr. Mohapi with farm work and showing him new ways and short cuts to get more done quicker. He took the car and trailer to bring in melonies from the fields, which otherwise would have to be carried on their backs in big 100 lb. sacks. There is a sort of epidemic of 'flu' going around. So Beth goes about with aspirin, Vapour Rub, and Milk of Magnesia, and doses and rubs them, and takes temperatures and pulse; so they feel much better. Mr. Mohapi wants us to remain in the rondavel they have given us to use. He says this one is much better for us than another old one we had intended to repair for our own use. 'It is closer to the water,' he says, 'and it is quite near to us. We want you near us so that we can come to you many times and hear you tell us about Baha’u’llah, because no one ever told us such happy news before.' These are dear and lovely people—pure souls, as our Guardian has said. The candles of their Faith burn very brightly. May the Blessed Beauty give us great wisdom and love in teaching them."

Now news has come that the Mohapis have declared themselves. In a letter to the Committee the Laws say:

"Probably the chief reason for their precociousness lies in the beloved Guardian’s description of the African’s spiritual condition with regard to the Faith, but certainly a very potent factor in their development has been the intensive study
they have undergone. In five weeks they have attended at least thirty regular study sessions with the books and Bible for reference. In addition there have been a number of informal, spur of the moment sessions, which opportuned themselves into our daily work. The Sunday sessions have been of a most casual nature with scarcely a mention of the Message of God."

"We call urgently to all those who feel the desire to be of service to the Indian race and to give them a special measure of our Baha’i love to arise to teach them so as to bring to them the hope and vision which only our Faith can offer."

"If you are interested in teaching the Indians in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, you will be among the first and happiest of those who will initiate the intensive teaching activity which... must be conducted for the purpose of converting a considerable number of the minority races in... America to the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh' (Shoghi Effendi, American Baha’is in the Time of World Peril) and swell the ranks of the faithful during this Ten-Year Crusade by converting large numbers of the Indians to the Faith."

We wish to add that medical doctors or certified teachers could serve among the vast Indian population of Central America with great usefulness; also that there exists an urgent need for a pioneer on the island of Martinique in the Caribbean, particularly someone of French background who speaks French; he would also have to have some private means. Detailed information can be obtained from the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee.

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

First Maya-Quiche Believer

The following report comes from Louise Caswell, Secretary of the Indian Committee of the Bahá’ís of Central America.

"The first member of the Maya-Quiche race to accept the Faith, a young man of twenty-two, is a tourist guide. He has brought many Indians to the Institute (Instituto Cultural Indigena Bahá’í) to hear of our Faith, as well as tourists from California, Ohio, New Mexico, Alaska and a Frenchman from Tuamotu. Some of these have recognized the picture of the Temple and one of them, who lectures on Guatemala, a resident of Wilmette, has watched the Temple construction from the time of the laying of the cornerstone. In this way our first Indian Bahá’í is teaching from the start.

A Field of Service

"There are many calls (for the Institute) from the sick and the dying, as Jenny is a nurse. We visit the homes, mud huts, and see at close range the conditions of abject misery, unexpressed suffering and ignorance of elementary sanitation and cleanliness of this abandoned race. The help given by the Bahá’ís is sometimes only a symbol of our love, for what can one do to save the life of a fourteen-year-old mother, ill from pneumonia, when she has nothing but a dirt floor and a few dirty rags to lie on, no one to love her, no desire to live, no dream to hang to, no vision of possible happiness or even comfort? Surely any Bahá’í who wishes to lift the masses of humanity from their silent misery can find an unlimited field of service among the abandoned Indians of the Americas.

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**NATIONAL NEWS**

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION**

The Forty-Seventh Annual Bahá’í Convention will be held in Foundation Hall of the Bahá’í House of Worship, Wilmette, Illinois, April 28, 29, 30 and May 1.

Reservations: Delegates and visitors wishing accommodations in private homes should send their request for reservations to: Mrs. Priscilla Hassan, 1244 Maple Street, Wilmette, Illinois, Chairman of the Housing Committee, or to the Co-Chairman, Mrs. Edna Coleman, 1227 Leon Place, Evanston, Illinois. A list of nearby hotels, together with rates, will be published in the next issues of Bahá’í News. The friends wishing this type of accommodation are requested to make their own reservations. Those interested in accommodations in a motel may write to the committee for names and addresses of several new motels within ten or fifteen minutes drive from the Temple.

Child Care: Owing to the difficulty of securing a sufficient number of volunteers to care for children, the Convention Arrangements Committee has found it necessary to limit child care to the daytime sessions only. It is not equipped to care for children in arms or for other very young children requiring individual attention. Any inquiries concerning this service should be directed to the Chairman of the Child Care Committee: Mrs. Minnie Hadley, 1729 Dodge Street, Evanston, Illinois.

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**UNITED STATES AFRICA TEACHING COMMITTEE**

**Africa News**

During the past few months reports of the progress of our Faith in Africa have come to us from Mr. Misá Banáñ, beloved Hand of the Cause there. Between August 1 and November 27 there were 86 newly-declared believers in 15 territories of Africa, bringing the total to 199 in less than 4 months. How we would like to share with you the interesting stories which lie..."
The newly-formed Bahá’í Group of Saigon, Indo-China.

behind the declarations! One African believer, having been in the Faith but a short time himself, joyfully reports 17 new believers.

Another devoted believer, himself a pioneer in one territory, sends in 10 new declarations, several from a nearby town. Think of being able to do extension work in two places simultaneously!

In Basutoland there are now believers in two centers. Here are the parting words of one of them to Bill Sears who visited there recently:

"A man must have four things in his heart if he is to be close to God. The first is love, the second is mercy and kindness, the third is humility and the fourth is fear of God. These qualities I have seen in the friends who have come to live among us and to visit us." He went on to express his happiness at "this fresh Word of God" which had come to his people and closed by saying: "I give my heart and soul to this Faith and I am eager to labor in its service." Over and over again we hear the native African express in similar terms his acceptance of the Faith.

Our steadfast pioneers in Ceuta, Spanish Morocco, tell of the addition of two Moroccan and two Spanish believers, brought in by the combined efforts of pioneers in a nearby town. The humanitarian efforts of these pioneers on the behalf of the people, such as paying for the education of an Arab boy, first aid help, and gathering and distributing clothing, surely demonstrate the Bahá’í way of life.

Beside the extension teaching work already mentioned, friends in French Equatorial Africa, British Cameroons, Liberia, Gold Coast, South Africa (Johannesburg and Durban), Nairobi and Tanganyika all report well-organized teaching activities in neighboring towns.

The three Auxiliary Board members, William Sears, John Robarts and John Allen, correspond regularly with communities, groups and pioneers, beside many times making extensive trips. These visits have proved of real assistance and the moral support encouraged the pioneers greatly in their "often difficult and discouraging attempts to settle." A 1,123 mile journey by one pioneer through Bechuanaland enabled him to meet four important tribal chiefs who welcomed him gladly. Others have gone on trips to Mozambique, Southern and Northern Rhodesia, Swaziland. In addition, the three Board members have been working diligently to ensure the translation of the Teachings into various languages. So rapid is the progress that we have no exact figures to give at the moment. Helping to bring 14 groups to Assembly status in the South and West regional area will be the vital task of these friends also.

Miss Elsie Austin has visited the friends in Spanish and French Morocco and has helped considerably with the activities of the Tangier Community. She has worked tirelessly to help pioneers enter difficult and inaccessible territories of Spanish Sahara and Rio de Oro.

John Allen who was in this country recently for business reasons says that opportunities for setting up one’s own business in Africa are good and one with some capital to invest would find that this newly awakened continent offers a chance to serve the people of Africa and sustain one’s self.

The time is short. Let us arise to bring to assembly status those eleven goals given us and thus make glad the heart of our beloved Guardian.

—AMERICAN AFRICA TEACHING COMMITTEE

BAHA’I IN THE NEWS

The Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory publishes a very attractive monthly house organ entitled PTL News. The December, 1954, issue devotes four pages to an illustrated article about the Bahá’í House of Worship. "To the Glory of God—A Work of Art in Concrete," compiled by the Editor, T. W. Milligan, from Bahá’í literature. The text has been taken entirely from two pamphlets, The Religion of Humanity and The Bahá’í House of Worship, preceded by an editorial comment containing the following statement: "During this, the Christmas season, as men’s minds turn with a greater urgency and force to thoughts of the brotherhood of man, we feel that it is quite appropriate to present to you, our readers, the following story and photographs of one of Chicago’s most unusual and beautiful pieces of architecture, which is at the same time a house of worship, offering to the world an idea of singleness of purpose in a common cause, which has never before been presented by a worshipping body in quite the same way."

The illustrations include a full page picture of the Temple and gardens, a three-quarter page picture of the interior, and a three-quarter page picture of the inside of the ornamented dome.

A Bahá’í reference in Social Whirl, race magazine published in New York, has recently been listed in this column. The number dated November 8, 1954, has two more references: an excerpt from the address.
by 'Abdu'l-Bahá at Hull House, Chicago, in 1912, with a photo of the Master, and a reprint of the Bahá'í article published in Encyclopaedia Britannica.

From the Bahá'í Press Representative of Maui has come a page from The Breeze, news organ of the Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company, which summarized the Bahá'í teachings in its issue of November 13, 1954, in a series of articles on the different faiths followed by the company employees. This article was accompanied by a picture of the Maui Assembly.

The Voice for October 8, 1954, "largest Jewish circulation in the West," published in Los Angeles, contains an article, "Bahá'í in Israel," which describes the Shrine of the Báb and outlines the history of the Faith as related to Haifa.

The "Question Box" appearing in Lutheran Standard of Columbus, Ohio, August 14, 1954, explains the Faith in response to an inquiry. It states that the "founder was a Muhammadan" and that the "teaching of this cult, like that of all other false religions, is pure self-righteousness."

Bryce Hospital, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, publishes a bulletin entitled The Bryce News of and for the hospital patients. The issue dated December 5, 1954, reports a meeting of the Writers Club on November 2 at which a paper written by Dr. Marie Pfain was read. "Her reference to an Eastern Philosopher, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and his precepts was very helpful." The report quoted the Master on looking for the good qualities in other people.


CHILD EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The National Child Education Committee announces an enlarged version of The Child's Way. In this magazine the children's page has become a separate folder of four pages. This has been done as a result of our readers' demand for more material that can be used in their teaching of the Bahá'í Faith to children. The committee plans to include in each issue something that will interest children of every age level, from the very young to the fifteen-year-old. We hope that the Children's Page will be truly the children's page and offer a channel through which they may share their experiences with children everywhere.

The Child's Way, the part of the bulletin written for adults interested in children, has added several new features. Everyone is invited to submit their problems to "Dear Aunt Amy" who will answer their questions in future issues. "Our Children Say" is another new department in which we will quote pertinent remarks of children reflecting their understanding of the Bahá'í Faith.

The Child's Way, including the Children's Page, is bi-monthly and is one dollar a year. It goes all over the world but we would like many new subscribers. Not all Assemblies or Bahá'í groups have subscribed to the bulletin, The Child's Way. Even though children's classes are not yet organized, it is important to build up a file of these bulletins for use when such groups are formed in the future. Each issue contains excellent teaching suggestions as well as material for the classes. Copies may not be available later on.

All communications concerning the bulletin should be addressed to:

Mrs. Amy B. Dwelly, Editor
9501 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland 6, Ohio

TEACHERS FOR BAHÁ'Í SCHOOLS

Temerity and Louhelen Bahá'í Schools, in order to encourage the development of new teachers and courses, wish to hear from all Bahá'ís who would like to teach at summer sessions. If you are interested in this important work, please let the committees know if you have a course or could develop one at the committees' suggestion. Information on your background or experience relevant to conducting a class should be included with your application, but lack of formal teaching experience should not deter you. While you may not be called upon to teach at the next session, your interest and cooperation will be sincerely appreciated and will help in planning a balanced program. Please send applications to:

Temerity Bahá'í School
Mrs. Gladys Roberts, Secy.
915 North Hancock Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Louhelen Bahá'í School
Violet Wuerfel, Secy.
8856 Dumbarton Road, C-14
Detroit 4, Michigan

GEYSERVILLE BAHÁ'Í SCHOOL

1955 Session

Theme: The World Crusade and You
Dates: July 10—August 14

Reservations should be addressed to:

Lorne H. Matteson,
20915 Haviland Avenue
Hayward, California

The Program Committee wishes to hear from teachers who can help with subjects related to this theme.

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE

On February 20, Bahá'í youth throughout the United States will gather at a Conference keyed to the
theme “A Crusade is in Progress”.

The National Youth Committee sponsors several conferences each year, each with a specific purpose. This one is unique in that non-Baha’i friends are to be invited to see what Baha’is are doing to meet the crisis of our time, and to contribute their suggestions for dealing with the spiritual problem which confronts the entire world.

Planning for World Youth Day will be a feature of the second session of the Conference. World Youth Day, to be celebrated on March 25, 1955, is keyed to the theme “World Peace Through World Faith”.

BAHA’I ON THE CAMPUS

The Baha’i Club at Wayne University has been recognized as an official religious organization on campus and has become a member of the Campus Inter-Faith Council.

At the University of Utah, the editor of the campus literary magazine accepted an article on the Faith.

Baha’i activities at Stanford University include public meetings, integrated with radio and poster publicity.

Baha’i representatives to the Student Religious Council of Northwestern University conducted the other Council members through the Baha’i House of Worship in Wilmette. Baha’is are represented not only on the Council but in the International Student Committee, the Human Relations Committee and a committee planning “Religious Emphasis Week”.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Baha’is of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, begin a series of public meetings on January 14 with a talk by Mr. William DeForge, member of the Auxiliary Board.

Through the National City, California, Assembly, window displays which attracted much attention were arranged in Coronado, California.

Anchorage and Anchorage Recording District, Alaska, report a highly successful December public meeting in the studios of station KENI. Regular fireside meetings held on several nights of the week in different homes provide opportunity for interested contacts to learn more of the Faith.

Baha’is of Peoria, Illinois, concerned over the National Fund, resolved to say a prayer especially for the fund daily at noon for the next two Baha’i months.

The Ada County Spiritual Assembly, Boise, Idaho, has approached the editors of the four county newspapers by presenting each of them a Baha’i calendar.

The Stockton, California, Baha’i Group arranged for the presentation of Baha’u’llah and the New Era to Stockton College and of Some Answered Questions to the College of the Pacific.

In Dover, Delaware, the Christmas Eve issue of the Delaware State News carried an eight-inch article on the Baha’i Faith on the front page.

Devolotional Program guide

AUDIO-VISUAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Audio-Visual Education Committee announces the following teaching materials which will be of assistance to Baha’is in advancing the Ten-Year Global Crusade.

Filmstrip . . . Haifa, a Name You Will Remember . . . $2.00. 65 frames. In color with script.

Filmstrip rental catalogue on request.

Slides . . . 12 teaching sets (list and prices on request), as well as Temple, Haifa, Conference and Temple Dedication slides in small packets to supplement personal collections. (A complete slide supplement will be sent on request.)

Sound media . . . Send for bulletin supplement on sound tapes and records. Tapes are now available with all Baha’i and non-Baha’i materials recorded and ready for use at fireside and public meetings, for the price of the tapes only. Tapes on rental basis.

Photographs and posters . . . Special bulletin sent on request, listing all posters and photographs in color or the Intercontinental Conferences, the Temple Dedication, and World Crusade. Assemblies may purchase photographs on a time plan to enable them to augment the local fund through distribution of these pictures.

If interested in purchasing tape recorders, record players or photography equipment, the committee can be of assistance in securing discount rates since it is a recognized distributor for certain firms handling such items.

Audio-Visual Education Committee

Archie G. Tichenor, Secretary

126 Evergreen Place

West Englewood, New Jersey.

Learning to Know God

(The) energies with which the Day Star of Divine bounty and source of heavenly guidance hath endowed the reality of man lie . . . latent within him even as the flame is hidden within the candle and the rays of light are potentially present in the lamp. The radiance of these energies may be obscured by worldly desires even as the light of the sun can be concealed beneath the dust and dross which cover the mirror. Neither the candle nor the lamp can be lighted through their own unaided efforts, nor can it ever be possible for the mirror to free itself from its dross. It is clear and evident that until a fire is kindled the lamp will never be ignited, and unless the dross is blotted out from the face of the mirror it can never represent the image of the sun nor reflect its light and glory.

Gleanings from the Writings of Baha’u’llah—Pages 65-66.

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Baha’i House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Baha’is and guests. Choral selections are by the Baha’i House of Worship A Cappella Choir.

The programs for the month of January follow:

Order of Devotions—January 2, 1955

O men! This is a matchless Day. Mankind must, likewise, be the lamp that celebrateth the praise of the Desire of all nations, and matcheth the deed that asprench it be acceptable in His sight. The whole human race hath longed for this Day, that perchance it may fail that which until besometh its station, and is worthy of its destiny.

—Baha’u’llah

CHORAL SELECTION

Arise, O God, and Show Thy Might — Hayden M. Morgan

Baha’i SACRED WRITINGS

Prayers and Meditations, XXXI, pp. 35-36

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalms 34; Micah 4: 1-5

NEW TESTAMENT

Revelation 3: 1-5

QUR’AN

Sura LXXV: 1-12

CHORAL SELECTION

The Lord’s My Shepherd — arr. Gordon Jacob

Baha’i SACRED WRITINGS

Gleanings, CVI, p. 213; XVI, p. 30; VII, p. 19

Gleanings, IV, p. 4; V, p. 7; The World Order of Baha’u’llah, pp. 106-107

Prayers and Meditations, CVL, p. 248

CHORAL SELECTION

Dimitri T. Zong — Dimitri Botrialskys

Order of Devotions—January 9, 1955

It is evident that the softest mansions in the Realm of Immortality have been ordained as the habitation of them that have truly believed...
in God and in His signs. Death can never
injure that holy sect. — Bahá'u'lláh

CHORAL SELECTION
Give Ear unto My Prayer — Arcadelt

BAHÁ'I SACRED WRITINGS
Prayers and Meditations, pp. 278-279

BHAGAVAD-GITA (HINDU SCRIPTURES)
The Ordinances of Manu

OLD TESTAMENT
Psalm 22
NEW TESTAMENT
I Corinthians 15:39-50, 54

QUR'AN
Sura XXIX: 66; Sura XLI: 30-32; Sura
XXVII: 17, 19; Sura XVI: 32, 34; Sura
XXIV: 42

CHORAL SELECTION
O Song unto the Lord — Hassier

BAHÁ'I SACRED WRITINGS
Gleanings, pp. 158-159; pp. 155-156; pp. 156-
157; pp. 150-151
The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh, From the
Arabic, 32, 33, 34; Gleanings, p. 141

Prayers and Meditations, XXVIII, p. 20

CHORAL SELECTION
Laud His Name — Ivanoff

Order of Devotions—January 18, 1955
Religion is the greatest of all means for the
establishment of order in the world and for
the peaceful contentment of all that dwell
therein.

BAHÁ'I SACRED WRITINGS
Bahá't Prayers, p. 50
The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, pp. 156-157;
Gleanings, p. 141

CHORAL SELECTION
Let All the Nations Praise the Lord — Volck-
mar Liebling

OLD TESTAMENT
Isaiah 2:2-3; 9:5-7; 52:7-10

NEW TESTAMENT
Matthew 3:9-15; Revelation 21:1-7

CHORAL SELECTION
Glory to God is the Highest — G. B. Perigree

BAHÁ'I SACRED WRITINGS
254

Bahá't Prayers, p. 79

CHORAL SELECTION
In Soliloquy Silence — Ippolito-Ivanoff

Order of Devotions—January 23, 1955
Man should know his own self, and know
those things which lead to loftiness or to
abasement, to shame or to honor, to influence
or to poverty. — Bahá'u'lláh

CHORAL SELECTION
Sing and Rejoice — Haydn

BAHÁ'I SACRED WRITINGS
Prayers and Meditations, pp. 64
Gleanings, pp. 65-66; p. 13

Bahá't World Faith, pp. 167-168

OLD TESTAMENT
Psalm 1

NEW TESTAMENT
Luke 4:11-13

QUR'AN
Sura VII: 52-53

CHORAL SELECTION
Create in Me, O God — Brahms

BAHÁ'I SACRED WRITINGS
Gleanings, pp. 17-18; The Hidden
Words of Bahá'u'lláh, From the Arabic,
No. 12, 13

Prayers and Meditations, CLXXIII, p. 204

CHORAL SELECTION
Go Not Far from Me, O Lord — Haydn M.
Morzin

Order of Devotions—January 30, 1955
The essence of religion is to testify unto that
which the Lord hath revealed, and follow that
which He hath ordained in His mighty Book.

BAHÁ'I SACRED WRITINGS
Alkiviad — Randall Thompson

BAHÁ'I SACRED WRITINGS
Prayers and Meditations, XLVII, p. 69
Gleanings, pp. 64-65, 67-68

CHORAL SELECTION
If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments —
W. E. Monk

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT
John 15:1-12

QUR'AN
Sura 11:172

BAHÁ'I SACRED WRITINGS
Bahá't World Faith, pp. 160-161
Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, pp. 25-26
Prayers. and Meditations, XLII, p. 59

CHORAL SELECTION
From the Sweet-Scented Streams (Prayer of
Bahá'u'lláh) — Charles Wolcott

PUBLICATIONS

Life Eternal. Excerpts from the
Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-
Bahá, compiled by Mary Rumsey
Movius. An unexpected acquisition
has made a limited number of these
books available. The Publishing
Committee does not anticipate any
further supply once the present stock
is depleted. 178 pages. Beautifully
bound in light blue linen, stamped in
genuine gold.

Per copy.................. $2.50

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HOLY DAYS
March 21, Feast of Naw-Rúz

PERIOD OF THE FAST
March 2 - 20

FEASTS
February 7—Mulk, Dominion
March 2—'Alá', Loftiness
March 21—Bahá, Splendor

INTERCALARY DAYS
Ayyám-i-Há, February 23 through
March 1.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
February 11, 12, 13
March 25, 26, 27

BAHÁ'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP
Visiting hours
Weekdays and Saturdays:
1:00 P.M.—4:00 P.M.
(tthe Auditorium only will be
open)

Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
(the entire building will be open)

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30
P.M., lasting until 4:15 (No guided
tours will be conducted during the
program of worship.)

Holy days and Anniversaries cele-
brated at the Bahá'í House of Wor-
ship
Feast of Naw-Rúz, March 21

Holy Days and Anniversaries cele-
brated at the Bahá'í House of Wor-
ship are open to the public. The
meeting begins at 8:00 P.M. of the
day preceding the anniversary
date.
IN MEMORIAM

"Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life."

—BAHA’U’LLAH

Mrs. Howard Wagner
Shelter Island,
Long Island, New York
January 2, 1954

Mrs. Mildred Jenkins
Orange, New Jersey
October 4, 1954

Mr. Louis Keller
Orlando, Florida
November 23, 1954

Mrs. Ellen A. Baptie
Seattle, Washington
November 30, 1954

Mrs. Frances Kuphal
Sacramento, California
December 9, 1954

Mr. James M. Sanders
Detroit, Michigan
December 11, 1954

Mrs. Gertrude Stuven
Bradenton, Florida
December 21, 1954

Mrs. W. H. Lanier
Augusta, Georgia
(date not reported)

Dr. Robert D. Love
Niles, Michigan
(date not reported)

Mrs. Chant, whose death was reported by error, is not a Baha’i.

Mr. William Loveday, Burlington, Vermont, whose name appeared in the October “In Memoriam”, is still living.

BAHA’I DIRECTORY CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

BAHA’I SCHOOL COMMITTEES

Geyserville Baha’i School
Mr. A. C. Ioas, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Inez Dones, Secretary, 933 Addison St., Berkeley 2, California

Mr. Adolph Boesch
Mrs. Alla Daksherhof
Mr. Ray Dones
Mr. Richard Groger
Mrs. Roderic Haake
Mrs. Clare Irwin
Mrs. Harry Irwin
Mr. Thomas Listot
Mr. Michael Marney

Green Acre Baha’i School
Dr. Genevieve M. Coy, Chairman
Miss Vera Olsen, Secretary, 9W. 72nd St., New York 23, N.Y.

Mrs. Mary Swan
Mrs. Marion Mills
Miss Dorothea Morrell
Mr. Rafi Motahedeh
Mr. Rustam Payman

Louhelen Baha’i School
Miss Violet Wuerfel, Chairman
Miss Louhelen Egleston, Secretary, 3240 S. State Road, Davison, Michigan

Mr. Robert Gaines
Mrs. Dorothy Hoffman
Mrs. Helen McClusky
Mr. Richard Maines

Temerity Baha’i School
Mrs. Marion Land Tyler, Chairman
Mrs. Gladys Roberts, Secretary, 915 N. Hancock Ave., Colorado Springs, Colorado

Mr. John Conkling

Miss Ophelia Crum
Mrs. Wallace Mankin
Mrs. Louile Mathews

Mrs. Mariette Peterson
Dr. Walter Peterson, Jr.

CONSOLIDATION

National Youth
Mrs. Valerie Rassekh, Secretary, P.O. Box 1053, Stanford, California (change)
Miss Karin Hogberg (delete)
Mr. Ben Bentley (delete)
Mr. Jerry Sandusky (add)
Mrs. Luba Sandusky (add)

Assembly Secretaries

California (South)
West Hollywood: Mr. Robert H. King, 610 North Robertson Boulevard, Hollywood 46

Colorado
Denver: Mrs. Barbara Jackson, 1235 Glencoe Street
Jefferson County: Mrs. Marion Land Tyler, Secy. pro-tem, Route 2, Morrison

Massachusetts
Worcester: Mrs. Jenny Jones, 32 Clark Street

New York (West)
Hamburg Twp.: Mrs. Ruth Thorpe, 510 South Park Avenue, Hamburg

Wisconsin
Brookfield Twp.: Mrs. Martha Marquardt, Route 4, Box 357, Waukesha

Wyoming
Laramie: Mrs. Nathelle E. Orr, Secy. pro-tem, Box 112

BAHA’I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Baha’i World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHA’I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1954-1955: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Managing Editor; Mr. David Ned Blackmer, Assistant Editor; Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Edna True.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahai Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

FEBRUARY, 1955

Mrs. Horace Parker
North Hampton, New Hampshire
(date not reported)

Mr. Frank Martin Summers, Jr.
East St. Louis, Illinois
(date not reported)
WORLD CRUSADE

Second Stage

The Guardian's recent messages to the National Assembly have called for completion of certain tasks before the end of this Bahá'í year. These tasks are difficult but do not carry the element of the spectacular which cast a warm glow on the pioneer missions stressed during the first stage.

The tasks of the second stage are the acquirement of Haírátul-Quds in a number of cities, and the translation and publication of Bahá'í texts in native languages of Europe and the Western Hemisphere.

The whole story cannot yet be told but it is gratifying to report that Haírátul-Quds have been acquired in Tokyo, Suva, Lima, Panama City and Bern, and a suitable property in Anchorage seems assured. Thus are Bahá'í institutions being planted in far-flung areas for which the Bahá'ís of the United States are responsible. This process of establishing the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh intensifies even as the tragic problems of the old order appear to approach the stage of climax.

Moreover, the Temple Trustees have executed a contract for the completion of the landscape design, somewhat simplified (with the Guardian's approval) but preserving the organic beauty and dignity of Mr. Dahi's concept. Finally, the type of Bahá'í Home to be constructed as the first Temple accessory has been indicated by the Guardian and the first step toward construction taken in working out the site with the authorities of Wilmette Village.

The second stage of the World Crusade calls for expenditure of considerable funds. Herein lies the field of sacrifice for the believers all along the home front where must be generated the power of fulfilling the Guardian's World Crusade goals until 1963.

As we live from day to day in a spiritual world imbued with divine assurance, while the outer world sees the dark shapes of menace, we might well ponder over and over again the heart of Shoghi Effendi's great summons of July, 1954, that we as Bahá'ís must be willing to sacrifice life and fortune for the Cause of God.

—National Spiritual Assembly

HOLY DAYS RECOGNIZED

The latest city in which Bahá'í children may have excused absences from school on Bahá'í Holy Days is Detroit, Michigan.

The Spiritual Assembly received the news in a letter written by the Assistant Superintendent on January 6, 1955.

—National Spiritual Assembly

STATE CONVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations reported by the various State Convention Officers were carefully considered at the January meeting of the National Spiritual Assembly and action recorded on each.

Many recommendations involved suggestions about the method, time or place of future Conventions, and all these were compiled and set aside for consideration by the incoming National Spiritual Assembly when planning the State Conventions for 1956.

A few recommendations were more or less local in character; for example, the suggestion that the Area Teaching Committee hold conferences in goal cities of that area; or that the National Spiritual Assembly explain where assemblies may be formed in a certain Territory where civil areas are different than in the States.

Appropriate action was taken on all these localized matters.

As for the recommendations of general interest and importance, the actions taken are summarized as follows:

1. That the Resolve Plan be continued: referred to the Treasurer.
2. That the child education activities be further developed: to be considered by the incoming National Spiritual Assembly; but meanwhile local

HOW TO ASSIST THE PIONEERS

Individual Bahá'ís and Local Assemblies ask how they can contribute to the pioneer teaching work throughout the world. In certain cases, the question is one about correspondence, in others it involves offers of assistance.

Since the pioneers are uppermost in our hearts at this time, the National Assembly feels that the most effective manner in which to serve the pioneers is to channel through the National Bahá'í Fund all contributions intended specifically for assisting the pioneer teaching work. By so doing the friends will eliminate confusion, duplication of effort, and even possible inequities.

The pioneer work has become a great collective enterprise, and through the services of the Intercontinental and National Teaching Committees the National Assembly maintains watchfully the valiant little forces encamped along the frontiers of the Bahá'í World.

—National Spiritual Assembly
Assemblies have been requested to report on their child education materials and methods, so that the field may be surveyed.

3. Suggestions about teaching work and the allocation of prospective settlers were referred to the American National Teaching Committee.

4. As recommended, Miss Charlotte Linfoot's comments at the 1954 Convention are being published in Bahá'í News; and Horace Holley's talk at an Area Conference in Temple Foundation Hall is also being published in Bahá'í News.

5. To a special committee has been referred a request for a study course on the lives of the prophets, the religions they founded and the civilizations they established.

6. Several recommendations about assistance to correspondence with the pioneers are being discussed in Bahá'í News.

7. The United Nations Committee has been asked to consider some comments about a conference in which Bahá'í delegates participate annually.

8. Concerning the recommendation that the teaching structure include both Area and Regional Committees, the National Spiritual Assembly recorded the fact that the Guardian instructed that a simpler structure be established. This eliminates much administrative detail and leaves a large number of experienced believers free for teaching work.

9. The idea that the believers should be informed more frequently of the bounty of unity and regularity in giving to the Cause was transmitted to the Treasurer.

10. Some recommendations about new types of literature needed were referred to a special committee of the National Spiritual Assembly.

11. As requested, the text of the National Spiritual Assembly message to State Conventions is being published in Bahá'í News, with regret that the Intercontinental Teaching Committee messages cannot also be published.

12. One Convention expressed the need for clarifying the matter of credentials of Bahá'ís from other countries. When such credentials are sent to the National Spiritual Assembly, United States credentials are provided for the visiting believer.

13. Recommendation that a Special Project for Hazíratu'l-Quds be published in Bahá'í News, to attract contributions for the purchase of the eight Hazíratu'l-Quds to be acquired this year: the National Spiritual Assembly view is that individuals and communities can assist in their purchase by more generous and sacrificial contributions to the National Fund.

14. As result of a State Convention recommendation, the National Spiritual Assembly is publishing in Bahá'í News a list of references to subjects in Bahá'í history and current practice which new believers can use in order to become more familiar with the community and better fitted to serve.

15. Again the need is expressed for a list of questions which are frequently asked about the Faith, with the answers. One of the friends has been requested to prepare such a digest.

16. As requested, action has been taken to make available an annual index to Bahá'í News.

17. Concerning the need for material on the right English pronunciation of Persian words, the National Spiritual Assembly is glad to report that a Bahá'í Glossary by Marzieh Gail is to be published and will meet this need.


19. An item has been published in Bahá'í News suggesting that the local Bahá'í address be given for listing in directories issued by Chambers of Commerce.

20. The recommendation about a Glossary has already been met.

21. The wish for a loose-leaf administrative manual is one which the National Spiritual Assembly cannot fulfill, as the Guardian has forbidden any more administrative statements. The Bahá'í Community contains all necessary information.

22. The request for advice about joining certain organizations: The National Spiritual Assembly view is that while there are many organizations which render humanitarian service reflecting Bahá'í ideals, the direct promotion of the Faith should be the foremost concern of every believer. When good contacts can be made without interfering with Bahá'í work, membership is permitted.

23. The recommendation that a national radio program be considered in which local communities could make a local tie-in: the Na-
BAHÁ’I NEWS

nental Spiritual Assembly encourages
the use of radio by local communities
and traveling teachers, but funds do not permit a sustained na-
tional program.

24. That the National Spiritual
Assembly request the Audio-Visual
Education Committee to consider
making film shorts of Shrines, Temples
and other Bahá’í places of public
interest for use in television sta-
tions in periods of open time. This
recommendation has been referred
to the Committee.

25. That the publication of World
Order Magazine would be welcomed
by believers: the National Spiritual
Assembly hopes that an American
Bahá’í magazine can again be issued
in the coming years.

26. That believers in goal cities
make surveys on jobs, housing, etc.,
for prospective pioneers: this has
been referred to the American Na-
tional Teaching Committee.

27. That Area Teaching Commi-
teetee bulletins be sent to every
believer in communities of less than
15. The National Spiritual As-
ssembly approves this distribution
to believers in communities receiving
direct assistance from the Area Com-
mmittee.

28. That a compilation on Bible
prophecy and Bible teachings be pub-
lished: the National Spiritual As-
ssembly recorded the view that
predictions must be borne in mind
in the drafting of letters. Believers desiring
to contribute literature to pioneers
can consult one or more of the
four Intercontinental Teaching Com-
mittes.

Africa Teaching Committee
Mrs. Sylvia Parmelee, Secretary
4700 47th St., N.W., Washington 15, D.C.

Asia Teaching Committee
Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Secretary
112 Linden Ave., Wilmette, Ill.

European Teaching Committee
Mrs. Julia Shows, Secretary
4405 Kirk St., Skokie, Ill.

Western Hemisphere Teaching Comm.
Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, Secretary
73 College Road, West, Princeton, N.J.

WHAT ARE GOAL CITIES
AND WHY?

One of the objectives of the World
Crusade is to raise the number of Local
Spiritual Assemblies in the United States
to 500 by 1953, almost doubling the number existing at the
beginning of 1953.

How is this goal to be accom-
plished? Will it be done through the
voluntary dispersal of Bahá’ís from
the larger centers? Or must we un-
dertake an intensive campaign of
opening new centers involving, pos-
sibly, the use of funds urgently
needed for the World Center and
other intercontinental objectives?
These questions had to be answered
at once.

The moving of numbers of Bahá’ís
to each of 150 localities would be an
almost impossible task in face of the
need for pioneers abroad. And it
would not solve the pressing need
for many more new believers to aid
and participate in the growing ac-
tivities of the Faith.

After careful surveys, study and
consultation, the National Spiritual
Assembly adopted the following four-
point plan:

1. In each state having only one
local Spiritual Assembly, at least
one other town or city was selected
as a place where intensive effort
would be made to establish another
assembly, thus strengthening the
Faith in those particular states. In
some cases the only assembly in the
state had reverted to group status.

2. That the National Spiritual
Assembly re-evaluate the method of
raising funds at local and national
levels: this matter has been referred
to the Treasurer.

3. That the National Spiritual
Assembly appoint a group of highly
qualified speakers to travel where
necessary: the National Spiritual
Assembly appreciates the value of this
idea but cannot undertake the cost
at the present time.

32. That correspondents be
appointed among believers confined
to their homes, but able to reach others
through correspondence teaching:
local Assemblies are encouraged to
carry out this suggestion within their
own communities.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

CORRESPONDENCE
WITH PIONEERS

A State Convention recommended
that the National Spiritual Assembly
explain in Bahá’í News how be-
lievers on the home front can send
letters to pioneers who desire Bahá’í
correspondence.

Before entering into correspond-
ence with Bahá’ís pioneering in other
lands, it is essential to take the
matter up first with the Intercon-
tinental Teaching Committee serv-
 ing the particular area. It is not
merely a question of obtaining
names and correct addresses, but
of guidance as to areas where cor-
respondence is open and those where
great care must be taken in the
drafting of letters. Believers desiring
to contribute literature to pioneers
can also consult one or more of the
four Intercontinental Teaching Com-
mittes.

TEME MODEL CAN BE PURCHASED

Through the efforts of Mr. John T. Blum-
berg this very attractive Temple model
 has been designed and put into produc-
tion. The accompanying illustration
shows that the details of the exterior
ornamentation have been carefully re-
produced. The model measures 11½”
wide by 9½” in height. It is cast in a
very strong plaster, resisting damage.
Orders can be placed through the Bahá’í
Sales Committee at a cost of $15.00 each,
carefully packed, express charges col-
hect. Send orders to Mr. H. E. Walrath,
Chairman, at 809 West Foster, Chicago
40, Illinois.

The model has been copyrighted by the
National Spiritual Assembly, naming Mr.
Blumberg as designer.

The friends can make effective use of
this unique and portable Temple model
in local Centers, for occasional local dis-
play as on World Religion Day, at public
meetings, at State and County Fairs, and
for presentation to a Museum, Library or
University. The Publishing Committee
can fill orders for the Temple folder
(Bahá’í House of Worship: 10 copies $5.00,
100 copies $4.50) which can well be used
in connection with a Temple model
display.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
nated as a “virgin goal.” If there were one or more resident Bahá’ís, it was called a “consolidation goal.” Altogether the plan included 40 virgin goals to be settled by Bahá’í pioneers in the same manner as goal areas abroad.

2. In the larger states whose several assemblies were clustered in close proximity, certain goals in the outlying areas were selected in order to broaden the base of the Faith in those states and to reduce the immense distances between many Bahá’í communities.

3. Since it was reasonable to expect that the larger Bahá’í groups would be the seed-beds for many of the new assemblies, the 133 consolidated goals included localities having four, five or more resident Bahá’ís who, through redoubled efforts and with the assistance of area and extension teaching committees, could assure a healthy increase in the number of new assemblies each year during the Crusade.

4. Finally, in order that Bahá’ís who could not disperse might take part in the Crusade, there were included in the total of 173 goals certain localities within easy travel distance from established communities where extension teaching could be easily carried on under the general direction of the area teaching committee.

The list of these virgin and consolidation localities, compiled in this manner and for these reasons, was announced in Bahá’í News (July 1954) and in special bulletins to serve as a guide to believers wishing to pioneer at home or to extend their teaching service beyond the local community. It is an orderly plan through which the goal can be accomplished, while at the same time establishing a network of Bahá’í administrative centers over the length and breadth of the United States, and diffusing the Teachings among a greater number of people in all states.

It must be pointed out, however, that this plan does not confine teaching activities to the towns and cities listed as either virgin or consolidation goals. All new localities that achieve assembly status will contribute to the achievement of the objective. Therefore, all local assemblies that are able to do so have been encouraged to carry on extension work in any localities that will produce assemblies, although it is expected that they will give consideration first to the announced goals.

Furthermore, any Bahá’í wishing to disperse to some new locality not listed as a goal city is free to do so, but it should be understood that that locality becomes his personal goal and challenge, and while he may indeed rely upon the confirmation of Bahá’u’lláh and the cooperation of the area teaching committee, he cannot count upon other settlers joining him until all the other goals have been assured.

It will be seen that this plan, which has been approved by the Guardian, provides a challenge and an opportunity for every individual Bahá’í, every group and every local Spiritual Assembly to take part in the campaign for 300 assemblies. The underlying purpose is to marshal and deploy our teaching resources, to ensure steady progress toward victory and to give meaning and direction to the act of dispersal on the home front.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

REFERENCES FOR NEW BELIEVERS

The following list of references to various Bahá’í publications is intended to provide the thoughtful new believer with a reading list which will make him familiar with current Bahá’í history and practice, thus greatly shortening the period of time needed to bring out his fullest capacity to teach the public and serve the Faith. Local Spiritual Assemblies will also find the list a useful guide in conducting deepening classes for new Bahá’ís.

1. Fundamental beliefs — The Dispensation of Bahá’u’lláh.
3. Functions of Bahá’í institutions; administrative practices — The Bahá’í Community, Bahá’í Administration.
4. Legal documentation — Declaration of Trust and By-Laws.
8. Bahá’í history, and development of the Faith in the East and the West—God Passes By.
9. Committee functions and activities — Annual Reports published by the NSA and issued to every Bahá’í. (Ask some Bahá’í friend to lend you his last copy.)
10. Unfoldment of the Covenant and the Bahá’í Administrative Order — The Covenant and Administration (Institute material).
13. Current international activities in general — The Bahá’í World, especially Volumes X and XI.

For special subjects related to the teachings, consult books and pamphlets listed in current Bahá’í literature catalog.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

FOR PUBLIC LISTING OF FAITH

In accordance with a State Convention recommendation, the National Spiritual Assembly suggests that local Assemblies take steps to have their address or meeting place listed in the manual or directory issued by Chambers of Commerce in the larger towns and cities.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

BAHÁ’Í NEWS FILE COPIES

Bahá’í news wishing to complete their files of Bahá’í News will have opportunity during the Convention to purchase missing numbers beginning with No. 50, at 10 cents per copy or three for 25 cents. The supply of certain issues is very limited, hence it is a case of first come—first served. It would expedite service if a list of the desired numbers were prepared in advance and handed to the Bahá’í who will have charge of the sales table in Foundation Hall.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE BAHÁ'ÍS?

By Horace Holley

(Conclusion)

This afternoon you have had presented to you the Guardian's most recent general letter (American Bahá'ís in the Time of World Peril) about the danger in which the nation finds itself, and his consummate appeal to the individual soul. Therefore we come again to a time of tests.

Perhaps we might approach it this way: that in the condition of faith, we are re-born into a realm where we can no longer have a private personal mind, and where we can no longer have delimited personal feelings because the truth of God operates upon that plane, and when our understanding is opened, the realm of universal truth floods us from the most humble to the wisest. There is no distinction; that universal truth of God penetrates and illuminates; and since the same truth passes through all people of illumined understanding, this is what is meant by unity.

Unity is not the formal agreement that people make when they decide to get along together, as though they might as well do it as comfortably as possible with as few disputes as possible. Unity is the oneness of God projected into human understanding, and when the heart is opened on that plane, divine love pours through and that love is the same love that God gives to all other hearts that are bound to Him, and so the hearts are bound together in one love and this is not the inconstancy of personal affection. It is steadfast and eternal. So when we by faith attain even the faintest realization of the miracle that God wants to achieve within every one of us, we lose our sense of the Ten-Year Plan as being supremely difficult. Oh, it costs so much! Oh, it takes away our best workers! Can we do it in ten years? Really that is not the point. The point is, do we live in a world of faith, or do we remain in a world of human doubt, human inertia, human indifference? Because in God's world, things are done.

Now, let us think for a moment. Here is a pioneer. This pioneer has gone to a far-off area, of different race, different religion, different language; and the American pioneer, whom we have known personally perhaps, responding to the call, establishes residence in that far-off goal. Well, God is there. He is not held back by geographical limitations of the human body, and surely in that area, if the pioneer has the light of the love of God in his heart, there are others capable of illumination in that mass of people.

Looking at it from the point of view of the individual pioneer, he sees thousands of people, he doesn't know one from the other, and what is he to do?

Well, if he remains in the condition of faith and illumination, I think God works this way. Off in this corner of the city, there is a person who has capacity, and God looks down and begins to move these little chessmen around on the board until finally in the most natural way the person of capacity and the pioneer meet, and if they are in the realm of spiritual consciousness, it is a true and eternal meeting even if they are unaware of it at first. There is confirmation.

So you see the work is done for us. Friends, if we do our share of
the work, which is to be fit for God to use, because God does not do His work with people who are too much tainted with the world, God sends us suffering, bitternesses that we need, in order to generate force enough to make the supreme step from the personal will to the will that is handed over to God.

In complete faith, God fulfills our hope if it is true, but He does not fulfill our wishes, and as long as we have the sense of wish uppermost in our mind, our Baha'i career is one of frustration. So you can see that the quicker we give up our will, the quicker that happiness and hope will come to us, because there is nothing for God to take away from us, He can only give. We create the things He has to take away and then we are upset, but if we give of ourselves, we've given all we've got. And it doesn't make any difference from a human point of view, what the capacity is, or the station in life, or the experience, or training, or anything. In the kingdom of God, there is an equality of being.

So friends, if we are asking ourselves, “What is happening to the Baha'is?” we are being torn in two, because the world is dragging us one way and Baha'u'llah is dragging us another, and the quicker we realize this, the sooner we can bring ourselves to a unity of being and give ourself to God to use; the better for us, the better for the Plan of God, the better for the great work the Guardian is carrying on in Haifa.

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MATERIAL FOR "THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD"

Will the friends please note that all material submitted to The Bahá'í World should now be sent to the Editorial Committee at the address given below. This Committee is assembling all material for the volume covering the two-year period April, 1954, to April, 1956. For the types of material requested, please refer to the Committee's "Call for Material" which was published in Bahá'í News, August, 1954, page 10.

Bahá'í World
Editorial Committee
Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Secy.
P. O. Box 285
Waukegan, Illinois

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WORLD CRUSADE

PIONEER LETTERS

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to share the following passage from pioneer letters, in accordance with its policy of keeping the Bahá'í world informed of the spirit and some of the incidents which characterize the unfoldment of the World Crusade.

Excerpt from Pioneer Letter to the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee

FRENCH GUIANA (Cayenne)

From Hart Friedland

Shortly after arrival, Hart reported:

"It looks promising in Cayenne... I am very happy to be able to serve our beloved Guardian here in French Guiana and no material discomforts will upset my equilibrium!"

In successive letters, this pioneer gives many interesting incidents and methods of teaching. He exchanges English for French lessons from 3 to 5 P.M. daily.

"Most of my teaching work goes on in the daytime because most people have to go to bed early, 9 P.M. (due to the mosquitoes)... At 5 P.M. I read again the New Era in French with a businessman in his store 'between sales'... the Director-Manager of two newspapers who is also the Director of the local Museum is reading the New Era... for the moment he seems most interested and sympathetic."

Two months later, this pioneer furnished a list of 65 contacts giving his evaluation of their reaction to the Faith as "sympathetic, uninterested or neutral." He predicts:

"One of these 65 names may be the first to accept the Faith in Cayenne, if it is the wish of Baha'u'llah."

One day, two men standing in front of a watch repair store whistled at this pioneer. He says:

"One of these or both of them had heard of the Cause and so now twice a week we discuss Bahá'í Teachings in their relation to the Christian Dispensation. The owner of the store is a liberal Roman Catholic who is delighted to open his shop after closing hours... he invites people to hear about the Cause... it is just a tiny shop which only holds about six people... Another meeting for a few people is held in a tailor shop at least twice a month."
FINAL APPEAL FROM THE AMERICAN NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

Moreover, in the traditions the terms "sun" and "moon" have been applied to prayer and fasting, even as it is said: "Fasting is illumination, prayer is light." (Kitáb-i-Iqán, page 39.)

It is with humbleness and great faith that the American National Teaching Committee enters the month of Fasting and Prayer—humbleness because of the deep sense of our individual inadequacy—faith because of our confidence in the Power in this Cause, and the hearts of the American believers. It is so entirely possible for the devotion of the American believers to fulfill every task assigned them in the great and holy Crusade. We ask every believer, as we near the close of the Second Year of this Crusade, to ask himself:

- Can I fill one of the remaining Virgin Goals?
- Can I add to the strength of a Consolidation Goal?
- Can my moving preserve a Spiritual Assembly—or perhaps assist in re-establishing one in a State now without such a focus for the Sun of Truth?
- Will I write, today, to my AMERICAN NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE, telling where I could go, what help I would need, how I can serve?

We trust the light and illumination of our combined prayers and fasting will raise up a true army of light to wrest complete victory from the forces of darkness and firmly establish the present goals of the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh in America.

We are waiting to hear from you all—and we have little time to wait before Bídván.

American National Teaching Committee,
725 South Alvarado Street,
Los Angeles, 57, California
Mrs. Jesma Herbert, Secretary

PIONEER LETTERS FROM GERMAN GOALS

The following excerpts from pioneer letters, translated from the Bahá’í Nachrichten of September-October 1954, speak eloquently of the sustaining power of Bahá’u’lláh.

FRISIAN ISLANDS (Sylt)
From Elsa Maria Grossmann.
September 3, 1954. "You can imagine how Bahá’í letters and news are a real breath of life to one on this far-off island, though night and day one is connected with the spiritual Homeland ... When everything in the world is going to pieces, we experience ever greater joy and are permitted to serve with our whole being a Cause which is striving, and will continue to stride, from victory to victory. This knowledge gives me such strength and faith, when standing here alone with my task and looking out on the boundless sea, that I feel this strength like something I can grasp in my hand ..."

CRETE
From Rolf Haug.
September 26 and October 14, 1954. "Only through His indescribable Bounty and Grace is one permitted to experience such a moment as I have just passed through—the great significance of this time spent in spirit and prayer when I dared to ask (a friend) the glorious question: 'Do you wish to become Bahá’í?' One cannot measure the rapture that seized us, when, after an affirmative answer, we united in prayer and begged for steadfastness and guidance ... We have been occupied especially with the messages of our beloved Guardian and set ourselves as goals the tasks which are his most longing wishes. They are dedicated goals and seem almost unattainable, but how can we put forth the idea of 'impossibility' when we are permitted to experience overwhelming proofs of the sure guidance of Bahá’u’lláh Himself! Our thoughts are often with you and all the other friends and we think also in prayer of your extremely difficult tasks.'"
The Evanston Hotel, 840 Forest Ave.  
Single $4, Double $6, Twin Beds $7  
The Georgian Hotel, 422 Davis Street  
Single $5.50 to $11, Double $9 to $11  
The North Shore Hotel, 1611 Chicago Ave.  
Single $5 and $5.50, Double $7  

Delegates and visitors wishing accommodations in private homes should send their request for reservations to:  
Mrs. Priscilla Hassan  
1244 Maple Street  
Wilmette, Illinois  
or to  
Mrs. Edna Coleman  
1227 Leon Place  
Evanston, Illinois  

Names and addresses of motels will be furnished on request.  

As announced in February Baha'i News, child care will be provided only during daytime sessions but the arrangements do not include care for infants or very young children requiring individual attention.  

The believers are again requested not to bring to the Convention any non-Baha'is, for they cannot be admitted to the sessions no matter how close to the Faith they may be. The Feast of Ridvan and the Baha'i Public Congress are the only occasions when non-Baha'is will be admitted.  

For the Baha'is arriving early, there will be an informal reception in Foundation Hall, Wednesday evening, April 27, at 8:00 p.m.  

Baha'i PRESS SERVICE  

World Religion Day 1955  

Reports received on the observance of World Religion Day, January 16, 1955, indicate a substantial increase in the number of public meetings and radio broadcasts, and in the use of newspaper publicity and advertising, and of displays in store windows and public buildings.  

Public meetings were reported by 154 communities, with many of the larger cities welcoming large numbers of contacts and new inquirers. The majority of programs featured Baha'i speakers; others included public figures from other fields, and the panel discussion type of presentation.  

The Albuquerque community departed from the usual pattern by scheduling fifteen-minute broadcasts on three radio stations, spaced throughout the day, in place of a public meeting. Post cards announcing the broadcasts were mailed to 1000 persons, and a group met to listen to the afternoon broadcast and to discuss the theme informally. The Assembly and radio stations received many favorable comments, indicating the value of this type of World Religion Day proclamation.  

Ten other communities — Yuma, Arizona; Arlington, Virginia; Salem, Oregon; Buffalo, New York; Montgomery, Alabama; Baltimore, Maryland; Kokomo and Logansport, Indiana; Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska—presented radio broadcasts from five to thirty minutes in length, some using Press Service tapes or scripts, others using original scripts written for the occasion. Two radio stations in Anchorage, Alaska, broadcast spot announcements for the public meeting and two stations gave fifteen-minute programs for the broadcast of tape recordings.  

Flint, Michigan, obtained twenty spot announcements on five local stations and one station each in Bay City, Owosso and Saginaw. Four stations in Chicago, three stations in Portland, Maine, and one station in Silver Springs, Maryland, and in Maui, Hawaii, broadcast spot announcements. In Baltimore, Baha'i speakers were guests during one-half of a fifteen-minute regular weekly program on two successive weeks. WMAR-TV in Baltimore telecast a fifteen-minute panel discussion featuring three Baha'i speakers and moderator. Boise, Idaho, reported use of a ninety-word announcement over KDIC-TV.  

Totals of newspaper publicity for World Religion Day reached a new high in proclaiming the Baha'i teachings through the press. Two hundred six newspapers in 148 cities carried a total of over 1100 column inches of publicity, with a combined circulation of 18,500,000 copies. Publication of the news releases was undoubtedly stimulated by the official recognition extended by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in their booklet Special Days, Weeks and Months for 1955.  

Posters carrying the World Religion Day announcement and a picture of the Temple were displayed in Indianapolis, Maui, Montgomery, and in Flint and eleven surrounding towns. Store windows, public libraries, hotels and public utility companies were used to present the message. In some communities this was supplemented with mailed notices and personal invitations to the public meetings.  

Results in all these phases of public relations emphasize the paramount importance of World Religion Day in proclaiming the Baha'i Faith, and show promise of even greater activity next year.  

—Baha'i Press Service  

PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTATIONS  

The Public Library Committee has appreciated very much the interest and activity of the librarians and other Baha'is who are placing books in libraries all over the country. At times our correspondence is voluminous, and, with work now beginning on the files of records, the Committee pleads for your tolerance and patience if answers to your letters are delayed.  

A few suggestions may be helpful to those wishing to give books to libraries:  

Know your Baha'i books and donate to libraries first those which will interest the public most. A dead book on the library shelves does not predispose the librarian to receive more of our books. See the suggested list in the December Baha'i News. It is not iron-clad but may be helpful.  

Be a user of the library yourself and, whenever possible, become acquainted with the librarian. When you are presenting books, it is a good idea to include a good general pamphlet which gives an over-all view of what the Faith stands for. We have found that the "yellow Temple pamphlet" is excellent for this purpose, as it was designed for mass presentation at the House of Worship.  

In an interview with the librarian, the subject heading "Baha'i Faith," not "Baha'i World Faith," should be suggested for use in library catalogues. Word from National Headquarters tells us that the latter terminology is used chiefly for promotional purposes. It is not wrong; but it is better for libraries to use, if possible, a uniform entry. We understand that the question of a proper subject heading is being discussed with the Library of Congress at the present time, and, if that institution agrees to adopt "Baha'i Faith" instead of "Baha'ism," which it uses
at present, it will be easier to persuade librarians to make the change in their local libraries. However, the Library of Congress leaves librarians free to do as they like. The University of Illinois Library, one of the largest in the country, has, at the suggestion of the local Library Committee, changed all its subject headings to the Dewey Decimal number 299.15, which brings them under the classification for the Muslim religion. The other libraries, not so designated but certainly the way most people would look for them at present, as the proper names are difficult to spell and almost impossible for the public to remember. This brings all Baha'i books together under one heading.

2. Baha'i books are classified under the Dewey Decimal number 299.15, which brings them under the number for "non-Christian religions." This is accurate enough and much better than 297, the number for the Muslim religion. The "15" stands for Iran, under a classification which stems from the Indo-European languages. Any librarian will understand this classification when she looks it up in the Dewey Decimal Classification.

Work with public libraries (and other libraries, not so designated but serving various groups of the public) can be a very important and valuable part of public relations, for they can make available the Teachings of our Faith in a direct and yet impersonal way to thousands of potential seekers who may not feel ready to attend meetings or welcome personal propaganda.

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE

AMERICAN INDIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE

"A New Day Comes" Booklet in Cherokee Language

The National Spiritual Assembly has approved the publication of a compilation of Baha'i Writings on which this Committee has been working for the last year and a half. The publication of this booklet, A New Day Comes, in the Cherokee language completes one of the World Crusade goals assigned to the American Baha'is. This booklet contains a short introduction to the Faith and excerpts from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. These excerpts illustrate The Oneness of Mankind, The Oneness of God, and The Oneness of The Planet. This booklet is available in Cherokee in limited numbers, without charge, to those who have opportunity to make use of them.

This pamphlet has also been published in English and copies are available without charge to the friends who are teaching or seeking to teach among the Indians.

A Brochure of Teaching Suggestions is now available for $.50 with corrected insert and supplement sheets. Those who have already purchased the brochure may secure these extra sheets without charge upon request. All orders and correspondence may be addressed to:

American Indian Service Committee

Mrs. Nancy Phillips, Secretary

736 Encanto Drive, S.E.

Phoenix, Arizona

BAHA'I IN THE NEWS

The Union of International Associations, Brussels, Belgium, has edited (with the collaboration of United Nations) and published a Yearbook of International Organizations, 1954-1955. Baha'i International Community, representing the twelve National Spiritual Assemblies in their collective relationship to the UN as an international nongovernmental organization, is listed and described on pages 267 and 268. This volume makes an excellent reference in contacts with libraries, universities and liberal peace and humanitarian organizations.

The House of Worship continues to be a favored subject for illustration. In The Evanston Review for January 13 and Wilmette Life for January 20, an advertiser takes space for a pen and ink sketch of the Temple as "impressive, descriptive, creative." The magazine supplement of The Chicago Daily Tribune for January 30 contains a very large illustration of the House of Worship in a series devoted to important places of interest in the city and environs of Chicago. A TV show broadcast from Chicago in January also depicted notable local places, including two different views of the Temple.

A press clipping received from Mexico is devoted to an article about Guy Murchie, "distinguished author from the United States," and his famous book Song of the Sky, mentioned in this column recently. The notice refers to him as a Baha'i, and carries a photograph of Mr. Murchie and his wife.

From our pioneer brother Dr. Wm. Kenneth Christian, we receive two references to the Faith taken from American Ways of Life by George R. Stewart, published by Doubleday & Co., New York:

"Some argue that the last three centuries have not been highly "creative" in religion anywhere, and that there has been more religious ferment in the United States than there has been anywhere else. But
this is doubtful. Baha'ism has perhaps affected the lives of more people than either Mormonism or Christian Science.”

“Within the last century the Salvation Army (originating in England) and Baha'ism (originating in Iran) furnish examples of religious bodies that have established themselves in the United States essentially not by immigration of people but by immigration of ideas.”


The Pacific edition of Army Times for January 5 has a column entitled “The Light Touch” in which a pun is made on the word “Baha'i”-evidence that the word is now well known and requires no interpretation.

Commerce, Chicago, for December, 1954, has an article “2,360 Churches Serve City,” which illustrates the Baha'i Temple, referring to it as “an impressive architectural achievement north of the city.”

Square and Compass, A Journal of Masonry, which goes to about ten thousand Masons in Colorado and has a national and international circulation, has an excellent article on the Faith by Cynthia Olson.

The February issue of The Spectator, published by Judy Publishing Co., Chicago, has a full-page article entitled “Baha'i” which is very well written.

BAHA'I NEWS MAILING

Each individual Baha'i receives his copy of Baha'i News by direct mail. Besides this or her personal copy, each Assembly secretary receives an additional copy for the Assembly file.

If there is more than one Baha'i in the family and one copy is sufficient, please notify the National Baha'i Administrative Headquarters, listing the members of the family and indicating the member to whom Baha'i News is to be mailed. We prefer not to address it to “Mr. and Mrs.” as this complicates our stencil system which is used for other purposes besides mailing Baha'i News.

Baha'i News cannot be forwarded. Therefore, if you are planning to be absent from home for a time, please request the person taking care of your mail to either hold your Baha'i News for your return, or to re-address it and re-stamp it for forwarding.

Changes of address should be reported directly to the National Baha'i Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Missoula, Montana, a virgin goal city a few months ago, now has nine settlers.

In Dover, Delaware, a chapel program was presented by Baha'is at the Delaware State College. Baha'i prayers opened and closed the meeting which featured a talk, “Introduction to the Baha'i Faith.”

The Baha'i communities of Kansas City and Leawood, Kansas, and Kansas City, Independence and Blue Township, Missouri, sponsor regular bi-monthly Sunday Baha'i school classes for children. Teachers serve in rotation from the several communities. Seven children of non-Baha'i parents are now attending. Classes for the parents are offered at the same times.

Baha'is of the Detroit, Michigan, area hold weekly devotional programs in the auditorium of State Hall at Wayne University. The readings follow the programs used at the Baha'i House of Worship, and tape-recorded music is played.

In recognition of the great need for funds and in answer to the appeal from the National Treasurer, the believers of Albuquerque, New Mexico, engaged in daily prayer for the specific purpose for 19 days beginning with the Feast of Honor.

For the sixth consecutive year a member of the Albuquerque, New Mexico Baha'i Community has addressed a class in “The Philosophy of Religions” at the University of New Mexico. The first invitation by the instructor has been repeated each semester that the class has been offered. This class—comparable to one on comparative religion—has a speaker from each of the major faiths and divisions whenever possible throughout the semester, and it is interesting to note that the Baha'i speaker is always invited to speak near the end of the semester. The Faith is recognized as the one which unifies all the faiths previously studied.

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Baha'i Youth were invited to provide a speaker for the Wesleyan Methodist Church at Mitchell, South Dakota, to address a group of college students. Many questions were asked and over 100 pieces of literature distributed in response to requests.

The Anchorage and Anchorage Recording District Local Spiritual Assemblies are sponsoring an eight-weeks’ class for the public on “Comparative Religion”. Special news
stories on the classes appeared in both the daily newspapers.

Inter-Racial work in Alaska continues with Baha’is functioning on the local NAACP in the positions of chairman of the executive board, chairman of the press and publicity committee, treasurer, chairman of the finance committee, and members of the community coordination committee.

In addition to regular fireside and deepening classes the Anchorage community has initiated public speaking classes and a group dynamics program.

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Baha’i House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Baha’is and guests. Choral selections are by the Baha’i House of Worship A Capella Choir.

The programs for the month of February follow:

Order of Devotions-February 6, 1955

The light of man is Justice, Quench it not with the contrary winds of oppression and tyranny. The purpose of justice is the appearance of unity among men. —Baha’u’llah

CHORAL SELECTION

Arts, O God, and Shone Thy Might—Haydn M. Morgan

BAHA’I SACRED WRITINGS

Prayers and Meditations, CLXIX, p. 99

HINDU SCRIPTURES (The Ordains of Manu)

OLD TESTAMENT

Sura XVI: 92, 93: Sura XVI: 153, 154

CHORAL SELECTION

Judaeus, O God—Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

BAHA’I SACRED WRITINGS

The Hidden Words of Baha’u’llah, From the Arabic, No. 65.

Gleanings, pp. 247-248; CXVI, p. 218; XII, p. 17

Prayers and Meditations, CXVI, p. 259

O Thou, by Whose Name (Prayer of Baha’u’llah)—Charles Wolcott

Order of Devotions-February 13, 1955

The Word of God is like unto a tree: its planting ground must be the heart of people. —Baha’u’llah

CHORAL SELECTION

Out of the Depths of My Heart—C. H. Trevor

BAHA’I SACRED WRITINGS

Prayers and Meditations, IV, p. 6

Gleanings, p. 97; XII, p. 206; CXIX, p. 300

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 19

NEW TESTAMENT

John 1:1-4: 14-17

CHORAL SELECTION

The Lord’s My Shepherd—arr. Gordon Jacob

ORDER OF DEVOCTIONS-FEBRUARY 20, 1955

Know ye not why We created you all from the same stuff? That no one should exalt himself over the other. Ponder at all times in your hearts how ye were created. Since We have created you all from one same substance it is incumbent upon you to be even as one soul, to work with the same feel, eat with the same mouth and dwell in the same land, that from your innocent being, by your deeds and actions, the signs of oneness and the essence of detachment may be made manifest.—Baha’u’llah

CHORAL SELECTION

O Cast Me Not Away from Thy Countenance—Johannes Brahms

BAHA’I SACRED WRITINGS

Prayers and Meditations, LXXIX, p. 14

Gleanings, No. 65: Gleanings, pp. 202-203; Gleanings, CXVI, p. 249

NEW TESTAMENT


QUR’AN

Sura XXII: 22

CHORAL SELECTION

He Shall Give His Angels Charge Over Thee—Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

BAHA’I SACRED WRITINGS

The Hidden Words of Baha’u’llah (from the Arabic, No. 65: Gleanings, pp. 218-219; The World Order of Baha’u’llah, pp. 263-264; Gleanings, CXVI, p. 249

OLD TESTAMENT

Proverbs 3:24-25; 13-15

NEW TESTAMENT

James 1: 3-4; 1 Corinthians 2: 3-16

CHORAL SELECTION

Our God Will We Praise—Sergius Rachmaninoff

Order of Devotions-February 27, 1955

Not man shall attain the shores of the ocean of true understanding except he be detached from all that is in heaven and on earth, sanctify your souls, O ye peoples of the world, that happily ye may attain that station which God hath destined for you.—Baha’u’llah

CHORAL SELECTION

Near My Crew, O God—Alexander Kopyloff

BAHA’I SACRED WRITINGS

Communion with God, p. 2

The Kitab-i-Irshad, pp. 68, 79, pp. 145-146

OLD TESTAMENT

Proverbs 3:1-5, 13-15

NEW TESTAMENT

James 1: 3-4; 1 Corinthians 2: 3-16

CHORAL SELECTION

Glory Not To The Holy Spirit—John Stainer

QUR’AN

Sura XXVIII: 71, 76-80

BAHA’I SACRED WRITINGS

Gleanings, pp. 209-210; The Kitab-i-Irshad, pp. 186-187

PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS, CXII, p. 118

CHORAL SELECTION

From the Elect's Chanted Streams (Prayer of Baha’u’llah)_—Charles Wolcott

PUBLICATIONS

Out of Stock

The Seven Valleys and the Four Valleys. By Baha’u’llah. The paper edition is temporarily out of stock. A new binding is being prepared, to be available about March 1. Orders are being recorded for shipment when available. Burgundy red paper cover, stamped in silver, 4 x 6 inches, an attractive companion volume to the paper edition of The Hidden Words.

Price remains ................................ $ .75

HOLY DAYS

March 21, Feast of Naw-Ruz, beginning the Baha’i Year 112.

April 21-May 3, Feast of Ridván (Declaration of Baha’u’llah)

April 21, First day of Ridván

April 29, Ninth day of Ridván

PERIOD OF THE FAST

March 22-21

FEASTS

March 2—‘Ala’, Loftiness

March 21—Bahá, Splendor

April 9—Jaláí, Glory

April 28—Jamál, Beauty

NATIONAL CONVENTION

April 28-May 1

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

March 25, 26, 27

April 27

BHA’I HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting hours

Weekdays and Saturdays: 1:00 P.M.—4:00 P.M.

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15. (No guided tours will be conducted during the program of worship.)

Holy days and Anniversaries celebrated at the Baha’i House of Worship

Feast of Naw-Ruz, March 21

Holy Days and Anniversaries celebrated at the Baha’i House of Worship are open to the public. The meeting begins at 8:00 P.M. of the day preceding the anniversary date.

MARRIAGES

“Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace . . . .”

—Baha’u’llah

IN MEMORIAM

"Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life."

—BAHÁ’U’LLÁH

Assembly Secretaries

California (South)
South Bay Jud., Dist.: Mrs. Ardis Bergeron, 15936 South Florwood, Lawndale

Illinois (North)
Wilmette: Mrs. Doris Holley, Secy. pro-tem. 536 Sheridan Road

Puerto Rico
(Area not defined): Miss Christine McKay, Ave. Ponce de Leon 762, Sanurce

South Dakota
Sioux Falls: Mrs. Corrine D. Chase; 614 North Minnesota Ave.

Consolidation

National Youth
Mr. John McHenry, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Valerie Rassekh, Secretary, P. O. Box 1053, Stanford, Calif.
Mr. Chris Cornell
Mr. Michael Marney
Miss Helena Somerhalder
Miss Gail Allen
Mr. Nasrollah Rassekh
Miss Eloise Mitchell
Mr. Jerry Sandusky
Mrs. Luba Sandusky

Area Youth Committees

Functions: To carry out and apply in their areas, the specific suggestions received from the National Youth Committee; to conduct regional Youth Conferences; to stimulate teaching activities by Bahá’í Youth in their areas; to encourage development of new local Youth groups; to submit report of Youth activities regularly to the National Youth Committee.

New England Area Youth Committee
Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island
Mr. Lance Mead, Chairman
Miss Margaret Doull, Secretary, 113 Congress Ave., Providence, R. I.
Miss Elizabeth Small
Mr. Chet Allen
Mr. Iraj Sabet

North Atlantic Area Youth Committee
New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
Mr. Kenneth Kalantar, Convener, 314 Washington Ave., Dumont, N. J.
Mr. Alex Shirley
Mr. Hormoz Sabet
Miss Penny Anderson
Miss Ellen Sue Weintrob

Miss Josephine Nelson
Los Angeles, California
December 29, 1954

Mr. Albert C. Sanders
Grand Rapids, Michigan
December 24, 1954

Mrs. Salome H. Engelder
Brecksville, Ohio
December 29, 1954

Mr. John Nunuziker
Shohomish, Washington
January 11, 1955

BAHÁ’I DIRECTORY CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

Central Atlantic Area Youth Committee
West Virginia, Virginia, Dist. of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina
Mrs. Caroline P. Wooten, Convener, 805 Watts St., Durham, N. C.
Mr. Ray Lippitt
Miss Quda Cooper
Mr. Richard Parmelee
Mr. John R. Nichols
Mr. Perry Gwain

Central States Area Youth Committee
Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa
Miss Georgia Halberstadt, Chairman
Miss Jane Gibson, Secretary, 514 Elmwood Ave., Wilmette, Ill.
Miss Carol Eggert
Miss Darlene Erickson
Mr. James Freeman
Mrs. Oliver Hardiman
Mrs. Peter McLarden

North Central States Area Youth Committee
North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska
Mrs. Vera D. Eirharta, Convener, 623 N. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls, S. D.
Mrs. Betty Dempster

Rocky Mountain States Area Youth Committee
Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming
Mrs. Janet L. Jones, Convener, 580 S. Franklin St., Denver, Colo.
Mr. Gilbert Grasselby
Pvt. Quentin Farrand

Southwestern Area Youth Committee
California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah
Mr. Stephen Powers, Chairman
Miss Judy Phillips, Secretary, 736 Encanto Dr., S. E., Phoenix, Ariz.
Mr. Wallace Heid
Miss Alfreda Tooma
Mr. Graham Stuart
Mr. Allen Ward

Northwestern States Area Youth Committee
Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana
Miss Alma Lu Schmidt, Convener, 825 East State, Boise, Idaho
Mrs. Donna Burroughs
Mr. Frank Ehrfurst, Jr.
Mrs. Frank Ehrfurst, Jt.
Mrs. Robbie Robinson
Miss Phyllis Rogers
Mr. Eddie Williams

BAHÁ’I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHÁ’I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1954-1955: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Managing Editor; Mr. David Ned Blackmore, Assistant Editor; Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Edna True. Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
THE GUARDIAN'S NAW-RÚZ MESSAGE

(On the) occasion (of the) Naw-Rúz Festival marking (the) opening (of the) auspicious year being celebrated (by the) followers (of the) Faith (in) approximately six hundred centers (in the) Western Hemisphere, above eight hundred (in) Asia, well nigh three hundred (in) Africa, more than two hundred (in) Europe and over one hundred (in the) Antipodes, (I) joyfully announce (the) commencement (of the) excavation (for the) foundations (of the) International Archives heralding (the) rise (of the) World Bahá'í Administrative Order (in the) Holy Land.

(I) announce moreover (the) selection (of the) design submitted (by) the Hand (of the) Cause, Mason Remy, for (the) projected Mother Temple (in) Bahá'u'lláh's native land, paving (the) way (for the) construction (of the) third Mashríqu'l-Adhkar (of the) Bahá'í world.

Urge followers (of the) Faith (in) Eastern (and) Western Hemispheres (to) arise (and) lend support (to the) erection (of these twin mighty institutions (of the) embryonic World Order (of) Bahá'u'lláh at (the) World Center (of the) Faith (and) within (the) cradle (of) His Revelation.

Share twin glad tidings (with) all National Assemblies.

March 20, 1955

COMMENTS: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
Beloved Friends:

The revered Guardian's Naw-Rúz Message comes as a great affirmation of the progress of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in its irresistible advance toward the fulfillment of the World Crusade.

It is, indeed, a "joyous announcement"!

First let us note that it is addressed to Bahá'ís in about 1600 localities of the West, more than 800 in the East, nearly 300 in Africa, over 200 in Europe and over 100 in the Antipodes. Thus we are part of a world community represented in approximately 3000 cities, towns and villages throughout the earth.

The beginning of preliminary work on the International Archives means not only the construction of one more imposing building on Mt. Carmel, but the first in a series of edifices which will establish the institutions of the Bahá'í World Administrative Order in the Holy Land. What are these institutions? They are the Soul, the Mind, the Heart, the Conscience and the Arms of Man! Nothing like them has ever or could ever have existed, because we have had only separate races, peoples and nations, and the majesty of their noblest institutions falls far short of those created by Bahá'u'lláh for the New Era.

Regarding the House of Worship to be constructed in Persia, we recall the request from Haifa published in Baha'i News last summer for suggestions and plans. Now the Guardian announces that the design prepared by Mason Remy, Hand of the Cause in the Holy Land, has been chosen. It will be a momentous event when a Bahá'í Temple is constructed and put into use in the land where the Faith was born and most bitterly resisted.

In conclusion the Guardian urges all Bahá'ís to lend support to the cost of these two great edifices, a privilege and a bounty to the people of Bahá.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

"GRIEVED PASSING ANNIE ROMER"

"Grieved passing Annie Romer, devoted, able promoter, pioneer (of) Faith. Services highly meritorious. Praying progress soul (in) Kingdom."—SHOGHI

LOCAL INCORPORATIONS

Four local Spiritual Assemblies have incorporated during the past few months: Ann Arbor, Michigan, November 15, 1954; Anchorage Re-

TEACHING MISSIONS BY MEMBERS OF AUXILIARY BOARD

Third Report by American Hands of the Cause

Since the second report published in the February, 1955, Baha'i News, vivid accounts have been received from Board members describing their visits to Bahá'í Centers.

William deForge has completed a mission in the Caribbean area, including visits in Kingston, Port Antonio and Spanishtown, Jamaica; Havana and Cienfuegos, Cuba; Point-au-Prince, St. Marc and Port Soude, Haiti; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Cities visited by Mr. deForge and not listed in previous reports include: Washington, D.C.; Wilmington, Delaware; Hartford, Connecticut; West Chester, Pennsylvania; Scranton, Pennsylvania; Beverly, Massachusetts; Brattleboro, Vermont; Ipswich, Massachusetts; Hamilton, Massachusetts; East Sullivan and Keene, New Hampshire; Buffalo, New York.

Margery McCormick returned to Michigan in February to visit centers not included in her previous mission: Marysville, Fort Huron, Dearborn, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, Muskegon and Niles. In April this Board member will go to communities and larger groups in Indiana and Illinois. Her January schedule, mentioned in the Second Report, carried her to Birmingham and Mobile, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; New Orleans, Louisiana; Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas.

Katherine McLaughlin has served in South America, addressing meetings in Lima, Peru; Guayaquil and Quito, Ecuador; Cartagena, Cali, Bogotá, Bucaramanga and Baranquilla, Colombia; Cabanas and Caracas, Venezuela; and two virgin goals—Margarita Island and Curacao, Dutch West Indies.

Dr. Sarah M. Pereira in February met with the Bahá'ís and addressed several meetings in Columbia, South Carolina, and Atlanta, Georgia.

Margot Worley reports visits to Rio de Janeiro (second visit); the Summer School, Lancoche, Chile, where she gave a course; the land purchased to be the site of the future Temple; in Chile, Santiago, Puerto Varas, and Puerto Montt, Chile; and Buenos Aires.

As reports are received from other members of the Auxiliary Board they will be summarized in Baha'i News.

It becomes clear that three services are being rendered by these missions: stimulus of the individual believer; increase of unity and knowledge for community and group; and effective contact with the public.

—AMERICAN HANDS OF THE CAUSE

Corinne True
Horace Holley
Paul E. Haney
HAZIRATU’L-QUDS IN BERN

The Haziratu’l-Quds of Bern has been purchased, thus fulfilling another important objective of the World Crusade. Announcement has been made by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Italy and Switzerland, with gratitude to the beloved Guardian and other donors of the Bahá’í world community whose generosity made possible the achievement of this task. The Guardian’s approval for the purchase was received on February 12, 1955, while members of the Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assembly were meeting in Bern. Final arrangements for taking over the building were completed on February 15. And on May 1 the Haziratu’l-Quds will be dedicated to the service of the Faith.

The Bern Haziratu’l-Quds, which in time will become the National Haziratu’l-Quds of Switzerland, is located at 13 Dufourstrasse, in the best part of Bern, near many embassies and fine homes. The building, in a row of houses, has a lawn and well-planted garden on the side away from the street. Two rooms, facing the garden, are being made into one larger room. Above the first floor there are six rooms.

This is the second Haziratu’l-Quds to be established in the countries of Europe which, during the Ten-Year Crusade, are working toward the erection of National Spiritual Assemblies, the other being in Paris.

HAZIRATU’L-QUDS IN ALASKA

The Anchorage Assembly has reported by telegram that a Haziratu’l-Quds was acquired on March 15, 1955. This property consists of a single story log and clapboard three-room house with a one-room studio attached, standing on a lot measuring 50 by 100 feet. It is located five blocks from Main Street.

The Haziratu’l-Quds Committee of the local Assembly has overcome many difficulties arising from housing shortage and high costs. One more goal of the World Crusade has been attained.

—National Spiritual Assembly

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CANADA

World Religion Day

In Halifax, Nova Scotia, on World Religion Day, a round table discussion was held. The local newspaper reported the event and the Universalist minister announced the meeting at his morning service.

The World Religion Day meeting in Moncton, New Brunswick, took the form of a panel discussion. In the audience was a doctor who had lived in Haifa for years, had known ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and treated members of His household. He spoke of the love that everyone had for “Sir ‘Abdu’l-Bahá” as he called Him. During the War, doctors were badly overworked and spent much time on their feet, he said. One day ‘Abdu’l-Bahá visited the hospital and presented one of the doctors with a pair of soft, red Persian slippers. This act was still vivid in the doctor’s memory.

A well-attended public meeting was held in the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa.

The London community marked the day by a public fireside.

In Charlottetown, the Bahá’ís observed World Religion Day by broadcasting a radio script prepared by a member of the community.

Teaching

The winter series of public meetings in Vancouver presented the theme “The Story of the World’s Religions”.

In Whitehorse, books have been placed in the Public and Army and Air Force libraries and are in active circulation from the Bahá’í community library as well.

Other communities reporting regular meetings and firesides include Winnipeg, Halifax, Ottawa, Trenton and Belleville.
CENTRAL AMERICA

A half-page quotation from Bahá’u’lláh’s Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, appeared in Revista Panamérica, a publication from Te­guigalpa, Honduras, Central America. The quotation, which begins “Be generous in prosperity . . . ”, bore the caption “From the Beautiful Religious Philosophy of one of the Manifestations of God”.

In the same issue was an article entitled “Unity,” transcribed from a radio talk by Artemus Lamb, which presented Bahá’í teachings.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Germany and Austria has announced the confirmation of the first Bahá’í declaration in the World Crusade goal of Westerland, Sylt, Frisian Islands.

NATIONAL NEWS

CONVENTION REMINDERS

An informal pre-Convention reception for Bahá’ís will be held in Foundation Hall of the Bahá’í House of Worship at 8:15 p.m., Wednesday evening, April 27. This will enable delegates and visitors to become acquainted before the regular Convention sessions begin.

Reservations. If you have not yet made your reservations and wish to do so through the Convention Arrangements Committee, please contact Mrs. Priscilla Hassan, 1244 Maple Street, Wilmette, Illinois, or Mrs. Edna Coleman, 1227 Leon Place, Evanston, Illinois. For Hotel reservations write direct to the following hotels:

- Evanshire Hotel
  860 Hinman Avenue
  Evanston, Illinois

- Evanston Hotel
  840 Forest Avenue
  Evanston, Illinois

- Georgian Hotel
  422 Davis Street
  Evanston, Illinois

- North Shore Hotel
  1611 Chicago Avenue
  Evanston, Illinois

Child Care: Arrangements have been made to furnish care for children during the sessions of the Convention, 9:00 A.M. to 12 noon, and 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. At all other times they are to be cared for by their parents. Care cannot be given at any time to children in arms or others who require special attention.

Food: The same type of food that was served during the Convention last year will be available in Foundation Hall this year, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The menu will consist of sandwiches, beverages and other light items.

CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Delegates and visitors are requested to present their Bahá’í identification cards to help expedite registration before and during the Convention.

AMERICAN INDIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE

The American Indian Service Committee wants to remind the friends of the Guardian’s Ten-Year Crusade Goals for the American Indians:

I. “The translation of Bahá’í literature into . . . Cherokee.” An introductory booklet in the Cherokee language has been published under the title “A New Day Comes.” (See Bahá’í News, March, 1955, page 9.)

II. “The conversion to the Faith of members of the leading Indian tribes”. The goals of teaching among the American Indians are to be centered upon this unfinished task by:

1. Deepening our teaching efforts among members of tribes already contacted, that in the near future these contacts may become converts to our Faith and in turn teach their own people.

2. Extending our teaching in order to reach members of leading tribes not yet contacted.

3. Reconstituting the disbanded Macy, Nebraska, Assembly.

The accomplishment of these goals will require an awakened effort on the part of the friends across the country to reach the hearts of the American Indians with the message of Bahá’u’lláh. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá blessed the original Americans with the promise of a happier future when they would become illumined by the Faith of God for this day. Our responsibility is very clear.

To assist the friends, the Committee has prepared a several page Supplement to the Teaching Brochure, including a chart of leading American Indian tribes, indicating what has been accomplished and what remains to be done. Also included is a special message prepared for the enlightenment and inspiration of the friends by a Bahá’í, who is a true pioneer in teaching among the Indians. This message contains clear, specific suggestions and bespeaks a deep and penetrating understanding, love and appreciation of a people long misunderstood. It will surely assist and encourage the friends as it did this Committee who requested its preparation.

The Teaching Brochure is available from the Committee for $.50 a copy. The Supplement will be sent without charge to all those who have purchased Brochures where their address is known, will be available at the Convention and may be had by writing:

American Indian Service Committee
Mrs. Nancy Phillips, Secretary
736 Encanto Drive, S. E.
Phoenix, Arizona

ESKIMO PAMPHLET PRINTED

A pamphlet, “Message to the Eskimos,” has just been published by the Alaska Teaching Committee in the Kobuk dialect for teaching among the Eskimos. By alternate paragraphs in Kobuk and English the teachings are clearly presented and the basic principles are delightfully illustrated by simple pen and ink sketches.

CAN YOU QUALIFY?

There are openings in certain islands of the Pacific for male teachers for intermediate grades, and for weather bureau personnel. If you can qualify, please communicate immediately with the

Asia Teaching Committee,
112 Linden Avenue,
Wilmette, Illinois

—Asia Teaching Committee
His most Holy Baha'Is the blessing of serving holidays and although I came home joy that far outweighed my fatigue. My heart is grieved because so few starting for the privilege and blessing of serving at the Temple this summer.

Don't forget that the cardinal rules for successful work with public libraries are: Choose books wisely and keep them moving. If you give books which are not easily understood by the general public, they will never be taken from the shelves. Eventually they will be discarded by the library and, in the meantime, new Baha'i books will not be welcomed. (See suggested list in Baha'i News for December, 1954.) But Baha'i's may sometimes start them moving by themselves drawing them out. One believer writes us that this is what happened in Park Ridge.

...I checked on the library books and found that many had not moved for months and years; some the librarian had taken off and stored away. I started taking out a few each week, and pretty soon the books were being taken out by others as well. Just any action has a positive effect!"

Although, as we have pointed out, paper-bound books are not usually welcomed by libraries, there are occasions when they are acceptable. We have heard of one library (in Alaska) which has a table where paper-bound books are displayed for public circulation. If your library has such a policy, of course a title like Tomorrow and Tomorrow might be put to use.

The following letter from Birmingham, Alabama, is very heartening and shows how important the library may be as a follow-up to public relations work:

"We found out something from experience that may be of interest to other communities, and we'd like to pass it on... In using the items prepared for publication by the Press Service, it is sometimes difficult to judge the results, and we had become discouraged after printing (at no little expense) one of the ads and also running several of our own. One of our members decided to check with the library and we found, to our utter amazement, that they were having a regular 'run' on our books! We had tried, every year, to get them to accept new books for the library, and were turned down just as regularly. Now they were begging us to put in new books! So, after a campaign of advertising or publicity, it is well to check with the local library, as some people hesitate..."
to make contact with the Bahá'í's until they have investigated for themselves. One such person was a young medical student, who went to the library and dug out the information for himself, then wrote Horace Holley for the names of any Bahá'ís here. He is now studying with us and is almost ready to become one of us. He had been searching for the truths for this Day ever since returning from Korea and is so happy over finding the Faith."

Please address all communications for this Committee to:

Miss Flora Emily Hottes,
406 West Iowa Street,
Urbana, Illinois.

**Public Library Committee**

**AREA TEACHING CONFERENCES**

The Central Atlantic States Area Teaching Bulletin reports participation by forty-one believers from seven states at the last area teaching conference, held in Greensboro, North Carolina. Consultation on the unique problems of teaching in the South led to a sharing of ideas on workable methods of presenting the Faith in this area.

An Area Teaching Conference to be held in Oklahoma City, April 2-3, is announced in the bulletin of the South Central States Area Teaching Committee. Consultation will center around the general theme of "Bahá'í Community Life."

**WORLD RELIGION DAY**

Communities continue to report on World Religion Day activities and, although a complete picture of the nation-wide observance of this day cannot be given, the following report can be made. (See also Bahá'í News, March, 1955, page 8.)

Public meetings or firesides were held in Bellingham, Washington; Everett, Yakima and Salem, Oregon; fifteen communities in Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah (reported in the Southwestern Area Bulletin but not specified by name); Ada County, Boise and Grangeville, Idaho; Butte, Montana; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Wichita, Kansas; Little Rock, Arkansas; Greater Kansas City area and St. Louis, Missouri; Bay City, Detroit, Kalamazoo and Royal Oak Township, Michigan; Lafayette, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio; Greensboro, North Carolina; Greater Miami area, Florida and Anchorage, Anchorage Recording District and Seward, Alaska.

**BAHÁ'Í ON THE CAMPUS**

Through a student on the campus of Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, a request was received for a Bahá'í speaker to explain the Faith before a joint meeting of the Campus YWCA and YMCA groups. Response at the meeting led to many questions with students expressing the desire to attend local Bahá'í meetings.

A Bahá'í student at Stockton College, Stockton, California, presented a viewing of colored slides to art students at the college and their teacher. Points of architectural and cultural interest from Alaska, Japan, Korea, Siam, India, and the Bahá'í institutions in Israel and Wilmette, Illinois, were shown. Most of the views concentrated on the Bahá'í House of Worship and it was pointed out that the slides from India were made by a visitor to the Fourth Intercontinental Bahá'í Teaching Conference.

**BAHÁ'Í ON THE AIR**

At the studios of radio station KENI, a public program sponsored by the two assemblies in the Anchor- age, Alaska, area featured music and a talk on the Bahá'í Faith entitled "The Rose Garden of God." KENI also used a fifteen-minute tape-recorded talk and gave spot announcement time to mention of the Faith. Station KFQD also broadcast a fifteen-minute tape presenting Bahá'í teachings.

Butte, Montana, reports a state-wide broadcast of the Bahá'í Press Service script, "The Bahá'í Faith and World Brotherhood" over the Z-Bar Network which maintains seven stations in Montana, including KXLF in Butte. This was done as a part of the Z-Bar Network's radio forum presenting topics of current interest to the people of Montana.

Emporia, Kansas, Bahá'ís arranged for a fifteen-minute Bahá'í Press Service tape to be broadcast on World Religion Day.

A fifteen-minute program on the Bahá'í Faith was broadcast from Grangeville, Idaho.

In Michigan, during Brotherhood Week, announcements of Bahá'í meetings were made on the air from these stations in the following communities: Flint, WFDX, WKMF, WMRP, WBBC, WTAC; Saginaw, WKNX; Owosso, WOAP; Bay City, WNEM-TV.

In Ketchikan, Alaska, the Faith was referred to over station KAB during a discussion of World Calendars on the program, "Woman to Woman". The speaker referred to the Bahá'í Faith as "the world's newest universal religion."

A regular monthly broadcast on the Faith and announcements of Bahá'í activities are made over station KMVI, Maui, Hawaii. KMVI, located in Wailuku, Maui, reaches the islands of Molokai, Lanai, and part of the island of Hawaii.

Seven radio stations in Miami, Florida, three in Miami Beach, one in Coral Gables, one in Hollywood and one television station in Miami make announcements of Bahá'í activities each week. At the time of the State Convention a fifteen-minute talk on the Faith was given over station WQAM, Miami.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Bahá'ís arranged for the use of Bahá'í prayers on the air through the Inter-Faith Committee in conjunction with the Milwaukee County Council of Churches. For seven days, at sign-on time each morning and just prior to sign-off at night, Bahá'í prayers were broadcast over stations WTMJ and WMJ-TV.

Peoria, Illinois, reports two fifteen-minute broadcasts over stations WIRL and WEEK. Bahá'í Press Service scripts were presented.

Spokane, Washington, reports talks on the Bahá'í Faith over stations KHQ and KXLTV.

A fifteen-minute Bahá'í talk was given over station KIMA in Yakima, Washington.

Other communities reporting mention of the Bahá'í Faith on the air or spot announcements of Bahá'í meetings include: Ada County and Boise, Idaho, and Salem, Oregon.
NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Eskimos from Nome, King Island and Diomede Island, in Anchorage, Alaska, for the Fourth Rendezvous, were entertained informally by the Bahá'ís. Activity furthering friendships with the Eskimos from the North, favored by the Northern Peoples Teaching Committee and the Alaska Teaching Committee, is followed up through such services as visiting patients at the Alaska Native Service Hospital.

Berkeley, California, evaluating its activities, reports that twenty-seven pioneers have gone out from that community since the beginning of the Holy Year, nine into foreign fields and eighteen to home front goals. One more is now completing arrangements to settle another home front goal. Ten elections for replacements on the local Assembly have been necessary. Only one member of the present Assembly was a member at the beginning of the Holy Year. Berkeley's extension teaching goal, Stockton, California, is now an established community in its own right. A new extension teaching goal, Sausalito Township in Marin County north of the Golden Gate, has been assigned to Berkeley and three members of the community are preparing to move to Sausalito to pioneer.

In Blue Township, Missouri, a Children's World Religion Day was observed. Seven children gave brief talks on the Hindu, Hebrew, Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Báb and Bahá'í Faith. They explained the meaning of the observance of World Religion Day all around the world and sang songs of friendship.

In Boise, Idaho, a Bahá'í, chairman of International Relations for the Columbian Club (a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs) arranged several meetings for a visiting author and lecturer, a Sikh who was guest speaker for the Boise Valley Institute of International Relations. On the way to one of the meetings it was discovered that he knew about the Bahá'í Faith, had visited the Bahá'í House of Worship several times and was quite in harmony with Bahá'í principles.

This lecturer spoke of the Bahá'í Faith during his stay and, asked for references by two students of Comparative Religion, recommended that they study the books of the Bahá'í World Faith. Bahá'í's held an open-house after the series of meetings, with the speaker as guest of honor. As a result some ten people have asked to attend firesides.

At a public fireside in Columbus, Ohio, a prayer of Bahá'u'lláh, set to music by an assistant professor in the Department of Music at Ohio State University, was sung by one of the University students.

After long and patient endeavor Bahá'ís of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, held a highly successful first public meeting. As a result, two weekly firesides have been established.

At a public meeting in Tacoma, Washington, moving pictures in color produced by an Israeli airline showed the gardens on Mount Carmel and identified them as surrounding the Bahá'í shrine. Audience acclaim led the projectionist to show the film a second time. It was followed by the presentation of color slides of the gardens and a talk by Bahá'ís on Haifa's "Garden in the Sky".

Brotherhood Week, February 20-27, was observed in many Bahá'í communities. The Ada County, Idaho, Spiritual Assembly centered the observance around a showing of slides of the Haifa gardens. Anchorage and Anchorage Recording District, Alaska, combined to offer a program which presented racial, national and religious aspects of brotherhood. Excellent radio and newspaper publicity in Butte, Montana, led to good attendance at a public fireside. In Evanston, Illinois, forty non-Bahá'ís attended an invitation Fellowship Tea where the Bahá'í view of brotherhood was presented from the Jewish, Christian and Islamic backgrounds. "The Bahá'í Faith and World Brotherhood" was the subject of the public talk given in Flint, Michigan. The Norton Male Chorus sang at the meeting. Laramie, Wyoming Bahá'ís sponsored a meeting at the University of Wyoming at which aspects of brotherhood were discussed by representatives of several religions and races, with a Bahá'í summation. Among the speakers were an American Presbyterian, an Indian Hindu, a Pakistani Muslim, an elder of the Latter Day Saints Church, and a Negro law student. Good newspaper and radio publicity contributed to the success of most of these meetings.

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Bahá'í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá'ís and guests. Choral selection are by the Bahá'í House of Worship A Capella Choir.

The programs for the month of March follow:

Order of Devotions—March 6, 1955

Whoa keepeth the commandments of God shall obtain everlasting felicity. —Bahá'u'lláh

CHORAL SELECTION

If Ye Love Me—W. H. Monk

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS

Prayer of Bahá'u'lláh

OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 6:1-4; Exodus 34:1-6, 12-17; Leviticus 19:18

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 19:16-18; Mark 12:29-31; John 15:9-12

QUR'AN

Sura XXXV, 50-54

CHORAL SELECTION

Thou Kneelst, Lord—Henry Purcell

BAHA'T SACRED WRITINGS

Gleanings, CXXXIII, p. 289; CXXXIV, p. 290

THE GOLDEN WORDS FROM THE ARABIC—ING. NS.

Gleanings, pp. 353-354

Prayers and Meditations, XI, p. 14

CHORAL SELECTION

Let Thy Holy Presence—P. Tschemnikoff

Order of Devotions—March 13, 1955

The purpose of God in creating man hath been, and will ever be, to enable him to know his Creator and to attain His Presence. To this most excellent aim, this supreme objective, all the heavenly Books and the divine-revealed and weighty Scriptures unequivocally bear witness. —Bahá'u'lláh

CHORAL SELECTION

Sing unto the Lord—Hasler

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS

Prayers and Meditations, XXXVII, p. 47

OLD TESTAMENT

Jeremiah 31:31-35; 32:28-40; Isaiah 2:10-11; 34:1; Psalm 102

CHORAL SELECTION

Praise the Lord With a Song—P. Kalinnikoff

NEW TESTAMENT

John 14:14

QUR'AN

Sura 1

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS

Gleanings, pp. 64-66, p. 70, p. 215; CXI, p. 217

Prayers and Meditations, p. 171; IV, p. 6

CHORAL SELECTION

Almighty God of Our Fathers—Will James

Order of Devotions—March 20, 1955

O Son of Man! I loved thy creation, hence I created thee. Wherefore, do thou love Me, that I may name thy name and fill thy soul with the spirit of life. —Bahá'u'lláh

CHORAL SELECTION

Altitude! We Sing with Joy—Jacob Handl

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS

Prayers and Meditations, XXXVII, p. 47

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 2:17, 1:26, 27; Isaiah 64:8, 9; Psalm 8:1, 27

QUR'AN

Sura L-11, 14, 15

CHORAL SELECTION

Turn Thee, Again, O Lord—Thomas Attwood

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS

Gleanings, CXXII, p. 289; CXXXIV, p. 280

Prayers and Meditations, pp. 353-354

QUR'AN

Prayers and Meditations, LX, p. 94

CHORAL SELECTION

Now WeSing Thy Praise—Tschemnikoff
Order of Devotions—March 27, 1955

Faith in God, and the knowledge of Him cannot be fully realized except through believing in all that hath proceeded from Him, and by practicing all that He hath commanded and all that is revealed in the Book from the Supreme Pen.

In all affairs put thy reliance in God, and commit them unto Him. —Baha'u'llah

CHORAL SELECTION

QUR'AN Surah XXIV, 41-53

CHORAL SELECTION The Desert Shall Blossom As the Rose—Paul Christiansen Baha'i SACRED WRITINGS Gleanings, p. 231, p. 377, p. 388; LXXIII, p. 180

CHORAL SELECTION From the Sweet-Scented Streams (Prayer of Baha'u'llah)—Theodore Woolcott Baha'i SACRED WRITINGS Baha'i Prayers, p. 46

MARRIAGES

"Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace ..."—Baha'u'llah

Beverly, Massachusetts - Miss Easter King Thompson to Mr. Edward Winslow Hincks, December 30, 1954.

Berkeley, California - Miss Margaret Swengel to Mr. John Bustard, February 11, 1955.

HOLY DAYS

April 1-21, Feast of Ridván (Declaration of Baha'u'llah)

April 1, First day of Ridván (about 3:00 P.M.)

April 20, Ninth day of Ridván

May 2, Twelfth day of Ridván

May 23, Declaration of the Bab

May 22, about 2 hours after sunset.

May 29, Ascension of Baha'u'llah (3:00 A.M.)

FEASTS

April 9-Jalâl, Glory

April 28-Jamâl, Beauty

May 17—Azamat, Grandeur

NATIONAL CONVENTION

April 28-May 1

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

April 27

BAHA'I HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting hours

Weekdays and Saturdays:
1:00 P.M.—4:00 P.M.

(sat the Auditorium only will be open)

Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

(the entire building will be open)

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15 (No guided tours will be conducted during the program of worship.)

Holy days and Anniversaries celebrated at the Bahá'í House of Worship:

Declaration of the Bab, May 23

Holy Days and Anniversaries celebrated at the Bahá'í House of Worship are open to the public. The meeting begins at 8:00 P.M. of the day preceding the anniversary date.

IN MEMORIAM

"Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy and is the beaver of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life."

—Baha'u'llah

Mrs. Carrie C. Morgan
Beverly, Massachusetts
January 18, 1955

Mrs. Hattie Gaskins
Waterloo, Iowa
January 30, 1955

Mr. Leo T. Cochran
Detroit, Michigan
January 31, 1955

Miss Jane Coulter
Venice, California
February 7, 1955

Mrs. Annie Romer
Manchester, Connecticut
March 6, 1955

Mrs. Beatrice Eardley
Detroit, Michigan
March 13, 1955

BAHA'I DIRECTORY CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

Service to the Blind
Mrs. Amidad Gibson, Chairman, 844 North Hayworth Avenue, Los Angeles 46, California

CONSOLIDATION

National Youth
Barbara Roberts

ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES

California, (South)

South Gate: Mrs. Mary M. Kuebler, 10522 Hunt Ave.

Virginia
Alexandria: Mrs. Harvey Wiener, 11 E. Bennefonte Ave.

BAHA'I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá'í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHA'I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1954-1955: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Managing Editor; Mr. David Ned Blackmer, Assistant Editor; Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Edna True, Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá'í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
On the occasion of the triumphant conclusion of the second year of the Ten Year Plan, marking the termination of the first half of the second phase of a decade-long Bahá'í World Spiritual Crusade, I invite the delegates assembled at the Twelve Annual Conventions, convened simultaneously throughout the Bahá'í world during the Ridván Festival, to survey with me the multiple evidences of the progressive unfoldment of which this world-enveloping, steadily consolidating enterprise has been endowed by the Author of the Tablets of the Divine Plan at the very hour of its inception.

In every continent of the globe, throughout the widely scattered islands of the Mediterranean and the North Sea, of the Atlantic, the Pacific and Indian Oceans, this mighty Plan, devised for the systematic execution of the Design conceived by the Center of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant for the propagation of His Father's Faith, is forging ahead, gaining momentum with every passing day, tearing down barriers in all climes and amidst divers peoples and races, widening irresistibly the scope of its beneficent operations, and revealing ever more compelling signs of its inherent strength as it marches towards the spiritual conquest of the entire planet.

Two Hundred Thirty-six Territories Now Opened to the Faith

The number of the virgin territories of the globe opened to the Faith has, since the inauguration, and in direct consequence of the vigorous prosecution, of this stupendous undertaking, been raised to one hundred and eight, swelling the number of the sovereign states and chief dependencies included within the pale of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh to two hundred and thirty-six, above two hundred of which have been enlisted under His banner since the ascension of the Center of His Covenant.

All the territories within the confines of the African, the European, the Asiatic and the African continents, assigned to ten Bahá'í National Assemblies, have, with the exception of Soviet-controlled territories, been opened. Of the seventy-two islands allocated to eleven Bahá'í National Assemblies no less than sixty-four have opened their doors to the vanguard of Bahá'í Crusaders, leaving Spitzbergen and Anticosti Island, situated respectively in the North Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, Nicobar Islands, Cocos Island and Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, and Loyalty Islands, Sakhalin Island and Hainan Island in the Pacific Ocean—one of which is a native reserve, two of which are within the Soviet orbit, while four others are either privately owned or controlled by private companies—as yet unopened by the heroic band battling for the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

The northern limits of the Faith in Europe have been pushed beyond the Arctic Circle as far as 70 degrees latitude, through the settlement of a Bahá'í pioneer in Reals Kolen, Batsfjord, Finnmark, only three degrees below Arctic Bay, Franklin, the northernmost Bahá'í Center established, in the course of the Opening Year of the Ten-Year Plan, in the North American Continent. Valiant pioneers have, moreover, volunteered and are busily engaged in devising plans, or have actually embarked on the necessary preparations, to cross the mountain frontiers of Tibet, to enter the Ukraine, beyond the Iron Curtain, to gain admission to the few remaining, hitherto inaccessible islands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and to penetrate deep into the Arctic Ocean as far as the ice-bound island of Spitzbergen.

Number of Races, Languages, Incorporated Assemblies Augmented

No less than forty races are now represented in the world-wide Bahá'í Community, which has been recently enriched through the enrollment of representatives of the Greek, the Berber, the Pigmy, the Somali and Guanche races. The number of localities where Bahá'ís now reside is well over thirty-two hundred, of which fourteen hundred are located in the great Republic of the West, over six hundred in the Cradle of the Faith, more than three hundred in the African Continent, and over one hundred each in the Dominion of Canada, in Australasia, Latin America and in the Indian Sub-Continent. In the African Continent alone the number of members of the Negro race has, within the space of four years, increased to over thirteen hundred; the number of territories opened to the Faith has reached fifty-eight, the number of local Spiritual Assemblies already established and functioning is now fifty, the number of tribes represented within the swiftly expanding Bahá'í Community is now over ninety, whilst the number of African languages into which Bahá'í literature has been and is being translated exceeds fifty.

The total number of the European, the African, the Asiatic and American-Indian languages into which
Bahá’í literature has been and is being translated is one hundred and sixty-seven, of which fifty-five are among those included in the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan, and twenty-four are supplementary languages into which the translation of Bahá’í literature has been spontaneously undertaken by the indefatigable band of pioneers and new converts in Africa, in South East Asia, in the South Pacific Islands and in the Antipodes.

The number of incorporated Bahá’í national and local Spiritual Assemblies has now reached one hundred and forty, seventy-five of which are located in the United States of America, the latest additions to this steadily mounting list in other continents being the Assemblies of London and Manchester in the British Isles; of Ciudad Trujillo in the Dominican Republic; of Kuching in Sarawak; of Jakarta in Indonesia; of Helsinki in Finland and of San Juan in Puerto Rico.

Activities at the World Center

In the Holy Land, the Center and Pivot around which the institutions of a world-encompassing Administrative Order revolve, steps have been taken for the preparation of a Synopsis, and for the Codification of the Laws, of the Most Holy Book, the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the Mother-Book of the Bahá’í Revelation, as an essential prelude to the eventual translation and publication of its entire text.

A Fund has been inaugurated in anticipation of the adoption of preliminary measures for the ultimate construction of Bahá’u’lláh’s Sepulcher in the heart of the Haram-i-Aqdas recently established in the plain of ‘Akká.

The international Bahá’í endowments on Mt. Carmel have been greatly enhanced by the signature of a contract with the Israeli Authorities for the acquisition of an area of thirty-six thousand square meters, situated on the promontory of Mt. Carmel, overlooking the Cave of Elijah, as well as the spot sanctified by the footsteps of Bahá’u’lláh and associated with the revelation of the Tablet of Carmel, for the price of one hundred and eight thousand dollars, to serve as the site for the first Masriqui’l-Adhkár of the Holy Land, the entire sum having been donated by Amelia Collins, Hand of the Cause and outstanding benefactress of the Faith.

The vast area surrounding the Báb’s Sepulcher has been enlarged through the purchase from the Development Authority of the State of Israel, of five houses, adjoining the last terrace of His Shrine for a sum of approximately sixty thousand dollars, as well as through the acquisition of a six thousand dollar plot that has been registered in the name of the Israeli Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Canada; of a twenty-eight thousand dollar plot, to be registered in the name of the Israeli Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Persia; and of a five thousand dollar plot to be registered in the name of the Israeli Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Australia and New Zealand. Moreover, steps are now being taken for the purchase of several properties, valued at approximately one hundred and forty thousand dollars, the acquisition of which is essential for the safeguarding of the area in the close vicinity of the Báb’s Sepulcher, as well as for the future extension of the arc around which the edifices, destined to serve as the seat of the future Bahá’í World Commonwealth, are to be erected.

Following the expropriation by the Israeli Finance Minister, on the recommendation of the Mayor of the City of Haifa, of the plot adjoining the site of the future International Bahá’í Archives on Mt. Carmel, the fixing of the position of the far-flung arc, around which the edifices constituting the Seat of the World Bahá’í Administrative Order are to be built, the location of the site of the building and the preparations for the excavation of its foundations, an hundred and twelve thousand dollar contract has been signed in Rome for the quarrying, the dressing and carving of the stones and the fifty-two columns of the building which will amount in weight to over nine hundred tons and are to be shipped within less than two years to the Holy Land.

The landscaping of the extensive area stretching between the Báb’s Sepulcher and the resting-places of the Greatest Holy Leaf, the Purest Branch and their mother, and destined to encircle this Edifice, has been undertaken, adding greatly to the beauty of the surroundings of these consecrated Spots in the heart of God’s holy Mountain.

Achievements in the Cradle of the Faith

In the Cradle of the Faith, the site of the Síyáh-Cháh, the scene of the birth of Bahá’u’lláh’s Mission and the second holiest spot in His native land, purchased in the course of the first year of the Ten-Year Plan, has been transferred by the donor of this holy and historic place, Habib Sábet, to the name of one of the Hands of the Cause acting as my official representative in that country.

A five-year Plan has been inaugurated for the purpose of raising twelve million tumans for the construction of the first Masriqui’l-Adhkár in that land. The design of this historic Edifice has been finally selected from among a number of designs submitted by Bahá’í Architects in both the East and the West, the choice falling upon the plan conceived by the Hand of the Cause and President of the International Bahá’í Council, Mason Remey—a design which incorporates a dome reminiscent of that of the Báb’s Holy Sepulcher.

A contract has moreover been signed as a preliminary step for the eventual purchase of the Fortress of Chihriq and its surroundings, for a sum of over two hundred thousand tumans.

Goals Attained in the United States of America

In the United States of America a plot has been acquired in the precincts of the Mother Temple of the West to serve as the site for the construction of a Home for the Aged, and which will constitute the first of the Dependencies to be erected around that holiest Bahá’í House of Worship. Measures have been adopted, and the design authorized, for the completion of the landscaping of the area surrounding that same building. The National Bahá’í Publishing Committee has been con-
Site purchased for future Mashriqu'l-Adhkar, New Delhi, India. (See Baha'i News, January, 1955, page 2.) The land, near the village of Kalkaji, is atop one of the highest points in the area and overlooks the city and its suburbs in almost every direction. It is about four miles from the National Haziratu'l-Quds in New Delhi. The lot comprises 73 bighas or 24 acres, 2,100 square yards.

VERTED INTO A BAHÁ’I PUBLISHING TRUST, FUNCTIONING UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE AMERICAN NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY. The total number of American Indian tribes with which contact has been established has now reached twenty-two, whilst members of the Apache, the Cherokee, the Omaha, the Oneida, and the Sioux tribes have been enrolled in the American Bahá’í Community. The number of territories, federal districts and states of the United States of America where official authorization for the conduct of Bahá’í marriages has been granted is now twenty-one, whilst the number of localities in that same country where the Bahá’í Holy Days are officially recognized is over twenty-five.

PROPERTIES ACQUIRED AROUND THE WORLD

Land for no less than eight of eleven Temple sites to be acquired according to the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan, and involving an expenditure of eighty thousand dollars has been purchased in the following places: in the holy city of Baghdad, on the banks of the Tigris, blessed by the footsteps of Bahá’u’lláh, of an area of thirty thousand square meters; on the banks of the Nile in Cairo, the center of both the Arab and Islamic worlds, of an area of seventeen thousand square meters; in Frankfurt, the heart of the European continent, of an area of seventeen thousand square meters; in New Delhi, the capital of India, of an area of sixty-six thousand square meters; in Sydney, the oldest Bahá’í center in the Australian continent, of an area of eleven thousand square meters; in Kampala, in the heart of the African continent, of an area of twenty-four thousand square meters; in Johannesburg, the second largest city in the African continent, of an area of six thousand square meters; and in Panama City, the importance of which has been underlined by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in the Tablets of the Divine Plan, of an area of twenty thousand square meters.

No less than fourteen national Haziratu'l-Quds, out of the forty-nine listed in the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan and which are to serve as seats of future Bahá’í National Spiritual Assemblies, have already been purchased, largely through the liberal contributions of the Hand of the Cause, Amelia Collins. These buildings, involving the expenditure of over two hundred thousand dollars, are situated in five continents of the globe; in London, Bern and Vienna in the European continent; in Anchorage, Lima and Panama City in the American continent; in Tokyo, Istanbul, Kabul, Bahrayn and Suva in the Asiatic continent; in Johannesburg and Tunis in the African continent; and in Auckland in the Antipodes. Negotiations for the purchase of three additional Haziratu'l-Quds, in the cities of Rome, Jakarta and Colombo are moreover under way, while funds, totalling one hundred and thirty thousand dollars have been pledged for the purchase, in the immediate future, of twenty-seven other Haziratu'l-Quds in Latin America and the European continent.

Furthermore, the sum of fifty thousand dollars has been contributed by the Hand of the Cause, Amelia Collins, as yet another evidence of her munificence, for the purpose of establishing Bahá’í national endowments in no less than fifty countries, situated in all five continents of the globe. A plot has, moreover, been purchased in South Africa, a property offered in the Aleutian Islands and a fund initiated for the same purpose in Alaska and Finland.

SIXTEEN NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES BY RIDVAN, 1957

Such marvelous progress, involving such diversified activities, extending over so immense a field, within such a brief space of time, and notwithstanding the smallness of the numbers of the participants in this Global Crusade, the meagerness of their resources and the restrictions imposed upon them by those who are either unsympathetic to their Cause, or alarmed by their rising influence, or envious of the pervasive power of the Faith they champion, impels me to announce, in anticipation of the opening of the third phase of the Ten-Year Plan, the formation, during Ridván, 1957, in addition to the three Regional National Spiritual Assemblies to be elected in 1956 in the African continent, of thirteen National Spiritual Assemblies, some of which will be
Recently Acquired Haziratu'l-Quds

The photograph at the left shows the newly acquired Haziratu'l-Quds of Bahrayn in the Persian Gulf. Above is the Haziratu'l-Quds of Suva, Fiji Islands, recently purchased.

The Haziratu'l-Quds of Auckland, New Zealand, recently purchased. The five-room house stands on a quarter-acre piece of land with a fifty-foot frontage on Parnell Road in a central part of the city. The lot goes through to the next street, Aorere Street. A room measuring twenty by fifteen feet, to be used for meetings, overlooks, beyond the immediate neighborhood, a beautiful stretch of native bush, above and to one side of which is the stately War Memorial Museum. Cost of the property was thirty-one hundred pounds.

Regional, others independent, some interim and others permanent.

These National Spiritual Assemblies, representing no less than forty-two territories will be established in four continents of the globe. Four will be in Asia: in Japan, in Pakistan, in the Arabian Peninsula and in South-East Asia. Three will be in Europe: in Scandinavia and Finland, in the Benelux countries and in the Iberian Peninsula. Five will be in America: the first, combining within its jurisdiction the Republics of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia; the second, comprising the Republics of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela; the third including Mexico and the Republics of Central America, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama; the fourth embracing the Islands of the Greater Antilles, Haiti, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, and the fifth in Alaska. And lastly, one will be in the Antipodes, in the Dominion of New Zealand.

Responsibility for the convocation of the eight Bahá'í Conventions, whose delegates are to elect eight National Spiritual Assemblies in North, Central and South America and in Europe, and which are to be held in Anchorage, in Panama City, in Port-au-Prince, in Buenos Aires, in Lima, in Stockholm, in Brussels and in Madrid, will devolve upon the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America; for the convocation of the four conventions whose delegates are to elect four National Spiritual Assemblies in Asia, and which are to be held in Tokyo, in Karachi, in Bahrayn and in Jakarta, upon the National Spiritual Assemblies of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America, of Persia, and of India, Pakistan and Burma; and for the convocation of the convention whose delegates are to elect the National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand, which is to be held in Auckland, upon the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia and New Zealand.
Hands of the Cause to Attend Historic Conventions

I call upon the following Hands of the Cause to act as my representatives at these thirteen historic conventions, that are to pave the way for the erection, in four continents of the globe, of the pillars destined to support, in varying measure, the Universal House of Justice, the final unit in the construction of the edifice of the Administrative Order of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh: Váliyu'lláh Varqá and Horace Holley at the South American Conventions to be held in Buenos Aires and Lima respectively; Corinne True at the Greater Antilles Convention to be held in Port-au-Prince; Džikru'lláh Khádem at the Central American Convention to be held in Panama City; Paul Haney at the Alaska Convention, to be held in Anchorage; Hermann Grossmann and Adelbert Mühlschlegel at the Scandinavian-Finnish Convention to be held in Stockholm; George Townsend at the Benelux Convention to be held in Brussels; Ugo Giachery at the Iberian Convention to be held in Madrid; Ţárázu'lláh Samandari at the Arabian Convention to be held in Bahrain; ‘Ali-Akbar Furúțan at the South East Asian Convention, to be held in Jakarta; ‘Alí ‘u’lláh ‘Alá’ at the Pakistani Convention to be held in Karachi; Ja‘íl Khážeh at the Japanese Convention to be held in Tokyo; Clara Dunn at the New Zealand Convention to be held in Auckland.

I urge, moreover, as many members as feasible of the Auxiliary Boards appointed by the afore-mentioned Hands of the Cause, in the American, the European, the Asiatic and the Australian continents, to attend these momentous gatherings, at which the representatives of as many as forty-two Bahá’í Communities will assemble, and, through their active participation, reinforce and widen the scope of the deliberations of the elected delegates.

Furthermore, I cannot too strongly emphasize the vital necessity for all the Bahá’í groups, scattered throughout these forty-two countries, to brace themselves, and make a supreme effort, during these intervening two years, to achieve assembly status, ensuring thereby their participation in the election of the delegates to these fate-laden conventions, and contributing, through this act, to the broadening and strengthening of the foundations of these projected pivotal institutions, destined to play such prominent and vital a part in ushering in the last phase in the gradual establishment of the structure of an Administrative Order that must needs slowly evolve into the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh, and which in turn will give birth, in the fullness of time, to a world spiritual civilization, which posterity will hail as the fairest fruit of His Revelation.

Guardian’s Appeal to Upholders of the Faith

Finally, I direct my appeal, through the Assembled delegates, to the entire body of the believers whom they represent, and indeed, on this occasion, to all the upholders of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh wherever they reside in all the continents of the globe, to arise, at so auspicious an hour in the fortunes of the Faith, synchronizing with so fateful and perilous an hour in the fortunes of mankind, and consecrate themselves afresh, throughout this last, fast-fleeting year of the present phase of this momentous, world-girdling Plan, to the furtherance of the immediate objectives enumerated in my last year’s Convention Message, ensuring thereby a befitting conclusion to a stage in its resistance unfoldment destined to usher in its third and most brilliant phase—a phase on which the triumphant consummation of the Plan itself must so largely depend.

It is indeed my fervent and constant prayer that the members of this firmly-knit, intensely alive, world-embracing Community, spurred on by the triple impulse generated through the revelation of the Tablet of Carmel by Bahá’u’lláh and the Will and Testament as well as the Tablets of the Divine Plan bequeathed by the Center of His Covenant—the three Charters which have set in motion three distinct processes, the first operating in the Holy Land for the development of the institutions of the Faith at its World Center and the other two, throughout the rest of the Bahá’í world, for its propagation and the establishment of its Administrative Order that may advance from strength to strength and victory to victory. May they hasten, by their present exertions, the advent of that blissful consummation when the shackles hampering the growth of their beloved Faith will have been finally burst asunder.

The recently purchased Haíratu’l-Quds of Tunis, Tunisia, exterior and interior views, which will become the Regional Haíratu’l-Quds of North-West Africa. The building is located at 20 Rue Soult.
when its independent status will have been officially and universally recognized, when it will have ascended the throne and wielded the scepter of spiritual and temporal authority, when the brightness of its glory will have illuminated the whole earth, and its dominion will have been established over the entire planet.

—Shoghi Effendi

April, 1955

COMMENTARY: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Beloved Friends:
The Message which the Guardian has addressed to the Annual Bahá’í Convention is for all twelve Conventions being held during the Ridván period of 1955. As we consider it here so it is being considered by Bahá’ís attending the Conventions in Canada, Central America, South America, the British Isles, Germany and Austria, Italy and Switzerland, Egypt and Sudan, Irán, India, Pakistan and Burma, Australia and New Zealand. These respective National Assemblies have not only presented this Message to delegates but also are providing copies for the believers throughout their area of administration.

This is a document in which the revered Head of a World Community reports the achievements of the second year of the Ten-Year Plan and likewise sets up particular goals for the period ending with Ridván 1957.

The Guardian’s survey reveals a vast expanse in terms of the present membership of the Bahá’í Community, and a vast theater of operations in which energy and resources have accomplished specific tasks. It behooves each Bahá’í to “survey with me,” as Shoghi Effendi invites the delegates, “the multiple evidences of the progressive unfoldment of the incalculable potentialities with which this enterprise has been endowed by the Author of the Tablets of the Divine Plan. . . .”

In this statement the believer is impressed by the startling realization that the power of achievement is vested in the Plan itself, and is communicated to all who sincerely arise to serve the Crusade which is the Divine Plan’s present application. How different from those human schemes and devices which at their best only rely upon degrees of wealth and talent operating without reinforcement from above!

Through paragraph after paragraph the epic tale majestically proceeds, enhancing with spiritual meaning our collective efforts which so often appear ineffective and burdensome. Here the drama is written by the great Dramatist of the age, and by His magic spell the most unassuming actor is transformed into the heroic and sublime.

What is the reckoning? One hundred and eight virgin territories opened . . . Sovereign states and chief dependencies with Bahá’ís raised to two hundred and thirty-six. . . . All territories opened outside the Soviet zone. . . . Sixty-four out of seventy-two islands occupied. . . . Forty races now represented in the Bahá’í community. . . . Bahá’ís reside in well over thirty-two hundred cities, towns and villages. . . . Literature has been or is being translated into one hundred sixty-seven languages. . . . Steps taken to prepare a Synopsis and Codification of the Laws of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas. . . . A Fund has been inaugurated for preliminary measures for construction of Bahá’u’lláh’s Sepulcher. . . . These and many other accomplishments fill the heart with grateful pride.

But achievement is one step in a stair leading to the mountain top. “Such marvelous progress . . . impels me to announce . . . the formation, during Ridván, 1957, in addition to the three Regional National Spiritual Assemblies to be elected in 1956 in the African continent, of thirteen National Spiritual Assemblies . . . .”

“Furthermore,” the Guardian states, “I cannot too strongly emphasize the vital necessity for all the Bahá’í groups, scattered throughout these forty-two countries, to brace themselves, and make a supreme effort, during these intervening two years, to achieve Assembly status, ensuring thereby their participation in the election of the delegates to these fate-laden Conventions. . . .”

“Finally,” addressing us all, “I direct my appeal . . . to the entire body of the believers and . . . to all the upholders of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh . . . to arise . . . and consecrate themselves afresh. . . .”

It is only in the stillness of the heart that we can make our true response to the appeal uttered to us by the Commander of so small an army enlisted to win the final spiritual freedom of mankind.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
BAHA'I NEWS

Note: The Guardian's Message to the 1955 Convention in its next to last paragraph appeals to the entire body of believers to consecrate themselves afresh, to the furtherance of the immediate objectives enumerated in his 1954 Convention Message. For the information of the friends those objectives are listed as follows:

Immediate Objectives Listed in 1954 Convention Message

1. Energetic and systematic prosecution of the all-important teaching work both at home and abroad, to increase rapidly the number of active supporters of the Faith.

2. Preservation of prizes won in the newly opened territories of the globe.


4. Multiplication of isolated centers, groups and local Assemblies to hasten the emergence of forty-eight National Spiritual Assemblies in East and West.

5. Completion of negotiations for purchase of Temple sites.

6. Initiation of Funds for establishment of National Hazíratu'l-Quds in capital cities of Sovereign States and chief cities of Dependencies listed in the Ten-Year Plan.

7. Speedy translation and publication of Bahá'í literature in specified languages.


10. Establishment of First Temple Dependency in Wilmette.

11. Inauguration of National Endowments to pave way for formation of National Spiritual Assemblies.

12. Fresh impetus to incorporate local Assemblies.


—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

BAHA'I PUBLISHING TRUST

The National Spiritual Assembly has completed action on the Guardian's direction that a Publishing Trust be established in Wilmette.

Through correspondence with the British National Spiritual Assembly, since the British Publishing Trust serves as the model or pattern, the necessary information was obtained in order to record the proper votes in the Minutes of meeting held February 11-13, 1955.

The substance of these votes (1) terminated the services of Bahá'í Publishing Committee as of April 30, 1955; (2) established as of April 30, 1955 the “Bahá'í Publishing Trust of the United States” as successor body to the Publishing Committee; (3) transferred to the Publishing Trust the inventory, office, cash assets and accounts of the Publishing Committee; (4) authorized the Publishing Trust to publish and distribute the Bahá'í Sacred Writings and such books, pamphlets or study material as are approved by the Reviewing Committee and are authorized by the National Spiritual Assembly; (5) appointed Mrs. Eunice Braun, Managing Director of the Publishing Trust with authority to engage the services of a staff of assistants and workers.

This action represents a continuance of the publishing functions vested in the National Spiritual Assembly.

The effect of the Guardian's plan as directed to various National Assemblies will be to set up a number of Bahá'í Publishing Trusts throughout the Bahá'í world, thus creating an organic unity of concept for this vital function of spreading the Message in printed form in all the many languages into which it has been and will be translated and published.

This action means for the believers that on and after April 30, 1955, orders are to be addressed to Bahá'í Publishing Trust of the United States, 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, and all checks and orders made payable to the Publishing Trust instead of the Publishing Committee as hitherto. The bank account will be maintained in the name of the Bahá'í Publishing Trust. Payments made on accounts opened with the Publishing Committee prior to April 30 are to be made to the Publishing Trust. The friends are requested to note this in order to eliminate confusion in the handling of checks and money orders received after April 30.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

TWELFTH PIONEER REPORT

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States is happy to announce the arrival of the following pioneers at their posts in World Crusade goal areas.

ARRIVALS IN VIRGIN AREAS

Mr. George Putney arrived in Unalaska, Aleutian Islands, November 8, 1954, where he joined his wife and children.

Mr. Matthew Bullock returned to Curacao, Dutch West Indies, December 6, 1954.

Dr. Malcolm King returned to Georgetown, British Guiana, December 8, 1954.

Mrs. Frances Benedict Stewart arrived on Juan Fernandez Island, Chile (date not reported).

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hilke, with their children Leo Curtis, John Herman, Alice Debra and Susan Rosella, arrived in Key West, Florida, March 5, 1955.

ARRIVALS IN CONSOLIDATION AREAS

Mrs. Marinobel Smith Wheelock arrived in Cuernavaca, Mexico, November 4, 1954.

Miss Rezi Sunshine arrived in Cochabamba, Bolivia, January 26, 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Barrett arrived in Bogotá, Colombia, in January, 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Fredericks arrived in Rosario, Argentina, February 10, 1955.

Mrs. Frances G. Heller arrived in Puebla, Mexico, March 13, 1955.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Ivan Cottrill, with their children Richard and Laura, arrived in Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii, March 15, 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Mario Rodriguez arrived in Huancayo, Peru (date not reported).

Mr. and Mrs. Lucien McComb, Jr., with their children Jeffrey, Michael and Gordon, arrived in Orleans, France, January 18, 1955.

Mrs. Edith Marangella arrived in Orleans, France, January 18, 1955.

Mrs. Ella Guthrie arrived in Orleans, France, January 18, 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Levy arrived in Bordeaux, France, January 19, 1955.

Mr. Ben Bentley arrived in Pergueux France, January 25, 1955.

Miss Greta Jankko arrived in Helsinki, Finland, January 25, 1955.

Mr. Theodore Harris arrived in Orleans, France, February 3, 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Randall arrived in Durban, South Africa, April 8, 1955.

PIONEER LETTERS

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to share the following passages from pioneer letters, in accordance with its policy of keeping the Bahá’í world informed of the spirit and some of the incidents which characterize the unfoldment of the World Crusade.

Excerpts from Pioneer Letters to the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee

VENEZUELA (Caracas)
From Joan Lozier

"... Any Bahá’í who has the desire to pioneer should have no fear of anything. Simply put your trust completely in Bahá’u’lláh and rely on Him. Do not think of yourself as being inadequate because 'you' have nothing to do with it once you put yourself at the disposal of God. 'You' are simply the channel through which the current flows and which sets everything in action. Once you experience this tremendous power and feel it and see it working all around you, you immediately lose all self-identity and become part of it and nothing more. Then you are completely dependent upon God and are completely free for the first time perhaps in your life. To achieve this you must above all be sincere, and go out with only one thought and wish, to serve humanity and, of course, doing this with the Teachings of Bahá’u’lláh. Also, we must be absolutely obedient to the laws and teachings of Bahá’u’lláh, and be obedient and work through our Administrative bodies when we go into and are in the pioneering field.

Make a Positive Step

"A Bahá’í who is thinking of pioneering must be practical about it. If right now you feel you would like to go somewhere, but you don't know where, pick a large area in the world and start studying all countries which fall into that area. Study a language for that area immediately. You'll be that much further ahead by the time you leave and that much better equipped to earn your living. Study Spanish, for example, and take a look at the globe and see where you can go with the Spanish language. There is all of Central and South America, where help can be used in every country. There are many islands in the Caribbean where one might go. Make a positive step and after the first positive step the assistance will come and push you through the next few steps. (This is when you begin receiving one confirmation after another regarding yourself and the Bahá’í Faith and you feel the firmness and steadfastness sinking into you.) Then make another positive step and again the help will come to push you through the next few. Don't sit around and think about pioneering, do something about it—expose yourself to the tremendous power that is in the Faith and feel it move through you and around you!

"Ask where help is needed the most in the pioneering field, work through the Administrative bodies. If you ask the proper committees where they need people and state your qualifications, the right place for you will be set in front of you and there you are with something to strive for. Then you can lay the groundwork for getting there. Have faith! It will get you there. And be sincere, and tread the spiritual path with practical feet.

"Also, I want very much to mention this. The number of people whose souls are crying the world over for this Revelation—particularly in the Consolidation and Goal areas—warrants our not hesitating a single moment. Leave the large cities and come to the small places where the people with pure hearts are waiting for us to pass by with this glorious Message. Let's not keep them waiting too long.

"No matter what the sacrifice might be, your returns will be ten and twenty-fold. It's the best investment in the universe and your guarantee is immortality and infinite peace and joy in knowing that you are being of service. There are many examples and instances which I might cite, but they would take too long to tell, so I must limit myself to saying: It does happen. We are assisted—more so than we would dare to dream or hope for. I know, because it is happening to me every day, and it can happen to you. Put your trust in God and act!"

BOLIVIA (Cochabamba)
From Rezi Sunshine

"Praise and thanksgiving for the glorious Naw-Rúz greetings! It came just when I was going to write to you and keep you informed of affairs in Bolivia. I deem it a glorious privilege to be here; so much more because of the great need here. Our hearts are focused on Bahá’u’lláh and all is well and will be well...

"... After six weeks of constant advertising and going from door to door I rented an apartment for $25 a month, in the heart of the city in a very desirable place for the Faith and my dressmaking. ... Already I am getting used to the elevation and many other general conditions. ... And the teaching is a delight of my life. The day I moved a professor came in to our glorious Faith. So you can imagine our joy...

"How God is creating a new world in front of our eyes! Indeed the hope is in the youth of the day—and the ones that are attracted are gems, rare gems from the bottom of the ocean...

Anyone who is interested in pioneering in Latin America should contact the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, Secretary, 73 College Road West, Princeton, New Jersey.
can see how our first one is received."

Ourself for further talks until we have been non-sectarian school. We have been several months but have not committed five teachers and one doctor at Macao:
The pamphlet, teacher who has been attending fire-attended. Good questions were asked.
From Mr. Jerome Chu, we went to visit the Formosa: "The 9th of February was one of the most bountiful and happiest days yet spent in this wonderful island. Accompanied by dear Mr. Suleimani also reports that study classes have started in four centers, and that for the benefit of the new believers the plans for the Nineteen-Day Feasts include readings from the Guardian's letters on the World Crusade, beginning with the sowing stage.
"We had two very well attended meetings in January and February, one on World Religion Day with nineteen, and the other in observance of World Brotherhood with seventeen present.
"The Service Men's Guides Committee (volunteers) recently entertained all the American women in the colony at a tea. It was interesting to see and meet so many American women at one time in a land where an American is a foreigner."
From Charles Duncan
Brunei: "When a person doesn't write for a while it is because nothing has been happening or a lot has been happening. This time it is the latter. A few weeks ago I stepped into one of the coffee shops for coffee and a young man waved to me to join him. I did. He said he wanted to study English. I told him I would teach him English in exchange for lessons in Brunei Malay. That was agreeable to him. A few days later a few of his friends met me and wanted to study, too. That made a total of four, but when the first class convened there were six. The next class had about nine and the one after that had twelve. That was too many, so I cut the class down to seven and they seem to be doing quite well. We met three times a week after work. The Malay lessons have not been so good because the boys are not systematic in teaching and I have had no time to study. Also I coach two young Malays three times a week after work and that makes six days a week teaching.
"As a stratagem, I recently changed from eating in the Chinese restaurant to the Malay restaurant and the desired effect was achieved. The Malays seem to be exceptionally friendly and people are constantly wanting to study English with me, but I have to turn them down. There is a limit to the hours in a day.
"Other kinds of teaching are slow. The people who come to my room see the picture of the Master and the Temple on my desk and the Greatest Name on the wall. I get to say a sentence or two and that is about all. I have been finding out slowly that people just think this is a Negro religion (just like Islam is a Malay religion to them) so to counteract that I am going to have the intercontinental teaching conference pictures framed and put on the wall. Regarding being friendly to everyone, which I am, this leaves only the impression that Negroes are nice people. Offhand I don't know what to do next in the way of teaching but I am not discouraged—just perplexed. If I sit and wait for an opportunity to come, I feel I am being lax; and if I keep bringing up the subject, I feel I am forcing things."

CANADA
Beaulac Summer School
Canada's only National Bahá’í School, at Beaulac, Quebec, opens its doors this year for two summer sessions: July 1-10 and August 7-14. This Laurentian vacation-land setting, in the heart of a beautiful mountain region, is ideal for concentrated study of the Teachings.
Rates: July 1-10, $35.00
August 7-14, $28.00
Single day, $4.00
For further information write: Miss Dorothy Walsh, 4613 Wellington Street, Verdun, Quebec, Canada.

Bahá’í on the Campus
Among activities of the National University Committee of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly the following item is reported in the March Bahá’í News of Canada.
"At Queen's University, Kingston, excellent teaching work has been
carried out for the past few years and they are a recognized chartered group. However we all have to graduate sometime and next year, Queens will be left without any Bahá’ís unless someone can be found to pioneer on the campus. There are some excellent courses offered at Queens and any believers going there would have the support of the Kingston community in their teaching efforts.”

Publicity on Shrine of the Báb

Contact with Indians
The National Indian Service Committee of Canada reports that a Bahá’í is a member of the executive committee of the Friends of the Indians Society, which has just celebrated its tenth anniversary in Edmonton, Alberta. Other members of the executive committee include a Roman Catholic priest, a Unitarian minister, and a Mormon elder.

INDIA

Literature in Vietnamese
Two thousand copies of the “Message of Bahá’u’lláh” have been printed in the Vietnamese language, for use in Indo-China, according to the Bahá’í News Bulletin of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of India, Pakistan and Burma.

OURL DELEGATES were Hilda Yen Male, Habib Sabet and Mildred R. Mottahedeh. The Conference was routine, dealing with matters of distribution of information regarding the United Nations. The only new subject under discussion was the celebration of U.N. Day on October 24, 1955, marking the tenth anniversary of the birth of the U.N. All organizations accredited to the Department of Public Information were asked to give careful attention to the formulation of special plans for this significant anniversary.

The United Nations Committee reported to the Convention last year that, at the Conference on Technical Assistance held in March 1954, one of our delegates made a suggestion regarding the work of Technical Assistance. The suggestion was that, under the sponsorship of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, a series of exhibitions be held at the most important trade fairs throughout the world. These exhibitions were to consist of photographs showing the progress in the fields of health, education, agriculture, nutrition, transportation and development of resources and handi crafts in the underdeveloped countries. In addition to the photographic exhibits actual samples of the products be displayed to acquaint possible buyers with new potential sources of raw and finished materials. Films on the work done in the development of these underdeveloped countries were also to be shown. In this way the splendid solid accomplishments of the Technical Assistance Department of the United Nations would become known to sizable segments of the world’s population and new markets could be found for the products of the underdeveloped countries.

The suggestion was warmly received by the Technical Assistance Board and numerous conferences were held with members of this Board. When Mrs. Mottahedeh received word from the Guardian to visit the Bahá’ís in the newly opened territories of Southeast Asia and the Pacific she asked the Technical Assistance Board whether they would like her to make a liaison with the governments in these areas in order to secure their cooperation in making the exhibition project possible. They were pleased to have her do so as no survey had yet been made of the resources of this area. They suggested that she contact the Specialized

UNITED STATES AFRICA TEACHING COMMITTEE

Africa News

News continues to pour in of systematic, well-planned teaching activities being carried on by the new believers as well as the Bahá’í pioneers throughout the territories of Africa. Reports from Mr. Músá Banání, Hand of the Cause, tell of pioneer activities by new believers in Ashanti Protectorate, French Equatorial Africa, Belgian Congo, Zanzibar, Basutoland, Union of South Africa and Zululand. Classes for the wives of the believers in Usumbara, Ruanda-Urundi, combine teaching of knitting and of the Bahá’í principles. On the island of Mahe Seychelles, regular teaching classes are held weekly and teaching work is being carried on also on the nearby island of Praslin.

During the month of January Mr. Banání reports that 88 Bahá’í declarations have been received from new believers in 12 different countries.

U.N. COMMITTEE REPORT

(Omitted from 1954-55 Annual Reports owing to late arrival.)

Agencies like UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Labor Organization that have their central offices in Europe. They also approved of contacting some of the governments that sponsor trade fairs. The Technical Assistance Board issued a letter to Mrs. Mottahedeh stating their approval of the project so that the letter could be used in making liaison with the different governments. From the middle of May to the middle of September, 1954, she was able to enlist the support of the governments or administrating authorities in all the countries through which she passed as well as holding conferences with UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and trade officials in Germany and Italy.

The project is still in work and it is hoped that it will begin action in the coming year.

A Conference for International Non-Governmental Organizations with consultative status was held in Geneva Switzerland in April, 1955. The subject of the Conference was "Eradication of Prejudice and Discrimination." Since the Baha'i International Community does not have consultative status we were only able to send observers. Honor Kempton of Geneva, Marion Little of Lausanne and F. Kasemsade of Frankfurt were chosen as observers. No report has as yet been received.

At the annual University of Kansas United Nations Conference we were ably represented by Dr. and Mrs. David Ruhe. The Conference was held in Lawrence, Kansas, January 24-25, 1955. The Ruhe's report: From the standpoint of Bahá'í teaching the conference offered real opportunities to make favorable contacts on behalf of the Faith with the internationally-minded persons in this area of Kansas. The environment is an excellent one psychologically for direct Bahá'í teaching. And it is an excellent occasion for the Bahá'ís to learn of the important progress of our colleagues who are engaged in creating a world which will ultimately be fitted for the Faith. We were able to mention our status as Bahá'ís many times and, even though questions about the Faith were slow in coming, we felt free to explain the Cause. A good many had heard of it before and spoke of Bahá'ís they had met in other cities. There would seem to be no a priori reason why any and all Bahá'ís who might be able to arrange their affairs and expend the dollars should not fruitfully attend. Indeed, many of the younger Bahá'ís in this area might well assume such conference attendance as part of their training for teaching the Faith and learning about the U.N."

This year the General Assembly of the United Nations will consider the matter of charter revision. The U.N. Committee is preparing a series of suggestions on this subject. All the National Spiritual Assemblies have been invited to send their suggestions and these are being incorporated with those of the U.N. Committee. The final draft will be printed and distributed at the San Francisco meeting of the General Assembly which will be held to mark the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Charter. The Committee believes this pamphlet will prove to be a valuable teaching medium for general use as well as acquainting the U.N. delegates with the Bahá'í plan for world government.

For several years the United Nations Committee has exerted vigorous efforts to win United Nations personnel to the Faith. It has held various types of fireside meetings to interest them with but small success. A core of good friends for the Faith was built up but no actual declarations resulted. This year the Committee decided to hold a series of firesides inviting U.N. personnel and other non-Bahá'ís of similar point of view. Since the Committee desires to draw from the group a study class of those actually desiring to study the Faith with a view to becoming Bahá'ís, the subject chosen for the series was purely religious: "Authoritative Presentation of Six of the Living Faiths." Speakers of unusual erudition and understanding of these faiths were secured with the result that interest and enthusiasm has been higher than ever before. The series will close with an exposition of the Bahá'í Faith and then will embark upon a more detailed study of the Faith. From present indications the Committee will be able to draw a small serious study class from the entire group and it is hoped that some of these will declare themselves.

From the person in charge of the conferences called for the Non-Governmental Organizations in Latin America we have had an enthusiastic report of the participation of our delegates in the Latin American conferences. They have proven themselves outstanding by their cooperation, intelligence and dignity and by the fact that, unlike many other international organizations, the Bahá'ís do have delegates native to the region where the conference is being held. Other organizations are strong in only a few countries and therefore must frequently send delegates from their international headquarters to these conferences rather than native residents for whom these meetings are actually called.

The United Nations Committee continues in its double task of gaining recognition and prestige for the Faith at the United Nations and of trying to win converts for the Faith. We have been more successful in the first than in the second. There seems to be, however, an awakening desire to seek in the field of religion for that
BAHÁ'Í SCHOOLS

The institution of the summer schools (is) designed to foster the spirit of fellowship in a distinctly Bahá'í atmosphere, to afford the necessary training for Bahá'í teachers, and to provide facilities for the study of the history and teachings of the Faith, and for a better understanding of its relation to other religions and to human society in general.

Shoghi Effendi in God Passes By, p. 340.

Louhelen Summer Session

Carrying out the spirit of Shoghi Effendi's words, the Louhelen School Program Committee is happy to announce the following program for the summer of 1955. The school session will begin at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, July 2, and continue through Monday noon, September 5. The subjects for the sessions are:

July 2-4 Week-end: East Central States Area Teaching Conference.
July 5-15 Junior Youth Session (Ages 10-14).
July 16-17 Week-end: Teaching Institute on Child Education.
July 18-29 Family Session I.
July 30-31 Week-end: Islam
August 1-5 Family Session II.
August 6-7 Week-end: Israel

impetus so sadly needed at the U.N. There has been much disillusionment at the failure of the U.N. to achieve the high goals it originally set in San Francisco and this has stimulated a search for a factor which can bring their ideals to fruition. Continued strenuous effort will be required by the U.N. Committee to find those in the U.N. willing to accept the Bahá'í solution.

—UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE
Mary L. Burnet, Chairman
Renee Welsh, Rec. Sec'y.
George Goodman
Peter Gravina
Hilda Yen Male
Rafi Y. Mottahedeh
Bahereh Sabet
Habib Sabet
Isabel Silk
Clarence Welsh

Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í of Madison, Wisconsin, incorporated March 9, 1955.

National Bahá'í Addresses

NATIONAL Bahá'í ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS:
536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois.

NATIONAL TREASURER:
112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.
Make checks Payable to:
National Bahá'í Fund

BAHÁ'í PUBLISHING TRUST:
110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

BAHÁ'í NEWS:
Editorial Office:
110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois
Subscription and change of address:
112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois

Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Wilmington, Delaware, incorporated March 25, 1955.
August 8-12 Family Session III.
August 13-14 Week-end: World Pioneering
August 15-19 Family Session IV
August 20-21 Week-end: Public Relations
August 22-September 2 Senior Youth Session
September 3-5 Week-end: Homecoming

Public meetings are planned weekly at 3:00 P.M. on Sundays and 8:00 P.M. on Wednesdays. In each Family Session, there will be a course on the spiritual teachings, a course on administration or Bahá’í history and an afternoon course, “Equipping Bahá’ís for Service.” There will be classes for the children during the four Family Sessions. During the Youth Sessions, both junior and senior, there will be counsellors as well as teachers.

Reservations should be made directly with:
Registrar: Louhelen Bahá’í School
3208 S. State Road
Davison, Michigan

**Green Acre Summer Session**

The 1955 Green Acre Summer School program, which follows, will be supplemented by a course on the fundamentals of the Bahá’í Faith, offered every week for non-Bahá’ís attending the school; and a program of advanced study for students who have a good background in the Teachings and who have taken other courses at the summer school over the years. The advanced course is not offered the first week.

The first two weeks of the school there will be a Youth session and children’s classes will be conducted from July 11 to August 26.

**July 5-9**
1. The Covenant of Bahá’u’lláh
2. Paris Talks of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá
3. Do’s & Don’ts for Bahá’í Teachers

**July 11-15**
1. Gleanings, I
2. Unfoldment of World Civilization
3. Principles & Practice of Bahá’í Consultation
4. Fifty Questions non-Bahá’ís Ask

**July 19-22**
1. Gleanings, II
2. Divine Art of Living
3. Sound Methods of Studying the Bahá’í Writings
4. Toward a Better Understanding of Catholicism

**July 25-29**
1. Gleanings, III
2. God Passes By, I (The Báb)
3. How to Give a Bahá’í Talk
4. What is a Mature Bahá’í?

**Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Palo Alto, California, incorporated January 31, 1955.**

*Although the number of Bahá’í adherents in Israel is not large, a special Department was established for this denomination this year, to deal with the special problems of the Bahá’í faith which has its world religious centre in Haifa. During 1953, the splendid Bahá’í mausoleum was completed on the slopes of Mount Carmel.*

A tourist pamphlet on the City of Acre (‘Akka) in Israel includes an illustration of the Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh and this reference: “The World Centre of the Bahá’í Faith is in Acre. The central edifice is the Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh, the Founder of the Bahá’í Faith. Adjoining the Shrine is the ‘Mansion of Bajhi,’ where Bahá’u’lláh spent the closing years of His life, and passed away. It is an old Arab Mansion, and has now been converted into a Museum.

“Both the Mansion and the Shrine are open to the public, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, and on other days by special appointment. The Gardens are open at all times.

“Bahá’u’lláh, the Founder of the Faith, was banished from His homeland in Persia, because of His teachings of Universal Brotherhood, Universal Faith and Universal Peace.

“The cell in which Bahá’u’lláh was incarcerated in the penal fortress of Acre for two years is now a ‘Bahá’í
Holy Place.' He was confined within the old walled city for another seven years, and His home, where many of the Bahá'í spiritual teachings were revealed, is shown elsewhere in this folder, and is a Bahá'í Holy Place, which can be visited by the public.

Then follows the Guardian's statement explaining the Faith, and an aerial view of the Shrine, the Mansion and the Gardens.

Acknowledgement is made to Helen M. Ames for reporting that Mademoiselle magazine for February, page 66, has a reference to the Bahá'í World Center.

A Turkish newspaper named Hürreyet, dated 6 Subat, 1955, carries on its front page a photograph of John C. Eichenauer with an interview which unfortunately has not been translated.

Wilmette Life for March 17, 1955, has a front cover illustration taken from the north side of the harbor channel showing the Temple in the background.

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

The following inspiring reports of Bahá'í community activities are taken from the bulletins available to Bahá'í News at press time:

The Gulfstates Crewsider, bulletin of the Gulf States Area Teaching Committee, reports the continued activity of the new group in Galveston, Texas, with excellent press coverage including a weekly announcement of the fireside, and books placed in the public library. Public meetings in Jackson, Mississippi, New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Texas cities of San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, Ft. Worth and Houston, with good radio and press coverage, were planned around the teaching tour of Auxiliary Board member, Marjorie McCormick. The Bulletin reports new enrollees in Corpus Christi, Dallas, and Mesquite, Texas, and in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Southwestern States Area Bulletin welcomes the new enrollees in Alameda and Concord, California, and in Apache Junction and Globe, Arizona. A report from northern California mentions public meetings that were well attended with good radio and newspaper publicity, all due to the efforts of just two or three Bahá'ís in the communities sponsoring them.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

In Fairbanks, Alaska an intensive teaching campaign was conducted over a period of a few days, with a Bahá'í speaker from Anchorage, Alaska giving two public lectures with an average attendance of over fifty guests. Four radio programs, one TV show, several press interviews and news articles gave excellent publicity to the campaign. In addition to a meeting with the NAACP, many firesides were held, now being continued with the new contacts attracted through this effort.

Miami, Florida reports a children's class held regularly each Sunday morning in cooperation with the Bahá'í community in Miami Beach.

Reno, Nevada Bahá'í Assembly has been granted authority to perform marriages anywhere in the state of Nevada.

Miami Florida reports that a leather worker, a leading Christian minister, a representative of the Quaker group, and a Bahá'í.

The Quaker representative stated, "We are living at present in a world of confused ideals and lost goals. If the old religion cannot meet this challenge, surely God will raise a mighty Voice to call out to His people, 'There is but one God.'"

This was a perfect introduction for the Bahá'í speaker, who told them that the "Mighty Voice" had come and was calling the people of the earth to the recognition of the one God, and informing them that there is but one religion and one race—the human race.

The Ft. Wayne, Indiana Bahá'í Community were invited to appear on Station WKJG, March 9, on the weekly program "A Faith to Live By." A talk was given on "Worship" and Temple pictures were used. This is Ft. Wayne's first TV appearance.

A CRUSADE IS IN PROGRESS

Theme of Area Youth Conferences

On the week end of February 19 and 20, area youth conferences were held in Chicago, Illinois; Phoenix, Arizona; Fresno, California; Dumont, New Jersey; Los Angeles, California; Richmond Highlands, Washington; Rochester, New York. Discussion centered around plans for World Youth Day, ways of improving meetings on university campuses, on the need for youth to prepare themselves to be effective pioneers in the World Crusade through ability to teach and live the Bahá'í life and by preparing to be self-supporting through learning vocations that will be useful in this respect.

VISUAL AIDS FOR TEACHING AND EXHIBITS

The Audio-Visual Education Committee announces that slides of the Temple and the Shrine of the Báb are soon to appear throughout the country on the Atkins Travel Slides. The friends may buy these same slides from the Sales Committee or the Audio-Visual Education Committee at prices lower than in stores.
Soon to be available will be views of the Temple in three-D for the Viewmaster.

The three-wing display unit originally prepared for use during Jubilee year is still excellent exhibit material. The low price of $3.50 includes cost of shipment to any address in the United States.

Tapes of hi-fi music are available for use at firesides and special meetings. Send for the committee's bulletin, "Sound Presentations."

The committee also offers "Words for the World" in two 10-inch long playing records, consisting of the complete series of sixteen four-minute broadcasts; and the 7-inch 1.p. record voice solo of Carol Kelsey, a member of the Fred Waring Orchestra, singing "From the Sweet-Scented Streams."

Valuable information about tape recorders, projectors and other media for use in the Ten-Year Crusade appears in Visi-News Bulletin No. 10 available on request from the Audio-Visual Education Committee 125 Evergreen Place, Wes; Englewood, N.J.

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Bahá'í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá'ís and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahá'í House of Worship A Capella Choir.

The programs for the month of April follow:

Order of Devotions—April 3, 1955

The fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race, and to foster the spirit of love and fellowship amongst men.

—Bahá'ú'lláh

CHORAL SELECTION
"O Thou, Of Whose Name (Prayer of Bahá'ú'lláh)—Charles Wolcott

BAHÁ'Í SACRED WRITINGS
Gleanings, p. 943
Gleanings, XCVI, p. 200

OLD TESTAMENT
Malachi 3:1-2; 3:16-18; Isaiah 11:1-9

NEW TESTAMENT
Luke 10:14-16

Choral Selection
"Allahú 'Alá'—Giovanni Palestrina

Order of Devotions—April 10, 1955

In all dispensations the love of prayer hath constituted a fundamental element of the Revelation of all the Prophets of God.

—Bahá'ú'lláh

CHORAL SELECTION
"Amongst God is Our Fathers—James

BAHÁ'Í SACRED WRITINGS
Bahá'í Prayers, p. 62

OLD TESTAMENT
Job 33:29; Psalms 50:14-15; 34:1-4; 117: 100; 67

NEW TESTAMENT

CHORAL SELECTION
"Achluia Lord God!—Giovanni Palestrina

Order of Devotions April 17, 1955

O men! This is a matchless Day. Matchless must, likewise, be the tongue that celebrateth the praise of the Desire of all nations, and matchless the deed that aspires to be acceptable in His sight. The whole human race hath longed for this Day, that perchance it may fulfill that which will beseech its stations, and be worthy of its destiny.

—Bahá'ú'lláh

CHORAL SELECTION
"Prayer of Bahá'ú'lláh—Charles Wolcott

ORDER OF DEVIATIONS

Arise, O God, and Shew Thy Might—Haydn
M. Morgan

BAHÁ'Í SACRED WRITINGS
Prayers and Meditations, pp. 35-36

OLD TESTAMENT
Psalms 24:; Micah 4: 1-5

NEW TESTAMENT
Revelation 21:1-3

CHORAL SELECTION
"From the Sweet-Scented Streams—Charles Wolcott

BAHÁ'Í SACRED WRITINGS
Gleanings, p. 213; p. 39; VII, p. 10

NEW TESTAMENT
John 1:49-51

CHORAL SELECTION
"The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, pp. 100-107
Prayers and Meditations, CLV, p. 46

CHORAL SELECTION
"We Thank Thee, Lord—Dimitri Bortulansky

Order of Devotions—April 24, 1955

Make mention of Me on My earth, that in My heavens I may remember thee, thus shall Mine eye and Mine heart be satisfied—Bahá'u'lláh

CHORAL SELECTION
"Song of Relief—Will James

BAHÁ'Í SACRED WRITINGS
Prayers and Meditations, CLXV, p. 256

NEW TESTAMENT
Romans 15:29-31; 2 Corinthians 13:1-7; 2:9

CHORAL SELECTION
"Prayers and Meditations, CLXVI, p. 259

CHORAL SELECTION
"God is A Spirit—Alexander Kopyloff

BAHÁ'Í SACRED WRITINGS
Gleanings, pp. 364-365

The Khábíyát, pp. 192-197

CHORAL SELECTION
"Credo—Prayers and Meditations, CLXVI, p. 259

CHORAL SELECTION
"Glory Be to God in the Highest—G. B. Pergolesi

BAHÁ'Í GLOSSARY

By Marziah Gall. A glossary of Persian and Arabic words that appear in the Bahá'í writings, with pronunciation clearly indicated and definitions of the meanings. This work is a necessity to every serious student of the Bahá'í writings and will add much enlightenment and enjoyment to the reading of The Dawn-Breakers, God...
Passes By, The Kitáb-i-Iqán, The Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, and others. 8½ x 11 in., 60 pages, paper cover.
Per copy ....................... $1.50

Foundations of World Unity
The much-loved selection of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's addresses and letters on the spiritual foundations of world unity is again available. This book is a "must" for public library presentation as well as for personal Bahá'í libraries, and an excellent book to give to new contacts who have had some previous attraction to the Teachings. The cloth copy is beautifully bound in natural linen, stamped in red, size 9½ x 6.
Bound in cloth .................. $2.00
Bound in paper. (Price remains) .................. $1.00

Prophecy Fullfilled, by Elizabeth Cheney. A revised edition of this useful pamphlet on the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy, dealing with prophecies more pertinent to today, is now available. It has been newly set in a modern typeface with an attractively designed cover, black on autumn red. The price of the new edition has been reduced.
Ten copies ..................... $ .50
100 copies ...................... $4.50

HOLY DAYS
April 21-May 2, Feast of Ríván
(Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh)
May 2, Twelfth day of Ríván
May 23, Declaration of the Báb
(May 22, about 2 hours after sunset.)
May 29, Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh
(3:00 A.M.)

FEASTS
May 17 — 'Ajamát, Grandeur
June 5 — 'áráá, Light
June 24 — Rahmat, Mercy

BAHÁ'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting hours
Weekdays and Saturdays:
1:00 P.M.-4:30 P.M., 7:00 P.M.-
9:00 P.M.
Sundays: 10:30 A.M.-9:00 P.M.
(The entire building will be open.)

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30
P.M., lasting until 4:15 (No guided
services will be conducted during
the program of worship.)

Holy days and Anniversaries celebra-
ted at the Bahá'í House of Wor-
ship:
Declaration of the Báb, May 23
Holy Days and Anniversaries celebra-
ted at the Bahá'í House of Wor-
ship are open to the public. The
meeting begins at 8:15 P.M. of the
day preceding the anniversary
date, in Foundation Hall.

IN MEMORIAM

"Death proffereth unto every con-
fident believer the cup that is life
indeed. It bestoweth joy and is the
bearer of gladness. It conferreth
the gift of everlasting life."

—BAHÁ'U'LLÁH


MISSOURI

Miss Lee Friedman
New York, New York
(date not reported)

Mrs. Bea Durando
Phoenix, Arizona
March, 1955

Jewett P. Hills
Omak, Washington
March, 1955

Miss Gertrude M. Foshay
Glen Ridge, New Jersey
Feb. 10, 1955

Mr. Lucian N. Nash
Forest Grove, Oregon
March, 1955

Mrs. Audrey Danial
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
March 21, 1955

Mr. James Bolton (youth)
Ashuelot, New Hampshire
March 26, 1955

William H. Maddex
Orange, New Jersey
March 29, 1955

Mrs. Oziebel Turney
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
March 27, 1955

Miss Pauline Roth
Fort Wayne, Indiana
April 2, 1955

Mr. Perry Haynes
Wolfeboro, New Hampshire
March 18, 1955

Mrs. Katheryn B. Mielke
Escondido, California
March 28, 1955

BAHÁ'Í DIRECTORY CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

Miss Lucy Lucas
Phoenix, Arizona
Feb. 20, 1955

Mr. August E. Anderson
Green Bay, Wisconsin
Feb. 16, 1955

Mr. William Roessler
New York, New York
Jan. 20, 1955

Mrs. Martha Wright
New York, New York
Feb. 11, 1955

Mr. Arthur Allen DuBoque
New York, New York
Feb. 12, 1955

Miss Lee Friedman
New York, New York
(date not reported)

Mrs. Bea Durando
Phoenix, Arizona
March, 1955

Jewett P. Hills
Omak, Washington
March, 1955

Miss Gertrude M. Foshay
Glen Ridge, New Jersey
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Mr. Lucian N. Nash
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Wolfeboro, New Hampshire
March 18, 1955

Mrs. Katheryn B. Mielke
Escondido, California
March 28, 1955

MARRIAGES

"Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace..."

—BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Columbus, Ohio—Mrs. Ruth Smith to Mr. Willard Denney, February 22, 1955.

Chula Vista, Calif.—Miss Patricia L. Carter to Mr. Edward J. Carlson, January 22, 1955.
GUARDIAN CALLS UPON ALL BAHÁ'IS TO JOIN HIM IN SPECIAL, FERVENT PRAYERS

In a cable addressed to the National Spiritual Assembly, to be shared with all National Assemblies, the Guardian states: “Call upon all believers (to) join me (in) special, fervent prayers (for) Divine protection (of) the vital interests (and) complete emancipation (from) shackles (of) the) beloved Faith (in) Bahá'ulláh's native land.”

This urgent and poignant appeal arises from the Guardian’s “Inexpressible grief (at) distressing reports indicating recrudescence (of) persecution (of) steadfast, law-abiding, long-suffering brethren (in) fanaticism (and) evidenced (by) occupation (of) holy local Assemblies in communion with all National Assemblies, including local Assemblies, including the) systematic simultaneous teaching campaigns (on the) African continent four years ago (to) well above one hundred. Uganda in particular achieved (the) unique, memorable feat (of) the) formation (of) seven new Assemblies, swelling number (of) Assemblies (to) forty-one, localities (to) over hundred, total believers (to) almost nine hundred.

(The) sacred dust (of) Báb's infant son, extolled (in the) Qayyum-ul-Asmá' (was) respectfully (and) ceremoniously transferred (on the anniversary (of) his Father's martyrdom, (in the presence of) pilgrims (and) resident believers (to) the) Bahá'í cemetery (in) Shiráz, (the) prelude (to the) translation (to the) same spot (of the) remains (of the) Báb's beloved (and) long-suffering consort.

Five additional incorporations (of) local Assemblies, including Suva, Fiji.

(A) pioneer (has) embarked (for) Loyalty (Island), (the) last remaining unopened island (in the) Pacific Ocean outside (the) Soviet orbit.

Negotiations (for the) purchase (of) national Hazíras (in) Colombo (and) Jakarta (are) nearing completion.

Preliminary steps (have) been undertaken (for the) establishment (of a) Bahá'í Publishing Trust (in) TihraN.
THE BAHÁ'Í INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING
Mount Carmel, Israel

An Artist's perspective water color rendering from the preliminary design drawn by C.M.R., Arch't., A.D.P.L.G.F.
Above: The first capital, "Ionic style", completed at Chiampo, Italy, on April 19, 1955, one of the 50 capitals required for the Bahá’í International Archives Building on Mount Carmel. Left: One-third of one column under construction. One hundred fifty sections like this will be required to complete the fifty columns of the International Archives Building.

(1) design (for the) Mother Temple (in the) cradle (of the) Faith (was) unveiled (in the) presence (of) pilgrims (and) resident believers assembled (within the) Ḥaram-i-Aqdas* (on the) first day (of) Riḍván.

—Síyáh

Received April 30, 1955

COMMENTARY: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Beloved Friends:

The Guardian supplemented his message to the various National Conventions with a further recital of significant achievements carried out during the second year of the World Crusade.

The text as presented above is the complete final text, incorporating additions and omissions reported in three brief cables which were read at the Convention in Wilmette.

What could be more dramatic historically than the institution of a local Spiritual Assembly in Mecca, in Kárimayn and Najaf, the steps taken to establish a Publishing Trust in Tihrán, and the unveiling of the design for the Temple to be constructed in Irán?

But these events are far more than astonishing episodes; they are banners planted on slopes of the mountains by the victorious army of the Hosts which is so rapidly effecting conquest of the citadels of prejudice, fanaticism, superstition and ignorance.

Friends! the most difficult and dangerous tasks are already well-nigh completed. With fresh ardor we can hasten forward to accomplish in full measure the tasks allotted to the third year of the Ten-Year Plan.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

GUARDIAN APPOINTS NINTH MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL BAHÁ’I COUNCIL

The following cable was received May 4, 1955:

"Announce (to) National Assemblies (the) number (of the) members (of the) International Council (has) been (raised) to nine through appointment (of) Sylvia Ioas."

The International Bahá’í Council was formed by the Guardian in 1951 and reported in a cablegram dated January 9 of that year: "Proclaim National Assemblies (of) East (and) West weighty, epoch-making decision, formation of first International Bahá’í Council, forerunner (of) supreme administrative institution destined (to) emerge (in) fullness (of) time within precincts beneath shadow (of) World Spiritual Center (of) Faith already established (in) twin cities (of) 'Akká (and) Haifa."

The other eight members of the Council are: Amatü’l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum, liaison between the Guardian and the Council, Mason Remey, President, Amelia E. Collins, Vice President, Leroy Ioas, Secretary-General, Ugo Giachery, member at large, Jessie E. Revell, Treasurer, Lotfulláh Hakim and Ethel Revell, assistant secretaries.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

GUARDIAN CABLES HAND OF CAUSE FOR AFRICA

Through the courtesy of Mr. Músá Banáni, Hand of the Cause for Africa, we have received the text of cable sent him by the beloved Guardian dated April 26:

"Rejoice greatly; admire deeply grateful magnificent achievements valiant friends colored white pioneers teachers administrators four areas African Continent. Loving fervent prayers surrounding them."

—Síyáh
Views of the site purchased for the future Mashriqu’l-Adhkár of Iraq. This land, comprising about seven and a half acres situated on the banks of the Tigris River, was blessed by the footsteps of Bahá’u’lláh.

### Progress at the World Center

**INTERNATIONAL BAHÁ’I COUNCIL

Haifa, Israel**

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States

Dearly beloved Friends:

Time has slipped by so rapidly for the members of the International Bahá’í Council serving the beloved Guardian here in the Holy Land, that it seems scarcely possible our last communication went forth over two years ago. Be that as it may, we feel that many details of what is going on here at the World Center of our Faith will stimulate and interest the friends, and carry to them some idea of the immense progress made lately in Haifa and ‘Akka and of the activities of Council members.

Shrine of the Báb

— A Silent Teacher to Thousands

Since the completion of the Shrine of the Báb in October, 1953, it is proving as great a silent teacher as the Temple in Wilmette. From all sides of Haifa it is clearly visible, seated on its green carpet of gardens and open space in the heart of Carmel, its golden dome glittering not only in the sunlight by day, but in the moonlight at night. So clear is the surface of the tiles that at certain angles cloud reflections can be seen sailing on them. One of the most beautiful views of it is had from incoming ships, and many comments have been made, not only by pilgrims arriving by sea, but by non-Bahá’ís as well.

The demand to visit it is so great that it has posed quite a problem. The public, including large groups of school children, young people, and tourists from all over the world, members of clubs, etc., pour in in such numbers that it is not possible to leave them unattended and free to wander where they will, as this may lead to damage to the lawns and crushed tile paths, and to the picking of fruit and flowers. A conducted tour is therefore made every few minutes, the gates being unlocked and relocked after each group, while two of the Council members—assisted sometimes by visiting pilgrims—take the party into the Shrine of the Báb. On Saturdays, the legal day of rest, and on the Jewish holidays, the crowds are often immense—sometimes over 700 in three hours—and this necessitates at least four people being on duty. As accurate an account of the visitors as possible is kept with a ticker by those guiding at the Shrine. About 35,000 people a year is the attendance so far, as many as 1700 coming on one holiday. In view of the fact that the gates leading to the inner garden and the Shrine itself are only open from 9 to 12 daily, this figure is remarkable. The outer garden, where anyone may enter from early morning until dark, must be visited by at least twice this number.

Most of the visitors come out of curiosity, because the Shrine is open to the public, because, as one American tourist said: “This is the most beautiful spot in Israel; in fact, it is the most beautiful spot in the whole world.” Many interesting remarks are overheard by the friends guiding at the Shrines; a particularly touching one being the case of an elderly man, who after leaving the Shrine of the Báb took one of the Bahá’ís aside and asked: “Don’t you feel God much closer there?” Many local people come practically every week just to enjoy the serenity and loveliness of the gardens. The attitude of those visiting the interior of the Shrine is interesting to watch; almost invariably the people are considerate; they are requested to remove their shoes and not speak. They marvel at the rugs and chandeliers, the vases, lights and flowers. Sometimes one sees people who are deeply stirred or who quietly read the Tablet of Visitation, or who remain a long time; occasionally there are tear-filled eyes. So the Shrine is
Continual Development of New Areas

Of the 220,000 square meters of land owned in Haifa by the Faith, about 65,000 square meters are actually gardens—each year the Guardian stretches his hand over a new piece of wild mountainside in Haifa or of sandy plain in Bahjí and creates, almost overnight, a new and lovely addition to the existing gardens. Red paths roll out before him, iron gates spring up, the lawn becomes green, and trees, hedges and flowers appear as if by magic. We never cease to marvel at the rapidity with which this takes place, or the beauty of the final product.

This winter, in two and one-half months' time an entire new section of Mt. Carmel, lying above the resting-places of the Master's family. The Guardian devoted a great deal of time and attention to the line of this curve which is broad and graceful. After this was done, a band of garden 20 meters (60 feet) wide was developed on the farther mountain side of the arc. Then the exact site of the new International Archives Building was fixed.

If one visualizes a semi-circle and then projects the base line on which the semi-circle rests to the right, one gets a rough idea of the relation of the Archives Building to the arc, for this projected line forms the axis of the building. Its position is spectacular and, rising in the style of a peripteral Ionic Greek temple on the side of the mountain, its creamy white Chiampo stones—the same stone as that used for the Shrine—shining in the sun, its green tiled roof stretching 30 meters long, broadside to the road, the Shrine, the lower city and the harbor, the edifice will be widely visible and immensely impressive.

The stone work for this edifice is now being done in Italy, under the supervision of the Hand of the Cause, Ugo Giachery; and soon the shipments of stone, cut and ready to be set up, will start arriving. This is the first of the buildings that will give shelter to the administrative activities of the Faith at the World Center. A seat for the Guardianship, for the Hands of the Cause, and for the Universal House of Justice, as well as other edifices, will later be added, clustering about the "arc."

As the friends already know, from the Guardian's messages, the site for the first Temple in the Holy Land has been purchased and transfer of the title deed will shortly take place. The negotiations for this 36,000 square meter property took over a year, and were fraught with innumerable complications. When the full account of its acquisition is written, it will read like a mystery story. A commemorative obelisk seven meters in height, and made of Italian Travertine, the same stone the ancient Romans built their temples of, will be placed on the grounds as soon as the land is transferred to our name.

Two views of the recently acquired site for the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar to be built in Egypt, on the banks of the Nile. In the larger view the three great pyramids of Giza may be seen, about seven miles west of the Nile. The location of the Temple site is marked by a cross. In the smaller picture, the limits of the site, comprising about four and one-quarter acres of land, are marked by the four crosses.
It is now one of the spots visited by all the believers who make the pilgrimage. The land is truly in an imposing position. It lies near the spot where the Tablet of Carmel was revealed, which as the friends know, is the Charter for the World Administrative Center of the Faith on Mt. Carmel. It is immediately above the two Caves of Elijah, one controlled by the Jews and the other by the Christians. West, the sun sinks into the Mediterranean; south are the rolling hills, the Valley of Askalon and the coast line; north, across the bay, lies historic Akka, and Mt. Hermon, often crowned with snow, is clearly visible; east lies Haifa City, the port, and, daintily outlined, the dome and pinnacles of the Bab’s Shrine are silhouetted against the sky half way up the Mountain. We may now truly say we own the head and heart of Carmel.

On November 12, 1952, a contract was signed with the Development Authority of the State of Israel, whereby the Bahá’í Community secured ownership of some 160,000 square meters (40 acres) of land surrounding the Sacred Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh. The magnitude of this historic event is difficult to understand at this time. The previous owners of the land surrounding the Shrine, who were intimate friends of the Covenant-breakers, had, in the days of the Master, done everything they possibly could to prevent even the development of a small garden around this most Sacred Spot, going so far as to dig ditches and plant trees to mark the limits of their property and to shut in the resting-place of the sacred remains of the Manifestation of God. They had stated on numerous occasions that they would never permit the Bahá’ís to purchase any of this land.

After the Arabs fled and the Jewish State was established, the Government became the owner of all this property, and consented to exchange it for a tract of land held by a Bahá’í family in a strategic military area. The beloved Guardian immediately began the development of gardens surrounding the Holy Tomb and created the “Haram-i-Aqdas,” which is now one of the most beautiful spots in this part of the world. He has gone on enlarging these gardens so that they now form practically a semi-circle around the Shrine with a radius of 110 meters.

Thus approximately 35,000 square meters (9 acres) of land is now developed.

Extension of International Endowments

In Haifa, the extension of the International Endowments has been going forward continuously. During the first two years of the Ten-Year Crusade, the Bahá’í Community has purchased some 43,000 square meters of land, thus further protecting the glorious Shrine of the Bab from any possible encroachment.

On the very top of Mt. Carmel, immediately on the axis of Carmel Avenue upon which the Shrine lies, 4,000 square meters of land have been purchased, which will prevent any construction overlooking this most sacred spot. Great interest to the friends in connection with this particular piece of land is the fact that while the N.S.A. of the Bahá’ís of Írán is not yet incorporated, and cannot hold land legally in its own name in Persia, yet we have been able to legally incorporate an Israel Branch of the N.S.A. of the Bahá’ís of Írán here in the Holy Land; and this 4,000 square meter piece of land is registered in the name of their branch and legally owned by them.

Another acquisition of great interest to the Bahá’ís is the tract of land previously owned by Mrs. Farah Sprague. On and off for a period of many years, the beloved Guardian attempted to acquire this small piece of land situated in the heart of Bahá’í holdings in the area surrounding the shrines of the Greatest Holy Leaf, the Purest Branch and the Mother of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. Mrs. Sprague’s original price for this land was fantastic; finally she arbitrarily refused to sell it to the Bahá’ís at all. Recently arrangements were made with the Finance Minister of the State of Israel to expropriate the land, on the recommendation of the Mayor of Haifa; and this piece of property is now in our possession. Here we see an enemy of the Faith, who asked an exorbitant price, and then would not even sell to the Bahá’í Community in spite of a very liberal offer, forced by non-Bahá’í agencies to sell to us, and for a small amount of payment from the State of Israel.

It is this land which is incorporated in the area which has now been landscaped in preparation for the International Bahá’í Archives Building. The Haifa Municipal Council has

Hazírat-i-Quds of Anchorage, Alaska, purchased March 15, 1955, which will become the National Hazírat-i-Quds of Alaska. (See Bahá’í News, April, 1955, page 3.)
Tokyo Acquire Haziratu’l-Quds

The Haziratu’l-Quds at Tokyo, Japan, which will become the National Haziratu’l-Quds of Japan.

been most helpful, and a road scheduled to pass right through this area has been recently removed from the Town Planning Scheme.

Contact With Officials of State of Israel

The International Council has endeavored assiduously to develop closer relationships between the World Center of the Faith and the Israel Authorities. Contacts are maintained with Departments of Government as well as the City Authorities in Haifa and ‘Akká, and many Cabinet officials. They are beginning to understand the importance of our World Center being in Israel. A number of the high officials of the State have visited the Shrines and Gardens. These visits were climaxmed by the official visit of His Excellency the President of the State of Israel, Mr. Izhak Ben Zvi and Mrs. Ben Zvi to the Guardian, who accompanied them to the Shrine of the Báb and later called on them in Jerusalem. This is the first time in Baha’i history that the Head of an independent State has visited either the Head of the Faith or a Bahá’í sacred property. As a result of this cordial exchange of visits, a cordial relationship now exists between the Guardian and the President; each year the President sends the Guardian greetings on the occasion of the Baha’í New Year. His greetings received for Naw-Rúz, 1955, were released officially and broadcast over the Israel radio as a news item, as well as carried fully in the press. The Guardian himself sends a personal message every year to the President on Israel’s Independence Day.

Liberal Publicity Given to Faith

Newspapers and magazines are liberal in their publicity concerning the Faith. Reports of current Bahá’í activities, articles concerning the expansion of our International Endowments, and pictures of the Gardens and the Holy Places are published; an Israel motion picture company, unsolicited, made a fifteen-minute film of the Shrine of the Báb and gardens; pamphlets issued by tour companies refer to the Shrine and gardens; a book published last year by the City of Haifa called The Carmelite devotes a whole chapter to the Bahá’í Faith and its institutions on Mt. Carmel.

A number of lectures in various parts of the State have been delivered. On October 15, 1952, the significant date of the opening of the Holy Year, the first public address on the Faith to be given in the City of ‘Akká, was delivered. The meeting was originally intended as an address to the Quakers, but inasmuch as considerable interest was aroused, it was thrown open to all, and advertised widely. It was most impressive that on this opening day of the Holy Year, within 300 meters of the Most Great Prison, a public address with questions and answers should be given concerning the Faith of Baha’u’llah and His world mission. Talks have also been given before the Rotary Clubs in such historic cities as Beersheba, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Haifa, Nathanya and Naharia.

Many Pioneers Inspired Through Pilgrimages to International Center

One of the most wonderful aspects of life at the International Center is
to partake, with the pilgrims; of the tremendous stimulus poured out by the Guardian to the friends during their visit here, and to aid in entertaining and serving them.

Baha’is have come from the Pacific area to make the pilgrimage: Australia, New Zealand, Sarawak, Hong Kong and Japan. Pilgrims who visited here have either been on their way, or been stimulated by the Guardian, to leave for the following places in that area: Indo-China, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Fomosa. Friends have also left, after visiting the Holy Places here, for Mentawai and Karikal in, and bordering on, the Indian Ocean. From Asia and Arabia, believers have been received by the Guardian from India, Pakistan, Persia and Turkey. Also many Baha’is from Europe have arrived from Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Holland, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Switzerland, Finland, Monaco and the Lofoten Islands. From the Mediterranean islands they have either come from or proceeded to: Sicily, Malta and Cyprus. The Guardian is particularly pleased with the present status of Cyprus as it has Baha’is representative of the following races: Irish, Dutch, Persian, Iraqí, Greek, Armenian and American! He continually cites it as an exemplary type of growth. From the United States many Baha’is have arrived, representing Northern, Southern, Central, Eastern and Western States. A number of Canadian believers have also made the pilgrimage, as well as friends from Costa Rica, Chile, Cuba, Honduras, and the far-off pioneer from Margarita Island. From here, some of these pilgrims have later proceeded to the Dutch West Indies and the Windward Islands. The greatest amount of activity, however, has centered around Africa: Believers have been received from South Africa, Liberia, Tanganyika, Kenya, Uganda, Swaziland, Lourenço Marques, Bechuanaland, South Rhodesia, Canary Islands, French Morocco, Tunis, Algeria and the Sudán. As a direct result of the inspiration received from the Guardian, pilgrims have pioneered in Africa to the following places: Johannesburg, Aden Protectorate, Madeira, Madagascar, South West Africa, Zululand, French Cameroons, Morocco International Zone; others have gone on to the Gold Coast, Ethiopia, Tanganyika, South Rhodesia, etc. We estimate at least sixty countries—many important pioneer goals—have been connected directly, through pilgrimages made here, with the dynamic flow of energy which our beloved Guardian releases and which is the very life-blood of our glorious Ten-Year Plan.

Faithfully yours in El Baha,
—International Bahá’í Council
(Signed) Mason Remey
President
Haifa, Israel
Leroy Ioas
May 2, 1955
Secretary-General

COMMENTARY: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Beloved Friends:

Once more it is our great privilege to receive a general communication from the International Bahá’í Council, signed by President Mason Remey and Secretary-General Leroy Ioas, under date of May 2, 1955.

This letter brings together many important and thrilling facts about the current activities taking place at our World Center.

We note the tremendous public interest in the completed Shrine of the Báb and the gardens; we learn more about the acquisition of additional properties and how they are fitting into the Guardian’s plan; we learn to appreciate the work of the Council in developing closer relations with the civil authorities, and the information given about publicity concerning the Faith, the motion pictures made by an Israeli company and public lectures about the Faith, is all enlightening; we thrill at the mention of far-flung countries from which Bahá’í pilgrims come, which as the letter states, “have been connected directly, through pilgrimages made here, with the dynamic flow of energy which our beloved Guardian releases and which is the very life-blood of our glorious Ten-Year Plan.”

These successive communications from the International Bahá’í Council have become a strong bond between the friends and the Guardian’s development of the Bahá’í World Center.

—National Spiritual Assembly

"BLESSED BY THE DIVINE FAVOR"

The Master’s Call to Pioneers

Many years ago the revered ‘Abdu’l-Bahá revealed a Tablet addressed “O ye homeless and wanderers in the Path of God!”

Today the poignant words of the Center of the Covenant wing their flight into the hearts of all Baha’is who have the capacity to arise, leave their homes and enter the pioneer field as servants of the World Crusade.

The National Spiritual Assembly commends this Tablet to the body of believers in this continent. The Master’s Spirit is eternal, and His words are true now, as in the past and in the future. (The Tablet was published in Vol. 14, No. 3, June 1923 of Bahá’í Magazine.)

“O ye homeless and wanderers in the Path of God!

“Prosperity, contentment, and freedom, however much desired and conducive to the gladness of the human heart, can in no wise compare...
with the trials of homelessness and adversity in the pathway of God; for such exile and banishment are blessed by the divine favor, and are surely followed by the mercy of providence. The joy of tranquillity in one's home, and the sweetness of freedom from all cares shall pass away, whilst the blessing of homelessness shall endure forever, and its far-reaching results shall be made manifest.

"Abraham's migration from His native land caused the bountiful gifts of the All-Glorious to be made manifest, and the setting of Canaan's brightest star unfolded to the eyes the radiance of Joseph. The flight of Moses, the Prophet of Sinai, revealed the Flame of the Lord's burning Fire, and the rise of Jesus breathed the breaths of the Holy Spirit into the world. The departure of Muhammad, the beloved of God, from the city of His birth was the cause of the exaltation of God's Holy Word, and the banishment of the Sacred Beauty led to the diffusion of the Light of His Divine Revelation throughout all regions.

"Take ye heed, O people of insight!"

—National Spiritual Assembly

FALKLAND ISLANDS BELIEVER WRITES LETTER TO RECTOR OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND

By direction of the Guardian, the National Assembly shares with the friends the text of a letter written by Mrs. Florence McKinnon, Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, to the Rector of the Church of England in the Islands.

This letter was written because Mrs. McKinnon, the first believer enrolled in that virgin territory, was subjected to pressure by the Rector of the Church she had left in declaring her faith. He had given her two Christian tracts to read, with the warning that in becoming a Bahá'í she was turning away from God and Jesus Christ.

The firm and steadfast Bahá'í returned the tracts with the letter cited below, asserting her whole-hearted acceptance of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh. We may look upon this letter as something in the nature of an historic document—a milestone set up to mark the progress of the Bahá'í Community. The pioneer responsible for her confirmation is John Leonard. Mrs. McKinnon, incidentally, wrote the letter after Mr. Leonard had left Port Stanley. Here, indeed, is a source of inspiration to Bahá'ís throughout the world.

The text of letter follows:

"With the returning of your booklets, I take this opportunity of acquainting you of my decision, of remaining firm and steadfast in the Bahá'í Faith.

"This is not just a phase, but an awakening, a rebirth, a totally new life, to which God has called me.

"I know this to be true, because it was revealed to me, through my own seeking, first by prayer, and then God's Word, which Bahá'u'lláh makes manifest in the Bahá'í teachings.

"There can be no doubt that it is God's Word, being revealed to us by Bahá'u'lláh, God's Dispensation for this era, for the very reason, the whole, is pulsating with light and truth.

"I believe in God, therefore I do not reject 'Jesus,' nor do I reject anything pertaining to the Word of God.

"So many things have been revealed to me within so short a time that my life has become filled with happiness, and desire to serve God, the Father of all mankind. 'As ye have faith, so shall your powers and your blessings be.'

"These words I have penned, come from a sincere heart, and not from one who is sadly delusioned, or elated with a feeling of superiority. 'Never before have I felt so humble, nor so able to seek out my own shortcomings.

"Reverend Sir, I remain,

Yours faithfully in His service,

Florence McKinnon."

MOST EFFECTIVE TEACHING METHOD

The National Assembly shares with the friends an excerpt from letter written on behalf of the Guardian by the Secretary-General of the International Bahá'í Council to the Bahá'í group of Key West, Florida, on March 31, 1955.

"In conclusion, I would like to comment that it has been found over the
entire world that the most effective method of teaching the Faith is the fireside meeting in the home. Every Bahá’í, as a part of his spiritual birthright, must teach, and the one avenue where he can do this most effectively is by inviting friends into his home once in nineteen days, and gradually attracting them to the Cause. After the individuals have confidence in the pioneer, and the pioneer in the individuals, then they can be taught and confirmed in the Faith. This method is far more effective than advertising in newspapers, public lectures, etc. The Guardian is encouraging the believers over the world, including those on the home fronts, to engage in this method of teaching.”

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

THE HOME FRONT CAMPAIGN
Challenge to Every American Bahá’í

Beloved Friends:

The Guardian’s historic Message to the Convention has been presented to you through Baha’i News. It has been discussed by the Convention delegates and studied by the incoming National Spiritual Assembly. Now we must address ourselves to the one supreme Crusade task which confronts the entire American Bahá’í Community—the Home Front Campaign. None of us resident in this country can stand aloof, none but can glory in the results of victory.

On March 29 a letter written on behalf of the Guardian brought us this appeal:

“On April 21 we will enter the last year of the second phase of the Ten-Year Crusade. As you know, one of the objectives of this second phase was the rapid multiplication of Assemblies, groups and centers throughout the world.

“During the past year, a great deal has been accomplished by the friends in their efforts to disperse from the large centers of population in order to build up the goal cities and establish new centers. However, we have not accomplished a great deal in the way of increasing the number of Bahá’ís, nor the number of Spiritual Assemblies.

“The beloved Guardian sincerely hopes you will make it a point of major study and consideration on the part of your Assembly, so that the entire community may lend itself to the accomplishment of this great work during the coming year. The foundations must be laid for many more Assemblies. The friends must disperse from the large centers of population. Our teaching work must become so sanctified and penetrating that many, many souls will be confirmed.”

The Home Front Goal

In the World Crusade, the United States must have 300 local Spiritual Assemblies by 1958. This called for the formation of at least 16 Assemblies per year beginning April 21, 1954.

What are the facts?

The Bahá’í Directory 1954-1955 listed 172 Assemblies—a decrease in the number since the opening of the World Crusade.

From reports received to date on elections held April 21, 1955, the following results appear:

| Total Assemblies reported | 184 |
| New Assemblies            | 9   |
| Assemblies re-established | 10  |
| Assemblies lost           | 9   |

This is the reason why the Guardian has so frequently and insistently emphasized the home front campaign. We are not keeping up with the progress required for attaining this goal.

“Now if ever,” the beloved Guardian addressed us in his great message of July 28, 1954, “is the time to tread the path which the Dawn-Breakers of a previous age have so magnificently trodden. Now is the time to carry out, in the spirit and the letter, the fervent wish so pathetically voiced by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Who longed, as attested in the Tablets of the Divine Plan, to ‘travel though on foot and in the utmost poverty and raise in cities, villages, mountains, deserts and oceans the call of Yá-Bahá’u’ll-Abhá.’”

The Guardian in that same Message called upon “the members of this community, of either sex and of every age, of whatever race or background, however limited in experience, capacity and knowledge” to “arise as one man” and “seize with both hands” the “God-given opportunities now presented to them . . .”
A National Responsibility

The National Assembly carries full responsibility for the success of the home front campaign, discharging this responsibility through the important functions vested in the National and Area Teaching Committees, and through the duties and powers exemplified by the local assemblies. We are all one body, and when sustained by the one Spirit we move forward in unity to the sacred goal.

There are important points to bear in mind. First, all Assemblies, all groups, all isolated Bahá'ís have their part to play and carry their share of the work. Second, in a nation-wide teaching effort there is no place for the feeling of separate sovereignty on the part of any local assembly. The duties, rights and powers of a local assembly are not denied or challenged when the National Assembly calls for a supreme united effort. On the contrary, the unique mission of the local assembly is only fully realized when it is loyally participating in a continental task.

Therefore, the National Assembly specifically requests local assemblies, large and small, to welcome visits and correspondence from Area Teaching Committees for consultation on teaching matters.

It is obvious that a dissolved Local Spiritual Assembly is a matter of national concern and not a local incident. It is obvious that a weak, divided community is unable to contribute its share to the common task given us by the Guardian himself. Where such conditions exist, the local assembly has the duty to face the facts and ask for advice and help from the Area Teaching Committee.

On the other hand, a large community is not isolated behind the wall of sovereignty since it possesses capacity urgently needed for the common task. What is needed now is a new realignment of our forces so that all institutions and instruments are most effectively employed.

The National Teaching Committee will devise definite plans and objectives for this year’s attainment. Concentration of purpose and unified effort will make this year notable in American Bahá’í history and bring joy to the heart of the beloved Guardian at the World Center.

—National Spiritual Assembly

BAHÁ’I HOLY DAYS

The Spiritual Assembly of Reno reports that the Superintendent of Schools, with the Board of Education, has passed an ordinance which gives recognition of all religious Holy Days. Under this ordinance Bahá’í children will receive excused absence on the Bahá’í dates.

—National Spiritual Assembly

ELIMINATION OF PREJUDICE

This issue of Bahá’í News brings to every American believer a bulletin prepared by the NSA as a brief expression of the Bahá’í position on inter-racial unity, suitable for public use. The Publishing Trust carries this bulletin in stock and its announcement of selling price appears in this issue.

The purpose of this particular bulletin is to make it possible for any Bahá’í to reinforce his own teaching work with a convenient one-page printed piece which can be handed out or mailed. Groups and communities can arrange to have the bulletin presented to key persons and organizations in their city. It would make a short presentation of Bahá’í teachings for radio or TV. Public meetings devoted to presentation of themes reflecting the oneness of mankind can use it as free literature. In some areas it might be helpful to our pioneers.

As we were so plainly warned by the Guardian in his great message last year, this is the hour when every Bahá’í must be alert and seize every opportunity to eliminate the prejudice which gnaws at the vitals of America.

—National Spiritual Assembly
JUNE, 1955

WORLD CRUSADE

HAZIRATU’L-QUDS IN LIMA, PERU

In Noticias Bahá’ís Sudamericanas the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of South America announces the acquisition of a house which will be the Háẓiratu’l-Quds for the National Assembly, until the formation of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Peru, when it will become the Háẓiratu’l-Quds for that body.

ASIA TRANSLATIONS

The Asia Teaching Committee reports that nine of the forty Asian languages designated by the Guardian for translation during the Ten-Year Global Crusade have appeared in introductory pamphlets. Seven of these have been issued under the auspices of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of India, Pakistan and Burma. These include Baluchi, Manipuri, Punjabi, Pushu, Mentawai, Ossete and Georgian. The Mentawai pamphlet was published by the Jakarta, Indonesia, Spiritual Assembly, which has also issued a pamphlet in Indonesian. The Ossete and Georgian pamphlets were printed in Paris.

Introductory pamphlets have been published in Samoan and Tongan under the auspices of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Australia and New Zealand.

In addition to these goal languages, the Korean Bahá’í group recently published an introductory pamphlet in Korean, “Faith for Today.” Also a new pamphlet has been published in modern Chinese, and a simple introductory pamphlet has been issued in Maori through the efforts of one of the pioneers in Cook Islands.

TRANSLATIONS IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES

Five introductory pamphlets in African “goal” languages have been published by the British Bahá’í Publishing Trust and are available from that office. These are pamphlets in Ga (used in Accra, Gold Coast colony), in Shona (used in South Rhodesia), in Yao (used in Tanganyika and Nyasaland), in Wolof (used in Gambia) and in Malagasy (used in Madagascar).

PAMPHLETS IN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

Among the European languages designated by the Guardian for translation during the Ten-Year Crusade, seven have been completed: Basque, Estonian, Flemish, Piedmontese, Romansh, Yiddish and Ziryen. The titles of the first five of these pamphlets read: Bahá’íron fedea, Bahá’í Sissejuhatav Brosílür, Het Bahá’í Wereld Geloof, La Fede Mondial Bahá’, Uena Nouva Epoca Cumainza. An eighth pamphlet, in Maltese, is in the process of being printed. These projects, completed under the auspices of the European Teaching Committee, reduce to two European languages, Lapp and Romanian, the translations assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRITISH ISLES

Dedication of Házíratu’l-Quds and Teaching Conference

The dedication of the National Házíratu’l-Quds of the British Bahá’í Community on Saturday evening, January 15, 1955, was enriched by the holding of a Teaching Conference at the Házíratu’l-Quds during the day before and the day following the dedication. Present for the dedication were two Hands of the Cause, Leroy C. Iosaa and Dr. Hermann Grossmann. Mr. Iosaa brought the love of the Guardian to the gathering, outwardly symbolized by a gift of attar of rose, whose fragrance permeated the hearts of all those present. It was the largest gathering ever held in Great Britain, attended by 150 of the friends.

The four sessions of the Teaching Conference reached a climax in the final session at which progress at the World Center of the Faith was movingly reported by Mr. Iosaa.
From the Canadian Bahá'í News two items are cited which show response to individual teaching efforts.

In a British Columbia Bahá'í group a minister has been leading a Bible study class sponsored by the Bahá'ís. He first learned of the Bahá'í Faith 43 years ago in Turkey from two Bahá'í students who attended his mission school. He has stated publicly that these two boys "were more Christian than the Christians in the school."

In another part of Canada a Bahá'í Youth won top place in her school for a talk on "Prescription for Living," based on Rúhíyyih Khánum's book. The next Sunday a local minister used in his sermon many points she had made in her talk.

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

The Fifth Annual Convention of the Bahá'ís of Central America and the Antilles was held in Mexico City, April 23-26, 1955, and was followed by an International Convention, April 27-29. Of the twenty-seven delegates, sixteen were present, as well as Bahá'ís from all the countries of this area except Haiti.

Consultation at the Convention centered around the Guardian's goals of "more Bahá'ís, more groups, more assemblies," to provide the foundations for the independent National Spiritual Assemblies which are to be formed in each of the ten Republics before the end of the Ten-Year Global Crusade.

The Convention received excellent publicity, with two television broadcasts over local news stations and a well-attended press conference. Two public meetings were held in the salon of the famous Palace of Fine Arts.

The following were elected members of the National Spiritual Assembly:

- Artemus Lamb (Costa Rica), Chairman
- Sheila Rice-Wray (Dominican Republic), Vice Chairman
- Esteban Canales (Costa Rica), Secretary
- Carmelo Perez (Cuba), Recording Secretary
- James Facey (Panama), Treasurer
- Amy McAllister (Panama), Assistant Secretary
- Randolph Fitz-Henley (Jamaica), Assistant Treasurer
- Juan René Cabrera (Cuba)
- Jenny Taylor (Guatemala)

**FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

"By the righteousness of God! Whose openeth his lips in this Day and maketh mention of the name of his Lord, the hosts of Divine inspiration shall descend upon him from the heaven of My name, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."

This promise of Baha'u'llah to all who teach in the Name of God in this glorious Day quickened the hearts of all delegates assembled in Foundation Hall of the Bahá'í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, on the morning of April 28, for the opening session of the forty-seventh annual convention of the Bahá'í of the United States.

"We gather... at the midpoint of the second phase of the greatest Crusade the world has ever seen," said Paul E. Haney, chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly, as he greeted the American believers and quoted the foregoing words from Baha'u'llah. "We are called by our beloved Guardian to fulfill in fullest measure our destiny as an American Bahá'í Community. In his Message of the 1953 Jubilee convention Shoghi Effendi assigned the lion's share of the Crusade task to the American believers... Our victory in the Ten-Year Crusade, the third and final stage in the execution of the Master's Divine Plan, will raise the American Community to the throne of everlasting dominion... but our achievements so far in the glorious undertaking are all relatively meaningless unless accompanied by winning fresh recruits for the Faith on all continents of the globe."

Thus accenting at the start of the convention deliberations the very heart of our task—teaching—Mr. Haney, for the National Spiritual Assembly, pointed out that the still lagging work to be done by the American Bahá'ís is winning the hearts of men in far greater numbers on our own continent. To this task, he said, the convention will undoubtedly wish to give its attention. Accomplishment of all goals given us by the Guardian is impossible by human standards. We must rely on the promises of our Faith for aid... and know that success will come through "all those who arise... in "whom the Word of God taketh effect."

Prayers in the Temple auditorium that first morning, where the atmosphere is vibrant and yet still—with beauty, peace and light—and the opening prayer for America as the first session began, these assisted each delegate to prepare himself humbly and sincerely for work to be done. Each had related himself spiritually to the divine Center and Source of the world-regenerating Crusade in which Bahá'ís the globe around are engaged under Shoghi Effendi's leadership. Impressively, as always, was the roll call of delegates from our far-flung States and thrilling was the movement of hearts as messages of greeting began to come in from sister communities throughout the Bahá'í world. The convention organized itself for action by electing from its membership H. Borrah Kavelin, delegate from Eastern New York, as permanent chairman and Horace Holley, Northern Illinois, as secretary, casting 109 and 114 votes in the respective ballots.

**Message from the Guardian**

The beloved Guardian's letter to the convention, addressed this year, as last, to the twelve conventions assembled during the Ridván period, invited the delegates to survey with him the "multiple evidences of the progressive unfoldment" of the God-given potentialities of the Ten-Year Crusade as it forges ahead "gaining momentum with every passing day... and revealing ever more compelling signs of its inherent strength as it marches towards the spiritual conquest of the planet." Beginning with the statement that the number of territories opened to the Faith during the Crusade has been raised to 108 and the total number of sovereign states and chief dependencies included within the pale of the Faith to 236, the Guardian specifically pointed out nearly 50 achievements, each building one upon the other, each supremely significant in this moving drama of world salvation.

"Such marvelous progress... impels me to announce," Shoghi Effendi stated as he closed his summary of goals accomplished and opened the door to new tasks im-
Immediately ahead, "the formation during Ridván, 1957, in addition to the three Regional National Spiritual Assemblies to be elected in 1956 in the African continent, of thirteen National Spiritual Assemblies, some of which will be regional, others independent, some interim and others permanent." To achieve this quick and amazing development, the Guardian calls for an extension of the responsibilities of existing National Assemblies in convening the elective conventions and further development in the institution of the Hands of the Cause, designated members of which are to act as his representatives at these thirteen historic conventions. All Bahá'í groups scattered throughout the 42 countries represented he urges to "make a supreme effort" to attain assembly status in two years, that they may send delegates to those conventions and thus broaden the foundation for these new "pivotal institutions."

Through the assembled delegates the Guardian directed a final appeal to the entire body of believers in all continents to "consecrate themselves afresh" to the furtherance of the immediate objectives enumerated in his 1954 convention message. He prays that the members of this "firmly-knit, intensely-alive, world-embracing Community," spurred on by the triple impulse of three Charters—The Tablot of Carmel by Bahá'u'lláh, and the Will and Testament and the Tablets of the Divine Plan by the Center of His Covenant — "may advance from strength to strength and victory to victory" to hasten the Day when the beloved Faith "will have ascended the throne and wielded the scepter of spiritual and temporal authority . . ." [See Bahá'í News, May 1955, pp. 1 and 7 for Message and list of goals of 1954 Message.]

In answer to this Message the Convention sent this heartfelt response by cable to Shoghi Effendi: "Assembled delegates grateful to beloved Guardian for inspiring view of world accomplishments and future tasks. We beseech your prayers to strengthen our faith and fire our actions that we may pour out life and treasure in gratitude for such great blessings. Deepest love. —47TH ANNUAL CONVENTION"

As the convention began gathering its own momentum, seeking out those points where it should put the greatest thought, the Guardian sent forth his special directive to the American community. This arrived Saturday morning and served to channel all efforts, to conserve and yet to call forth all inherent powers for the purpose of achieving that which is important now: "Appreciate message entire community confronted tremendous tasks inescapable responsibilities urge redouble efforts achieve immediate goals plan fervently praying.

—SHOGHI"

"Be not concerned with the smallness of your numbers," many recalled the dear counsel of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, "neither be oppressed by the multitude of an unbelieving world. . . Exert yourselves; your mission is unspeakably glorious."

World Crusade: Second Phase

The theme of the convention "The World Crusade: Second Phase", came, with the first session, into clear focus. The first phase, 1953-1954, had already recorded its victories climaxed with the spectacular dispersal of the Knights of Bahá'u'lláh to all corners of the earth. The first half of the second phase, years 1954-55, had added its laurels to delight the heart of the Guardian and encourage the believers in all lands. One year remains of this second phase in which to complete specific goals designed for this period and to make possible the opening of the third phase of the Ten-Year Plan sometime after the formation of the 16 historic new Assemblies in Africa, Asia, and the other continents named, 1957, making a total of 28 Assemblies (some regional and interim — the Crusade goal being 48 National Assemblies). Eight years of the over-all plan remain in which to finish the vast teaching, consolidation and building program that will usher in the Most Great Jubilee of 1963. Our minds could not expand enough to comprehend and remember the many details of this "mighty Plan" even so far as accomplished, but we could, sitting together, working earnestly, feel the mighty movement sweeping the face of the earth. This is the Plan devised under the hand of our beloved Guardian for the "systematic execution" of the Divine Plan of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in its final and triumphant stage. "The onrushing winds of the grace of God have passed over all things." No wonder that when the most recent victories and immediate objectives had been delineated by the Guardian in his Message, when most of the delegates had found time to at least acquaint themselves with the Annual Reports printed for 1954-55, when organization of the convention was completed, there was born in spirit of eager impatience to push on to consultation on how to meet the future goals, especially on how to stir and help all Bahá'ís in America to arise and spread the divine fragrances.

On the Home Front

Consultation on how the American Bahá'í Community may attain its immediate goals, paving the way for three hundred local Spiritual Assemblies in the United States by 1963, began on Thursday afternoon with a brief progress report and presentation of our problems by Jems Herbert for the National Teaching Committee. The task of this committee and the Area Teaching Committees in the structure of the teaching plan as set up two years ago is to co-ordinate and to help individual believers, assemblies and groups as they work for the Ten-Year Crusade goals. The Crusade ends in 1963 and we have settled only 42 of the 76 goal cities (statistics change frequently). Enrollments reported in group or isolated status have been 150 adults and 24 youth compared with 90 adults and 24 youth last year, an encouraging gain. Momentum has not picked up yet on the home front for dispersion, but the committee hopes that very soon movement will be on an unprecedented basis . . . in response to the Guardian's repeated call for believers to leave the larger Bahá'í communities and settle in goal cities when possible. We cannot hold off the formation of Assemblies until the last year. Wherever there appears a flow of effort in any place the committee will endeavor to supply any needs to carry on to victory.
Assembly status: an increase in Assembly incorporations looking toward the goal of 100 by 1963, with 81 now incorporated, 22 of these since the start of the Crusade; of the 172 local Assemblies elected in April 1954, 182 had to date reported holding elections in 1963; seven had lost Assembly status, five were in question, eight were new Assemblies and nine were old ones re-established. Even with more reports to be received we saw now the lag spoken of by Paul Haney in his greeting to the convention. What are the "blocks" in our home teaching and in dispersal, the national teaching chairman, Charles Wolcott, asked as he pointed up the consultation on Home Front teaching. And we recalled that the goal the Guardian had set for the second phase of the Crusade in this respect was: "energetic and systematic prosecution of the all-important teaching work both at home and abroad, designed to increase rapidly the number of the avowed and active supporters of the Faith ... the maintenance, by every available means, of the status of local Spiritual Assemblies already established throughout the Bahá’í world."

Improvement this past year has been noticeable where communities have formed a plan for themselves. Mr. Wolcott asserted. Such a plan, to succeed, must include the vital step of leading a soul up to his declaration. Many communities know how to proclaim the Faith. We now do well in acquiring contacts. But what about the next steps? The National Teaching Committee suggests the following steps in teaching: 1) the invitation fireside; 2) the periodical fireside, for nurturing the spark of interest; 3) the study class, which will lead to declaration; 4) formation of Bahá’í groups; 5) nurturing of groups to become Assemblies; and 6) deepening believers, old and new, through study and activity, thus strengthening a community. Rapid and purposeful was discussion from the floor on the American teaching problems, perhaps the most dynamic participation of delegates that this convention was to see. It continued through several periods allotted to the subject and ranged from inquiries for clarification of the national teaching structure advantages, through use of techniques and aids, the need in places for simpler and specific contact literature, to the serious lack of effective firesides and to means of further activating believers and strengthening communities. Charlotte Linfoot, assistant secretary of the National Assembly, called attention to more statistics, these with important bearing on enrollment of new believers by lagging communities. In the past five years there have been 184 communities in Assembly standing at one time or another, she said. Of these, 123 enrolled less than five new believers each in five years; 20 enrolled not one new believer in five years; and 28, only one in five years. Here is the picture of Assembly "inactivity and ineffectuality." To meet this problem and theirs, delegates offered suggestions: cross over into "new pockets" of contact to find people who will become believers; find ways to meet the students in foreign exchange programs; deepen the believers themselves through study, meditation and "creating the ability to work through the power of God"; interpret this period in history for Christians; plan for firesides and keep to the plan; remember that no Bahá’í community was ever born without hard work and tears; communities share in the expense and use of slides, tapes, etc.; make our desires pure; as it is winning hearts that counts, become sensitive to the "response moment" in pure souls; be patient; teach love of Bahá’u’lláh and loyalty to the divine authority of the Faith, not leave a new believer with adherence to the broad world principles alone; strengthen our community life through love and unity, it is not enough to have good teachers working as individuals; study ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s ways of teaching in America and gain ideas from Rúhíyyih Khánum’s "Teaching Problems"; realize that we have the greatest glad-tidings in the world to give.

The national committee feels that the present teaching structure with a National Teaching Committee and twelve Area Committees, the simplified plan adopted during the first year of the Crusade in response to Shoghi Effendi’s directive, is the best plan for co-ordination of our ef-
forts that has yet been devised. It requires the assistance and cooperation of Assemblies and groups on the local level to bridge what some believers have called a “gap” between area and local functioning. Where Assemblies have functioned, a number of believers have called a “gap” between area and local functioning in home-front committees and cooperated in area meetings the plan has worked well, a number of delegates testified. The national committee reiterated that believers who wish to pioneer in out-of-country goals should remain in their own communities if the Assemblies would be endangered by their loss until believers are found to take their places at home.

American Indian Service

An inspirational report from the American Indian Service Committee brought by Francis Johnson, chairman, and Nancy Phillips, secretary, made clear the unique and joyous work of the committee in trying to gain one of the other goals of the Crusade: the confirmation of believers from the American Indian tribes. “There is no doubt that through the divine teachings,” Abdul’-Baha wrote in His Divine Plan, “they (American Indians) will become so enlightened as in turn to shed light to all regions.” A supplement to last year’s Indian Service brochure is now procurable. One of the requirements of the first phase of the Ten-Year Plan was met during the year with the translation of selections from the Writings into the Cherokee language, published separately in English and Cherokee under the title “A New Day Comes,” (see Annual Reports, 1954-55). The other objective as outlined by the Guardian, conversion of members of the leading Indian tribes, has not yet been attained, but to date six tribes have members in the Faith. A total of 26 tribes have been contacted, eight of these before and 18 during the first year of the Crusade, and definite teaching has reached members of seven additional tribes this past year. About one-third of the members of the leading tribes live off reservations and we learn from Assemblies that more teaching is being done off reservations than on.

To clarify the immediate goals for the new year the committee has restated them: deepening efforts where tribes have been contacted; extension to reach remaining tribes not yet contacted; reconstitution of the local Spiritual Assembly at Macy, Neb., which lost assembly status four years ago; and reaching the one-third in our cities.

“People are about the same all over the globe. We all want love, peace and happiness,” Mr. Johnson read from a letter written by Mrs. Ethel Murray, pioneer to the Indians in North Carolina. “We can live at lower standards now for them. . . . It is thrilling to know one has made a right decision . . . [such as being a pioneer to the Indians].”

Having been to Macy on his way to the convention and talked with Bahá’ís in the tribe there, knowing how dear this place is to the Guardian, Mr. Johnson asked with much feeling, “Who is going to win back this spiritual prize?”

From delegates who have found the privilege of reaching the Indians spiritually rewarding came suggestions: Try to utilize the declared Indians as much as possible in teaching the Faith; go to the Indians with love, friendliness and service, not at first with a “new faith,” for they have been proselytized till skeptical and afraid; take advantage of opportunities for meeting in service and recreation centers; invite them to your home, talk of your own problems in friendly fashion, be gentle, don’t push; study Indian legends; be kind. It was announced by Mildred Mottahedeh that a relative of Shirin Fozdar, Bahá’í teacher in the Indian subcontinent, has arrived in America with desire to teach American Indians.

Inter-Racial Teaching

A challenging pilgrim’s message direct from Shoghi Effendi, given to the convention on Thursday evening by Doris Ballard, secretary of the new Spiritual Assembly of Johannesburg, gave added stress to the Indian Service work and sparked the Inter-Racial Teaching consultation with a re-emphasis on a warning that the Guardian has been giving for some time. Miss Ballard reported the Guardian to have said that: 1) There should be added impetus in teaching the American Indian. All American believers should study what ‘Abdu’l-Baha says about this in his Tablets of the Divine Plan. 2) In America the Home Front teaching is staggering because of racial prejudice within Bahá’í communities themselves. Minorities are sensitive to this. It is the great weakness in America.

As the Inter-Racial Committee opened its period, postponed until Friday afternoon, the chairman, George Brawley, pointed out that this committee (and the Indian Service) was set up two years ago at the express direction of the Guardian and it has been striving to align its work with the guidance that he has given, such as, “he attaches great importance to the teaching in the South.” Accomplishments in the whole field Mr. Brawley touched briefly (see Annual Reports), speaking of cities where institutes on the brochure, “Faith in Action,” have been held, and of four cities where special public meetings were sponsored by the committee for pioneers to the South. He moved quickly from this, however, to citation of cases where Bahá’ís have missed opportunities to take a position in cities where a great problem in racial relations arose and to pointing out how a well-started study class was abandoned by a believer after he found a neighbor objected. “The Negro has always been a Christian. But he doesn’t want the principles without the Cause itself! . . . The South is as ready as the North to receive the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh, if Bahá’ís will only live their Faith. If we practice one principle—removal of prejudice from our minds—we will be able to bring the Teachings to the Negro. We must not be afraid.”

As delegates we tried to face up to ourselves and our communities in the consultation that followed. Many stepped swiftly into the arena of discussion to point out our shortcomings in the matter of “living the life”; advice from experience with minority races was given; delegates could go home better acquainted with our successes and our goals, our missed opportunities and our immaturities and perhaps our disobedience in this matter. Here are some of the gems which we heard: “We may as well be frank at this point. . . . There is a power in this Cause and it will be evidenced in the coming together of the races. . . . The sensitive Negro has something to do about the situation within communities, too. Stay in and be a Bahá’í! . . . The picture is changing every day in the South. . . . The churches
Sacrifice and One World

It is always helpful to have the national treasurer present at convention the proposed national budget for the ensuing year and to explain its items in comparison with those in the previous year, even though the text of the budget, when adopted by the N.S.A., will later be supplied all believers. To help us first to associate ourselves with the spiritual aspect of our financial obligations in the Ten-Year Crusade, Mr. Kavelin pointed out that in view of the two forces operating in the world, one for destruction, the other the army of love and assurance that will spell mass salvation for humanity, an individual Bahá’í sees himself emerging as a citizen of the world. He can relate himself to the Divine Plan that is unfolding before our very eyes. Each of us becomes a part of a unity, the unity of God. In this unity we can achieve victories not possible by human means. The Guardian plans, he sees each need and this need becomes an accomplished fact. It remains for us to give expression to the fact. Because we are now operating a world-wide enterprise, we must grow up to a realization of what our budget must encompass and our responsibilities to it are, he said. It does not seem defensible that any Local Spiritual Assembly, no matter how inexperienced or divided, should fail to make at least a token contribution regularly to the National Fund; but such does happen. Revealing statistics are as follows: In May, 1954, contributions came from only 115 local Assemblies; in June from 123; July, 140; Aug., 132; Sept., 134; and Oct., 109.

The proposed budget is a total of $350,000 as compared with $475,000 for the year just ended. Enthusiastically the delegates made an attempt to recommend an increase to $600,000 but after discussion and second thoughts decided by vote the proposed amount to be wiser. Expended for 1954-55 was $411,123, which was less than the budget estimate, but the amount received from contributions was only $363,500. The total unexpended was $64,000 of which $44,000 is held to be used to complete the Temple landscaping in 1955, postponed from last year. The surplus seeming to remain, of $20,000, subtracted from $475,000 gives $455,000, the amount actually used for 1954-55. Thus the treasury had a deficit of $91,500 because contributions, as noted were $363,500. To meet this deficit, $91,500 was borrowed from proceeds of estates. In the present estate fund there remain only $111,000. An unexpected contingency this past year was the call of the Guardian for the need to ensure the purchase of eight Hašíratu’l-Quds in capital cities for which we gave a total of $29,808, having budgeted only $5,000. Contributions for Temple sites were increased also. World Crusade teaching and expenditure for trusteeships had to be drastically curtailed to meet these other needs. Next year $58,500 has been allocated for commitments on four Hašíratu’l-Quds and toward the purchase of 27 others.

To assist the believers in meeting their obligations this year the National Assembly has provided a suggested guide by which Assemblies, groups and individuals may budget themselves, though the resolve plan as adopted last year has not been approved for 1955. The letter has "outlived its usefulness", Mr. Kavel-in said. We can now grow up to the point of resolving with ourselves. In the question and answer period, with much consultation, too, the following points were made: Bahá’ís should not be afraid of intermarriage, more personal loans to the trustees to enable them to purchase the Goldblatt property. Repayment begins this year. The true meaning of sacrifice is to give away what you are attached to, not what is extra. The expenses of the new Bahá’í World book will have to be met this year out of the Fund. Boosted sales would help. Many repairs on Bahá’í schools have had to be deferred. A salary will probably be needed for a professional guide at the Bahá’í House of Worship. The Fund is the life-blood of our institutions. Educate new believers in the truths of Bahá’í giving. Contributions may come from Bahá’í conferences if on a voluntary basis. When we love enough, we give. We are inconsistent in seeing how important our pioneer projects are and in not
providing the means. . . When it is hard for you to be a good Bahá’í, put $1.00, or one cent, in the Fund . . . your character may improve; or give out of the simple joy of heart or in memoriam. . . He who sits down and plans with himself how much he will give, and gives it, is pioneering. One of the unexpected highlights of the consultation on the National Fund was when Habib Sabet of New York arose to contribute $100,000 to the Home for the Aged, the first Temple Dependency. A final point clarified was that it is more important to give to the National Fund than to local funds at this time. Opportunities for giving also are open as in the past year to the World Center through the Guardian (International Fund), and to the assistance of the Hands of the Cause and the Auxiliary Boards (Continental Funds). As we broaden the base of giving through all believers participating, and thus make the foundation strong and sure, so also we have the privilege, each of us, of participating in the vast Crusade program to establish God’s Kingdom on earth.

Establishing Divine Institutions
To lift up our sights, to renew our vision, to give us pure joy . . . the agenda for the first evening of the convention provided three special presentations: “Major Tasks of the Second Phase of the World Crusade and Their Significance”, by the Hands of the Faith; “The Temple as the Greatest Teacher” and “Completion of the Landscaping”; and color slides showing the progress of the Crusade. To describe this wonderful evening with the vistas it opened out to the future of the world and the realm of spiritual reality it brought near to all is not possible in short space or with this reporter’s pen. A few things may be gleaned from the program that will suggest to the reader the beauty and power of that night.

“As the Divine Plan unfolded the beloved Guardian gave us the gift of the Hands of the Cause.” With these words Mr. Kavelin introduced the first part of the program to be presented by the four Hands of the Cause present in convention, Mrs. Corinne True, Mrs. Amelia Collins, Horace Holley and Paul E. Haney. To the delegates acquainted with Mrs. True’s faithful and long service at the heart of the Faith in America, her very presence with us again was an inspiration. She spoke briefly: “The Master said to me, ‘I wish you to work for the Temple and you must live in Chicago.’ So I have lived my life in this part of the world.” Bringing loving greetings from the Guardian and all our co-workers in Haifa and giving news of developments in “The Most Holy Land” was Mrs. Collins, vice-chairman of the Bahá’í International Council. It is amazing to watch things come to pass on Mount Carmel under the hand of Shoghi Effendi, she said. He plans carefully and he gets things done. All these things have been mentioned by Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá as coming to pass. She described the settlement in the Monument Gardens, placing of the arc and clearing of the space for the World Center. The relationship of this to the spiritual center at the Shrine of the Báb, and the choosing of the site for the beautiful new Archives building. We saw in mind’s eye something of the beautiful new Archives building. We saw in mind’s eye something of the beautiful new Archives building. We saw in mind’s eye something of the beautiful new Archives building. We saw in mind’s eye something of the beautiful new Archives building. We saw in mind’s eye something of the beautiful new Archives building. We saw in mind’s eye something of the beautiful new Archives building. We saw in mind’s eye something of the beautiful new Archives building.

Mr. Holley, in tracing the development of the institutions at the World Center as he cited passages from Shoghi Effendi’s historic messages, since July, 1950, first said: “The most important work going on in the world today is that related to the institutions of Bahá’u’lláh. It is the most important work with which we as human beings have had association since the world began. . . . There have never before been institutions for humanity. They could not be created until the Day of God.”

After reading passages from the Tablet of Carmel, which the Guardian calls the Charter for development of the World Center, and then excerpts from Shoghi Effendi’s messages that initiated, one by one, new steps in the unfoldment of the World Center institutions from 1950 up to the present, Mr. Holley closed with a simple, profound statement that sent all he had read echoing again and again through our hearts: “There is so much to do . . . we need now and then to review the details and to get the vision afresh.”

Paul Haney, reviewing point by point the objectives of the Ten-Year Crusade for the American Bahá’í Community, stated that it is vital that we have a clear understanding of the evolution of these objectives. There are compelling reasons why the Guardian wants us to succeed with every stage. He presses us on to victory because he loves us and knows that failure at any point jeop-
ardizes later achievements. The first phase was concluded triumphantly, Ridván, 1954; in the following year the Guardian speeded up the plan, calling for extra accomplishments. Example, in the acquiring of Hazíratu’l-Quds. Mr. Haney pointed out that members of Auxiliary Boards in traveling on teaching missions for the Hands have reported thrillingly on the impact given to the Faith by the establishment of Hazíratu’l-Quds. “This process in which we are sharing”, he concluded, “is now and for the rest of our lives. Our response to the leadership of our divinely guided Guardian will fulfill our destiny,” and “the throne in the plenitude of God will be firmly established on earth.”

Marguerite Ullrich speaking on “The Temple as the Greatest Teacher”, related incidents and figures from guiding records to show the sweep and power of the Temple influence. Since 1932, as many as 628,558 recorded visitors; last year alone, 105,877. Shoghi Effendi says that the promise of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá concerning the spiritual influence of the completed edifice is wonderfully coming to pass. As guiding is a great spiritual experience and guides are needed, Mrs. Ullrich urged believers who can give any time in this service to do so. Clarence Ulrich completed the Temple presentation by explaining in detail the work that will be done to complete the landscaping this year, including fountains, pools and development in the gardens.

Closing a long evening packed with truly spiritual manna were pictures on the screen of Temple sites and Hazíratu’l-Quds purchased to date, each picture explained by Beatrice Ashton.

The three other nights were also high spots of inspiration, each in its particular way: reports, with incidents, on the advances of the intercontinental teaching work, made by Edna True, Charlotte Linfoot, Sylvia Parmelee, and William deForge and Katherine McLaughlin for the European, Asian, African and Western Hemisphere committees, respectively, showing how goals are being met; the sacred and joyous Ridván Feast in the Auditorium, open to the public; and the Bahá’í Congress addressed by Mildred Mottahedeh, speaking on “The Challenge of World Faith” to a large audience Sunday night. All four Intercontinental committee chairmen stressed the continuing need for pioneers to fill goals, to support the goals already won and to aid in building local assemblies throughout the world. Latin America alone is to establish 29 National Assemblies in the coming eight years, and Africa three Regional Assemblies by Ridván, 1956. Mabel Eastman, returning pilgrim, brought from Haifa highlights of recent accomplishments.

Saturday and Sunday brought reports and stimulation for Bahá’í Youth, Child Education and Summer Schools; and for the Proclamation and Service work of the Cause. Valuable information was given the delegates by Mrs. Eunice Braun, manager of the Bahá’í Publishing Trust which came into being on May 1, thus fulfilling another goal of the American Bahá’í community in the World Crusade. The United Nations committee reviewed the steps taken this year to reinforce ties with the United Nations, a goal of the Ten-Year Crusade. Other committees also presented plans and materials that will be of great benefit to teaching activities throughout the American Bahá’í Community, many of these being shown in exhibits in the area around Foundation Hall, and most of which will be listed in special communications to the believers or in Bahá’í News. The Bahá’í Youth had a special conference of their own during the convention and participated enthusiastically in convention consultation. As Youth activity they stressed making contacts with college young people, establishing Bahá’í Youth groups on campuses, serving on Bahá’í Community committees with adults, stimulating Youth activity and study through the Youth Bulletin and preparation for pioneering.

Midway in convention the election for the new National Spiritual Assembly for 1955-56 was held. In an atmosphere of devotion and prayerful thought delegates cast their ballots. The vote by mail made 170 delegates voting. Soon after in its first meeting the new Assembly chose officers. It will function as follows: Paul E. Haney, chairman; Charles Wolcott, vice-chairman; Horace Holley, secretary; Charlotte Linfoot, assistant secretary; Edna M. True, recording secretary; H. Borrah Kavelin, treasurer; and Margery McCormick, Ellsworth Blackwell, Robert McLaughlin.

The service of public worship on Sunday afternoon filled the auditorium. Here for the last time in this convention Bahá’ís met for worship, hearing those Words of divine power that each day had lifted their hearts to God and prepared them for the tasks to be done. The phenomenal sunshine of the convention days had been as bountiful as the spiritual outpourings and many hearts were glad. To the total at-
tendance of delegates, 133, was added the number of 828 registered visitors during the convention period making a total attendance of 961. Would that all mankind could see what Bahá’í eyes had glimpsed during these wonderful days! "The whole creation, methinks, is being disrupted and is bursting asunder through the shattering influence of the Divine summons issued from the throne of glory."

—Alice Simmons Cox
Convention Reporter

SOUVENIR OF ABDU’L-BAHÁ

Forty-Third Annual Unity Feast

Each year, on the last Saturday in June, at West Englewood, New Jersey, the Bahá’í National Committee for the 'Souvenir of Abdu'l-Bahá' holds the annual gathering to commemorate the first Unity Feast given by the Master on the grounds of the Wilhelm Property in West Englewood on June 29, 1912.

This year, on June 25, Bahá’ís and their friends are invited to come with their picnic baskets at noon and enjoy an outdoor picnic under the tall evergreen trees. Milk for the children, and tea for those who wish it, will be served by the Committee.

At three o’clock in the afternoon, the following program will be presented:

Prayers and Greetings
Amy G. Raubitschek, Chairman

Music
'Abdu’l-Bahá’s address given in 1912, read by Beatrice Thigpen

Theme
Divine Justice
Speaker: Keith deFolo

Remarks and Closing Prayer
Chairman

Prayer and Readings in Grove where first Unity Feast was held
Vaffa Kinney & Maude Gaudreaux

The discourse which ‘Abdu’l-Bahá gave in 1912 can be found in The Proclamation of Universal Peace, page 208. In it the Master said: "The efficacy of such meetings as these is permanent throughout the ages. This assembly has a name and significance which will last forever. Hundreds of thousands of meetings shall be held to commemorate this occasion and the very words I speak to you today shall be repeated in them for ages to come."

TO ALL LATIN AMERICAN PIONEER PROSPECTS

If you hope to travel to one of the countries in Central or South America to teach the Faith, you are urged to study Spanish now. All reports from "southern" pioneers stress the advantage of knowing the language before you arrive.

—Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee

ASIA TEACHING COMMITTEE

Summer Teaching Conference
Scheduled in Japan

Reports from Japan bring the good news that a sound foundation has been laid for an intensive teaching campaign to assure the establishment of its National Spiritual Assembly in April 1957. Already there are two local Assemblies — in Tokyo and Hyogo-ken — and five Bahá’í groups with membership ranging from three to seven believers. Yokohama, Osaka, Nagoya, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Kobe have been chosen as goal cities and have been assigned to assemblies and groups nearest them for extension teaching purposes. Regular firesides are already being held in four of these cities, and teaching circuits are being conducted under the direction of the National Teaching Committee of Japan.

With the cooperation of the Asia Teaching Committee of the United States, a summer teaching conference has been scheduled to take place in Japan September 23, 24 and 25. In addition to the Japanese believers, there will be delegates from Formosa, Korea, Macao, Guam and other goal countries in that general area.

The meeting of Bahá’ís from such a wide area will provide opportunity for consultation on how the believers can respond most effectively to the Guardian’s call for intensification of teaching activity in the Pacific in the months ahead. The Guardian has written that there are apparent signs for the rapid spread of the Faith in that area, and that it is capable of producing victories at least as great as those achieved in Africa.

To aid in the achievement of these new victories the Asia Teaching Committee again appeals for Bahá’í pioneers and settlers for either virgin or consolidation areas in Asia and the Pacific.

—Asia Teaching Committee

BAHÁ’Í PRESS SERVICE

Bahá’í World Faith: A Summary of Its History, Teachings and Administrative Order has been compiled for presentation to newspaper writers and others who can make use of a brief account of the basic facts about the Faith.

The pamphlet contains eight pages, 9 x 11 inches, with the title running downward along the outer edge for maximum visibility in a letter file. On the back page is space for writing in a local name and address to contact for further information.

The Bahá’í Press Service Committee suggests that copies be presented to each newspaper in every Bahá’í community, and to friends and contacts. They may be ordered from the Bahá’í Publishing Trust, 110 Lin­den Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, 10 for $1.00, 50 for $4.50.

BAHÁ’Í IN THE NEWS

The Pittsburgh Courier, March 19, 1955, has an article entitled "Around the UN" which states that mention made of the first Bahá’ís of Basutoland, Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick Mohapi, whose "eldest son is translating Bahá’í writings into the Sesuto language," appears in the NGO Lounge. (A photograph of these believers appeared in Bahá’í News of February 1955.)

New Age Interpreter, November, 1954, has a leading article on "The Oneness of Life" which states: "Among such prophets to our age, it is safe to say that none have spoken on the theme of unity with greater authority, or a loftier spiritual vision than did Bahá’ulláh and his son and successor, 'Abdu'l-Bahá."

At the request of the Garden Club of Illinois, one hundred copies of the reprint of The Chicago Tribune article on the Temple and grounds were given them for distribution to their local clubs.

The Gleaner & Journal, Henderson, Kentucky, in its February 20,
1955, issue, in an article on “Cults in the U.S. Wield a Strength,” based on a talk derived from a book by Dr. Marcus Bach, describes the Temple and explains its significance.

From Boise, Idaho, comes news that the Idaho Daily Statesman carries quotations from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh regularly in connection with announcement of the Bahá’í devotional hour held each Sunday in the Boise Art Gallery. The same paper carried a notice of Bahá’í Proclamation Day with a picture of the speaker for the Bahá’í public meeting.

A list of Outstanding Titles from the Metaphysical Library of Vantage Press includes Allen B. McDaniel’s The Spell of the Temple.

The Religious Editor of The Nashville Tennessean, in its issue of April 18, 1955, reports on a public meeting held by the local Bahá’í Assembly in the Hermitage Hotel, Winston Evans, speaker. The article is accompanied by a photograph of white and Negro officers of the Nashville Spiritual Assembly.

Through the efforts of the Bahá’í pioneers, an exhibit of Bahá’í literature is being maintained at the USAF, Goose Air Base, Goose Bay, Labrador, and free literature is given to seekers.

Rand McNally & Company, publishers of maps and atlases, issue a monthly organ, Randly World. The April, 1955, number carries on its back cover pictures of buildings representing Decatur, San Francisco and Chicago. The Bahá’í House of Worship was selected as the Chicago structure.


The Chicago Sun-Times, May 4, published a photograph of the Bahá’í Temple seen through trees under the caption, “What Is So Rare As a Day in May?”

Empire Star, Buffalo, New York, ran an illustrated feature page on February 10, 1955, entitled “Basic Facts of the Bahá’í Faith.” The illustration includes two Bahá’í groups in New York and the House of Worship. This feature was distributed by National Foto News, Toledo, Ohio, a Negro feature syndicate. Contact with the syndicate was made by Mrs. Lynette Storm, Toledo, and the material was supplied by the New York Bahá’í Public Relations Committee through the Bahá’í Press Service.

The Evening Telegram of San Bernardino, California, January 28, 1955, features the Faith in an article reporting interview with Mrs. Betty Rickards and Mrs. Nella Shook. Besides illustrating the Bahá’í family the article gives a summary of the major Bahá’í principles. With this clipping was received a clipping from The Daily Sun, published in the same city, dated June 12, 1954, which summarized the Bahá’í teachings in a “series of items on the doctrines, beliefs and brief histories of San Bernardino’s religious faiths and denominations.” This local community has succeeded in obtaining very effective publicity.

The December, 1954, issue of Architectural Forum carried an advertisement of the Portland Cement Company (p. 62) which shows an illustration of the Bahá’í House of Worship in Wilmette.

### SPECIAL EVENTS FOR PROCLAIMING BAHA’I FAITH TO THE PUBLIC

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Martyrdom of the Báb</td>
<td>July 9, 1955</td>
<td>To proclaim the appearance of the Promised One of all religions as the hope of the world.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proclamation Day</td>
<td>September 23, 1955</td>
<td>To proclaim the fundamental oneness of religion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Day</td>
<td>October 24, 1955</td>
<td>To proclaim the oneness of mankind.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birthday of Bahá’u’lláh</td>
<td>November 12, 1955</td>
<td>To proclaim the appearance of the Promised One of all religions as the hope of the world.</td>
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<td>Bahá’í State Conventions</td>
<td><em>December 4, 1955</em></td>
<td>To proclaim America’s spiritual mission; to observe the anniversary of the Faith’s introduction to America.</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Religion Day</td>
<td>January 15, 1956</td>
<td>To proclaim the renewal of religion and a new spiritual springtime.</td>
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<td>World Brotherhood Week</td>
<td>February 19-25, 1955</td>
<td>To publicize delegate attendance and progress of the Ten-Year World Spiritual Crusade.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naw-Rúz (Bahá’í New Year)</td>
<td>March 21, 1956</td>
<td>To proclaim the appearance of the Promised One of all religions as the hope of the world.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahá’í World Youth Day</td>
<td><em>March 25, 1956</em></td>
<td>To proclaim the renewal of religion and a new spiritual springtime.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahá’í National Convention</td>
<td><em>April 26-29, 1956</em></td>
<td>To publicize delegate attendance and progress of the Ten-Year World Spiritual Crusade.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### SUGGESTED OCCASIONS FOR ADDITIONAL LOCAL PUBLICITY

- **National Day of Prayer:** *September 22, 1955*
- **Birthday of the Báb:** October 20, 1955
- **Day of the Covenant:** November 26, 1955
- **United Nations Human Rights Day:** December 10, 1955

*Indicates Tentative Date*
In Spokane, Washington, Mrs. Florence Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board, spoke on the Baha'i Faith before the United American Indian Meeting. This meeting was reported, both before and after the event, in Moccasin Tracks, a mimeographed United American Indian publication which is distributed in many parts of the United States, and will bring the name "Baha'i" before many Indians.

BAHA'I ON THE CAMPUS

Students at the University of California in Berkeley arranged through the Inter-Faith Council for four Baha'i talks during the past school year: one each before the Religious Skeptics, Inc., and the Channing Club, and two at meetings of the Baha'i club. Baha'i speakers have been listed for several years in the lecture brochure published annually by the Council. Baha'i students living in three communities, Berkeley, Oakland, and Lafayette, will cooperate in Inter-Faith Council activities at the University during this new Baha'i year.

A Baha'i student at the University of New Mexico, enrolled only since September as a Senior transfer student, has highly publicized the Faith on campus. As a result of her making contacts and talking constantly about the Faith, she was invited twice to speak before the Campus Unitarian Club. Also, during the visit of Florence Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board, this student arranged for Mrs. Mayberry's lecture before the University Philosophy Club. This last was a public lecture which drew a large crowd, and stimulated much discussion.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Baha'i youth in the Ada County and Boise, Idaho, communities conducted the regular Devotional Hour held at the Art Gallery in Boise. Four American Indian youth from Burns, Oregon, attended the meeting.

In Miami, Florida, during Youth Week a young Baha'i gave a presentation of the Faith before a group of youth from 12 to 15 years in age.

An Albuquerque, New Mexico Baha'i youth, recently declared Feature Editor of her high school paper, arranged for the presentation by the Assembly of some Baha'i books to the high school library. As editor of the book review column, this youth wrote a fine review of each of the books, taking the opportunity to present clearly the Baha'i teachings. The books presented were Baha'u'llah and the New Era, The Koran, The Renewal of Civilization, and Tomorrow and Tomorrow.

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

The following news of activities in Baha'i communities has been taken from the Area Teaching Committee Bulletins available to Baha'i News at press time.

The Bulletin of the South Central States reports that a Teaching Conference, held April 2 and 3 in Oklahoma City, was conducted as a workshop. Following presentations of material on such topics as "Teaching the American Indians" and "Conducting Study Classes", the participants divided into smaller work groups to devise ways of translating the ideas into action. Findings were shared with the entire conference.

The Northwestern States Area Teaching Committee Bulletin reports that in Lewiston, Idaho, a class on the history of the Faith resulted from a presentation of the various religions of the world. The group has used both press and radio to good advantage in proclaiming the Message of Baha'u'llah.

The Yakima, Washington, group presented a talk on Indian ways and problems, followed by a talk on "The Divine Springtime". Newspaper, radio and TV accounts of the event spread word of the Faith throughout that area. This activity was followed up by a fifteen-minute presentation of a Baha'i Press Service script, "New Life for the World", over station KYAK.

The Devotional Hour arranged weekly by the Boise and Ada County, Idaho, friends was attended recently by Indians from Oregon who were attracted by the name on the placard announcing the meeting.

The Southwestern Baha'i Area Bulletin reports meetings convened throughout the area to bring reports from the Annual Convention to all believers. Tucson, Phoenix and Yuma, Arizona; Reno, Nevada; Salt Lake City, Utah; Pasadena, River-
BAHA'I NEWS

For the fourth time, the Bahá’í Community of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was invited to send a speaker to address a group at the First Methodist Church. Twenty-five young people, mostly married couples, listened with intense interest to a fifteen-minute talk and questions followed rapidly for thirty minutes more. Bahá’í speakers in the Sioux Falls community have also had the opportunity to present the Faith twice at a Baptist church and twice at the Congregational church. Response has been warm and sincere.

Members of the Antelope Judicial District, California, Bahá’í Group have arranged monthly broadcasts of tape recorded talks on the Faith with announcements of their regular public meetings. A systematic mailing program keeps contacts informed of fireside meetings. Local newspaper notices has helped the efforts of these friends to make knowledge of the Faith available in their community.

In Erie, Pennsylvania, selections from “Words for the World” were used several times during the months of March and April on radio station WJET.

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Bahá’í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá’ís and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahá’í House of Worship A Capella Choir.

The programs for the month of May follow:

Order of Devotions—May 1, 1955

Know thou assuredly that the essence of all the Prophets of God is one and the same. Their unity is absolute. God, the Creator hath said: There is no distinction whatever among the Bearers of My Messages. They all have but one purpose; their Secret is the same Secret. —Baha'u'llah

CHORAL SELECTION
Artex, O God, and Show Thy Might—Haydn M. Morgan

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
Prayers and Meditations, LXIX, p. 94; Gleanings, pp. 76-80

CHORAL SELECTION
Almight God of Our Fathers—Will James

BHAGAVAD-GITA (HINDU SCRIPTURES)

OLD TESTAMENT
Ezekiel 3:14-15; Deuteronomy 18:13-19

NEW TESTAMENT

QUR'AN
Sura II:130; Sura XXXIII:40-46

CHORAL SELECTION
Bless The Lord, O My Soul—Ippolito Ivanoff

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
Gleanings, p. 5, pp. 10-11; World Order of Baha'u'llah, p. 60, p. 116; Gleanings, pp. 88-89, p. 136; Prayers and Meditations, CVII, p. 178

CHORAL SELECTION
Almight God—Edward Thompson

Order of Devotions—May 8, 1955

O people of God! Do not occupy yourselves. Be intent on the betterment of the world and the training of nations. The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and excellent deeds and well-appoined and agreeable conduct. —Baha'u'llah

CHORAL SELECTION
Judge Me, O God — Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
Baha'í Prayers, p. 44

Baha'í World Faith, p. 141

OLD TESTAMENT
Psalm 116:1-6

ZOROASTRIAN SCRIPTURES
NEW TESTAMENT
James 2:14, 26

QUR'AN
Sura XVI:93-96, 128

CHORAL SELECTION
Blessing, Glory, Wisdom and Thanks — Johann Sebastian Bach

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
The Advent of Divine Justice, p. 49, p. 17

The Hidden Words of Baha'u'llah, From the Persian, No. 79

Prayers and Meditations, CXXXII, p. 219

CHORAL SELECTION
Blessed Are the Men Who Fear Him (Elijah) — Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

Order of Devotions—May 15, 1955

The highest and most excellent grace bestowed upon man is the grace of “attaining to the Presence of God” and of His recognition, which has been promised unto all people. —Baha'u'llah

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
Prayers and Meditations, CXVI, p. 197

Kitab-i-Iqan (The Book of Certitude), p. 97

CHORAL SELECTION
From the Sweet-Scented Streams (Prayer of Baha'u'llah) — Charles Wesley

OLD TESTAMENT
Isaiah 59:19-21

NEW TESTAMENT
James 4:1-3, 5-16

QUR'AN
Sura XXX:4-18

CHORAL SELECTION
Heavenly Light—Alexander Kopyloff

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 333; The Hidden Words of Baha'u'llah, From the Arabic, Nos. 11, 20, 10

CHORAL SELECTION
Bow Down Thine Ear—Haydn M. Morgan

Order of Devotions—May 22, 1955

Magnify the name of the one true God, and adorn yourselves with the ornament of His remembrance, and illumine your hearts with the light of His love. —Baha'u'llah

CHORAL SELECTION
Hear My Prayer, O Lord—A. A. Artkhangelski

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
Prayers and Meditations, LXXX, p. 132

Gleanings, pp. 303-305

OLD TESTAMENT
Psalm XXXVII

NEW TESTAMENT
John 14:15-29

CHORAL SELECTION
He Shall Give His Angels Charge Over Thee (Elijah) — Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

QUR'AN
Sura XXVI:1-13, 18-17

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
Gleanings, pp. 96-100, p. 28

CHORAL SELECTION
Lift Thy Holy Presence—Yechayenukov

Order of Devotions—May 29, 1955

Man should know his own self, and know those things which lead to lowliness or to baseness, to shame or to honor, to effluence or to poverty. —Baha'u'llah

CHORAL SELECTION
Sing and Rejoice—Will James

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
Baha'í Prayers, p. 54

Gleanings, pp. 62-69; p. 143; Baha'í World Faith, pp. 167-168

OLD TESTAMENT
Psalm 1

NEW TESTAMENT
Luke 15:1-3

QUR'AN
Sura VII:53-56

CHORAL SELECTION
Now God Be Praised—Melchior Vulpinus

BAHA'I SACRED WRITINGS
Gleanings, pp. 255-300; pp. 71-78; The Hidden Words of Baha'u'llah, From the Arabic, Nos. 12, 13

Prayers and Meditations, CLXXIII, p. 264

CHORAL SELECTION
Go Not Far From Me, O Lord—Haydn M. Morgan

BAHA'I Archives, Colorprint. From the original watercolor rendering of the preliminary design by Mason Reemy, Architect. 7 x 10 inches, (including border) in five colors. Reproduced in black and white in this issue of Baha'i News. Suitably matted and framed, this makes an attractive print to hang in office or home, thus serving as an indirect teaching aid. (Designed to be a companion print to the Shrine of the Baha’i Colorprint.)

Per copy $1.00

BAHA’I World Faith: A Summary of its History, Teachings and Administrative Order. Prepared in collaboration with Baha’i Press Service, this pamphlet is useful not only for editors, and newspaper writers, but for anyone wanting up-to-date, factual background material on the Faith. Front cover has photograph of the Temple. Further information is given by the Baha’i Press Service on page 20.

Ten copies (minimum order) $1.00

Fifty copies $5.00

Success In Teaching. By Ruhlyyih Khānum. An intimate talk with the Bahá’ís who long to serve the Faith. A practical, inspiring article on all aspects of personal teaching. (Revised edition of Teaching Problems.) New format, yellow paper, in notebook size 8½ x 11.

Per copy $0.15

Eight copies $1.00
Elimination of Prejudice. The Baha'i Attack. Statement prepared by the National Spiritual Assembly on the vital subject of prejudice in respect to race, class, creed and nationality, and the elimination of this attitude through the transforming power of the teachings of Baha'u'llah. (See article by the National Assembly on page 11.) 3½ x 11 on good quality white paper.

Eight copies (minimum order) $2.25
100 copies $2.00

New Insert Added to Portfolio

Baha'i: The Coming of World Religion. An insert has been prepared to add to this brochure (published some years ago) on the subject "Expansion of the Baha'i Community," dealing with developments of recent years as well as the current Ten-Year Plan, making this portfolio completely up to date. Contains photos of 'Abdu'l-Baha and the Temple. Black and red printing on cream with spiral binder, size 8½ x 11, complete with mailing envelope. Cover provides presentation space for name of recipient. One of our most dignified and attractive items. (See 1955 catalog, page 21.)

Per copy (price reduced) $0.35
12 copies $3.00

Baha'i Glossary. By Marzieh Gail.

A glossary of Persian and Arabic words that appear in the Baha'i writings, with pronunciation clearly indicated and definitions of the meanings. This work is a necessity to every serious student of the Baha'i writings and will add much enlightenment and enjoyment to the reading of The Dawn-Breakers, God Passes By, The Kitab-i-Qud, The Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, and others. 8½ x 11 in., 60 pages. paper cover.

Per copy $1.50

Foundations of World Unity

The much-loved selection of 'Abdu'l-Baha's addresses and letters on the spiritual foundations of world unity is again available. This book is a "must" for public library presentation as well as for personal Baha'i libraries, and an excellent book to give to new contacts who have had some previous attraction to the Teachings. The cloth copy is beautifully bound in natural linen, stamped in blue-green; paper copy is tan, stamped in red, size 9½ x 6.

Bound in cloth $2.00
Bound in paper. (Price remains) $1.00

Available from

Baha'i Publishing Trust
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

No Longer Available

The Publishing Trust regrets that the book, Life Eternal, listed in the 1955 Literature Catalog is now out of stock, due to an unusually large demand at the recent Convention, and no further supply is anticipated. Please mark this item as "out of stock" on your catalogs.

HOLY DAYS

July 9, Martyrdom of the Bab

FEASTS

June 5—Nur, Light
June 24—Rahmat, Mercy
July 13—Kalimat, Words

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

July 15, 16, 17

Baha'i HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting hours

Weekdays and Saturdays: 1:00 P.M.—4:30 P.M., 7:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M.
Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—9:00 P.M.
(The entire building will be open.)

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15 (No guided tours will be conducted during the program of worship.)
"PONDER ANEW
FULL IMPLICATIONS
AND ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS
OF THEIR STEWARDSHIP OF THE
CAUSE OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH"

Message from the Guardian

Impelled (at) this grave hour (in the) chequered history (of the) over century-old, world-encircling, repeatedly-persecuted yet unquenchable Faith, (to) summon (the) entire body (of the) valorous upholders (of its) institutions who, severally (and) collectively, stand pledged (to the) prosecution (of the) mightiest crusade launched since its inception, whether residing (in homelands or) overseas, however repressive (the) regimes under which they labor, (to) ponder anew (the) full implications (and) essential requirements (of) their stewardship (of the) Cause (of) Bahá'u'lláh.

Entreat them (to) refuse (to) allow any vicissitudes, present (or) future, (to) dampen (their) ardor (and) enthusiasm, impair (their) solidarity, weaken (their) resolution, (or) deflect them (from their) high purpose. Unbowed (by) adversity, disdainful (of the) clamors, unbroken (by the) machinations (of the) inveterate, arrogant, traditional enemies (who are) alarmed (by their) own declining fortunes, contrasting (with the) evidence (of the) dynamic forces, impelling power, rising prestige, indivisible unity, accumulating resources, multiplying institutions (and) inextinguishable spirit (of) God's infant Faith, it behoveth them (to) bend (their) energies, rise (to) higher levels (of consecration), vigilantly combat all forms (of) misrepresentations, eradicate suspicions, dispel misgivings, silence criticisms, through still more compelling demonstration (of) loyalty (to) their respective governments, win, maintain (and) strengthen (the) confidence (of the) civil authorities (in) their integrity (and) sincerity, reaffirm (the) universality (of the) aims (and) purposes (of the) Faith, proclaim (the) spiritual character (of) its fundamental principles, (and) assert the non-political character (of) its administrative institutions.

Appeal (to) members (of) communities untrammeled (by the) disabilities (and) shackles imposed (on) their) less privileged brethren, particularly those established (in the) North American continent, recognized stronghold (of the) administrative order (of the) Faith, (and) those residing (in the) British Commonwealth (and) Empire, situated (in the) homeland, (the) East (and) West (of the) African continent, scattered (throughout the) Antipodes (and) Pacific area, (to) arise promptly (and) accelerate (the) tempo (of their) activities, multiply exploits which will more than offset (the) transient setbacks which a steadily-advancing (and) as yet not fully-emancipated Faith may suffer. Theirs (is the) sublime opportunity so (to) act as (to) thoroughly dishearten (and) confound any schemes which envious, fanatical (and) embittered adversaries, tottering (to) their fall, may devise.

Share message (with) National Assemblies.

—Shoghi

May 26, 1955

Commentary: National Spiritual Assembly

Beloved Friends:

Our revered Guardian has summoned the Bahá'ís of East and West to arise in unity for action in the grave situation produced by the Iranian government in banning Bahá'í activities, seizing Bahá'í properties in that land, and declaring the Faith illegal.

His first message on that subject, dated May 16, has already been published. Shoghi Effendi directed us to make appeals to the authorities in Iran and to join him in special fervent prayers for divine protection.

His second message, May 23, contained instructions on how the National Spiritual Assemblies and the local communities and groups were to express their appeals. At this time of writing, 332 copies of appeals have been received by the National Assembly from localities in the United States, and 33 from areas under its supervision. The number increases daily.

The Guardian's third message, May 25, outlined what to emphasize in a statement issued by the National Assembly to the press. Copies of this release were distributed by Bahá'í Press Service.

Now in the message cabled on May 26, published above, Shoghi Effendi summons all Bahá'ís to "ponder anew the full implications and essential requirements of their stewardship of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh."

Here, indeed, is the inspired utterance of the divinely appointed Head of the Faith who alone serves as the channel through which the Power of Bahá'u'lláh flows to the Bahá'í community and to mankind. It is for us, in humility and reverence, to search our souls and make supreme effort to meet the challenge of this fateful hour.

Let us read over and over again what the Guardian entreats us to do: refuse to allow vicissitudes to dampen our ardor; remain unbowed by adversity, be disdainful of treacherous plots to divide and weaken the believers; bend our energies, rise to higher levels of consecration; com-
bat all misrepresentations and eradicate suspicions through compelling demonstrations of loyalty to our respective governments; reaffirm the universality of the teachings; assert the non-political character of our administrative institutions.

As for those Bahá’ís who live in countries which afford freedom of action and opinion, they are to accelerate the tempo of their activities, multiply exploits and thus more than offset the “transient setbacks” which the Faith may yet suffer. By their actions they can “dishearten and confound” any schemes devised by envious, fanatical enemies.

The Victory is in sight, but step by step we must carry the banner to the top of the last mountain!

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

MOST REDOUTABLE ADVERSARY OF `ABDU’L-BAHÁ MISERABLY PERISHED

Cable from the Guardian

Announce (to) National Assemblies (that) Majid-din, (the) most redoubtable adversary (of) `Abdu’l-Bahá, denounced by Him (as the) incarnation (of) Satan (and who) played (a) predominant part (in) kindling (the) hostility (of) `Abdu’l-Hamid (and) Jamál Pághá, (and who was the) chief instigator (of) Covenant-breaking (and) archbreaker (of) Bahá’u’lláh’s Covenant, (and) who above sixty years labored (with) fiendish ingenuity (and) guile (to) undermine its foundations, miserably perished struck (with) paralysis affecting (his) limbs (and) tongue. Dispensation (of) Providence prolonged (the) span of his life long enough to behold the ruin of his plots and the “triumphant progress” of the Faith and signs of the establishment of its administrative order around the world. This violator lived at Bahjí, in the sacred tree of Paradise are overthrown by the judgment of God.

`Abdu’l-Bahá’s “most redoubtable adversary” has “miserably perished,” after Providence allotted to him a life long enough to behold the ruin of his plots and the “triumphant progress” of the Faith and signs of the establishment of its administrative order around the world. This violator lived at Bahjí, in the section owned by the faithless member of the family of Bahá’u’lláh.

A dark cloud is borne away on the winds, and the light of the heavens shines with new glory upon the earth.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 3, 1955

June 3, 1955

COMMENDATORY NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Beloved Friends:

As we ponder with grief the persecutions inflicted upon the Bahá’í Community of Iran, evidence of the Almighty Power which protects the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh comes to us in the foregoing Message from the Guardian. In mysterious but inescapable manner those who strike wanton, cruel blows at the blessed Tree of Paradise are overthrown by the judgment of God.

`Abdu’l-Bahá’s “most redoubtable adversary” has “miserably perished,” after Providence allotted to him a life long enough to behold the ruin of his plots and the “triumphant progress” of the Faith and signs of the establishment of its administrative order around the world. This violator lived at Bahjí, in the section owned by the faithless member of the family of Bahá’u’lláh.

A dark cloud is borne away on the winds, and the light of the heavens shines with new glory upon the earth.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

THE GUARDIAN ON LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT HEADS

For the information of the friends, the National Spiritual Assembly publishes an excerpt from a letter written on behalf of the Guardian to an individual believer a few months ago. This excerpt makes it clear that believers need approval by the Guardian of the text of any communication they may desire to send to an international personage:

"The Guardian also noted the open letter which you wrote to President Eisenhower, Marshall Bulganin and Prime Minister Winston Churchill with regard to the Bahá’í Peace Program.

"The Guardian feels that any communications addressed to international figures of this nature, particularly in connection with political proposals of any one group, should not be written unless approved by him. He feels matters of this type so important that he does not wish such communications sent without his prior consideration and approval. It may lead to quite difficult and embarrassing situations, especially when the letters are made public . . . ."

Together with this very definite direction, the National Assembly understands that contact with national figures is to be conducted only through the National Assembly, and contact with local officials through the Local Assembly. The type of contact meant is that which is made in the name of the Faith or for a Bahá’í purpose.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

BAHÁ’Í INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SUBMITS PROPOSALS FOR REVISION OF UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

According to arrangements made when the United Nations Charter was adopted, revisions were to be considered in 1955, ten years after the establishment of United Nations.

Acting under the Guardian’s approval and direction, the twelve existing National Spiritual Assemblies, functioning in relation to United Nations as the Bahá’í International Community, have prepared a set of proposed revisions which have been submitted to the Secretary General of United Nations through the United Nations Committee.

The presentation consisted of a letter, with two annexes: Proposals for Charter Revision, and References to World Order in the Bahá’í Writings.

This international Bahá’í document has been printed as a pamphlet in two editions—a special edition for United Nations delegates, and a general edition will be offered for sale by the Publishing Trust.

The National Spiritual Assembly commends this document for use as teaching material by Assemblies, Committees and individual believers. It can be featured in connection with United Nations Day next October, or presented under suitable conditions to local organizations and key persons interested in world affairs. The intention of the revisions is to transform the existing status
of United Nations into a world federation, a principle endorsed in the Bahá’í teachings.

The suggestions received from other National Spiritual Assemblies were studied, and the final text of the document prepared by the United States National Assembly, which represents all the National Spiritual Assemblies in relation to United Nations, and by the United Nations Committee.

Information about the cost will be announced by the Bahá’í Publishing Trust.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

ATTENTION BAHÁ’I YOUTH

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to have a complete and up-to-date listing of all Bahá’í youth members resident in the United States and with the armed forces abroad. Will each Local Spiritual Assembly having youth members in its community send in the names, addresses, and birth dates of these members even though this information may have been reported at some previous time.

Bahá’í youth members who are not resident in a Bahá’í community should send this information themselves by postal card directly to the National Bahá’í Office, 536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

VOTING RIGHTS REMOVED

The National Spiritual Assembly has taken action to remove Mr. Charles William Smith and Mrs. Mina Belle Smith, from the Bahá’í membership list.

MUSA BANANI’S NEWSLETTER

From the United States Africa Teaching Committee have come the following excerpts from Mr. Banani’s Newsletter of May 25, which is sent to all pioneers throughout Africa.

“As the sun set on April 21, 1955, on Africa 75 groups burst into Assemblies throughout the length and breadth of this Continent and its neighboring islands. This historic feat was made possible through the selfless efforts of the dear friends and the blessings from on high focused upon them through the Center of God’s Covenant. . . .

“...There is now a total of 124 Assemblies in Africa. Since the inception of the African campaign over four years ago, more than one hundred new Assemblies have been formed. . . . The 124 Assemblies are established in 37 territories out of the total of 58 territories of the African campaign. Of these 37, twenty were without a single Bahá’í on the day of the inauguration of the Ten-Year Crusade. The new Assemblies of Ridván 1955 have been formed in 29 territories of the 37 which now have Assemblies.

“The remaining 21 territories of the African Crusade have either groups, isolated believers, or are lacking at this time any pioneer or believer, owing to forced returns or other difficulties. Eight territories have groups, eight have isolated believers, and five have no believers. . . .

“As to the victories won during the past year, I feel no pen could possibly recount adequately or exhaustively the innumerable sacrifices that the friends in all the 29 territories where Assemblies were formed had to endure, the spiritual battles those dear friends had to fight, the obstacles and problems they had to meet and overcome, and the thrill that was theirs as they saw the promised blessings and confirmations of Bahá’u’lláh surround them, guide them, strengthen them, lead them to victory, and crown their noble endeavors with success.”

“MESSAGE TO THE INDIANS”

A pamphlet is in the process of translation into the Iroquois and Blackfoot languages, under the auspices of the Canadian Indian Service Committee. It is entitled “A Message to the Indians.” The pamphlet will also be printed in English.
The World Crusade Within the United States

In the June, 1955, issue of Bahá’í News the National Spiritual Assembly has stated clearly the responsibility of the Bahá’ís of the United States for the achievement of their home front goal of 300 local Spiritual Assemblies by 1963. The Guardian has repeatedly pointed out that we must not delay, but must make a substantial gain in the number of new Assemblies each year, and he continues to appeal for the dispersion of the believers on an unprecedented scale.

Dear friends, in striving for this particular home front goal the acts of dispersion and consolidation become one action in our unified effort to establish approximately 125 new Assemblies in less than eight years. The American National Teaching Committee appeals to all believers who anticipate moving to another locality to communicate as soon as possible with its secretary: Mrs. Jesma Herbert, 725 South Alvarado Street, Los Angeles 57, California. The latest information will be made available for guidance as to the places of greatest need and opportunity for additional settlers. Through full consultation at every step, every effort can be made to count toward the achievement of our goals.

—AMERICAN NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE
Jesma Herbert, Secretary

GOAL CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE WORLD CRUSADE AT HOME

As of June 15, 1955

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<tr>
<th>Consolidation Goals</th>
<th>Virgin Goals</th>
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**Assemblies To Be Restored:**

**ARIZONA**

Yuma

**CALIFORNIA**

Burlingame

Sausalito Township

(Mill Valley)

South Bay Judicial District

South Gate

**CONNECTICUT**

Hartford

**ILLINOIS**

Danville

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Worcester

**MISSOURI**

Kansas City

**MONTANA**

Butte

**NEW JERSEY**

Ridgewood

**NORTH DAKOTA**

Fargo

**OHIO**

East Cleveland

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

North Augusta

**MARYLAND**

Montgomery County

**NEW YORK**

Geneva

**Vermont**

Brattleboro

*These goals became Local Spiritual Assemblies on April 21, 1955.**

**No Assembly in state as of April 21, 1955.**

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*First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Saigon, Vietnam, April 21, 1955.*

*Newly acquired Naziratu’l-Quds of San Jose, Costa Rica, located in a nice residential district, which will become the National Naziratu’l-Quds of Costa Rica.*
What About *Me*?

**Talk given at Area Teaching Conference, Temple Foundation Hall, June 11, 1955**

By Horace Holley

All human action and thought—all our feelings—spring from the mysterious depths of our being. Most of us are unconscious of the nature and possibilities of this area of our self. We are conscious of what we say and do, and how we feel, but not why we act and talk and feel in particular ways.

But since we are Bahá'ís we know that the divine Wisdom penetrates us on all levels of being, and embraces not only what we know but also what we do not know about ourselves. That divine Wisdom is all-powerful. Its purpose acts upon us and within us at all times. As blind men we grope our way through a world of mystery, knowing only what we can actually touch with our stretched hands. Having free will we seem able to deny, reject or alter any motivation arising from sources outside our knowledge and control.

In general, our attitude toward the unconscious realm of being is either active, passive, or negative. Whatever that attitude may be, it produces an eventual result in terms of the quality of our nature—a result which men call destiny—transcending the definite goals which we from time to time choose and strive to attain.

Somewhere in those mysterious depths of the unconscious lies our supreme endowment as human beings—capacity to know, to love and to obey God, which is also capacity to reject and deny God. Always and ever, whether we realize it or not, we draw nearer to the divine Wisdom or we are turning away. The world can give us no sure test to determine which direction we are taking. This the individual must learn for himself. If we draw nearer, we receive inner grace from divine Wisdom; if we remain remote, we incur penalty for rejecting the bounty offered by our Creator. As a principle this is known to all Bahá'ís, whether or not we possess the more intimate understanding derived from conscious experience.

When we contemplate the promises of God, perhaps we are unable to draw near to them with assurance because of our sense of personal limitation. But all human beings are equal in their dependence upon God. People differ because some stand imprisoned within this sense of limitation while others rely upon the divine assurance and forget themselves. Has God failed to fulfill His creative power in us? Do we excuse ourselves by attributing the limitation to God?

To our darkened realm of confusion and helplessness the Manifestation of God has brought the divine test, one which every man can apply to himself: the concentration of attention upon the Word of God. The Word of God is the expression of the divine Wisdom offered to every soul. The Word of God is the key which opens the door to the inner mysteries. In the Word lies the potency of the supreme Will sustaining the universe. Through the Word, if we love and meditate upon it, the unconscious self is transformed from a jungle where the instinctive forces of the animal world have control to an illumined garden, the Paradise which God has ordained to be the world of the faithful soul.

For all Bahá'ís who truly desire to serve the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, these considerations come first. We do not and cannot serve the Cause of God with the thoughts, feelings and actions of the natural man. The activities of the man of nature have corrupted and destroyed every revealed religion of the past. They made religion a mode of self-worship, an arena in which the physical, mental and psychic powers could be fulfilled. Capacity to serve God is from the Word, for the Word transforms man from detachment to the secret springs of instinct by connecting him with the life of the heavenly world.

What we call limitation is only evil when we voluntarily limit ourselves in rejection of the grace concealed within the creative Word. The sense of limitation disappears when we contemplate with ardent hearts the infinite bounties of the Kingdom. The endowment each of us has received from God is our perfection. It is from the Word, not from ourselves. The Word of God is an inexhaustible fountain of joyous activity. Hewing wood and drawing water for the sake of the Cause is an honor which God has revealed religion of the past. They made religion a mode of self-worship, an arena in which the physical, mental and psychic powers could be fulfilled. Capacity to serve God is from the Word, for the Word transforms man from detachment to the secret springs of instinct by connecting him with the life of the heavenly world.

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Sometimes believers say that they are thwarted in their desire or ability to draw near to the divine Wisdom because they are prevented or discouraged by other believers. Someone else, not ourselves, deprives us of the spiritual bounties. Bahá'u'lláh has given us the divine assurance that no one stands between us and God. As long as we attribute blame to another we are employing a perverted self-esteem to deny that God has created us and surrounds us with His love. The first step on the path of attainment is to love the Word of God—the expression of His love for man. Firmness of faith must be attained, lest we allow ourselves to divert us from the path.

If the first step is devotion to the Word of God, each for himself, with no substitute for the Word in minis-
ter, priest or Bahá’í teacher, the second step is the establishment of a true relationship with others. No man acquires true self-respect until he loves the Word of God; and no man can truly respect others until he has attained respect for the divine creation within himself. As the Teachings state, we do not know ourselves until we have knowledge of God.

Sometimes we hear of a Bahá’í community subjected to confusion, unhappiness, frustration. The members seem to act negatively one upon another. Be sure that the individuals so deprived of the glory of unified achievement and mutual participation in the Feast which the Revelation has offered are suffering from personal failure to become steadfast in the Word. The foundation of mutual respect has not been laid.

In these conditions, some thought might well be directed to a practice which contributes to the confusion and makes it more and more difficult for the sincere believer to realize the potency of the creative Word. This practice consists of the habit of projecting disturbed feelings upon others instead of resolving them in meditation and prayer. The disturbed personality seeks release from the burden by throwing it upon others, but instead of getting rid of the burden this practice burdens others, until many are made dependent and confused. Suspicions, fears, angers, resentments, jealousies, contempt—all the forms of emotional disturbance—are multiplied as they are communicated back and forth within the group. Thus the Faith becomes obscured, the path to Paradise is darkened, and capacity for peace and cooperation is betrayed and turned into conflict and division.

Until spiritual self-respect is won, human beings cannot distinguish between benefiting others and exploiting them. In the jungle of nature all are either tyrants or slaves. None can possess radiance; none can achieve the purpose of his creation. Let us fear that jungle, for it is the place of punishment for those who fail in love for God.

To serve the World Crusade, consecrated individual Bahá’ís are needed. The challenge sounds from the ends of the earth that we leave our homes to plant the banner of Bahá’u’lláh upon some distant hill.

But this is not all. The Faith of Bahá’u’lláh also requires a unified world community composed of many unified national and local communities, all centered in harmony upon the redemption of mankind and the establishment of a new world order. The community of the Greatest Name can only unify believers—souls which, in their varying degrees, are become a mirror reflecting the light of the Word—and its pillars are consultation and kindness, those germinating powers which evoke new and nobler attributes within mankind.

Therefore it can be said: First, continuous individual devotion to the creative Word; second, continuous regard for that unity which is God’s special and wondrous blessing for this age. Out of these two conditions will spring those particular services to the Cause which can fulfill the tasks of the Ten-Year Plan.

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Baha'i Summer School, Karachi, Pakistan, November, 1954
CANADA

Convention and Election

The Eighth National Convention of the Bahá'ís of Canada was held in Toronto at the King Edward Hotel, April 28-May 1. All delegates were present.

The Ridván Feast, held April 29, was attended by about 75 Bahá'ís and their friends.

At the public congress on April 30, attended by over 300 persons, a panel of four speakers dealt with the subject: "The World Around Us." Mr. Allan Raynor was chairman, and the panel members were Mrs. Audrey Westheuser, secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly, Miss Elizabeth Manser, Mr. F. St. George Spendlove, and Mr. Rowland Estall, member of the auxiliary Board. They spoke from four points of view—that of housewife, student, historian and businessman. A lively question period followed the talks.

Election of members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada resulted as follows:
- Rowland Estall
- Peggy Ross
- Audrey Westheuser
- Angus Cowan
- Lloyd Gardner
- Winnifred Harvey
- Albert Rakovsky
- Allan Raynor
- Don MacLaren

Canadian Bahá'í Schools

Summer sessions at the various Bahá'í Schools in Canada have been announced:
- Maritime Provinces—July 24-31, at Pugwash. Teachers: Mrs. Ola Pawlowska (pioneer on St. Pierre) and Glen Eyeford.
- Laurentian—July 1-10, August 7-14, at Beaulac. Teachers: Mr. O. D. Rutherford and Mrs. E. M. Rutherford.
- Western—August 21-27, Valley Center, Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. Alberta Teaching Committee in charge.

Rates for the national Bahá'í School at Beaulac were given in Bahá'í News (U.S.), May, 1955.

GERMANY

New Assembly in Cologne

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Germany and Austria reports its Bahá'í Nachrichten the establishment of a new Spiritual Assembly in Cologne. This raises the number of local spiritual assemblies in Germany and Austria to twenty-two, an increase of four over the previous year, three former Assemblies having been re-established.

Bahá'í Schools

The dates announced for the Bahá'í Schools in Germany this summer are:
- Esslingen, August 21-27
- Frankfurt, September 11-17
- Youth Week, August 6-13, at Annweiler in the Pfalz (Bavaria).

INDIA

Hand of Cause Visits India

The Bahá'í News Bulletin of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, Pakistan and Burma reports that Mr. Dhikrullah Khamid, Hand of the Cause, visited India in January at the request of the Guardian.

More Assemblies Incorporated

Incorporation of the following Local Spiritual Assemblies is reported by the same National Assembly: Kuching (Sarawak), Singapore (Malaya), Jakarta (Indonesia).

ITALY - SWITZERLAND

Italo-Swiss Bahá'í School

The Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assembly announces that the second Italo-Swiss joint Bahá'í School will be held for the second consecutive summer at beautiful Bex-les-Bains, Switzerland, September 9-16.

SOUTH AMERICA

Bahá'í Convention Held in La Paz

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of South America has sent a report of its Fifth Annual Bahá'í Convention, held in the heart of the Andes in the world's highest capital city, La Paz, Bolivia, April 27-May 2.

Opening with a joyous Ridván Feast, delegates from every South American country with visiting friends from such great distances as Punta Arenas, Chile; the Juan Fernandez Island pioneers; North American settlers; the representative for the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and its Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, Nura Mobine, gathered together in an indescribable atmosphere of Bahá'í oneness.

All participated in a series of study classes preceding the Convention on "Advent of Divine Justice;" "The Promised Day Is Come;" "Indians of South America;" "Sacrifice," preparing the hearts and minds for the impact of the Guardian's stirring call to action in the Convention message and for active participation in the weighty deliberations of the Convention later.

Complete harmony prevailed "as one soul in many bodies" as definite recommendations were made and steps taken to further the goals of Indian teaching; to make a preliminary survey of costs and sites of the Hazratu'l-Quds to be secured in capital cities this coming year; to consider the groups which may attain Local Spiritual Assembly status this coming year in order to participate in the historic Conventions to be held in Ridván, 1957, forming two Regional National Spiritual Assemblies in South America.

"Dispersal, dispersal, dispersal" was this year's Convention theme.
which fired volunteers to offer their services as pioneers among the Indians and in virgin cities, including a 17 year old youth for Indian teaching. This news was cabled to the beloved Guardian giving the roll of names.

Highlights of the Convention included the Guardian’s additional oral message to South America expressed to Nura Mobine during her pilgrimage in Haifa; the intrepid courageous pioneering story leading to the formation of the first island goal Local Spiritual Assembly this year in Juan Fernández (Robinson Crusoe) Island; a picnic lunch on the grounds of the house which might be the future Bolivian Hagiratu’l-Quds, with its flowering terraces under the shadow of the majestic Andes; the unanimous expression of gratitude of the United States for the flow of pioneers to South America and that further co-workers will be welcomed with open arms during the forthcoming year.

Above all, the desire to serve the Guardian and follow his directives was reflected in the flow of communications realized during the Convention period. Collectively, the South American friends pledged themselves in renewed dedication to redoubled teaching efforts and devotion to the full program of the Global Crusade.

In response to the cable sent by the Convention, the Guardian has sent the following reply:“Deeply appreciate message. Delighted splendid initiative dedication valiant friends. Urge delegates rezone all communities exert utmost last year second phase plan for multiplication of centers and assemblies, consolidation allotted newly opened territories, translation Indian languages, establishment publishing.”

—ELLEN SIMS

TEMERITY SUMMER SESSION

Temerity Bahá’í School summer classes will begin on July 9 and run through August 7. The following courses are planned (subject to change):

July 9-15
World Order Letters and Crusade completion on the Báb’s Writings
The Bahá’í Life

July 16-22
World Order Letters and Crusade Prayer in Action
Comparative Religion

July 23-29
World Order Letters and Crusade Living in Two Worlds
The Epistle to the Son of the Wolf

July 30-August 5
World Order Letters and Crusade How to Teach the Bahá’í Faith
Survey of Gleanings

Two week-end classes are planned that will be of especial interest to Bahá’ís living in or near the Rocky Mountain area:

First week-end July 16-17
Second week-end, August 6-7

Classes in public speaking will also be held. Serving as program director will be Miss Cora Edge. For reservations, write to Mrs. Gladys Roberts, 915 North Hancock Ave., Colorado Springs, Colorado. Room and board is $35 per week.

BAHA’I IN THE NEWS

The press and such magazines as Time and Newsweek have broadcast the news of the tragic events transpiring in Iran. The press releases prepared by the National Spiritual Assembly on this subject will, it is hoped, with the assistance of local representatives, secure even greater recognition. It is not yet the time to present any detailed report on this publicity event.

On page 6 of the March, 1955, issue of Contacts, published by the Fraternal Society of the American Association of Passenger Traffic Officers, an article was published entitled In Holy Land which featured an illustration of the Shrine of the Báb and a photograph of Mr. Leroy Loomis, Hand of the Cause and Secretary General, Bahá’í International Council at Haifa.

A very interesting reference to the Faith is contained in The Religions of Mankind, by Edmund Davison Soper, published by Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1938. Unfortunately, though the author finds something
to admire, he attributes political ac-
tivity to the Báb and connects the
Faith with Shiite Islam.

From believers in Japan we have a
clipping of a long newspaper ar-
ticle which appeared in The Mar-
nichi, May 13, 1955. Headed “Japan
Suited for Spread of Bahá’í World
Faith,” the staff writer uses the
fireside meeting conducted by Dr.
and Mrs. David Earl to present a
very favorable account of the teach-
ings and Bahá’í activities in Japan.
The fireside group was photographed
to accompany this article.

Revista Pan-America, published in
Tegucigalpa, Honduras, devotes a
page and a half in its March, 1955, is-
to an article on the construc-
tion of the Shrine of the Báb and the
visit paid to the Guardian by the
President of Israel. The Shrine is
illustrated.

Saturday Review, New York, has
an occasional department on travel.
In the May 14, 1955, issue, Horace
Sutton describes a journey in Israel.
“I saw the last of Israel from the
deck of the sleek American liner
Independence. In front of me all
Haifa grew up the hillside. There
was the Bahá’í Temple (i.e., Shrine
of the Báb), the shiny dome built by
the cult which accepts all prophets,
teaches love, peace, and toleration,
and glories in the beauty of
flowers . . . ”

Europa—The Encyclopedia of Eu-
rope, which has sections on Inter-
national Organizations carries a sec-
tion on the International Bahá’í Bu-
reau, presented in detail, with a
statement on the Faith.

The printed program presenting
the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of
the National Council of State Gar-
den Clubs, May 22-27, 1955, held in
Chicago, included a visit to the
Bahá’í Temple Gardens as one of its
programmed events. The Gar-
dens are described, and the Temple
referred to as “breath-taking in its
profoundly inspiring beauty.”

The Christian Century, June 8,
deals editorially with the subject of
the persecution in Iran. The editor
faces the problem squarely. “This
(Shiite Islam) is now giving a dem-
stration of the way an established
religion always tends to behave,
when it thinks it can safely do so,
against nonconformity. . . . Of course,
persecution is no new expression for
the Bahá’ís; it seems, to be, as
the New Testament suggests, a
touchstone of the vigor of any new
religion. . . . Meanwhile, the expan-
sion of Bahá’ism will not suffer. Its
message of a universal brotherhood
based on a continuing revelation and
pointing toward a future universal
government appeals to many con-
temporary minds . . . ”

Dr. Paul Hutchinson, Editor, was
a guest speaker on our Jubilee pro-
gram of public meetings.

CENTRAL STATES AREA
TEACHING CONFERENCE

Attendance at the Central States
Area Teaching Conference in Tem-
ple Foundation Hall on June 11 was
small, but interest and discussion
were excellent.

The review of the Guardian’s let-
ter to the Annual Convention brought
out the fact that in the Guardian’s
reference to the perilous condition
of this time, we were forewarned of
the new persecutions unleashed
against the believers of Persia a
few weeks later. The world-wide
publicity given to this attack by
press and radio has brought the
Faith to the attention of millions of
people, thus providing us with a vast
new field of teaching opportunities.

Among the points brought out dur-
ing consultation on the responsibil-
ity of the individual in the home front
teaching campaign were these: the
need for re-orientation to the Cause
through study of the Creative Word;
the importance of eliminating all
unnecessary activities in order to find
time to teach; the necessity of work-
ing with new believers until they
are well-grounded and prepared to
make sacrifices for the Faith, and
to aid them in gaining enthusiasm
and experience by putting them to
work on worth-while activities in the
community; and above all, the ne-
cessity for each one to make him-
self a pure channel for the promo-
tion of the Faith.

Following a survey on the status
of the teaching goals for the area,
an appeal was made for settlers to
strengthen a number of small com-
munities, as well as to develop Lo-
cal Spiritual Assemblies in the goal
cities. It was pointed out that if one
cannot go out to pioneer one can
teach where he is and bring in new
believers who may be able to do
this service in our stead.

BAHA’I ON THE AIR

In Anchorage, Alaska, excellent
publicity was given over the three
radio stations KENI, KFKD and
KBYR to the Bahá’í National Con-
vention Press Service release. This
was presented as news of local in-
terest, tying it in with mention of
the two Alaska delegates who at-
tended the Convention.

Station KCDM, Stockton, Califor-
nia, broadcast results of the election
of the first Spiritual Assembly of the
Bahá’ís of Stockton, including also
mention of the fact that one of their
members was a delegate to the
Bahá’í National Convention in Wil-
mette.

Free radio announcements were
arranged by the Bahá’ís of Flint,
Michigan, over seven stations, in
connection with their commemorat-
ion of the Declaration of the Báb.

Bahá’ís of Butte, Montana, re-
cently experienced an interesting ex-
ample of what it means to “be un-
restrained as the wind” while car-
rying the Message. A free half-hour TV
interview broadcast resulted unex-
pectedly when a ten-minute inter-
view had been planned. Mrs. Helen
Wilks, secretary of the North西部
States Area Teaching Commit-
tee, visiting in Butte, was to be
interviewed by the woman’s TV pro-
gram director on station KXLF-TV.
However, shortly before the program
was to begin, the Jewish consul gen-
eral for eleven Western states, for-
male in charge of a division of the
Israel government, and a rabbi of Butte
arrived at the studio. Visiting in
Butte also, with Mrs. Wilks, was
Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, secretary of
the Tacoma, Washington, Bahá’í
Assembly, who had in 1954 made the
pilgrimage to Haifa. In less time
than it takes to tell, a joint interview
was arranged with five partici-
pants—the program director, the two
Jewish gentlemen and the two
Bahá’ís. The interview developed
with the greatest friendliness, the
former Israeli official speaking with
much appreciation of the beauty of
the Shrine of the Báb and the Bahá’í
gardens on Mt. Carmel, Mrs. Wilks
telling of her professional work with
delinquent children, the rabbi speak-
ing of his Jewish relief work, and
Mrs. Johnson concerning her visit to
Israel and the Bahá’í World Center.

Two Bahá’í pioneers working in
Warren, Ohio, a goal city, were in-
terviewed on the radio as direct re-
sult of a local news broadcast con-
cerning the persecution of the Bahá'ís in Persia. It happened because one of the Bahá'í pioneers telephoned the radio news editor, whom she had met, to tell him his accurate reporting of the affair was appreciated. This resulted in an invitation to be interviewed about the Faith on the radio station's regular Friday evening interview program. The news editor mentioned that he felt the interview was one of his most interesting and he was saving the tape recording of it to use as an audition later.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

The new Bahá'í goal community of Stockton, California, prepared itself for its first annual election on April 20 by preceding it with two classes in Bahá'í Administration, on April 1 and 15. At the first session the spiritual aspects of Bahá'í elections were discussed. For the second session twenty True or False statements were prepared, based on Bahá'í Community. Each Bahá'í graded himself on his answers. The Stockton Bahá'í Bulletin reports a 100 per cent attendance, with lively discussion, at these meetings.

Waterloo, Iowa, reports unusual teaching opportunities have come in recent months. These included a request from the Wesley Foundation (Methodist) at Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls, Iowa, for a Bahá'í speaker at their regular Sunday evening meeting. A study of comparative religions had been in progress and they wished a presentation of the Bahá'í Faith. Some 70 to 80 students attended the meeting and great interest was shown. Several of the students also attended a Bahá'í public lecture in Waterloo two weeks later.

The Local Spiritual Assembly of Teaneck, New Jersey has adopted a simple form for each Bahá'í in the community to sign, informing survivors after his or her death that a Bahá'í funeral is requested. One copy of the form will be kept on file by the local assembly and another is given to the individual. It is anticipated that this will assure the members of a proper Bahá'í funeral in such cases where the will is not opened in time or where non-Bahá'í relatives take charge and plan a funeral according to some faith other than the Bahá'í.

Alaska's two delegates to the National Bahá'í Convention reported on the Convention to Bahá'ís gathered in Spenard and in Anchorage Recording District.

A state conference was arranged by the Bahá'ís of Montana at Missoula, attended by Bahá'ís from Butte, Great Falls and Helena. Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson of Tacoma, Washington, and Mrs. Helen Wilks of Seattle, reported on the National Convention. Plans were evolved for state-wide teaching activities in Montana.

The North Central States Area Teaching Committee arranged a conference at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on May 7–8, attended by believers from Nebraska and North and South Dakota, for the purpose of hearing National Convention reports. Consultation and open discussion was held after each paragraph of the Guardian's Message, and after each one-day Convention report. The next area conference was arranged to be held in Rapid City, South Dakota, the week-end of July 4.

PUBLICATIONS

World Order Magazine Kits

World Order Magazine, published from April 1925 to March 1949 contains a rich source of material for giving Bahá'í talks, conducting firesides, and for personal inspiration and enlightenment. Many contain articles once available in pamphlet form, now out of print, but still in demand. Featured this month are two special "kits", containing items of particular interest and value.

World Order Magazine Kit No. 1

(August, October, November, 1948; January, February, March, 1949). Five of the above issues contain the full compilation by Horace Holley entitled What Modern Man Must Know About Religion, formerly available in mimeograph form, concerned with the "spiritual reconstruction of the human personality" through true religious education. (Study Outline on What Modern Man Must Know About Religion is still available at $1.00 each. See literature catalog.) Other issue contains article Proofs of the Manifestations of God by E. and P. Bartley, an answer to a question frequently asked of Bahá'ís.

World Order Magazine Kit No. 2

(April, 1936; April, July, November, 1937; January, March, 1940). In addition to many other splendid articles, these six issues contain the following: The Laboratory of Life by Louise Boyle, formerly sold in pamphlet form; The Reality of Christ by Maye Harvey Gift concerning the "Christ Whom the Bahá'í's revere"; Soul, Mind and Spirit by Elsa Blakeley dealing with the four-dimensional nature of man; The Manifestation by Albert Entzminger, once available as a pamphlet, explaining the nature of the Manifestation and His relation to God and man; Universal Love: Its Governing Principle by Mamie L. Seto and how to make it work in our lives and the lives of others;

Spiritual Perspective: Psychology Applied to Religious Teaching by Marie Kershaw, a valuable study on relating the Teachings to each individual's needs and focal point of interest, and gradually building bridges of understanding until he has the capacity to encompass the full message of the Bahá'í Faith.

All issues of these magazines regularly sell at $.20 each, plus postage. These special kits of six issues each will be available for a limited time at $1.00 each postpaid.

Tomorrow and Tomorrow. By Stanwood Cobb. A special clothbound edition has been prepared to meet the many requests for an edition that can be placed in libraries. It is hoped that the response will be wide enough to warrant its production. Bound in grey buckram, stamped in red, this is an attractive volume for library presentation, for display purposes, or for a permanent edition in community and personal libraries. One of our best books for introducing the principles of the Faith from the viewpoint of a practical plan for world progress.

Per copy (clothbound) .......... $2.00

Available from Baha'i PUBLISHING TRUST
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

CORRECTION

On page 3 of The Bahá'í Glossary there are two misplaced accent marks. Please delete accents on letter "i" and on letter "u" on first line (use white ink) and add accent to letter "i" and letter "u" on second line. Copies currently going out (after June 20) will have this correction already made. Bahá'í librarians should make this correction in copies still in stock.
DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Bahá’í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá’ís and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahá’í House of Worship A Capella Choir.

The programs for the month of June follow:

Order of Devotions—June 5, 1955

All praise, O my God, be to Thee Who art the Source of all glory and majesty and honor, of sovereignty and dominion, of softness and grace, of ease and power . . . Of all who are in heaven and earth, none can withstand the operation of Thy sovereign Will. From all eternity Thou didst rule the entire creation, and Thy dominion over all created things is God’s gift.

—Bahá’u’lláh

CHORAL SELECTION

Let all the Nations Praise the Lord—Volkmar Leisering

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS

Prayers and Meditations, LXI, p. 94

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 96

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 4:10; John 4:23

QUR’AN

Sura XXIV, 30-36; Sura I

CHORAL SELECTION

Praise Ye the Name of the Lord—Nikolai Tokhepunov

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS

Prayers and Meditations, pp. 271-272; LXVII, p. 131; Gleanings, p. 84-85

CHORAL SELECTION

Now We Sing Thy Praise—Tchaikovsky

Order of Devotions—June 12, 1955

The Word of God is like unto a tree; its planting ground must be the hearts of people.

—Bahá’u’lláh

CHORAL SELECTION

O Light Divine!—Alexander Archangelsky

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS

Prayers and Meditations, IV, p. 6

Gleanings, p. 87; CL, p. 206; CXIX, p. 200

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 119

NEW TESTAMENT

John 1:15; 14:1-17

CHORAL SELECTION

The Lord is My Shepherd—arr. Gordon Jacob

QUR’AN

Sura I, 25-29

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS

Gleanings, p. 156; p. 393-394, 394-395, 396-397

Prayers and Meditations, LI, p. 75

CHORAL SELECTION

In Solemn Silence—Ippolito Ivanov

Order of Devotions—June 19, 1955

No man shall attain the shore of the ocean of true understanding except he be detached from all that is in heaven and on earth. Sanctify your souls, O ye people of the world, that haply ye may attain that station which God hath destined for you.

—Bahá’u’lláh

CHORAL SELECTION

Hear My Cry, O God—Alexander Kopystov

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS

Prayer 8, p. 52

QUR’AN

Prayers, pp. 69, 70, pp. 145-146

OLD TESTAMENT

Proverbs 3:15, 13:15

NEW TESTAMENT

James 1:25; 1 Corinthians 2:8-15

CHORAL SELECTION

Grieve Not the Holy Spirit—John Stainer

QUR’AN

Sura XXVIII, 73-75

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS

Gleanings, pp. 259-260; The Kitáb-i-Íqán (The Book of Certitude), pp. 54

Prayers and Meditations, LXII, p. 118

CHORAL SELECTION

From the Sweet-Scented Streams (Prayer of Bahá’u’lláh)—Charles Wolcott

Order of Devotions—June 26, 1955

The light of men is justice. Quench it not with the cowardly words of oppression and tyranny. The purpose of justice is the appearance of unity among men.

—Bahá’u’lláh

CHORAL SELECTION

Arise, O God, and Show Thy Might—Haydn

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS

Prayers and Meditations, CLXIX, p. 261

HINDU SCRIPTURES (The Ordinances of Manu)

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 59:1; 9:10, 11, 14-21

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 7:7-12; Luke 16:10

QUR’AN

Sura XVI, 92-95; Sura VI, 129, 156

CHORAL SELECTION

Judge Me, O God—Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

BAHÁ’Í SACRED WRITINGS

The Hidden Words of Bahá’u’lláh, From the Arabic, The Advent of Divine Justice, pp. 23

Gleanings, pp. 284-285

Prayers and Meditations, CLXIX, p. 218; XII, p. 17

CHORAL SELECTION

O Thou, by Whose Name (Prayer of Bahá’u’lláh)—Charles Wolcott

HOLY DAYS

July 9—Martyrdom of the Báb

FEASTS

July 13—Kalimát, Words

August 1—Kamal, Perfection

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

July 15, 16, 17

September 2, 3, 4, 5

—Baha’u’llah

"death proveth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life."

—Baha’u’llah

Mrs. Margaret Luberger

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

May 9, 1955

Mr. Ellwood B. Reveall

Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania

May 12, 1955

Mrs. Xorol Oliver

Evanson, Illinois

May 21, 1955

Mr. Thomas Patrick

Washington, D.C.

(date not reported)

Mrs. Ruth Brown

Chicago, Illinois

March 23, 1955

Mrs. Marguerite Wolfs Martin

Ormond Beach, Florida

May 2, 1955

Mrs. Marie Kuhlman

Alhambra, California

May 2, 1955

Miss Julia Goldman

New York City, New York

June 1, 1955

Mr. Frank Schultz

St. Louis, Missouri

May 22, 1955

Mr. Fred Armstrong Letchah

Minneapolis, Minnesota

(date not reported)

BAHA’I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHA’I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1955-56: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Charlotte Linfoot.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Beloved Friends:

The statement by the American National Teaching Committee, and the list of Goal Cities, published in July Baha’i News was not prepared as a temporary item of news. It supplies the foundation on which we are to build our teaching efforts until, by 1963, at least 500 local Spiritual Assemblies exist in this country. Therefore the plan is to be kept in mind and given constant attention by local Assemblies and individual Baha’is able and eager to serve this basic goal of the World Crusade.

The Goal Cities, divided into Consolidation and Virgin Goals, provide a wide selection of posts for every prospective pioneer. Whatever your profession, art, industrial or business training, among the Goal Cities you can find one at least which in climate, size and job opportunities, is well adapted to your personal and family needs.

While settlement in any Goal City is helpful, the most effective approach to the fulfillment of our task is through concentration upon a certain number of cities each year from 1955 to 1963. Therefore every prospective pioneer is to write the American National Teaching Committee and make his or her final arrangements in consultation with this Committee.

A believer who might find a job opening in a city not included in this list, and unable to find a job elsewhere, can settle there and by teaching effort develop a new group. The 300 Assemblies we need represent a total number and not a particular set of locations, nevertheless the concerted effort must be according to a well devised plan, and the plan of the American National Teaching Committee is well devised.

American Baha’is are now serving the World Crusade in all parts of the world. Our pioneers have achieved one of the most vital and dramatic chapters in American Baha’i history. All honor to them! It is actually for their sake, and for the sake of all Baha’i virgin and consolidation goals throughout the world that a stalwart, energetic and successful Baha’i Community is needed in the United States. The current persecutions and temporary suppression of Baha’i activities in Iran is a case in point. Through our spiritual strength and favorable public reputation and influence we can as a national body render invaluable services when such emergencies arise.

"Destiny of America"

The “destiny of America”, defined by Baha’u’llah in His Tablet to the Presidents of the American Republics, and since then explained by the Master and the Guardian, is to establish a firm foundation wherever the principles of peace and the divine teachings can be carried to the nations. We live in the very spirit of this wondrous destiny today. Every home-front pioneer and settler is inspired by this destiny and becomes an agency for its complete fulfillment.

If we estimate that about 120 new Assemblies must be formed before 1963, and preferably by 1962, we see that at least 17 Assemblies must be established each year. This can be accomplished by relatively few Baha’is, since among the Consolidation Goals there are groups having six, seven and even eight Baha’is. Thus, if the prospective pioneers consult with the National Teaching Committee as to selection of Goal City, about 70 pioneers can make it possible to meet the quota each year.

—National Spiritual Assembly

NEW BAHAI DIRECTORY

With this issue of Baha’i News the members of the American Baha’i community will receive the Baha’i Directory for the year 1955-1956. The National Spiritual Assembly hopes that this directory will be preserved carefully for reference throughout the entire year.

Under the name of each committee listed in the directory is a statement of its functions and the assistance it offers to individual believers, Baha’i groups, and local Spiritual Assemblies. Whether or not a believer finds occasion to draw upon the services of any of the other committees, he should know at least the members of the American National Teaching Committee and the Area Teaching Committee for the state in which he lives, as well as the names and addresses of the secretaries of the local Spiritual Assemblies in his own and neighboring state.

With the American Baha’i community in its present state of flux owing to the number of Baha’is going out to pioneer in foreign fields and dispersing for the expansion of the Faith on the home front, it is obvious that there will be many changes in committee personnel before the year ends. These changes will be announced in Baha’i News from month to month, and the Baha’i
who wishes to have his directory up to date would do well to enter the changes as they are reported.

More than 400 Baha'i's served on national and area committees last year. Perhaps no other organization of comparable size in this country can lay claim to such a large percentage of volunteer workers among its membership. When we add to this number the more than 1500 Baha'i's serving on local Spiritual Assemblies, and the many more members of local committees, the statistics become very impressive, indeed.

To one and all who served on either national or local committees last year, the National Spiritual Assembly expresses its heartfelt appreciation. We feel confident that the year 1955-1956 will demonstrate to even a greater degree the unique capacities, the unity, the self-sacrificing love and devotion inherent in the American Baha'i community, and a record of achievement in the prosecution of our sacred tasks that will bring joy to the hearts of all believers everywhere.
---National Spiritual Assembly

VOTING RIGHTS SUSPENDED

The voting rights of Mr. Alvero Jensen have been suspended by the National Spiritual Assembly pending its ability to locate him and consult with him regarding the settlement of certain matters. Until such time, Mr. Jensen will not of course be asked to participate in any Baha'i activities.
---National Spiritual Assembly

TEACHING ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

The National Spiritual Assembly is very grateful to all the Baha'i communities and groups that responded to its request for reports on local Baha'i classes and activities for children and samples of materials used by the teachers.

More than forty excellent replies were received, indicating that in spite of the lack of national publications for Baha'i children, some outstanding teaching is being done throughout the country. The initiative and originality displayed by many of the teachers and parents is truly inspiring.

PIONEER LETTERS

Excerpt from Pioneer Letter to the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee

HONDURAS (San Pedro Sula) From Louise Nelson

“This is my home and I love every little barefoot urchin, every awkward wooden shack and every enterprising 'pioneer' who populates it. Most of all I love the mountains which loom up in front of my little 'casita' and the wonderful friends who come here to learn about the Faith and see the beauty of the landscape. Until one goes pioneering, he never knows the true happiness that we all experience, no matter where we may live. It is the little surprises that seem to come out of the blue that make us so blissful -like the humble Indian who came to my house the other day asking if I could teach him something of this wonderful new religion. . . . 'Love is the breath of the Holy Spirit in the heart of man,' says Abdu'l-Baha, but do these words have meaning until we have really felt the breezes of love wafted over us? No, I had never known happiness until fortune brought me to San Pedro. I am having such a good time at this pioneering business that I feel the only people who are making sacrifices are those who must stay at home! One of the most impressive things to my friends is that I can enjoy life to the fullest and not proselytize them. My reply is always that I am not here to make Bahá'ís but to find them...”
ELECTION OF SAIGON ASSEMBLY

The United States Asia Teaching Committee reports receiving a letter from Jamshed Fozdar which dramatically describes the conditions under which the first Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Saigon, Viet Nam, was elected on April 21 (see photo in BAHÁ'í News, July, 1955, page 5):

"On April 21 another battle raged between the government forces and the dissidents. But at the scheduled hour, one by one the twelve believers present in Saigon, trooped in to have the meeting and cast their ballots. Some of the believers live in the very heart of the 'affected' area and yet for the elections left their families to the care of God. Today, the whole day, a terrible battle has raged, and the whole sky is darkened by its smoke. Yet we have just finished our nineteen-day feast and even a Spiritual Assembly meeting. Mortar shells were heard louder than the readings of Hidden Words and ambulance sirens drowned out at times the discussion among the friends. But the noise and the tragedy outside conveyed an urgency to our 'purpose' inside—an urgency not often realized and rarely experienced. The establishment of a Bahá'í Spiritual Assembly in Saigon in so short a time is just another instance of the fulfillment of Bahá'u'lláh's promise to those who have arisen to serve Him."

ITALO-SWISS ASSEMBLY REGISTERED

The Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assembly has completed its registration as a religious organization under the laws of Switzerland, thus accomplishing another objective of the Ten-Year Crusade. Official announcement of registration in the Commercial Registry in Bern, the capital city, was made in the Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt of May 10, 1955.
When this divine call travels from the continent of America to Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and the Islands of the Pacific, the American believers shall be established on the throne of everlasting Glory, the fame of their illumination and guidance shall reach to all regions and the renown of their greatness become world-wide.

—'Abdu’l-Bahá (America’s Spiritual Mission)

**ASIA**

The American Bahá‘í pioneer in Brunei with the first believer.

The Bahá‘í group of Macao, June, 1955.

**PIONEER LETTERS**

Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Blakely, pioneers in Tonga, pressed for a message to the American Bahá‘ís, have written:

“What to tell you about our goal post of Tonga is a problem indeed—we need a book, not a letter. No wonder the brown race was so dear to the heart of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. Their very first thought whenever a new person crosses their path is ‘What can we give them?’ They give incessantly—very often far beyond their means—of whatever beautiful handcrafts or fruits or anything they possess (which is not much by our standards). Their unfailing courtesy and friendliness; their superb physique and their charming and beautiful children; their love of fun; their faith and reverence—all these qualities endear them to all who come among them.

‘Tonga is a self-governing unit in the British Commonwealth of Nations, with its own world-renowned Queen, its parliament and cabinet ministers. It is probably the smallest kingdom on earth. The Queen expresses very convincingly Bahá‘u’lláh’s statement that ‘true kingship is one of the signs of the Majesty of God.’ The love and respect between her and her subjects is an intimate and vibrant force, and a wholesome thing to witness in this age of decadence.

“The Tongan attitude toward life sets a standard of values far different to the materialistic west and leaves

The last pioneer areas are calling! There are opportunities for employment if you are qualified for such jobs as:

- architect
- civil engineer
- construction engineer
- safety inspector
- fire prevention inspector
- junior high school teacher
- school superintendent
- soil conservationist
- general statistician
- training supervisor
- personnel technician
- business administrator
- tabulating machine operator
- clerk-stenographer
- court reporter
- electronic engineer

and under 55 years of age.

For more information, write to:

Asia Teaching Committee,
112 Linden Avenue,
Wilmette, Illinois.
Number of Bahá'ís in Asia Goals of the United States: (See key numbers on map) 1, Caroline Islands—1; 2, Dutch New Guinea—2; 3, Macao—9; 4, Tonga Islands—2; 5, Formosa—18; 6, Korea—12; 7, Japan—2 local Assemblies, 8 groups; 8, Philippine Islands—2 local Assemblies, 1 group. Other Asia areas where there are American pioneers: 9, Brunei—3; 10, Cook Islands—6; 11, Hong Kong—8; 12, Guam—5.

many a European staying or living here questioning himself as to the validity of western values. It is a way of life developed in the Tongans by the teachings of their first 'Tu'i Tonga'—the earliest historic ruler and spiritual chief, around 950 A.D., centuries before Christianity reached these shores. They are still ruled by these standards far more than by the overlay of Christianity which only reached them in the nineteenth century when sectarianism had so vitiated its force. . . .

“Our eight months here, despite the material difficulties that almost overwhelmed us at times, have been the happiest of our lives. Patience, unending patience, is the characteristic we have most to cultivate, for things move very slowly in Polynesia. But the love of these wonderful people, the realization of their qualities, makes the waiting no trial, for we know that in their own time they will become jewels of great worth in the diadem of the Bahá'í world community.”

The Haziratu'l-Quds of the Bahá'ís of Kampala, Uganda, Brit­
ish East Africa, which will become the National (Regional) 
Haziratu'l-Quds of Central and East Africa. The Hazira was 
purchased in 1952. On the lawn to the right the tent was erected 
in which the First Intercontinental Conference was held.

View of the six-acre site purchased April 26, 1954, for the 
future Mashriqu’l-Adhkar of Central and East Africa. The 
elevation of this land is 4300 feet, on the slope of Kabuu Hill, 
bordering Kampala, three quarters of a mile from the city lim-
its. To the southeast is a view of beautiful Lake Victoria.

ANCHORAGE HAZIRA
DEDICATION

On August 6 the Haźiratu’l-Quds of 
Anchorage is to be dedicated. Mrs.
Florence Mayberry, member of the 
American auxiliary Board, will be 
the principal speaker. The dedication 
will climax the week-long Alaska 
Teaching Conference, July 31—
August 6, to be held in the Haźiratu’l-
Quds.

The Hazira property was estab-
lished as tax exempt on May 23, (See 
photograph in Baha’i News, June, 
1955, page 6.) A telephone has been 
installed under the listing Baha’i 
Assembly—Anchorage 67013.

AFRICA
TEACHING COMMITTEE

Cable from an African Assembly

The United States Africa Teaching 
Committee shares the following ex­
perience of a Bahá’í Assembly in one 
of the pioneer territories, in sending 
its cable to the Sháh and the Prime 
Minister of Persia.

At the telegraph office the follow­
 ing conversation took place when the 
cablegram prepared by the Assem­
bly was handed to the clerk:

"This cable is addressed to the 
Sháh, how can you correspond with 
kings?"

"Yes, we are Bahá’ís and we are 
sending this cable to the king of 
Persia because of the tyranny that 
our brothers there are now facing.
The Bahá’ís all over the world have 
sent similar cables because we are 
all as one family and have loving and 
sympathetic feelings for each other. 
I suppose you have heard about the 
attacks on the Bahá’ís of Iran?"

"Yes, we have read about them."

"Then the clerk went in the office 
and came out later saying: We have 
to get permission from the director 
before sending this."

"Yes, if possible!"

"Is there a Bahá’í community here?"

"Yes!"

"We must inform the Governor 
about this cable. "I brought this 
cable knowing very well that the 
Governor shall know about it, we are 
people of peace and do not interferex}

Site for the future Mashriqu’l-Adhkar of South America, on a 
hill in Loncoche, near Santiago, Chile.

Bahá’i pioneers from Holland, the United States, Arabia, Eng­
in political matters; moreover, we have no secrets.'

"The following day:

"'Do you still insist on sending this cable? It is going to cost you a lot.' 'Yes, with pleasure.'

"Here all the employees gathered and read the cable and were repeating the words with wonder; Bahá'ís! Sháh!

"'Then wait a moment until I get the permission.'

"Few minutes later—The permission has been granted.'"

Two hours later the representative of the Assembly received a summons to call at the Mayor's office immediately.

'I went with one of the friends who acted as interpreter. After preliminary talks asking me whether I understood French, he said: 'Is the Bahá'í Faith a branch of Islam?'

"'No, the Bahá'í Faith is an independent religion and is not a sect of any other religion.'

"'What are the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith?'

"'The Bahá'í Faith is a new religion advocating world peace and love between the people of the world. It also teaches the equality between men and women, universal language, the ending of wars and the suppression of prejudices. It believes in all the religions including the Brahman and Buddhist, believing they are from divine origin.'

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MONTHLY REPORT ON WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

National Bahá'í Fund

1955-1956

Third Year

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as of July 15, 1955

Where we are

Where we should be

$61,500

$115,000

Total Budget for Entire Year ........................................ $550,000.00

(Average Monthly Requirements ....................... $46,000.00)

Monthly receipts to date:

May 1-15 .................. $15,500

May 15-June 15 ........ $22,500

June 15-July 15 ........ $23,500

Total ..................... $61,500

Accumulated deficit as of July 15, 1955 .................. $53,500

—National Spiritual Assembly

"Do you believe in reincarnation?"

"We believe in life after death but not reincarnation."

"Are there Bahá'ís here?"

"Yes, my family and probably others."

"Why is Islam against you?"

"They say Muhammad is the last of the Prophets and there should be no religions after Islam. We say, God's Revelation has not and will never stop."

"The Bahá'í Faith started in Persia and spread all over the world, because it is a world religion and not a national one. I belong to this world religion."

"I can see that your religion is clean."

"May I present you with some books?"

"Please send me books. Thanks for coming and excuse the inconvenience."

Hazíratu’l-Quds of Lima, Peru, located at Avenida Angamos 327, Jesus María, which, in the future, will become the National Hazíratu’l-Quds for Peru.
The Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assembly announces purchase of the Italian Haziratu'l-Quds, Rome. The photograph above shows the entrance to the building (right), at Vla Antonio Stoppant No. 10. The Hazira is in a new residential section of the city and consists of a five-room apartment with a terrace and garden (partly shown below) adjoining.

Other views of the garden. The view shown below was the site of ancient Christian catacombs. The trees are very old and historic cypress trees. The Italo-Swiss Assembly writes: "We are grateful for this accomplishment and for the help the American friends have given us to make this purchase possible."
AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND
National Assembly Elected

The newly elected members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia and New Zealand have been announced by that Assembly, as follows:

H. C. Featherstone, Chairman
S. W. Bolton, Vice-Chairman
J. Heggie, Secretary
Mrs. D. Whiting, Treasurer
Miss M. Degotardi
Mrs. G. Lake
Mrs. P. Pennington
Miss T. Perks
N. Walker

Bahá'í Holy Days Recognized

The South Australian Government's Department of Education has recognized Bahá'í Holy Days. This action followed application by a Bahá'í in that Department for exemption from work on these days.

BRITISH ISLES
British Publishing Trust

The British Bahá'í Publishing Trust has been officially recognized as a bookseller by the Publisher's Association, according to the Annual Report just released by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles. This recognition enables this Publishing Trust to obtain books in quantity at a trade discount, from other publishers, for resale.

British Assemblies Incorporated

The London and Manchester Spiritual Assemblies were both incorporated on January 7, 1955, under the British Companies Act, as "Unlimited Companies Without Share Capital."

Tablets to Breakwell

In its Annual Report for the Bahá'í Year 111 the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles reports that some of the Tablets revealed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá to Thomas Breakwell, the first British Bahá'í, have been given by Rúhíyyih Khánum at the Guardian's suggestion to the Archives section of the British Bahá'í Publishing Trust. The friends will recall the beautiful Tablet about Breakwell in Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, vol. II, page 450.

CANADA
Assembly Incorporated

The Canadian National Spiritual Assembly announces the incorporation of the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Ottawa, under date of May 12, 1955.

Teaching Across the Border

Mr. Rowland Estall, Canadian member of the American auxiliary Board, will be the Bahá'í speaker at the Universalist Church, Derby Line, Vermont, part of a community which includes also Stanstead and Rock Island in Quebec. This request for a Bahá'í speaker came in connection with a series of sermons being given at this church on the great religions of the world, according to the Canadian Bahá'í News.

National Magazine Publicity

The article on the Faith by Roger White in the June issue of Liberty, a widely circulated national magazine in Canada, has received mention twice on station CKOY, an Ottawa radio station.

The first Bahá'í Group in Guam, Marianas Islands, May, 1955.
GERMANY-AUSTRIA

Vienna Haziratu'l Quds Purchased

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Germany and Austria has announced in the Bahá'í Nachrichten for May 1955 the purchase of the Haziratu'l-Quds in Vienna on May 9. This is located at Thimig- gasse 12, and is to become the Haziratu'l-Quds of Austria.

National Assembly Elected

Election of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Germany and Austria for the year 1955-1956 resulted as follows:

Dr. Eugen Schmidt, Chairman
Dr. Adelbert Mühlriegel, Vice-Chairman
Anna Grossmann, Secretary
Otto Hafner, Treasurer
Ruprecht G. Krüger
Doris Lohse
Karl Schück
Hanna Weber
Johanna von Werthern

ITALY-SWITZERLAND

Third Italo-Swiss Convention

Excerpts from Report

The Third Italo-Swiss Bahá'í Convention was held in the new Haziratu'l-Quds, Bern, Switzerland, April 30-May 2. From the report of the Convention only excerpts can be cited, owing to limitations of space. But these show the glorious heights that can be attained when dedication, unity, love and one common purpose of service are joined together. The Convention chairman was Dr. Ugo Giachery, and its secretary, Mrs. Anna Kunz. The Convention report was written by Miss Elsa Steinmetz.

Among the achievements of the third year of the joint Italo-Swiss Bahá'í Community were reported the following:

Purchase of the National Haziratu'l-Quds in Bern, dedication of which was a high point of the Convention.

Two new Spiritual Assemblies: in Basel and in Monte Carlo. The latter is the first Assembly to be established in a virgin territory (Monaco) allotted to the Italo-Swiss National Assembly.

Translation of the Kitáb-i-Áqán into Italian and its publication in a "handsome edition."

Translation of teaching pamphlets into Romansch and Piedmontese.

Pioneering by two Swiss Bahá'ís to Corsica.

Holding of the first joint Italo-Swiss Bahá'í Summer School at Bex-les-Bains, where the second one is to be held this September.

Donations to the Swiss Archives, announced by Mr. Ashraf, chairman of the Archives Committee, included Tablets revealed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá to Mrs. Edith de Bons, first friend won to the Faith in Paris by the beloved May Maxwell. Mrs. de Bons was present at the Convention.

Election of the Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assembly took place on Sunday morning of the Convention. "Dr. Giachery (as chairman of the Convention) enjoined the delegates to consider spiritual qualities—devotion, loyalty, capacity—in making their choice, declaring that being a member of a National Spiritual Assembly is not an honor but an obligation to render meritorious service."

The following Bahá'ís were elected members:

Dr. Ugo R. Giachery, Chairman
Dr. Alessandro Bausani, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Anna Kunz, Secretary
Miss Honor Kempton, Recording Secretary
Mr. Fritz Schär, Treasurer
Prof. Mario Fiorentini, Assistant Treasurer
Mrs. Marion Little
Dr. Walter Ott
Miss Elsa Steinmetz

Dedication of the Haziratu'l-Quds

From the Convention report: "The dedication of our Haziratu'l-Quds was placed in the heart of Convention like a jewel set in a high mounting. Both the outer and inner heavens rejoiced with us on that memorable Sunday afternoon, blue skies and a summer sun clasping hands with music and prayers.
to proclaim the nearness of God.

"It is with a feeling of thankfulness, joy and pride that I am here to share with you a new paragraph written into the history of the Bahá'í Faith, not only in Switzerland and Italy, but in the entire Bahá'í world."...

"With these words, Dr. Giachery, Hand of the Cause and personal representative of the beloved Guardian upon this occasion, opened his address."...

"Warm thanks went to all who contributed . . . also to the Haḻira-tu'll-Quds Committee, with special gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Schär who searched so diligently to find our home, and later supervised the alterations and the furnishing of the interior.

"Dr. Giachery then remarked: 'Our Haḻira would be useless were there no Bahá'ís in Switzerland. We must give thanks to the pioneers who began arriving in 1947 to establish the flourishing communities of which we are so proud: Mrs. Eddy Graeffe, Mrs. Fritz Shaver, Miss Elsa Steinmetz, Miss Mildred Elmer, Mrs. Anna Kunz, Miss Doris Lohse, Miss Honor Kempton. They came in a spirit of selflessness and willing service, assisting the few believers who were already in this country, among them Mr. Fritz Semle, Mrs. Gladys Vautier, Mrs. Anne Lynch.'"

**Gifts from the Guardian**

"Gift time had come! Breathlessly we watched our chairman, Dr. Giachery, unwrap the gifts which the beloved Guardian had entrusted to him in Haifa recently, adding: 'You must defend them with your life and take them to the friends!'. . . Emerging from a Persian shawl into which the Guardian had tenderly tucked it, was an exquisite covering which adorned it, is to think of other worlds.

"This priceless gift," said our Chairman, 'is eternal evidence of the Guardian's deep love for the Swiss friends.' Other precious gifts from the beloved Guardian included a copy of the Seal of Bahá'u'lláh and of the Greatest Name—also a photograph of the House of Worship in Wilmette and an aerial view of the Báb's Shrine, all handsomely framed.

"Widely varied were the many lovely gifts received, ranging from a mounted copy of the first pamphlet published on the Faith in Switzerland and bearing corrections in Prof. Dr. Auguste Forel's own handwriting, to Venetian chandeliers and a conference-room table seating nine . . . That the story of this hallowed occasion might be preserved for posterity, the friends later placed their signatures in a beautiful gilt-edged volume with decorative covers in delicate Persian design—the gift of the Ashraf family.

"Con gratulatory messages from far and near formed another point of exultation, weaving, as always, that unique pattern of unity which is re-creating the world . . . "

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**SOUTH AMERICA**

Loncoche and Ezeiza
Bahá'í Schools in Action

From the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of South America through Eve Nicklin has come the following description of activities at their Bahá'í schools:

South America has two summer schools, one in Loncoche, Chile, and another in Ezeiza, Argentina. What preparation it entails when a Bahá'í of one of the other countries of South America begins to get ready to go to either Loncoche or Ezeiza! He must go through all the red tape necessary for foreign travel, visa, money changed, etc., but with the "Remover of Difficulties" on his lips he generally, if he has given himself plenty of time, gets it done and is richly rewarded for his efforts.

This year in Loncoche, a day and a night train ride to the south of Santiago, we had, besides our Chilean Bahá'ís, those from Perú, Brazil and Paraguay. Then, too, there came Zélinda Palacio, our pioneer from the island of Chiloe, and Frances Steward of the United States, who was on her way to the island of Juan Fernandez to carry forward the work that had been so successfully begun there by Mr. and Mrs. Tormo.

We were especially blessed at Loncoche because of the close proximity to the beautiful site for the future Bahá'í Temple. While sitting on the wide comfortable cabin porch we could see at almost any time of day or evening a Bahá'í or perhaps a group of them walking there and we knew that they were praying.

Classes were held morning and afternoon for thirteen days. The study courses centered around the messages of the Guardian in the Advent of Divine Justice and The Promised Day Is Come. Then there was one special course and exhibit on the culture of the South American aborigines which resulted in a helpful consultation as to how to reach them with the Message of Bahá'u'lláh, in order to fill an important goal of the Ten-Year Crusade. So animated were all these classes that hands were constantly raised for permission to take part in consultation.

Then, too, there were the recreational times when we could, if we wished, borrow a horse from the farm of Fabienne Guillon and go horseback riding, or go fishing or..."
picnicking at “Paradise Lost.” The name has been fittingly re-christened by the Bahá’ís “Paradise Regained.”

The Bahá’í school at Ezeiza, Argentina, is an hour’s ride from the teeming city of Buenos Aires. What a heavenly spot it is! Most of the friends made the trip each day by train or automobile bringing their lunches. Ezeiza summer school is open on various Sundays for special study, but during the Carnival season an intensive course is held. The Bahá’ís take advantage of this three-day vacation to do something more constructive than to celebrate a riotous Mardi Gras holiday.

A professor of a seminary who came as an observer remarked that he never had seen a more animated group of young people in consultation. It so happened that quite a few young men and women attended our class on Adonai of Divine Justice.

In the midst of our school sessions came Haig Kevorkian, pioneer to the islands of the Galapagos. He had had to make a trip back to attend to passport and other papers. Sr. Torno was there, too, so many a story we heard of their island experiences.

Whoever has known the joys of studying, praying and being together at a Bahá’í summer school, desires with all his heart the same joy for all the Bahá’ís in all ten countries of this vast South American continent.

We have here another school known as a two-day pre-convention school which has proved to be a wonderful time to study together and to know each other better in preparation for the three-day convention tasks.

Above: Students and teachers of the Institute Cultural Independencia Bahá’í in Chichicastenango, Guatemala. At the right is the first declared Maya-Quiche Indian believer. Right: Courtyard of the Institute overlooking a part of Chichicastenango. During Naw-Ruz 20 guests were served here.

At the dedication service, Mrs. Arna Meade, local secretary, read a Bahá’í prayer on a program including five clergymen and a rabbi. The Time illustration shows the Bahá’í representative on the platform.

The press release published in The New York Times, June 16, 1955, states that “Members of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Bahá’í religions are working on the project.”

Playtime in Nassau, a newspaper, published on April 10, 1955, a very special reference to Guy Murchie’s book Song of the Sky, based on the fact that Mr. Murchie’s father has been a resident of Nassau since 1924. “Throughout his vast experiences Mr. Murchie feels that flying has brought him closer to God, to the oneness of the world, for there are no boundary lines to be seen from the sky. His universal concept has led him to become a member of the Bahá’í Faith, a Universal Religion.” The article was written by Mrs. Nina Mathisen.

It is not yet possible to record all the references to the persecutions in Iran found in the current press. The name Bahá’í has become familiar to millions who perhaps had never heard it, or noticed it, before.

BAHA’I IN THE NEWS

Time Magazine, June 13, 1955, carries an illustration of a nondenominational chapel built by employees of the Solar Aircraft Company of San Diego, California, as a “refuge of quiet” for worship and meditation. It is learned through the Bahá’í Publicity Committee of San Diego that when the chapel was suggested two years ago, Victor Alexander pointed out that more faiths than Christianity should be represented. He was appointed on the Solar Chapel Council as representative of the Bahá’í Faith.

The Central Atlantic States Area Conference held in Washington, D.C., June 18th was a tremendous success, as evidenced by the interest and enthusiasm shown by everyone present. A special event during the day’s activities was an address by Mr. Paul Haney, Hand of the Cause. Over sixty Bahá’ís, many traveling long distances, participated in the Area activity.

The theme centered around responsibilities of individual Bahá’ís to teach and to support the Fund. The Guardian’s Messages and Convention reports were the basis of prolonged discussion on ways and means of furthering the Faith.

Mr. Haney, in a brief review of the Iranian situation, indicated Bahá’ís in Persia are being protected from injury and violence. The response to the appeal for cablegrams to Iranian authorities was outstanding—almost four hundred cablegrams being sent from this country. Mr. Haney discussed the objectives of the Guardian’s message to this year’s Convention. In addition, plans for the acquisition of Temple and Hazira sites were explained in some detail.

The afternoon session opened with a brief account of the human interest side of the National Conven-
tion. This was followed by a chart presentation of the goals and accomplishments of the Crusade. A detailed graphical picture of this year’s Budget showed how World and National needs require the $550,000 which was budgeted. Dr. Tucker opened the evening session on teaching with a discussion of home front endeavors. This was followed by a brief report on teaching activities in various regions of the Area. In the general discussion which followed, a large number of ideas and thoughts were advanced for increasing the tempo of the teaching work in this country, and specifically in this Area. The events of the day were brought to a climax with a review of “Nine Ways I can Resolve to Serve the Faith of God.”

Highlights of the Conference—greater fellowship needed amongst Bahá’ís; deepening in the Faith essential; less administrative work and more teaching; many unfilled virgin goals in Area; how can the inactive Bahá’ís be re-activated; more thorough understanding of the Guardian’s messages necessary; giving to the Fund a bounty.

Contributing to the success of the Conference was the dinner given by the Area members.

INTER-RACIAL COMMITTEE

Two members of the National Bahá’í Inter-Racial Teaching Committee were invited to give a twenty-minute talk on Station WOK, Washington, D.C., on the work of the Committee. The invitation resulted from an article about the Committee which had appeared in The Washington Afro-American of July 2. During the broadcast the two Committee members, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Barham, were able to read passages from The Advent of Divine Justice outlining the pattern of Bahá’í behavior toward all races, as well as the entire article “Elimination of Prejudice—The Bahá’í Attack” (insert Bahá’í News, June 1955).

BAHÁ’Í ON THE CAMPUS

At the University of Utah the Bahá’í Youth presented a talk to a college-age group from the Method-ist Church. The next day an article written by a Bahá’í, entitled “Bahá’í:

A Universal Faith,” appeared in the campus literary magazine, The Pen. Two days later a panel of students from the University of Utah and from Westminster College discussed the topic “World Peace Through World Unity.” Investigation revealed that several books on the Faith in the University library were being read.

At Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, a panel discussion group included a Bahá’í as moderator, a Bahá’í speaker, and a Christian, Jew and Muslim as speakers.

The Interfaith Club of American International College, Springfield, Massachusetts, sponsored “Bahá’í Faith Night” on May 5, 1955. The eleven non-Bahá’í guests and six Bahá’ís who attended heard Beatrice Thigpen from Linden, New Jersey, present an informal talk on the Faith.

In Seattle, Washington, the Bahá’í youth and young adults held a fireside on May 14 for fifteen contacts, eleven of whom were University of Washington students. Slides of the House of Worship in Wilmette were shown.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

The New York Inter-Racial Committee has reported that a meeting was held in New York City on June 5, at which the guest speaker was Dr. Leslie Pinckney Hill, President Emeritus of State Teachers College, Cheyney, Pennsylvania. The Bahá’í speaker was Mr. H. Borrah Kavelin of New York. The topic was “Education for World Brotherhood.” Dr. Hill had spoken at Bahá’í Conferences held in Green Acre, when Louis Gregory was chairman of the Bahá’í inter-racial committee, and has often invited Bahá’ís to speak at his College in years past. The New York meeting was attended by sixty-five persons, and letters of appreciation were sent by prominent persons unable to attend.

BAHÁ’Í ON THE AIR

Persecution of the Bahá’ís in Persia was deplored, and the Bahá’ís defended, on the popular “Woman to Woman” program of station KENI, Anchorage, Alaska. The broadcaster was not a Bahá’í. Radio stations KBYR and KFQD also gave free radio time for broadcasts on the persecutions in Iran.

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

Central States Area

The Central States Area Teaching Committee Bulletin reports that several small groups have been holding regular firesides and public meetings. These include Osbosh, Wisconsin, and Davenport, Iowa. Through inter-community effort, Belleville and Quincy, Illinois, with St. Louis, Missouri, held a public meeting in East St. Louis, Illinois, a goal city, to be followed by a second public meeting a month or so later.

Another inter-community activity, sparked by three Bahá’ís, resulted in a public meeting in Decatur attended by 50 persons, assisted by Bahá’ís from Danville, Urbana-Champaign, Springfield, Peoria, Rantoul and Gibson City, Illinois.

Gulf States Area

The Gulf States News Mirror, “reflecting unified action,” includes in its first issue reports of a new Spiritual Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas, two newly enrolled Bahá’ís in Dallas, Texas, stimulating inter-community activity between Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Gulfport, Mississippi, five-minute radio broadcasts of quotations from the Bahá’í Writings in Galveston, Texas, and a 65 per cent return (very high) of questionnaire cards mailed by the pioneer in the goal city, Meridian, Mississippi.
AREA TEACHING CONFERENCES

"Participation in the World Crusade on the Home Front" was the theme of an Area Teaching Conference held at Green Acre, Eliot, Maine, the week-end of July 2-4. The conference was sponsored by the New England and the North Atlantic States Area Teaching Committees.

Three workshops were held: (1) "How can the individual Bahá'í deepen himself for work and teaching?" (2) Human relations (with emphasis on the importance of the inter-racial problem). (3) Relationship of the individual, the group and the local spiritual assembly to the Administration. The conclusion reached from the workshop reports was that the Bahá'ís should constantly study the Covenant and thus make themselves better able to study the Cause.

The East Central States Area Teaching Committee conference was held in Mansfield, Ohio, on May 15, and conferences were held during July at Louhelen School the weekend of July 2-4 and in West Lafayette, Indiana, and Lima, Ohio, July 9 and 10. The West Lafayette conference was held in the Purdue University Memorial Union Building, with the Indianapolis Bahá'í Community acting as hosts.

A Child Training Conference was held on May 29 in Dayton, Ohio, in the form of a "parents' workshop." The conference was attended by 22 adults and 20 children, from Dayton, Lima, Kettering, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Centerline, Michigan. The consultation led to the conclusion that "since we teach our children by example we had best make ourselves better examples."

Two Conferences in the Gulf States Area were held during June, at Austin, Texas, and New Orleans, Louisiana. At both conferences delegates reported on the Annual Bahá'í Convention and ideas brought out there for achieving home front goals.

The Northwestern States Area held a Teaching Conference on June 26 in Bellingham, Washington, for Bahá'ís only. The theme was "Building a Better Community." A public meeting was held in the evening.

"American Bahá'ís in Time of World Peril" was the theme of the South Central States Area Teaching Conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas, July 2-4.

The newly appointed Tennessee Valley States Area Teaching Committee will sponsor the Blue Ridge Conference, to be held this year August 27-31.

The Southwestern Bahá'í Area Bulletin presents an interesting monthly Activity Report chart. Key letters indicate which of 21 different types of activity are engaged in by goal cities, by groups and isolated centers and by assemblies, and how often these activities take place, under the three main headings "classes," "publicity" and "other."

EXTENSION TEACHING METHOD

That action brings results was demonstrated by the Indianapolis Bahá'í Community which as a part of their extension teaching work sent out five hundred questionnaires in Terre Haute, Indiana. Each of the twenty-seven persons responding was called by telephone individually; a follow-up meeting, advertised in the newspaper, was held, and as a result there is now an active list of sixty interested contacts.
Extension teaching was undertaken by Anchorage, Alaska, Baha'is over the week-end of June 11-13 in Wasilla and Fairbanks.

United Nations Brochure. Proposals for Charter Revision submitted to the United Nations by the Bahai International Community, representing the twelve established National Assemblies. In the July Baha'i News, the National Assembly commends the use of this document for teaching material by assemblies, committees and individuals. It can be featured in connection with United Nations Day in October, or presented under suitable conditions to local organizations and key persons interested in world affairs. Size 8½ x 11, brown ink on cream paper.

Per copy ...........................................$ .35
Twelve copies .................................. 3.00

World Crusade Maps Available

A few copies of the Guardian's World Crusade Map are available separately. This is the map contained in the Statistical Book, The Bahai Faith, 1844-1952, listed on page 19 of the 1955 Bahai Literature Catalog. World Crusade Map only, per copy ...........................................$ .35

Please address all inquiries and orders for publishing items to:

Baha'i Publishing Trust
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

THE USE OF TEMPLE WORSHIP PROGRAMS

The Temple Worship Committee has received several inquiries from Bahai communities concerning the use of the Temple programs in their local community activities. The Temple Worship Committee would like to point out that the Temple programs are not to become a stylized procedure for worship in the local communities, as this could result in a ritual-like type of worship. Therefore, the programs used or adapted should not be identified or publicized as the Baha'i House of Worship programs. They should be identified only as a local community activity. The communities should feel free to add to or subtract from the House of Worship programs in setting up their own, using the Temple programs only as suggestions, always bearing in mind that the purpose of these programs is to show the universality of religion.

In the programs as printed in Baha'i News, the page references given are to the latest edition of the source. No sources are given for the ancient scriptures (Hindu, Buddhist, etc.) because of the difficulty in locating suitable selections for use in the House of Worship, and the many different versions and translations in the many books available.

The programs are reprinted in Baha'i News simply to serve as suggestions for community worship and not as a pattern of what is to be used.

—THE TEMPLE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Bahai House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Baha'is and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahai House of Worship A Cappella Choir.

The programs for the month of July follow:

Order of Devotions—July 3, 1955

Religion is the greatest of all means for the establishment of order in the world and for the peaceful contentment of all that dwell therein. —Baha'u'llah

Baha'i Sacred Writings
Baha'i Prayers, p. 111
The World Order of Baha'u'llah, pp. 195-197; Gleanings, pp. 94-96

Choral Selection
Let All the Nations Praise the Lord—Victor Hugo

Old Testament
Isaiah 2:24; 9:6-7; 52:7-10

New Testament
Matthew 5:9-13; Revelation 21:1-7
Order of Devotions—July 10, 1955
Who so keepeth the commandments of God shall attain everlasting felicity.

Baha’i Sacred Writings
Gleanings, pp. 289-290; CX, p. 206
Choral Selection
Send Your Days—William James

Order of Devotions—July 17, 1955
The essence of religion is to testify unto that which the Lord hath revealed, and follow that which He hath ordained in His mighty Book.

Baha’i Sacred Writings
Prayer and Meditations, XLI, p. 59
Choral Selection
I Am the Way—H. Monk

Order of Devotions—July 24, 1955
It is evident that the holiest mansions in the Realm of Immortality have been ordained as the habitation of them that have truly believed in God and in His signs. Death can never invade that holy seat.

Baha’i Sacred Writings
Prayers and Meditations, pp. 378-379
Bhagavad-Gita (Hindu Scriptures)
The Ordinances of Man

Baha’i News is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Baha’i World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

Baha’i News is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1955-56: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Charlotte Linfoot.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Change of address should be reported directly to National Baha’i Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Los Angeles, California—Mrs. Harriet S. Ekel to Mr. Thomas A. Brock, May 14, 1955.
San Diego, California—Miss Tynie Amma to Mr. Arthur Kuhwald, June 11, 1955.
Portland, Oregon—Miss Luella P. Jensen to Mr. Robert Sabourin, June 24, 1955.

In Memoriam

“Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life.”

Baha’i News
GUARDIAN DIRECTS APPEAL TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

The following cable was received on August 16:

"Owing to aggravation of the situation, (the) hacking to pieces (of) the bodies (of) seven believers (in the) vicinity (of) Yazd, (and the) likelihood (of) worse massacre (in the) approaching months, advise all groups (and) assemblies (in the) United States (to) address telegraphically President Eisenhower, appealing (for) his intervention for protection (from) further massacres (of our) offenseness, law-abiding co-religionists (in) Iran (and the) safeguard (of their) human rights. Include brief reference (to the) worst atrocities. National Assembly should address him similar message both (in) writing (and) telegraphically. Include list (of) atrocities in accompanying memorandum . . ."

August 15, 1955.

Guardian

Beloved Friends:
The Guardian's direction was immediately reported to the Assemblies and groups. It is necessary for the entire American Bahá'í community, from communities to groups having only two or three believers, to participate in this supreme effort to save our brethren in Iran. The slaughter of seven "offenseness, law-abiding co-religionists" has signaled the breaking of a new and more terrible wave of oppression in Iran.

As explained in this issue of Bahá'í News, an official Bahá'í appeal has been filed with the Secretary-General of United Nations, a step made imperative by the failure of Iran to respond to the cabled and written appeals sent in great volume by the National Spiritual Assemblies, local Assemblies, and groups throughout the world.

Now we take the third step—an appeal by American Bahá'ís to their President, chief Magistrate of the country whose spiritual mission has been so vividly defined by 'Abdu'l-Bahá and by the Guardian.

What is happening to the Bahá'ís is a new and supreme manifestation and resolve that no religious party or government shall outlaw and destroy a Bahá'í community. We have been caught up into the workings of Divine Providence, and as we act so shall we be reinforced by the Almighty Arm of Bahá'u'lláh!

Sincerely,

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

"ONE OF THE MOST DEVOTED BAHÁ'ÍS"

"The Guardian was very sorry to hear of Julia Goldman's death. She was one of the most devoted Bahá'ís of that older generation, ever loyal, ever active. He will certainly pray for her soul's progress." (From letter written on behalf of the Guardian by the Secretary, July 9, 1955.)

Guardian

This story begins with the Guardian's cable of July 18: "... Advise appeal United Nations. Mention atrocities, act vigorously."

Since sessions were soon to be held in Geneva, it was apparent that action by the Bahá'í International Community would have to be taken immediately in Geneva. Our United Nations International Observer, Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh, flew to Geneva carrying with her the material needed for an appeal: record of atrocities committed, press clippings, photographs showing demolition of the dome of the National Bahá'í Center in Tehran, Bahá'í literature, etc.

At that point it seemed necessary to secure the cooperation of a government or a large international non-governmental organization to sponsor the Bahá'í appeal. Cables were sent to a number of Bahá'ís in Europe asking them to participate.

The next step was the Guardian's recognition of an international committee consisting of Dr. Ugo Giachery, Dr. Hermann Grossmann, Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh, Mr. Aziz Navidi, and Mr. John Ferraby, to handle the appeal.

This committee found it possible, under a section of the Economic and Social Council, to file the appeal directly with the Secretary-General of United Nations, and this was done on August 1, 1955. The appeal was signed by Charles Mason Remey, President, International Bahá'í Council, Dr. Ugo Giachery, Chairman of the Appeal Committee, and John Ferraby, Secretary of the Appeal Committee, on behalf of the Bahá'í International Community.

A copy of the appeal was presented to all United Nations delegates present, and a Press Conference was held in Geneva on Wednesday, Au-
August 3. The Appeal Committee consulted experts in connection with the various aspects of its great project. The covering statement referred to Article 18 of the Declaration of Human Rights, and to Articles 13, 55 and 56 of the Charter of United Nations.

"The Bahá'í International Community respectfully requests the United Nations and its Member Governments to investigate recent happenings in Iran described hereafter and to take 'joint and separate action' as provided for by the Charter to prevent further persecution of the Bahá'ís in Iran, to remedy the injustice perpetrated against them and to restore the freedom to practice their faith in places of worship in Iran now partly demolished, closed or seized."

This introductory statement was followed by excerpts from press articles, the text of instructions issued by the Minister of Interior in Parliament, a brief presentation of the Bahá'í teaching on obedience to Government, a warning that new anti-Bahá'í excesses may take place during the Muslim mourning months of Muḥarram and Safar, and a reference to the thousands of appeals which have been sent to the Shah, the Government, the Majlis and the Senate which have had no effect, compelling the Bahá'í International Community to apply to the United Nations "to protect the lives, Holy sites and the property of the Bahá'í Community in Iran and to re-establish freedom of belief for hundreds of thousands of Bahá'ís in Iran, faithful and law-abiding citizens of their country."

The appeal was accompanied by sixteen separate Annexes.

The decisive step has been taken. Under our beloved Guardian's leadership the Bahá'í world community has officially and formally challenged the existing international political body to investigate and act in a matter of basic human rights. The Bahá'ís, in fact, are the anvil on which Providence is shaping the united and humane world of the future. The Bahá'ís symbolize the new, universal principles which humanity needs. Their sacrifice gradually establishes these Divine principles in human society.

The fact that the Bahá'í appeal is unsponsored by any powerful body or nation means that we must exert ourselves to make the appeal a living issue and not a document to be filed and forgotten. Publicity comes first, but as other plans are devised by the National Spiritual Assembly the friends will be informed.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF PERSECUTIONS IN PERSIA

In the documentation for the appeal to the United Nations by the International Bahá'í Community, there was included a list of atrocities known to have been committed upon Bahá'ís during May and June, 1955, following the government's edict outlawing the Bahá'í Faith in Iran.

The Bahá'í Press Service also issued a release to all local Spiritual Assemblies, leading newspapers, and wire services, summarizing these atrocities which the Bahá'ís throughout the world have endeavored to bring to an end through their direct appeals to the Shahinshah and the Prime Minister, all of which appeals have gone unheeded to the present time.

At left, first Ionic column completed at Champaign, Italy, for the International Bahá'í Archives Building on Mt. Carmel. Each column, without base or capital, is about nineteen feet high. Below is shown a small section of the storing yard at Champaign. The material is ready to be packed in wooden cases for shipment to Haifa. Nearly eighty tons of carved stone is ready for shipment. At extreme left is one of the capitals; on the right, the base of a column.
For the information of the friends, the National Spiritual Assembly presents the following summary of the sufferings of our Persian fellow-believers as reported so far:

In southern Iran, the head of the Department of Finance openly encouraged the people to kill and plunder the Bahá'ís, and the government cooperated. As a result, a number of priests and several thousand persons attacked the homes of individual Bahá'ís, and beat those they found on the streets.

A large number went to the Bahá'í cemetery, broke the grave stones, felled trees and started to open the graves. Several Bahá'ís were taken to the mosque under threats of death and violation of their women; they were forced to recant their faith. About forty Bahá'í homes in the vicinity were set on fire and plundered.

In another town four Bahá'í houses were burned and three homes plundered and torn down. Coal oil was poured on a cow belonging to a Bahá'í and set on fire. One Bahá'í, a government employee, was beaten and his hand broken; later his wife's head was split open with a cutlass.

In a third town the local police openly approved the persecution of Bahá'ís. The house of a Bahá'í was severely beaten, and she was beaten and raped.

In a fourth city a large number of people seized a girl and stripped her naked. They severely beat two Bahá'í men, one of whom is believed to have died of the wounds received.

The Bahá'ís of the city do not dare leave their houses, as Bahá'ís are being taken to a special building and no one knows the fate of those taken away. The governor and the superintendent of police openly protect the persons committing these acts.

In a principal city of southwestern Iran the homes of Bahá'ís were plundered and demolished. In nearby localities Bahá'ís and their homes were plundered and a group severely beaten.

Bahá'í children in schools in this region were insulted and beaten. Their teachers failed them in examinations.

In a neighboring town the furnishings of a Bahá'í's house were destroyed, and his wife was publicly stripped naked. In the same region, a Bahá'í factory director was dismissed, and he was obliged to leave the vicinity.

A local dignitary and a Muslim preacher went to attack the house of a Bahá'í factory worker. The Bahá'í was dragged from his home and told to either become a Muslim or be killed. He fled to a nearby city for protection. In that city butchers and bakers received instructions not to sell bread or meat to Bahá'ís.

In western Iran inhabitants of one town cursed the Bahá'ís and their religious observances, and stoned their houses. A number of their children were expelled from the schools.

In another western town three men attacked the daughter of a Bahá'í, and she was beaten and raped.

In central Iran Bahá'ís were prevented from practicing their profession, the making of rose water. A number of Bahá'ís taking their harvest to market were beaten and their harvest plundered. Four harvest storehouses belonging to Bahá'ís were set on fire, as were their houses.

In the same region the populace broke down the wall of the Bahá'í cemetery, entered it, and dug open a grave. They carried away the corpse and the coffin.

In northern Iran, the house of a Bahá'í was attacked; the police refused to take action. Nearby, a Bahá'í was severely beaten, and when unconscious was taken to the house of a Muslim. A rumor started that he entered the Muslim's house to waylay suspicion. He was arrested and imprisoned, and will be prosecuted.

Two other Bahá'ís were attacked and beaten. They were afterwards placed backwards on donkeys and led with ridicule through seven villages. They were held until morning, and sent to a nearby city in a car. On arrival, the populace assaulted and beat them. Officials there took no action to punish the perpetrators.

Particularly tragic to Bahá'ís throughout the world has been the desecration of the house of the Báb, the martyr prophet, holiest Bahá'í shrine in Iran.

In one town the Hazíra was seized by the Government and handed over to the Red Cross for use as their headquarters. In another town the Hazíra was demolished by representatives of the Army and in the Province of Núr the house associated with Bahá'u'lláh was officially occupied by the Military.

The most recent atrocity reported is the slaughter of seven Bahá'ís, six men and one woman, in a village by a mob of some two thousand persons.

These widespread attacks of brutal repression clearly indicate the necessity of an appeal to an international body.

—National Spiritual Assembly

PRAYER FOR AMERICA

Presented to President Eisenhower

The special edition of the Master's Prayer for America prepared for presentation to high officials was shown at the Convention. A copy of this beautiful and dignified edition has been presented by the National Spiritual Assembly to the President, with a covering letter.

President Eisenhower has acknowledged its receipt with a letter expressing his thanks and appreciation in very gracious terms.

Copies of the special edition can be obtained from the Sales Committee for local presentations.

—National Spiritual Assembly
MEMBERSHIP IN FREEMASONRY

A recent issue of the British Bahá'í Journal contained the text of two cables from the Guardian concerning membership of Bahá'ís in Freemasonry:

"Disapprove membership (in) Freemasonry" (November 11, 1954); "Any Bahá'í determined retain membership (in) Freemasonry loses voting rights" (December 22, 1954).

The National Spiritual Assembly inquired of the Guardian whether this directive applied to the United States. In a letter written on behalf of the Guardian, dated July 9, 1955, this question was answered: "The directive regarding membership in Freemasonry should be carried out by your Assembly in all areas under your Assembly's jurisdiction."

The Guardian's directive about Freemasonry is an application of the general principle he laid down some years ago to the effect that Bahá'ís are not to affiliate with organizations, any of whose purposes and methods contradict fundamental principles of the Bahá'í teachings. This directive closes our ranks for the forthcoming new period of public responsibility when enemies of the Cause will do their best to find ways to discredit our principles of complete neutrality with respect to various social organizations in East and West.

This is published as a notice to the friends and to the administrative bodies functioning in and for all U.S. territories of the Ten-Year Plan.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

QUAKER SCHOOL
RECOGNIZES BAHÁ'Í HOLY DAYS

From the Bahá'ís of Poughkeepsie, New York, we learn that Oakwood, a private school conducted by Quakers, has given permission for a Bahá'í youth to be absent on Bahá'í Holy Days.

The School wrote: "We are happy to grant permission for Bahman Samandari to be absent from school during the Bahá'í Holy Days as per your request of April 11. Sincerely yours, William W. Clark, Principal."

WORLD CRUSADE

ANCHORAGE HAZÍRA DEDICATED

The newly purchased Hazíratul-Quds at 820 Eighth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska (see Bahá'í News, June, 1955, page 6), destined to become the National Hazíratul-Quds of Alaska, in April, 1957, was dedicated on Saturday, August 6, 1955, at 2:30 p.m. The dedication was conducted by the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Anchorage, with Mr. Rex King as chairman and Mrs. Florence Mayberry, member of the American auxiliary Board, as guest speaker.

The opening prayer, 'Abdu'l-Bahá's prayer for America, was read by Mrs. Kathy Rodgers of Fairbanks, Alaska. The chairman then welcomed the Bahá'ís and guests present and read greetings from the three American Hands of the Cause—Mrs. Corinne True, Mr. Paul Haney and Mr. Horace Holley: from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada, the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, the Ketchikan (Alaska) Bahá'í Group, the Bahá'ís of Barrow on the Alaskan Arctic Ocean, and from Honor Kempton, first pioneer to Alaska in 1939 under the first American Seven-Year Plan. A tape recorded message from Mr. Rafi Motahedeh of New York City was also received.

The Governor of Alaska, Mr. B. Frank Heintzelman, sent a message explaining why he could not accept the invitation to be an honored guest at the Dedication. He said in part: "Please extend my greetings to the Anchorage Bahá'í Assembly and accept my best wishes for your efforts toward the establishment of unity, justice and peace—goals which we should all strive earnestly to attain."

The actual Dedication program began at 3:53 p.m. with the reading by the chairman of Bahá'u'lláh's words, "Blessed is the spot. . . ." Passages from Bahá'u'lláh's Writings, from the Old and New Testament and the Qur'an, and from 'Abdu'l-Bahá were then read; a recording of "The Sweet-Scented Streams" was played, and the program was concluded with Bahá'u'lláh's prayer for all nations.

A copy of the Jubilee booklet "The Mission of Bahá'u'lláh" and of "Faith for Freedom" had been placed on each chair, and public open house was held following the Dedication to give opportunity for inquiry about the Faith.

Gifts to the future Hazíratul-Quds of Alaska included the painting by Mark Tobey, "The Tree of the Martyrs," from Mrs. Frances L. Wells, who also presented a rare copy of The Polo Alten for November 1, 1912, which contains the full account of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit and lecture to Stanford University.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE TEACHING

The Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee suggests, for those who contemplate pioneering and wish to learn Spanish or French, that it is possible to borrow Linguaphone courses at local public libraries. A slight charge is made by the library for loan of the books and records, usually fifty cents a week.

PIONEER LETTERS

Western Hemisphere

From The Crusaders, published by the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee of the United States National Spiritual Assembly, are cited the following excerpts from pioneer letters:

Falkland Islands

John Leonard writes: "Life continues to be wonderful. This job is so interesting and absorbing and I like the open life and the people so much, that sometimes I feel like bursting with gratitude. A short time ago one of the well-meaning friends wrote and said that any time I felt I was ready for a vacation, she would get together with a few other friends and raise funds for me to take a trip back. I wrote back that the real hardship would be to return to the States, and that it's more of a vacation for me to remain here. There is no feeling of homesickness. These people are very much a part of my family now."
Santa Ana (El Salvador)

Marjorie Stee writes from San Salvador: "Some of the interesting things about the new Bahá'í Center in Santa Ana are as follows: The fact that the rent for the little two-room house is in accord with the purse-possibilities of the two pioneers also makes it the kind of place where one can contact what we would refer to in the U.S. as the 'grass roots' of the population. Here we might call it the 'earthen-floor' or 'barefoot' group. Truly the neighbors have been fascinated from the beginning at all the events taking place in the little casita. Margaret Mills stood in the doorway one afternoon watching the people of the street—the little short street running off at a tangent in comparison with the surrounding ones and appropriately named 'Calle Diagonal'. The neighbors from next door came to ask questions and the little girl from across the street who had been sent by her parents. They were told that in this house we were going to offer lessons — lessons in English gratis and also lessons in the Bahá'í Teachings. They were told it was for adults, and the young teen-agers (some less than 15) wanted to know if they could come too. The news spread like wildfire around the neighborhood."

Curacao (Dutch West Indies)

Mr. and Mrs. John Kellberg write: "Sometimes our progress here seems slow, but we are not at all discouraged for the Master has told us, 'If few people come to your gatherings do not lose heart, and if you are ridiculed and contradicted be not distressed... Only have faith in the Mercy of God and spread the Divine Truth.'"

NEW ASSEMBLIES IN AFRICA

Thirty-seven new Spiritual Assemblies were formed on April 21, 1955, in African territories under the jurisdiction of the British National Spiritual Assembly, according to report in the British Bahá'í Journal for June, 1955. These new Assemblies are distributed as follows: Uganda 17, Kenya 8, Tanganyika 1, British Cameroons 8, British Togoland 1, Gold Coast 1, Belgian Congo 1. In Uganda there are now 81 declared Bahá'ís, and in Kenya, 118.
UNITY IN GIVING

Dear Beloved Friends:

The World Crusade advances on all fronts in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles under the inspiring generalship of our beloved Guardian.

With each advance, we perceive more brightly the advent of the divinely ordained institutions that will be the pillars of a New World Order.

Weakness on one front threatens to retard the progress of the Crusade. That weakness affects the Institution of the National Fund which must sustain and serve as the “life-blood” of all of the other institutions.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá has said that spiritual progress cannot be attained except through material means. Each of us is, in a sense, a gardener as well as a harvester, but only in the degree to which we comprehend the divine character of the institutions which have been ordained by Bahá’u’lláh for the establishment of World Order. Every maturing Bahá’í welcomes the opportunity of understanding the true nature of these institutions among which one of the most vital, at this moment, is that of the National Fund. When we realize that many of our valiant and sacrificial crusaders in the remote areas of the globe are sustained wholly by our devotion to and support of this institution, we understand that we are not truly participating in the Crusade unless we support this institution in the spirit of gratitude as well as sacrifice.

During the first four months of this Bahá’í Year, an alarming deficit has developed which threatens to undermine the success of the many objectives to which we are committed during this year. Far from being sufficient to fully meet all of our financial requirements this year, it will be necessary to implement the budget of $550,000 if all our objectives are to be attained. Many of the Hațîratul-Qudás that must be acquired this year may have to be purchased on an all-cash basis in order to effect substantial savings in those acquisitions. It should therefore be clearly understood that the budget of $550,000 is a minimum amount which, added to loans that may have to be arranged, will enable your National Assembly to successfully carry forward our program.

The American Bahá’í Community has truly achieved a praiseworthy degree of unity in many aspects of our beloved Faith. That spirit of unity will successfully promote all the interests of our Faith only when we have attained the same degree of unity in giving, so that there is no separation and no gap in any of the elements that represent true unity.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Isfandiar K. B. Bakhtiari, Chairman and Assistant Treasurer
G. A. Amriliwala, Vice-Chairman
K. J. Hakimian, Treasurer
Abbassally Butt, Secretary
Prof. D. L. Khianra
Prof. Pratap Singh
Mrs. Shirin Boman
H. Fathe’azam
M. Samimi

SOUTH AMERICA

Radio Interview on Faith

The latest issue of the bulletin of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of South America reports that a radio interview on the Faith was held in Puerto Montt. The director of the radio station, who is familiar with the Teachings, interviewed members of the National Spiritual Assembly of South America and an assistant of the Longcoche School about the Santiago, Chile, Bahá’í community for seventeen minutes.
MONTHLY REPORT ON WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

Third Year     National Bahá'í Fund     1955-1956

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Total Budget</th>
<th>(Average Monthly Requirements)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
<td>$46,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
<td>$46,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Budget for Entire Year ........................................ $550,000.00

Accumulated deficit as of August 15, 1955 ................. $80,000

—National Spiritual Assembly

as a body, through selection of a prayer to be printed in the program, and through having a representative on the speakers’ platform to give a Call to Prayer with six other religious leaders representing Buddhist, Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim Faiths. Behind the speakers’ platform was a choir of 1500 voices from various churches, in robes of different colors, with a large section of brass and drums from three Army bands all conducted by Robert Shaw.

The clergy from all Faiths, many wearing colorful vestments, sat in the first fifteen rows, “including a pair of Buddhists who looked as if they were straight from Tibet.”

Mr. Dahl reports that the huge Cow Palace, where the Festival was held, “was filled to the rafters, the crowd being estimated at over 15,000. There was a definite air of excitement, anticipation, and spirit in the hall.”

As the representatives of the various Faiths marched to the platform “the band broke out into Aaron Copeland’s ‘Fanfare for the Common Man,’... proclaiming that this was no ordinary occasion.” After the seven representatives of the religions stepped to the upper podium, forming a semicircle (see photograph in Bahá’í News, August, 1955, page 3), and read the Calls to Prayer, in alphabetical order, the Bahá’í first, they stood with hands linked, “while the whole assembly silently prayed, silently, that is, except for the incessant popping of flash bulbs.”

Addresses by Secretary of State Dulles and Sir Leslie Munro, Ambassador of New Zealand to the United States, who mentioned the Faith, followed.

The entire program was televised over KQED and plans were made to record it for The Voice of America. Excellent publicity was given to the event, each of the four San Francisco newspapers mentioning the Bahá’í Faith as a participant, usually as one of a group of “major” religions. The TV columnist of the San Francisco Chronicle called the telecast “one of the most inspiring in years.”

Mr. Dahl concludes his report: “To me the most significant thing about this is that the Faith has been identified in a dignified but very public and publicized manner with the other great Faiths. This was no cult or sect situation. This was seen by some of the delegates, and men of the stature of Secretary Dulles and Sir Leslie Munro, as well as large numbers of people in the area. Tonight, as we were leaving the Sir Francis Drake dining room, I overheard a woman say to her companions, ‘There is the man who spoke for the Bahá’ís at the Festival of Faith.’ She remembered. It’s a good sign.”

BAHÁ’Í IN THE NEWS

A Visit Israel leaflet has come to hand which features “Carmel and Zebulon.” “Today the slopes house the major church of the famed Carmelite order and the World Bahá’í Faith Centre whose gold and marble Temple of Justice dominates modern Haifa.” By “Temple of Justice” is meant the Shrine of the Báb.

A feature article, “Jim Crow Goes to Church—No. 11,” by James N. Rhea, was published in Providence Journal, June 15. The author, who recently visited the Bahá’í Temple, is making a study of racial integration in worship, and the Bahá’í position is explained.

The Braille Book Review, March, 1954, published by the American Foundation for the Blind, publishes this note: “Copies of the following books have been given to all regional libraries by the organizations indicated, and can be borrowed like any other book: Bahá’u’lláh, The Hidden Words, gift of Bahá’í Service for the Blind.”
INTER-RACIAL COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

At this time when Bahá'í communities and groups are planning their teaching activities for the fall and winter, the Bahá'í Inter-Racial Teaching Committee wishes to remind the friends of the Guardian's instructions concerning teaching among the Negroes.

The Bahá'í directory announces the membership of the Committee for 1955-1956 and states the functions the Committee is expected to perform in aiding the American believers to carry out the Guardian's appeal to "... remedy, while there is yet time, through a revolutionary change in the concept and attitude of the average white American toward his Negro fellow-citizen, a situation, which, if allowed to drift, will, in the words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, cause the streets of American cities to run with blood...."

This appeal, quoted from the Guardian's message of July 28, 1954, is a repetition of the calls to action that have been coming with ever-increasing emphasis since 1938 when, in The Advent of Divine Justice, the Guardian directed the special attention of the American Bahá'í community to this "most challenging issue." It is strongly recommended that the friends study these stirring messages again and consider seriously what can be done locally to bring the attention of the local community to the supreme importance of this subject.

The Bahá'í Inter-Racial Teaching Committee is prepared to make one of its members available to any group wishing to set up inter-racial public meetings and to serve as guest speaker without cost. Speakers will be made available also to the larger communities, but the costs of public meetings and banquets in the larger centers must be met locally.

In planning teaching activities with the Negroes, the following suggestions, which are applicable to all public teaching efforts, should be considered:

Hold public meetings where the public, colored and white alike, can attend;

Invite contacts by telephone, letter or in person, and even offer transportation if possible, thus demonstrating true Bahá'í cordiality and love;

While a special effort is made to attract the Negro, the Negro friends must also put forth effort to invite and bring white friends to the meetings and to follow up their interest;

Use newspaper advertisements, including appropriate excerpts from the Bahá'í Writings;

Make sure that basic Bahá'í books are in the public libraries for those who wish to investigate the Faith but hesitate to attend meetings;

Seek contacts in kindred organizations which are working for integration;

Attend the programs of universities, colleges, churches.

The Bahá'í Inter-Racial Committee is eager to assist any community or group in planning a program that will awaken the consciousness of the community to the importance of the principles of the Oneness of Humanity. Requests and reports should be sent to the Committee secretary: Miss Lydia J. Martin, 2392 East 40th Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

AMERICAN INDIAN SERVICE

A chart has been prepared by the American Indian Service Committee to show Bahá'í teaching activities among American Indian Tribes on or near Reservations. This Chart is available from the Committee free of charge. Listed are eighty-three cities or towns which are located nearest to major Indian tribal concentrations. Of these localities fifteen are goal cities of the Home Front in the World Crusade.

The Committee points out that "It is important to remember that teaching the Faith among the Indians is not limited to reservations, for one third of the American Indians live, work or go to school in towns across the country. Thus most
Baha'is have the opportunity to be neighbors and make friends with their Indian fellow-citizens: to demonstrate and then teach the Faith. "Every believer, every group and every community has its part in this task" of making contact with the American Indians as one of the goals of the Ten-Year Spiritual Crusade.

The Teaching Brochure Supplement gives many ways of approach in making the first contact and suggests that Baha'is can do much to correct false conceptions concerning the Indian, by studying the actual facts in his history and speaking of these facts when some one uses derogatory phrases concerning the Indian.

Both the Chart and the Supplement may be ordered, free, from the American Indian Service Committee, c/o Mrs. Nancy Phillips, Secy., 736 Encanto Dr., S. E., Phoenix, Arizona.

NORTHWESTERN AREA CONFERENCE

The Area Teaching Committee for the Northwestern States reports the holding of the first conference in the goal city of Bellingham, Washington, on June 26. Highlights of the Conference were the enrollment of the first Bellingham Baha'i, a salmon bake on the Lummi Indian Reservation prepared by the son of the Indian Chief who himself was unable to attend, the participation of Baha'is from Canada as well as sixty-nine from Boise, Idaho: Vancouver, West Vancouver and New Westminster, British Columbia; and from Seattle, Everett, Richmond Highlands, Kirkland and Anacortes, Washington. The number of Baha'is and guests attending the afternoon outdoor festival on the Indian Reservation rose to eighty-five and included Negro and Oriental, American and Canadian, young and old. In the evening Mrs. Helen Wilks addressed a public meeting on "What Is the Baha'i Faith?"

OBSERVANCE OF MARTYRDOM OF THE BAB

The Anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Báb was observed July 9 by the Baha'is of Upper New York with an outdoor evening program held on the beautiful campus of Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York. The Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Seneca Town sponsored the program in co-operation with Assemblies and Groups of the Upper New York Inter-Community Relations Project. About sixty-five persons, including twelve guests, attended, coming from Geneva, Rome, Rochester, Syracuse, Waterloo, Penn Yan and Victor. The program consisted of a dramatic reading for three voices, based on episodes from The Dawn-Breakers, with the use of "Words for the World" between parts of the performance, and background music. The script was written by William Grammar, chairman of the Seneca Town Spiritual Assembly and teacher of English and dramatics in the Geneva High School.

Other communities which have reported observance of the Martyrdom of the Báb were San Diego, California, New Haven, Connecticut, and San Antonio and Galveston, Texas. At Galveston, a goal city, Kenneth Wiley was speaker and of thirty-four present only nine were Baha'is. Some guests came from Houston. Newspaper coverage was reported as amounting to seventeen pages. At the New Haven meeting, Horace Holley pointed out in his talk that science has made more progress in the last one hundred years than in the previous five thousand years, and that in the teachings of the Bab and Babatu'llah we have the means of bringing about the Kingdom for which Jesus told us to pray, to save us from the immoral rule of science.

The Baha'is in the area of Flint, Michigan, observed the Anniversary at noon on July 9, and obtained widespread publicity for the occasion in twenty-one free announcements over six radio stations of the area and in five newspaper articles. Two newspapers used photographs of the Shrine of the Bab on Mt. Carmel.

EDITORIAL NOTE: The foregoing reports were the only ones available to Baha'i News at press time, although undoubtedly many other communities observed the Anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Bab with special meetings.

CONFERENCE ON TRAINING OF CHILDREN

A very successful conference on the training of children was held in Dayton, Ohio, May 29, with the cooperation of the Area Teaching Committee (see preliminary report in Baha'i News, August, page 14).

The theme of the conference was a paragraph from one of the Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Baha (see Baha'i World Faith, page 383) stressing four areas of training of children. The topics for discussion were these four areas, as follows:

1. Nurture them from the breast of the love of God.
2. Urge them toward spiritual matters, to turn unto God.

Some Baha'is of Holland from Amsterdam, Bussum, Voorburg, Rotterdam and The Hague, gathered together on the occasion of the Nineteen Day Feast of Light, June 5, 1955, in The Hague.
3. To acquire good manners, best characteristics and praiseworthy virtues and qualities in the world of humanity.

4. Study sciences with the utmost diligence.

Each topic was introduced by the reading of carefully chosen passages from such books as Baha'ı Prayers, Divine Art of Living, and Baha'ı World Faith, after which the subject was opened for discussion of questions and problems in the various areas of training and how parents, teachers, individual Bahá'ís, and the Bahá'í community and its institutions can assist in answering them.

The report from the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Dayton noted the following highlights of the conference:

1. The love that needs to surround the child must come not only from his parents but from others in the community.

2. The child needs to feel that he is wanted and loved by all.

3. The child is never too young to learn to pray.

4. The children's classes and other Bahá'í activities should not be viewed as competitive with Christianity, but rather as being inclusive and fulfilling.

5. Constant contact with other Bahá'í young people (schools, conferences, etc.) is necessary to develop a wholesome attitude of being different.

6. Finally, the best teacher is that parent, friend, or community that sets an “example” for the child to follow.

Area Teaching Committees and Bahá'í communities throughout the country may well find that conferences such as this will give great impetus to Bahá'í child education, and since the subject of religious education of children is of concern to most parents and teachers, such conferences would undoubtedly receive good local publicity.

BOOKS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

It is encouraging to see the widespread interest of the friends in placing books at the disposal of the public throughout the country. In going over quantities of mail, the Library Service Committee is asked many questions, some of which can be answered here.

Many of the friends have been disturbed by the subject headings for Bahá'í books in the Library of Congress. We are happy to share with you a letter on this subject from Horace Holley, Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly: "A letter has come from the Editor of the Decimal Classification, Library of Congress, assuring us that the Bahá'í classification will be corrected in the 16th edition. That is, the Faith will no longer be listed under Islam. When the 16th edition will appear or what the new decimal classification number will be, we do not know."

We are often asked what books are most suitable to be placed in public libraries. Lists of such books may be found in Baha'i News for December, 1954, page 4; March 1955, page 8; and April, 1955, page 5. Bound copies of Foundations of World Unity may now be obtained from the Baha'i Publishing Trust in Wilmette. This makes an excellent gift to a public library. We find that The Promised Day is Come is sometimes confused with The Promise of all Ages. The latter is more appropriate as an introduction to the Faith for general readers.

Sometimes the friends ask us what books are to be found in the libraries in their localities. Our committee is too small to be able to answer many such inquiries. You may easily find this out by going to the library and looking in the card catalogue or asking the librarian.

We are, of course, happy to know that you intend to place a certain book in your public library, but what we really want to know is that the book has been placed. Don't forget to notify us when the book actually goes in. And be careful to give us the correct name of the library, not merely that of the town where it is located.

Your attention is called to the change in the name of this committee, as indicated below. Correspondence should be sent to the secretary, Miss Flora Emily Hottes, 406 West Iowa Street, Urbana, Illinois.

—NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE COMMITTEE

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

The Southwestern States Area Bulletin for July announced that enrollments of Bahá'ís in this area for 1954-1955 were double those of the previous year.

Members of the Tennessee Valley States Area Teaching Committee held Conferences with Bahá'ís in the following communities, to consult on ways of effective teaching: Louisville, Kentucky; Chattanooga (goal city), Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee; and Jackson, Mississippi. The last-named conference was attended by pioneers from the goal cities of Meridian and Gulfport, Mississippi.

The New England States Area Teaching Committee's Bulletin tells of several public meetings and firesides held during July and August, in Hamden and Stamford, Connecticut; in Falmouth and Plymouth, Massachusetts; in Jaffrey, New Hampshire; and in Brattleboro and Derby Line, Vermont. Mr. Horace Holley was the speaker at the Jaffrey meeting which was held at the Amos Fortune Forum July 22, and was attended by two hundred people.

Many joint community Conferences have been held in the North Atlantic States Area, according to this Committee's Bulletin. Bahá'ís from Closter, Westwood, Oradell, Harrington Park, Paramus and New Milford, New Jersey, gathered for a Conference picnic on July 17. The regular Westchester (New York) Conference was held in Yonkers. Several of this Area's "Projects" held Conferences: Southern New York in Albany, at which Mrs. Nura Mobine told of her trip to Latin America; Southwestern New York and Erie (Pennsylvania) in Jamestown, New York, at which John Carew of Erie pointed out that "by only attending Bahá'í functions and by socially visiting only our Bahá'í friends, we never meet new contacts"; Northwestern New York, in Niagara Falls; and Long Island, New York, in Levittown.

Deepening Classes

Several Bahá'í communities have been making their own "summer schools" by holding deepening classes during the summer months.
to revitalize themselves in preparation for intensive teaching work to achieve the goals ahead. Among the communities reporting study of the Advent of Divine Justice are San Diego (Clairmont), California, and Helena, Montana. Butte, Montana, studied Bahá’u’lláh’s Epistle to the Son of the Wolf. Wilmette, Illinois, held an Institute on the Covenant and Administration, and Grangeville, Idaho, reported that regular teaching classes were continuing throughout the summer. This shows the real Bahá’í spirit—if you can’t go to a summer school, bring the summer school idea to your Community.

Extension Teaching
The Northwestern States Area Bulletin reports that extension teaching work is being done by the Boise, Idaho, Spiritual Assembly in Pocatello, Idaho, a goal city.

BAHÁ’Í ON CAMPUS

At the University of Iowa, in Iowa City, and at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, Graham Conroy, a student at the University of Iowa, has been putting on a one-man Bahá’í teaching campaign, according to the Central States Area Teaching Committee Bulletin. He has issued personal invitations, had publicity in the Daily Iowan and Iowa City Press Citizen, and displayed pictures of the Bahá’í Temple throughout the University buildings. He spoke by invitation to a student group at the Methodist Church in Iowa City, to a class of thirty-two students at the University of Iowa School of Religion, and was member of a symposium, with a Catholic priest and a professor of Judaism, discussing the “philosophy of the history of religion,” presented in the University of Iowa Department of History.

YOUTH CONFERENCES TO BE HELD

The National Bahá’í Youth Committee is announcing the first Youth Conferences of the year, to be held October 22 and 23 in places to be designated by the Area Teaching Committees. Bahá’ís and non-Bahá’ís are to take part in this Conference, which takes as its theme “Finding the True Unity,” in each of the thirteen national areas.

SALES COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Temple Model Still Available
The Bahá’í Sales Committee wishes to remind the friends that the attractive Temple Model is still available. The model stands 9½ inches high and is 11¼ inches wide (see photo in Baha’í News, March, 1955, page 3), and lends itself effectively for local displays. It can be purchased at a cost of $15.00, from Bahá’í Sales Committee, c/o Mr. H. E. Walrath, 909 West Foster Street, Chicago 40, Illinois.

Greatest Name Plaques
A new shipment from Florence, Italy, of the tooled leather plaques with the Greatest Name in gold lettering has been received by the Sales Committee. These may also be ordered from this Committee. The price is $3.50.

PUBLICATIONS

The Principle of Religious Unity. Talk given by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Temple Emmannu-El in San Francisco in 1912. Text is the same as the pamphlet, “Christians, Jews and Muhammadians,” now out of print. This is a limited supply of a special edition prepared by the former Bahá’í Public Relations Committee some years ago. Eight pages, 8½x11. Six copies (minimum order) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ..
Change of address should be reported directly to National Editorial Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Charlotte Linfoot.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**FEASTS**

September 8—'Izzat, Might September 27—Mas'hiyyat, Will

**PROCLAMATION DAY**

September 23—to proclaim America's spiritual mission; to observe the anniversary of the introduction of the Faith to America.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**

September 2, 3, 4, 5

**MARRIAGES**

“Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generiosity. O Lord! Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destiny for them every good through Thy bounty and grace...”

—BAHÁ’U’LLAH

Chicago, Illinois—Miss Bette Dee to Mr. Thomas West, July 2, 1955.


**BAHÁ’I DIRECTORY CHANGES**

**INDIANA**

Fort Wayne: Mrs. Mildred Holmes, 2805 1/2 St. Joe Blvd.

**LOUISIANA**

Waterloo: Mrs. Virginia V. Finch, 102 1/2 Cottage Grove Ave.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Boston: Mrs. Marion Repper, 687 Boylston St., Zone 16.

**NEW YORK (WILLIAMSBURG)**

Hamburg Twp.: Mrs. Ruth Thorpe, 510 South Park Ave., Hamburg.

**NEW YORK (SOUTH)**

Syracuse: Mrs. Mildred Hurst, 418 Fabius Ave., Zone 2.

**NEW YORK (MEADOWS)**

Mrs. Mathilde Gilligan.

**NEW YORK (Junior College)**

Seneca Falls, New York—Mrs. Doris Dahl, 9643 60th Ave., South

**SEPTEMBER, 1955**


Beverly, Massachusetts—Miss Elizabeth Small to Mr. O. Rodney Dryman, July 18, 1955.


Columbus, Ohio—Mrs. Margaret K. Lothes to Mr. James J. Coleman, June 1, 1955.

**IN MEMORIAM**

“Death proffereth unto every comfortable believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life.”

—BAHÁ’U’LLAH

Mrs. Kathryn Blake

Florida

July 29, 1955

Mrs. H. C. Bowden

Santa Cruz, California

July 8, 1955

Mrs. Josefine A. Duval

Muskegon, Michigan

July 4, 1955

Mrs. Mathilde Gilligan

Massachusetts

July 11, 1955

**BADHÁ’I NEWS**

is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

**BADHÁ’I NEWS** is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1955-56: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Charlotte Linfoot.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
The Triumph of His Undefeatable Faith

Message from the Guardian

Mysterious dispensations (of) ever-watchful Providence, hastening, through turmoil (and) trial, (the) triumph (of) His undefeatable Faith, dictating (at) this critical hour (the) sudden deterioration (of) the situation confronting (the) largest community (of) the Bahá’í world, as evidenced (by) the violent recrudescence (of) the persecution afflicting intermittently, (for) over (a) century, its members residing (in) Bahá’u’lláh’s native land.

Following (the) seizure (and) the destruction (of) the dome (of) the community’s national headquarters, (the) occupation (of) similar institutions (in) all provinces, (the) government declaration (to) the Majlis outlawing (the) Faith (and) a virulent press (and) radio campaign, distorting its history, calumniating its Founders, misrepresenting its tenets (and) obscuring its aims (and) purposes, (a) series (of) atrocities (has been) perpetrated (in) rapid succession (of the) Province (of) Yazd, (were) set upon (by a) family (of) seven, (the) oldest (of) which (is) a fifteen-year-old girl raped; (and) pressure brought (to) bear (upon) believers (to) recant (their) Faith.

More recently (a) family (of) seven, (the) oldest eightytwo, (the) youngest nineteen, residing (in) Hurmuzak (of) the) Province (of) Yazd, (were) set upon (by a) mob two thousand strong, accompanied (by) music (of) drums (and) trumpets, (which) hacked them (to) pieces with spades (and) axes. Meanwhile (an) official circular (has been) issued (by the) Prime Minister, addressed (to) Government Departments ordering (the) expulsion (of) all Bahá’í employees refusing (to) recant.

(An) appeal (has) been lodged (with) United Nations (by) representatives (of) the International Bahá’í Community (at) Geneva. Copies (of the) appeal (were) delivered (to) representatives (of) member nations (of the) Social (and) Economic Council, (the) Director (of the) Human Rights Division (and) certain specialized agencies (of) non-governmental organizations with consultative status. Furthermore, President Eisenhower who, according (to) the newspapers, first mentioned the persecutions at a Press Conference in Washington, (has been) appealed to (by) the National representatives (of the) American Bahá’í Community (and) all Assemblies (and) groups (in the) United States (to) intervene (on) behalf (of) the oppressed sister community.

Whatever (the) outcome (of the) present heart-rending events, one fact emerges clear (and) indisputable. God’s infant Faith, provided, through (the) operation (of a) quarter-century-long process associated with the first epoch (of the) formative age (of the) Faith, (with the) machinery (of a) divinely-appointed Administrative Order, (and) utilizing (in the) course (of the) succeeding epoch, through (the) formulation (of) a series (of) national plans, culminating (in the) launching (of the) World Crusade, (the) newly-born administrative agencies for (the) systematic propagation (of the) Faith, (is) now gradually emerging from obscurity (in the) wake (of the) ordeal convulsing (the) overwhelming majority (of the) followers (of the) Faith.

(The) world-wide reverberations (of) this nation-wide commotion will be hailed (by) posterity (as the) mighty blast (of) God’s trumpet designed (to) awaken, through (the) instrumentality (of) its oldest, most redoubtable, most vicious, most fanatical adversaries, countless multitudes, (and) the Chancelleries (and) Chief Magistrates (of) the) East (and of the) West, (to) the) existence (and) implications (of the) Faith proclaimed (by) His Messenger (in) this Day. This long-desired, ardently-hoped-for emergence, itself (a) long-drawn-out process, (is) bound

(01)
loading cut stone in italy for archives building in haifa

the s.s. nakhshebn of the zim line at the dock of trieste, italy, ready to embark 157 tons of cut stone for the international archives building on mt. carmel, august 12, 1955. at right are shown railroad cars which brought the 169 cases of stone from chiamo to trieste.
All cases are marked with S.E. (the Italian abbreviation for His Eminence), port of destination, content, and the progressive number of each case, as shown above. View at upper right gives detail of one car. At right, cases are being loaded on ship by giant cranes. Material shipped consisted of all the covering of the podium of the building, eight complete columns, 14 bases, 15 carved capitals, plus the complete staircase.

**IMPORTANCE OF PREPARING FOR NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

One of the directives given to the Hands of the Cause to guide their efforts and those of the Members of the Auxiliary Board this year concerns the preparations which are required for the formation of new National Assemblies. The following passage in a letter received from the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land reveals very clearly the strong emphasis laid by the Guardian on this task of the World Crusade.

"Now that he has fixed a time limit for the formation of new National and Regional Bodies in the Western Hemisphere: that of Alaska, and two in Central America and two in South America to be elected in 1957, the teaching work becomes of crucial importance during the coming year. The believers must be made to realize that, unless a tremendous effort is put forth before April 21, 1956, they will not have succeeded in laying a broad and worthy foundation for the new National Body and Regional Bodies. Indeed the work of consolidation at this time has reached a crucial point. . . . If the Bahá’ís do not arise now and devote every effort to multiplying the local Assemblies in Alaska and the Latin American republics, they will find that their National Bodies when elected rest on a weak foundation, and have missed their
In the photo above one case containing a third of a column is being lowered in the hold of the ship. At right the Captain of the S.S. Nakhshon and Dr. Ugo Glachery, Hand of the Cause, supervise the loading of the shipment. The steamer was due in Haifa on August 23, 1955.

In the photo above one case containing a third of a column is being lowered in the hold of the ship. At right the Captain of the S.S. Nakhshon and Dr. Ugo Glachery, Hand of the Cause, supervise the loading of the shipment. The steamer was due in Haifa on August 23, 1955.

Historic opportunity to come into being as Bodies truly representative of the community they are to serve.”

This excerpt is published in the hope that it will reach the hearts of many who might arise and pioneer in one of these areas. All correspondence on the subject should be addressed to the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee.

Mrs. Corinne True, Horace Holley, Paul E. Haney

—Hands of the Cause

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

APPEALS TO THE PRESIDENT

The Guardian’s direction that the National Assembly of the United States address a telegram and a letter to President Eisenhower appealing for his intervention on behalf of the persecuted Iranian Bahá’ís, and that telegrams appealing for his intervention be sent by local Assemblies and groups, has evoked a wide response. By September 7, 331 messages had been sent by Assemblies and groups according to data received by the National Assembly.

These messages have been acknowledged by the Department of State in a letter which incidentally states: “I would be grateful if you could find some way to let these many groups know of the interest the Department is taking.”

The action of all these Assemblies and groups in addressing the President is gratefully commended by the National Assembly. It demonstrates the power of unified action released whenever grave Bahá’í interests are at stake.

It must be realized that the letter from the Department of State implies that the appeals were referred to that Department by the White House and nothing in the way of public Presidential action can be expected.

There has been close National Assembly contact with the Department since the persecutions began, and the Department has taken such action as is proper and possible in making representations to the Iranian government.

—National Spiritual Assembly

THE HEART OF THE BAHÁ’Í COMMUNITY

Beloved friends:

The intention, and the ability, of the Bahá’ís today to develop a world community inspired with love for God, reverence for His law, and justice and consideration for all types of human beings, are not only the greatest matters being undertaken on earth today; they are the greatest undertaking humanity has ever assumed. Town by town, country by country, by tens and by scores and by hundreds, the believers who have responded to the Proclamation of Bahá’u’lláh pursue this sacred mission.

Without changing their residence, they have changed their hearts; without abandoning their family or professional responsibilities, they work with a new mind. In a society stricken by fear they build a society of firmest conviction. Surrounded by conditions reflecting injustice, inequity, prejudice and lawlessness, the Bahá’ís are they who by unity know that evil will be barred out, and by activity for the sake of His Cause soul sickness and contagion are left behind.

This is the most mysterious process of the ages. It is as though in an ancient rug, once beautiful, now rent, discolored and outworn, certain threads could be used again, and these threads are pulled from the old rug and rewoven in a new design.

The pulsating heart in this process of society-building is a social institution imbued with spiritual significance, the Nineteen Day Feast.

The Nineteen Day Feast is not one of many Bahá’í meetings. It is not an occasion or gathering which any Bahá’í can deem to be incidental to some other, more important duty.
TRUMPET BLASTS

In God Passes By (pages 33-34) the Guardian states:

"A little over four years had elapsed since the birth of the Báb's Revelation when the trumpet-blast announcing the formal extinction of the old, and the inauguration of the new Dispensation was sounded. No pomp, no pageantry marked so great a turning-point in the world's religious history. Nor was its modest setting commensurate with such a sudden, startling, complete emancipation from the dark and embattled forces of fanaticism, of priestcraft, of religious orthodoxy and superstition. The assembled host consisted of no more than a single woman and a handful of men, mostly recruited from the very ranks they were attacking, and devoid, with few exceptions, of wealth, prestige and power. The Captain of the host was Himself an absentee, a captive in the grip of His foes. The arena was a tiny hamlet in the plain of Badagab on the border of Mázindarán. The trumpeter was a lone woman, the noblest of her sex in that Dispensation, whom even some of her co-religionists pronounced a heretic. The call she sounded was the death-knell of the twelve hundred years old law of Islam.

"Accelerated, twenty years later, by another trumpet-blast, announcing the formulation of the laws of yet another Dispensation, this process of disintegration, associated with the declining fortunes of a superannuated, though divinely revealed Law, gathered further momentum, precipitated, in a later age, the annulment of the Shari'ah canonical Law in Turkey, led to the virtual abandonment of that Law in Shi'ah Persia, has, more recently, been responsible for the dissociation of the System envisaged in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas from the Sunni ecclesiastical Law in Egypt, has paved the way for the recognition of that System in the Holy Land itself, and is destined to culminate in the secularization of the Muslim states, and in the universal recognition of the Law of Bahá'u'lláh by all the nations, and its enthronement in the hearts of all the peoples of the Muslim world."

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

(Pioneer Letters

Further Report on Africa

In Bahá’í News Letter the Asia Teaching Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of India, Pakistan and Burma authorized publication of an interesting pioneer letter from Mr. F. Roobbehyan, from which the following excerpt is taken:

Gambia (African goal territory assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of India)

"Following my last week's letter I went to Birkama, a town about twenty-five miles from Bathurst with a population of about 15,000 people, on last Saturday, and am very happy to report that I had a tremendous success which I never expected at all. There I met an acquaintance whom I had met in Bathurst at several football games and he had given him the message but he did not seem to be interested and I told him that I had come to Birkama to speak to some few people about the Bahá’í Faith. When I told him this, he advised me to go to the Muslim Mosque and await him, because he was going to bring a large number of his friends. After waiting for about half an hour all at once I saw a large number of people coming towards the Mosque and at first I was taken aback because I thought that they may be coming to punish me for defiling their Mosque with my footsteps, but later I found that all saluted me in Islamic fashion and surrounded me. My friend also came towards me and stood beside me to translate my words to those who could not understand. At first I was too dazed to be able to speak but later I mentioned the Greatest Name and asked Bahá'u'lláh to help me. Receiving strength I began first by giving them the prophecies from Qur'an for this Faith regarding the appearance of Mahdi (Báb) and Masaya (Bahá'u'lláh) and then I gave a short history of Faith and at the end the principles of this Holy Faith. On conclusion I asked them whether any person wished to ask any question and only one person asked that whether in this Faith a black man will have the same status as a white man and I replied that this Faith abolishes all sorts of prejudices especially for color, and whether white, black, yellow or red everyone is to be considered as human and all should love each other, and this reply satisfied him so much that he at once came forward and asked me to enlist him as a Bahá'í."
Cook Islands
Mrs. Edith M. Danielsen, pioneer, writes the following dramatic account of the effect of establishing her home on the beach at Muri:

"The people started flocking in at the end of the first week when the generator was hooked up and the Hammond electric organ sounded the first resonant tones. They loved it. Their main fascination seemed to be that my foot also played notes...

The next few nights brought droves of people—thirty-five in the house, twenty outside the lattice and ten hanging over the windowsill back of the organ. So many young men were here every night that the Kekau shack soon became known as the YMBC (Young Men's Bahá'í Club)! One young man, who it seems, stood on the road and directed the others down here, was nicknamed 'the prophet.'

"Out of this number came the few who were sincerely interested in the Faith. They asked for weekly firesides—which started immediately. Some of these were not going fast enough and they asked for private study classes. Out of this there was one who still wasn't going fast enough so we had daily lessons. March 8th he became the first Cook Islander Bhá'í.

"The big groups coming every night took their toll in fatigue, as those who wished to discuss the Faith remained after the others left which was often at midnight. Finally it was decided that Wednesday night should be for Bhá'í discussions only—no music or colored slides. The following night became 'community night' when everyone could come and it would be for entertainment—but Bhá'í discussion inevitably follows at the end of that night also."

Korea
William H. Maxwell, Jr., fell in love with Korea while stationed there with the U.S. Armed Forces, secured his discharge there, and is now professor of English in Chonnam University, and therefore the first resident American pioneer in that land. He writes:

"I am in love with Korea, the people, the scenery, my job, everything...This is not pioneering—a word connoting sacrifice of comfort and security for the unknown—this is living...And yet we are blessed with those spiritual moments of confirmation, something of such power and reality as we had thought were reserved for other realms.

"The Korean people are intensely human. They love singing and dancing; they are acutely curious...

"Despite their ancient culture (1,000 years or more before Japan) and their artistic contributions— they had movable type 200 years before the Gutenberg Bible—the Koreans are criticized by other Oriental peoples. This is because they are distinct. They remind me a lot of the African, and are somewhat temperamentally like the Mediterranean races. Unlike in Japan, these babies will squall their little heads off.

"Mr. Maxwell was provided with a beautiful house as part of his teaching contract, one, he says, that would be the envy of many an American housewife.

"As soon as my electric line is in I can begin firesides by showing the pictures of Haifa and the Temple."

Canada, New Territories
The New Territories Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bhá'ís of Canada circulates a Round Robin letter among its pioneers. From the July 15 issue this Committee has authorized citation of the following pioneer letter:

Labrador
Bruce Matthew writes: "About three weeks ago I was able to visit Happy Valley for the first time. The first thing I learned on arriving was that its correct name is Hamilton River Settlement. It is situated on the northern bank of the River and also on a small island which is connected by a long wooden bridge. Some fifteen to twenty yards of this bridge was brought down by ice about six weeks ago, but it's still possible to cross safely. The vast majority of the villagers are Indians, although there are a few whites: clergymen and families, doctors and nurses, and the manager of the very large Hudson Bay store. There is one street a little over a mile long. The village is alive with young people of all ages. It seems that most of the villagers own boats and spend much time fishing when the river isn't frozen. Many of the natives are shy of the camera, but I got several good colored slides including a panorama of the village from a hill..."

"About a week ago while I had popped into the new chapel to take a look at the pamphlet stand, I heard a Methodist Chaplain, who was passing at the time, say, referring to the Temple, 'Have you been there?' At the time I was holding several reprints of the Chicago Tribune in my hand. I replied that I had not, but that I hoped to go soon. I also added that I was a Bahá'í. He told me he had visited the Temple in 1934 and described it as magnificent. He also told me that when he was taking classes in Sunday School in the States several of his boys came in late one day. He asked their reason and was told they had been attending classes in the Bahá'í Faith. The Chaplain told me that he had an open mind and asked me to drop in some time around five o'clock to tell him about the Faith. When we parted he assured me that he wouldn't ensure that the stand was kept well stocked with Bahá'í pamphlets..."
As a follow-up to the Conference Mr. N. Monttazi and Robert Imagire visited the Osaka headquarters of the Conference of World Religionists, and after discussion of the religions of Japan and the Bahá'í Faith, they were invited to prepare an article on the Bahá'í teachings on the prevention of war, the causes which bring unrest to mankind, and the Bahá'í views on the spiritual solution of the problems growing out of World War II. This is to be published in a book with articles written by other delegates to the Conference, including one by David Earl.

—U. S. ASIA TEACHING COMMITTEE

ALL-ALASKA TEACHING CONFERENCE

The first All-Alaskan Bahá’í Teaching Conference was held July 31 through August 6 in Anchorage, Alaska A total of forty-three Bahá’ís attended all or part of the Conference, the Alaska Teaching Committee reports, representing over half the Bahá’í membership in the Territory of Alaska. The opening public congress, at which Mrs. Florence Mayberry gave the address, was attended by fifty-seven people. During the week eighteen non-Bahá’ís attended all or part of the Conference sessions. Three classes were conducted each morning: one on Bahá’í administration, led by Rex King of Anchorage; one on the Qur’án, by Ted Anderson of Whitehorse, Yukon, and a course on Spiritual Prerequisites for Living the Life, by Mrs. Mayberry. Forums were held each afternoon, conducted by Janet and Verne Stout as moderators. In the evening sessions two public lectures were given, tape recordings about the early days of the Cause were heard, one by Curtis Kelsoy and the other by Juliet Thompson, and slides were shown by Betty Becker.

The Alaska Teaching Committee reports that highlights of the Conference included excellent publicity, intense interest on the part of non-Bahá’ís who attended, and the presence throughout the Conference of two friends of the Cause from Canada who were deaf mutes, with whom one of the friends was able to communicate with the manual alphabet. Bahá’ís and their friends who attended the Conference came from Fairbanks, Juneau, the Anchorage area, Seward, Wasilla, Ninilchik and the area outside Fairbanks, Alaska, and from Whitehorse, Yukon, from British Columbia in Canada, and from California.

The Conference was one of five steps toward building the “broad basis” on which the future National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska must rest. The fivefold plan of the Alaska Teaching Committee includes, besides this Conference, doubling the number of Assemblies, with Juneau, Ketchikan and the area outside Fairbanks as immediate objectives; multiplication and strengthening of groups; filling of goals beyond the Arctic Circle, thus bringing into the focus of teaching plans the native peoples of that region; and, finally, the building up of existing Communities to fifteen believers.

CANADIAN NEW TERRITORIES

The New Territories Committee of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly reports that pioneering vacation travels were made by several Canadian Bahá’ís to World Crusade goal areas under its jurisdiction.

On Grand Manan Island the pioneer, Doris Richardson, was greatly assisted in her task of running the summer hotel by a visit from an Ottawa Bahá’í, Katherine Ferguson.

Several Bahá’ís have visited the pioneers on Magdalen Islands, on St. Pierre and Miquelon, on Queen Charlotte Islands and on Cape Breton Island. To the pioneers settled on these islands these visits meant much. As one expressed it: “I just could not recuperate from the pleasant shock that after two years in isolation I had simultaneously three guests from different places. I had a strange feeling also that this was not a coincidence but a plan with a definite purpose, that we were like four characters from a play in search not for an author but for a spiritual ‘denouement’ which will alter our lives or destinies.”

The New Territories Committee reports that contacts are being made with the Indians in Yellowknife, Mackenzie District, as well as in the Goose Bay area of Labrador. The Yellowknife group is holding regular firesides.
"The hour is now ripe for these Communities . . . to initiate befittingly and prosecute energetically the European Campaign of a global Crusade which will not only contribute, to an unprecedented degree, to the broadening and the consolidation of the foundations of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh on the continent of Europe, but will also diffuse its light over the neighboring islands, and still, God willing, carry its radiance to the Eastern territories of that continent, and beyond them as far as the heart of Asia."

(From the Guardian's Message to the Third Intercontinental Bahá'í Teaching Conference, Stockholm, July, 1953.)

Summer Schools and Conferences in Europe 1955

ALL-FRANCE CONFERENCE AND SUMMER SCHOOL

The Bahá'í Conference and Summer School for France was held August 12-20 in Lyon. In his communication to the Conference the Guardian set Ridván 1958 as the time for formation of the National Spiritual Assembly of France, and to implement this "challenging enterprise" he outlined the following objectives:

"Urgently appeal (to) French (and) American participants (in) momentous, highly challenging enterprise, (to) arise unitedly (to) bend (their) energies (in the) course (of the) three fast fleeting years separating them (from the) consummation (of the) noble task (to) ensure: rapid increase (of the) number (of) pioneers (and) native adherents (of the) Faith, multiplication (of) isolated centers, groups (and) local Assemblies, translation, publication (and) dissemination (of) Bahá'í literature, establishment Bahá'í endowment, intensification (of) publicity, (and) consolidation (of the) institution (of the) Summer School."

Report of the Conference

The report of the Conference, received through the European Teaching Committee, is given here in full:

"The time is mid-August 1955; the place, Lyon, the textile capital of France. Sixty-three believers and eight children of Bahá'í parents from fourteen localities in France and thirteen other countries are gathered together for the All-France Conference and Summer School in the Hotel Terminus of this city.

"A cablegram is received from the beloved Guardian addressed to the Conference. He refers to this as an epoch-making Conference. Why is this conference epoch-making? We can think of many reasons. It is the first Conference to be held under the auspices of the European Teaching Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States in collaboration with the Paris Assembly, the Mother Assembly of France. It is also the first to be held since the arrival and settlement of American pioneers in seven cities throughout France in response to the Guardian's appeal for pioneers during the summer of 1954. It is a Conference in which we find assembled in the same room, believers who entered the Faith in the earliest years of its growth in France, through the efforts of the immortal May Maxwell, with those who embraced the Faith during the period of the last war, and with others, mostly Americans, who have only recently arrived in France as pioneers to assist the French believers in the propagation of the Faith during this glorious Ten-Year Global Crusade. All are united in this Conference with a single purpose—to discuss ways and means of more effectively propagating our beloved Faith in France, achieving the goals set for us,

The purchase of the Hazíratú'l-Quds of Holland located at Eikouwstraat 27, The Hague, in one of the choice residential sections near The Peace Palace, was announced during the Fourth Bahá'í Benelux Conference held near Amsterdam August 6-8. This makes the sixth of the fourteen Hazíratú'l-Quds which are to be established in Europe during the Global Crusade, the fifth being the newly acquired Hazíratú'l-Quds of Denmark in Copenhagen, announced at the Northern Countries Conference held the end of July.
The All-France Bahá'í Conference and Summer School held in Lyon, France August 12-20, 1955

and establishing the Faith on a lasting foundation in this country. One feels that the resources are finally at hand and the hour ripe for the widespread diffusion of the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh in this 'long dormant country'. Already some success has been registered and our hearts are cheered by the words of our beloved Guardian in his message when he takes note of this and says: 'Grieving, overburdened heart uplifted (at) multiple evidences (of) nation-wide propagation (of) Faith of Bahá'u'lláh (in the) long dormant country enjoying (the) distinction (of the) first (to) be illumined (by) beneficent Light (of) His Revelation (on the) European Continent ...' One senses that a new epoch in the progress of the Faith in France has at long last dawned and that we stand on the threshold of great victories.

Challenge to American Pioneers

"The American pioneers are deeply moved and challenged by the Guardian's statement that they are 'invested ... (with) weighty, sacred, inescapable responsibilities, vouchsafed glorious opportunity (to) hasten (the) germination (of) seeds sown (by) 'Abdu'l-Bahá's own hands (in the) course (of) twice repeated visit ...' As if to further quicken us in our efforts, the beloved Guardian makes the stirring announcement: 'Moved (at) this auspicious occasion (to) announce (to the) attendants (of the) epoch-making Conference (the) selection (of) Riḍván 1958—marking midpoint (of) Ten-Year Global Crusade—as date fixed (for the) formation (of the) first historic French Bahá'í National Spiritual Assembly.' Here it is at last; the definite date when we shall achieve this milestone in the development of the Faith in France. The beloved Guardian goes on to outline specific objectives which must be fulfilled as a necessary prerequisite to this crowning achievement. Our deliberations in the Conference take on new meaning and urgency and are oriented towards

The Northern Countries Bahá'í Conference and Summer School which took place 45 kilometers from Helsinki, Finland, July 25-31, 1955. About thirty friends from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Helsinki Community in Finland, together with Dr. Adelbert Muhlschlegel, Hand of the Cause from Germany, and Miss Edna True, Chairman of the European Teaching Committee, consulted in the Conference and studied in the Summer School on the specific tasks of the Global Crusade to be carried out in the North Countries. The most important of these tasks is the formation during Riḍván 1957 of a Regional National Spiritual Assembly comprising the four countries mentioned above; the purchase of a suitable site for a Temple in Stockholm; purchases of the Haziratu'l-Quds and the endowments in the four countries. The Danish friends brought the glorious news of the purchase of the Haziratu'l-Quds in Copenhagen, Denmark.
ways and means of speedily and successfully accomplishing these objectives. The need for material means to accomplish these objectives becomes clear and the beloved Guardian has realized this well. In his loving consideration, he announces his personal contribution of 1000 pounds towards the attainment of highly meritorious objectives.

"Our consultations are highly fruitful; they elicit many recommendations and suggestions. The Conference closes on a high note of anticipation of future victories and the Summer School opens. We are grateful for this opportunity to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the Teachings as an indispensable requisite for the tasks that lie ahead. As we study together we inevitably draw closer together in a more intimate relationship. As the Summer School draws to a close, we pause to reflect on those things which have contributed to the success of this 'epoch-making' conference and historic Summer School. A myriad scenes cross our minds:

Highlights of Conference and Summer School

"The glorious assemblage, representing fourteen localities in France and thirteen other countries; the group of eight children and the large number of youth side by side with the very old; the visitors from other lands, including a youth from as far north as Malmö, Sweden, and five friends from Barcelona, Spain; the presence of two Hands of the Cause, Mason Remey, and Ugo Giachery—one, the distinguished President of the International Bahá'í Council, who became a Bahá'í in Paris shortly after the turn of the century—and the other, its Member at Large—both spiritually stimulating addresses and wise council; the presence of the one to whom 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave His clear interpretations, now published in Some Answered Questions; two of the members of the European Auxiliary Board; the distinguished chairman of the European Teaching Committee and her excellent chairmanship of this Conference; of the European representative of this same Committee in Geneva; the inspiring talks, the concrete and specific proposals and recommendations made during the consultation periods; the devotional meetings on behalf of our persecuted Bahá'í brethren in Iran; the evening spent in watching the motion pictures and slide projections of the Shrines in the Holy Land, and of the Stockholm Conference; the imposing and educational map displays; the large reproduction of the Global Crusade goals prepared by the Guardian which stretches across the end of the hall; two maps of France, one cut out of plywood and painted white on which is reflected the various localities in France where Bahá'ís reside; the other, used by the Secretary of the Paris Assembly in his review of the present status of France and future goals; the attractively arranged book displays of Bahá'í literature in French, and pamphlets and literature in many other languages; the large photographs of the Shrines in the Holy Land, and of the Shrines in the Holy Land, and the drawing of the International Archives now undergoing construction which adorn the wall; the electrifying atmosphere of the Unity Banquet held in the beautiful wood-lined and mural-decorated hall which has been our Conference site; the spirit of fellowship and happiness prevailing in this gathering; the anointment by the Hand of the Cause, Mason Remey, of all present at this banquet with atar of roses, and his reference to this act as being symbolic of our partaking of the fragrances of God in the Abáh Paradise; the brief addresses on this same occasion by representatives from each locality in France; the declaration of a new believer during the Conference and of his being welcomed into the Community of Bahá'u'lláh before all assembled; the active participation of another recently declared French believer; the brilliant public lecture by Mlle. Davy, and the consequent lively interest in the Faith displayed by several new contacts; the loving spirit of cooperation on the part of our hosts, the Lyon Bahá'í Community. All these and many more, too numerous to recount, come to mind and shall be eternally enshrined in our memories.

"The time comes for us to go our separate ways. It is indeed with a feeling of deep regret that we must make our departure and journey to the various corners of France, but we are filled with a new resolve to 'arise unitedly' to resume our labors for our beloved Faith with renewed enthusiasm, determination, and energy, with deepened consecration and devotion, certain that the confirmations of Bahá'u'lláh will crown our efforts and that we shall be assisted thereby to win eternal victories for His Cause in this 'spiritually famished' land. We call to mind the last passage of the Guardian's cable: 'May (the) close, sustained collaboration (of) French (and) American Bahá'í communities (...) so vast, important field (of) Western Europe, yield such harvest as will notably compensate for the tragic losses sustained (...) Bahá'u'lláh's native land, as well as bestow abiding consolation (to) long suffering brethren (in the) cradle (of) Faith.'" (Reported by Irene Marangella)
MONTHLY REPORT ON WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

Third Year National Bahá’í Fund 1955-1956

as of September 15, 1955

Where we are $118,000.00

Where we should be $207,000.00

Total Budget for Entire Year $550,000.00

(Average Monthly Requirements $46,000.00)

Monthly receipts to date:

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<td>May 1-15</td>
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Accumulated deficit as of Sep. 15, 1955 $89,000.00

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA

Auxiliary Board Member to Western Australia

Almost 1500 miles separate the Bahá’í community of Perth, Western Australia, from its closest sister communities in Adelaide, South Australia. But in spite of its isolation, Mr. Collins Featherstone, Member of the Auxiliary Board, who visited Perth from June 11 to 16, offers congratulations to the Bahá’ís of Perth for the way in which they keep a visiting teacher busy.

During his six-day visit, Mr. Featherstone addressed two public meetings, spoke at a luncheon, two fireside meetings, and a young people’s fireside of University students, apart from several meetings with the Bahá’í community.

Mr. Featherstone visited Parliament House, and later met and introduced the Faith to the Premier of Western Australia.

Yerrinbool Winter School

The Yerrinbool School Committee has announced the Winter School sessions being held at “Bolton Place,” Yerrinbool, New South Wales from August 27 to September 4, 1955.

BRITISH ISLES

“World Religion Society”

The Faculty of Technology, Union of the University of Manchester, England, has agreed to the formation of a Bahá’í World Religion Society for the study of the Bahá’í Faith. The application was made by Sureyya Doktoroglu, a Turkish Bahá’í student at the University, who found a sufficient number of people to sign the application.

CANADA

Ontario Summer Conference

From the September Canadian Bahá’í News is cited the following report:

“At beautiful Geneva Park on the shores of Lake Couchiching, a rather unique conference took place this summer. Owing to an unforeseen and completely unavoidable occurrence, our main speaker Mildred Mottahedeh was unable to give her course. The Bahá’ís rallied to the occasion, and on each day a different camper would further develop the theme ‘We Meet a Faith, Choose, Grow Within, Grow Without, Grow Together, Our Future.’ Whether it was due to the spirit brought about by the feeling that we were all working together to make this conference, or whether the spirit was generated in Ron Nablo’s excellent course, ‘Magnetic Living’ we are not sure... but there was a wonderful spirit in the camp...

“The Covenant, and the latent power within us that obedience to it can generate, formed the theme of Ron’s course. In addition to these, Pern Piggott gave two very fine sessions on the technique of teaching. Brenda Piggott had some very helpful suggestions to Bahá’í parents on another occasion. An enthusiastic audience listened to Bill Sears recount some of his inspiring experiences as a pioneer in Africa.”

NATIONAL NEWS

BAHÁ’Í IN THE NEWS

The Saturday Evening Post for September 3, 1955, has an article about the Shah of Iran which mentions (page 71) the persecution of the Bahá’ís. Thus does this attack on the Faith set up repercussions around the world, using even those who know little or nothing of the Faith or what it means.
It is interesting to note that a University Medical Center in the United States has given a physician the assignment of preparing a handbook "which will describe the religious approaches to healing of the various religions and denominations encountered here in the United States." This physician has been presented with a copy of Dr. Esslemont's book, with special reference to the chapter on healing, as an exposition of the Bahá'í views on this subject.

Through W. O. Roberts a typed copy of an article which has apparently appeared in The Humanist World Digest has been received. The author conceives of religion only as the enslaver of the human race, and includes the Bahá'í Faith in this concept.

The Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research is compiling "official statements, resolutions, declarations or rulings issued by the various religious bodies pertaining to desegregation" for 1950-1955. A copy of Elimination of Prejudice has been sent to the Department to explain the Bahá'í position.

From Prof. Zeine we have a clipping from Life, International Edition, September 5, 1955, containing a letter written by A. A. Butt, Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, Pakístan and Burma, praising Life's series on religions and expressing the hope that the series will include "the latest link in the chain of these great religions . . . . We mean the Bahá'í Faith . . . ." Various letters concerning the series are reprinted, concluding with the Editor's statement: "However, at some future time, Life's editors may well plan further articles on the world's religions."

The first book to be printed and bound in Alaska is entitled Alaska—Who's Here—1955. This reference work lists Zora Banks of Fairbanks, and notes that her religion is the Bahá'í World Faith. Also the firm who bound this first book, BrownKing Enterprises, is owned and operated by Bahá'ís.

A volume published in Japan has an interesting and unusual Bahá'í reference. Among the Temple visitors some years ago was a Japanese bishop or religious leader. He has written an account of his travels, and the book contains a reproduction of a photo showing him at the entrance of the Temple, a photo of a pylon, a reproduction of the Greatest Name and an illustration of the House of Worship itself. No translation of the accompanying Japanese text is available.

A clipping from The Jerusalem Post, August 29, 1955, provided by Mr. Leroy Iocas, Secretary General, International Bahá'í Council, carries an illustrated announcement of the construction of the International Bahá'í Archives on Mt. Carmel. This account is based upon an announcement made in Haifa by the Guardian.

The Rotarian for September 1955, the magazine of Rotary International which is distributed to members throughout the world, has an article "Appraisal at San Francisco" which deals with the United Nations meetings recently held in that city. The photograph of the Festival of Faith which was reproduced in a recent issue of Bahá'í News, illustrates this article.

Referring to the Festival, the article states: " Called 'A Service of Prayer for Peace and Divine Guidance to the United Nations,' this festival was held on the Sunday afternoon preceding the Conference opening in San Francisco's immense Cow Palace. Jointly sponsored by the San Francisco Council of Churches, by leaders of Greek and Russian Orthodox churches, and the Bahá'í, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish and Moslem faiths, it united nearly 16,000 people in worship and silent prayer, each according to his custom. Among Government leaders who took part were John Foster Dulles, of the United States; Sir Leslie Munro of New Zealand, and Dr. Charles Malik, of Lebanon."

A religious publication entitled Signs of the Times contains a reference to the Festival of Faith celebration reported in Bahá'í News of August and September. Since this publication represents a Bible group for whom Christianity is the final Revelation, it regards the Festival not as evidence of brotherhood but as a menace to the supremacy of the Christian faith. "Perhaps the most significant feature of this 'Festival of Faith' was the evidence it afforded of the decline of faith. . . . It was this message of miracles which set Chris-

Youth Group of Bahía, Brasil, commemorating Bahá'í Youth Day, March, 1955. Mrs. Margit Worley, Member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause, is standing in back row, fifth from the left. The Bahá'í Youth Club meets at her home twice a month.
tianty apart as the supreme revelation of heaven and the one way, the one hope, of salvation. "Liberalism, by denying every miracle which made the pristine faith radiant with the glow of heaven, has reduced Christianity to a mere ethical pattern of living. It has put Christ on a level with Confucius, Buddha and Mohammed. As a consequence, it has substituted the United Nations for the Kingdom of God."

Bahá'ís who are well grounded in the teachings can readily meet this point of view by reference to the Bahá'í interpretation of miracles.

The New York Amsterdam News dated August 6, 1955, featured a detailed statement by Frank B. Sawyer on "What Is a Bahá'í?" the first of a series on How We Worship God. Mr. Sawyer has written an excellent statement summarizing the teachings of the Faith.

The Bahá'ís of Upper New York conduct a paid column in the Geneva Daily Times. On July 8 the column reprinted the text of a pamphlet "Visít Israel" published by the 'Akká Rotary Club, concerning 'Akká as the Bahá'í World Center.

The Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry has issued a folder entitled Headline Events in Chicago which lists the Bahá'í House of Worship as among the "Year Round Attractions." The Palmer House issues a weekly guide entitled Where, What, When in Chicago, and in a recent issue ran a picture of the Temple over the caption: "The fabulous Bahá'í Temple, located in Wilmette, is one of the outstanding features of the Chicago Sighseeing Company's North Shore Suburban Tour."

A paper called Delaware Valley Advance published on June 23 a feature article by Paul Blanshard, Jr., entitled "Woman in Morrisville Finds Comfort in Simple Beliefs of New Universal Religion." The article is developed in an interview with Anna Schwenk Mikuriya. It tells in simple, direct words the awakening of this believer by reading Bahá'í literature, and very sympathetically brings out the great principles enunciated by Bahá'u'lláh.

LATENT ENERGIES

"These energies with which the Day Star of Divine bounty and Source of heavenly guidance hath endued the reality of man lie, however, latent within him, even as the flame is hidden within the candle and the rays of light are potentially present in the lamp. The radiance of these energies may be obscured by worldly desires even as the light of the sun can be concealed beneath the dust and dross which cover the mirror. Neither the candle nor the lamp can be lighted through their own unaided efforts, nor can it ever be possible for the mirror to free itself from its dross. It is clear and evident that until a fire is kindled the lamp will never be ignited, and unless the dross is blotted out from the face of the mirror it can never represent the image of the sun nor reflect its light and glory."

—Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, page 65.

CENTRAL STATES AREA CONFERENCE

The theme of the Central States Area Teaching Conference held August 14 in Madison, Wisconsin, was "These last fleeting years of the present phase..." Among the some two hundred Bahá'ís who attended the Conference were friends from Canada, Persia and Africa, as well as from the Central States area. Several helpful points in teaching were brought out at the Conference. The teaching plan used to open Waukesha was described, where a week of public lectures was followed by weekly firesides and a public meeting once a month, each with a different speaker, for six months. At the weekly firesides Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era was studied. The six months of concentrated teaching effort were followed by monthly radio broadcasts for another six months, concluded with a week of public lectures.

The importance of giving to the National Bahá'í Fund was discussed and brought out the point that, as all are a part of the World Crusade, giving to the Fund offers each one the privilege of participating actively in the Crusade, for the means are necessary to the success of the Crusade. The suggestion was made that

GOAL CITY PIONEERING

From Lewiston, Idaho, Robert C. Niss, pioneer, reports that his suggestion was accepted, that the Rotarians sponsor an inter-faith non-denominational "summer devotional hour" during August at the local drive-in auto theater. The program began at 8 a.m. and consisted of fine music and reading of prayers and selections from the various Holy Scriptures of religions represented in that area. Taking part in the program were representatives of Mormon, Seventh Day Adventist, Methodist, Episcopal, First Christian denominations, as well as a Jewish rabbi, Hindu student, Confucianist, Greek Orthodox, Negro Nigerian student, a Nez Perce Indian, the mayor, and doctors, Boy Scouts, students—all of whom read. The publicity was excellent and fine contacts were made.

Weekly Sunday night firesides, frequent breakfast or supper parties have aided Mr. and Mrs. Niss in spreading the Teachings, and contacts with the Indians are increasing. Weekly radio announcements tell of the firesides and other activities; special events are publicized by news releases over stations KLBR and KRLC and in the local newspapers.

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

Bahá'í prayers are being flashed in lights on the 11 P.M. "Service Line" across the top of the Illinois National Bank Building in Springfield, Illinois, the Central States Area Bulletin reports. The "Service Line" is a continuous news flash and the Bahá'í prayers, selected by the Springfield Spiritual Assembly at the request of the "Service Line," are used periodically to close the day's activities.

The Southwestern States Area Bulletin reports that weekly deepening classes are being held in four goal
cities of its area: Bakersfield and Riverside, California, and Flagstaff and Prescott, Arizona, as well as in four organized Bahá'í communities and in one group. The Area Bulletin for August is headed. "You, the individual believer, are needed to teach the Cause of God."

The series of "initial conferences" undertaken by the Tennessee Valley States Area Teaching Committee was concluded with a conference in Knoxville, Tennessee, July 31, conducted by Louise and Hubert Matthiass, the Bulletin for this Area reports. A follow-up meeting of the conference in Louisville, Kentucky, was held in that city on August 1, also led by Mr. and Mrs. Matthiass.

THORNTON CHASE

As instructed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Bahá'ís of Los Angeles, California, each year commemorate the passing away in their city of Mr. Thornton Chase on September 30, 1912.

Thornton Chase, the first Bahá'í of the Occident, accepted the Faith in 1894. In April, 1907, he visited 'Abdu'l-Bahá at the prison in ‘Akká, later writing an account of his pilgrimage. He died in 1912, a few days before 'Abdu'l-Bahá arrived in California.

The commemorative program this year was arranged by the Bahá'í communities of Inglewood and Inglewood Judicial District.

MRS. VICTORIA BEDIKIAN

On hearing of the passing on July 3, 1955, of Mrs. Victoria Bedikian, known and loved throughout the East and West as "Auntie Victoria," the Guardian cabled the secretary of the Atlanta Spiritual Assembly, as follows:

"Praying progress soul indefatigable, wholly consecrated promoter of the Faith. Her services unforgettable. Love. Shoghi."

A memorial service was held at her grave in Greenwood Cemetery, Atlanta, Georgia, on July 6. Messages were received from the National Spiritual Assemblies of the Bahá'ís of the United States and of India, Pákistán, and Burma. The latter message stated that Bahá'ís throughout South East Asia had come to love and appreciate her constant flow of loving letters and messages of encouragement in their efforts to spread the Faith, and that local Assemblies in India, Pákistán, Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia and the Islands of the Indian Ocean under its jurisdiction were instructed to hold befitting memorial services.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

In East St. Louis (goal city) and Belleville, Illinois, regular teaching activity is maintained by Mrs. Schlichter and Mr. and Mrs. Petzold of Quincy, Illinois, with newspaper publicity, firesides and public meetings that are attracting an increasing number of people to an interest in the Faith.

Quincy, Illinois, reports a successful week of intensive teaching activity and study through the Seminar method of daily meetings, conducted by Mrs. Ruth Moffett. During her visit Mrs. Moffett gave seven lectures in two cities. Talks over the radio and on TV also met with hearty response. The regular weekly study class in Quincy is now attended by five inquirers and twenty Bahá'ís.

For the first time the Bahá'í Faith was proclaimed on the campus of Virginia Union University, a Negro university in Richmond, the capital city of Virginia. The occasion was a picnic, on June 5, of the Bahá'ís of Virginia and surrounding areas, including Bahá'ís from Norfolk, Bay-side, Whitehall, Williamsburg and Charlottesville, Virginia, and Takoma Park and Prince George's County, Maryland. Several students at the university gathered at the picnic with interest to hear of the Teachings.

Fairbanks, Alaska, reports excellent newspaper coverage for the week of meetings arranged during the visit of Mrs. Florence Mayberry, member of the American Auxiliary Board, held in that city July 23-30. An article concerning Mrs. Mayberry and announcing the meetings appeared in Jesse's Weekly on July 29, and the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner published three items and included the series of meetings in its column the "Fairbanks Calendar." The series began with a meeting of prayer and meditation, open to the public, on Sunday morning, July 24. Mrs. Mayberry addressed the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce at its regular Tuesday meeting, and gave five public lectures during the week, one of which, at the University of Alaska, was preceded by a public reception.

The program of the Annual Human Relations Institute of the Milwaukee YWCA carried a quotation from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh. Mrs. Annalean Schwander, Bahá'í of Milwaukee, a member of that Institute's Human Relations Committee, arranged for the inclusion of the quotation with a view to making contacts for the Faith among the more than forty nationality groups living in Milwaukee.

A cooperative effort between publicity committees of the Jersey City and New York City Bahá'í communities resulted in publication of a photograph of the Temple model in the Jersey City Journal of August 27. The photograph had been sent to the newspaper in June. Its publication at this time was unrelated to any event in Jersey City except that the vice-chairman of that city's Bahá'í Assembly was pictured standing beside the Model. It was considered "newsworthy," it is believed, be-
cause of sympathy on the part of the local press with the Bahá’ís on account of the Iranian situation.

The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Los Angeles sponsors a Teaching Service Committee to help the Bahá’ís plan firesides. This service includes obtaining the speakers, selecting teaching materials to be used, and generally assisting with problems that arise in conducting firesides.

A reception for the parents of the Junior Youth of San Francisco, California was held Sunday morning, on August 28 at the center. As a majority of the children have parents who are not Bahá’ís, this open house enabled them to observe how classes are conducted and to join the teachers in refreshments and discussion.

Bábá’u’lláh and the New Era, Course of Study. By Gertrude Robinson. This is a new printing of this excellent teaching aid that serves two vital needs; one, to help Bahá’í communities prepare their members to face the task of teaching, and, two, for fireside groups endeavoring to present the Faith to new inquirers who are ready to begin reading and studying. The new edition is printed on soft green (replacing the previously mimeographed one), has an attractively designed self-cover, and is an item that Bahá’ís can proudly present to the members of their study groups. (Price remains the same). Size 8½ x 11, 24 pages. Per copy $0.50

One Universal Faith. This is the contact leaflet for which we have long awaited. It is a brief, colorful but dignified item which carries the challenging statement that Bábá’u’lláh is the Prophet of our day and that He fulfills the prophecy of the Christians concerning the return of Christ, of the Jewish Faith in the coming of the Lord of Hosts, and of the Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and Zoroastrian Faiths. It is graphically illustrated with the chart of the Divine Revelations as used in the Temple displays in Foundation Hall that shows the Holy Spirit descending from God to man through the various Prophets. The size, 3½ x 6½, a Frenchfold, is perfect for mailing, for vest pocket and purse. Here is our opportunity to arise and make that mass proclamation for which our beloved Guardian is calling. Printed in red and black on white. 100 copies $2.50. 500 copies $6.00. 1,000 copies $18.03.

My Religious Faith by Bernard Leach. Printed in Japan on handmade paper at the request of the National Spiritual Assembly. Bernard Leach, famous pottery expert of England, has studied the art and technique of pottery in China and Japan and has acquired an international reputation. He has lectured by invitation to many societies devoted to arts and crafts. In this pamphlet, Mr. Leach tells how and why he became a Bahá’í. It has unusual interest for persons of culture, especially artists and craftsmen, and is excellent contact material. Five copies (minimum order) $0.75. Twenty-five copies $3.50.

United Nations Brochure Available for UN Day


Discount on Star of West and World Order Magazines

The regular ten percent discount allowed on community orders to all Bahá’í librarians will now be given on copies of Star of the West and World Order Magazine. No postage will be charged.

Star of the West magazines are a rich store of intimate stories of the Master, his journeys to Europe and America, His letters to the friends, and other accounts of the early days of the Faith. The supply is rapidly depleting and those wishing to have a collection for their personal librar

ies should order promptly. World Order Magazine contains excellent material for Bahá’í talks, firesides, and for general information on the Faith and related subjects. A Bahá’í Community Librarian who places these magazines on display for the local community will find many who are interested in them, particularly those who will become acquainted with them for the first time.

Available from

BAHA’I PUBLISHING TRUST
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS
AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Bahá’í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá’ís and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahá’í House of Worship A Cappella Choir.

The programs for the month of September follow:

Order of Devotions—Sept. 4, 1955
Q people of God! be not occupied with yourselves. Be intent on the betterment of the world and the training of nations. The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and excellent deeds and well-appraised and agreeable conduct. —Bábá’u’lláh

CHORAL SELECTION
Ave, O God, and Show Thy Might—Haydn, M. Morgan

BAHA’I SACRED WRITINGS
Bahá’í Prayers, p. 44, Bahá’í World Faith, p. 141

OLD TESTAMENT
Psalm 119:14

ZOROASTRIAN SCRIPTURES
NEW TESTAMENT
James 2:14-24, 26

QUR’AN
Sura XVI:98-100, 126

CHORAL SELECTION
Blessing, Glory, Wisdom and Thanks—Johann Sebastian Bach

BAHA’I SACRED WRITINGS
The Advent of Divine Justice, pp. 19, 20, 21; The Hidden Words of Bahá’u’lláh, From the Persian, No. 78

PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS
CXXV, p. 219

CHORAL SELECTION
Almighty God of Our Fathers—Will James

Order of Devotions—Sept. 11, 1955

The fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race, and to foster the spirit of love and fellowship among men. —Bábá’u’lláh

CHORAL SELECTION
Let All the Nations Praise the Lord—Vedamur Leffing

BAHA’I SACRED WRITINGS
Gleanings, p. 283
Gleanings, CXX, p. 200; pp. 286-289

Order of Devotions—Sept. 25, 1955

TheTelegram, the voice of the Soul of the Faith, is dedicated to the Unity of God, to the Unity of the Prophets, to the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá’ís and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahá’í House of Worship A Cappella Choir.

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Gleanings, p. 283
Gleanings, CXX, p. 200; pp. 286-289
**OCTOBER, 1955**

**UNITED NATIONS DAY**
October 24—To proclaim the spiritual basis on which the nations can unite for lasting world peace.

**NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**
October 14, 15, 16.

**MARRIAGES**

“Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy mid servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord! Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace...”

—BAHÁ’U’LLÁH

Milwaukee, Wis.—Miss Virginia Lee to Mr. Andrew Richardson on Sept. 2, 1955.

Los Angeles, Calif.—Mrs. Margaret Foster Austin to Mr. Frederick Dettling on August 27, 1955.

**IN MEMORIAM**

“Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the gift of everlasting life.”

—BAHÁ’U’LLÁH

Mrs. Nellie Shook
San Bernardino, Calif.
August 24, 1955

Mrs. Anita Morgan
Middletown, Ohio
August 23, 1955

**BAHÁ’I DIRECTORY CHANGES**

**California (south)**
West Hollywood: Mrs. Gertrude Tetreault, 7706 W. Norton

**Michigan**
Detroit: Mrs. Lois K. Nachman, 14320 Curtis, Detroit 35

**Wisconsin**
Waukesha: Mrs. Pauline Hettmansperger, 717 N. Moreland Blvd.

BAHÁ’I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHÁ’I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1955-56: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Charlotte Linfoot.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
THE GUARDIAN

"Her Historic Services Unforgettable"

The following cablegram was sent to the Bahá'ís of Helsinki, Finland, by the Guardian, after the passing of Elsa Vento:

"Grieve loss precious pioneer Elsa Vento. Her historic services unforgettable. Praying (for) progress (of her) soul (in the) Kingdom."

—SHOGIH

"Greatly Beloved (by) 'Abdu'l-Bahá"

The following cable was sent by the Guardian to the European Teaching Committee Office in Geneva and to the Spiritual Assembly of Paris after the passing of Miss Edith Sanderson, one of the group of early American Bahá'ís in Paris:

"Deeply grieved. Deplore loss of stalwart, courageous, tireless promoter of Faith, Edith Sanderson, greatly beloved by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Long record of historic services covering heroic, formative age of Faith imperishable, reward (in) Bahá'í Kingdom great, assured. Urge believers in centers (throughout) France hold memorial gathering, extol (her) exemplary spirit, emulate (her) noble example. Extent utmost (to effect) burial (in) Paris (in) execution (of) Bahá'í laws." —SHOQIH

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

RECOGNITION OF BAHA'I HOLY DAYS

The Spiritual Assembly of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has received a letter from the Superintendent of Public Schools dated July 15, 1955, excusing Bahá'í children from attendance on Bahá'í Holy Days.

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN

In the light of the strong emphasis laid by the Guardian on publicity in the United States, the NSA is pleased to report that the public relations campaign within its first few weeks has attained signal success.

The New York Times report of interview held with the Secretary General of UN was projected by our public relations counsel and carried to completion. In addition to its own large and influential circle of readers, The Times syndicates its stories to a number of other papers. This story placed on public record the action of UN representatives in meeting with the Iranian Minister and the latter's "assurances" that the Bahá'í matter would be attended to.

The second stage in this campaign was taken when Mr. Drew Pearson, columnist, wrote an editorial on "Religious Intolerance" in his "Washington Merry-Go-Round" feature which is used in some 400 papers. Next we learn that an editorial on "Pogrom In Persia?" was issued to 600 papers by U.S. Press Association, Washington, D.C.

The third stage is represented by the distribution to 2,000 papers of an illustrated story on the persecutions in mat form. With this may be associated the preparation of a broadside reprinting a wide variety of press stories on the persecutions, a very impressive evidence of the deep interest felt in many countries. One of these broadsides is being distributed by Bahá'í Press Service to its own list of local Bahá'í representatives with a covering letter.

At this date the last achievement is the publication in The New York Times of a letter written by Prof. Wilson of Brooklyn commenting on the conference between UN officers and the Iranian Government as reported in The Times.

Other matters are under current consideration and will be announced later. Meanwhile it is gratifying to inform the friends that the issue involved in the persecutions and the Bahá'í appeal to United Nations is being kept alive and the Faith has received widespread publicity. This campaign is generating fresh vigor for successful teaching work in local centers large and small.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

ATTEND YOUR STATE CONVENTION

December 4, 1955

Each registered Bahá'í in the United States has been supplied with information about the place, number of delegates to be elected, and all other pertinent information concerning the State Conventions. Please make every effort to attend and vote in person.

Last year more than forty percent of the enrolled believers failed to participate in any way in this important institution. This must not happen this year. The Guardian has emphasized the value of the State Conventions which are designed not only to elect delegates to the National Convention but also to "promote Bahá'í solidarity in every State... and, by bringing together the believers, enable them to function more efficiently and harmoniously, and promote the work of the Cause that lies ahead."

Participation in elections is a direct expression of our Bahá'í life. Let us have full attendance and one hundred percent voting this year!

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
**WORLD CRUSADE**

**PIONEER REACHES TIBET**

The Asia Teaching Committee of the United States reports that a Bahá’í pioneer has entered Tibet.

**INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BURMA**

**Bahá’í Publishing Trust**

Establishment of the Bahá’í Publishing Trust of India in New Delhi, as of November 1, 1955, fulfills another major objective of the Ten-Year Crusade for this area. The Publishing Trust replaces the former Bahá’í Publishing Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of India, Pakistan and Burma.

More Assemblies Incorporated

Incorporation of eight Spiritual Assemblies under its jurisdiction has recently been announced by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of India, Pakistan and Burma. These are: Gwalior, Seremban, Lucknow, Rampur in India; Jakarta, Indonesia; Kuching in Sarawak; Singapore; and Saigon in Indochina.

**Is there anyone with capital to invest in business abroad or an independent income plus a desire to pioneer? We need you badly on the West Coast of Africa. Please write immediately to the U.S. Africa Teaching Committee,**

Mrs. Sylvia Parmelee, Secy.,
4700 47th St. N.W.
Washington 16, D.C.

**New Translation**

Translation of the pamphlet “The Bahá’í Faith—A Faith for Unity” has recently been completed in Perm (Syrjane). This is the thirteenth completed translation of the twenty-six languages assigned to the National Spiritual Assemblies of India, Pakistan and Burma and of Australia and New Zealand, as goals of the Global Crusade. The report states: “We are doing our level best to find translators” for the remaining languages.

**ITALY - SWITZERLAND**

**Incorporation of Zürich**

A report from the National Spiritual Assembly of Italy and Switzerland states that the Local Assembly of Zürich, Switzerland, was incorporated on August 10, 1955, thus augmenting the growing number of local incorporations throughout the Bahá’í world.

**INVITATION TO AMERICAN INDIAN TEACHING CONFERENCE**

The American Indian Service Committee invites all Bahá’ís interested in learning more about the American Indian, his culture, and ways and means of approach, to attend the First American Indian Teaching Conference. The Conference will be held on Sunday, November 13, at 11 A.M., at the Gimlin Ranch at Camp Verde, Arizona. Following the morning consultation, a pot luck dinner will be held from 1 to 2:30 P.M. Dr. Robert Euler from the Department of Anthropology at the Arizona State College at Flagstaff, will speak and act as consultant during the afternoon session to be held from 2:30 to 4:30.

**NORTHERN COUNTRIES SUMMER SCHOOL AND CONFERENCE**

“Preparation for Bahá’í Service” was the theme of the Nordiske Bahá’í Summer School and Conference held in Sääksjärvi, Helsinki, Finland, July 23-31, 1955. Seven countries were represented by the twenty-nine Bahá’ís who assembled in the beautiful lake setting in the “smiling country of Finland.” These countries (with the number from each) were: Denmark (3), England (1), Finland (7), Germany (1), Norway (8)—including Lofoten Islands (5)—Sweden (6) and the United States (3).

(See photograph in October Bahá’í News, page 9).

At the Summer School, which was held during the first four days, the opening address was given by Dr. Adelbert Mühlschlegel, Hand of the Cause, introduced by the Summer School chairman, Mrs. Gerd Strand of Oslo. Subjects presented and discussed at the Summer School included the spiritual history of the Faith, the Divine Plan of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, the Administration (its authority and strength), the Covenant, and teaching. Deepening in spiritual understanding of the Administration was brilliantly presented by Mrs. Doris Corbin in her talk which she
PHOTOGRAPHS FOR "THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD"

As there seems to be some confusion concerning the sending of photographs to The Bahá'í World and to Bahá'í News, the Editorial Committee wishes to try to clarify the matter.

It is requested that separate glossy prints be sent each Editorial Committee, i.e., two for The Bahá'í World are to be sent c/o Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, P.O. Box 285, Waukegan, Illinois; one print for Bahá'í News to be sent to 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

The reason for this request is that The Bahá'í World and Bahá'í News are put through two entirely distinct and separate processes. One photograph therefore cannot be used for both. All material collected for The Bahá'í World (the international historical record) is submitted to the Guardian, once every two years, who himself makes selection at the end of that period (or of four years) of what is actually to be published in a given volume of The Bahá'í World. Bahá'í News, on the other hand, is, as its name implies, a news organ, and publishes material as soon as possible, while it is still newsworthy. Photographs that have been processed for Bahá'í News are not suitable afterward for submission to the Guardian.

Duplicate glossy prints are requested of photographs and duplicates of all material for The Bahá'í World as a safeguard in case of loss during shipment to and from Haifa. The duplicates are retained in the U.S.

Please be sure that all photographs are accompanied with a complete description as possible, including date and place.

Photos of Conferences. Please make arrangements ahead of time for suitable photographs to be taken of these historic milestones in the development of the Faith.

Photos of First Assemblies are requested, in goal as well as consolidation areas of the World Spiritual Crusade.

Complete list of material requested for The Bahá'í World was published in Bahá'í News of August, 1954, page 10.

Editorial Committee, The Bahá'í World
P.O. Box 285, Waukegan, Ill.
The Canadian Baha'i News for September reports that the design for the new International Civil Aviation stamp issued recently by the Canadian Post Office was the work of a St. Lambert Baha'i, Mr. Walter Lohse.

GERMANY-AUSTRIA

German Teaching Conference

About 30 to 35 friends followed the call to attend the Teaching Conference held in Esslingen-Krummenacker, Germany, August 18-20, 1955. As an introductory thought it was made clear that if we wished to meet our responsibilities towards the Baha'i teaching work according to our capacity, talents and possibilities, it is necessary to call to mind repeatedly the reason, the aim and the possibilities for this work, its methods, the value of exchanging thoughts and experiences and the necessity of knowing the subject-matter.

The Conference discussed the following: "The Covenant”; "Baha'i Administration”; "The Ten-Year Crusade,” and some thoughts on religion and socialism. Various means were brought forward by which the subjects could be approached and explained. Many elucidating and helpful answers were given to these and the following subjects: "The Theory of Teaching Work”; "Psychology”; "The Theory of Methods”; "The Theory of Subjects,” all of which are equally important in supporting the effective work of the Baha'i teacher, his character and personality. Therefore, it has been recommended to consider and study carefully all these phases which will contribute to the success of our great work.

A great deal of information was given in view of our future teaching tasks of the Ten-Year Plan in the course of two lectures on the “Origin of Eastern Europe and the Eastern Churches.”

The lively participation in the discussions as well as the exchange of thoughts were most encouraging. The value of this Teaching Conference may add to the success of our teaching efforts because we learned to see many teaching phases in a new light and were stimulated by the numerous and helpful instructions for practical and spiritual work.

A.W.

Report of the Summer School Held in Esslingen-Krummenacker, Germany

The Esslingen Baha'i Summer School took place during the last week in August in the beautifully situated little Baha'i-House with its large assembly-room. We had not had such a good attendance since the war. For the opening session alone we had about 120 visitors.

A number of heavenly days followed, with beaming sunshine, excellent and instructive lectures, enthusiastic discussions and many hours for happy recreation.

The main theme of the summer school was “Divine World Civilization.” The Baha'i Faith was presented in a comprehensive manner, emphasizing on the one hand its fundamental new ideas, and on the other that which it has in common with the other great revealed religions.

... Much interest was given to the discourse on the cycle of human evolution, beginning with Adam and leading up to our present time, a cycle which ripened man to a consciousness of taking responsibilities upon himself, strengthening his individuality and personal character; that a new cycle begins with Baha-'ullah and with it a new consciousness, the responsibility of the part for the whole, this new teaching which creates that all-embracing love for mankind and the sacrifice of the self. Its fundamental thought is that of world unity.

The central theme of all discussions was the specially assigned tasks of the Ten-Year Crusade. According to the messages from our beloved Guardian, every individual Baha'i carries to-day as his main responsibility the duty to spread the Cause of God. Much depends on the resolution and the degree to which each one compiles in word and deed with the precepts of our teachings and the emergency of the tasks at issue.

Some of the subjects of the summer school were: "From Fear to Reverence”; "The Evolution of Man through Religion”; "You Can Serve Yourself Only by Serving Mankind.” These topics developed the various phases of the new, spiritual and essential principles which are to be
observed and promulgated by those who wish to contribute to the service of humanity.

A vivid interest was shown in the subject "Limitation of Wealth and Poverty," outlining the economic plan of Baha'u'llah and emphasizing the necessity for penetration of the spiritual element into the various phases of economic life, basing human relationship on absolute justice and integrity and the guiding principles of a Divine Plan.

It is certain that the marvelous spirit of this summer school will contribute to the success of our great tasks. We all left with a rich spiritual and unforgettable experience.

—HANS RANDEL

Cosmic Symphony

By Doris Corbin

Many years ago I read a book God and Music, by John Harrington Edwards, and the following quotations have been with me ever since:

"Everything that the sun shines upon sings or can be heard to sing. Gases, powders, woolen stuffs, and nonconductors of sound give forth notes of different pitches, when played upon by certain beams of light. The very echoes tossed to and fro among the mountains in melodious tones testify the framework of the earth is a mighty instrument ... Shells by every sea murmur continuously a musical secret ... Everything in nature seems keyed to take its part in the cosmic symphony ... The nature of God is harmony. He has set the laws and forces of the universe in an exquisite order ... All of nature sings in praise of its Creator ... and God rejoices in its audible beauty as well as in its visible beauty."

God has given us the background, the setting, for the spiritual evolution of man, His highest and most wonderful handiwork. The sublime harmony in all its fullness is known by the Creator — He started the first vibrating note. And God created the pure channels for His Melody that all creation might become truly a part of this great cosmic symphony. His purest channel, His most perfect Instrument is the Manifestation— who writes the music, the laws of harmony for us. He sounds the central theme that shall awaken, quicken and unite mankind. In every Dispensation mankind is given a new arrangement, a more complicated score, because new instruments have been created and perfected.

The members of the universal orchestra comprise every living soul, and each soul has his special part to play. In his egotism he may think he has a solo part, but the music revealed is part music—written in relation to the whole symphony. No two instruments are alike; unity in diversity is endless.

In this wonderful age in which we are living there was even the soul-stirring, introductory overture of the

(Continued on page 9)
At left above: Registration on opening day of Conference. The total attendance was approximately seventy including nine children. At right two delegates from Tokyo holding a scroll containing message from Conference delegates to Y. Rafaat who had returned to Iran after pioneering over two years in Japan. In background are four members of a discussion panel from Korea, Formosa, Guam and Hong Kong with one of official interpreters of Japan at extreme left.

In photo below Takeyasu Hasegawa-san of Kyushu Island talks with Saichiro Fugita-san about his experiences serving in ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s household in Haifa for many years. Fugita-san (right) spoke to the entire Conference of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s promises for Japan.

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Historic Conference in Japan

The first Asia Regional Teaching Conference in Japan, September 23-25, is now history. Only the future can evaluate its true significance in the development of the Baha’i Faith in that part of the world. While still saddened by the recent efforts to stem the progress of the Cause in the land of its birth, we remembered the complete failure of all the oppressions of the Faith in the past, and felt convinced that this very meeting of followers of Bahá’u’lláh from nine countries in the Far East could be heralded as another victory in God’s irresistible plan for the redemption of the human race.

The conference was held in one of the most beautiful spots in all Japan, at Nikko, in the Palace Hotel, formerly the summer home of the Emperor of Japan. A five-minute walk from the entrance is the famous Toshogu Shrine and its surrounding temples. Thousands upon thousands visiting these sacred edifices during that Japanese holiday week-end could not help but notice the poster on the gate announcing the “Baha’i World Faith—Asia Teaching Conference.”

Called by the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, and sponsored jointly by the Asia Teaching Committee and the local Spiritual Assembly of Tokyo, the conference had a twofold purpose: first, to expedite teaching plans that would bring into existence a sufficient number of new assemblies by April 21, 1956, to ensure the election of the National Spiritual Assembly of Japan in 1957; and, second, to give added impetus to the spread of the Faith in all the nearby countries.

Unfortunately, political conditions prevented the attendance of nine of the new Bahá’ís elected as delegates from Formosa and Korea, but both countries were represented by Bahá’í settlers. Present also were delegates from Macao, Hong Kong, Guam, the Caroline Islands, all parts of Japan, and visitors from Iran and the United States — about seventy in all, including nine children.

Hand of Cause Highlights Conference

There are no words in any of the languages spoken by the delegates — Japanese, Chinese, Persian, and Eng-
A group of Bahá'ís (in photo at left) representing Iran, Macao, Hong Kong, Formosa, the United States, and from the Japanese cities of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka listening to Dhikru’lláh Khádem, Hand of the Cause, speak on the Guardianship. At right are Dhikru’lláh Khádem, Mrs. Khádem, Miss Leocie Webster, member of the Conference Program Committee, and Miss Charlotte Linfoot, secretary of the Asia Teaching Committee who acted as Conference Chairman. Below, a panel discussion, one of four held during the conference.

lish — that can describe the spirit of this gathering. The Guardian had attached such importance to it that he had authorized the attendance of Mr. Dhikru’lláh Khádem, beloved Hand of the Cause of God in Asia, whose words lifted us again and again to great spiritual heights.

Here is how one of the delegates attempted to describe it:

"The first day of the conference started on a high note, and I wondered that night if it could build up beyond that. Each day did, and the closing note by Mr. Khádem, beloved Hand of the Cause, was the very mountain top. Tears were streaming down our faces — we were too moved, too happy, to bear it.

"There was only love and unity at this conference, and how Mr. Khádem deepened us in the Covenant, and our understanding of the Guardianship and our love for the Guardian — and our determination to achieve the goals of the Crusade!"

Although the meeting was planned for September 23, 24 and 25, the conference actually began in Tokyo several days earlier with the arrival of the first delegates. Most of the American pioneers in that area came early to visit with each other and to enjoy the shops and the modern conveniences so lacking in their posts, but as the number grew, interest in all the things of the world gave way to the mounting joy and enthusiasm of simply being with other Bahá'ís. An especial bounty was the early arrival also of Mr. and Mrs. Khádem and Miss Talia Haddah, whose loving charm made a deep impression on everyone, Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís alike.

A pre-conference public meeting in the Tokyo Hájíratu’l-Quds drew such a large attendance that there was scarcely one square inch of the entrance way that was not covered by footwear that was removed in Japanese fashion before entering the main room. Here everyone had a foretaste of the spirit that was to prevail in Nikko for the next few days.

The following day almost an entire railway coach was filled with the Bahá'ís who traveled by rail from Tokyo to Nikko through what is perhaps the neatest and most picturesque countryside in the entire world. At the station in Nikko the friends were greeted by large placards bearing the words: "Alláh’u’Abhá — Bahá'í World Faith — Asia Teaching Conference," and directions for reaching the hotel.

On hand to receive the delegates was the housing committee, one of eight very efficient committees appointed by the Tokyo Spiritual Assembly to make all conference arrangements. Built to accommodate fifty guests, the
delicate shoji walls of this former royal residence somehow stretched to provide for more than sixty-five in a charming combination of Japanese and western style.

Conference Conducted in Four Languages

Beginning each morning with devotions in Japanese, Chinese, Persian and English, the conference program ran from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with a two-hour intermission for luncheon, and a two-hour interval between six and the evening session. Most of these times were devoted to meetings of various groups.

Chairman of the conference was Charlotte Linfoot, representing the Asia Teaching Committee, assisted by Mr. Hiroyasu Takano, acting chairman of the Tokyo Spiritual Assembly. Each of the delegates brought greetings from their localities, and there were messages also from the Hands of the Cause in Asia, the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, the Asia Teaching Committee of Australia and New Zealand, and many individual Baha'is.

The keynote address was given by Mr. Khadem, and from that moment on each one felt a deep longing to be a living martyr in the pursuit of our sacred tasks and the aims of the World Crusade.

The other addresses, all translated into Japanese by one or another of a panel of excellent interpreters, were: "God's Everlasting Covenant," by Mrs. Mamie Seto; "The Will and Testament, and the Significance of the Guardianship," by Mr. Khadem; "The Divine Plan," by Mr. Carl A. Scherer; and "The World Crusade, its Goals and Achievements," by Charlotte Linfoot.

Each address was followed by a panel discussion on such questions as "The Fundamental Verities of the Faith," "Who to Teach, When to Teach, and Where to Teach," and "Concrete Plans for Action Now."

One of the highlights of the closing session was Takano-san's stirring report of his pilgrimage to Haifa during which the Guardian unfolded to him his goals and hopes for the Faith in Japan.

Throughout the entire conference consultation was lively and general, both in Japanese and English, and not one delegate was absent at any time from any session.

An hour's leisure was provided one noon during which many of the friends visited the Toshogu Shrine, and Saturday evening was devoted to viewing slides of the Baha'i House of Worship and the Shrines and Gardens on Mt. Carmel, an event to which non-Baha'i visitors and the hotel staff were invited.

Promises of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the Guardian

Special mention must be made of the presence and participation of two of the very early pioneers in Japan, Miss Agnes Alexander and Mr. Saichiro Fujita, who spoke often of the high hopes of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and of the Guardian for Japan, and of their conviction that this historic conference would hasten the fulfillment of these hopes and goals. Fujita-san told us that 'Abdu'l-Bahá said that when the Faith was taken to the religious leaders of Japan, then it would spread rapidly. Little did we know then or when the Guardian's cablegram arrived telling us that he was praying for "unprecedented victories" that we were to experience one such victory before we left Tokyo two days later.

During the conference a letter arrived asking the Baha'is to send representatives with Mr. Khadem to the first meeting of the newly formed World Council on Inter-Faith Cooperation in Tokyo. Here there were assembled thirty outstanding leaders.
of Japan, professors from colleges, and representatives of such organizations as the Council for Religious Research, the Shinto Shrine Association, the Women’s League for Peace and Freedom, and others concerned with the part that religion can play in the establishment of peace in the world.

After a forceful address by Mr. Khádem, followed by brief talks by Miss Linfoot and William Maxwell, four of the members of the council paid brilliant tribute to the Faith and asked where they could learn more about it. The Tokyo Bahá’ís who were present immediately arranged a meeting for the following Saturday evening when they would again have opportunity to hear Mr. Khádem and to meet the local believers. What greater proof than this could be offered that the Guardian’s prayers were already being answered by Bahá’u’lláh!

Tokyo Hadra Dedicated

This report cannot be closed without reference to the formal dedication of the Hazíratu’l-Quds in Tokyo the evening following the conference. All those who attended the conference were present together with many who were unable to go to Nikko. Again there was scarcely room for one more person on the floor—for all sat on the floor in Japanese fashion. There were brief speeches by Mr. Khádem, Mr. Noureddin Montazi, and Miss Linfoot.

Perhaps the most impressive moment was that when Fujita-san asked permission to anoint each one with a ring of roses which had been placed in his hands by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, and which he had saved all these years for just such an occasion.

Mr. Philip Marangella lovingly presented a piece of fringe from a rug once used in the room of Bahá’u’lláh, and Mrs. Amelia Collins sent a piece of candle which had burned in the Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh. These added to the magnificent gift of a piece of land by Mr. Montazi for the endowment of the future National Spiritual Assembly of Japan, a beautifully framed photograph of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá presented to Mr. Hishmatu’lláh Azizi on behalf of his mother, and a handsome kakemono painted by a Bahá’í artist in Formosa, and various other gifts were all lasting evidence that the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh is firmly planted in the beautiful land of Japan.

The leave-taking was sad and final at this gathering. The reserved Japanese, the affectionate Persians, the warm and loving Chinese and the happy Americans embraced each other and shed their tears freely, promising, as all Bahá’ís do, that they would meet again soon, or certainly in Baghdad, and that in the meantime they would work and pray unceasingly for the complete achievement of the World Crusade and the high hopes so frequently expressed during this historic week in Nikko and Tokyo.

—CHARLOTTE LINFOOT

COSMIC SYMPHONY

(Continued from page 5)

Báb to herald the Master Musician long awaited.

Bahá’u’lláh has called all mankind to arise to His theme of unity. We read:

“Arise, and proclaim unto the entire creation the tidings that He Who is the All-Merciful hath directed His steps towards the Ridván and entered it. Guide, then, the people unto the garden of delight which God hath made the Throne of His Paradise. . . . Within this Paradise, and from the heights of its loftiest chambers, the Maids of Heaven have cried out and shouted: ‘Rejoice, ye dwellers of the realms above, for the fingers of Him Who is the Ancient of Days are ringing, in the name of the All-Glorious, the Most Great Bell, in the midmost heart of the heavens. The hands of bounty have borne round the cups of everlasting life. Approach, and quaff your fill. . . .’ ” (Gl. 31-32)

Bahá’u’lláh suffered untold agony. He cried: “Where are the listening ears?” He heard in answer only the hootings of the owl, the howl of dogs on every side. He cried: “Thou seest Me forbidden to speak forth—then from whence will spring Thy Melodies, O Songster of the World.” Then slowly the responsive, attuned souls replied “Here am I. Here am I!” and they were given new ears with which to hear—and they, too, were swept into the vibrating rhythm of God’s eternal Melody.

The Most Great Bell has sounded the theme for 500,000 years, and the Divine Composer for this Dispensation wrote down the music, ceaselessly, as it was revealed to Him. We read in God Passes By (p. 138) that He dictated pages and pages and then bade His secretary throw the notes into the river—the time was not ready, the instruments have not been created or perfected; mankind must wait a little longer.

Bahá’u’lláh has revealed an “exquisite Order.” He has written His Covenant so that the theme will never be mutilated or lost. He has handed over the baton to the Center of His Covenant—toward whom we are to look for guidance—the Perfect Maestro, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.

And ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, after long and
MONTHLY REPORT ON WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

Third Year National Bahá'í Fund 1955-1956

As of October 15, 1955

Where we are

$157,500

Where we should be

$253,000

Total Budget for Entire Year .................................. $550,000.00
(Average Monthly Requirements ............... $46,000.00)

Monthly receipts to date:

May 1-15 ... $15,500
May 15 - June 15 ... $22,500
June 15 - July 15 ... $23,500
July 15 - Aug. 15 ... $19,500
Aug. 15 - Sept. 15 ... $37,000
Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 ... $39,500
Total ............. $157,500

Accumulated deficit as of Oct. 15, 1955 .................. $95,500

—National Spiritual Assembly

strenuous labors, wrote to the believers of East and West:

"Oh, how I long to see the believers shouldering the responsibilities of the Cause! Now is the time to proclaim the Kingdom of Abhá! Now is the hour of union and concord! Now is the day of the spiritual harmony of the friends of God! . . . I am straining my ears toward the East and toward the West, toward the North and toward the South, that haply I may hear the songs of love and fellowship raised in the meetings of the believers. My days are numbered, and save this there remains none other joy for me . . . ."

He, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, in His Covenant, has passed on the baton to the first Guardian of the Cause—the new maestro. He alone, the Guardian, is completely at one with the Composer—he alone understands the complete score, he alone can foretell the majesty, the power, the scope—he alone can truly understand Bahá'u'lláh's words:

"The world's equilibrium hath been upset through the vibrating influence of this most great, this new World Order. Mankind's ordered life hath been revolutionized through the agency of this unique, this wondrous System—the like of which mortal eyes have never witnessed." (Gl. 136)

The Guardian alone knows how to place the various instruments for the most harmonious and effective results. The System is perfect—we are imperfect. But we have many basic rules for practicing, individually and collectively:

1. Authority of the Covenant, which means absolute obedience to the divine Institutions of the Faith. 'Abdu'l-

Bahá said, "The first condition is firmness in the Covenant of God." (ASM 23)

We perfect ourselves through obedience—we are all trying to follow the music, but sometimes we snap a string, a draft comes through the window and blows the music to the floor, the music stand collapses, or we get so unhappy and discouraged we cannot see the notes because of our tears, the discordant sounds from the outside break through—but if we center our attention on the Maestro with the baton, if we can only keep in the rhythm, in the beat of the music, we will find our places again.

2. The Law of love, fellowship and harmony. 'Abdu'l-Bahá said: "The second condition: Fellowship and love amongst the believers."

3. The Law of prayer and dedication (the tuning process). "They must when coming together turn their faces to the Kingdom on High and ask aid from the Realm of Glory." (Abdu'l-Bahá, in B. Admin. 22)

4. The Law of consultation. "The heaven of divine wisdom is illumined and shining with two orbs, consultation and kindness." (Bahá'u'lláh, Tablet of Ibráhíma, BWF 178)

"... The keynote of the Cause of God is not dictatorial authority but humble fellowship, not arbitrary power, but the spirit of frank and loving consultation." (Shoghi Effendi, B. Admin. 63)

5. The Law of unity. "They must in every matter search out the truth and not insist upon their own opinion, for stubbornness and persistence in one's views will lead ultimately to discord and wrangling and the truth will remain hidden ... whatsoever thing is arranged in harmony and with love and purity of motive, its result is light . . . ." (Abdu'l-Bahá, in B. Admin. 22)

Whatever part we play, great or small, is glorious if it is in harmony with the whole. The Spiritual Assembly is a divine creation—the music is written for nine instruments, each contributing his special melody. The fullness of harmony requires nine; no matter how loudly five or six or eight can play, the result is not the same. We should go to our Assembly meeting with our instruments tuned, in joyous anticipation. When turned to God for guidance and inspiration, no one can foretell what new music will come forth. The Nineteen Day
Feast is also a divine creation—we should go to that spiritual gathering with our instruments tuned through prayer and dedication.

6. Practice of the qualities of justice, kindness, truthfulness, courtesy, humility, patience, trustworthiness in our relationship with each other and in the functioning of the Bahá'í institutions. For example, we must be ever ready to be of service. At a concert one evening, just at the beginning of the solo by the first violinist, I saw a string of his violin snap. The violinist next to him handed over his own violin so quickly there was scarcely a note missed. We never know when the wind of tests may blow our music, who will be the one to help us pull ourselves together. We could mention many more examples of the practice of these qualities of humility, kindness and patience required of us in learning to work together.

The maestro, our Guardian, is the nerve center. He is sensitive to every vibration in his world orchestra—he hears every sour note of a disunited Assembly, every lovely cadenza from a far-off island in the North. He, too, is listening. He writes:

"And now as I look into the future, I hope to see the friends at all times, in every land, and of every shade of thought and character, voluntarily and joyously rallying round their local and in particular their national centers of activity, upholding and promoting their interests with complete unanimity and contentment, with perfect understanding, genuine enthusiasm, and sustained vigor. This indeed is the one joy and yearning of my life, for it is the fountainhead from which all future blessings will flow, the broad foundation upon which the security of the Divine Edifice must ultimately rest." (B. Admin. 67)

You have all heard the talks on Bahá'í Administration. You have the music in front of you. We have so much work to do. We can only pray that when the curtain goes up for the Golden Jubilee in 1963 we will be at our places, individually qualified, collectively united and harmonious through practice. As the baton points to the various countries may there instantly ring out in deep swelling tones the collective call, "Here am I, here am I!"

(Talk given at the First Northern Countries Summer School, Helsinki, Finland, July 28, 1955.)

CORRECTION

In the picture of the Reunion Island Bahá'ís and their guests, published in the Bahá'í News for September (page 8), the young man standing at the left should have been stated to be Jalal Nakhiwajani, member of the African Auxiliary Board. Bahá'í News regrets its error in stating this was his brother, Ali Nakhiwajani. Both brothers are members of the African Auxiliary Board.

NATIONAL NEWS

BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS

The Catholic Digest, October, 1955, page 99, in a reference to the Chaldean town of Al Gosh states: "This town of 6,000 souls was entirely Catholic, with the exception of the governor, a charming and popular Bahá'í, and a family of three Jews charged with the care of the tomb of the prophet Nahum."

Valdez Breeze, a mimeographed news sheet of this town in Alaska, lists the Faith in its Church News for July 1, 1955. In its July 15 issue the Breeze gives a list of its Staff members and runs a column by Rex King entitled "Ramblin' Round With Rex King." This issue also runs a brief reference to Bahá'í History taken
from Anchorage News, begun in the issue of July-8 as a serial.

A reference on Mohamadan­
ism appears in An Historical Survey
by H. A. R. Gibb. "The new religion,
ow definitely outside the pale of Is­
lam, has had some success in Persia
and the United States and its head­
quartsm are in Haifa in Palestine."

The Zim Lines Bulletin for August­September 1955 features an article
on the Shrine of the Bab with a large
illustration of the Shrine. Another
Bab reference is a photo entitled
"Gate to the beautiful Bahá'í gar­
dens in Haifa, Israel."

The Chicago Sight-Seeing Co. has
been sending daily buses to the
Bahá'í Temple. Its circular carries a
photo of the Temple and lists it as
one of the sights in a North Shore
Suburban Tour requiring about three
hours.

SECOND SOUTHERN
CONFERENCE

The Second Bahá'í Southern Con­
ference was held August 27-30, 1955,
at Blue Ridge Assembly, North Caro-
olina, a YMCA Boy's Camp located a
few miles from Asheville. The Con­
ference, open to Bahá'í and their
friends, was organized by the Area
Teaching Committees of the Central
Atlantic and Southern Atlantic
States, assisted by the Area Teaching
Committee of the Tennessee Valley
States. The one hundred Bahá'í and
thirteen children attending the Con­
ference came from twelve of the thir­
ten States in the Areas, plus Ohio
and Illinois.

The Conference theme was "Mod­
er Living," and the deliberations
concerned individual confirmation
and local, national and international
living, and emphasized realization
and acceptance of the divine spirit
throughout the fabric of the Bahá'í
Administrative structure.

The highlight of the Conference
was the address given by Paul
Haney, Hand of the Cause, on the
Guardianship and the Institution of
the Hands of the Cause of God. Mr.
Haney also spoke feelingly of the per­
secutions in Persia.

During the Conference a sum of
$531.25 was donated, half of which
was to be given to the National Fund
and half earmarked for the Guard­
ian's Fund for the persecuted Bahá'ís
in Persia.

HOW TO APPROACH
YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Frequently requests reach the
Bahá'í National Library Service
Committee from Bahá'ís in widely
scattered places for information
about the best way to approach a
library in anticipation of donating
Bahá'í books. Here are some points
brought out in our consultation on
the subject.

Remember that the library is for
the use of the public, either special
or general, and that you yourself are
a part of that public. The library
and its resources are there to serve
you and be enjoyed. Approach the
librarian with an attitude of appreci­
ation for the service which he or
she is able and willing to offer. If
there is anything in the building, its
professional tools, its personal serv­
ice and its collection, which you
have found helpful or attractive,
make this known.

It is best, if you are a settler and
have time, not to make your first
contact one of trying to "put in" a
Bahá'í book. It is well to know the
collection first, both Bahá'í and non-
Bahá'í, and to show that you are an
active patron of the library serv­
ices. If we expect people to be in­
terested in our books, which are of a
special nature, we should, on our
part, also have an unprejudiced
and catholic interest in other good litera­
ture. If we find excellent books of a
similar trend to ours (such as World
Faith, by Ruth Cranston, or Allah,
the God of Muhammad and Their
Search for God by Fitch), we may
note them and commend their pres­
ence on the shelves.

Perhaps you are in town only for a
limited time and, very worthily,
wish to make a Bahá'í contact with
the library. In that case, by all
means do so, but preferably with a
spirit of cooperation rather than one
of propaganda.

In the larger cities, where there is
usually a Bahá'í Community al­
ready established, it is best to make
the contact with the library through
the librarian of the Spiritual Assem­
by. In places where there is no
Bahá'í Community, the contact
should be made by the pioneer or
settler or a local Bahá'í who knows
well the literature of the Faith and
is familiar with the library. One
should go directly to the librarian,
Although friendly relations should always be established with the staff also. Remember that the librarian is a public servant and does his or her work by means of public funds. He or she is not an independent person and must in some degree keep in mind the Library Board and the public. If the librarian seems reluctant to place a Bahá‘í book, a copy of Bahá‘u’lláh and the New Era or a general pamphlet like the yellow Temple pamphlet might be left to be browsed over. Librarians are busy people and you are only one of their many patrons. The Library Service Committee has copies of the list of famous libraries, printed in God Passes By, which have our books.

When you decide that “today is the day” in which to interview the librarian, go with some samples of attractive Bahá‘í books. Be serene, confident, and yourself assured of the value and dignity of our literature.

Books donated do not always have to be Bahá‘í books. Such titles as the three mentioned above or other fine books reflecting the Bahá‘í attitude may be given at times, but of course our prime purpose is to get Bahá‘í literature before the public. Sometimes when a Bahá‘í passes on, a Community or a pioneer may wish to give the library a memorial book in his honor. This is a nice gesture from several points of view and may make a good and natural contact, especially if the Bahá‘í was a lover of books and a user of the library.

Occasionally a Bahá‘í donates a book to a library, goes, after what seems like a reasonable length of time, to the library and looks for the book card in the catalog and the book on the shelves, and finds neither. This may be due to a number of causes. Libraries are usually very busy places and the technical work sometimes lags behind the service to the public, especially if the library is a small one and the staff limited. So be patient. But if after quite a wait, still nothing appears, it is permissible to approach the librarian and, instead of asking why such and such a book is not on the shelves (it may be out—and then your highest hope would be fulfilled!) say that you know that this book has been donated to the library and you (or some other person) would like to read it. Then you will be advised if the book is in circulation or if it has been for some reason removed from the shelves, if it ever got there. The very fact that a book is requested will usually speed up a catalog department to get the book into circulation as soon as possible. And sometimes books are simply “lifted” from the shelves by a too-interested public. In this case, you will have an opportunity to give another one.

In one of our “fan” letters recently, we received the following interesting and practical report:

“Last spring, as a personal project, I made up a brief case similar to a salesman’s sample case, with pictures of interior, exterior of the Temple, cost, materials, also literature, which has proved to be a good approach for business and library people I have met. As it is so easy to see, I find they give me more time and act as if I were doing them the honor. . . . I work, but plan to cover as much as possible of the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana, visiting libraries, etc. As you see, I am trying to get a survey, get books in libraries, plus getting them checked out.”

This is really “traveling teacher” service!

Here in the middle west is another enthusiastic Bahá‘í, a young traveling salesman, who visits the libraries in every town or city he covers and finds out whether they have any Bahá‘í books. He keeps a record of territory covered and shares this with the National Library Service Committee, so that Assemblies, groups, and individual believers in the Area can assume the responsibility of contributing books to isolated communities where no Bahá‘ís are resident.

The Library Service Committee has outlined a project on an Area scale, which it hopes soon to share with the believers through Bahá‘í News.

Please address all communications to Miss Flora Emily Hottes, secretary, 406 West Iowa Street, Urbana, Illinois.

—NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE COMMITTEE
YOUTH TRAVELING TEACHERS

Firesides in Laramie

The Laramie Spiritual Assembly reports that after the Geyserville Bahá’í School three Arizona Bahá’í Youth visited Laramie. Two firesides were held, which were attended by guests of several different nationalities. Included were a Hindu from the Punjab, a Muslim from Pakistan, a Spanish girl, a local school teacher, and several students from Abilene Christian College in Texas. On the following Sunday three Youth from Colorado Springs arrived in Laramie. They, with two of the Arizona Youth and a Laramie Bahá’í, were special guests at a dinner given at the Wesley Foundation Methodist Youth Center. After the dinner color slides of Haifa were shown, and a talk on the Bahá’í Faith was given by Dr. Ed Polley, Colorado Springs Youth, to the thirty-five members of the Methodist group present. Many fine questions were asked and deep interest shown by most of those present. As this was the final meeting of the Summer School at the University, many asked if Bahá’í books could be found in the libraries of other cities.

Inter-Racial Panel Highlights All-Texas Gathering of Bahá’ís and Friends

Six years ago, an invitation was sent out by the Regional Teaching Committee to the Texas Bahá’ís inviting them to come to a picnic planned for them at Flintrock, the home of Miss Anna Reinke, located a few miles west of Austin. The gathering was a huge success, with Bahá’ís coming from the far corners of Texas, many of them traveling several hundred miles just to meet their fellow Bahá’ís, some for the first time.

This was the beginning of an annual event looked forward to with eagerness by both Bahá’ís and non-Bahá’ís—a time for feasting and fellowship in lovely natural surroundings.

Highlighting this year’s picnic gathering was a panel of four young Bahá’í speakers of different racial backgrounds who spoke to an audience of more than seventy persons—about half of whom were non-Bahá’ís. Raul Walls from San Antonio, of Spanish-American descent, spoke on Unity of Religion; Paul Pettit of Fort Worth, on the Unity of Mankind; David Luan, a Formosan student from Austin, on Unity in Economics, and Mr. M. W. Plummer, a young Negro attorney from Houston, on Unity in Diversity, all relating to their main topic, “The Bahá’í Pattern for World Unity.”

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

The Area Bulletin of the South Central States reports that a successful week-end Conference was held in Wichita, Kansas, in August at the Allis Hotel. The Saturday evening dinner, at which thirty-three were present, was followed by a stimulating public address by David Ruhe, M.D., on “World Religion for World Health.” Forty-four Bahá’ís and their friends attended the lecture. Sunday was devoted to the deliberations of the Conference, on the theme “Developing our Bahá’í Communities.” Key subjects were presented and discussed in four workshop groups.

The next conference in this area is planned for November 12-13 in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Beverly, Massachusetts Spiritual Assembly took charge of the Bahá’í booth at the Topsfield Fair, the Area Bulletin for the New England States reports. Teaching Conferences in this Area were held during September in East Providence, Rhode Island, in Brattleboro, Vermont, and in Ipswich, Massachusetts. The September bulletin of this Area carries an excellent statement on the Institution of the National Fund prepared by the National Treasurer, Mr. H. Borrah Kavelin.

The South Atlantic States Area Bulletin reports a Conference held October 9 in goal city Tampa, Florida. The Area Committee invited to give a brief resume on the Faith at a membership rally of the NAACP in Tampa. About twelve members of this organization later accepted an invitation to a Bahá’í fireside.

The Southwestern States Area Bulletin lists conferences scheduled for the month of October in Los Angeles; San Diego; San Francisco; Phoenix; Tucson; Reno; Salt Lake City; Stockton, California (a goal city now having achieved Assembly status); and Verde Valley, California.

A two day conference was held at Chautauqua, New York for the friends from Western Pennsylvania, Western New York, and the East Central States. A lively and interesting program based on the Ten Year Crusade was arranged and good publicity resulted from this endeavor, according to the Area Bulletin of the North Atlantic States. They also report an “exceedingly joyous meeting” in Albany on September 10 was held by the Bahá’ís of Eastern New York. The Bulletin lists the following communities which are planning United Nations Day meetings: Rochester, New York; Yonkers, New York (in conjunction with Mt. Vernon); Syracuse, New York; Ridgewood, New Jersey; Jersey City, New Jersey.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

The San Francisco Bahá’í News reports that a five-inch one-column news item on the Bahá’í appeal to the Sháh and Iranian government for protection of the Bahá’ís was printed on the church page of the San Francisco Examiner, August 13.

In observance of Proclamation Day, Flint, Michigan held a public meeting in a local home. News items concerning the event were printed in seven city and county newspapers and sixteen free radio announcements were made over seven radio stations in Flint and the nearby towns of Owosso and Bay City.

In Los Angeles The Bahá’í Journal reported plans for observing the tenth anniversary of the United Nations at the center on October 23 in order to “serve to identify the unifying forces of the Bahá’í World Faith with the nation-wide appeal by the United Nations for peace and understanding.”

EDITORIAL NOTE: In “The Bahá’í Faith, 1844-1932” the Guardian lists the “Reinforcement of ties binding the World Bahá’í Community to the United Nations” as a World Crusade objective in the Ten-Year Teaching Plan.

Bahá’í Books at Air Force Base

At the request of the librarian at Elmendorf Air Force Base the Anchorage, Alaska Spiritual Assembly has furnished the following Bahá’í books to the Base library: Hidden Words, Bahá’í World Faith, Prescription for Living, and Bahá’u’lláh and the New Era.
BAHA'I SERVICE FOR THE BLIND

The Committee reports the first request for Baha'i literature for the blind from Mexico, and the first transcription of Communion with God in Esperanto Braille.

Spanish Braille:

Single copies of Diseño Para La Sociedad Del Futuro, and Una Unidad Religiosa were sent to Puebla, Mexico. It is interesting to know that these pamphlets transcribed into Spanish Braille by a member of the Committee had been proofread by a non-Baha'i blind Mexican contact in Los Angeles.

Esperanto Braille:

Komunuo Kun Dio (Communion with God), recently translated from English edition into Esperanto by Miss Roan U. Orloff, has been transcribed into Esperanto Braille. Several hand-transcribed copies are ready for distribution.

The Committee will be glad to receive inquiries about literature for the Blind. Price list in English or in Braille will be sent on request. For printed list see Baha'i News, November, 1954, page 6.

Baha'i Service for the Blind
844 North Hayworth Avenue
Los Angeles 46, California

AUDIO-VISUAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

Color slides of the Baha'i House of Worship are now available, four slides for $1.00 in a small plastic container, through the Baha'i Audio-Visual Education Committee, to Local Assemblies and librarians for sale to the friends at a 20 per cent discount. They may also be obtained in photographic supply stores, without discount.

The Committee is expecting to make available in photo stores throughout the world a set of slides of the Shrine of the Bab and of scenes at Haifa and Bahji, through similar distribution arrangements made with Meston's Travels Inc.

Requests for information concerning the plan of distribution and orders should be sent, with your name and address to:

Audio-Visual Education Committee
51 Blauvelt Ave., Dumont, New Jersey.

PUBLICATIONS

The Story of Louis G. Gregory. By Elsie Austin. The story of God's guidance to a receptive soul, the first Negro Hand of the Cause of Baha'u'llah (first published as an insert in Baha'i News, February, 1953). Useful for inter-racial teaching work, and especially valuable in pioneering areas. Attractively printed on each side of 5 x 5" brown paper, with the picture of Louis Gregory. Five copies (minimum order). $ .50 Fifty copies $4.50

In Preparation

Children's Stories from "The Dawn-Breakers." By Zoe Meyer. Illustrated by Carl Scheffler. Dramatically written stories from The Dawn-Breakers for children up to about ten years of age that fill a vital need in our children's literature. Contains seven full-page beautifully executed drawings by Carl Scheffler that will delight both children and adults. This book is now in the process of manufacture and will be available approximately November 18. 90 pages, size 5" x 7". Price per copy, $2.00. All advance orders will be recorded and shipped as soon as the book is available.

A Child's Book of Prayers is also being prepared, publication date to be some time in late November. This will be a 64-page illustrated book, hardbound, with buttercup yellow cover, size 6 1/8 x 7 3/4. Tentative price per copy, $1.25.

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMS AT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The Baha'i House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Baha'is and guests. Choral selections are by the Baha'i House of Worship A Cappella Choir.

The programs for the month of October follow:

Order of Devotions—October 2, 1955

Noble have I created thee, yet thou hast abused thyself. Rest thee unto that for which thou wast created. Baha'u'llah

NEW TESTAMENT

Order of Devotions—October 9, 1955

In all dispensations the law of prayer hath constituted a fundamental element of the revelations of all the Prophets of God.

CHORAL SELECTION

Almighty God of Our Fathers—James Baha'i SACRED WRITINGS

Old Testament

Job 35:10; Psalms 30:14-15: 34:1-8: 100

New Testament


CHORAL SELECTION

Alleluia—Randall Thompson

 Qur'an

Sura 115:4-10: Sura 21:146-117: Sura 5

Baha'i SACRED WRITINGS

Hidden Words of Baha'u'llah (from the Arabic), No. 16, 41

Kilisht-I-Iqan (The Book of Certitude), p. 39

Gleanings, p. 294, 265, 265, 265, 255

Advent of Divine Justice, p. 70

Baha'i Prayers, p. 35

CHORAL SELECTION

From the Sweet-Scented Streams (Prayer of Baha'u'llah)—Charles Wolcott

Order of Devotions—October 16, 1955

All praise, O my God, be to Thee Who art the Source of all glory and majesty, of greatness and honor of sovereignty and dominion, of lightness and grace, of awe and power...

Order of Devotions—October 23, 1955

All praise, O my God, be to Thee Who art the Source of all glory and majesty, of greatness and honor of sovereignty and dominion, of lightness and grace, of awe and power...

Order of Devotions—October 30, 1955

All praise, O my God, be to Thee Who art the Source of all glory and majesty, of greatness and honor of sovereignty and dominion, of lightness and grace, of awe and power...

Kilisht-I-Iqan (The Book of Certitude), p. 39

Gleanings, p. 294, 265, 265, 265, 255

Advent of Divine Justice, p. 70

Baha'i Prayers, p. 35

CHORAL SELECTION

From the Sweet-Scented Streams (Prayer of Baha'u'llah)—Charles Wolcott

Order of Devotions—November 6, 1955

All praise, O my God, be to Thee Who art the Source of all glory and majesty, of greatness and honor of sovereignty and dominion, of lightness and grace, of awe and power...
HOLY DAYS
November 12--Birth of Baha’u’llah
November 26--Day of the Covenant
November 23--Ascension of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

FEASTS
November 4--Qudrat (Power)
November 23--Qawl (Speech)
December 12--Masá’il (Questions)

PROCLAMATION DAYS
November 12, Anniversary of Birth of Baha’u’llah--to proclaim the appearance of the Promised One of all religions as the hope of the world.

December 4, Baha’i State Conventions—to publicize delegate attendance and progress of the Ten-Year World Spiritual Crusade.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
November 24, 25, 26, 27

BAHA’I HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting hours
Weekdays and Saturdays: 10 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
Sundays: 10:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15 (No guided tours will be conducted during the program of worship.)

Holy days and Anniversaries celebrated at the Bahá’í House of Worship.
Birth of Baha’u’llah, November 12
Day of the Covenant, November 26

Holy Days and Anniversaries celebrated at the Bahá’í House of Worship are open to the public. The meeting begins at 8:00 P.M. of the day preceding the anniversary date.

IN MEMORIAM

“Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life.”

Baha’u’llah

Mr. W. Irving Braddock
Paso Robles, California
Mrs. Mabel Hyde Paine
Urbana, Illinois
Aug. 15, 1955

Mrs. Mable Vicary
Detroit, Michigan
Sept. 4, 1955

Mrs. Georgia Bledgett
Rosedale, California
Miss Caroline M. Riedle
Alhaden, California
Sept. 7, 1955

Miss Jane Ogilvie
Santa Ana, California
Miss Helen E. M. Kneale
Kent, Ohio
Sept. 16, 1955

Mr. Charles A. Welch
Kansas City, Missouri
Sept. 16, 1955

Mr. Louis H. Keller
Delmar, New York
Sept. 23, 1955

Mrs. Almeda Bacon
Lima, Ohio
Sept. 27, 1955

BAHA’I DIRECTORY CHANGES

Dist. of Columbia
Washington: Miss Bernice Bernardo, 1906 R St., N.W.

Michigan
Niles Township: Mrs. Louise W. Love, 53 Miller St., Niles.

Montana
Helena: Mr. Robert J. Gagnon, 911 E. 6th, Apt. 3.

Tennessee
Memphis: Miss Johanna Zimmermann, 245 South Watkins Ave.

South Dakota
Sioux Falls: Mrs. Vera D. Eschmann. Bahá’í Center, 210 S. Main Street.

BAHA’I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHA’I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1955-56: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Charlotte Linfoot.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
PASSING OF HAND OF CAUSE

On November 12 the NSA of Germany cabled as follows: "Grieved convey passing (of) Varqa, Hand (of the) Cause (on) Birthday (of) Bahá'u'lláh, burial (November) fifteenth (in) Stuttgart."

This message reported the great loss to the Bahá'í world of Mr. Váliyu'lláh Varqá, esteemed and beloved Hand of the Cause of Persia, whose services are so well known to Bahá'ís of East and West.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

APPOINTMENT OF HAND OF THE CAUSE

On November 15 the NSA of the United States received this cabled message from the revered Guardian: "Inform Hands (and) National Assemblies (that) Varqá's son, 'Ali Muḥammad (has been) appointed (to) succeed his father now gathered (into) the (concourse) on high (in the) Abáh Kingdom, as Trustee (of) Huquq (and) elevated (to) rank (of) Hand (of the) Cause," (signed) Shoghi.

To Mr. 'Ali Muḥammad Varqá the friends will direct their spiritual appreciation and prayerful good wishes for the success of his responsible two-fold mission in service to the Faith.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

RECOGNITION OF BAHÁ'Í HOLY DAYS

The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Madison, Wisconsin, reports that on October 17, 1955, the Board of Education for the Madison Public Schools recognized the Bahá'í Holy Days in relation to the absence of Bahá'í children from school on those days.

Life in the Kingdom

Membership In the Community

Beloved Friends:

Each year there are fewer American Bahá'ís who can testify from their own experience to the spiritual effect which 'Abdu'l-Bahá's presence produced upon the believers in 1912. Year by year the membership of the community changes as new applicants are enrolled. At any one time, the community includes Bahá'ís whose membership has lasted from a few days to forty or more years. Thus throughout the community there is necessarily a wide diversity in the inner understanding of what the Faith is and what membership means, for in its unfoldment the Bahá'í community emphasizes one aspect at one time and another aspect at another time. We meet believers who so emphasize the spiritual that they seem to regard the administrative order as an interference with the processes of the inner life, and on the other hand there are believers so engrossed in administrative affairs that they regard the spiritual life as a by-product, or idealistic background for the community program of meetings and activities.

Can we find a common understanding, acceptable to all, which reconciles these two contrasting types or points of view?

A Bahá'í who has been confirmed and not merely enrolled lives simultaneously in three worlds. He lives in the Kingdom, he lives in the Bahá'í community and he lives in the world of humanity.

Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation is a creation: He re-created the pure life of the Kingdom in wafting over mankind the breaths of the Holy Spirit. To be a Bahá'í is to be born into this realm of reality and be motivated by its state of faith and love. Its bounty is a sense of ecstasy which rises from mysterious depths and transmutes the conditions of life from the mean to the noble. It is from this realm that the believers can and must derive understanding of the laws and principles of the Administrative order, and from this understanding a willing obedience to the Laws and Ordinances of the New Age.

His Revelation also created a pure order of truth uniting the heart and mind with the Kingdom, with the cosmos and with human society. In this world man's destiny calls upon the soul to strive to attain order in society reflecting the order of the Universe. Therefore the Bahá'í does not remain quiescent in the ecstasy of the love of God but like a warrior he enters upon the field of struggle and sacrifice. The connection between the worlds of the Kingdom and of the Administrative order is that the former generates the vision and maintains the ardor of service while the latter represents the specific task to be achieved. The purpose of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh is to unite humanity in one Faith and one Order. Unity in one Faith is not a complete and enduring unity. There must be unity in one Order as well.

But though the loyal Bahá'í gives his best effort to the work of the community he does not depart from the Kingdom—he seeks to convey its spirit and its love to the community of believers. The laws and ordinances are blessings from God which he realizes, are divinely created in order to establish peace and justice upon earth. Contact and association with fellow Bahá'ís is his
opportunity to demonstrate the life of the Kingdom.

To be a Bahá'í means confirmation and rebirth, that a new heart and a new mind may be attained; and it then means enrollment as one's consecration to serve with the gifts of the spirit. Both realms are real, both essential, both must be experienced in becoming a Bahá'í. Some attain confirmation quickly, others win it by long and patient work and prayer. Fortunate the believer who has balance, living consciously in both the Kingdom and the Administrative order with a soul at peace, neither aloof nor self-absorbed on the one hand, nor immersed in petty detail on the other. The new World Order can only be established from the Kingdom. Bahá'ís who are confirming souls and strengthening the institutions are rendering the utmost service to mankind. No human activity can compare in value to the work of the Faith.

—National Spiritual Assembly

WORLD RELIGION DAY THEME ANNOUNCED

"Religious Liberty" will be the theme of the Seventh Annual World Religion Day observance on January 15, 1956, the National Spiritual Assembly has announced.

World Religion Day is now the most important of all Bahá'í public proclamation events, and all Bahá'í communities are urged to plan outstanding programs and publicity to further acquaint the public with the Bahá'í principle of the fundamental oneness of religion.

The National Spiritual Assembly has issued a special statement on the subject of "Religious Liberty," which will be made available to all communities for wide distribution to contacts (see announcement in Publications).

Bahá'í Press Service will mail a news release and a suggested advertisement to the Bahá'í press representatives to assist in local publicity.

With these materials, communities should be well prepared to carry out a strong public relations program for this event.

SAVING TIME AND EXPENSE
Observe Correct Addressing of Mail

The great number of requests and orders coming to the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, the Bahá'í News, and the National Administrative Headquarters for forwarding to the various committees or offices is placing

The Bahá'í World, Vol. XII
Preliminary Announcement

Volume XII of THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD embraces the period Ríḍván, 1950, to Ríḍván, 1954, and therefore includes such tremendous events as the Centenary of the Martyrdom of the Báb, the Centenary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh's Mission, the dedication of the House of Worship, the completion of the Shrine of the Báb, the Intercontinental Teaching Conferences, and the beginning of the World Crusade.

The publication date and price will be reported as soon as possible. Meanwhile, since this is news of such world-wide importance to the Bahá'ís, and a publishing enterprise of great magnitude, the believers are urged to place advance orders now, with deposit of $5.00, with the Bahá'í Publishing Trust. Not only will this cooperation expedite the flow of published works to the readers but also enable the Publishing Trust to make a more accurate estimate of the quantity required.

—National Spiritual Assembly
ROY WILHELM MEMORIAL

This memorial to Roy Cochran Wilhelm, erected by one of the friends on behalf of the Guardian, is located at an elevation of 150 feet on the side of Spreckled Mountain, five miles from North Lovell, Maine, which is about 130 miles north of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

The land area of the memorial is about a quarter of an acre, and lies in about the center of the property on which Mr. Wilhelm lived for the last twelve years of his life. Mr. Wilhelm discovered this spot while on a hunting trip in 1929 and was so impressed by the inspiring view of Keazar Lake and the surrounding mountains that on retirement from business some years later he built a beautiful log cabin 700 feet up the side of Spreckled Mountain, where he lived until his death in December, 1951.

ROBERT O. KEAZAR

PIONEER LETTERS

Africa

French Somaliland

The United States Africa Teaching Committee has given permission for publication of excerpts from a letter received from the pioneers in Djibouti, French Somaliland:

"On August 6, two other Bahá'ís and myself went by jeep to Hargeisa, British Somaliland. The object of the trip was to try to find a job for one of the believers from Egypt. I took three Bahá'í books with me and said to myself 'I shall make this a Bahá'í teaching trip.'

"Our program was to spend one day only in Hargeisha. As soon as we reached our destination, we met a young educated Somali. 'This is one of the three,' I promised myself, 'and the first to whom I shall deliver the message.' But, I did not know how to start the subject. We went together in search of a hotel. Wherever we went, we were told there was no accommodation. Finally, we got to a small place right at the other end of town. Here the answer was 'Yes, we can put you up.'

"An elderly gentleman with white hair and white skin met us. 'Are you Egyptians?' 'Yes.' I am from Haifa,' he said. Imagine my surprise, my happiness, and my uncontrollable urge to lead the conversation to the Faith. I asked, 'Did you visit the Bahá'í Holy Shrines?'

"The man's face lit up like a shining star. He shouted with happiness, 'Are you Bahá'ís? 'Yes!' With a voice trembling with emotion, the old man said, 'I knew 'Abdu'l-Bahá' and told us with excitement what he knew about the Master. Tears were flowing from my eyes. My Bahá'í friend and the young Somali were listening intently to the touching story. I asked the young Somali, 'Did you hear about the Bahá'í Faith?' 'No.' I gave him one of the books.

"I remained with the old man until 10 p.m. The name Bahá'í was familiar to him, but he knew nothing of the principles of the Faith. I gave him the second book to read.

"I remembered one of our new Bahá'ís, who had temporarily gone away on a business trip. I also knew he had written to his brother, urging him to investigate the truth. I inquired about the young man, found him, spoke to him, and gave him the third book.

"Some time ago we sent you the declaration card of a well-known, well-educated man. When he became a Bahá'í he began to teach the Faith and to declare openly that he was the first one of this territory to accept the new Prophet, Bahá'u'lláh. This increased the jealousy of the enemies of the Faith, and their anger against us. Ten days ago a group of hooligans attacked his home with stones, etc. Nevertheless, he is still teaching the Faith, and nothing can intimidate him.

"Our two children came home to spend the school holidays. One night they went to the cinema, and there a group of fanatics attacked them and threw stones on them. One was hit on the chest, the other was hit on the head and fainted. The police could not catch the culprits.'

Gambia

Mr. F. Roozbehyan, Bahá'í pioneer in Bathurst, Gambia, writes: 'I arrived by air in Bathurst, Gambia, on February 19, 1954, and since then have remained here. Up to six or seven months, however I tried, I only was able to confirm one Christian Syrian and was so fed up with illness and lack of success that I wrote a petition to our most beloved Guardian asking for his fervent prayers in the Holy Shrines for my success and
health. As soon as the petition reached Haifa my health improved and I was able to confirm one more Christian in the Hospital in the same ward where I was. There also I got an inspiration to try to collect some of the prophecies in the Qur'an regarding this Holy Faith, for the benefit of the Muslim population who have a majority here. As soon as I was out of the hospital I collected these prophecies and began to teach the Cause to an influential Muslim and in a short time he was convinced and confirmed. Then the mercies of the Most Merciful God began to pour on me and in a short time I was able to get a large number of the pure souls confirmed in this Holy Faith. and this was only due to the fervent prayers of our most beloved Guardian. During the Ridván of this year four Local Spiritual Assemblies were formed in four towns of Bathurst, Serekunda, Lamin and Brikama and a group was formed in the town of Bakau. Now there are several hundred Bahá'ís in Gambia and daily this number is increasing.”

Latin America

French Guiana

From Hart Friedland the following news has been received:

“Twice a week I visit the hospital where some of the leper patients are kept. I read to them as well as to the others. One of the staff doctors always drives me home after these visits, and occasionally I show him certain passages in the Bahá’í Writings which are of interest to him. He has given me permission to leave Bahá’í literature in his reception room for the patients to read. This type of cooperation is one of the blessings that Bahá’u’lláh is sending me in answer to your prayers. The number of readers of Bahá’í literature is increasing from week to week.”

Falkland Islands, South Atlantic

From John Leonard comes word:

“An interesting development in the progress of the teaching here is the number of people who are using the short healing prayer, or the beautiful one by the Master, beginning . . . ‘O God, refresh and gladden my spirit . . .’ One lady, who has been more or less an invalid attributes her recent improvement to the use of the Bahá’í healing prayer, which she uses morning and evening . . . I am doing substitute duty for one of the lighthouse keepers. It is a wonderful disciplinary experience for a Bahá’í. Just as he sees to the needs of the beacon, which will help guide those attempting to find their way through the stormy seas of the South Atlantic, so he becomes more aware of the need for constantly attending to the greater Light. In this job, you come to focus every energy on keeping the light going—keeping the light going—keeping the light going.”

Uruguay

Ed Belcher writes: “I just wrote to a Bahá’í saying how pioneering swells the heart with a love that could never be obtained any other way. I feel as though Bahá’u’lláh measures my steps and times me for making contacts. If I had waited until I was prepared for pioneering in a foreign land, I would never have gone anywhere; but taking Dr. Edris Rice-Wray’s suggestion, ‘to keep in motion,’ things happened and you can see that Bahá’u’lláh directs you to a certain place at a certain time for that contact. Just in motion for a walk, Bahá’u’lláh steers me into many wonderful experiences giving the Glad Tidings. Let all Bahá’ís try this. They will be amazed at the results, keeping in motion and looking for and making opportunities for teaching.”

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Pidgin English and Roviana are the latest languages into which Bahá’í pamphlets have been translated through the instrumentality of the Australia-New Zealand National Spiritual Assembly. The Roviana translation was done by one of the
new Solomon Islands Bahá'ís. The Pidgin English translation was done in Rabaul and is entitled “Olsamting Long Bilip Bahá’í.” This pamphlet is expected to have wide distribution throughout Melanesia.

AMERICAN INDIAN SERVICE

Progress in translation of the pamphlet “A New Day Comes” into a second Indian language, Navajo, is reported by the American Indian Service Committee. The translation is now in the process of being reviewed.

This Committee also reports that two American Indians have been recently welcomed into the ranks of the Faith, one a Cherokee and the other a Sioux.

CANADA

The New Territories Committee of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly reports that as of October 19, 1955, four of their goals are unfilled. These are Anticosti Island, Iceland, Keewatin, and Marquesas Islands. The following goals have only one resident Bahá'í: Greenland, Grand Manan Island, Newfoundland; and in Labrador, Magdalen Islands, St. Pierre and Miquelon Islands there are only two resident Bahá'ís. For these goals additional pioneers are needed. In Samoa Islands, Queen Charlotte Islands and Baranof Island there are five Bahá'ís resident, and on Cape Breton Island the four pioneers held their first public meeting in Sydney, in November, with Mrs. Laura Davis of Toronto as speaker.

CENTRAL AMERICA

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central America and the Antilles reports the acquisition of a Hazíratu'l-Quds for El Salvador in San Salvador, thus fulfilling another objective of the Global Crusade for this National Assembly.

El Salvador Hazíra Opened

For the opening of the new Hazíratu'l-Quds, on October 19, forty-five printed invitation cards had been sent out by the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í of San Salvador. Four talks were given at the meeting held during the opening: by Marjorie Stee who selected a number of quotations from the Writings to explain “What Is a Bahá’í?”; by Ofelia Montalvo, on the Bahá'í Faith in El Salvador; by Amanda Mena on the birth of the Faith, illustrating her talk with a beautiful poster picturing the unity of mankind; by Mr. William DeForge, member of the American Auxiliary Board, who spoke on world unity, emphasizing that Bahá'u'lláh brings the return of the Christ spirit; and by Margaret Mills on what the future holds. Mr. Marc Antonio Martinez of Nicaragua was chairman of the meeting. Bahá'ís and their friends worked together to make the occasion a joyous one. Twenty-eight people attended the celebration of the opening of the new Hazíra.

SOUTH AMERICA

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of South America reports progress in their tasks of the World Spiritual Crusade. The spirit of the pioneers in their goal territories reveals that “although life on an island or in any new territory can have its very lonesome moments, the bounty of being able to obey and serve the beloved Guardian in this Day is a priceless one.”

On Juan Fernandez the Bahá'í Community of ten Bahá'ís meets twice a week and youth groups of different ages have been formed.

In British Guyana and the Windward Islands, particularly, the Faith is becoming more and more widely known.

Maori Translation Printed

From Cook Islands comes the news that the first translation into Maori has been printed. This Bahá'í pamphlet is entitled “Te an Tume Mauata o Te Akarongo Bahá’í.”
About Pioneering

"ONE other thing I would like to say about pioneering: you teach constantly, which is one of the greatest blessings. It is as though we were doctors who are on call 24 hours a day. Bahá'íláh keeps us busy constantly. If you want to sincerely serve the Faith, and I'm sure you do, it will be a step you will never regret. You will get on your knees and thank God that you got on that plane or boat and traveled to one of these countries."

--From an American pioneer in Venezuela to a prospective pioneer in the U.S.A.

Letters From Pioneers

From Frances Benedict Stewart on an island off Chile:

"General unrest and many strikes in Chile have caused much turmoil, so we were without mail or even food supplies for over two months from the Continent! Food, other than fish and mutton and goat's meat, must all be sent from Chile. But neighbor shares with neighbor, and a lovely woman dentist from Bolivia insisted that I must have my meals with her and her husband (who is a refugee from Estonia). This revealed the fact that she is an expert in two of the most important Indian languages of all South America, and she is now translating some Bahá'í prayers into Guichü and Aymará, languages used by the Indians in Peru and Bolivia. She is also studying the Faith with me. So — the wonders of His Assistance and ever-present Guidance are limitless, and there is indeed, not enough paper on which to record it all!"

From Shirley Warde and Cora Oliver in British Honduras:

"One is reminded that 'God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform' as events in the lives of the people turn them to us for answers. A young boy of fifteen went out in a little dory with another, and the boat was blown out to sea where it collapsed. The boys were drowned. The grandparents, an uncle, and a niece came to us for solace and comfort. Life after death took on a new meaning as they read the Bahá'í teachings. Little by little, understanding filled their hearts, and they tried to comfort the parents of the boy and help the rest of the large family to understand. It has brought them very close to us."
GOALS IN LATIN AMERICA

Before Ridvan — 1956
Central America — 7 Pioneers
South America — 14 Pioneers

These are the minimum number of pioneers who must travel to countries in Latin America during the next few months to assist in the building of new Local Spiritual Assemblies by April 21, 1956.

These pioneers will be performing important tasks in the formation of four Regional National Spiritual Assemblies in Latin America — to be elected in April, 1957.

If you are interested in being one of the 21 pioneers to “push off” by April of 1956, please write for a pioneer application to:
Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin
Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee
73 College Road West
Princeton, New Jersey

ALASKA

With a cablegram from the Guardian calling for formation of the Alaska National Spiritual Assembly by Ridvan 1957, the teaching campaign of Alaska went into high gear. Goal cities for this year are Juneau and Ketchikan, with work among the Eskimos, another goal, being actively carried on in Pt. Barrow, where Frances Wells settled last summer. The new Hazira in Anchorage, dedicated August 6, fulfilled a major goal of the Alaska Bahá'í Community, now supported by three thriving Assemblies, Anchorage, Anchorage Recording District, and Fairbanks.

PRACTICAL POINTS

1. If you are interested in pioneering in Latin America, start to study Spanish immediately. It is possible to borrow Linguaphone courses from public libraries.

2. Consult with the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee about job opportunities, destination, and living conditions in Latin America. The Committee has compiled a library of facts and figures on every aspect of pioneering. Each member of the Committee wishes to assist you in pioneering to the particular goal that is right for you.

3. Please do not contact foreign consulates or authorities without first consulting with the Committee. Through consultation, you will be referred to the exact office or party that can assist you.
Ba'ali's who attended the first Asia Teaching Conference held in Nikko, Japan, September 23-25, 1955. Besides Japan, the following countries were represented: Caroline Islands, Formosa, Guam, Hong Kong, Korea, Macao, Iran, and the United States of America.

**Echoes From Nikko**

"Fervently praying unprecedented victories." With these words from the beloved Guardian's cablegram ringing in their hearts, the Baha'i pioneers and delegates went home from the Asia Teaching Conference in Nikko, Japan (see report in November Bahá'í News) with confidence that somehow, somewhere they would find ready souls waiting to help them achieve these promised victories.

The first was one in Nikko itself. Here one who had been studying the Faith for some time declared his acceptance and was enrolled as a believer within an hour after the close of the conference.

Before this historic gathering ended the newly formed World Council for Inter-Faith Cooperation invited Baha'i representatives to meet with about thirty outstanding educational and religious leaders in Tokyo.

Here the address of the beloved Hand of the Cause of God, Mr. Dikru'lláh Khádem, aroused such response that several of the group asked where they could learn more about these things of which he spoke. The immediate follow-up meeting arranged by the Tokyo Baha'is brought to the Hazíratu'l-Quds a number of these same people and several others, some of them arriving an hour before the time set for the meeting.

Mr. Khádem spoke again, this time going more deeply into such subjects as the nature of religion, its motivating influence on society, the nature and spiritual power of the Prophet, and progressive revelation.

One of those who attended both meetings is a leader of a religious group of 20,000 members. He became so deeply attracted that arrangements were made for him to spend two entire days with Mr. Khádem at the home of one of the Baha'is in Osaka where further discussion of the Teachings went on from early morning to late at night. The ultimate decision of this soul is in the Hands of God, but his response has reminded the Baha'is of Japan of the promise of 'Abdu'l-Baha referred to at the Nikko conference, that when the Teachings of Baha'u'lláh reach the religious leaders of Japan the Cause will spread like fire.

For three weeks following the conference Mr. Khádem and some of the other visiting Baha'is traveled to various cities throughout Japan always finding new souls ready and waiting for the Faith.

In Hiroshima, the city that has suffered so much at the hands of man, Mr. Khádem, Mr. N. Momtazi and Miss Agnes Alexander found, in a meeting with an English conversation club, a young man so enthusiastic that he, too, spent two whole
days with them, accepted the Faith completely, visited the Bahá'ís in Kobe a few days later, and returned to open a Bahá'í center in his home where a dozen or so friends from Kansai and some thirty Hiroshima students heard Mr. Khádem and inaugurated a program of weekly firesides. One of the believers writes: "Thus, the situation in Hiroshima has changed from difficult to very favorable in less than three weeks."

There were new contacts too, in Osaka, where Philip Marangella and the visiting Bahá'ís spoke before the English-speaking club of one of the leading newspapers of Japan.

These are but a few of the many illustrations of how the beloved Guardian's prayers for Japan are being fulfilled. One of the delegates who attended the conference expresses it this way: "We have been so busy since Nikko that we can't even remember what has happened, except that we know everything is different now." And another, a new Japanese believer, writing of her experiences in the three weeks following the conference, says: "When we received the beloved Guardian's conference cablegram mentioning 'unprecedented victories' I did not realize its full meaning then. Now, you know, everything got on fire."

In Nikko there is an enormous bell which was hand made in Korea many years ago. Each hour from six in the morning to nine at night, a little kimonos-clad Japanese mounts the stairs of the platform beneath the bell, and with all the strength he can muster, he pulls back and then releases a long and heavy pole which strikes the bell and tolls the time of day. In the studied interval between the strokes, the beautiful peal of the bell echoes and re-echoes through the surrounding groves of cryptomeria trees, and every hearing ear listens and counts the strokes. The last stroke follows the preceding one in quicker succession, indicating that it is the last and thus proclaims the hour of the day. During these days in Nikko we often compared the tolling of that beautiful bell to the progress of the World Crusade in Japan. The first stroke of this historic hour in that land was the announcement in Chicago in 1953 of the part that was to be played by the Japanese believers in the Ten-Year Plan. The subsequent acquisition of the national Káziratu'l-Quds in Tokyo, the incorporation of the Faith, the conference in Nikko, the gift of a piece of property for the national endowment— all may be likened to the successive peals of that bell in Nikko, each releasing a fresh spiritual impact upon the hearts and minds of those among the vast millions waiting to hear the Word, and each announcing the accomplishment of another stage toward the final and all-important moment in 1957 when the National Spiritual Assembly will have been established and Japan takes its place as one of the cornerstones of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh on which will rise the Universal House of Justice.

---Asia Teaching Committee
by Charlotte Linfoot, Secretary

NATIONAL NEWS

BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS

Fate Magazine for July, 1955, has an article on Reincarnation and Space-Time which refers to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's "arguments against reincarnation in 1907."

Valdez Breeze, mimeographed newspaper of Valdez, Alaska, already mentioned in this column, continues to publish a serial on Bahá'í World Faith, sponsored by the Anchorage Assembly.

A reference to the Faith is contained in Religion Without Magic, by Phillips Endicott Osgood, Beacon Press, 1954. "Handicapped by a tendency to numerology and the tradition of embodied mystical authority descending from the Báb to Bahá'u'lláh to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and now to Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian. The habits of oriental speech make the Bahá'í scriptures seem too purple for Western Consumption." The author evidently seeks a religion based on western rationalism.

The choir-leader of the First Baptist Church, Butte, Montana sang Charles Wolcott's musical rendering of "From the Sweet-Scented Streams," at a church service on July 10, 1955. The musical program was announced in the Montana Standard under "Church Services."
Bahá'ís from Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands attending the Benelux Regional Bahá'í Conference and Summer School in Aerdenhout, Holland, August 6-14, 1955.

A recent editorial in a Chicago paper, written about the visit of seven Russian journalists by permission of the State Department, mentions the fact that the Bahá'í Temple cannot be visited by these journalists because the area is legally forbidden to persons from their country.

A copy of Catholic Digest for October, 1955, contains an article "Catholics in Turbans." "This town of 6,000 souls was entirely Catholic, with the exception of the Governor, a charming and popular Bahá'í, and a family of three Jews charged with the care of the tomb of the prophet Nahum."

These feature articles on the Faith deserve special mention:

Hawaiian Life, the weekly magazine supplement issued by the Star-Bulletin, Honolulu, devoted an entire page on August 13 to an article entitled "What is a Bahá'í?" prepared from material provided by the Honolulu Assembly. It is therefore an interesting rewrite of material already approved. Consisting of questions and answers, the article presents fifteen questions and their Bahá'í answers, thus creating an interesting and excellent summary of the teachings for the general reader.

A few weeks later, in Beloit, Wisconsin, the Beloit Daily News for September 2 presented on its editorial page a three column feature "Bahá'í Temple in Wilmette Is Center of World Faith in the United States," illustrated by two large cuts of the House of Worship. This admirable article was written by a staff writer who had access to authoritative information. The result is a clear impression of the teachings exemplified by our Temple.

A week later, in the Wichita (Kansas) Beacon of September 11 a staff writer featured "Bahá'í Faith in Wichita" in a detailed article about the teachings, leading off from local Bahá'í history and illustrated by a three-column picture of the South Central States Bahá'í Teaching Conference held there that weekend.

Life Magazine for October 31 presents several pages of photographs of the effects of the recent storm in Connecticut. On page 43 we note a picture of Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh in her Stamford home with the caption "Wet pamphlets are dried out by Mrs. Rafi Y. Mottahedeh, an art importer, in her home near Stamford." In the photo can be seen copies of Star of the West.

A very attractive program providing three days of activities for the 22nd Annual Convention of the Service Finance Conference includes a visit to the Bahá'í Temple "one of the most unusual buildings in the world." A photo of the House of Worship has been reproduced in the program.

The Sunday Globe, Boston, October 2, carries an illustrated story by Barbara E. Hayden about Guy Murchie, author of the famous Song of the Sky. Entitled "To Write An Adventure Book He Ran A N.H. (New Hampshire) Camp," the article presents an interesting biographical sketch tracing the stages through which Mr. Murchie passed in becoming a Bahá'í.

Once more it is gratifying to find a Bahá'í reference in literature issued by the Israeli Tourist Bureau. The latest example is a large page-size illustration of the Bahá'í gardens overlooking the Bay of Haifa in a very attractive pamphlet entitled Israel. "The unforgettable panoramic view of Haifa Bay's dazzling sands, green-carpeted hills and foam-topped breakers, framed by the misty purple hills of Galilee—seen from the Bahá'í gardens, one of Haifa's many picturesque gardens and parks on the slopes of Mount Carmel." (Published by Israel Government Tourist Center, Jerusalem.)
Oxnard Floral Float Wins Civic Award

A novel teaching medium brought acclaim and reward to a group of California Bahá'ís this Fall. It was a flower-covered float that won first prize in competition.

The prize-winning float, covered with five thousand azaleas and zinnias, was surmounted by a sweeping arch reading “Bahá’í World Faith” in navy blue. In the center stood a replica of the Bahá’í House of Worship, made of button mums. A picket fence enclosed a garden whose flowers were children of all races, dressed in their native costumes, and above them were the words “We are the flowers of one Garden.”

The queen of the float, representing peace and love, tossed pink camellias tied with white satin ribbons into the crowd of 30,000 spectators along the 2½ mile route; on each ribbon, in gold letters, was a quotation from the principles of the Faith. This first-place award was for beauty, originality and principle, adjudged by the Women’s Service Clubs. The announcement, over public address systems and radio, stated “The Bahá’ís of Ventura County, Oxnard. Their theme, ‘World Peace through World Faith.’” Such was the achievement of seven Bahá’ís of Oxnard, California, with the cooperation of their fellow Bahá’ís of Santa Paula and Ventura, all working in a warm spirit of sacrifice, love and unity.

As a result of good contacts that had been established in the community over a period of time, local business organizations offered assistance and materials, loaned the truck to carry the float, and the necessary flowers to complete it. Besides promulgating the teachings of Bahá’u’lláh, this beautiful float represented the dynamic force of the Bahá’í Faith, for here were the Bahá’í principles of racial unity put to work in the creation of a work of art.

The Library Service Committee requests that all correspondence concerning the placing of books in libraries, and all other matters pertaining to their work, should be sent to the National Library Service Committee, and not to the secretary of the National Assembly, the National Office, or any other department. Much time can be saved and prompter replies assured by writing directly to the committee secretary, Miss Flora Emily Hottes, 406 West Iowa Street, Urbana, Illinois.

LOUHELEN WINTER SCHOOL

Winter Session at Louhelen Bahá’í School will begin on Monday, December 26, and will continue through Sunday, January 1. This year’s courses will include “The Art of Teaching” and “A Dynamic Study of the Ten-Year Crusade.” An added feature will present intimate glimpses of the founders of our Faith in “Stories That Will Live Forever.”

A public meeting will be sponsored by the Detroit Community on Sunday, January 1, providing an ideal way for those who cannot attend the entire session to share in the Bahá’í fellowship of Louhelen School, and to introduce their friends to others in the Bahá’í Community.

Reservations should be sent as early as possible, addressed to Registrar, Louhelen Bahá’í School, 3208 S. State Rd., Davison, Michigan. Rates for the session have been set at $4.00 per day.

Plans are now being made for next year’s Summer Session, which will mark the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Louhelen Bahá’í School. We are looking forward to seeing you then, and will welcome, in the meantime, any suggestions you may have as to courses and special events to make this Anniversary year a great success. Address your communications to the committee secretary, Miss Louhelen Eggleston, 24 N. Anderson, Pontiac, Michigan.

SUMMER SCHOOL FOLLOW-UP

Louhelen Bahá’í School Program Committee for the 1955 session re-
ports that more than 200 individuals and family groups were students at the school last summer. The names of all the Bahá'ís who attended have been sent to their respective local Spiritual Assemblies and the Area Teaching Committees with the thought that these individuals could be encouraged to become more actively involved in local and area teaching activities.

The bulletin of the Area Teaching Committee for the Northwestern States reports that an Area Conference was held in Eugene, Oregon, on Sunday, October 16, at the Women's City Club. The theme was "The World Crusade depends on Me!" Conference chairman was Marvin Newport of Eugene. Subjects for consultation at the Conference were "teaching on the home front" and "building a firm foundation." The latter topic included establishment of groups, bringing contacts to enrollment, and how to consult through Administrative channels, and was discussed by groups of the Area: Corvallis, Eugene, Pendleton and Astoria, Oregon; and Yakima and Everett, Washington. A public lecture was held in the evening, given by Mrs. Clair Kuhnle of Marysville, Washington, on "Man's Search for Assurance." Mr. Gordon Jackson of Eugene served as chairman of the meeting.

The Indianapolis Spiritual Assembly was host for an Area Teaching Conference held October 15-16 at the Indianapolis YWCA, the East Central States Area Teaching Committee reports. Subjects for consultation included the individual's obligation to teach, sustaining the interest of

**TEMPLE VISITORS**

The Temple Guides Committee reports that 86,387 persons visited the Bahá'i House of Worship between January 1 and September 30, 1955. This figure includes 7,750 tourists brought out by one of the sightseeing bus companies which made four trips to the Temple daily between June 1 and September 30. The number of visitors would probably have been much larger had it not been for 45 days of over-90 degree temperatures in the Chicago area during July and August when the tourist season is usually at its peak.

The regular guides have come from 28 communities in the vicinity of the Temple and five from a much greater distance who devoted from three days to two weeks to this service.

Approximately 715,000 persons have visited the Temple since it was open to the public in 1922.

**AREA NEWS BULLETINS**

The Southwestern Bahá'í Area Bulletin reports that nine Area Teaching Conferences have been held in that Area so far this year, with attendance ranging between 135 (Pasadena) to 10 (Reno). Reports of the Conferences received by the Area Teaching Committee indicate that the Workshop type of conference was preferred and was most fruitful of ideas and results. The Conferences were held in Camp Verde, Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Reno, Nevada; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Pasadena, San Diego, San Mateo and Stockton, California.

The first Cherokee Indian to become a Bahá'í is welcomed to the Faith in the Area Bulletin for the Central Atlantic States.

In this area a Montgomery County Youth symposium was held to discuss "How Can Youth Contribute to World Peace." The chairman of the symposium was an eight-year-old girl, and other members discussing the aspects of the topic were 13, 14 and 16 years old. Sixteen adults and 11 children attended the meeting. Other activities of the Montgomery County group include placing Bahá'í books in libraries of the County.

Successful inter-racial meetings have been reported by the Area Bulletin for the Gulf States, in New Orleans and Fort Worth. The former meeting was addressed by Dr. Samuel L. Gandy, Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Dillard University. Dr. Gandy was a Virginia State delegate in 1955 to the National Human Relations Conference held in New York City. The Fort Worth meeting received good local publicity and was well attended. It was followed up by a public meeting with guest speakers from Dallas, who supported their talk on "The Atom—Paradise or Doomsday" with two movie films.

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contacts, deepening and preparation for enrollment, and deepening after enrollment.

Extension Teaching

The Galveston (Goal City), Texas, group is already doing extension teaching work. One person attending their fireside comes from still another nearby community.

CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE IN DECATUR

The third Central States Conference for this year was held in the goal city of Decatur, Illinois at the Orlando Hotel on September 25. Decatur is a friendly city of about 66,000—clean and attractive. There are a college, good transportation and other attractions which make it a city well worth considering for Baha'is making plans to help establish an assembly in a goal city.

The Urbana Extension Teaching Committee assisted the Decatur Group in making arrangements for a well-ordered conference resulting in an attendance of over eighty.

Mrs. Anna Kunz, of Zurich, Switzerland, secretary of the Italo-Swiss National Assembly, expressed the thanks of the European friends for the prayers and support of the Baha'is in the United States which was a great source of help to them. Marguerite Sears spoke of the work in Africa. Some thoughts she voiced were: Are we demonstrating in our lives understanding of others, whether Baha'is or non-Baha'is? Do we show justice? In teaching we cannot give others more than we have ourselves—we should pray daily for understanding.

Winston Evans gave a talk on the subject “What About Me?” This subject has been handled by different people at each of the three conferences from three different and interesting angles. Charles Reimer, chairman of the Central States Area Teaching Committee, spoke on the Guardian’s message and made a plea for the fund to help the Iranian friends.

Others who contributed to the program were Hazel Skiles who told of her recent pilgrimage to Haifa, Vivian Fellows who discussed “Baha'i Obligations,” and Ellsworth Blackwell who spoke on “Unified Action.” The two latter speakers both mentioned the need to love and obey the Guardian in order to achieve victories for the Cause.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 with the feeling that this had been one of the best conferences of the year.

Edna Voigt, Secretary

BAHA'IS CELEBRATE UNITED NATIONS DAY

Twenty-eight communities have reported their meetings in observance of the Tenth Anniversary of United Nations Day.

The most significant fact gleaned from these reports is that many Baha'i groups took the lead in their communities in planning and presenting the local United Nations Day meeting.

Many groups gave prominence to the Baha'i proposals for revision of the United Nations Charter, both in talks at the meetings and in newspaper publicity.

Jersey City, N.J., mailed 200 invitations to civic and religious leaders, placed 50 posters in show windows and public places, distributed news stories to newspapers and radio stations. The meeting, at the Hotel Fairmount, attracted 60 people, half of whom were non-Baha'is. Speakers represented the Technical Assistance Board of the United Nations, and the Baha'i Faith.

Butte, Montana, achieved wide newspaper publicity before and after their meeting. The topic was “The United Nations and Baha'i Proposals...
for the United Nations Charter Revisions,” with a Bahá’í speaker. In addition, a Bahá’í representative was invited to speak at Congregation B’nai Israel on a UN program with a Jewish rabbi and a Protestant minister.

Flint, Mich., held a public meeting at the Federation of Women’s Clubs, with a Protestant minister as the speaker. Publicity included 10 free announcements on seven radio stations, and news items in seven newspapers in Flint and the surrounding area.

Anchorage, Alaska’s meeting featured a speaker from the Pacific Chapter of the American Association for the UN, and the UN film, “Workshop for Peace.” A question and answer period followed. Two local newspapers published articles on the meeting. The Anchorage Recording District Assembly placed announcements over three radio stations. The YMCA-USO Director, and the League of Women Voters asked to use the film for subsequent meetings.

Three of the largest radio stations in Chicago, WGN, WLS, and WMAQ, broadcast news of the Bahá’í UN Day program, titled “Bahá’u’lláh and the United Nations.” A representative of the American Association for the United Nations, and a Bahá’í were the featured speakers.

Elmhurst, Illinois, sponsored a banquet in the local junior high school, with an attendance of over 200 people. The Bahá’í community of Addison Township took part in this joint UN-Bahá’í observance.

Kansas City, Mo., Kalamazoo, Mich., and Portland, Ore., combined a Bahá’í talk and a UN film in their program. Dumont and Ridgewood, N.J., joined in presenting a non-Bahá’í speaker and a UN film.

New York City presented a panel discussion program at their Center.

New Haven, Conn., West Orange, N.J., Boston, Mass., Peoria, Ill., Enid, Okla., and Buffalo, N.Y., sponsored programs featuring a Bahá’í speaker.


Wilmette, Ill., joined with the Wilmette Committee for United Nations Day in a cooperative village-wide observance of the Tenth Anniversary celebration at a local school, featuring a UN film. Newark, N.J., cooperated with a number of civic organizations in presenting the ambassador from New Zealand. and a symphony concert.

Radio broadcasts were arranged for the proclamation of Bahá’í relationship with UN in Rogers, Arkansas.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Bahá’í Contact with Indians

At the Twelfth National Congress of American Indians in Spokane, Washington, Bahá’ís joined the Indians in their festivities. Robert Niss, Bahá’í pioneer in Lewiston, Idaho, who was present, writes that he was “asked to drum for the Indian dance and since I have had some experience at it, I worked right with the Indians.” The Chief of the Nez Perce Indians, who is a friend and neighbor of Mr. and Mrs. Niss, beat the drums for the ceremonial dance.

The Prescott, Arizona Evening Courier has published a weekly series of articles on the Bahá’í Faith written by Clara A. Edge, running from May through September.

Subjects have included Meditation, the Bahá’í belief in Jesus, a detailed biography of the Báb and Bahá’u’lláh and the principles of the Bahá’í Faith.

The Anchorage Recording District Assembly publicized their public meeting in observance of the Birthday of the Báb with announcements over radio stations KWN1, KBYR and KFQD, and in the local newspapers. The public meeting celebrating the Birthday of Bahá’u’lláh, sponsored jointly with the Anchorage Assembly, received similar wide publicity.

The Anniversary of the Birth of Bahá’u’lláh was observed by the San Francisco Community with a public meeting at their Center. Mrs. Joyce Dahl of Carmel was the guest speaker, and the program included musical selections and refreshments.

Bahá’ís of Anchorage, Alaska played a leading role at a Civil Rights Conference, Banquet and Mass Meeting on October 14-16, arranged for the visit of the Secretary Counsel, West Coast Region.
NAACP. A representative of the Faith served on the welcoming committee, the committee planning the Mass Meeting, and as one of the official hostesses. Zora Banks, Bahá'í of Fairbanks, was honored as President of the Fairbanks NAACP Branch, and was made Coordinator of all NAACP Branches in Alaska.

CHICAGO CENTER PRESENTS HUMAN RELATIONS FORUM

The "Human Relations Forum," a monthly panel discussion program featuring speakers from many fields, has been reported by the Public Relations Committee of the Chicago Bahá'í Assembly.

In October the topic was "World Peace Through Human Relations." Speakers included Mrs. David Miner, Executive Director of the Illinois Branch of the United World Federalists; Milton Rakove, of the Political Science Department of the University of Chicago; and Horace Holley.

The November topic was "A New Day for the American Indian." Participants included a Winnebago Indian from Macy, Nebraska; Benjamin Bearskin, a representative of the All Tribes American Indian Center of Chicago; and Mrs. Marion Oas, the Bahá'í representative to the Advisory Board of the Indian Center.

PUBLICATIONS

Bahá'í Calendar, 1956, illustrated with an unusually dramatic picture of the Archives Building in Haifa, Israel; another of Carl Scheffler's drawings, (which are considered in professional circles to be among the finest of scratchboard artwork), this one with background highlighted in blue. Feast Days and Holy Days depicted in blue and deep yellow, with all other pertinent information contained on back. 8½ x 11.

Each .................. $ .25
Ten copies .................. $2.00

Religious Liberty. A special statement issued by the National Spiritual Assembly, this is a timely message, following upon the wide publicity given to the persecution of the Iranian Bahá'ís. A sample of this item is enclosed in this issue of Bahá'í News and it is designed for wide distribution to contacts in relation to the celebration of World Religion Day. This item is referred to in the World Religion Day announcement on page 2.

Printed on single sheet, 8½ x 11.
30 copies (Minimum order) .................. $1.00
100 copies .................. 2.50
(Quantities under 30 copies will be charged at 5 cents each.)

The Bahá'í Faith (Japanese). This is a new translation; a brief, introductory pamphlet. Per copy .................. $ .15
'Abdu'lláh and the New Era (Polish). Per copy .................. $1.75
(The price of Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era in other languages varies considerably according to our original cost of importing this item.)

Available from
BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh. By Shoghi Effendi. Defines the relation of the Faith to the process of social evolution in this new age. In addition to the Introduction by Horace Holley, this edition contains a new Preface written by Horace Holley. 206 pp. and index. Newly designed cover, bound in cloth.

Per copy .................. $2.75

Bahá'í Prayers for Children. Selected from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, the Báb, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Illustrated with pen and ink drawings by Jean Hutchinson. 64 pp., hardbound, yellow cover, size 6½x7¼. Available approximately December 15.

Per copy .................. $1.25

Foreign Literature

A small stock of the following items has recently been acquired:

The Bahá'í House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, is dedicated to the Unity of God, the Unity of His Prophets, the Unity of Mankind. In this spirit, public worship is conducted each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium. Readers at these devotional programs include Bahá'ís and guests. Choral selections are by the Bahá'í House of Worship A Cappella Choir.

The readings for November are repetitions of former programs as follows:

November 6, those presented on July 3
November 13, those presented on June 19
November 20, those presented on May 29
November 27, those presented on June 26
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

FEASTS
- December 12—Masā'īl (Questions)
- December 31—Sharāf (Honor)
- January 19—Sulṭān (Sovereignty)

**PROCLAMATION DAY**
- December 4—to publicize delegate attendance at State Conventions and progress of the Ten-Year World Spiritual Crusade.

**STATE CONVENTIONS**
- December 4

**NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**
- December 30, 31, January 1, 2

**BAHÁ’Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP**

**Visiting hours**
- Weekdays and Saturdays: 1:00—4:00 P.M. (the Auditorium only will be open)
- Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M. (the entire building will be open)
- Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15. (No guided tours will be conducted during the program of worship.)

**BAHÁ’Í DIRECTORY CHANGES**

**ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES**
- **Alaska**
  - Anchorage: Mrs. Mable Amidon, 820 8th Ave.
- **California (Southern)**
  - El Monte: Mrs. Margaret Rice, 5453 N. Halifax, Temple City
- **District of Columbia**
  - Washington: Miss Bernice Bernardo, P. O. Box 950, Benjamin Franklin Sta.
- **Florida**
  - Miami: Mrs. Gladys Layman, 6605 N.W. 3rd Ave., zone 38
- **Maine**
  - Eliot: Mrs. Dorothy C. Cress, Eliot
- **Michigan**
  - Niles Twp.: Mrs. Louise W. Love, 53 Miller St., Niles

**Montana**
- Great Falls: Mrs. Amelia Heaton, 21 Alder Dr.
- Helena: Mr. Robert J. Gagnon, 8911 E. 6th, Apt. 3

**New Jersey**
- Dumont: Mrs. Pauline Sylvester, 60 Knickerbocker Rd., Apt. 24

**Pennsylvania**
- Philadelphia: Miss Sophia Rieger, 3458 Hurley St.

**Tennessee**
- Memphis: Miss Johanna Zimmermann, 245 South Watkins Ave.

**South Dakota**
- Sioux Falls: Mrs. Vera D. Eshihart, Bahá'í Center, 219 ½ Main St. So.

**Washington**
- Seattle: Mrs. Doris Dahl, 11728 35th St., N.E., zone 55

**MARriages**

Mrs. Rose Roberts
- New York, New York
  - October 3, 1955

Mr. Herbert H. Tarbell
- Buffalo, New York
  - October 18, 1955

**IN MEMORIAM**

"Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life."
- BAHÁ’ Í

"Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity, O Lord! Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace..."
- BAHÁ’ Í

**BAHÁ’Í NEWS**
- Published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.
- Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.
- **BAHÁ’Í NEWS** is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1955-56: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, Miss Charlotte Linfoot.
- **Editorial Office:** 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
- **Change of address** should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
THE GUARDIAN

"PROCLAIM THE FAITH"

The Guardian, through his secretary, sent this message to the Tennessee Valley States Area Teaching Committee in response to a letter of greeting from their Blue Ridge Conference in August:

"He is eagerly hoping the friends in the United States, and in other lands where freedom exists, will constantly bear in mind the restrictions and persecutions of their brothers and sisters in Persia, and will seize this opportunity to proclaim the Faith on every occasion that presents itself to them. If the Faith is held down in its progress in one land, God will cause it to advance more quickly in other countries, if the friends will just arise and make use of the great power that has been released through these severe persecutions."

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

THE BAHÁ'Í HOME

A Progress Report

The friends have been informed of the plan to construct, as one of the tasks of the World Crusade, a home for the aged in an accessory or dependency of the Bahá'í Temple. The first decision was to build the Bahá'í Home on the tract of land between the National Bahá'í Administrative Headquarters and the canal, opposite the Temple. This is the tract purchased by the Temple trustees from the Goldblatt family some years ago and known as Temple Annex No. 1.

Further consideration, in addition to difficulties arising from the local zoning ordinance which restricts this area to one family houses, impressed the National Assembly with the fact that this particular site has certain disadvantages, including distance from the shopping center, danger of crossing Sheridan Road with its heavy traffic, and exposure to high wind and severe storms from the lake.

Action has therefore been taken to acquire a very favorable site as location for the Bahá'í Home, at the southwest corner of Fourth Street and Greenleaf Avenue, one block from Linden Avenue and its shopping facilities. The electric line which ran on Greenleaf Avenue has been abandoned, creating a quiet and desirable avenue for our purpose. It is also zoned for commercial purposes on one of the parcels acquired and multi-family occupancy on the other.

Under the contract of purchase, title has passed to the trustees, but possession cannot be taken until August, 1956, providing time for preparation of building plans and specifications.

It might be added that the purchase could only be effected because of a special contribution pledged for use in connection with the Bahá'í Home.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

PUBLIC RELATIONS

CAMPAIGN PROGRESSES

The activities undertaken to remove the oppressive measures taken against the Bahá'ís by the civil authorities of Iran have continued at rapid pace under the direction of our public relations counsel.

A basic text in this campaign is the pamphlet Bahá'í Appeal for Religious Freedom in Iran, complimentary copies of which have been sent to the local Assemblies. In order to meet the wide demand from the friends, this pamphlet has been reprinted and copies may now be obtained at 25c each from Bahá'í Publishing Trust. Not only is it well for the friends, one and all, to learn exactly what has taken place up to and including the filing of the appeal with the Secretary General of United Nations, but the pamphlet has great possibilities for local teaching and public relations contacts.

In November Bahá'í News current activities were reported, and the following information brings the report up to December.

1. In order to keep the issue alive it is essential to make use of the most influential papers, and The Washington Post was selected to carry a letter written by Stanwood Cobb, published November 7. In this letter Mr. Cobb drew attention to the disabilities still suffered by our Iranian fellow believers.

2. At the request of The Washington Post, Reuters, the press service of London, was requested to issue a release from Tihrcin on the current status of the Bahá'í case. The Reuters dispatch is now appearing in American papers, and clippings have been received from The Christian Science Monitor, November 7, The Chicago Tribune, November 16, and Boston Sunday Globe, November 6.

3. The Guardian has approved the extension of the public relations campaign for the period of one year beginning December 1, 1955. Very shortly the public relations counsel will prepare and distribute material for the direct promotion of Bahá'í teachings.

4. A United States Senator has written the State Department inquiring what has been done to help the
Persian Bahá'ís. This project will be reported in detail later.

5. Professor H. Van R. Wilson of Brooklyn College had an excellent letter published in The New York Times on October 15, following up the Times interview with the Secretary General of United Nations.

6. A press conference is to be held at United Nations by the friendly director of one of the United Nations Commissions.

7. A letter written by the Bahá'í International Community to United Nations pointing out that the Bahá'í Center in Thrán has been taken over by the military authorities, apparently as army headquarters, has been transmitted to the Iranian government and copies referred to the Commission on Human Rights, with a summary to the Sub-Committee on Prevention and Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Any results following this action will be reported.

8. Religious News Service, which distributes material to the religious press, has accepted a story on the Bahá'í case for its subscribers.

9. Copies of materials prepared for this campaign, and reprints of the more important press stories, are constantly being shared with all National Spiritual Assemblies. From time to time clippings are received showing that the case is getting editorial attention in other countries.

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HAIFA MAYOR VISITS HOUSE OF WORSHIP

His Worship Mr. Abba Khoush, Mayor of Haifa, made his second visit to the Bahá'í Temple on December 6, where he was met by a large number of Bahá'ís including Mrs. Amelia Collins, Vice President of the International Bahá'í Council, and members of the National Spiritual Assembly.

In Foundation Hall the Mayor was presented to the believers by Horace Holley, and Mrs. Collins outlined the many ways in which the Mayor had cooperated with the Guardian in making possible the acquisition of lands needed for the World Center.

The Mayor himself with real feeling informed the believers of the respect and esteem in which he and the State of Israel hold the Bahá'í Faith.

Photographs of the occasion were taken for the Mayor's public relations representative for a press release and a professional photographer made several pictures for the National Assembly.

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U. S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LISTS WORLD RELIGION DAY

The 1956 edition of Special Days, Weeks and Months, issued by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, lists World Religion Day on January 15 in its compilation of special events. This listing was first made in the 1955 edition. References to World Religion Day appear on pages 4 and 44.

As this recognition enhances the importance of our local observances of World Religion Day, believers wishing copies may order from Domestic Distribution Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington 6, D. C., at the rate of 50c per copy on orders up to ten copies and 25c on orders from eleven to one hundred.

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NEWSLETTER FROM AFRICA

Musa Banani's Newsletter for November, sent to the African pioneers, has been submitted by the United States Africa Teaching Committee. The following passages are of special interest:

"An interesting news item is the decision to purchase a house in Sfax, Tunisia, to serve as the National Endowment for North-West Africa. At this writing the Tunis Spiritual Assembly is busy finalizing the purchase, which has already received the approval of our Beloved Guardian. From the description received, we know it is a small house of an area of 108 square meters, bounded by three roads and equipped with electricity.
“Thus, with the purchase of the Sfax endowment brought to completion, we will be having in Africa our two Endowments (Sfax and Johannesburg), our three Temple Sites (in Cairo, Kampala and Johannesburg) and our four Baziratu’l-Quds (in Cairo, Tunis, Kampala and Johannesburg).

“Another exciting activity in Africa in these days consists in the preparations being made for the four forthcoming Conventions. The Beloved Guardian has now fixed the number of delegates for each Regional National Area. The dates of the three Conventions I will have the privilege to attend have been fixed as follows by the relative National Assemblies: Johannesburg, April 21-22; Kampala, April 24-25-26; Tunis, April 30, May 1-2.

“From Abyssinia comes the heart-warming news of the incorporation of the Addis Ababa Assembly, the first African local Assembly to be incorporated under the Ten Year Plan. The incorporation took place on the eve of the Báb’s birthday.

“From Cairo three friends set out on teaching trips for two to three weeks. The experience of the first is very interesting to share. A youth of 24 years, in his final year of medicine, had 15 days to spare. Immediately after finishing his exams, he did not lose a single moment and left for Aswan, the remotest Provincial capital in Upper Egypt and very hot in summer. All the money he could procure was not more than 15 dollars and the railway ticket. For meals he lived on unimagined austerity, a piece of bread with some beans for midday meals. In that way he could generously accord hospitality and offer entertainment to his increasing number of contacts. Such was the life he had for 17 days, during which he established friendship with over 20 contacts, including students, merchants, etc. It was a very pleasant surprise to him to find that some of the Nubians who worked some time ago in the dining and sleeping cars of the Palestine Railways know the Holy Shrines and still remember the name ‘‘‘Abbás Effendi”. On his return, he was seen off by ten of his contacts who came to the station to bid him good-bye.”

“We were among the mining company officials in the area, all the chiefs of the area, the staff of the National Literacy Campaign, and the general public.

These pioneers are trying to encourage all the people to read and write, and the graduation ceremony was held to stimulate interest in this literacy campaign.
PIONEER LETTERS

Mauritius

From Ottilie Rhein, the lone pioneer on Mauritius, comes this letter, forwarded by the United States Africa Teaching Committee:

"Am swamped with requests for books; how wonderful to see them even copying the prayers and other writings. I am amazed, the change that has taken place in so short a time. Once you find a few ready ones, they are, so to speak, the eyes and ears of their country.

"Have from seven to 20 people every afternoon. It's hard on my little bank account, even with serving only tea and cookies, but a joy for the soul. Can you imagine people spending 50 cents carfare daily for several weeks to come and learn the glad tidings? Would be very happy if you could send me some slides; I have none of these things, just a few pictures. These dear friends should have a little change from the listening and study. We have worked them rather hard.

PARAGUAY HAZIRA DEDICATED

A marble plaque was chiseled flush into the stucco wall beside the freshly painted door at 784 Eligio Ayala in the heart of Asuncion. It was November 25, and the plaque said "Sede Bahá'í", or, in English, "Bahá'í Headquarters."

For the native Asuncenos and the small band of North Americans it meant the culmination of months of search for a Hazíratu'l-Quds for Paraguay. The small plaque, the gift of a North American Bahá'í, symbolized triumph over inflationary currency and endless details of negotiating.

We had chosen the Day of the Covenant for the public dedication, and when the day came, we joyfully squeezed 35 chairs into the new Bahá'í meeting room. Luckily, all we did invite did not come! But the printed invitations and program were a fine means of publicizing the Faith.

The hour's program included short talks in Spanish, prayers in Guarani, Spanish and English, and the recording of Sweet Scented Streams. Afterwards the visitors saw the pictures of all other Hazíratu'l-Quds, clipped and mounted for the occasion; pictures of the Shrine of the Bab, and finally, after a cooling drink of fruit punch, the colored slides of the Temple with the explanation translated into Spanish.

Though the temperature still hovered near 100 degrees, the people were loath to leave, and wandered around the patio looking at the book displays and picking up literature.

The day prayed over and longed for had finally come to a climax, made joyous our hearts, and slipped away into the hot Paraguayan night.

The house is an early Paraguayan type. The frontage is 10 meters and the depth is 35 meters, making 350 square meters of area.

—ALICE BACON

Group at the dedication of the Hazíratu'l-Quds of Rome, Italy, on November 12, 1955, conducted by Dr. Ugo Giacbery, Hand of the Cause, with the National Spiritual Assembly of Italy and Switzerland and two members of the Auxiliary Board present.
he said that he ‘wished distinction for us.’ Here you have these islands, so long isolated, their people suspicious of anything or anyone new, and on the other hand you have these Knights of Bahá'u'lláh, literally drawing people to them because they give them a feeling of Peace instead of the atmosphere of strife in which they live, of rest instead of running away from things, of contentment instead of grumbling.

"Just as each of these places is different, so is the effect of each Knight on you. Charlie Dunning teaches you a kind of dogged and absolute reliance on the Will of Bahá'u'lláh. You learn from him a supreme confidence to hold fast regardless. The people there, even without realizing it, are drawn to him and by so doing recognize and pay tribute to this greatness.

"From Brigitte Hasselblatt you come away having learnt how to present the Bahá'í teachings 'like a gift to a King,' how to love your enemies, 'look upon your evil-wishers as your well-wishers' and what it is to genuinely care for other people and always think of something to do for them.

"Finally, from Eskil Ljunberg you learn acceptance of impossible living conditions as the ‘price one has to pay to serve Him’. Just how it must feel to be so isolated, with two boats a month taking two and a half days to Europe; no air service; no visitors since he went there, and still to pour out that ocean of love! ‘I shall never forget these wonderful pioneers from whom you learn the art of being a Bahá'í.’"

### GERMANY

Bahá’í-Nachrichten, published by the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, reports a Teaching Conference in the Haifir at Frankfurt on September 10, followed by Summer School sessions from September 11 to 17 inclusive, under the direction of Dr. Hermann Grossman. Both repeated the teaching conference and summer school material used earlier at Essingen.

### BRITISH ISLES

A recent article in the Bahá'í Journal, publication of the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles, describes the qualities of the pioneers of the Northern islands of the Faroes, Shetlands and Orkneys, written by M. S. Mihaeloff and excerpted as follows:

"A general impression of the effect of the pioneers on the people in the places in which they live is that now I feel I understand better what the Master meant when..."
met with the community and interested friends at a fireside and dinner.

Mr. Rowland Estall, member of the Auxiliary Board, visited communities in Ontario during October. He spoke at a Central Ontario Teaching Conference in Ingersoll on the fuller meaning of the Guardianship, a well-attended, enthusiastic meeting keyed to inspire dedication to the year's tasks.

Autumn activities in Halifax included radio broadcasts, a series of advertisements, participation in civil defense projects and other community events, as well as firesides and study courses.

A member of the Hamilton community has been conducting firesides in Dundas (goal city). The Dundas Bahá'ís pledged to speak to a new person each day about the Faith. In 38 days they gained 13 new contacts for the fireside.

The Quebec Regional Teaching Committee has announced plans for a week of study and fellowship at the Laurentian Bahá'í School. All are invited to take part in the Bahá'í activities amid the quiet beauty of the snow-covered Laurentian mountains. Further information may be obtained from Miss Dorothy Walsh, 4613 Wellington, Verdun, Quebec.

New Territories Committee

The New Territories Committee of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly reports that, in addition to the four unfilled goals listed in the December Bahá'í News, Franklin should be added.

NATIONAL NEWS

FIRST AMERICAN INDIAN TEACHING CONFERENCE MEETS IN ARIZONA

Clouds bearing the first storm of the winter were low over the mountains of northern Arizona on Sunday, November 13 as a stream of cars wound their way into the valley of the Verde River, for years the home of the Apache Indians.

For seventy-three adults and seventeen children the end of the scenic road was the Seaf Gilimlin ranch, and in store for them was a unique experience.

At eleven o'clock, before the fireplace in the hospitable ranch house there began the first Bahá'í American Indian Teaching Conference and consultation on one of the great unfinished tasks of the American Bahá'í Community.

To a feeling of seriousness was added one of joy as new arrivals brought pioneers from the Navajo reservation, Bahá'ís from Gallup, the Indian capital of the world, and others whose contributions were drawn from experiences in teaching among the Indians.

The conference began with a word of greeting by the Chairman of the Indian Service Committee, and stayed close to the spirit and the words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's mandate to the American Bahá'ís forty years ago, and related itself to the expressed concern of the Guardian that a long-neglected people receive their share of God's message for this day. Its inspiration was contained in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's own statement, "You must give great importance to teaching the Indians," whose future, as He so graphically explained, is dependent on receiving the light of the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

The seeming strangeness of a culture had isolated this great people, so the attitudes and preparation for real pioneering were discussed.

"To become a part of their group life, to enter their mental and spiritual climate, then draw them through correlation of thought into ours" had been the advice of Ruhiyih Khánum to pioneers in the Pacific. It was agreed that this was applicable to an approach to the various Indian tribes as well.

The validity of this approach was confirmed first by Hayward Campier of Indian Wells, Arizona and then by Amoz and Mary Gibson, now settled in the heart of the Navajo reservation, teaching in a government school. This is pioneering, it was agreed.

Pioneering exists, too, in a town such as Gallup, N. Mex., we learned from Grace Dean and James Stone. Here the friends are opening a center to serve the Indians visiting from nearby reservations needing a shelter in town. Here a translation of A New Day Comes has been made into the Navajo tongue by an official government translator through the efforts and good will of these pioneers.

The guest speaker, Dr. Robert Euler from Arizona State College, Flagstaff, joined the group as the morning consultation was drawing to a close. With his opening remarks at the afternoon session, Dr. Euler indicated his sympathy for the Bahá'í purpose. As an anthropologist, his analysis of the Indian's way of life, his problems and attitudes was invaluable.

As an individual, his dedication to the cause of greater harmony among the peoples of the world made every remark valuable to his listeners. His counsel called attention to a more sensitive approach to the American Indian.

The success of this first Conference points to probable future ones in other spots across the country.

—NANCY PHILLIPS

JANET WARD
YOUTH ATTEND SIX AREA CONFERENCES

Bahá’í Youth Conferences were held throughout the United States on the week end of October 22-23. Reports have been received on the following meetings:

East Central States

This conference was opened Saturday afternoon, and the agenda established by the National Youth Committee was followed. Saturday evening a dance was given, and Sunday more youth arrived for the remainder of the meeting. Because of the interest shown, another conference was planned for November 29-30-31 at Louhelen.

North Atlantic States

Four states were represented in this conference, opened Saturday afternoon at the Teaneck, N.J. Bahá’í Center. Unity and uniformity were defined and discussed, with current events used as examples to clarify the differences. That evening a party was held at the Teaneck Bahá’í cabin.

Sunday morning the conference was convened at the Kelsey home. The institutions of the Covenant and the Guardianship were discussed in relation to the achievement of unity. The House of Justice and the World Parliament were explained.

North Central States

The Saturday evening session was given over to a reception for a Bahá’í recently arrived from frán, who has enrolled in South Dakota State College.

The conference proper, held at the Sioux Falls, S.D. Bahá’í Center, began on Sunday morning, with reports on unity in frán and the United States. The Bahá’í proposals for United Nations Charter Revision were reported, and the film "Workshop for Peace" was shown. Consultation and discussion on unity followed, and the meeting was closed with readings from Bahá’í World Faith.

Central States

This meeting, held in Milwaukee, Wis., began with a dinner-dance Saturday evening. On Sunday morning the conference was convened, following the N.Y.C. agenda. A feature of the discussion on national unity were remarks by an Oneida Indian on the achievement of national unity by the American Indians before the coming of the white man.

After a Chinese dinner, complete with chopsticks, the meeting was resumed with a showing of a movie on the United Nations. Following adjournment, many youth stayed for the evening public meeting sponsored by the Milwaukee community.

New England States

The Saturday session featured a discussion and fireside at the home of a Cambridge, Mass. Bahá’í family. Sunday the youth group attended the Boston Bahá’í Center for a public meeting on "The United Nations and the Bahá’í Faith."

Northern California

Youth from Fresno, Sacramento and Chico attended a two-day conference in Sacramento, Calif. Material relating to the Bahá’í concept of unity, prepared by the Sandisks of Stockton, was used as a basis for discussion.

The Saturday evening social included dinner, dancing and games. On Sunday the topic considered was "What can we do to bring about true unity?"

CENTRAL STATES AREA CONFERENCES HELD

The Central States Area Teaching Committee scheduled two conferences this Fall. On October 30 a well-attended meeting was held at St. Paul, Minn. despite an early-season snow storm. Topics discussed included "Unified Action on the Home Front," "The Covenant," and "Keeping in the Flow of the Spirit."

The Blackhawk Hotel, Davenport, Iowa, was the location of the meeting held on November 13. The first two topics of the previous meeting were further discussed; other subjects included "Bahá’í Obligations," and "Pictures of Africa and the Holy Land."

Iowa City, Iowa, announced plans for a series of public lectures, and asked the ATC for speakers. A suggestion was submitted that communities use all available free methods of advertising, such as church columns in newspapers, and Interfaith Hours on radio.

Both conferences were successful in giving inspiration to all who attended, through a clearer understanding of the goals to be achieved.

BAHÁ’Í IN THE NEWS

The Meridian Sun (Mississippi) of September 18 carries an illustration of the Temple with an article presented by Philip R. Savilles, pioneer. It also carries a notice of the observance of Proclamation Day inserted by Mr. Savilles.

Social Research, published by the New School for Social Research, New York, refers to the Bahá’í Faith as a development "from a messi-
by the sea, which looks as if it had been a depository of smugglers, is marked as a Holy place. It is venerated by that Moslem reforming sect, the Bahá'ís, originally coming from Persia in the 19th century, but now spread over the world particularly in America. Here in the days of the Ottoman rule, the founder of this universal Faith lived after he was released from the prison of Acre to which he was consigned by the Sultan fearful of revolution."

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

Six conferences were held during November and December by the Tennessee Valley States ATC, their Area Bulletin reports: at Louisville, Ky.; Chattanooga, Tenn. (goal city); Memphis, Tenn.; Nashville, Tenn.; Jackson, Miss.; and Birmingham, Ala. Also reported was a public meeting at the YWCA in Louisville, Ky., for the visit of Sarah Pereira, member of the Auxiliary Board. A Children's Class has been organized in Nashville, Tenn., meeting in the Hadley Park Branch of the Public Library. A projector for showing slides has been purchased, and a committee of four experienced teachers plan the children's activities.

The last virgin goal in the Northwestern States area has now been settled, with the arrival of a Bahá'í in Salem, Ore., according to the Bulletin of the Area Teaching Committee of the Northwestern States. The October Area Teaching Conference at Eugene, Ore. (goal city), was attended by Bahá'ís from a radius of 350 miles, representing fourteen localities of Oregon and Washington. Also reported is a recent Inter-Faith devotional program in Lewiston, Idaho (goal city) which included Bahá'í prayers and selections from the Bahá'í Writings, as well as the Hindu, Jewish and Christian Scriptures.

The Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh observance in Kansas City, Mo. was conducted by the Children's Classes of Greater Kansas City, the Area Bulletin for the South Central States reports. The next day the Area Teaching Conference was opened with a discussion of "Education for Children." That evening a large group gathered at the Paseo Branch of the YWCA for a dinner. Ellsworth Blackwell was the guest speaker.
Left: Abba Khoushy, Mayor of Haifa, site of the Baha’i World Center, with Mrs. Amelia E. Collins, Vice President of the International Baha’i Council and Horace Holley, Secretary of the American National Baha’i Assembly, during his visit to the Baha’i House of Worship, Wilmette, on December 8, 1955. Above: Abba Khoushy (front row at left) and entourage, with Baha’is who welcomed him.

Fargo, N.D. (pool city) Baha’is presented three books to North Dakota Agricultural College, the Area Bulletin for the North Central States reports. One of these, Proposals for Charter Revision Submitted to the United Nations by the Baha’i International Community, was included in a book display for United Nations Day.

The South Atlantic States Area Bulletin reports four conferences scheduled for the late autumn: Tampa, Fla. and North Augusta, S.C. on October 9, the Orlando and Orange County Conference at Pinecastle, Fla. on November 20, and the Miami Beach Conference at Miami Beach, Fla. on December 3. A third conference planned for Greenville, S.C. was postponed. This Area Bulletin also reports that the Jacksonville, Fla. (pool city) group has presented three books to the library at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station, including one for the children’s section. Miami Shores, Fla. Baha’is alternate Contact Meetings and Study Classes on Friday evenings. Gainesville, Georgia arranged for a Baha’i to speak to an adult class at the Methodist Church.

The Alaska Teaching Committee Bulletin reports on the requirements of communities in their area to reach Assembly status. Juneau appears certain of reaching Assembly status when several contemplated moves are made; Ketchikan requires five; Outside Fairbanks needs five; and Valdez needs seven Baha’is. These posts must be filled through new local confirmations, or by pioneers from the States whose departure will not endanger existing Assemblies.

The Southwestern Baha’i Area Bulletin lists an Activities Report for November that includes the following: Adult Classes, 18; Child Classes, 9; Deepening Classes, 13; Firesides, 38; Public Meetings, 15; and Youth Classes, 3.

The Area Bulletin for the Central Atlantic States announces an Area Conference to be held on January 14, 1956 at the Baha’i Center in Baltimore, Md. The theme of the meeting will be “Spiritual Living.” It is also planned to hold simultaneous conferences in the future in Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina.

Also reported were the activities of the Wilmington, Del. community. Deepening classes are held each Sunday morning, with study devoted to A Life Plan by Esselmont, and the Guardian’s World Crusade letters. A series of book reviews to attract non-Baha’is will be held monthly. In January, Guy Murchie’s Song of the Sky will be discussed.

Star of the North, bulletin of the Anchorage, Alaska Recording District reports that the Donnelly home was filled to overflowing for the celebration of the Birthday of Baha’u’llah.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Interracial Meetings Held

The pioneers in Rocky Mount, North Carolina planned and carried out a fine interracial meeting on October 22. They rented a banquet hall in the Negro section of town, and invited by letter and telephone Baha’is and their contacts from the surrounding area, as well as their own contacts. A film, “Palestine, Land of Many Faiths,” was shown, and a Baha’i from Greensboro, North Carolina presented a short, basic Baha’i talk. A question and answer period and an hour of fellowship and refreshments followed the meeting.

Of the large number who attended, half were seekers. Before the meeting, all were guests at the home of these pioneers for a buffet supper.

The success of this meeting suggests the value of its use in other communities to initiate activities in the Negro section.

“The Elimination of Prejudice” was the topic of a program sponsored by the Baha’is of New York City on November 6. Dr. Harry C. Oppenheimer, Chairman of the Manhattan Council of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination, and a Baha’i representative were the featured speakers.
A Baha'i fireside composed of university students from Chonnam University, Kwangju, Korea, with Prof. Wm. H. Maxwell, pioneer (center front), who teaches at the university.

First Spiritual Assembly of Stockton, California, April, 1955, first goal city to attain Assembly status under Southwestern ATC.

Milwaukee Club Tours Temple

Thirty-two members of the Milwaukee Women's Club chartered a bus in October to visit Chicago and the Baha'i House of Worship. The tour was arranged by a Baha'i member of the club. The introductory talk, the showing of slides, the beauty of the Temple, and the hospitality were all praised by the guests.

In response to a request for a Baha'i speaker at Juanita College, Penn., Mrs. Annamarie Honnold addressed the students of the Juanita Christian Association, who not only picked up quickly the Baha'i literature that was laid out, but remained considerably beyond the allotted time for discussion. The next morning Mrs. Honnold addressed a class on the history of religion at the same college where she found much interest in the Baha'i plan for peace and the Baha'i proposals for the revision of the UN Charter.

The instructor of the class gladly accepted a copy of Baha'u'llah and the New Era for the reserved section of the college library.

A New York City Baha'i speaker was invited to address a group of students of the Christian Club of New York City College, meeting at the Adolphus Lutheran Church. She was invited to return early in 1956.

Tacoma, Wash. reports that Dwight Allen was invited to speak before the Dr. John B. Magee class at the College of Puget Sound, Methodist College of Tacoma, on November 30.

The Los Angeles Baha'i Journal lists eleven weekly meetings, including Sunday Adult and Children's Classes and a Public Meeting at the Center, and firesides. Also listed is the staff of the Child Education Committee, comprising 29 teachers.

Baha'is of San Francisco, Calif. met November 20 to hear Nasrollah Rassekh of Stanford University give a talk on the United Nations and Baha'i participation in help for the less developed peoples.

A Stockton, Calif. Baha'i attending the College of the Pacific created a mobile illustrating the prophetic lineage of the Manifestations of God, as a project for an art course, stimulating a classroom discussion of the Faith.
HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY?
DID YOU MISS ONE OR TWO
ISSUES OF BAHÁ'Í NEWS?

Perhaps these two facts go hand-in-hand. If you are a member of a community — and contemplating a change of address — be sure to notify your Local Assembly secretary immediately.

If you are isolated, send this information directly to the National Bahá'í Office 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.

Your prompt cooperation is necessary to keep the address files of the National Bahá'í Office up to date and accurate.

U. S. PUBLISHING TRUST OFFERS STANDING ORDER SERVICE

The Bahá'í Publishing Trust is able to provide all community librarians in the United States with a standing order service on all new publications. This means you will be sent one copy of each book, and the minimum order of pamphlets (usually five or ten copies) each time a new item is published. This will also include copies of new editions of previous works that contain revisions and additions as well as works which have been out of print for a number of years. These standing orders will be shipped to you automatically in addition to any direct order sent in for the same item. If you wish to receive this service please write to The Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

PUBLICATIONS

The Reality of Man. Selections from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and ‘Abdu'l-Bahá. This explanation of the soul, mind and eternal life contains some passages not found in our present literature. It is appealing to all who wish to probe more deeply into the true nature of man. This new edition has been prepared because of the continuous demand for it. Excellent for deepening and for fireside discussions with those who have already been deeply attracted to the teachings. 52 pp., hardbound with three-piece binding of brown and patterned paper.

Per copy ........................ $1.00

Bába'í Appeal for Religious Freedom in Iran. This pamphlet was originally prepared for use in the Public Relations campaign. It contains many statements and letters by noted people throughout the world, as well as editorials, newspaper and magazine articles voicing public indignation and concern. The appeals made to the government of Iran and to the United Nations, the atrocities that occurred, and replies to the false accusations made against the Faith in Iran are listed. Every Bahá'í should be informed of these events and be prepared to use this excellent material for teaching and public contact. 9 x 6, self cover.

Per copy ........................ $ .25


Per copy ........................ $1.00

Bába'í Calendar, 1956, illustrated with an unusually dramatic picture of the Archives Building in Haifa, Israel; another of Carl Scheffler's drawings, (which are considered in professional circles to be among the finest of scratchboard artwork), this one with background highlighted in blue. Feast Days and Holy Days depicted in blue and deep yellow, with all other pertinent information contained on back. 8½ x 12.

Each ........................ $ .25

Ten copies ........................ $2.00

Available from
The Bahá'í Publishing Trust
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

MARRIAGES

“Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord! Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace . . .”

— Bahá'u'lláh

Los Angeles, California: Miss Agnes Regina Ballew to Mr. Joseph A. Cowan on November 14, 1955.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feasts
January 19—Súltán (Sovereignty)
February 7—Mulk (Dominion)

World Religion Day
January 15—to proclaim the fundamental oneness of religion.

World Brotherhood Week
February 12-14—to proclaim the oneness of mankind.

National Spiritual Assembly Meeting
February 10, 11, 12.

BAHÁ’Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP
Visiting hours
Weekdays and Saturdays: 1:00—4:00 P.M.
(Sunday: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
(The entire building will be open)

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15. (No guided tours will be conducted during the program of worship.)

IN MEMORIAM

“Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life.”

— Bahá'u'lláh

Mr. G. A. Bossung
Lyndon, Kentucky
April, 1955

Dr. H. A. Parrish
Rich Square, North Carolina
August 26, 1955

Mrs. Noma Bentley Osman
Monrovia, California
October 31, 1955

Mr. Clarence L. Lathrop
Winnetka, Illinois
November 12, 1955

Mrs. Lillian Sophia O'Keefe
Everett, Washington
November 19, 1955

Mrs. Ivy Drew Edwards
Kilot, Maine
November 22, 1955

Mr. Adolph Boesch
Millbrae, California
November 22, 1955
BAHÁ'Í DIRECTORY CHANGES

BAHÁ'Í SCHOOL COMMITTEES

Geyserville Bahá'í School
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Mrs. Margaret Bustard, Secretary, 36 Arreba Street, Marin-
tine, Calif.
Mr. John Bustard
Mrs. Anna Dakserhof
Mrs. Inez Dones
Mrs. Frances Fletcher
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Mr. Chester Allen, Jr.
Mr. Stanley Brogan
Mr. Sam Clark
Miss Phyllis Hall

Temerity Bahá'í School
(No session in 1956. Property being sold.)

NATIONAL COMMITTEES (additions)

Africa Teaching Committee
Mr. Kenneth Simmons

Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee
Mrs. Elizabeth Katzoff
Miss Betty Ullus

American Indian Service Committee
Mrs. Floyd Heaton

National Bahá'í Youth Committee
Mrs. Georgia Haisler, Secretary, 2339 West Lawn, Racine, Wis. (Change of address)
Mr. David Baral

Reviewing Committee
Mrs. Chappell Porter

AREA TEACHING COMMITTEES

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Mr. Roy Mottahedeh (Youth)

North Atlantic States
Mrs. Anna Mikuryia
Mrs. G. Natalie Bowen

Central Atlantic States
Mr. C. Newell Atkinson
Miss Bernice Berneg

South Atlantic States
Mrs. Beatrice Alexander, Secretary, P.O. Box 943, Tampa, Florida (change of address)

Tennessee Valley States
Dr. J. S. Francis

Central States
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Miss Sue Williston (Youth)

North Central States
Mrs. Marguerite Bruegger

Southwestern States
Mr. Dale Allen (Youth)

Northwestern States
Mr. Ted Thorsen

TRUSTEE COMMITTEES — MAINTENANCE

Bosch Trustees — Geyserville School
Same personnel as Geyserville School Committee.

Mathews Trustees — Temerity School
School property being sold. Committee disbanded.

ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES

Alaska
Fairbanks: Mrs. Rose Yarno, 211 Polaris Bldg.

California (Northern)
Millbrae: Miss Margot Boesch, 909 Millbrae Ave.

Maryland
Prince George's County: Mrs. Flora W. Brooks, 3300 May-
wood Lane, S.E., Silver Hill, Maryland, Washington, D. C.

Massachusetts
Beverly: Mr. Arthur W. Edwards, 63 Lovett St.

New York (Eastern)
Mount Vernon: Mrs. Catherine K. Deme, 101 Elm Ave.

Oregon
Portland: Mrs. Dorothy C. Henderson, 25 N. E., 63rd.

BAHÁ'Í NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá'í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHÁ'Í NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1955-56: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Richard Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá'í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
REVITALIZE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

Cable from the Guardian

Urge intensification efforts to revitalize entire community, expedite attainment plans, objectives, particularly related purchase Hâzîras, endowments, America (and) Europe; translation remaining languages; incorporation Assemblies; multiplication centers (and) Assemblies home front; opening Iceland, Spitzbergen, Anticosti (and) remaining islands (of) Pacific (and) Atlantic. Dervently supplicating immediate signal victories.

—SHOGHI

January 5, 1956

Beloved Friends:

This message from the revered Guardian brings us three distinct concepts which, combined, sound the great call to action at this grave hour in the progress of the Ten Year Plan.

First, he urges intensification of the National Assembly’s efforts to revitalize the Bahá’í Community, a sacred duty undertaken prayerfully as we survey the condition of the homefront and the unfinished tasks in American areas abroad. There are times of elation and conquest, and times of slackening effort and lack of accomplishment. It is the latter phase through which we seem to be passing now.

Let the Guardian’s own call signalize the turning of the tide, the deepening of our spirits, the resolute decision of our wills to serve the Faith with redoubled intensity.

Second, the aim of this revitalization is definitely defined as the completion of the particular Crusade tasks allotted to the period ending Ridván, 1956. These are the tasks which the Guardian defined in his message to the Conventions of 1954 and 1955, recapitulated in the National Assembly’s message to the recent State Conventions reprinted in this issue of Bahá’í News.

Third, the Guardian assures us that he is supplicating for immediate, outstanding victories. Let us feel the vibrancy of Shoghi Effendi’s words as though each were in his presence and receiving a personal message. One by one we are all equally concerned in seeing to it that by Ridván the Crusade tasks enumerated are all performed.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

VARQĀ, HAND OF CAUSE, BURIED IN STUTTGART

Vâliy’ullâh Varqâ, of Iran. Hand of the Cause, was interred in Stuttgart, Germany, at the request of the Guardian, on November 17, 1955.

A report of his burial has been published in Bahá’í Nachrichten by the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria.

The services included prayers for the dead, music, and the reading of the Holy Utterances. The principal address was given by Dr. Adelbert Mühlschlegel, Hand of the Cause.

Dr. Eugen Schmidt spoke on behalf of the German Bahá’í communities. Paul Gollmer, representing the Stuttgart Local Spiritual Assembly, recalled that the earth of Stuttgart, now to receive Mr. Varqâ, had been blessed by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.

Representatives of other Bahá’í communities spoke also. The Iranian friends expressed their feelings with chants, poetry, and eulogies, and together with other friends, carried the casket to the grave.

Dr. Mühlschlegel, in his eulogy, recounted the events in the life of Mr. Varqâ. His father, a doctor, poet, and faithful servant of Bahá’u’llâh, late in life visited Him at Bahjí, and expressed the wish that he and one of his sons might become martyrs for the strength and purity of the Faith in the fast-approaching period of the Center of the Covenant.

Soon after the Ascension of Bahá’u’llâh, this wish was fulfilled.

In his early days as a student, Mr. Varqâ was often in the presence of the Master, and at His request took a position at the Court of Muhammad ‘Ali, second to the last Shah of the Qâjâr dynasty.

Then came a new, sterner epoch of service to the Faith in Iran, as a pillar of the administrative order. For many years he was Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of Iran.

“And then there glowed for you a beautiful evening of life as a Hand of the Cause,” Dr. Mühlschlegel concluded, addressing the casket. “Again there were many journeys, to the Intercontinental Conferences of 1953, and in the intervals between, to many lands; even to our Germany. You were witness to how the sowing of the beloved Master had taken root in thousands of hearts, who welcomed you with love.”
Report from the State Conventions

In response to numerous requests that the statements read at the State Conventions be published for the inspiration and information of all the American Bahá’ís, "Bahá’í News" publishes the message from the American Hands of the Cause, the statement from the National Spiritual Assembly entitled "Consecrate Yourself Afresh," and the report on recommendations to the Assembly and its action.

From the American Hands of the Cause

A LETTER TO THE 1955 STATE CONVENTIONS

Dear Bahá’í Friends:

During their first year of operation, the Hands of the Cause planned missions for the nine members of the Auxiliary Board which carried them to almost all Assemblies in Canada and the United States, and many in Central and South America. These activities established a new institution throughout the Western Hemisphere in its particular function of encouraging and assisting the believers in their teaching work.

The objective for the current year is to concentrate effort upon certain small Assemblies and active groups in an effort to assure Assembly status on April 21, 1956. Attainment of the goal of 300 Assemblies in the United States by 1963 will require intensive and dedicated efforts by all of us in teaching on the home front.

Three members of the Board — Rowland Estall, Florence Mayberry and Margery McCormick — work in Canada; five members work in the United States — William deForge, Dr. Pereira, Katherine McLaughlin, Florence Mayberry and Margery McCormick; and five members work in Latin America — Margot Worley, Gayle Woolson, Esteban Canales, Katherine McLaughlin and William deForge.

The guidance for plans and policies this year was supplied by a letter written on the Guardian’s behalf by the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land on May 1, 1955.

That letter conveyed “certain points” which the Guardian “feels are of the utmost importance for the Hands of the Cause to consider at this time and which should continually be brought to the attention of the Bahá’ís in order to guide them in fulfilling the Ten Year Plan.

From the National Spiritual Assembly

"CONSECRATE YOURSELF AFRESH"

Beloved Friends:

In his Message to our 1955 Convention the beloved Guardian appealed to the entire body of believers to arise and “consecrate themselves afresh . . . to the furtherance of the immediate objectives” mentioned in his Convention Message of 1954. Our year has passed its mid-point. Let us survey the goals and choose that project to which we will give personal endeavor if we are not already committed heart and soul to the blessed task.

Of the thirteen immediate objectives set forth in 1954,
Baha'i News

some are already achieved and some (as in Persia) have become temporarily impossible. Those which call particularly for personal endeavor at this time are:

Energetic and systematic teaching work at home and abroad, to increase rapidly the number of active supporters.

Preservation of prizes won in the newly opened territories of the globe.

Multiplication of isolated centers, groups and local Assemblies to hasten the formation of 48 National Assemblies.

These are the tasks which depend upon individual devotion and effort, whether in spreading the Message for strengthening a weak Baha'i community or for forming an Assembly on the home front, in Latin America, Europe, Africa or in Asia.

The preservation of Assembly status where threatened on the home front is as important as the formation of a new Assembly, because each counts the same toward our attainment of 300 local Assemblies and above.

As to pioneering abroad, the Intercontinental Teaching Committees are presenting their explanations and needs to this same gathering. Our task in preparing for the formation of new National Assemblies is truly colossal, requiring many more workers than have pioneered in virgin goals.

But in all fields the urgency arises in the need for true Baha'is—devoted, self-sacrificing and courageous—who will enter a new field and find a home among strangers. As the Guardian has declared, consecration is needed to seize the opportunities of this "last, fast-fleeting year of the present phase of this momentous, world-girdling Plan."

A dramatic and portentous new factor has entered our Baha'i life—the persecution of the Baha'is in Persia. Throughout the world sped the startling and ominous news that the Iranian Government had by decree banned the Faith, forbidden the practice of the religion of Baha'u'llah, seized its Spiritual Center in Tihran and many other cities and towns, and opened the door to a frenzied fanaticism which wrought savage cruelty on our innocent co-religionists.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION

All recommendations received from the 1955 State Conventions were carefully considered by the National Spiritual Assembly at its January meeting. Those dealing with the date and length of the conventions, the length of reports, methods of counting ballots, and similar matters, received from a number of states, have been filed for consideration in planning next year's convention. Certain recommendations were more or less local in character. These have been referred to the committee concerned.

Following are the actions taken on the recommendations which the NSA considered to be of general interest to the friends:

1. That the NSA clarify the relationship between the celebration of Naw-Ruz and the regular Nineteen-Day Feast falling on the same date.

   Action: The NSA will repeat in Baha'i News an early date the explanation of these events received from the Guardian several years ago.

2. That the NSA consider the publication of a piece of literature that will succinctly present what Baha'is mean by "a spiritual solution to the economic problems," including specific references to topics such as taxation, employment, social benefits, inheritance laws, etc.

   Action: The NSA calls attention to the fact that the Guardian has explained that the Baha'is teachings do not contain an economic system or detailed explanations covering technical economic subjects such as taxation, the price system, etc. Further, the Guardian has instructed the believers to stress in their teaching efforts only the broad, general principles bearing on economic problems which were enunciated by Baha'u'llah, and to avoid discussions involving specific technical aspects of the subject. The believers are reminded that 'Abdu'l-Baha stated that the solution of the economic problem lies in the realm of the heart and spirit.

The unfoldment of this great drama—the pitting of the forces of reaction against the powers of a new Revelation of God's Will—has been reported to the friends in letters and through statements in Baha'i News. While on the one hand the entire Baha'i world joined in making appeals to the Shah, the Government and the Parliament of Iran, a host of friends of the Faith and champions of the principles of basic human rights also expressed their views in press statements and in letters to the Iranian Government. The century-long persecutions in Iran have entered a new stage. No longer can any Islamic or civil authority of Iran regard the Faith as nothing more than a minority within Iran itself, entirely subject to their exploitation. They have found that the Baha'i Faith is an international reality, a powerful community stretched beyond the limited area of Iran itself—a community able to present an appeal to the Secretary General of United Nations, thus throwing open the record of atrocities to the statesmen of all countries and to the press.

The believers are also informed about the plan approved by the Guardian to place the Baha'i case in the hands of a public relations counsel to see that it is kept alive and strengthened by the force of public opinion. The achievements of this campaign have been reported and there is no need to repeat them. What may be news to the friends is that the Guardian approves extending the three-month campaign to a new arrangement covering twelve months beginning December first.

As this public work develops it will more and more definitely present the basic teachings to a public already made aware of the repressions and injustices suffered by Baha'is throughout Iran. The effect should be to create a new order of favorable public opinion in which the public becomes informed and interested, our standards of teaching, of community unity and of conduct must be raised.

The Guardian's letter A Mysterious Dispensation of Providence elucidates the meaning of this event.

A divine Providence has seized the reins! Ours is to open our hearts to this beneficent Power from above.
Report from the State Conventions

Continued

3. That the NSA encourage Bahá'í endorsement of and participation in the many organizations that aim to improve and consolidate human relations, such as the United Community Fund, United Nations, etc.

Action: The friends are reminded that Bahá'ís are not to officially endorse or sponsor any organizations, but individual Bahá'ís are free to participate in the activities of such organizations provided it is not at the expense of their capacity to render direct service to the Faith.

4. That the NSA publish a statement in Bahá'í News as to the responsibility or right of individual Bahá'ís to discuss the subject of the persecutions in Persia among friends, acquaintances, at firesides and with small sympathetic groups.

Action: In distributing copies of the pamphlet Bahá'í Appeal for Religious Freedom in Iran the NSA informed local Assemblies that believers are free to make use of any portions of this publication which is intended for the information of the public. Attention is also called to the announcement in January Bahá'í News concerning this pamphlet.

5. That in setting up committees for promotion of teaching, consideration be given to changing the terms “race” and “interracial” to “human relations.”

Action: At the beginning of the Ten-Year Crusade the Guardian instructed that certain committees be appointed to stimulate teaching work among certain specific groups in America, notably the Indian and Negro populations. The existing national committees were appointed in response to this instruction.

6. That the NSA ascertain from the Iranian Bahá'ís what methods and means they use successfully in teaching the Faith to children and endeavor to provide American Bahá'ís with this information.

Action: The NSA has already investigated this matter and has found that Bahá'í textbooks for children used in Persia reflect such a diversity of conditions as compared to the United States that it is not feasible to use their material here.

7. That national, area and local committees encourage and promote greater intermingling of the believers in inter-community, district and area meetings planned to foster Bahá'í fellowship and to promote increased understanding and participation in respect to the Ten-Year Crusade.

Action: It is the view of the NSA that this need is being met by the holding of area teaching conferences and similar gatherings. The sponsoring of such meetings is one of the functions of the area teaching committees.

8. That the NSA clarify the position and functions of Bahá'í youth at state conventions, particularly with respect to their voting privileges.

Action: It is recorded that the same general principle applies here as it does in Bahá'í community life, namely, that youth members are eligible for appointment on committees (and could serve as tellers, etc.) but have no voting privileges until attaining the age of 21 years. This precludes their being eligible for election as state convention chairman or secretary or participating in the election of such officers.

9. That all delegates to the National Convention be required to report back to their electoral districts at a specially called convention of that district.

Action: After careful consideration of the problem in previous years, the NSA has included among the functions of the area teaching committees the responsibility for calling conferences to hear reports of delegates to the National Convention.

10. That the NSA prepare for the information and guidance of the believers an explanation of the station and function of the Hands of the Cause in order that the friends may better understand this institution.

Action: Such an explanation appeared in Bahá'í News at the time of the appointment of the Auxiliary Boards. (See Bahá'í News No. 219, May 1954.)

11. That the NSA make available to Assemblies and groups tape recordings of all, or highlights of, National Conventions; also that such recordings be preserved in the National Archives.

Action: The NSA believes that the intent of this recommendation is largely met through the reports presented by delegates who have attended the National Convention, and feels that such reports are more inspirational in character than are detailed mechanical recordings.

12. That isolated Bahá'ís and groups, particularly in goal cities, receive material that will enable them to give local editors information regarding the Faith and current Bahá'í developments.

Action: Bahá'í Press Service has announced through Bahá'í News from time to time that it will add to its mailing list the names and addresses of isolated Bahá'ís and groups wishing to receive its releases and other material. (Requests to be placed on its list are to be addressed to: Bahá'í Press Service, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.)

13. That notice be taken by the NSA or Bahá'í Press Service in cases where prejudice has been shown, and that expressions of commendation be sent to publications carrying editorials or articles wherein Bahá'í principles are championed.

Action: It is the view of the NSA that the more vigorously the American Bahá'í community promotes the direct and fundamental Bahá'í teachings, the more effectively will we bring our influence to bear against outstanding cases of prejudiced behavior, and attract the attention of those who already in their lives and writing are reflecting Bahá'í principles.

14. That the NSA consider the preparation of material that may be given to the Bahá'í student prior to his declaration to orient him to the world-wide activities of the Faith, and that such material consist of a simply worded publication rather than a compilation of quotations only.

Action: The NSA recognizes the need for material of the type contemplated in this recommendation and has appointed a special committee to produce such an exposition.

15. That a central agency be established to collect and process material presented in local Bahá'í radio programs in order that it may be made available for general Bahá'í use.

Action: The NSA is taking steps to collect such material and to devise some plan for making it available for wider use.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
"THE ONSLAUGHT OF ALL PEOPLES AND KINDREDS"

We have only to refer to the warnings uttered by 'Abdu'l-Baha in order to realize the extent and character of the forces that are destined to contest with God's Holy Faith. In the darkest moments of His life, under 'Abdu'l-Hamid's regime, when He stood ready to be deported to most inhospitable regions of Northern Africa, and at a time when the most suspicious light of the Bahá'í Revelation had only begun to break through the verities it enshrines. The passage quoted from The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh has a new and deeper implication for Bahá'ís as they contemplate the recent onslaught of the forces of persecution upon the Bahá'ís of Persia.

The passage is a fore-warnning of the fiercer shall be the challenge which from every quarter will be thrown at the verities it enshrines. But the Master's words cited by the Guardian describe a general and not a localized effort to destroy the Faith. The passage is a fore-warnning. We must prepare now, as individuals and as communities, for what is destined to come.

Stupendous as is the struggle which His words foreshadow, they also are destined eventually to achieve. Peoples, nations, adherents of divers faiths, will jointly and successively arise to shatter its unity, to sap its force, and to degrade its holy name. They will assail not only the spirit which it inculcates, but the administration which is the channel, the instrument, the embodiment of that spirit. For as the authority with which Bahá'u'lláh has invested the future Bahá'í Commonwealth becomes more and apparent, the fiercer shall be the challenge which from every quarter will be thrown at the verities it enshrines.

Beloved Bahá'í Friends:

The passage quoted from The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh has a new and deeper implication for Bahá'ís as they contemplate the recent onslaught of the forces of persecution upon the Bahá'ís of Persia. In certain cases also, pioneers serving the World Crusade have been denied entrance, or expelled from residence, in countries where religious freedom is not practiced. But the Master's words cited by the Guardian describe a general and not a localized effort to destroy the Faith. The passage is a fore-warnning. We must prepare now, as individuals and as communities, for what is destined to come.

It is said that while in New York 'Abdu'l-Baha told the friends that such opposition would come from the tribes of the defeated!"

Stupendous as is the struggle which His words foreshadow, they also are destined eventually to achieve. Peoples, nations, adherents

NATIONAL CONVENTION DATES ANNOUNCED

The Forty-Eighth Annual Bahá'í Convention will be held in Foundation Hall of the Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette, Illinois, April 26, 27, 28 and 29, 1956.

Reservations: Delegates and visitors wishing accommodations in private homes should send their request for reservations to: Mrs. Priscilla Hassan, 1244 Maple Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, Chairman of the Housing Committee, or to the Co-Chairman, Mrs. Edna Coleman, 1227 Leon Place, Evanston, Illinois. A list of nearby hotels, together with rates, will be published in the next issues of Bahá'í News. The friends wishing this type of accommodation are requested to make their own reservations.

Child Care: Owing to the difficulty of securing a sufficient number of volunteers to care for children, the Convention Arrangements Committee has found it necessary to limit child care to the daytime sessions only. It is not equipped to care for children in arms, or for other very young children requiring individual attention. Any inquiries concerning this service should be directed to the Chairman of the Child Care Committee: Mrs. Minnie Hadley, 1729 Dodge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois.
AFRICA

...a continent which by virtue of the innumerable exploits which, throughout its length and breadth, colored and white, individuals as well as Assemblies, have achieved in recent years...whose prowess has, in the opening years of the second Epoch of the Formative Age of the Bahá’í Dispensation, eclipsed the feats performed in both the southern part of the Western Hemisphere and the European continent, and conferred such lustre on the annals of our Faith.

—From Shoghi Effendi’s A Mysterious Dispensation of Providence, August 20, 1955.

Pioneer Letters Reflect Quickening of Spiritual Strength

Lomé, French Togoland

“Through the divine handiwork of God, the Bahá’í Faith has been introduced in Lomé, capital of French Togoland, by one beloved Bahá’í friend—pioneer David N. Tanyi in April 1954. He hailed from the British Cameroons, and arrived here when the country was infested with political unrest.

“On the eve of his arrival David Tanyi met a strange young man in a hostel. This young man also hailed from East Africa; his name is Herbert Sikombe, a Bahá’í. The story told by this young man was too touching that despite all probabilities it was impossible for the Immigration Authorities to grant him an entry into the Gold Coast for higher education, as that was his desire. A few weeks later David Tanyi rented a home and took Herbert Sikombe with him, and they dwelt happily together. They were the first two Bahá’ís in Lomé.

“The spread of the Cause flourished through mutual intercourse. The few Scripture books available were limited, and upon them depended our lessons. It is interesting to read that in the month of June, 1954, we had the first two newly declared members.

“Although the beginning of everything is hard, this was not the matter with us. The spirit of the All Wise was with us, and in May, 1954, there arrived here two American ladies, Bahá’í pioneers, namely Mrs. Vivian Wesson and Miss Mavis Nymon. During their sojourn we had interesting teachings and discussions, and enjoyed enormously their knowledge and experiences of the Faith toward our progress and stability.

After four months’ residence here, their departure consigned us to the fathoms of the deep. We indeed sighed over their absence, not in spirit but in the flesh, because we knew why they had to leave. Above all, their courage, devotion, and determination, and countless social activities are beyond description.

“Within this period the propagation of the Faith took firm roots, and before the end of September, 1954, we had nine adult believers, among whom four are women.

“In February, 1955, Miss Valerie Wilson, an Auxiliary Board member for Africa stationed in Monrovia, Liberia, visited us. Her object was to visit, if possible, all the Bahá’í groups functioning in the Gold Coast, Togoland (both), and the British Cameroons. She indeed made one of the boldest adventures ever anticipated by our women-folk in West Africa. She journeyed by car alone, and covered over 2,000 miles by road, all in the protection and guidance of the Blessed Beauty.

“While in Lomé she brought us pictures, and widened the paths of the knowledge of the Cause into us. Indeed, her presence and teachings foretold to us wonderful revelations. To us she is a lady with the wisdom of the Faith.

“At present the Community consists of 14 adult believers and 7 children, excluding 16 adult believers who have moved from the locality of the Community. Deepening classes are held every Wednesday evening, and individual teaching work is carried on by all the friends

Bahá’ís of Casablanca, French Morocco, numbering 12 adults, 2 Youth, and 16 children. Nationalities represented include French Moroccan, Spanish, Iranian, and American. There are two regular firesides, one deepening class, and one children’s class, as well as indirect teaching activity.
in the township, not to mention the Nineteen Day Feasts and Anniversaries, which are observed under all conditions.

"One of the noteworthy activities of this Community is the love and unity it is creating among the friends, by disbursing its meagre fund to assist the friends in time of sickness and helplessness.

"In April, 1955, the Community elected its first Local Spiritual Assembly, which is now functioning.

"One other noteworthy activity of the new friends here is that, through their love for the Blessed Cause, Bahá'í groups are now in Agoue-Adjigo, in French Dahomey, where the Fie (King) is a Bahá'í himself, and in Aflao-Batome, in the Gold Coast.

"As there is always another side of the penny, the efforts of the friends in promulgating this beloved Faith have often met with the domination by fanaticism, national prejudice, language problems, and politics.

"We rely on the mighty and protecting hand of Bahá'u'lláh, and believe in the Divine Origin of this Cause; therefore no earthly barriers will bar its progress."

—LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF LOMÉ

Djibouti, French Somalland

"Due to present difficult circumstances, we meet only once every 19 days. We have to be discreet and careful not to arouse ill feelings. Providence has so far protected us. Many attempts against us have failed, thus adding to our confidence and our trust in God.

"We have not relented in our efforts to teach the Faith. Many have been contacted, many have been interested, but lack of moral strength and the fear of losing their present worldly positions prevented them from acknowledging the Truth. All we can do is pray for such people.

Fifteen of the eighteen believers of Rose Hill, Mauritius. In three months' intensive teaching activity the number of contacts increased from 2 to 70, and 16 believers were enrolled. There are deepening and administration classes each week, and an Open House is held each week end.

"Here is a very surprising story: There is a young man here, good hearted and beloved by all, and considered as one of the leaders in these territories. More than once he came to our help and assistance, especially during the difficult and troubled days. We believe that he has been sent to us by Bahá'u'lláh to enable us to carry our services and teaching work. Naturally we gave him the Message, and revealed to him the truth about this new Manifestation. On the eve of his departure to Hijaz for pilgrimage, we gave him one of Bahá'u'lláh's tablets for his protection, and told him that we shall pray for him that God may lead him nearer to His Truth.

"Upon his return he came to us and said, 'Something very strange happened to me in Hijaz. One day I lost my wallet. I was very sad, not because of the wallet, but because with it I had lost the prayer you gave me. I walked the streets deep in sorrow and thought. My eyes were attracted by something glittering in the sun. It was a golden ring, and on its stone was carved something exactly similar to the one you have on your ring stone. I was amazed. How can this happen when I was sure there were no Bahá'ís in Hijaz?' (He thought so).

"We asked him to show us the ring, and there it was, the Greatest Holy Name. Isn't that strange? Hundreds of thousands of people come to Hijaz on pilgrimage and of all these people, our friend should be the man to find this ring!

"Our friend, Mr. 'Ali Abdulláh, went to Addis for a few days. He came back full of praise for the Addis Community, their love and their spirituality. He thinks their meetings are wonderful."

—FAHMEH SABRI

First Local Spiritual Assembly of Ceuta, Spanish Morocco, formed in April, 1955. Activities of this community of 11 Bahá'ís include study classes, a Boys Club that teaches carpentry and art, a Ladies Sewing Circle, play classes for pre-school age children, and a First Aid Clinic.
LIST MATERIALS FOR PRESERVATION IN BAHÁ'Í ARCHIVES

For the guidance of the friends the National Spiritual Assembly is repeating the following description published in Bahá'í News No. 294, February, 1948, clarifying materials which should be preserved in the National Bahá'í Archives, as distinguished from materials to be preserved by local Spiritual Assemblies. No other items should be sent without first communicating with the National Bahá'í Archives Committee as to their acceptability.

National Archives

I. Tablets and relics of Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb, whether original or photostatic reproductions.

II. Tablets and relics of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The Tablets should be original, signed Tablets, or authentic reproductions such as photostatic copies. Tablets should be accompanied by original translation if possible. All original Tablets should be preserved in the National Archives. Photostats of Tablets revealed to the local Spiritual Assembly or to individual believers might be placed in the local archives.

As regards the nature of relics, the Guardian has given the following explanation:

"The general principle should be that any object used by Him in person should be preserved for posterity, whether in the local or National Archives. It is the duty and responsibility of the Bahá'í Assemblies to ascertain carefully whether such objects are genuine or not, and to exercise the utmost caution in the matter."

III. Letters of Shoghi Effendi. These are of three different classes—those written to the NSA and the entire American Bahá'í community; those written to local Assemblies; and those written to individual believers. The NSA preserves the originals of the first category. Original letters to local Assemblies are for the most part not confidential and can be preserved in the National Archives. Letters to individual believers can be sent to the National Archives and photostats obtained for the receipt and for the local Archives.

IV. National events and activities. Such events as 'Abdu'l-Bahá's American journey, the founding of the Temple, early historical records of the Star of the West, Bahá'í Publishing Committee, Green Acre, Geyersville, Temerity and Louhelen Ranch and other activities of more than local importance constitute an impressive aspect of Bahá'í history and all original documents and records should be turned over to the NSA if not already done, for its examination and subsequent deposit in the National Archives.

V. Individual records and papers. Families in possession of the papers belonging to early prominent workers in the Faith should turn them over to the Archives Committee to be preserved as part of the early history of the Cause.

VI. Bahá'í publications. A complete file of all publications, such as books, pamphlets and magazines, newsletters, etc., of official Bahá'í character, is part of the National Bahá'í Archives. The friends are requested to send in copies of the very early, now out-of-print Bahá'í books and pamphlets.

Local Archives

Local records and documents which should be preserved by local Spiritual Assemblies consist of the following: the minutes and correspondence of the Spiritual Assembly which are preserved by the Assembly itself, and non-administrative material of historical interest and importance, such as programs, newspaper clippings, historical record cards, etc. It is recommended that each Assembly provide a bound book in which its Archives Committee can keep a record of enrollments of new believers and also deaths or removals from the community.

All incorporated Assemblies must not only carefully preserve the original articles of incorporation but also a complete file of the minutes of all Assembly meetings from the date of incorporation. The state government has authority to call for and examine the minutes at any time.

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS ABROAD

American Bahá'ís who are elementary or high school teachers may be able to assist with the work of the World Crusade in some of the countries for which teachers are being recruited to teach dependents of military and civilian personnel stationed overseas.

Jobs will be open in the Azores, France, French Morocco, Iceland, Japan, Newfoundland, Philippine Islands, Spain and Tripoli.

Application forms (Form 57) can be obtained at any first or second class U.S. Post Office. When filled out, the form is to be submitted to Overseas Recruitment Representative, Civilian Personnel Office, at the nearest Air Force base. The salaries are excellent, but employees cannot take dependents with them.

Any Bahá'í who is accepted for a teaching position abroad should communicate at once with the U.S. Intercontinental Teaching Committee responsible for teaching activities in that part of the world.

—National Spiritual Assembly

HOW TO REPORT BAHÁ'Í MARRIAGES

When a Bahá'í marries, the fact should be reported to the National Spiritual Assembly, giving the date and exact information as to how the new name should be carried on the records, and whether the marriage was a legal Bahá'í marriage.

Bahá'í News will list only those marriages that are performed by local Spiritual Assemblies legally authorized by state law to do so. Local Assemblies should always report such marriages whether or not both, either, or neither of the parties are Bahá'ís. The purpose in announcing such a marriage is to give recognition to the performance of an important administrative function and not as a social event.

—National Spiritual Assembly

PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN ADVANCES

Since the preparation of the report published in January, a number of important activities have been conducted in the public relations campaign undertaken on behalf of the persecuted Persian Bahá'ís.
1. A United States Senator has written the Iranian Ambassador and is awaiting his reply before taking the next step in exerting influence toward the removal of restrictions now laid upon the Baha’is of Persia.

2. Conferences have been held in New York with a friendly ambassador to United Nations for a certain government. He will, if his government approves, raise the question of the persecutions in a United Nations session.

3. The Baha’i appeal will soon be brought before a Sub-Commission of UN on Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, by Mr. Roger Baldwin, Chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man, a UN consultative agency. Mr. Baldwin has held a press conference at United Nations and copies of his letter to the Secretary-General have been distributed to all UN delegations. The New York Herald-Tribune on December 23 referred to Mr. Baldwin’s letter.

4. Mr. Baldwin’s letter and his press release have been shared with all NSAs.

5. During the past few weeks clipped newspaper reports have come from 33 newspapers which have used the public relations counsel’s illustrated story on “World Shocked by Religious Persecution.”

6. The Modern Review, English language monthly magazine published in Calcutta, ran in August an illustrated article on the persecutions, expressing deep concern.

7. The Baha’i Appeal pamphlet has been reprinted and copies can be obtained from the Baha’i Publishing Trust for 25 cents a copy. Anything in this pamphlet can be quoted in local releases, public meetings and interviews.

8. The public relations counsel is submitting an article on World Religion Day to a news weekly and is issuing a release to the entire United States Press based upon the NSA statement issued as an insert in December, Baha’i News.

9. Our Press Service releases are being used in other countries. The NSA of India, Pakistan and Burma is particularly successful in placing them in the press.

—National Spiritual Assembly

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Germany, Austria**

**VIENNA CELEBRATES HAZIRA DEDICATION**

Two-day festivities marked the dedication of the Haziratu’l-Quds of Vienna, Austria, on November 26-27, 1955, according to Baha’i Nachrichten, organ of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria.

On November 26, the Day of the Covenant, private ceremonies were held. The feature of the program was the official delivery of the keys to the Hazira.

The next morning a public dedication service was scheduled. The program included readings from the Holy Writings, music, and addresses by Baha’i representatives.

Speakers included Dr. Hermann Grossman, Hand of the Cause, Dr. Eugen Schmidt, Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly, and Franz Pollinger, of the Vienna Local Spiritual Assembly.

Later in the day there was an illustrated lecture and a social hour. The first floor of the Hazira will, in the future, serve the purposes of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Vienna. The second floor will be rented to the friends.

**ESCHBORN PETITION REFUSED BY COURT**

The second session before the People’s Court in Frankfurt, concerning the purchase petition by the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria for the House of Worship site in Eschborn, was held beginning on October 22, 1955.

The Baha’i Faith was represented at the proceedings by counsel for the National Spiritual Assembly, two members of the Assembly, and Architec Kohl.

On November 9 the negotiations were concluded, and the Court again refused to grant the petition. The National Spiritual Assembly now feels itself compelled to lodge a complaint with the Court of Appeal. The Guardian has been informed of the situation, and has given assurances of his heartfelt prayers.

**FIRST AUSTRIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE HELD**

The Austrian Teaching Committee conducted the first Bahá’i Regional Conference in Austria at Salzburg on October 29-30, 1955.

Baha’is from Vienna, Innsbruck, Graz, and Ehrwald, Austria, and from Stuttgart, Gauting, and Ingelheim, Germany, attended.

Dr. Eugen Schmidt spoke on “Humanity at the Crossroads” on the first day, and on “World Peace Through World Order” the following day.

Achievements of the Conference can be regarded as most encouraging for activating the teaching work in Austria, especially in the Salzburg area.

**News Briefs**

Baha’i Nachrichten reports the following news items:

An agreement for partial compensation for thousands of Baha’i books confiscated in 1937 was signed by the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria after lengthy negotiations.


A Youth Winter School was held at Titisee, in the Black Forest, on December 26 to January 2.

**British Isles**

**ASSEMBLY AREA BOUNDARIES DEFINED**

The Guardian told the British Baha’is in July that the time had now come for the area of jurisdiction of each Assembly to be limited to the civic boundaries of its town. Unfortunately much of the residential part of most British towns lies outside the civic limits, so that the not-too-strong British Baha’i Communities have been drastically reduced in numbers. One has only a single believer left and two others have changed their names because there were more Baha’is in some residential suburb than in the town itself.

Twenty-two Assemblies are still recognized by the National Assembly, but there will be great difficulty in maintaining all these at Ridván, 1956. The National Assembly has set the goal of maintaining 24 assemblies and establishing 6 new ones by Ridván, 1957.
BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS

The South Africa Jewish Times for August 12, 1955, contains a page article, entitled "Another Religion Calls Israel Home," devoted to an exposition of the Faith, with special reference to the Shrines and Gardens in the Holy Land. This article was written by Carl Alpert. It is illustrated with a photograph of a Garden scene.

The New Trumpeter for November, 1955, devoted to Arts, Crafts and Fashions, prints an interview with Loava Carter, Bahá'i business woman in Carmel, which presents a brief statement on the Teachings.

New International Year Book, Funk & Wagnalls, New York, has for a number of years included a summary of current Bahá'í events. The summary has recently been revised for the 1956 edition.

These Times, published by the Seventh Day Adventists, publishes a reference to a resolution passed in dedicating Japan's International Peace House urging the formation of a Federation of World Religions. Representation by Bahá'í delegates was noted. However, the editorial states that students of the World of God "will not swerve from their Heaven-born contention that only the return of Christ can establish tranquillity."

The Selective Eye, Random House, New York, a selection of articles from a French Art Review, presents an article on Mark Tobey which refers to the Faith.

"In a profound individual revulsion against those aspects of Western Christian Civilization, Tobey turned toward a modern Persian philosophy, Bahá'í, then in the process of establishing itself in the New World —a world long weakened by the multiple factionalism of the Protestant Faith. Bahá'í is a religion whose mystic generosity acclaims the peaceful oneness of all mankind, a mysticism taken from antique Eastern faiths stressing the sacred unity of men and all of nature in earthly harmony."

Ebony for November carried an article about Mrs. Carrie Turner, a Cleveland Bahá'í, with a picture of the Temple showing Mrs. Turner and her seeing eye dog.

NATIONAL NEWS

BAHÁ'ÍS FILL POSTS AMONG INDIANS

The American Indian Service Committee has announced that three Bahá'ís have filled pioneer posts among the American Indians.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Hill, a public health nurse, has moved to Pocatello, Idaho, where she has the opportunity of serving the Bannock and Shoshone Indians on the nearby Fort Hall Reservation.

Dr. Fazly Melany, has transferred to Crow Agency, Mont., as a medical officer for the Indian Service.

Miss Loretta Haynes has moved to the Jicarilla Indian School (Apache) at Dulce, N. Mex.

There is a great need for doctors, dentists, and veterinarians in Thurston County, Nebr. Macy, which was our first American Indian Assembly, and no longer holds assembly status, is located in Thurston County.

Canada

New Territories Committee

The Bulletin of the Canadian New Territories Committee reports the difficulties faced by the pioneer on St. Pierre in introducing the Faith:

"Certain habits of thought and etiquette here make it very difficult to broach a topic that would lead to the Faith. One is that the question form is not used. In asking of the simplest thing, the affirmative is used. It is considered impolite to ask any sort of a question about the speaker or about personal effects.

"Another peculiarity is of speaking in a factual or narrative way, drawing no conclusions, making no abstractions, suppositions, or conjectures, advancing no new ideas, theories or projects, but stating self-evident facts or recounting events.

"It is only by an overflow of love, of goodwill and small kindnesses that a way to the hearts of the St. Pierrais can be won. Truly it is not hard to love them, and they in turn have overwhelmed me with kindness and attentions. You have no idea what spiritual blessings have come to me since I have arrived here."

Group attending the Italo-Swiss Summer School at the Hotel des Sallines, Bex les Bains, in the beautiful Vaud Valley of Switzerland. The courses were given in French, German, Italian, Persian, and English. At the left is a group of the Youth who attended.
YOUTH ANNOUNCE COLLEGE BUREAU

A College Bureau, designed to assist Bahá'ís Youth in the rapidly developing college teaching program, has been formed by the National Bahá'í Youth Committee.

Functions of the College Bureau will include the preparation of a listing of all college Bahá'ís Youth in the United States, the editing of news for the "College Column" in the Bahá'í Youth Bulletin, the sharing with Youth of college teaching methods and ideas, and assistance in organizing Bahá'í groups on campus.

Members of the College Bureau are Al Kalantar, Ken Kalantar, Hormoz Sabet, and Ellen Weintrob.

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

Two Bahá'ís at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind. prevailed on Kappa Alpha Sigma fraternity to sponsor a Bahá'í speaker at their semester Convocation. Letters were sent to campus groups, posters displayed, and personal invitations were extended. The meeting attracted about 70 non-Bahá'ís, and a lively discussion followed the talk.

GEYSERVILLE BAHI’I SCHOOL LISTS SESSIONS, THEME

The Geyserville Bahá’í School 1956 session will be held July 8 to August 12, 1956, inclusive. The annual Unity Feast is scheduled for Sunday, July 15. The courses and general activities of the school this year will revolve about the theme: "Meeting the Challenge of the Bahá’í Way of Life."

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

World Youth Day Theme

"Guiding Purpose for Life Today" has been selected as the theme for Bahá’í World Youth Day, March 25, 1956. It is hoped that many communities will present a public program in observance of this Day, whose objective is "To publicize the Bahá’í program for uniting the youth of all Faiths in promoting lasting world peace."

New York Interracial Meeting

The fifth in a series of programs on the "Elimination of Prejudice," sponsored by the Bahá’ís of New York City, was held at the Parkside Hotel on December 11. Rev. David N. Licorish, Associate Minister of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, largest Protestant Church in the world, spoke on "Color and World Outlook."

Rev. Licorish cited the Bahá’í Faith as a living example of true brotherhood, and invited a Bahá’í group to attend a fellowship meeting at the Abyssinian Church in January.

Two members of the Waterloo, Iowa, community were recently invited to explain the principles of the Faith to the "Fireside Club," a social organization for married couples.

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

The Area Bulletin for the Central Atlantic States reports their second Area Conference at Baltimore, Md., on January 14. The theme of the meeting was "Spiritual Living."

Covington, Ky. (goal city) has been settled by a pioneer, it has been announced by the Bulletin for the Tennessee Valley States. It also reports that the Birmingham, Ala. Bahá’ís have moved into larger quarters in the Lyric Building. Members of this Area Teaching Committee have recently visited Memphis, and Chattanooga (goal city), Tenn., and Jackson, Miss.
PRESS SERVICE REPORTS  
STATE CONVENTION PUBLICITY

Newspaper clippings received by the Baha'i Press Service showing publicity of delegate attendance at the State Conventions on December 4, 1955 totals 77 newspapers in 60 cities, representing 26 states, Alaska and Hawaii.

PUBLICATIONS

The World Order of Baha'u'llah. By Shoghi Effendi. (New edition with new preface by Horace Holley). The seven communications from the Guardian which define the relation of the Faith to the process of social evolution in this new age. This basic Baha'i text should be deeply studied by all who would understand the development and the relationship of the rising institutions of the Faith to the process of social evolution in our times. (See National Assembly article on page 5 of this issue). Two Study Guides are available for individual or group study, listed on page 22 of catalog. Bound in rust-red cloth.

Per copy $2.75

Back in Stock
The Divine Art of Living, temporarily out of stock, is now available at the former price of $1.50.

Available from
Baha'i Publishing Trust
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEASTS
February 7—Mulk (Dominion)  
March 2—'Ala' (Loftiness)

World Brotherhood Week
February 19-25—To proclaim the oneness of mankind.

INTERCALARY DAYS
Ayyâm-i-Ha, February 26 to March 1.

DAYS OF FASTING
March 2-21

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
February 10, 11, 12
March 23, 24, 25

MARRIAGES

“Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord! Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace...” —Baha'u'llah

Saint Paul, Minnesota: Miss Evelyn Kadrie to Mr. Leron Duncan on October 10, 1955.

Sacramento, California: Miss Joyce Evanne Chindahl to Mr. Jim Ernest Reinhardt on December 9, 1955.

BAHA'I DIRECTORY CHANGES

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Convention Arrangements (addition)
Mrs. Priscilla Hassan

'Davison Baha'i School Program (addition)
Miss Violet Wuerfel

As of January 1, 1956 the name of Louhelen Baha'i School was changed to “Davison Baha'i School.”

BAHA'I HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting hours
Weekdays and Saturdays: 1:00—4:00 P.M.
(the Auditorium will be open)
Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
(the entire building will be open)
Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.

IN MEMORIAM

“Death proveth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life.” —Baha'u'llah

Mrs. Ammet'u'llah Oglesby
Boston, Massachusetts
October, 1955

Dr. Mary F. Fletcher
Lancaster, Massachusetts
November, 1955

Mrs. Maud Allen
 Burlingame, California
December, 1955

Mrs. Geraldine Falkey
San Francisco, California
December 5, 1955

Mrs. Jessie Walston
Chicago, Illinois
December, 8, 1955

Mr. Harry Dublin
Scranton, Pennsylvania
December, 6, 1955

Miss Leonora Havy
Minneapolis, Minnesota
December 13, 1955

Mr. Orville Tobbetts
Sterling, Massachusetts
December 22, 1955

BAHA'I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Baha'i World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

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Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Baha'i Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
GUARDIAN URGES "GREATER CONSECRATION TO PRESSING TASKS"
Cable from the Guardian

"Deplore situation home front. Praying ardently rededication entire com­munity (for) greater consecration (to) pressing tasks. Approve all sug­gestions (in) recent letter. Urge redouble efforts, supplicate unprecedented blessings."

February 2, 1956

COMMENTARY: NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Dear Friends:

The National Spiritual Assembly has opened its heart to the Guardian in prayerful need for his blessings and guidance. The home front in general needs revivification with the spirit of enthusiasm and determined effort.

The Guardian's response offers us contact with his creative spirit and will. His approval of the suggestions made by the NSA for dealing with the problem gives us a spiritual starting point. The suggestions involved a new approach to the Bahá'í community by stressing our blessings and achievements to arouse a sense of spiritual happiness and accomplishment. The letter entitled "Your Blessings as a Bahá'í" initiated this new approach.

A broadside is in preparation which will carry illustrations of the Ḥażíras already acquired with brief text pointing out the importance of the achievement made in this world-wide task. The NSA is dealing with many local situations where the light of faith is darkened by personality problems. It longs to see the friends generate unity, in which vigorous group and community teaching plans can be carried out. The Faith potentially has every aspect of power and attraction, but we have to release it for others by showing its effects upon ourselves.

Extensive correspondence is also being carried on concerning "inactive" believers, to determine whether they can be reactivated or have actually withdrawn from the Faith.

The work of the Hands of the Cause and members of the Auxiliary Board this year is directed toward consolidation of groups for formation of Assem­blies and reinvigorating the weaker communities to prevent loss of Assembly status. A great number of visits have been made in various sections of the home front.

A constructive suggestion for the friends: Attend every Nineteen Day Feast; read attentively each successive issue of Bahá'í NEWS.

"Devoted, zealous servant (of) Faith"

The Guardian sent the following cable on January 26, on being informed by the National Spiritual Assembly of the passing of Homer Dyer:

"Praying (for) progress (of) soul (of) devoted, zealous servant (of) Faith."

NO. 301 BAHÁ'Í YEAR 112 MARCH, 1956

Naw-Rúz: A Festival

Praised be Thou, O my God, that Thou hast ordained Naw-Rúz as a festival unto those who have observed the fast for love of Thee and abstained from all that is abhorrent unto Thee.

—Bahá'u'lláh, Prayers and Meditations, XLVI

O ye children of the Kingdom!

It is New Year; that is to say, the rounding of the cycle of the year. A year is the expression of a cycle of the sun; but now is the beginning of a cycle of Reality, a New Cycle, a New Age, a New Century, a New Time, and a New Year.

I wish this blessing to appear and become manifest in the faces and characteristics of the believers, so that they, too, may become a new people, and having found new life and been baptized with fire and spirit, may make the world a new world . . .

I desire for you that you will have this great assistance and partake of this great bounty, and that in spirit and heart you will strive and endeavor until the world of war become the world of peace; the world of darkness the world of light; satanic conduct be turned into heavenly behavior; the ruined places become built up; the sword be turned into the olive branch; the flash of hatred become the love of God, and the noise of the gun the voice of the kingdom; the soldiers of death the soldiers of life; all the nations of the world one nation; all races as one race; and all national anthems harmonized into one melody.

—Tablets of Abdu'l-Bahá, Volume I.
This report summarizes the schedules carried out by the nine members of the Auxiliary Board this Bahá’í Year in Canada, United States, Central America and South America. The purpose of these local visits is to assist the administrative institutions in their prosecution of plans for the World Crusade, emphasizing in their talks the basic Bahá’í teachings which are the spirit of life, and the importance of service to the Ten Year Plan.

Since the institution of the Hands and the Auxiliary Boards is connected directly with the Guardianship, it does not enter into administrative problems, but the Hands and Board members report such problems, when encountered, to the proper administrative body. Thus this institution can generate enthusiasm and strive to augment spiritual understanding without assuming responsibility for decision and action in the administrative field or expressing any judgment in the realm of personal relations.

This year the general aim has been (1) to visit small communities which might lose their Assembly status, (2) to visit larger groups to help them attain Assembly status, (3) to attend conferences and some larger communities where meetings can attract Bahá’ís from the whole vicinity, and (4) to seek to contribute to the strength of those areas where national Assemblies are to be established.

In order to strengthen the contact of the local friends with the institution of the Hands, the Board members have been given a letter of greeting from the American Hands of the Cause to read at each gathering attended exclusively by Bahá’ís.

The record for the current year is impressive.

Esteban Canales: Intensive protracted stays for concentrated work in Mexico and Panama, with visits to Costa Rica.

William deForge: Conferences at Green Acre Institute, Louhelen School, Staunton, Va.; Falmouth, Mass.; Bridgeport, Conn.: visits to New Orleans, La.; Snyder, Amherst, and Geneva, N.Y.; Bahá’í centers throughout Central America, capital and many large cities throughout South America.

Rowland Estall: Sherbrook, Quebec; lectures in a church, Derby Line, Vt.; Regional Conference, Ingersoll, Ont.; Oshawa, St. Catherine, Burlington, Forest, Ingersoll and Oxford Township, Bellville and Trenton, Kingston, Ottawa, Eastview, Ontario.


Mrs. Margery McCormick: After guiding at the Temple during the summer, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Charlottetown, P.E.I.; Moncton, St. John, New Brunswick; Portland, Me.; Ipswich, Cambridge, Newton, Boston, Marshfield, Falmouth, Mass.; Brattleboro, Vt.; Hartford, Bridgeport, Conn.; Providence, R.I. One radio broadcast.

Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin: Conference at Green Acre; Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Honduras; San Salvador, Santa Ana, El Salvador; Guatemala City, Quiche, Chichicastenango, Guatemala; Mexico City, Cuernavaca, Pueblo, Monterrey, Mexico; Fort Worth, Texas.

Dr. Sarah Martin Pereira: Weekend visits to cities in West Virginia, Virginia; Louiville, Ky.

Mrs. Gayle Woolson: La Paz, Cochabamba, Ucareno, Quillacollo, Sacaba, Oruro, Bolivia; Nequipa, Lima, Callaro, Huancayo, Peru; Guayaquil, Danli, Quito, Ecuador; six radio broadcasts.

Mrs. Margot Worley: Repeated visits to Nitheroi, Sao Vicente, Santos, Porto-Alyre, Brazil; Montevideo, Salto, Uruguay; Asuncion, Paraguay.

Numerous letters from Assemblies and groups have expressed grateful appreciation of the work of the members of the Auxiliary Board.

Part of the facade of the International Archives Building laid on the ground to test joints for accuracy. Taken at the workshop in Chiampo, Italy, prior to shipment.
When we survey the tasks accomplished since the initiation of the Guardianship we cannot but be deeply impressed.

First, the transformation of all Bahá’í community relationships which was worked out here in America in conformity with the Guardian’s exposition of the administrative order revealed by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. Power, influence and direction were transferred from individuals to institutions, and one by one the Convention, the NSA, the local Assembly and the Committee functions were clarified and applied. In one generation a new order of civilization was wrought out of our imperfect human natures as we responded to the Guardian’s successive messages in those days.

A transformation within society which historically might require hundreds of years was effected in less than twenty years by the loyalty and effort of the friends. We live today in a new and different Bahá’í community than existed in 1921 when the beloved Master passed away.

Second, we behold today a completed, dedicated, and functioning House of Worship erected with its landscaping at a cost of some $2,700,000 — a notable achievement indeed.

Then, in successive Teaching Plans the believers established the Bahá’í communities of Central and South America and of the ten countries of Western Europe, while Assemblies were established in every State and Canadian province. Four National Assemblies were elected: Canada, Central America, South America, Italy and Switzerland.

Now, during the years of the World Crusade we recount the pioneer missions in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Western Hemisphere, the Haziras purchased, the endowments acquired, and new local Assemblies formed. As this is written, delegates have been elected for a Convention to form an NSA in South West Africa.

Truly, this is a prodigious achievement and one for which we should be profoundly grateful — and a series of tasks the performance of which measures our collective capacity for greater tasks to come.

Is it not true that every Bahá’í lives in the spirit of Divine Victory — a privilege which nothing on earth can equal; we, a small number, not in any way eminent by the standards of men, qualified by faith alone to undertake measures which reverse the swift descent of the old world to chaos and lay the basis of the future before statesmen and masses glimpse what that future is to be!

May we not, in prayerful contemplation of our own community history, resolve to stand ever closer to that Divine Victory and respond ever more faithfully to its claim upon each Bahá’í soul for its full measure of service.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
EMPLOYMENT OFFERED IN NORTH AFRICA

The United States Africa Teaching Committee reports the following announcement, of interest to prospective pioneers:

"There is a possibility of positions becoming available in North Africa for engineers, surveyors, and mechanics.

"If interested, you may complete a U.S. Government application form (Form 57), obtainable at any Post Office, and send it to the Africa Teaching Committee, Mrs. Sylvia Parmelee, Secretary, 4700 47th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. for forwarding to the appropriate agency."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Australia, New Zealand

TEACHING TOURS, CONFERENCES REPORTED

The Bahá’í Bulletin, published by the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia and New Zealand, gives the following information on activities:

S. W. Bolton, Vice-Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly, toured both islands of New Zealand last Fall. In the north island he traveled over 1900 miles by car with Hugh Blundell, from Whangarei to Wellington. Driving by day, Mr. Bolton lectured and showed slides by night. Thirty two meetings were held, with an over-all attendance of 700 people.

In the south island Mr. Bolton traveled approximately the same distance by plane, train, and bus.

A Regional Teaching Conference has been held at New Plymouth, New Zealand, with the discussion centering on teaching methods. Radio broadcasting, window displays, social welfare work, and the interchange of members from other centers were considered.

A similar Regional Conference has also been held at Sydney, New South Wales, with a discussion of World Crusade goals, publicity, and developing new contacts.

An open air rally observing United Nations Day was held at Newcastle Beach. Four religions, including the Bahá’í Faith, took part in the proceedings.

Canada

LETTER REPORTS

TRIP THROUGH AFRICA

"Three Thousand Miles Through Southern Africa," a letter from Emir Sala, appeared in the January issue of the Quebec Regional Teaching Committee Bulletin. The following excerpts are reprinted here:

"We spent November travelling from Natal, through the Cape Province to Basutoland, Transvaal, Swaziland, Zululand (to Port Elizabeth) . . . drifting on the waves of faith.

"The African, of course, is changing through contact with the White man. But it takes many generations. The difference is between the short and the long view. Those who do not see the Bahá’í view do not see it because they do not see far enough into the future. We Bahá’ís make the same mistake. When we see the shortcomings of our own groups we are apt to be disheartened. But that is only because we see the short view. (Those who see only the long view are just as useless, since they become visionary, impractical dreamers. Moderation in all things.)

"We cannot and should not judge the African by our own standards. We should not try to make them in our image. The keynote to their heart is patience, which is more than love. I find it much easier to love them than to be patient with them. Patience also means that we have to forgive their faults constantly, for most of those faults are faults only in our eyes.

"Kindness towards the African without firmness is almost useless. They were conditioned to exert themselves only because of fear from authority, that is, coercion from without. They also knew fear from within, fear from evil spirits, but this usually told them what not to do. To strive from within, by their own volition, is a new experience."

BAHÁ’Í INTERNATIONAL BUREAU ANNOUNCES NEW ADDRESS

All correspondents are requested to take note of the new address of the Bahá’í International Bureau, Ann Lynch, Secretary, 29, Route de Malagnou, Geneva, Switzerland.
Central America

PIONEERS NEEDED FOR CRUSADE GOALS

The greatest obstacle to fulfilling the World Crusade goals in Central America is the lack of workers, the National Spiritual Assembly of Central America reports.

Pioneers are urgently needed, both to help strengthen existing weak assemblies, and to settle in new areas.

There are openings for school teachers, stenographers, secretaries, office workers, technicians, radio experts, and many others. For businessmen, there are numerous possibilities for starting new businesses. For anyone with faith in Baha'u'llah, there is always something.

Contact the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee for further details.

Many Goals Won

"All efforts have been concentrated on winning the goals allotted to this area by the Beloved Guardian for this year of the World Crusade," the Central American Assembly states.

Six national Haziras have been acquired, out of a total of ten to be purchased: San Jose, Costa Rica; City of Panama; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; San Salvador; Guatemala City, Guatemala; and Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic. Haziras in Mexico, Cuba, Haiti, and Nicaragua are still to be purchased.

Of ten National Endowments, three have been acquired, in Panama, El Salvador, and Honduras.

The local assemblies of all the capital cities have obtained incorporation except Mexico City and Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Steps have also been taken to incorporate the local assemblies in the secondary cities of Limon and Escazu, Costa Rica.

Much has been accomplished in the teaching field. At least 10 new cities have been opened to the Faith, and plans are made for the opening of five more.

Native pioneers have settled in David, Panama, and Puntarenas and Heredia, Costa Rica. Efforts are being made to move more pioneers.

A series of brief but intensive schools have been held in several countries, conducted by the National Teaching Committee, and aided by Katherine McLaughlin, member of the Auxiliary Board.

William de Forge, member of the Auxiliary Board, made a very successful teaching trip through Central America, in which local assemblies, local teaching committees, and the National Teaching Committee efficiently collaborated, contributing one more historic step in the march of the Faith.

India, Pakistan, Burma

WORLD RELIGION DAY OBSERVED WIDELY

The National Spiritual Assembly of India, Pakistan and Burma reports that World Religion Day was observed with public meetings in the three countries under its jurisdiction, with material supplied by the American National Spiritual Assembly.

Germany, Austria

PROGRESS REPORTED BY EUROPEAN BOARD

An interim report from the European Hands of the Cause and their Auxiliary Board, and the National Spiritual Assemblies concerned in European work, lists developments in Germany and Austria since last summer. Excerpts from this report giving news not yet reported in Baha'i News follow:

The four goal cities of Austria, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Graz, and Linz, are now settled, but need more pioneers to assist in the teaching work.

Pioneers in the Frisian Isles report the circle of interested people is steadily widening. Wyck/Fohr has again been settled by a pioneer. The former pioneer there had to leave because of ill health.

In Greece, there are now five adult believers in Athens, and at Heraklion a second native has declared himself.

The Heidelberg Spiritual Assembly has been incorporated, and other assemblies have been urged to take the necessary steps for incorporation.

Preparations to further the goal of the establishment of a European Baha'i Publishing Trust have been made.
Pacific Islands Awaken to Call of Baha'u'llah

"The Guardian feels that Asia and the South Pacific area are now ripe for a rapid development of the Faith. He feels that if we properly teach the Cause of God, there will be victories as wonderful as those achieved in Africa."

Letter to the Asia Teaching Committee from Leroy Iosas, Secretary General, International Baha'i Council, July 2, 1955.

Korea

A newly enrolled Baha'i in Kwangju, Korea, Oh Jai Dong, has given an excellent report of another history-making event in that goal country.

Here at the seat of Chon-nam National University there were gathered in the home of William H. Maxwell, American Baha'i pioneer, twice the anticipated number of Baha'is and students of the Faith for the first Baha'i Winter School in this part of the world. The nine new Baha'is enrolled shortly before the school, following a ten-lesson course of preparation, assisted enthusiastically with the countless details and assumed most of the responsibility for translation for the morning devotional periods, as well as the classes.

The official registration at the school was 36, but many others came for one or more sessions. The majority were college students, but a good percentage were college professors, and a few were high school students.

David Earl came over from Yamaguchi, Japan, to serve as the "visiting teacher." He was kept busy day and night, not only with lecturing at the school, but also with individual and group discussions, and meetings with college groups and professors. To many of the students, the school was more or less a "post-graduate" course, for they had already been taught the essential verities of the Faith, and the school provided opportunity for deepening as well as for meeting the Baha'is who were able to come from other parts of Korea.

A very stirring incident during the school was the presence one day of a Korean gentleman who had met 'Abdu'l-Baha in the Holy Land. His account of his impression of "that Holy Man" was very moving and touched the hearts of all the new believers deeply. He paid tribute to the aims of the Faith and the contribution it could make to a spiritual renaissance in the orient.

As is the case throughout all the orient, the need for Baha'i literature is very great in Korea. Selected Writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha, already translated by Capt. Kim Won Bo, is being reviewed by a committee of the new Baha'is in Kwangju in preparation for publication. A number of prayers have been translated and mimeographed for distribution.

Gilbertes

(The amazing developments in these islands can best be told in the words of Mrs. Elena Fernie, with excerpts from a letter she wrote on Abaiang Island last summer.)

"We have had a wonderful Gilbertese Bahai (Peter) for over a year. He has been with us through thick and thin, but so many false accusations were made against him and so much pressure was brought to bear on the Island Council through the missionaries, that an investigation, which was a farce from beginning to end, resulted in his banishment from the island on 24 hours notice.

"It was because of this that the first tremendous event took place. Peter bore his persecution with such fortitude and returned so much good for evil, that over half the village threw off (their) Faith, and came en masse to our house one morning at 3:00 a.m., asking for teaching in the Bahai' Faith.

"The next day about 90 people appeared, and since it was Peter's last day on Abaiang, he taught his people the Bahai' Faith directly for the first time. That was a day full of tremendous emotion. Peter was so happy to achieve his heart's desire — freedom to teach his beloved Faith. The people were already pledging themselves to be loyal to their new religion, and listened raptly to Peter's teaching. At the same time, the hearts of everyone were grieved, for Peter's only crime was to behave so like a Baha'i that the veils ... were stripped from the people's eyes, and they saw with perfect clarity that the new religion, Baha'i, not only talked about love, but practiced it constantly.

"Since we are I Malanga (white people), we could not be banished like Peter. All that they (the missionaries) could do was to request the Resident Commissioner to ask us to leave. ... We went to Tarawa to be interviewed by him, and after breaking down all the false accusations, the Commissioner's only reason for desiring to
deport us was that we can't imagine the effect our presence has on the people.

"Before we left for Tarawa, over 100 Gilbertese had declared their intention to be Bahá'ís. We had helped them to elect three 'practice Assemblies'. During our absence the rumor was spread that we would never return, but the only result was that nearly 100 more decided to become Bahá'ís. Also, while we were gone, a district officer, with one of the Bahá'ís, went from village to village up and down Abaiang, taking the names of those who desired to be Bahá'ís. The total figure: 225!"

Japan

There have been ten new enrollments in Japan between the Nikko conference and the end of December. The number of localities where Bahá'ís now reside in Japan is sixteen, ten of them having Bahá'í groups. Regular classes and firesides are being held in Tokyo, Amagasaki, Kobe, Nagoya, Kyoto, Yokohama, Osaka, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, and Nishinomiya. Special attention is being given by the National Teaching Committee to the six cities most likely to have new local Spiritual Assemblies in April 1956.

A monthly bulletin Bahá'í Geppo is published by the Tokyo Local Spiritual Assembly, in Japanese and English, and sent to all Bahá'ís throughout Japan. Besides news of activities, it includes articles by Japanese Bahá'ís or translations from the Writings.

Mentawai, Tuamotu, Tahiti

From the Asian Teaching Committee of Australia and New Zealand comes the good news that there are now five Bahá'ís in the Mentawai Islands, that the first believer has been enrolled in the Tuamotu Islands, and that two more members have been added to the Tahiti group. The Tahitian group has also completed the translation of an introductory pamphlet into the Tahitian language.

New Hebrides

The New Hebrides now have a Bahá'í group of eight, including the pioneer, Mrs. Bertha Dobbins, from Australia. The natives themselves are spreading the Faith, and the seekers are coming in greater and greater numbers to the home of the pioneer. Mrs. Dobbins' home, "Nur Cottage," is open from early morning to late in the evening. Classes in English, arithmetic, and Chinese, are held most days for the children, with evening classes for adults. A fine fife band is in the making.

Tonga

Latest news from Tonga is that the first Tongan believer is already carrying on a sound and successful teaching program on his own island. Because of lack of transportation, it is possible for Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Blakely, the Bahá'í pioneers, to visit him only once in three or four months, but they keep in touch with him by correspondence. Several students are studying with him, and he has also made other valuable contributions to the teaching work through the translation of chapters of Some Answered Questions, and an introductory pamphlet prepared by Mrs. Blakely specially for the Tongans. The title given this pamphlet is The Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, Abraham's Descendant, and will make a ready appeal to the Tongans, who place great emphasis on genealogy.

Solomons

The Bahá'í group in the Solomon Islands now numbers five, including besides the pioneers (Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Blum), the first Melanesian and Solomon Island native believer, and an Australian who moved to Honiara in early spring on business. Mr. Gina, the first native believer, is secretary and treasurer of the group. He is spreading the Faith amongst his people, who have the utmost respect for him since he has a fine education and had previously been regarded as one of "the shining lights" of the Methodist Mission in the islands.

Bahá'í Community of Taiwan, Formosa, with Dhibru'ílah Khádem, Hand of the Cause, Mrs. Khádem, and Mss. Haddad, at the celebration of the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh (Nov. 12, 1955).

Cook Islands

There are now nine Bahá'ís in the village of Muri on Rarotonga, Cook Islands. A "practice Assembly" elects new officers every six weeks in order that all may gain experience in Bahá'í administration. One of the most difficult of the institutions to explain and understand is the Bahá'í Fund. "It took a long time," writes Mrs. Danielson, American pioneer, "for the idea of voluntary contributions to take root in their hearts. We had to appoint an assistant treasurer to help with the reports because the treasurer could not even read and write his own language... When we had accumulated 19 shillings, they were very proud, and when it was put to a vote whether we should withdraw part of it to buy a present for a non-Bahá'í who had done a big translation job for us or all chip in, they wouldn't hear of touching the money in the treasury! Even though slightly out of order to discuss the amount we might each give, I let them do it as it stirred up interest and helped no end to overcome the old attitude. I had originally offered to make the difference so that we could buy a really good shirt; we would not want to send a cheap one as a gift. I was so relieved that some of them felt that though it was not of me they should be responsible for the full amount. Believe me, this is a far cry from the original attitude which was that I (or some other 'millionaire' after all) would give them and the Assembly everything I wanted! I was so pleased with their new attitude and them know it, loo!"

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World Religion Day, 1956

The Seventh Annual observance of World Religion Day, sponsored by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States, was held throughout the nation on Sunday, January 15, 1956.

The suggested theme of the public relations activity this year was “Religious Liberty.” A special statement on this subject, written by the National Spiritual Assembly, was distributed with the December issue of Baha’i News, and extra copies were made available by the Baha’i Publishing Trust.

Publicity and advertising material prepared by the Baha’i Press Service was adapted from this statement on religious liberty, and mailed to 450 Baha’i press representatives, and to 80 professional news gathering organizations.

The public relations counsel prepared additional editorial copy on this theme, and distributed it to many newspapers.

Statistics on public observances and publicity make impressive totals, and indicate that World Religion Day continues to be the leading annual event for proclaiming the Baha’i Faith to the public.

Seventy two communities in the United States held public meetings featuring a Baha’i speaker on the religious liberty theme. Seven of these, Fairbanks, Alaska, Tucson, Ariz., Berkeley and Beverly Hills, Calif., Peoria, Ill., Lafayette, Ind., and Cincinnati, Ohio, publicized their meetings with the publication of a photograph of the speaker in a local newspaper.

Panel discussions or symposiums, some with representatives of other religious faiths, also proved a popular form of public meeting. Champaign-Urbana, Ill., Dumont, N. J., St. Louis and Springfield, Mo., Butte, Mont., and Spokane and Yakima, Wash., presented general discussion programs. Wilmette and Quincy, Ill., Hackensack, N. J., and Baton Rouge, La., invited members of the Christian and Jewish faiths to participate in discussions on the viewpoint of their religions toward religious liberty.


Englewood, N. J., held a tea, and Roswell, N. Mex., gave an informal supper for their World Religion Day observance.

The Lafayette, Ind., community reported outstanding activity in conjunction with World Religion Day. On January 10 Hamilton Niss gave a lecture on the Baha’i Faith to a class on Modern Religious Movements at Purdue University, at the invitation of Dr. Clithero, of the Department of History, Philosophy and Government. The Lafayette Leader, a weekly newspaper, published a feature article on the Faith on January 12, with a large picture of the Temple. The article was written at the request of the editor, who had contacted Mr. Niss. The next day the Purdue Exponent published a front page article on the Faith, and followed this on the succeeding day with a larger article based upon an interview of Mr. Niss by the editor, and material published in the Leader.

Members of the Lafayette community wrote 60 personal letters of invitation to the World Religion Day meeting, and mailed 300 questionnaire cards to students and staff of Purdue University.

Anchorage, Alaska, presented their public observance with a radio program over KENI, with readings from the Holy Scriptures of seven world religions. Station KCOL, Ft. Collins, Colo., broadcast talks by two Baha’i Youth. The Antelope Judicial District, Calif., secured radio time for a broadcast of a tape recording by William Sears, on KAVL.

Newspaper publicity and advertising for World Religion Day showed the following totals: 208 newspapers in 153 cities, representing 38 states, Alaska, and Hawaii, published a total of over 1075 column inches of material, with a combined circulation of over 14,000,000 copies.
NATIONAL CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS LISTED

The Convention Arrangements Committee urges the Baha'i delegates and visitors planning to attend the Convention to make their housing reservations promptly. Hotel reservations should be made direct and a deposit must accompany the letter. One hotel has requested that the Baha'i's deposit the full amount for the period of time they are staying because they've so frequently experienced last minute cancellations. Hotels in Evanston where all Baha'is are welcome are:

The Evanshire Hotel, 860 Hinman Avenue
- Single $6.50, Double $7.50, Twin beds $9.50

The Evanston Hotel, 840 Forest Avenue
- Single (private bath) $5, Single (connecting bath) $4, Double (private bath) $6.50, Twin beds (private bath) $7.50
- Remit full amount when making reservation

The North Shore Hotel, 1611 Chicago Avenue
- Single $6 and $7, Double $8.50 and $9.50 (T.V.)
- Twin beds $9 and $10

Delegates and visitors wishing accommodations in private homes should send their request for reservations to:

Mrs. Priscilla Hassan
1244 Maple Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

or to

Mrs. Edna Coleman
1227 Leon Place
Evanston, Illinois

As announced in February Bahá’í News, child care will be provided only during daytime sessions but the arrangements do not include care for infants or very young children requiring individual attention.

Convention Identification

All Baha'is planning to attend the National Convention, either as delegates or visitors, are asked to bring their Baha'i identification cards and to present them on registration.

—NATIONAL SPiritUAL ASSEMBLY

VIEW LOCKING NORTH FROM THE BAHÁ'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP, WILMETTE, SHOWING NEWLY COMPLETED SERVICE ENTRANCE AND TUNNEL. THE BRIDGE COMPLETES THE OUTER WALK EN Circling the Temple Gardens.

The believers are again requested not to bring to the Convention any non-Baha'is, for they cannot be admitted to the sessions no matter how close to the Faith they may be. The Feast of Ridván and the Bahá'í Public Congress are the only occasions when non-Baha'is will be admitted.

For the Bahá'ís arriving early there will be an informal reception in Foundation Hall, Wednesday evening, April 25, at 8:00 p.m.

Believers who are planning to arrive a few days early, or to leave a few days after the Convention, and who are able to help with various details are requested to notify the Convention Arrangements Committee as soon as possible: Mrs. Dorothy Redson, 881 Garland, Winnetka, Illinois.

GREEN ACRE BAHÁ'Í SCHOOL ANNOUNCES SUMMER DATES

The Green Acre Bahá'í School Program Committee plans to have the 1956 summer session run for eight weeks, beginning July 2nd and ending August 24th, with a special week end program at each end, making the overall dates during which the school will be open June 30th through August 26th inclusive.

There will be three regular classes each week day, with special emphasis given to The World Crusade. The first two weeks have been designated Youth Weeks.

There will also be a children's school with graded classes for children from 5 to 14 years of age running throughout the eight weeks. In addition there will be a course each week on "Fundamentals of the Bahá'í Faith" designed for non-Baha'is.

LOUHELEN BAHÁ'Í SCHOOL

This summer will mark the 25th anniversary of Louheelen Baha'i School, Davison, Mich. The Program Committee is planning special activities in commemoration of this event.

The dates for the summer sessions have been announced as follows:
- Junior Youth (Ages 10 to 14), July 1-14; General Sessions, July 15-August 18; Senior Youth (15 years and up), August 19-31; and Homecoming, September 1-3.

BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS

Valdez Breeze of January 14, Valdez, Alaska, a general local interest bulletin, carries the NSA statement on Religious Liberty.

The Indianapolis Times of January 24, in its series entitled "Your Religion," publishes a statement on the Faith by Horace Holley.


The Bahá'í Publishing Trust has sent out a review of the Persian and Arabic Glossary prepared by Marzieh Gail, and references to this Glossary are evidently appearing in local papers because of orders being received from non-Baha'i sources, including bookstores.

Berkeley (California) Daily Gazette of December 9, in a column on "So We Hear," by Kacy Ward, mentions Mrs. Gail and her Glossary. This is also mentioned in William Hogan's A Bookman's Notebook.
GEYSERVILLE SCHOOL OFFERS 5 COURSES

The Geyserville Bahá’í School Program Committee announces the following adult courses which will be offered during the 1956 session, July 2 to August 12, all of which will be directly related to the general theme: “Meeting the Challenge of the Bahá’í Way of Life.”

1. “Fulfilling the Divine Plan and the World Crusade.” A course designed to place the individual in the Divine Plan and to aid in fulfilling the goals of the World Crusade.

2. “Knowing the Bahá’í Literature.” A series of discussions and study groups on certain books of the Sacred Writings of Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.

3. “Learning to Teach the Faith.” Discussion and workshops on firesides, public meetings, publicity, handling contacts, the use of national committees, etc.

4. “Building the Administrative Order.” Discussions and workshops on the formation and functions of the various institutions of the Faith, including the local Spiritual Assembly, the National Spiritual Assembly, and the International House of Justice.

5. “Living the Bahá’í Life.” A course designed to help the Bahá’í translate the Teachings of Bahá’u’lláh into action in his daily life.

There will be classes and other activities for children throughout the entire session.

CHILDREN’S MAGAZINE DISPLAYS "NEW LOOK"

Readers of Child’s Way last month noted a “new look” in the eight-year-old guide for parents and teachers issued by the National Bahá’í Child Education Committee.

Changed is the printing, general appearance, and grouping of material in the bulletin. Unchanged is the primary objective of the guide: To teach the child to understand the purpose of his existence.

Child’s Way is the result of a problem posed by the 1948 Committee: To design a teaching aid for parents, teachers, and all those interested in Bahá’í child education. The idea for the bulletin was the result of consultation.

In the first issue the Committee stated: “We hope that Child’s Way will enable us to cooperate with child education facilities maintained in local communities, and to foster parent education from the Bahá’í point of view.”

A further objective of the guide is to enable the parent and teacher to meet the child on his level, a recognized responsibility of educators.

Child’s Way showed improvement as each year’s experience increased its usefulness and acceptance. Today, 45 issues later, the bulletin remains as originally set up, its objectives reaffirmed by each succeeding committee. A present goal is to increase this usefulness to those responsible for child education by increasing the bulletin’s circulation.

Beginning with Volume 1, No. 1, Child’s Way has been self-supporting, charging $1.00 for six issues. Correspondence about subscriptions should be directed to Miss Banu Hassan, 1244 Maple Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

Suggestions and comments for Child’s Way or its supplement, “Children’s Page,” should be addressed to Mrs. Barbara McCurdy, Box 255, Deerfield, Illinois. Children’s Hour activities, teaching suggestions, manuscripts, and queries about story ideas for possible publication are invited.

Child’s Way is planned for the use of all Bábís, since child education is the concern of each believer. The bulletin is punched for easy notebook filing, and an annual index provides a handy teaching reference.
LIBRARY COMMITTEE SUGGESTS BOOKS

From time to time the National Library Service Committee has inserted in Baha'i News suggestions for cooperation with library agencies, and lists of recommended titles for first and later purchase. (Issues of December, 1954; March, April, and November, 1955). We again suggest here a slightly revised list of books, as the Committee is frequently asked for a repetition of recommended titles.

A. Introductory books for libraries in places where the Faith is only beginning to be known.
5. *Baha'i World Faith* (Although this excellent compilation has some material entirely for Baha'is, it is the best single volume containing the finest translations of the Writings).
6. *The Baha'i World*. The most recent volume is possible, but any recent volume, if local interest and library space permit.

*Indicates for 1st purchase.

B. Books for larger or specialized libraries, where an interest in the Faith is already established, and which have a good basic collection of Baha'i literature:
1. Gleanings, Baha'u'llah.
2. God Passes By, Shoghi Effendi.

No list can be considered final, nor do all books appeal equally to all persons. Very large or specialized libraries, where religious study and research are carried on, will of course need, and welcome, titles which a public library could not as yet find room for on its shelves. The believers will be guided by their own best judgement also, and by their "on the ground" knowledge of particular library conditions. The Committee is always ready to answer questions and make suggestions.

The Baha'i Publishing Trust will send literature catalogs to believers making library donations, to give to librarians who might be interested in further orders; or if a library wishes such a catalog for their files, they will be glad to send one direct.

The Baha'i Publishing Trust is listed in the Trade List Annual, and in Books in Print each year, so the source of Baha'i books is readily available to any librarian or book store. Also, *Publishers' Weekly*, the American Book Trade Journal, lists all new titles published by the Trust, and includes a Directory of publishers whose titles have appeared during the year.

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

An Area Teaching Conference was held at Springfield, Mass., on November 13, according to the *Area Bulletin* for the New England States. Following the conference, a public meeting was held, with an attendance of over 60 people.

Members of the Area Teaching Committee for the Tennessee Valley States conducted a Teaching Conference in Nashville, Tenn. on December 18, it is reported in their *Area Bulletin*.

Area Teaching Conferences were held in Youngstown and Toledo, Ohio on February 11-12, and in Detroit, Mich., on February 25-26, it is reported in the East Central States Area Teaching Committee Bulletin.

The *Area Bulletin* for the North-Atlantic States announces the following goals in their area: Consolidation goals, Atlantic City, Bayonne, Camden, Clifton, Elizabeth, Patterson, and Trenton, N.J.; Altoona, Erie, Lancaster, and Allentown, Pa.; Albany, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, Niagara Falls, Poughkeepsie, Schenectady, and Troy, N.Y. Virgin goals are Chester, Harrisburg, Reading, Wilkes-Barre, and York, Pa.; Elmira, Ithaca, and Utica, N.Y.

Over 60 Baha'is attended an Area Conference in Baltimore, Md., on January 14, it is reported in the *Area Bulletin* for the Central Atlantic States.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Baha'is of Fairbanks, Alaska, report that a UN film was secured and offered to local organizations for the observance of United Nations Day. The offer was accepted by the Chamber of Commerce, the Civilian Club at Ladd Air Force Base, the USO, and the University of Alaska. In addition, the film was shown twice at the High School.

For the Birthday of Baha'u'llah, the Northern Peoples' Teaching Committee sponsored a social gathering in Fairbanks to stimulate friendship with the Eskimos.

Members and friends of the Stockton, Calif. Community met on Dec. 2, 1955, for a showing of color slides of Guam, the Philippines, and Bangkok, taken by Lt. Harvey Godenker. Fifteen contacts were present, all of whom have manifested an interest in the Faith.

The Business Girls' Sorority of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, invited a local Baha'i to take part in a panel discussion with a Jew, Moslem, and Christian, on the teachings of their respective faiths. The Baha'i talk included an explanation of a chart showing the teaching of progressive revelation.

The Dallas, Texas, Local Spiritual Assembly was invited to send a representative to speak at a Morning Devotional Program held week days for the staff of the *Dallas Morning News*. Mr. John Thomas read selections from the *Gleanings of Baha'u'llah*.

PUBLICATIONS

Heart of the Gospel (paper), George Townsend. We are informed by the English publisher that a new printing of this book in paper binding will soon be available. This paper-bound edition has been out of print for over a year. All current orders will be recorded for delivery as soon as the shipment arrives. Price will continue to be $1.25 for this edition.

Available from Baha'i Publishing Trust
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**FEASTS**  
March 2 — 'Ala' (Loftiness)  
March 21 — Bahá (Splendor)  
April 9 — Jalal (Glory)

**HOLY DAY**  
March 21 — Feast of Naw-Rúz  
(Holy Days and Anniversaries celebrated at the Bahá’í House of Worship are open to the public. The first part of the meeting will be held in the Auditorium: the second part in Foundation Hall. The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. of the day preceding the anniversary date.)

**DAYS OF FASTING**  
March 2-20

**NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**  
March 23, 24, 25

**BAHÁ’Ï WORLD YOUTH DAY**  
March 25 — To publicize the Bahá’í program for uniting the youth of all faiths in promoting lasting world peace.

**BAHÁ’Ï HOUSE OF WORSHIP**

**Visiting hours**  
Weekdays and Saturdays:  
1:00—4:00 P.M.  
(the Auditorium will be open)  
Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.  
(the entire building will be open)

**Service of Worship:** Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.

**IN MEMORIAM**

"Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life."

—BAHÁ’U’LLÁH

Mrs. Naomi Hudson  
Lakewood, Ohio  
December, 1955

Mrs. Henry Davis  
Washington, D.C.  
December 21, 1955

Mrs. Mina Becker  
Des Moines, Iowa  
December 27, 1955

Mrs. Edythe B. Riden  
Pineland, New Jersey  
(date not reported)

Mrs. Adelaide Bridgett  
Chula Vista, California  
January 3, 1956

Mrs. James A. Erickson  
LaCrescenta, California  
January 13, 1956

Mr. John Ojala  
Atlanta, Georgia  
January 13, 1956

Mrs. A. T. Sawyer  
Fitchburg, Massachusetts  
January 19, 1956

Mrs. Anna Petro  
Burbank, California  
January 20, 1956

Mr. Homer Dyer  
Birmingham, Alabama  
January 22, 1956

**MARRIAGES**


Los Angeles, California: Mrs. Sally Mae Brittan to Mr. John Wesley Ashby on January 7, 1956.

Los Angeles, California: Miss Dorothy Richter to Mr. Dick Maitland on January 21, 1956.

Los Angeles, California: Mrs. Louise Ramsey to Mr. Howard Ellis on January 22, 1956.

New York, New York: Miss Barbara Vazquez to Mr. Juan P. Caban, Jr., on January 29, 1956.

**BAHÁ’Ï DIRECTORY CHANGES**

**AREA TEACHING COMMITTEES**

**ATC FOR SOUTHERN STATES**  
Mrs. Louise B. Matthias, Secretary, 536 South 39th St., Birmingham, Alabama.

**ATC FOR EAST CENTRAL STATES**  
Mrs. Mabel P. Long, Secretary, North Shore, Lake Lavine, R.R.3, Box 213, Coldwater, Michigan.

**BAHÁ’Ï NEWS** is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

**BAHÁ’Ï NEWS** is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1955-56: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Richard Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

MARCH, 1956

Mrs. Anna V. Hatter  
Baltimore, Maryland  
January 23, 1956

Mrs. Helena Lehman  
Bronx, New York  
January 31, 1956

Correction

Mme. M. L. Pise  
San Francisco, California  
(Listed in this column in December through error.)

"Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord! Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace . . . !"

—BAHÁ’U’LLÁH

**ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES**

**GEORGIA**  
Augusta: Mrs. Lillian P. Golden, 1723 Kissingbower Road

**MICHIGAN**  
Royal Oak Twp.: Miss DeMaris L. Morris, 21341 Parkside, Ferndale
3 REGIONAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES TO BE FORMED IN AFRICA THIS MONTH

Beloved Friends:

During the present month a most important event will take place — the formation of three new Regional National Spiritual Assemblies in the ancient continent of Africa. What has long been termed the Dark Continent becomes a Continent of Light.

Under the auspices of the National Spiritual Assembly of Egypt and Sudan the first Annual Convention will assemble delegates and visitors of the Bahá'ís of North West Africa; the British National Assembly convenes the Convention of the Bahá'ís of Central and East Africa; the National Assembly of the United States convenes the Convention of the Bahá'ís of South and West Africa. Mr. Paul E. Haney, Chairman, represents the United States National Assembly in opening this Convention.

Here we behold a rich harvest of the World Crusade — impressive evidence of what has been accomplished by the throng of pioneers and settlers who have gone forth under the beloved Guardian’s summons from many lands. How few the years required for the formation of enough local Assemblies in these three territories to elect delegates making these Conventions possible! Courage, zeal, devotion alone on the part of these true servants of the Faith could bring to fulfilment the goal set by the Guardian for the end of the third year of the Ten Year Plan. All of us owe them a deep and lasting gratitude; and we owe gratitude also to the administrative bodies and Africa Teaching Committees which directed and inspired the workers in the field.

What a diversity of races, nations and conditions will be represented in these three Regional National Spiritual Assemblies! How formidable the task of consolidating these three communities, which face difficulties unknown to Bahá'ís of Europe and America!

Of extreme helpfulness during recent years and in the future, we must acclaim the indefatigable efforts of the Hand of the Cause for Africa, Mr. Musa Banáni, as well as Mr. Ali Nakhjavani, who serves in Mr. Banáni’s temporary absence in Europe.

These new pillars of the future House of Justice are being raised. Thus this event is not only a spiritual blessing for Africa but for the entire Bahá’í world.

This achievement should galvanize us all to greater activity for the fulfilment of tasks of the World Crusade for which we collectively carry full responsibility.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY REPORTS

ACTION IN CAMPAIGN ON PERSECUTIONS

This report summarizes activities in January and part of February, 1956. It is divided into two parts; one concerning action taken on behalf of the Persian Bahá'ís, and one about action to promote the Faith in the United States.

Persecutions

1. Mr. Roger Baldwin, Chairman, International League for the Rights of Man, has addressed letters to the Permanent Delegation of Iran, to the United Nations, and to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives. He expressed hope that the Permanent Delegation had transmitted to the Iranian government the communication sent by the International League to United Nations. To the Foreign Affairs Committee he made reference to a Resolution passed by the House asserting the principle of religious freedom.

2. Effort was made to arrange for the Secretary General of United Nations to receive a Bahá'í delegation on his visit to Tehran, but the visit was too brief to make it possible.

3. A copy of Bahá'í Appeal for Religious Freedom in Iran was sent with a covering letter to a list of United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations selected by the public relations counsel for their interest in Mr. Roger Baldwin's presentation of our case to a Sub-Commission of United Nations.

4. Among the materials prepared and distributed by the public relations counsel during this period were: a News Feature Mat containing a release about Roger Baldwin's action in presenting the case to United Nations; a story about this was also carried by Religious News Service of January 9.

5. The British National Assembly has issued a press release on the Roger Baldwin story and finds some papers very much interested in the subject of the persecutions.

6. A press clipping in Arabic about the Roger Baldwin project has been received from Cairo.

7. The National Assembly of Canada has written to their Department of Exterior Affairs and has received a reply indicating interest.

8. The National Assembly of India, Pakistan & Burma makes extensive distribution of all releases supplied them.

9. Bahá'í Publishing Trust is printing a new edition of 2000 copies of Bahá'í Appeal so that copies can be ordered. This text should be known by the friends.

10. Plans are under way for interesting persons of political prominence to send protests to the Iranian Embassy in Washington.

11. A Reuters dispatch about the persecutions was recently published in Athens.

12. Clippings are frequently received showing publication by small town papers of the illustrated release, "World Shocked by Religious Persecution."

Promotion

13. For direct promotion of the Faith, our public relations counsel issued an editorial release on World Religion Day and through Religious News Service of January 11 distributed a story on "Bahá'ís Ask for Wider Concept of Religious Freedom," related to World Religion Day. A release on World Religion Day was also sent to many United States newspapers.

Bahá'í Press Service reported separately on the local World Religion Day events held this year.

As time goes on there will be many rumors about this or that government action in Iran, favorable or unfavorable to the Faith. The National Assembly will investigate every public rumor and take any necessary and appropriate action to inform the friends and the public.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

VOTING RIGHTS RESTORED

The voting rights of Alvero L. Jensen have been restored by the National Assembly.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY WELCOMES

VOLUNTEERS FOR SERVICE

A number of believers have inquired whether it is permissible for an individual Bahá'í to volunteer for a particular type of service, or whether an individual or a local Spiritual Assembly may suggest to the National Spiritual Assembly the names of Bahá'ís who are qualified to serve on national committees, as teachers at summer schools, and in similar capacities.

The National Assembly will welcome such recommendations. As much information as possible should accompany the recommendation, including the individual's educational background, professional and business experience, his Bahá'í experience, and the possible amount of time he may be able to devote to this work.

It should be understood that making committee appointments the National Assembly must consider many practical matters, such as the necessity of centralizing committees in a given area. The ability of the individual to travel without involving the expense of long distance travel to and from meetings, as well as the nature of the work to be done.

No Bahá'í talent or capacity should remain dormant. There are endless needs and opportunities for such activity. By every believer, whether isolated, a member of a community or on a national committee, it should be remembered that the election of a committee is to plan, guide, and report; therefore, believers who prefer activity to detached paper work will not likely find committee work nearly as stimulating and rewarding as teaching, independently or under the supervision of a committee.
In January, 1956, the Bahá'í Archives Building was growing ever larger on the slopes of Mt. Carmel, "the Hill of God." Pictured above is the interior of the north wall, showing the shuttering for the balcony. To the right is a view of the "arc," or path, in front of the Archives Building and the Shrine of the Bab.

From the steps rise 11 slender columns behind the scaffolding, which seaward, beyond the city, is the magnificent sea of Haifa Bay and Plain of 'Akka. This is enhanced with gardens of exquisite beauty, Qiblah of the Bab world, has been designed by Bahá'u'lláh as "seat of God's throne."
Haziratu'l-Quds of Vienna, Austria, dedicated on the Day of the Covenant, November 26, 1955.

Central America

ASSEMBLY LAUNCHES TEACHING CAMPAIGN

A thrilling impetus has been generated throughout Central America with the gift of $3000 for teaching purposes, made by the Guardian in December, 1955.

Most gratifying of all is that the native believers are arising to do their part in a teaching campaign inaugurated by the National Spiritual Assembly and carried out through the National Teaching Committee.

It has as minimum goals the establishment by April 21, 1956, of at least 12 new local assemblies and 7 new groups.

Goal Cities

The following goal cities have been selected:

For Assemblies: David, Canal Zone; Puntarenas and Alajuela, Costa Rica; La Lima, Honduras; Santa Ana, El Salvador; El Quiche and Ritalhue, Guatemala; Monterrey, Mexico; Mariano, Cuba; St. Marc, Haiti; and Santiago, Dominican Republic.

For Groups: La Chorrera, Panama; One to be selected in Nicaragua: Siguatepeque, Honduras; Barabena, Guatemala; Santa Clara, Cuba; Cap Haitian, Haiti; and La Vega or Moca, Dominican Republic.

This teaching campaign in no wise eliminates the urgent need for more pioneers, but rather augments it. The new assemblies and groups, rapidly formed, often with temporary pioneers from other cities or countries, will require many years of strengthening and deepening.

At least as many more new assemblies and groups will be necessary before the ten National Assemblies called for by the World Crusade goals can be established. These latter will need the help of experienced Baha’is.

Pioneering Opportunities

Here is a fascinating and challenging field of service to Baha’u’llah in an interesting and fast-progressing part of the world. Jobs are available, especially for kindergarten and primary grade teachers, secretaries, and persons with special training. People with small incomes can live in many countries without work, or can supplement their income giving English lessons. Business opportunities are open.

All those with the urge to look for new fields are asked to communicate with the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, or with the National Teaching Committee of Central America, Artemus Lamb, Secretary, Apartado 3751, San Jose, Costa Rica.

APRIL, 1956

Members of the Regional Teaching and Assembly Development Committee for South East Asia, meeting in Singapore on February 11-12, 1955.

Cyprus

PIONEER REPORTS FROM FAMAGUSTA

The Baha’i pioneer in Famagusta, Cyprus, Frances B. Jones, has reported on her first year there. The following excerpts have been taken from her letter:

“...We arrived here on the brink of local political crisis.... Our first realization was that we were wrenched from the most envied nat in the world, and we were entering a section (Middle East) of which had but a slight, if any, concept. We had much to learn of the way the people live, their sense of value, types of character, religious ground, and an endless number of things one never even thinks about. As this is a city of no women, no cultural groups, no charity centers (except those of the church circle), no Red Cross, short nothing you can join to people—one wonders where to put the doors do open here and a nice contact with the school, and the new Municipal library in which we placed our Baha’i book in Famagusta, The Era, in English. The director showed a marked interest, a several of the Baha’i books loaned him.”
"On the last day of Ridván the Baha'is of Cyprus came to Famagusta for a gathering. It was a grand occasion.

"For the event of the Birth of the Bab this year, we (one seeker and myself) did celebrate in this city. We talked of the Bab, and discussed the various aspects of the Teachings. This seeker has shown a marked interest in the Faith, and has done a great deal of reading in the one and only Greek New Era on the Island. On the eve of the Bab’s Birthday he brought this volume to show that he had had it rebound in a heavy dark green binding as a surprise. (It was beginning to fall apart).

"At the present time there are three Greek Cypriotes, one Armenian, and one Russian, reading the New Era. The Russian is reading it in English, the others in their own language.

"There are many others who have, for the first time, heard the word Baha'i, and most have asked questions. Much literature (English pamphlets as well as the Greek pamphlet) has been distributed.

"There is a great need for literature, Greek, Armenian, and Turkish. Let us hope that we may soon have an adequate and diversified amount of well-translated material for these people to read."

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**Italy-Switzerland**

**INCORPORATION OF NEW ASSEMBLY REPORTED**

Baha'i News previously reported the registration of the Italo-Swiss National Assembly which took place in May, 1955, and of the local assembly of Zürich, Switzerland, on August 10, 1955. Now comes news of the registration (incorporation) of the local assembly of Basel, Switzerland. (No date is given). Basel is a comparatively new assembly, having been formed a year ago. Bern and Geneva, Switzerland, are now working to complete their registrations with the Handelsregister. All registrations are announced to the public through the Schweizerische Handelsblatt.

**WORLD RELIGION DAY OBSERVED IN BERN**

World Religion Day was celebrated on January 15 in Bern during the weekend of the National Assembly meeting. Dr. Ugo Giachery, Hand of the Cause, acted as chairman, giving his introductory words in French and Miss Elsa Steinmetz gave a talk in German. The lecture was also given two weeks later in Zürich.

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Site of the future Mashriq'i Adhkar of Rome, Italy, purchased on January 9, 1956. The land is 5890 square meters (ab and one half acres) in area, and is situated about 24 kilometers from the heart of Rome towards the sea, and near the city and port of Ostia. The locality is called "Isola Sacra," or the Sacred Island.
India, Pakistan, Burma

REPORT ACHIEVEMENT OF MANY GOALS

The National Spiritual Assembly of India, Pakistan, and Burma has reported the following progress in winning World Crusade goals:

The reconstruction of the Ḥaẓīratu’l-Quds at Rangoon has been completed during the last quarter of 1955. This, with the Ḥaẓīratu’l-Quds of Djakarta and Columbo, fulfills the goals for this part of the Crusade.

The Publishing Trust has been established in New Delhi, and is now in operation.

Nineteen local centers have been settled: Ernakulam, Cochin, Coimbatore, Jabalpur, Dehra Dun, Akalkot, Mustang, Nawabshah, Montgomerly, Mirpurkhas, Gujranwala, Chak No. 119, Khanewal, Shillong, and Satsara, in India, and four in Burma. It is expected to bring the total to 30 in the near future.

The registration of three assemblies in India have been completed: Gwalior, Lucknow, and Nasik. Papers have been filed for the registration of Aligarh, Kanpur, and Rampur. Preliminary steps have been taken to register Allahabad, Ichalkaranji, Kamrhatte, Madras, Nagpur, and Srinagar.

In Pakistan, it is hoped to complete the registration of Sialkot, Chittagong, Peshawar and Rawalpindi early this year.

The Daidanaw Assembly in Burma has been registered, and papers have been filed for the registration of Thamaing and Twante.

Bahá’í literature has been translated into three new languages: Georgian, Perm, and Vietnamese (instead of Tho). Negotiations have been started for translations into Kiliai and Ossete. Most of the remaining translation goals belong to countries behind the Iron Curtain, and inquiries have been started on these.

Five groups in India, four in Pakistan, and four in Burma contain more than half the number required for assemblies. It is hoped to achieve the formation of these assemblies by Ridván, and perhaps double this number.

Efforts are being made in all countries to complete the purchase of Bahá’í Endowments by Ridván.

Germany, Austria

SEVEN CITIES OBSERVE WORLD RELIGION DAY

Bahá’í Nachrichten, published by the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, reported World Religion Day was observed with well-attended meetings in Selz, Bonn, Frankfurt, H-Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, and

The theme chosen by the German authorities stressed the importance of religions.
**South America**

**ENROLLMENTS ENLARGE**

**17 COMMUNITIES**

The New Territories Committee of South America reports that pioneering efforts being made in their goal areas have resulted in the enrollment of several new believers, thus forming a nucleus for new Bahá’í Communities in the following places: Chiloé Island; Juan Fernandez Island, Chile; Galapagos Islands; Cook Islands; Dutch Guiana; British Guiana (two cities); Leeward Islands; and Windward Islands.

Consolidation work has advanced through the declaration of new believers in Asuncion, Paraguay; Arequipa, Lima, and Huancayo, Peru; Montevideo, Uruguay; Guayaquil, Ecuador; Osorno, Chile; and Sao Paulo, Brazil, according to Noticias Bahá’í Sud Americanas.

**LONCOCHE REPORTS**

**SUMMER SESSIONS**

The 1956 sessions of the International Bahá’í Summer School were held at Loncoche, Chile, from January 9 to 18. Attendance was divided almost equally between Bahá’ís and non-Bahá’ís.

Two new Bahá’ís from Valdivia, Chile, were accepted into the Faith by the Regional Teaching Committee during the school, making a new group in Chile.

Classes were held for two hours each morning and afternoon, with time for recreation in between. Subjects included the Covenant, The Dawning, The Renewal of Civilization, Teaching Problems, and the Guardian’s Messages.

All those attending felt it was the most successful session ever held in Loncoche, a beautiful location that will be the future site of the first South American House of Worship.

**ANNOUNCE NEW TRANSLATIONS OF BAHÁ’Í LITERATURE**

A new translation of the pamphlet used in Africa by the British National Assembly has been made into Quechua by Mario Léon Paitán of Huancayo, Peru, which will shortly go to press. The pamphlet The Coming of the Messengers of God has been translated into Aymara, and will be published shortly in Bolivia.

**MONTEVIDEO OBSERVES**

**WORLD RELIGION DAY**

The Local Spiritual Assembly of Montevideo, Uruguay, has reported that their community observed World Religion Day with a program featuring representatives of the Jewish, Christian, Muhammadan, and Bahá’í Faiths. The meeting drew 54 non-Bahá’ís, the largest attendance at a Bahá’í meeting in this city.
**AMERICAN INDIANS**

“You must give great importance to teaching the Indians, that is, the aborigines of America. For these souls are like the inhabitants of Peninsular Arabia, who previous to the Manifestation of His Holiness Muhammad were treated as savages. But when the Muhammadic light shone forth in their midst, they became so illuminated that they brightened the world. Likewise, should these Indians and aborigines be educated and obtain guidance, there is no doubt that through the divine teachings, they will become so enlightened as in turn to shed light to all regions.”

‘Abdu’l-Bahá in America's Spiritual Mission, Page 10

**Cherokee Reservation, North Carolina**

Here I am, with two years behind me, in this beautiful countryside of western North Carolina. When I came, the beauty of the autumn foliage and the grandeur of the mountains filled me with awe, as did the deep valleys dropping suddenly from the main highway. Every curve in the road presented a picture.

When I finally located a place to live on the Reservation there was probably not another place to be had by a white person not employed by the government. It was only two rooms in a rude cabin which had been built by the C.C.C. But it had a sink and running water and I was happy in making it livable, for Bahá’u’lláh meant it for me. He has been with me every step of the way, and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi have been my inspiration and example.

Everywhere I went these kindly people, the first Americans, spoke and smiled at me. The Reservation is a group of small communities several miles apart. To reach some of them often is difficult on account of the lack of transportation. The Indians have great living problems and need both material and spiritual help. There are many churches, mostly Baptist, which most of them attend. Several of the pastors preach in the Cherokee language, which makes it easier for them to understand. They do not grasp the meaning of much of our teachings for the words are unfamiliar to them. So I try to use very simple words as much as possible.

A newspaper was started a few weeks ago and I have some of the Bahá’í teachings printed about every two weeks, hoping to reach some of the people that way. I found that they have a deep reverence for God and religion, but I hope to bring new life and hope and the means of salvation and peace to these Indian brothers and sisters. They must be brought into the Faith for this is their only hope.

My efforts here have resulted in one person accepting Bahá’u’lláh and it has made her happy, but it is not enough. I hope and pray that someone who wishes to please our Guardian very much will come and join me, a young person of 22, in this beautiful mountain country and together we can do many things which seem impossible to me alone. God will bless that one as He has blessed me.

—**ETHEL MURRAY**

I am happy since I became a Bahá’í. I feel everything has changed for me, and I feel happy everywhere I go . . . I'll try to do what I can to tell others about the Bahá’í Faith . . .

—**MINNIE FEATHER**

**Gallup, New Mexico**

To understand the problems which have to be met here, one must first get a glimpse of Gallup itself. It is a town of ten or twelve thousand people, situated on the edge of the vast Navajo reservation, about thirty miles north of the Zuni reservation. A hundred and fifty miles to the northwest are the Hopis; to the East and northeast are the Acomas, the Lagunas, the Mescaleros and Chiricahua Apaches. In the town itself Navajos, Zunis, Apaches, Lagunas, Zias, and other Indians mingle with the Slavs, Mexicans, Italians, English, Negro and Japanese. This is Gallup, slowly awakening to the fact that it has been upholding for too long the evils of a primitive western frontier town — awakening to the fact that its Indian citizens, from which it gains most of its sustenance, need to be protected and enlightened instead of being robbed and shoved back on the Reservation — awakening to the fact that the Indians themselves are constantly becoming more and more conscious of their innate abilities and worth, of their desperate needs, and of the power which an organized people has to gain its own ends.

The first Bahá’í pioneer in this vicinity was James Stone, Jr., who with his wife moved out here from

**Mrs. Minnie Feather, first to accept the Faith on the Cherokee Reservation, North Carolina, with the youngest of her eight children.**
Some of the friends at the first American Indian Teaching Conference at the Ginnett Ranch, Camp Verde, Arizona, November 13, 1955.

Martinsburg, West Virginia, in December, 1953. When I arrived the following September to teach in a Gallup elementary school, I found that Jim had been hard at work for many months to help solve some of the many community and Indian problems in this area.

Some time early last year the Gallup Indian Community Center began giving lessons in speaking Navajo. We talked it over, and decided to take a course. We did not learn much Navajo, it being a difficult language to learn, but we did gain the friendship of our Navajo instructor, William Morgan, the official government translator at Window Rock, Arizona. He agreed to translate a Baha’i pamphlet into Navajo for us. This has now been done.

But there were still no actual Baha’i contacts among the Indians. On Saturdays the Navajos swarm into Gallup. But after they have bought their few groceries, most of them stand on the street corners, or spend their few dollars for liquor. By Sunday many of them are in jail or have had wrecks on the highway, with bad injuries and fatalities. By Monday the rest are on their way back to the Reservation to their widely scattered hogans.

It is evident that we need someone who can visit them in their homes as friends. But Jim and I both work and the distances are so great. Besides, before personal work can be done with the Indians, friendships must be established.

It has become increasingly apparent that a Center, large enough to accommodate a number of people, would be of more use than a private home. So we rented a vacant store building. By pooling our resources we bought material to fix up the building. While Jim Stone wielded the hammer and saw, I learned to swing a mean paint brush. I have now given up my apartment and moved into the back of the Center, thus being able to put my rent money in on the rental of the Center itself.

Some time in November the James Ginnetts came out from Washington, D. C. They are now established with the government offices at Window Rock, Arizona, about thirty miles from Gallup. With their help we have set up a series of weekly meetings, currently on World Religions. On February 11 we will begin enrolling pupils for our adult English classes. The Navajos are just awakening to the fact that they need an education. Those to whom we have talked have shown interest in English, bookkeeping, typing and shorthand. Since Mr. and Mrs. Ginnett are both well versed in all types of office work, we may donate another night to these subjects if our English classes work out well. The Indian needs to gain confidence in his ability to do things as well as other people, and part of our job here is to help him gain that self-confidence.

I regret to say that we have as yet no Indian Bahá’ís in Gallup, although last Friday we had three Indians (one Navajo and two Cherokee) at our meeting. But last May, with the help of God, a teacher on the Reservation, Hayward Camper, embraced the Faith, and the following Thanksgiving his wife, Isabelle, made her declaration. Thus two bright Bahá’í lights were placed right in the heart of the Reservation. These two, with the Amoz Gibsons, also formerly of Washington, D.C., who came out here to help us in Gallup but are now settled in a reservation school in Pinon, Arizona, make a group of four Bahá’ís in Navajo County, most of which is Indian reservation!

—Grace Dean

"Ya’aft’eeh!" from Window Rock, Arizona

We had intended to settle in Gallup, but this Faith has a way of putting you where It wants you! Jimmy first went to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and found no openings. He took work with another concern but that job folded. He went back to the Bureau and they not only had a good opening, but it was here at Window Rock, capital of the Navajo reservation! We didn’t waste any time in moving to our new place. We even have a wonderful house furnished for us here on the Reservation. It seems that the least difficulty we encounter is followed by many blessings.

There are so many interesting things about the Navajo Indian, we hardly know where to begin. We are completely fascinated with this whole experience. We are learning a little of the language. We are planning to start a Sunday school here, with the help of our little daughter and her new Navajo friends.

All the Indians we have met are very friendly. As you probably know, most of the Navajos who are raised on the Reservation have had little schooling, but they are eager for learning. A boy who works with Jimmy has been a great help in making us understand a few of their problems, and Jimmy in turn is helping him with his English. The other day he asked Jimmy about the words on the side of the truck he drives. These words were, “Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior”. He could read them, but had no idea what they meant. He has absolutely no idea how people live in cities.
The Tribal Council, their Congress, is in session now. Jimmy peeked in the other day. We hope to attend a full session some time. Of course we have only been here a few weeks, but that is long enough to see the problem to be faced and to understand the Guardian's emphasis on teaching the American Indian.

Almost anyone who can type can go to work on the reservation. There are almost always openings right here in Window Rock. We are so happy to be out here and do hope and pray that we may help to further the Cause among these wonderful people.

—Jean and Jim Ginnett

Pioneering must be experienced; it cannot be adequately described, but must be lived. The uncertainties, the trials and tests, yes, even the failures, and of course the triumphs, give a new feeling of the presence of Bahá'u'lláh's ever-flowing Bounty. The manifold joys and blessings that the pioneer receives still await many hundreds of His followers. For has not Shoghi Effendi, our beloved Guardian, said, "A veritable exodus from the large cities . . . must signalize the inauguration of this most intensive and challenging phase of the Crusade on the home front." Among the goal cities one will find every type of climate, opportunity for work, and association with people of varied backgrounds.

Here on the Navajo reservation we have met some new and different experiences. But we are more strongly impressed by the similarities which we believe are common to all mankind; a sense of pride in one's cultural heritage, a love for children, an eagerness for education, and a deep spiritual belief in a power far greater than man himself.

Our only regret is that we hesitated so long, considering family, home, jobs, health. Now we know that these matters are relatively unimportant. Bahá'u'lláh takes care of such things. But to us He leaves the choice to pioneer or not. This decision He will not make for us. And it is this choice that can bring such rich rewards.

—Amoz and Mary Gibson

From the forests and hills of eastern reservations to the desert and mountain reaches of the west, God-given opportunities and responsibilities await the coming of more pioneers. From the land of the Sioux in the north to the Seminole in the south; from the home of the Cherokee in the east to the Apache in the west, there beckon unclaimed opportunities to live among a people deeply loved by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, to serve and to teach. The American Indian Service Committee will receive with grateful hearts offers of pioneering from those of the friends who arise to fulfill the destiny of the Indian people, and their own . . .

Canada

THREE ASSEMBLIES INCORPORATED

Canadian Bahá'í News, published by the National Bahá'í Assembly of Canada, has reported that the assemblies of Hamilton, Ottawa, and Winnipeg have been incorporated so far this year.

In other news items, Bahá'í News reports that the Eastern Ontario Teaching Committee sponsored a conference at Belleville on November 27. At an evening public meeting, the theme, "A Design for Living," emphasized the positive effect the Bahá'í teachings can have on our daily lives.

A two-day teaching conference was held at Ottawa on the week end of December 3-4. The discussion program brought out the responsibility of the individual to the Guardian, the Administrative Order, the Ten-Year Crusade, and to the building of the edifice of God on earth.

Laurentian Summer School

The Laurentian Bahá'í Summer School has announced its dates for the coming season, July 21 to August 5, 1956. Theme of the classes will be "The Development of the Individual."
ARE YOU COMING TO THE CONVENTION?

Bahá’í delegates and visitors planning to attend the Convention should make their reservations at once. Hotel reservations should be made direct and a deposit must accompany the letter. One hotel requests the full amount because in the past it has had last minute cancellations. Hotels in Evanston where all Bahá’ís are welcome are:

The Evanshire Hotel,
860 Hinman Avenue
Single $6.50, Double, $7.50,
Twin beds, $9.50

The Evanston Hotel
840 Forest Avenue
Single (private bath) $5, Single
(connecting bath) $4, Double
(private bath) $6.50,
Twin beds (private bath) $7.50
(Remit full amount when making reservation)

The North Shore Hotel
1611 Chicago Avenue
Single $6 and $7, Double $8.50
and $9.50 (T.V.)
Twin beds $9 and $10

Delegates and visitors wishing accommodations in private homes should send their request for reservations to:

Mrs. Priscilla Hassan
1244 Maple Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

or to

Mrs. Edna Coleman
1227 Leon Place
Evanston, Illinois

Delegates and visitors are asked to bring current identification cards with them and to present them on registration.

For the Bahá’ís arriving early, there will be an informal reception in Foundation Hall, Wednesday evening, April 25, at 8:00 p.m.

Non-Bahá’ís should not be invited to attend the Convention. It is for believers only. However, the Feast of Ridván, Saturday evening, April 28, at 9:30 p.m., and the Bahá’í Public Congress, Sunday evening, April 29, are open to the public.

Bahá’ís planning to arrive a few days early, or to leave a few days after the Convention, and who are willing to help with various details, are requested to notify the Convention Arrangements Committee as soon as possible by writing: Mrs. Dorothy Redson, 981 Garland Avenue, Winnetka, Illinois.

INDIAN COMMITTEE PLANS LIBRARY

The American Indian Service Committee is assembling and building a reference library of authenticated and recent books on major tribes of American Indians.

The committee will be glad to receive books or authoritative literature which would be of help to prospective pioneers in this field.

Those teaching, or preparing to teach, in this pioneer field should address requests for loans of these books or literature to the librarian, Mrs. Janet N. Ward, 14 Palmcroft Drive, Tempe, Ariz.
OPPORTUNITIES WAITING IN SERVICE TO BLIND

The Committee on Bahá'í Service to the Blind reports that total sales of their literature have decreased, despite the added impetus of the Ten-Year World Crusade and increased teaching activity throughout the Bahá'í world.

They believe that, if the Bahá'ís were better informed of the services of this special agency for teaching the blind, more souls could be attracted to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

The importance of the services of this committee is emphasized in the following facts:

1. The Bahá'í Service for the Blind is a National Committee appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly for the purpose of preparing and distributing Bahá'í literature for the blind.

2. Bahá'í literature for the blind is published according to the high standards set by the Library of Congress. The transcribing, therefore, must also conform to prescribed standards.

3. The blind ones can see the truth in the Bahá'í Teachings, provided you or I point the way.

4. Higher institutions of learning receive with each successive year more blind students. How can their hunger for truth be satisfied, unless they know where to find it?

5. Librarians report an increasing demand from their blind patrons for religious reading matter.

6. Offered are introductory pamphlets, attractively prepared, at reasonable cost:

   Bahá'í Teachings for a World Faith .......... $1.25
   Prophecy Fulfilled ................................ 1.25
   World Order Through World Faith .......... 1.25
   The Mission of Bahá'u'lláh ........ 1.00
   Communion with God ...................... .75

   (Complete list upon request)

In order to acquaint and encourage you to think of your blind friends, or venture to find some, this Committee offers a package of the above list (purchased singly amounting to $8.30) for $5.00, plus postage.

It is suggested that local Spiritual Assemblies might include in their announcements at Feasts, public meetings, and firesides, the fact that Bahá'í reading materials for the blind are available and always ready to be put into service.

Address orders and inquiries to: Bahá'í Service for the Blind 842 N. Hayworth Avenue Los Angeles 46, Calif.

SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED AT MACY RESERVATION

The American Indian Service Committee reports that there are vacancies in the grade schools in Thurston County, Nebraska, the location of the Macy Indian Reservation.

This is an opportunity for teachers to pioneer in the most important Indian Service area in the country.

"BE A HERALD OF GOD"

It is my desire that His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh shall be pleased with you; that you may follow His precepts and become worthy of His confirmations. The requirements are that your minds must be illumined, your souls must be rejoiced with the glad tidings of God, you must become imbued with spiritual moralities, your daily life must evidence faith and assurance, your hearts must be sanctified and pure, reflecting a high degree of love and attraction toward the kingdom of El Abhá. You must become the lamps of Bahá'u'lláh so that you may shine with eternal light and be the proofs and evidences of His truth. Then will such signs of purity and chastity be witnessed in your deeds and actions that men will behold the heavenly radiance of your lives and say "Verily ye are the proofs of Bahá'u'lláh. Verily Bahá'u'lláh is the true one for He has trained such souls as these one of whom is a proof in himself." They will say to others "Come and witness the conduct of these souls; come and listen to their words, behold the illumination of their hearts, see the evidences of the love of God in them, consider their praiseworthy morals and discover the foundations of the oneness of humanity firmly implanted within them. What greater proof can there be than these people that the message of Bahá'u'lláh is Truth and Reality?"

It is my hope that each one of you shall be a herald of God, proclaiming the evidences of His appearance in words, deeds and thoughts. Let your actions and utterances be a witness that you are of the Kingdom of Bahá'u'lláh. These are the duties enjoined upon you by Bahá'u'lláh.

'Abdu'l-Bahá from Promulgation of Universal Peace.
YOUTH COLLEGE BUREAU POLLS STUDENTS

The College Bureau, recently organized by the National Bahá'í Youth Committee, is distributing a "College Questionnaire" to all Bahá'í Youth attending colleges.

When the listing of all colleges attended by Bahá'ís is completed, it will be published to assist others in the selection of a school where they can be of assistance to the Faith.

Youth who have not received a copy of this Questionnaire should write to Ken Kalantar, 3 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, N.J.

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

Bahá'í Youth are now recognized members of the Religious Council at Arizona State College at Flagstaff, Arizona. The Youth are now preparing material for use in the Interfaith activities on the campus. This Bahá'í Youth group represents the only other religion besides Christianity at the college.

During Brotherhood Week, a group of Ashland College students and adults met at the home of Mrs. Bertha Harman, Ashland, Ohio. There was also an Intercalary Days party at Fred Morey's home in Mansfield, Ohio.

At the annual three-day religious forum at Smith College, Northampton, Mass., many houses held discussions on the theme "Religion and the Modern Mind." Iraj Sabet, of Harvard, led the discussion at Northrop House, giving the Bahá'í viewpoint.

"The Bahá'í Faith and Religious Liberty" was the subject of the World Religion Day observance at the College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio.

Excellent preparation was made by Tim Rost for bringing the Bahá'í Faith to the campus of the University of Arkansas during the Religious Emphasis Week. As a result Dr. David Ruhe of Kansas City addressed eight class and seminar sessions, gave a radio talk and attended several informal sessions. Following this Dr. Ruhe appeared on a panel at Park College and attended other campus meetings during Religious Emphasis Week due to groundwork laid by Connie Uebner.

LITERATURE DISTRIBUTED IN BUTTE BUS STATION

The Bahá'í Group of Butte, Montana has completed a report on its first year's experience with a literature cabinet placed in the local bus station.

About 75 pamphlets and leaflets are stocked in the cabinet, and a daily check is made to keep the display tidy, and to replenish the supply of literature. In the first year of operation, 3,113 pieces were taken. Over a dozen titles were stocked during the year; the most popular proved to be Bahá'í Teachings for a World Faith.

The project had the prior approval of the National Spiritual Assembly. In the words of the Butte Group, the cabinet "is a silent teacher on duty 24 hours of each day, every day of the year."

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

"Journey to the Temple," a sound film in color made by Edmund Dover of Maui, Hawaii, during his visit to Wilmette in 1954, has been shown to the friends of Maui and Honolulu.

Maui also reports a monthly 15 minute radio broadcast over station KMVI, and a weekly newspaper column on the Faith in the Maui News.

An average of 70 pieces of literature have been distributed each week to public display boxes in the railroad station, bus depots, and hotels by the Anchorage, Alaska, community.

The Memphis, Tenn., community, which opened a Bahá'í Center last October, reports the joy of having a home of their own has stimulated attendance at meetings, and has brought the community closer together. They now hold regular open meetings that include a Sunday Devotional Hour, a study class, and a Children's Hour, beside the usual Bahá'í meetings.

Albuquerque, N. Mex., Bahá'í Children's Class teacher, Mrs. Vada Allen, has been chosen "Teacher of the Year" in the New Mexico public school system.

A Braille edition of The Hidden Words, offered to the library of the San Francisco Blind Center, has been gratefully accepted. This book was donated by the San Francisco community.

Anchorage, Alaska, sponsored a party for a group of Eskimo dancers from Nome, King Island, and Little Diomede Island, who presented their native dances at the annual Anchorage Fur Rendezvous. The party included an informal lunch and group games, which the Eskimos thoroughly enjoyed. This is the second year that such a party was given for these Eskimo visitors.

The Anchorage Recording District was host to the Anchorage community and their contacts on February 25, with an Intercalary Party.

DO YOU HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OR NEWS

... of the achievement of a World Crusade goal, the formation of a new assembly or its incorporation, an Area Conference, a Summer School session, teaching activity among the Indians and Eskimos, magazine, newspaper and radio publicity, or work with other organizations that brings recognition to the Faith?

Bahá'í News is anxious to print those pictures or stories, and share them with all the friends. Don't delay! Timeliness is important. Our deadline is the first of the month preceding the month of issue.

Photographs we receive cannot be returned; they are sent to The Bahá'í World Editorial Committee, so you have two opportunities for publication.

We need your help to make Bahá'í News the outstanding magazine desired by the Guardian and our National Assembly. Our address is:

Bahá'í News Editorial Committee
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois
### Monthly Report on World Crusade Budget

**Third Year: National Bahá’í Fund 1955-1956**

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Budget for Entire Year</th>
<th>Average Monthly Requirements</th>
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**Total Budget for Entire Year** $550,000.00

**Accumulated deficit as of March 15, 1956** $155,000.00

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### Area News Bulletins

The Bahá’í United Nations Committee sponsored a meeting at Greenwich, Conn., on February 5, with Norman Cousins speaking on the importance of unity in the world, it has been reported in the Area Bulletin for the New England States. Also reported was an Area Conference held at the Boston, Mass., Center on February 19. The theme of the meeting was “A Blessing in Disguise.” Iraj Sabet told of his recent visit to Iran, during the persecutions of the Bahá’ís there.

The South Atlantic States Area Bulletin gives details of a group meeting at the State College (A & M) at Orangeburg, S.C., arranged by a Bahá’í who is a history teacher there. A second meeting was held at the Baptist Church there, with the cooperation of the pastor, who has visited the House of Worship in Wilmette. This Area Bulletin also states that Greenville, S.C., “joyfully reports a new believer,” and that the Orlando, Fla., Bahá’ís met with members of the local Theosophical Society, with great interest shown in the Bahá’í literature presented. A “very successful” World Religion Day meeting is reported for Tampa, Fla., with 42 people attending, one-third of them non-Bahá’ís.

The Area Bulletin for the Northwestern States lists cities in their area that held public meetings for World Religion Day: Corvallis, Eugene, Salem, Olympia, Tacoma, Kirkland, Everett, Bellingham, Yakima, Lewiston, and Grangeville.

A Teaching Conference for the South Central States was held at Springfield, Mo., on February 25-26, it is announced in their Area Bulletin. “World Brotherhood Through World Faith” was the theme of the conference. The Bulletin also reports that Kansas Bahá’í Youth are holding monthly meetings in Emporia.

Silver Spring, Md., used Valentine Day as an opportunity to proclaim the Faith to neighborhood children, according to the Area Bulletin for the Central Atlantic States. Valentine cards not only told the story of St. Valentine, but used quotations from the Bible, and from The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh.

Pueblo, Colo. (goal city) now lists eight Bahá’ís in the community, and hopes for the enrollment of several others to attain Assembly status by April. It is reported in the Rocky Mountain States Bulletin. Pueblo has a contact who is part Cherokee. They conduct weekly classes on the Faith, and have given a talk to a local youth organization.

The Southwestern States Area Teaching Committee has issued an eight-page special edition of their Bulletin titled “Suggestions for Teaching.” It is compiled from reports of the conferences held in that area in October, 1955, and is excellently prepared.

Bahá’ís of Mississippi attended a meeting at Jackson, Miss., on February 26, on the subject of the Covenant and Administration. The Bulletin for the Tennessee Valley States also reports that the Public Library in Nashville, Tenn., had a book display of the books of various religions. The exhibit was suggested by the Bahá’ís, and their list of books was used for the display, as well as the large poster, “Some Living Religions.”

The North Central States Area Bulletin lists the goal cities for their area: Grand Forks, Bismarck, and Minot, N. Dak., Rapid City, S. Dak., and Lincoln, Neb.
GROUP ATTENDING A YOUTH CONFERENCE AT THE BAHÁ’I HOUSE OF WORSHIP, WILMETTE, ON JANUARY 7-8, 1955, REPRESENTING THE CENTRAL AND EAST CENTRAL STATES.

SETS OF BAHÁ’I WORLD NOW COMPREHEND SEVEN VOLUMES

Volumes II and III of The Bahá’í World are no longer available. This means that a "set" of Bahá’í World volumes now is comprised of seven volumes only—IV, V, VI, VII, IX, X, and XI. All seven volumes can be purchased, postpaid, for the price of $40.00. (If shipped outside the U.S. and its possessions, the price is $43.50, postpaid.) This "set" may also be purchased on an installment plan, (within the U.S. only) details of which are available from the Publishing Trust. Individual prices on the volumes remain the same as listed in the 1955-56 Literature Catalog.

"STORY SUPPLEMENT" VALUABLE CHILD TEACHING MATERIAL

The National Spiritual Assembly recommends the Story Supplement for God Passes By as a source of good teaching and story material for children and junior youth.

It includes intimate stories from the lives of the Founders of the Faith, and a map of their journeys. This compilation is drawn from many sources, including the Diary of Mahdí. The price is $1.00 per copy, available from Bahá’í Publishing Trust, 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

OUT OF PRINT

Heart of the Gospel. George Townshend. The paperbound edition of this title, out of print for over a year, is now available at the former price of $1.25. The clothbound edition is temporarily out of print in England but will be available shortly. Orders are being recorded for future delivery.

OUT OF STOCK ITEMS

To Be Reprinted

The Books of God Are Open. By E. S. Campbell. This title will be temporarily out of stock, pending decision of the National Assembly concerning revisions and expansion of this work.


Note: Orders will be recorded on above titles and later announcements made in this department.

OUT OF PRINT

Discontinued Titles

My Religious Faith. By Bernard Leach. The limited supply of this pamphlet received by the Publishing Trust for distribution has now been used, and a new supply is not anticipated.

Two Roads We Face. By Wm. Kenneth Christian.

Children's Literature

A number of children's titles that have been carried for several years are either out of stock or very low in supply. At present the Child Education Committee is reviewing the items in order to make suggestions regarding the future needs of these materials or changes that may be made. Pending these suggestions, and the final decisions of the National Assembly, the following items will not be available: Bahá’í Principles For Children, Comprehensive Study Outline for Children, A Junior's Book of Religion, Children's Study Course for Bahá'u'lláh and The New Era.
HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY? DID YOU MISS ONE OR TWO ISSUES OF BAHAI NEWS?
Perhaps these two facts go hand-in-hand. If you are a member of a community — and contemplating a change of address — be sure to notify your Local Assembly secretary immediately.

If you are isolated, send this information directly to the National Bahai Office 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.

Your prompt cooperation is necessary to keep the address files of the National Bahai Office up to date and accurate.

BAHAI HOUSE OF WORSHIP
Visiting hours
Weekdays and Saturdays:
1:00-4:00 P.M.
(the Auditorium will be open)
Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
(the entire building will be open)
Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.

IN MEMORIAM
"Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the better of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life."

Mr. Tim Reeves
Chicago, Illinois
November, 1955

Mrs. Lucretia J. Flett
Port Chester, New York
December 7, 1955

Mrs. Thyrza Simonsen
San Bernardino, California
December 13, 1955

Mrs. Zoraych Hutchinson
Los Angeles, California
February 4, 1956

Mr. Carl C. King
Washington, D.C.
February 9, 1956

Miss Bertha L. Herklotz
North Quincy, Massachusetts
February 12, 1956

Mrs. Margie Peltske
Grand Rapids, Michigan
February 13, 1956

Mrs. Shawkat 'Ali Faraju'llah
Tripoli
February 15, 1956

Mrs. Deborah Gibson
Washington, D.C.
February 18, 1956

Mrs. Marian Snyder
West Chester, Pennsylvania
February 20, 1956

Mrs. Helen M. Bellows Ray
Braintree, Vermont
February 27, 1956

Mr. Albert Windust
Chicago, Illinois
March 9, 1956

MARRIAGES
"Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord! Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace . . ."

—BAHAI'U'LLAH


Chicago, Illinois: Miss Eleanor Kelsey to Mr. Robert Metz on February 9, 1956.

Westchester, Pennsylvania: Mrs. Jane Lear Talley to Mr. Russel Emet Bashore on February 25, 1956.

BAHAI DIRECTORY CHANGES

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ATC For Tennessee Valley States
Mrs. Louise B. Mathias, Secretary, 636 South 30th St., Birmingham, Alabama.

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ILLINOIS
Springfield: Mrs. Anna K. Jurgens, 322½ N. 13th Street

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Portsmouth: Mrs. Carroll S. Gobbi, Secy. pro tem, 30 Parker St.

BAHAI NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahai World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHAI NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1955-56: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Richard Thomas.

Editorial Office: 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahai Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
THE GUARDIAN'S MESSAGE

TO THE FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL BAHÁ'Í CONVENTION

The triumphant termination of the second phase of the decade-long global Spiritual Crusade on which the followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh have so auspiciously embarked impels me to share with the delegates assembled at the Annual Bahá'í Conventions convened in all the continents of the globe the feelings of joy, of pride and of thankfulness which so significant a victory has evoked in my heart.

A Remarkable Victory

The year that has just ended—a year which posterity cannot fail to regard as one of the most eventful and challenging in the annals of the Formative Age of the Bahá'í Dispensation—has been overshadowed, in the course of its opening months, by a sudden and highly menacing crisis in the fortunes of this Faith, a crisis which, though as yet not fully resolved, has already led to a remarkable victory over the combined forces of its traditional adversaries in the land of its birth, who, for more than a century, have plotted assiduously to disrupt its foundations, tarnish its glory and extinguish its light. A long-abused, down-trodden, sorely tried community, constituting the overwhelming majority of Bahá'u'lláh's followers, subjected recently to the strain and stress of a violent recrudescence of persecution, which was marked throughout by intense villification, intimidation, spoliation, expulsion, arson, rape, and murder, has emerged triumphant from yet another gruelling experience—a testing period of exceptional severity—its unity unbroken, its confidence re-inforced, its prestige considerably enhanced, its fame noiseèd abroad to an unprecedented degree, its administrative agencies unshaken, its endowments unimpaired, and the grim, boastful and reiterated threats of its sworn enemies to outlaw it through formal legislative action, confiscate its property, demolish its edifices, imprison and deport its members, and extirpate it, root and branch, in the native land of its Founder unenforced.

Progressive Unfoldment of the Ten-year Crusade

Simultaneous with this marvelous, awe-inspiring interposition of Providence, at this critical stage in the mysterious evolution and the irresistible progress of God's infant Faith in the land of its birth, towards the two shining goals of complete emancipation from the shackles of religious orthodoxy and of state recognition, an equally significant development can be noted, during the last twelve-month, in the progressive unfoldment, beyond the confines of this storm-tossed land, and stretching to the farthest corners of the earth, of the Ten-Year Plan, now entering upon the third, and what promises to be the most brilliant, phase in its execution.

This world-encompassing enterprise, embarked upon, three years ago, on the occasion of the worldwide celebrations commemorating the centenary of the birth of the Mission of the Founder of our Faith, has, in all phases of its operation, throughout five continents, as well as the islands of the seas, gathered swift momentum, and is demonstrating, in both its territorial and institutional aspects, a vitality, and has registered successes, that have far exceeded the expectations of even the most sanguine among its promoters.

The number of localities into which the light of this unconquerable Faith, now radiating the splendor of its glory over the face of the planet, has penetrated, has swelled to well-nigh thirty-seven hundred, marking an increase of almost five hundred in the course of a single year. The number of Sovereign States and Chief Dependencies included within its pale, which multiplied with such amazing swiftness during the opening year of this World-Crusade, has now risen to two hundred and forty-seven through the arrival of the Knights of Bahá'u'lláh Udal Narain Singh, Frank Wyss and Daniel Haumont, in Tibet, in Cocos Island and Loyalty Islands, respectively, as well as through the opening of Laos and Cambodia and of the Islands of Pemba, Fernando Po,
Trinidad and Corisco — territories not included in the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan, — and as a result of information recently received indicating the presence of a few believers in the Soviet Republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The number of local Spiritual Assemblies now functioning throughout the length and breadth of the Bahá’í World exceeds nine hundred. Every single country listed in the Plan within the confines of every continent of the globe, with the exception of those within the Soviet Orbit, are now opened to the Faith. All islands figuring in that Plan, over seventy in number, situated in the Pacific, the Atlantic, and the Indian Oceans, in the Mediterranean and the North Sea, have likewise been opened except Nicobar Islands, Chagos Archipelago, Hainan Island, Sakhalin Island, Spitzbergen and Anticosti Island. The number of the islands of the globe to which the Message of Bahá’u’lláh has been carried since its inception now totals ninety-eight. In the Pacific Ocean alone the number of opened territories is now over forty, while the number of localities where Bahá’ís reside exceeds one hundred and seventy. The number of languages into which Bahá’í literature has been and is being translated has now reached one hundred and ninety, no less than thirty-four of which are to be regarded as supplementary to those included in the provisions of the Plan.

Fast-awakening Continent of Africa

In the Continent of Africa and in its neighboring islands, in both the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans, the number of the avowed supporters of the Faith has passed the three thousand mark: over two thousand five hundred of whom belong to the Negro race. The number of territories opened to the Faith in that fast-awakening continent and its neighboring islands has risen to fifty-eight, while the number of localities where Bahá’ís reside is over four hundred. The number of tribes represented in the Bahá’í Community is now over one hundred and forty, the number of local Assemblies already established is over one hundred and twenty, and the number of languages into which Bahá’í literature has been and is being translated exceeds fifty.

Forty-three National Hazíratulláh-Quds

The number of incorporated Assemblies, both local and national, in various continents of the globe, has been raised to one hundred and sixty-eight, the latest additions being the Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assembly and the Local Spiritual Assemblies of Brussels, Tokyo, Liverpool, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Quincy, Basel, Zürich, Geneva, Heidelberg, Buenos Aires, Saigon, Suva, Malacca and Addis Ababa. The number of National Hazíratulláh-Quds, the precursors of Bahá’í National Spiritual Assemblies, acquired in the capitals and leading cities of North, Central and South America, of the goal countries of Europe, of Africa, Asia and Australasia, and of several islands of the globe, has reached forty-three, involving the expenditure of over half a million dollars, amply compensating for the seizure and occupation of the National Administrative Headquarters of the Faith and the demolition of its dome by the military authorities in the Persian capital.

Temple Sites and Endowments

Land for ten Temple sites has moreover been acquired at a cost of no less than one hundred thousand dollars, while negotiations are well advanced for the acquisition of the one remaining Temple site to be purchased in the Swedish capital. In no less than thirty of the fifty-one countries listed in the Ten-Year Plan, National Bahá’í endowments estimated as having a value of one hundred thousand dollars have been acquired, outstanding among them being the Maxwell Home honored by the presence of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá while in Montreal, which has been transferred by the Hand of the Cause ‘Amatu’l-Bahá to the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly. Efforts are moreover being strenuously exerted for the establishment of similar endowments in the twenty-one remaining countries. Following the completion and adoption of the design for the first Maqribí’-Adhkár in the cradle of the Faith, steps have been taken for the preparation of no less than three additional designs, one for the Temple scheduled to be erected in the heart of the European Continent, another for the one to be erected in the near future in the African Continent, and the third for the one contemplated for Australasia, paving the way thereby in each of the remaining continents of the globe for the erection of a House to be consecrated to the worship of the one true God, and to the glory and honor of His Messenger for this Day.

Development of Bahá’í World Center

In the Holy Land, the center and pivot round which the divinely appointed, fast multiplying institutions of a world-encircling, resistlessly marching Faith revolve, the double process, so noticeable in recent years, involving a rapid decline in the fortunes of the breakers of Bahá’u’lláh’s Covenant and proclaiming the rise of the institutions of its World Administrative Center, in the shadow of His Shrine, has been accelerated on the one hand, through the death, in miserable circumstances, of the treacherous and malignant Majíd’-Dín, the last survivor of the principal instigators of the rebellion against the Will of the Founder of our Faith, and, on the other, through the laying of the foundation, and the erection of some of the pillars, of the facade and of the northern side of the International Bahá’í Archives — the first of the major edifices destined to constitute the seat of the World Bahá’í Administrative Center to be established on Mt. Carmel. No less than thirty of the fifty-two pillars, each over seven meters high, of this imposing and strikingly beautiful edifice have already been raised, whilst half of the nine hundred tons of stone ordered in Italy for its construction have already been safely delivered at the Port of Haifa. A contract, moreover, for over fifteen thousand dollars has been placed with a tile factory in Utrecht for the manufacture of over seven thousand green tiles designed to cover the five hundred square meters of the roof of the building.

Coincident with these building operations an extensive plot, adjoining the resting-place of the Greatest Holy Leaf has, after protracted and difficult negotiations, been purchased for the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, for the purpose of extending and safeguarding, on the one hand, the area of the international Bahá’í endowments on Mt. Carmel, and of providing, on the other, the much needed space for
the extension and completion of the far-flung arc around which the edifices of the World Bahá'í Administrative Order are to be built. The recently acquired area surrounding the holiest Shrine in the Bahá'í World and its appointed Qiblih in the plain of 'Akká has been further extended through the purchase from the Development Authority of the State of Israel of a dilapidated house, situated south of the Mansion and blessed by the presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and in which He was wont to receive His friends, amongst them the first party of western Bahá'í pilgrims to arrive in the Holy Land after the passing of Bahá'u'lláh. To these latest acquisitions must be added the purchase of another plot situated in the neighborhood of the Báb's Sepulchre and adjoining the area surrounding the future seat of the World Bahá'í Administrative Order, raising thereby the total area of the international Bahá'í endowments in the Holy Land to over four hundred thousand square meters. Furthermore, the necessary formalities have been completed in connection with the purchase of the site of the future Maqáhir-i-Adhikár on Mount Carmel, while the transfer of the title deeds of recently acquired plots to the name of the Israel branches of the United States, the British, the Persian, the Canadian and Australian Bahá'í National Spiritual Assemblies is being expeditiously carried out.

Events in the United States

In the United States of America, the home of the champion-builders of a fast-evolving Order, an official invitation was extended to the Bahá'í Community by the San Francisco Council of Churches to send representatives to attend a Service of Prayer for Peace and Divine Guidance to the United Nations, an invitation to which the Community warmly responded. At this inter-religious gathering, held in the Cow Palace in San Francisco, the birthplace of the Charter of the United Nations, which united nearly sixteen thousand people in worship and silent prayers, and at which government leaders, among them the United States Secretary of State, were present, the voice of the Bahá'í representative was the first to be raised, reciting a prayer revealed by Bahá'u'lláh, after whom a prayer was read by each of the representatives of the Christian, the Muslim, the Jewish, the Hindu, and the Buddhist Faiths, all of whom were similarly invited to participate in that immense and historic gathering. A prayer revealed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá for America was presented by the elected national representatives of the United States Bahá'í Community to President Eisenhower, who acknowledged its receipt in warm terms and above his own signature.

Other Victories and Achievements

Nor should mention be omitted in this brief survey of Bahá'í victories and achievements in the course of the closing year of the second phase of the Ten-Year Plan of the establishment of a Bahá'í Publishing Trust in India; of the establishment of over thirty new centers and fifteen Assemblies in India, Pakistan and Burma; of the purchase of some of the holy sites blessed by the footsteps of Bahá'u'lláh in Adrianople, the Land of Mystery and the scene of the proclamation of His Message; of the holding of the first Bahá'í Summer School in Central Africa, in Kobuka, Uganda, attended by about one hundred African and white believers and representatives of no less than twenty-eight Bahá'í local Assemblies; of the convocation of the first historic All-France Teaching Conference, the first fruit of the combined labors of the believers of about thirty centers already established throughout the length and breadth of that country; of the setting apart of a plot to serve as a burial-ground for the members of the Bahá'í community in Tripoli, Libya and in the capital of Tanganyika; of the purchase of land for the establishment of a Bahá'í Summer School in Fráig; of the extension to the Bahá'í women in Egypt of the right to be elected to the Egyptian Bahá'í National Spiritual Assembly as well as to participate as delegates in the National Bahá'í Convention; of the purchase, in an island near Muara Siberut, Mentawei Islands, of a plot supplementing the Bahá'í endowment established in Jakarta, the Indonesian capital; of the pushing of the northern outpost of the Faith in Alaska to Point Barrow beyond the Arctic Circle; of the initiation of auxiliary plans for the promotion of the Faith in the Seychelles Islands and in the Sudan; and of the arrival of a pioneer in Praslin Island forming a part of the Seychelles group.

Land purchased for the National Endowment of Paraguay on January 26, 1956. It consists of approximately 11 hectares (over 25 acres) of a wooded knoll overlooking San Bernardino Lake, 30 kilometers from the capital city of Asuncion.
The newly acquired Hazirate’l-Quds of Havana, where the two women wave a greeting, is shown to the left. Above is the Hazirate’l-Quds at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, dedicated in November, 1955. The inauguration ceremonies were led by Artemus Lamb, Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of Central America, and were attended by a group of Baha’is and their friends.

Appeal to United Nations

Nor can I in this survey allow to pass unnoticed the energetic and commendable efforts exerted by Baha’i communities the world over for the support, protection and relief of the persecuted members of the Persian Baha’i Community subjected to one of the severest ordeals experienced in recent years by the steadfast followers of the Faith in the land of its birth. Following this barbarous recrudescence of religious persecution and the transmission of over one thousand messages by Baha’i communities, some in writing and others telegraphically, to His Majesty the Shah, the Government, the Majlis and the Senate, and reinforcing the wide publicity given in the world’s leading newspapers and the numerous protests voiced by scholars, statesmen, government envoys and people of eminence such as Pandit Nehru, Eleanor Roosevelt, Professor Gilbert Murray and Professor A. Toynbee, a written communication accompanied by a memorandum listing the atrocities perpetrated throughout the Persian provinces, was submitted in Geneva to the Secretary General of the United Nations, who appointed a commission of United Nations officers, headed by the High Commissioner for Refugees, instructing its members to contact the Persian Foreign Minister and urge him to obtain from his government in Teheran a formal assurance that the rights of the Baha’i minority in that land would be protected. Copies of this communication addressed to the United Nations were delivered to the representatives of the member nations of the Social and Economic Council, to the Director of the Human Rights Division, and to certain specialized agencies of non-governmental organizations with consultative status. Furthermore, the American President was appealed to by the national representatives of the American Baha’i Communities as well as by all local Assemblies and groups in the United States. A courteous and reassuring letter was subsequently received by the American Baha’i National Spiritual Assembly from the State Department in Washington, acknowledging the receipt of the appeal, while the Director of the Division of Human Rights addressed in his turn a communication to the Secretary of the American National Spiritual Assembly, informing him that summaries of both the letter and petition forwarded to him would be furnished to the Commission of Human Rights, and copies sent to the Persian Government. Assurance was moreover given that summaries would also be sent to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

As a further measure to obtain redress a forty-thousand dollar publicity campaign was initiated by the American Baha’i Community designed to lend an impetus to the proclamation of the fundamental verities of the Faith, the aims and purposes of its followers, and of the disabilities suffered by the overwhelming majority of its adherents in the land of its birth.

Enrollments in Virgin Territories

Nor can I refrain from emphasizing in this rapid survey the highly significant fact that in over sixty territories, constituting more than a half of the total number of virgin territories opened to the Faith, since the inauguration of the World Spiritual Crusade, the number of those who have espoused the Cause of Baha’ullah and enlisted under His banner has surpassed the number originally anticipated and regarded as a minimum for the opening of these territories; that in considerable proportion of them the Baha’i membership has far exceeded the number required for the formation of local Assemblies; that in Gambia as many as three hundred, and in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands as many as five hundred, have been and are being enrolled beneath His standard; and that in Uganda alone, which holds the palm of victory, the number of registered believers has exceeded one thousand.

Next Phase of World Crusade

Such heart-warming, soul-stirring examples of Baha’i initiative and enterprise; such splendid testimonies to Baha’i solidarity, perseverance, courage, fortitude and self-sacrifice, displayed in rapid succession, and over so immense an area of the globe’s surface, and in the face of mounting opposition on the part of those who envy the ever widening glory of the Faith or fear the influence of its all-pervasive power, have shed on the opening chapter of this Crusade a luster which the passing of time can never tarnish.

The third phase of this momentous enterprise — the opening of which
is, at this hour, being signaled by the emergence of no less than three additional Regional Bahá'í Assemblies in the African Continent—must cast on the annals of this prodigious Crusade an illumination of such brilliance as will eclipse the splendor of this luster.

The glorious and stupendous work already accomplished, singly and collectively, in the course of three brief years, in five continents of the globe and the islands of the seas, both at home and abroad, in the teaching as well as the administrative spheres of Bahá'í activity must, as the army of Bahá'u'lláh's crusaders marches forward into new and vaster fields to capture still greater heights, never be jeopardized or allowed to lag or suffer a setback. The prizes so arduously won should not only be jealously preserved but should be constantly enriched. Far from suffering the long and distinguished record of feats which have been achieved to be tarnished, assiduous efforts must be exerted to enable it with every passing day.

The newly opened territories of the globe must, under no circumstances, be allowed to relapse into the state of spiritual deprivation from which they have so recently and laboriously been rescued. Nay, the highly edifying evidences proclaiming the expansion and the consolidation of the superb historic work achieved in so many of these territories must be rapidly multiplied. The local assemblies that have been so diligently and patiently established must under no circumstances be allowed to dissolve, or their foundations be in any way endangered. The mighty and steady process involving the increase in the number of the avowed supporters of the Faith, and the multiplication of isolated centers, groups and local assemblies must, throughout this newly opened phase of the Plan, be markedly accelerated. The incorporation of local assemblies must proceed with a rapidity that will throw into shade the progress of the first two phases of the Plan. The remaining unopened territories of the globe outside the Soviet orbit, now confined to no more than four lonely islands, must with the least possible delay, be won over to the ever spreading dominion of Bahá'u'lláh, consummating thereby the most far-reaching and thrilling of all the enterprises launched through the concerted efforts of His valiant followers. The one remaining Temple site destined to be bought in the Swedish capital must be speedily acquired. The six remaining Hazíratu'll-Quds, some in Latin America, others in the European continent, must likewise be rapidly established. The Bahá'í endowments in the countries still deprived of the benefits of this divinely appointed institution must be forthwith purchased. The task of completing the translation of Bahá'í literature into the languages listed in the provisions of the Plan must be carried out with renewed determination and vigor. The Bahá'í Publishing Trusts that are as yet unestablished must be founded at the earliest possible opportunity. The sacred obligation of purchasing the remaining chief historic sites in the birth-place of the Faith, and particularly the scenes of the Bab's incarceration and martyrdom, must be discharged as expeditiously as possible. The search now being conducted for the purpose of identifying the resting-places of the Father of Bahá'u'lláh, of the Mother and the Cousin of the Bab must be pursued with the utmost diligence and circumspection. The construction of the Mother Temple of Europe, so vital and yet so long overdue, must be speedily commenced, whilst a parallel effort must be exerted in Africa for the erection, without delay, of a similar institution which the phenomenal progress of the Faith in that continent has made imperative. The construction of the Home for the Aged, marking the inauguration of the first of the Dependencies of the Holiest House of Worship in the Bahá'í world, must, now that the site in the proximity of the Temple has been acquired, be started and expeditiously carried forward. The process of incorporating the newly formed National Spiritual Assemblies, whether regional or independent, must be initiated soon after their formation, and should be continually stimulated with every increase in the number of these assemblies in all the continents of the globe. Above all, an effort unprecedented in its range and intensity, must be exerted for the speedy multiplication of local spiritual assemblies in all the territories where National Spiritual Assemblies, whether independent or regional, provisional or permanent, are to be established, for the purpose of broadening and strengthening the foundations on which these potent national institutions—the pillars of the future Universal House of Justice—must rest. Immediate attention should be focused on the multiplication of such institutions in areas where these National Spiritual Assemblies are to be established in the near future, such as South and Central America, the Arabian Peninsula, South-East Asia, Pakistan, Alaska, Japan, New Zealand, Scandinavia and Finland, the Benelux countries, the Iberian Peninsula and France, as well as those territories in which national assemblies are to be established at a later stage in the course of the unfoldment of the present phase of the Plan, and the date of the formation of which will, to a large extent, depend on the rapidity with which these local assemblies are formed.

A Major Turning Point

The Crusade, on which the army of the Lord of Hosts has so joyously and confidently embarked, now stands at a major turning point in the history of its marvelous unfoldment. Three years of magnificent exploits, achieved for the propagation of the light of an immortal and infinitely precious Faith and for the strengthening of the fabric of its Administrative Order, now lie behind it. A spirit of abnegation and self-sacrifice, so rare that only the spirit of the Dawn-breakers of a former age can be said to have surpassed it, has consistently animated, singly as well as collectively, its participants in every clime, of all classes, of either sex, and of every age. A treasure, immense in its range has been willingly and lovingly expended to insure its systematic and successful prosecution. Already a few heroic souls have either quaffed the cup of martyrdom, or laid down their lives, or been subjected to divers ordeals while combating for its Cause. Its repercussions have spread so far as to alarm a not inconsiderable element among the traditional and re­ doubtable adversaries of its courageous and consecrated prosecutors. Indeed as it has forged ahead, it has raised up new enemies intent on obstructing its forward march and on defeating its purpose. Premonitory signs can already be discerned in
The first All-Holland gathering at the Hazíratu’l-Quds at The Hague, celebrating the Birthday of Bahá’u’lláh, November 12, 1955.
A description of the newest building at the Bahá’í World Center

Drawing by Carl Scheffler

The morning of the opening of the Fourth Intercontinental Bahá’í Conference on October 7, 1953, in New Delhi, India, Mr. Charles Mason Remey, Hand of the Cause and President of the International Bahá’í Council, an architect by profession, produced a drawing executed under the guidance and instructions of the Guardian of the Bahá’í Faith.

It was the projected design for the International Bahá’í Archives, to be erected on Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land. It represented a building similar to the celebrated temple of Athena in Athens, Greece, known the world over as the Parthenon.

The general dimensions called for a building over 12 meters high, 14 meters wide, and 32 meters long. It consisted of a main central portion surrounded by a colonnade, and standing on a platform two and one-half meters high, approached by a wide flight of steps on the east side, or main facade of the building. The classic lines and return to the architectural beauty of ancient Greece offer at once the promise of a remarkable and unique construction in our time.

Immediately after the end of the Conference, the drawing and letters of explanation were sent to Italy to request several well-known firms there to give an estimate of its cost. On returning to Italy after a stay of fifty days in Tehran, the writer secured all the necessary information, detailed drawings, and estimates of cost, and dispatched them immediately to Haifa for the Guardian’s approval.

The decision of the Guardian called for a building of the Ionic order, to be executed entirely in the same marble used for the Shrine of the Bab on Mt. Carmel. “Chiampo Paglierino.” This is a straw-colored stone, quarried near Chiampo, a small town in the Venetian region of Italy, between the cities of Vicenza and Verona.

On January 10, 1955, the writer signed on the Guardian’s behalf, after having received his verbal instructions, a contract for the furnishing of all stone required to complete the building, for a grand total of $115,000.

Space will not permit a detailed listing of all component parts of the building. It must suffice to say that, besides the one hundred and fifty sections of the column shafts, there are fifty capitals, fifty bases and two pilasters. There are over 230 meters of entablature in three superimposing elements, which in turn will be topped by 276 single pieces of carved crowning. The tympanums, composed of huge slabs of marble 10 cm. thick, have a carved frame all around; the front tympanum bears the monogram of the Greatest Name surrounded by sunrays in base relief, which will be gilded. The surfaces of the cement walls, to be covered with marble, including the base or podium on which the building stands, include well over nine hundred square meters.

There are six carved windows on each long side of the building, one large carved doorway in the front, and a spacious window in the rear. This latter will contain sixty-five panels of stained glass in three different colors, ruby red, yellow and blue, arranged into an original and harmonious geometric pattern. The roof will be covered by green glazed tiles, of pure Greek design—in all 7952 tiles and copes to cover a surface of about 500 square meters. The main door, of extraordinary dimensions and beauty, is being made of bronze, also in Italy. It is divided into ten panels, each panel having at the center a gilded rose one foot in diameter.

The inside of the building will have a balcony all around it, to increase the exhibit space. The floor will be covered with soft green tiles on which rare Persian carpets will be placed. The interior will be illuminated by six crystal chandeliers of exquisite design, each one bearing thirty lights. The outside will be flood-lighted, and another gem-like vision will at night grace the slopes of the Holy Mountain.

By the middle of 1956 all the stone work and accessories will be completed for shipment and it is hoped that well before the end of that year the International Bahá’í Archives will rise in its beauty on Mt. Carmel, a tangible expression of the lofty foresight of our beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi.

—Ugo R. Giachery
AMERICAN AUXILIARY BOARD CONTINUES VISITS THROUGHOUT WESTERN HEMISPHERE

This report carries forward to March, 1956, the lists of missions covered by members of the Auxiliary Board recently issued in Bahá’í Naws. It makes clear to what far-flung areas of the Western Hemisphere these tireless teachers have traveled to visit with and assist the friends.

Esteban Canales: Intensive teaching work in Cuba for twenty days; five days of teaching activity in Haiti and fifteen days in Dominican Republic. This mission was planned to assist in the strengthening of groups and communities and opening up new cities.

William deForge: Havana, Marianao, Cienfuegos, Cuba; Kingston, Jamaica; Port-au-Prince, Cape Haitian, Haiti; Ciudad Trujillo; Santiago, Moca, Dominican Republic; San Juan, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico. A radio talk was given over the Cí­del Radio, Cape Haitian. A public lecture in Santiago; a press interview.

Mrs. Florence Mayberry: Victoria, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Vancouver, British Colombia; Calgary, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Alberta; Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Regina, Saskatchewan; Brandon, St. James, Winnipeg, Manitoba; Fargo, N.D., Butte, Montana. Radio broadcasts in North Vancouver, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Moose Jaw, and Fargo. (Seven broadcasts). Television programs, Lethbridge, Regina and Fargo. This mission was from January to February 16. From February 27 to March 16 Mrs. Mayberry visited Honolulu, Wailuku, Kahului, Lahaina, Kapaa, paying more than one visit to Honolulu, Hilo, Wailuku and Lihue. Radio script presented in Honolulu and radio interviews given in Honolulu, Wailuku, Hilo and Lihue. Six interviews were given. Mrs. Mayberry from October 15 to December 23 had visited Spokane and Reno, Nevada; Eugene and Portland, Oregon; Everett, Seattle, Bellingham, Tacoma, Yakima, Pasco and Walla Walla, Washington; Pendleton, Oregon; Helena, Butte and Billings, Montana; Laramie, Wyoming; Jefferson County, Greeley, Denver and Pueblo, Colorado. (Some cities visited on more than one occasion). Radio broadcasts were delivered in Reno, Eugene, Yakima, Pendleton, Helena, Laramie, Greeley, Denver — twelve radio appearances. A television broadcast in Butte.

Mrs. Margery McCormick: Between February 14 and March 17 these missions were visited: — Pittsburgh, Pa.; Newark, N. J.; Manhasset, L.I.; West Chester, Trenton, Jersey City, Linden, N.J.; West Chester, Pa.; Washington, D.C.; Washington, Del.; Baltimore, Prince George’s County, Md.; Greensboro, Durham, N.C.; Augusta, Ga.; Birmingham, Ala.; Memphis, Nashville, Tenn.; Louisville, Ky. In each city adjacent communities and isolated believers were invited to the meetings.

Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin: Between January 18 and February 13, Mrs. McLaughlin visited the Bahá’í’s in Lima, Peru; Montevideo, Uruguay; Buenos Aires, Ezeiza and Cordoba, Argentina; Santiago, Quilpíe, Valparaiso, Osorno, Loncoche and Punta Arenas, Chile. She gave a radio broadcast in Montevideo and two (over different stations) in Punta Arenas.

Dr. Sarah Martin Pereira: Dr. Pereira in March conducted a fireside teaching hour in Beckley, West Virginia, in the home of a high school teacher. Regular study meetings are to follow. At West Virginia State College she has been invited to give an exposition of the Bahá’í World Faith to two classes in Social Science and one in Religion. She is also conducting a regular weekly study class in her own home.

Mrs. Gayle Woolson: Bahá’í Centers visited have been Cali, Medellin, Bucaramanga and Barranquilla, Colombia, spending a week in each city. In Venezuela she visited Caracas and Valencia, and spent a day in Curucao. Mrs. Woolson devoted a month to Valencia, holding two meetings a week and giving public talks at high schools and local clubs affiliated with international organizations. In March she returned from pilgrimage to Haifa and planned to convey the inspiration received from the Guardian with Bahá’ís in Caracas, Venezuela; Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Bogota, Medellín and Cali, Colombia; Quito, Ecuador; Guayaquil, Lima, Callao, Huancayo, Arequipa, La Paz, Cochabamba and Sucre, before the Convention of the Bahá’ís of South America.

MRS. CORINE TRUE
PAUL E. HANLEY
HORACE HOLLEY

GUARDIAN’S EULOGY OF VARQA RECEIVED

The National Spiritual Assembly has received a copy of the cablegram sent by the beloved Guardian to Mr. Mehdi Varqa, at Stuttgart, Germany, on the occasion of the death of Mr. Valiyu’lláh Varqa, Hand of the Cause. It was received at Stuttgart on November 15, 1955:


-SHOECHAIN

MAY, 1956
TRUSTEES OF THE MERCIFUL

Beloved Friends:

We have become accustomed to the annual election of Local Assemblies on April 21, since the occasion is one which, for many American believers, has been taking place for a long period. Each year the results are anxiously examined, to see whether any Assemblies have been lost and how many new ones have been gained. This is particularly the case during the period of the Ten Year Plan which calls for 300 Assemblies in the United States by 1963.

As this is written the returns for April 21, 1956 are not yet known. Therefore let us give thought to some of the deeper meanings of the institution itself, whether new or old, having a large or small community.

The "mechanics" or procedure for the conduct of an Assembly has been thoroughly clarified, and is outlined in the standard By-Laws. What needs prayerful consideration is the spiritual nature of this honored body and its responsibilities in the realm of human relations.

First of all, the institution requires the unity of its nine members. Membership on a Spiritual Assembly transcends personality because each member has become part of an institution created by Bahá’u’lláh, ordained in the Master’s Testament and guided by the beloved Guardian in many letters written to the American Bahá’ís. Membership is a consecration and not an enhancement of individual privilege or authority. The first step after April 21 is the attainment of complete mutual confidence, understanding and cooperation. The flow of the spirit from on High is checked by every sign of apathy or discord.

The next step, perhaps, is to realize that the Assembly is no mere passive body waiting for something to do, but a dynamic agency for the encouragement of individual service and the coordinator of collective undertakings. The Assembly must also be concerned for the relationships of believers throughout the community, setting the example of loving consideration and service, understanding of other natures and different views, and striving to maintain a unified and joyous community.

Finally, the local Assembly has to support the national and Crusade plans as they are announced from time to time.

Only true consecration and constant, ardent prayer will enable our human nature at this stage to fit into a Divine order by fulfilling the obligations and responsibilities pertaining to Assembly membership. The experience is purifying rather than easy, and exalting rather than simple.

It is what God has ordained for His chosen supporters in this era. To please God is our true aim, not to seek personal popularity or prestige. A great proportion of our local "problems" will disappear when the friends humbly realize the privilege of serving at the very basis of that Divine order in which they have become "trustees of the Merciful."

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT ON THE ONENESS OF MANKIND

Beloved Friends:

Particular attention is directed to the insert included in this Baha’i News entitled The Oneness of Mankind. This statement was prepared by the National Spiritual Assembly in order to set forth the Bahá’í Teachings on race relations at this critical hour.

The aim is twofold: to go on public record where the Bahá’í Community stands, and to unify all American Bahá’ís on an authorized exposition which emphasizes our obedience to a spiritual principle and at the same time points out that Bahá’ís do not become involved in political controversy. Believers can refer to this statement whenever questioned about the Bahá’í attitude.

Plans are also being carried out to secure widespread publicity for this official statement. It was submitted to the Guardian and his cable proposal has been received.

It is an hour of confusion and disagreement. May our beloved Community radiantly abide by the Divine teachings, safe from the controversy and rancor which disturbs the world.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Belgium

CEREMONIES CONSECRATE NEW CENTER AT BRUSSELS

The official inauguration and consecration of the Hazíratu’l-Quds of Belgium was held on Sunday, April 1, 1956. The Center is located at 54, rue Stanley.

Three ceremonies were planned, so that all might have the opportunity to be present. Services were held from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon, from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M., and from 8:00 to 10:00 P.M.

Central America

FETE INAUGURATION OF HAZIRATU’L-QUDS IN GUATEMALA

The Guardian’s goal of a Hazíratu’l-Quds in each of the ten Central American republics approaches realization with the inauguration of one more in this territory.

On February 24, 1956, about 40 people assembled to celebrate the opening of the Hazíratu’l-Quds at Retalhuleu, Guatemala.

It is situated diagonally from El Sagrario, the second most important cathedral in the city. Only a paved street separates the Hazíratu’l-Quds from this imposing edifice with its large dome.

Behind the Hazíratu’l-Quds is the city hospital, so that it is located in the center of the social life of the community.

The Hazíratu’l-Quds, painted pink inside and outside, was filled with many kinds of lovely flowers, reminding us that we are in the "Land of Eternal Spring," a title which Costa Rica also claims.

Joyful Program

The opening program was happy and lovely. We were reminded of the generous sacrifices of the beloved Guardian, Mrs. Amelia Collins, and the North American believers, in giving this Center for the future National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Guatemala.
A painting of a bird in flight, the gift of Sheila Rice-Wray, various gifts from the Guatemalan Bahá'í, blue hyacinth petals that had been placed on the threshold of our Lord's tomb, a candle that had been in the tomb of the Holy Báb, were all given to the Ḥazíratul-Quds.

What a joy it was to hear from Marjorie Stee the fresh assurance from our Guardian that the work in Central America had a small but firm foundation, and that the future would be very great! Oh, marvelous and elusive future! On whom are we waiting? Maybe you?

Inspiring Classes

Three days of school followed: stirring classes in the Covenant by Artemus Lamb; a class in the working of Bahá'í Administration in two sections, one given by Louise Caswell, and a workshop session conducted by Mrs. Jennie Taylor; colored views of Haifa; slides of Dawnbreaker pictures; a picnic at the Neffs' spacious home and garden, with food prepared by the Guatemalan Bahá'ís.

Our few days together were filled with the joys of the spirit: the great happiness of being together with our wonderful future before us, with the joys of the spirit: the firm foundation, and that the marvelous and elusive future!

—LOUISE CASWELL

Germany, Austria

COUNCIL MEMBERS VISIT GERMANY

Early in January two members of the International Bahá'í Council, LeRoy Ioas, Secretary-General, and his wife, Sylvia, visited Frankfurt, Germany. The account of their visit is taken from Bahá'í-Nachrichten, official Bahá'í publication of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria:

"Mr. Ioas came at the direction of the Guardian to discuss with the National Spiritual Assembly matters pertaining to the erection of the Temple (at Eschborn).

"On Saturday, January 7, Mr. Ioas, accompanied by his wife, Sylvia, also a member of the International Council, arrived in Frankfurt, and shortly thereafter met for several hours in consultation with the National Spiritual Assembly in the Ḥazíratul-Quds.

Tasks for Germany

"After he had been warmly welcomed by the Chairman, he delivered first the greetings and love of our honored Guardian, and then went on to tell how the Guardian frequently mentions the tasks which 'Abdu'l-Bahá assigned to Germany, and that he said that Germany is the heart of Europe, which must be strong.

"Next Mr. Ioas touched on the great teaching tasks, and told how the Guardian, in this connection, recalled the suffering which Germany had already endured, and how this suffering had not only prepared the Bahá'ís for their tasks, but had prepared others who also had endured them, to accept the truth of the Bahá'í Faith. Our Guardian anticipates, in the near future, the readiness of many people in Germany to accept the Faith. For that reason, he explained, the Guardian emphasizes the importance of the dispersion of the friends over the whole of Germany.

"The Divine outpourings are ready to overflow. The more communities and isolated settlements that are established, the greater will be the harvest.

"His words clearly indicated the great and immediate responsibility facing every single believer. The administrative institutions can assist in this task, but in the highly spiritual matter the appeal is to the heart of every single believer, and to his sacrificial devotion in the service.

World-wide Tasks

"Mr. Ioas gave a clear survey by the Guardian in relation to the world-wide tasks:

"The local and national institutions are now accomplished; the next task is the establishment of the international institutions.

"For our great teaching as it is presently being worked out in the Ten Year Plan, the kernel and charter are found in the Tablets of the Divine Plan which 'Abdu'l-Bahá directed to America. The directives which our Guardian gives for the Ten Year Plan follow step by step that Divine Plan from the pen of our Master.

"A third great task is the establishment of the World Center of our Faith. This is being accomplished through the construction which the Guardian is making on Mount Carmel. Here he follows the divine directives in the Tablet of Carmel, revealed by Bahá'u'lláh.

"Soon, Mr. Ioas said, we will see the 'Ark of God' land on Mt. Carmel, and the 'people of Bahá' will, as stated in the Tablet of Carmel, become known.

Divine Guidance

"Mr. Ioas spoke of the divine guidance received by the Guardian. He mentioned Africa as an example. When he first called for pioneers to go to Africa, no one could surmise the great results of our work there. The Banáni and Nakhjavaní families arose, and followed by a few other friends, went to Africa. And how astounding and unique are the results of this teaching work! Therefore, if we do what the Guardian out of the strength of his guidance advises, we will have results.

Symbolism of Temple

"Following this helpful world view, the matter of the Temple was discussed in detail. Here, too, Mr. Ioas spoke of the Temple not only as a symbol of our work in Europe, but also as the silent teacher. He mentioned in this connection the role of the Temple in Wilmette, and that of the Shrine on Mt. Carmel. No international tour coming to Haifa, but visits the Shrines on Mt. Carmel and Bahjí. Hundreds and thousands come over the week-ends, and the highest number of visitors was 10,000 in a month. So our edifices carry the message of the coming of the Manifestation of God for our time to the world.

"The consultation with Mr. Ioas in regard to the erection of the Temple were discussed in great detail. On the following Monday he had a conference, in company of Dr. Grossman and our attorney, Dr. Sandmann, with one of the judges. Afterwards he had a long conversation with Prof. Eierman, one of our friendly counsellors in the Temple matter, and with our friend, Gottfried Höpfner, of Stuttgart.

"The judges are well aware that the whole world awaits their decision; that their verdict will be published in all the languages of the Bahá'í world."
The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, Pakistan and Burma, through their publication Baha'i News Letter, has reported the results of several conventions and teaching conferences, and other activities.

**All-South India Teaching Conference**

A large group of Bahá'ís, pictured below, attended the All-South India Teaching Conference at Poona, India, on November 15-16, 1955. Mr. I. Bakhtiari and Mr. A. A. Butt, the President and Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly, respectively, were among those present.

Mr. Butt spoke on the subject, “Pivotal Goal of the Ten Year Plan.” He emphasized the fact that the Pivotal Goal was the consolidated expansion of the Faith.

A discourse on how to develop the existing groups into assemblies, and the dispersion of the friends was given by Prof. Dipchand L. Khianra in the Urdu and English tongues.

Mr. R. N. Shah spoke on “How to Teach the Nations,” from an extract of the instructions of the Beloved Guardian. He added that, since in India the majority is Hindu, we should try out best to get more...
Hindus into the Bahá'í fold, while at the same time the minorities should not be overlooked.

Mrs. S. Kirmani spoke in Urdu on "The Importance of Pioneering," and told how pioneers should be detached from worldly affairs.

At the final session, Mr. Butt called for prospective pioneers to come forward to volunteer, and a large number responded.

Pákistán Conference

A Teaching Conference of the Bahá'ís of Pákistán was held on January 28, 29 and 30, 1956. It was held to prepare the ground for the formation of the National Spiritual Assembly of Pákistán in 1957.

The National Spiritual Assembly sent two of its members, Mr. I. Bakhhtiari, and Mrs. Shirin Boman Míhrbání as its representatives. Mr. A. Q. Fáizi was deputed by the Hands of the Cause in Asia.

The conference discussed its two main purposes: (1) To speed up teaching plans that will bring into being a good number of new assemblies by April, 1956, so that they may participate in the convention to be held in April, 1957 for the election of the new National Spiritual Assembly. (2) To find pioneers to open all the centers of the Pákistán home front to the Cause.

The result was more than expected. Most of the believers present offered their services to go to the groups as teachers and try to bring them to assembly status.

Other believers offered themselves to go to groups whose numbers were more than half of that required for the formation of an assembly. Thus groups at Abbottabad, Montgomery, Nawabshah, Mirpur Khas, Gujranwala, and Mustang were assured of becoming assemblies at the next Ridván.

Pákistán Regional Convention

The Annual Regional Convention of Pákistán was held in Karáčhi on January 25-26-27, 1956, in the presence of 17 delegates from the different centers of Pákistán.

Among the resolutions passed were the following:

The Karáčhi Local Spiritual Assembly should endeavor to persuade believers to spread the Cause in Pákistán, and open new centers to the Faith.

Seven publications are to be printed in Urdu and widely distributed in Pákistán.

Various means for the dissemination of Bahá'í literature may be adopted.

A program of public lectures should be drawn up, with one lecture to be delivered in each important center each month.

The Press should be utilized, and regular articles submitted to the newspapers.

Burma Regional Convention

The important Regional Convention of Burma was held on December 25-26-27, 1955, and was attended by 20 delegates representing all the Bahá'í centers of Burma except Mandalay.

Among the important decisions made at the convention were the following:

Pioneers should open centers at Hmawbi and Yamethin. Two pioneers were named who were prepared to undertake this task.

Suitable booklets and pamphlets should be translated and printed in the Burmese language.

Greater advantage of the Press should be taken in the propagation of the Cause.

The Local Spiritual Assembly of Dáidana was commissioned to form Local Spiritual Assemblies at Kungyangoon Hmawbi on April 21, 1956.

The Kyignon Assembly should explore the possibility of opening centers at Ka-bo, Boo-Gyi and Wetto.

The dissolved assemblies of Moulmeen and Syrian to be revived.

Attempts to be made to create Bahá'í groups at Prome, Toungoo, Bassein, Pegu, Shwebo, Maymyo, and Akyab.

The convention revived the spirit of faith in the simple and sincere hearts of these Burmese believers.

Panchgani School

The National Spiritual Assembly has announced the opening of a new school year at the New Era School in Panchgani, India.

This school is now in its twelfth year of operation. It is housed in five buildings, and is surrounded by a large tract of land. Year-round activities are conducted under the auspices of the National Spiritual Assembly.

There are several children seeking admission who are in need of financial assistance, according to the Assembly.
A group of the friends of Mogadisco, Somali, are pictured at the left on the occasion of the visit of the first declared Somali Baha’i. He is a Bravanese, and is holding the Greatest Name. To his right is the first Mogadisco believer of pure Somali race. Pictured at the right are those who attended the first Baha’i Summer School at Mogadisco on December 24 through 26, 1955. All the new Somali Baha’is who attended took an active part, giving excellent talks. Two contacts also attended, and one later declared himself.

**Canada**

**TELL ACHIEVEMENTS IN SAMOA, ICELAND**

Canadian Baha’i News, published by the National Spiritual Assembly of Canada, has announced several newly won goals under their jurisdiction:

"The friends in Samoa joyfully announce the enrollment of the first native believer there, Mrs. Lotoa Rock. Lotoa’s husband, Emmanuel Rock, joined the Faith in Samoa just prior to the beginning of the Ten Year Crusade, and held the goal for some time before the arrival of other pioneers.

"Marguerite Allman of Hamilton, formerly a pioneer in the Queen Charlotte Islands, is en route to Iceland and expects to arrive there about February 21."

**Iceland**

The Canadian New Territories Committee Bulletin has printed the first letter received from this pioneer to Iceland, which is excerpted here:

"Just arrived at my hotel in Reykjavik (February 21, 1956), quite weary from the long plane trip. Mr. Danielson, the Hotel Manager, has been most kind to me. I’m sure God is working through him.

"Today he took me for a ride around the city. It is really quaint and spotlessly clean. No papers or rubbish strewn around. Everything is so peaceful and happy here. Saw people swimming in the open in the winter, also saw a small geyser, the university, airport, etc. He also found me a place to live, one room, with a lady doctor. She is about my age.

"There is a salmon and trout stream nearby within walking distance of where I will live, and plenty to paint. The mountains are beautiful. The houses and building are well kept-up, well painted (white) and well made, mostly all frame and cement.

"Took a walk about 3 P.M. in search of food, and what a time I had! (Just before leaving, I read the Tablet of Ahmad). I just kept going in and out of stores, saying ‘Hello,’ which is the same here, and then I would say ‘Milk’ or ‘Bread,’ and they'd hunch their shoulders and on I'd go. Right about then I was ready to take the next plane home!

"But I kept on going, and finally a nice young man said, ‘Can I help you?’ and I replied, ‘You sure can, and I'd be most happy if you would.’ So back we went to all those stores and bought a bit in each store; milk one place, bread another, and so on. He bade me farewell and said, ‘You are a very brave lady.’

"Little does he know the supreme help I'm receiving. Maybe some day I can tell him—I hope so."

**Baranof**

Canadian Baha’i News also published a letter from Dean Fraser, the pioneer on Baranof Island.

"Greetings from the ‘Rock’, otherwise called Mt. Edgecumbe. This former Government defense installation originally had so little soil, people used to carry it over by the sackful from Sitka on Baranof Island. Many places still have little soil, and grass does not grow well.

"As for my work, I have about 1000 regular hospital patients and students attending Mt. Edgecumbe High School. I have a very capable young doctor, just out of Columbia University, to assist me. We have two young ladies, former students, to help us. I also have a training course for dental assistants.

"Our patients and students are Eskimo, Athabascan, Haida, Thlin- get, Tsimshian and Aleut. One, of course, cannot by regulations speak of religious matters, but opportunities to do so occur now and then."

**Correction**

Baha’i News for April published pictures of the Local Spiritual Assemblies of Ottawa, Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, on page 11. Regrettably, the captions were transposed.

The correct date of incorporation of the Ottawa Assembly is May 12, 1955.
U.S. HOME FRONT

"The mighty and laudable effort exerted, by a considerable number of pioneers, in the course of the opening phase of this world-encircling Crusade, in the virgin territories of the globe, must, if this primacy is to remain unimpaired, be increased, doubled, nay trebled, and must manifest itself not only in foreign fields where the prizes so laboriously won during the last twelve months, must, at whatever sacrifice, be meticulously preserved, but throughout the entire length and breadth of the American Union, and particularly in the goal cities, where hitherto the work has stagnated, and which must, in the year now entered, become the scene of the finest exploits which the homefront has yet seen."


The Intercontinental Teaching Committees charged with the responsibility of accomplishing the goals in Europe, in Asia, in Africa, and in the Western Hemisphere, through the nature of their functioning remain in direct touch with those pioneers who have arisen to serve under their aegis. We have all been thrilled at the reports these committees have shared with us from time to time.

The American National Teaching Committee, on the other hand, once a pioneer has found his place in the Home Front Crusade, relinquishes the joy and inspiration of this direct contact to the proper Area Teaching Committee so that the work may be assisted through the appointed channels and grow more swiftly. We need the aid of every believer in the United States to bring victory to the World Crusade on the Home Front — through participation in the teaching work, in dispersal, and through the support of prayers. We know so many are achieving much that we do not hear of individually.

In these few columns we want to share with you the story of the courage and faith that has contributed to the establishment of seven brilliant centers of light on the Home Front, raising virgin cities, or cities settled by a single Bahá’í when the Crusade began, to the hope, and possibly to the realization of an Assembly by April 1955.

—AMERICAN NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

Sparks, Nevada

For six years Sparks, Nevada had but one Bahá’í, Jane Ward, who made her declaration on Naw-Rúz, 1948, under the jurisdiction of the then Regional Teaching Committee of Northern California and Nevada.


Through concentrated teaching efforts, firesides and study classes, Laurel Arata became a Bahá’í on December 20, 1955.

April 21, 1956 will be the highlight in the life of the Bahá’í who has waited and prayed these many years for an Assembly in Sparks.

Davenport, Iowa

Davenport has achieved a membership of ten adults and one youth almost entirely by internal growth, stimulated and assisted from without. For eight long years a group of two had existed in Davenport, which was chosen as a goal city. Miss Zella Smull and Miss Carrie Ridenour, taught by Mrs. Struven, had been this faithful nucleus. With the impact of the spirit released by Bahá’u’lláh for this World Crusade, waiting souls were stirred. Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Chance, as far back as 1945, had heard of the Faith in Sydney, Australia, when guests of Stanley and Marietta Bolton. In 1953, the Boltons, en
route to the Convention, Temple Dedication, and the Stockholm Conference, visited in the Chance home, and aroused new interest in the Faith. The spirit was in motion, and the Chances began serious study. The Area Teaching Committee sent teachers, the study continued; the Chances were enrolled in the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh. In January, 1955, came the first attempt at regular firesides, and this sincere effort put forth brought the promised confirmations. Mr. Arthur Petzoldt spoke at the first public meeting given by this group, in November, 1955, and followed with conferences for those interested. Mrs. Moffett visited Davenport, held a seminar. All activity has been confirmed, resulting in the gradual enrollment of the number sufficient for Assembly status.

This has been a collective group activity; members attending Area Conferences, the National Convention, and supporting all group activities. The activity must continue, since they are working with 25 interested contacts at this time. They are singularly fortunate in that many of their contacts are students in a professional school attended by nearly 1000 students, at least 120 of whom come from outside the United States. This group can serve the Home Front, and at the same time build strength in foreign goals.

Fort Worth, Texas

A virgin city when the Crusade began, a Spiritual Assembly is now functioning vigorously in Fort Worth.

The photograph shows the present Spiritual Assembly of Fort Worth. While others have shared in the original work of pioneering in Fort Worth, and have since left this community, the work is steadily increasing. The present nine, upon formation last April, dedicated themselves to the establishment of the New World Order in Fort Worth, and resolved to devote their efforts toward individual contacts and the development of these contacts towards membership. While personal contact work, firesides and public meetings have been regularly scheduled and supported, the Assembly has also set aside time for its members to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Writings.

In the past Bahá'í year they have held three public meetings, nine informal fellowship meetings, and numerous firesides in homes. Children's classes and deepening classes have gone forward weekly. They have had five opportunities to speak before non-Bahá'í organizations. Lengthy articles have been printed in the local press in support of display ads placed in their advertising columns — a majority of them in the Fort Worth Mind, a local Negro paper. The paper accorded front-page coverage to some of the articles given them, and the Negro radio station has cooperated by making radio announcements for public meetings. Other local stations also accorded this support. This is a community which should grow rapidly to the point where it may fulfill another of the Crusade goals — that of becoming incorporated.

Provo, Utah

Mr. and Mrs. Alan McCormick were the first pioneers to the virgin goal city of Provo, Utah, which they settled in August, 1954. Nineteen months later this act of Faith has been rewarded by the gift of a potential assembly to be formed April, 1956.

This group has followed the healthy pattern of growth from within, augmented by assistance from further settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bell, and Mr. and Mrs. John Conkling have settled in Provo to further the progress of the Crusade on the Home Front, and the other members of this anticipated assembly, Mr. Bob Sanders, Miss Sandra Couch and Mr. Phil Bartholomew, have enrolled due to the teaching activities of this group.

The McCormicks found joy in pioneering, through the necessity of making new friends; they found doors opened through cooperation of the newspapers. They joined Toastmaster and Toastmistress clubs, and the Red Cross Volunteer Services at the State Mental Hospital, seeking out through activity and service to meet those, in Provo, who might be "waiting souls."

When other pioneers arrived to assist, the work began to bear fruit. Regular firesides began with the same people attending regularly.

There is a trained teacher in the group now, experienced in social work and child psychology. With six young children in the group as a nucleus, the establishment of classes for children was a natural step. Non-Bahá'í children are attending; the parents are becoming interested, and one has just completed preparation for membership. Others are completing study for enrollment. Here is a group that has had tangible experience of the fulfillment of the promises of Bahá'u'lláh to "those who will arise."
Roswell, New Mexico

The history of the Roswell Group goes back to 1950, when Mrs. Elizabeth Darrell, a believer from Philadelphia, moved there. Alone, though with generous periodic help from the Albuquerque Assembly, she fed the flame of the Faith until the Ten-Year Crusade was well under way.

Late in 1954 Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hart were able to close out their affairs in Central New York and move to Roswell. A few months later Mr. and Mrs. Fred Simmons left Albuquerque to join the growing group. In the fall of 1955 the impetus of the Crusade brought Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Meinhard from Brighton, N.Y., and Mrs. Elinor Kepfer from Lima, Ohio.

Needing only one more believer to reach assembly status, the group is praying fervently that the lack will be filled before April 21, to give Roswell a full-fledged Baha'i community.

San Jose, California

For many years, Mr. Walter Pappelbaum was the only Baha'i in San Jose, which was chosen as a goal city.

Mrs. Clara Meyer, of Geyserville, California, moved into San Jose as a pioneer in 1954, and a few months later, Mrs. Adrienne Reeves, of Los Angeles, California joined her. Confirmations followed, and other settlers began to join these first pioneers to San Jose, and of these, still remaining at their posts in San Jose, are Mrs. Eva McAllister and Mary Spivack, from Los Angeles, Val Sage, from Oregon, Mr. and Mrs. James Morgan, from San Luis Obispo, and Creadell Haley, of Los Angeles.

The group also had assistance of youth members studying at San Jose State College—Miss Helena Somerhalder, and Mr. Eugene Gallant.

Members of this group have overcome health problems, severe financial difficulties, and the distress of separation from their families while their husbands have been delayed in receiving job transfers to San Jose, but are rejoicing together that the Assembly will be achieved in April, 1956.

Santa Ana, California

Between January and October, 1955, six believers had arisen to settle this virgin city: Mrs. Viola Hodgson, Mrs. Mabel Perry, Miss Jessica Perry, Mr. Kenneth Rutan, Mrs. Martha Ann Rutan (youth) and Mrs. Steffes.

While it is unlikely they will achieve assembly status by April, 1956, confirmation will surely be theirs by 1957.

In cooperation with the small adjoining groups of Corona del Mar and Costa Mesa, they have given musical evenings, observed United Nations Day, World Religion Day, and the Baha'i Holy Days. They have presented a series of talks, with visiting speakers, presenting the subject of Progressive Revelation under the head of "Nine Basic World Religions," and have maintained regular study and deepening classes at all times. Thirteen public meetings have drawn attendance varying from 13 to 28. Six contacts are reading seriously at this time. Their latest activities were an Intercalary Day party, attended by 18, and an equally well attended observance of Naw-Ruz.
DURHAM, SEATTLE REPORT
INTERRACIAL WORK

The Bahá’í Interracial Teaching Committee has released reports on
the interracial activities of two communities, Durham, N. C., and Seat­
tle, Washington.

Durham

In Durham, initial contacts were
made among the faculties and stu­
dents of the Negro College and the
two universities of Durham and Cha­
pel Hill, as well as other organiza­
tions, by attending meetings and lec­
tures.

The three local newspapers were
approached, and friendly contacts
established with the editors. Several
stories about the local Bahá’í group
resulted.

On holidays students from other
cities and continents were invited for
dinner at the home of the Bahá’ís.
Haiti, Formosa, Liberia, and Indo­
esia were among the nations repre­
sented by the foreign students.

A beautiful room at Duke Univer­
sity was secured for the observance
of World Religion Day, where for
the first time colored and white
could attend a Bahá’í meeting. Forty
five attended, including 14 Bahá’ís
from Durham and other towns, and
19 new Negro contacts. The pro­
gram embraced a talk, slides, mu­
sic, refreshments and fellowship.

On March 6 and 7, Mrs. Margery
McCormick, a member of the Auxili­
ary Board, visited Durham. A lunch­
eon and a fireside were arranged,
and 25 contacts, Negro and white,
heard with interest her inspiring
message.

Naw-Rúz was observed at the Van
Sombeek home by 15 interracial con­
tacts and 5 Bahá’ís. There was a buf­
fet supper, music, readings from the
Bahá’í Writings, and a discussion
period.

Frequent fellowship dinners are
planned for Negro and white togeth­
er, for the first time in Durham.

Seattle

The Seattle Bahá’í community,
over a year ago, obtained use of the
Eastside Branch of the YWCA as a
base for community activities, in­
cluding the Bahá’í Holy Day observ­
ances. The Eastside Branch is
staffed with Negroes, and serves the
minority district.

The outstanding event of this year
was a program on February 12
called “Spotlight on Negro Achieve­
ment.” Publicity was secured in the
local Negro press, by announce­
ments mailed to churches, and by
extending personal invitations to
contacts. About 100 people attended
the meeting; three-fourths of them
were Negro who had been attracted
by the newspaper publicity and
church announcements.

There was music by a Negro
chorus, a symposium on Negro
achievement in literature, science,
music, and social endeavor present­
ated by members of the Negro com­
community, none of whom were Bahá’ís,
and an appreciation of Louis Greg­
ory, Hand of the Cause, by Helen
Wilks.

Because the whole program was
planned and carried out as a service
to the Negro community, and not
primarily as an advertisement of the
Faith, it appeared to have a tre­
mendous impact.

INDIAN CONFERENCE HELD
AT LOS ANGELES

An American Indian Teaching
Conference was held at the Bahá’í
Center in Los Angeles, Calif., on
April 7. The Los Angeles Local Spi­
ritual Assembly was host.

All the Bahá’ís of Southern Cali­
ifornia were invited to participate in
this conference, the first on the sub­
ject of reaching, teaching, and serv­
ing the ever increasing number of
Indians in the city.

The American Indian Service
Committee is prepared to plan and
conduct other conferences in coop­
eration with any community or area
that would welcome such an oppor­
tunity for consultation on one of our
country’s great unfinished tasks.

"FORMATIVE YEARS OF FAITH"
STUDIED IN SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco, Calif., com­
munity has been conducting a se­
cies of classes on “Thirty Years of
the Formative Period of the Faith.”

A special feature was the show­
ing of the films of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá on
his visit to America in 1912, and the
playing of recordings of his voice.
At this meeting, the class of inquir­
ers was also invited, for a joint par­
ty given by the leader, Dr. Mildred
Nichols.

To give the community the benefit
of the class’ work on the Formative
Period of the Faith, several mem­
ers of the class will relate the out­
standing events as chronicled in The
Bahá’í World volumes at several fu­
ture Feasts.

This information should help to fa­
miliarize the friends with the rec­
ords and illustrations contained in
these books, and to indicate the
world-wide scope of the Faith.
MONTHLY REPORT ON WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

Third Year

National Baha'í Fund

As of April 15, 1956

Where we should be: $529,000.

Where we are: $354,000.

Total Budget for Entire Year ($550,000.00)

(Average Monthly Requirements $46,000.00)

Monthly receipts to date:

- May 1-15: $15,500
- May 15 - June 15: $22,500
- June 15 - July 15: $23,500
- July 15 - August 15: $19,500
- August 15 - September 15: $37,000
- September 15 - October 15: $39,500
- October 15 - November 15: $40,000

 Accumulated deficit as of April 15, 1956: $174,500

—National Spiritual Assembly

REVEAL FUTURE PLANS OF COMMITTEE ON QUESTIONNAIRES

Expanded activities are planned by the National Committee on Baha'í Questionnaires for the future, according to a committee announcement. These plans will include the following:

1. Creation of a new type of questionnaire card which will not be mailed, but used by local Baha'is at public meetings to stimulate local follow-up and response.

2. Initiation of an accelerated program of periodic mailings to all assemblies informing them of latest plans, and soliciting their aid and cooperation in the consideration of new ideas.

3. Development of a constructive follow-up technique that will help all assemblies and individual Baha'is to secure confirmed and resolute new members from those indicating a basic interest.

4. Coordination of the efforts of this committee, at all times, with the entire teaching and proclamation program of the National Spiritual Assembly.

During the past year, this committee sent out 7,025 questionnaire cards. Of these, 4,450 were "Announcement Cards," and 2,575 were the "Double Card" type.

MAUI ENJOYS 4 DAY TEACHING PROGRAM

Maui, Hawaii, is normally "off the beaten track" as far as visits from itinerant Baha'i speakers is concerned. Therefore, the four day visit of Mrs. Florence Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board, had a tremendously stimulating effect on the entire Maui Baha'i community.

Mrs. Mayberry and her son, Michael, arrived on the island of Maui on March 1, 1956. On hand to greet them were a group of Baha'is and a press photographer from the Maui News. One of the pictures he took was published in the newspaper two days later.

Mrs. Mayberry spoke at noon that day before the Kiwanis Club in the town of Wailuku on "World Government." She was introduced by one of Maui's leading Congregational ministers.

That evening, at the Feast of Alá, the community gained much inspiration from her message from the Hands of the Cause, and from her remarks on the Faith.

On March 2, Mrs. Mayberry appeared on the regular 15 minute monthly Baha'i radio program on station KMOI. She was interviewed by a local Baha'i on the subject "What Does a Baha'i Believe?"

In the evening, the Maui community had arranged a public meeting at Kahului on the subject, "One World, One Faith." There were 29 present, including 16 non-Baha'is.

The next night, March 3, a fireside was planned, at which Mrs. Mayberry showed slides of Canada, Alaska, and the Haifa Shrines. The news of the work by pioneers in Alaska was most inspiring to the Maui friends, and served to bring them closer, in spirit, to their Baha'i co-workers in that region.

March 4, Mrs. Mayberry traveled to the western side of Maui, to the town of Lahaina, for a public meeting in a public school.

The Maui community, through their efforts, obtained considerable newspaper and radio advertising, both free and paid, for these various meetings. They believe that the efforts of Mrs. Mayberry and the members of the community brought a great deal of prestige to the Faith, and increased the public's recognition of the Cause on Maui.
SEMINAR TEACHING USED IN FOUR COMMUNITIES

The seminar method of Bahá'í teaching was used with success in four communities during the months of February and March. Whitefish Bay, Wisc., presented Mrs. Florence Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board, from March 25 to 29; Waukesha, Wisc., featured Mrs. Vivian Fellows during the week of March 4; Fargo, N. D., March 4 to 14, and Sioux Falls, S. D., February 23 to March 3, conducted classes by Mrs. Ruth Moffett.

In each community the pattern of activity was similar: daily classes of concentrated study, public meetings in the evening, radio and television publicity and interviews, and newspaper advertising and publicity.

The results of these seminars indicate increased activity and interest in the Bahá'í message, and the securing of many new contacts. Total attendance figures are impressive.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Anchorage and Anchorage Recording District, Alaska, observed Naw-Rúz observance, beginning with a dinner at a local restaurant, followed by a party at the Ḥaḍratū'l-Quds, with singing, games, and refreshments. There was good interracial attendance, with over 40 Bahá'ís and guests present.

The Albuquerque, N. Mex., community has arranged for free TV time every second Sunday over station KOAT-TV. The time will be used for 15 minute panel discussions on the Faith.

Los Angeles, Calif., Child Education Committee gave a Naw-Rúz party for all children of Bahá'ís on March 21 at 11:00 A.M. Each child brought an inexpensive present to exchange with a gift brought by another child. Games and refreshments were provided, with the celebration planned to give the children a better understanding of this Bahá'í holiday.

Naw-Rúz in Kansas City, Mo., was observed with a public meeting at the YWCA. The program included a talk and readings by Mrs. Margaret Ruhe, a film on South America, refreshments, and a social hour.

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

The East Central States Area Teaching Committee announces in their Bulletin a series of meetings to be held on May 6, at which delegates to the National Convention will report on the proceedings while the spirit of the convention is still with them. Cities scheduled are Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and South Bend, Ind., Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, Mansfield, Cincinnati, Lima and Warren, Ohio, Ann Arbor, Detroit, Battle Creek, Flint, Lansing, Muskegon, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo, Mich.

A Blue Ridge Conference Committee meeting was held in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 4 to discuss future plans. This year the Blue Ridge Conference will be held on August 25 to 28. This information is included in the Bulletin for the South Atlantic States. Also reported is a large meeting held at Orangeburg, S. C., on February 12. Over 500 people heard Dr. William Tucker give the Bahá'í message at the New Mount Zion Church at two meetings that day. The pastor of this church is deeply interested in the Faith. That same day, at once Lincoln's Birthday and Race Relations Day, Mrs. Van Sombeek spoke to a group in another church in the same city. Bahá'ís of Orange County and nearby towns gathered at Orlando, Fla., on March 11 for a public meeting with Allen McDaniel as speaker. St. Petersburg, Fla., has had an active season, with weekly study classes, and a public meeting on March 25.

ANNOUNCE TEMPLE OBSERVANCE FOR DECLARATION OF THE BAB

The Temple Worship Committee has announced the order of the program for the Anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab on May 22, 1956:

8:15-9:05: Public Meeting in Foundation Hall.
9:15-9:30: Devotions in the Auditorium.

LIVING TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD. (A Junior's Book of Religion.) By Marguerite True. The material covers the Prophets, the new laws for the nations and for the people of the world, and questions and answers (with spaces for additional comments), as contained in the previous edition of A Junior's Book of Religion, with a few revisions. Illustrated with several drawings by Jean Hutchinson. This is a printed (not mimeographed) book, with colorfull stiff paper cover. 24 pages. Per copy ..................... § .75

NEW EDITIONS

Bahá'í World Faith. Selected from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. This new edition contains an introduction by Horace Holley which will add greatly to the value and understanding of this compilation of Bahá'í Sacred Writings, particularly for its placement in public and university libraries. This book offers the student of religion a compilation of Bahá'í Writings which, in
one convenient volume, discloses their universal ranges of themes, their direct application to modern life, and their incomparable spiritual power. Here is a World Bible revealed for men of all races and lands. 455 pages, bound in cloth.

Per copy $2.50

Baha’i World Faith. (Deluxe Edition). A few copies remain of the genuine red leatherbound, gold-edged edition of this work prepared especially for the Centenary of 1944. This is a beautiful gift item.

Per copy $5.00


Per copy (reduced price) $2.75

Reduced Price

The Spell of the Temple. By Allen B. McDaniel. The Publishing Trust has acquired the remaining stock on this title from the original publisher and is thereby able to offer a 20% reduction in price. This is the only publication which gives a detailed story of the Temple. The National Public Library Committee highly recommends this for library presentation. The story is told by one who was intimately concerned with the Temple from the original dream to completion of the structure, and it will interest not only the many thousands who have already come to the Temple to visit or to worship, but to those who have not yet caught a gleam of what a dawning universal age has in store for mankind. 96 pages, cloth, jacket illustrated with Temple photo.

Per copy (reduced price) $2.00

Foreign Literature

The Hidden Words of Baha’u’llah. (Russian).

Per copy $0.00

The Renewal of Civilization (Norwegian). By David Hofman.

Per copy $0.60

Available from 
Baha’i Publishing Trust
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEASTS
May 17—’Aqamat (Grandeur)

HOLY DAYS
May 2—Twelfth Day of Ridván
May 23—Declaration of the Bab
(on May 22, at about two hours after sunset)

(Holy Days and Anniversaries celebrated at the Baha’i House of Worship are open to the public. The public meeting will be held in Foundation Hall, beginning at 8:15 p.m. and the devotions will be held in the Auditorium upstairs at 9:15 p.m. The meeting is held on the evening of the day preceding the anniversary date.)

May 29—Ascension of Baha’u’llah
(at 3:00 p.m.)

BAHA’I HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting hours
Weekdays and Saturdays: 1:00—4:00 P.M.
(the Auditorium will be open)
Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
(the entire building will be open)

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.
The Oneness of Mankind

Basic Principle of the Bahá’í Faith

MORE than one hundred years ago Bahá’u’lláh, Founder of the Bahá’í World Faith, proclaimed the principle of the oneness of mankind. Among His writings we cite:

"Close your eyes to racial differences and welcome all with the light of oneness."

"Ye are the fruits of one tree and the leaves of one branch. . . . So powerful is the light of unity that it can illumine the whole earth."

"Ye dwell in one world, and have been created through the operation of one Will. Blessed is he who mingleth with all men in a spirit of utmost kindliness and love."

"The earth is but one country; and mankind its citizens."

"The well-being of mankind, its peace and security are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established."

The Bahá’í Faith arose at the beginning of a new stage in human evolution when science and technology are destroying ancient boundaries separating the peoples of the world. Races and nations have become interdependent and subject to one destiny. The Bahá’í proclamation of the principle of oneness supplies the spiritual guidance needed for understanding of this great process which is transforming the conditions of human existence. By this principle the Bahá’ís recognize that God is the Creator of all races and peoples, and therefore conflict and dissension arising from prejudice is contrary to the Divine Will. Through unity the world can attain a new and higher civilization, while the outbreak of another international conflict can cause general destruction.

As long ago as 1911, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, expounding the teachings of Bahá’u’lláh, declared in a public address:

"This is a new cycle of human power. . . . It is the hour of the unity of the sons of men and of the drawing together of all races and all classes. You are loosed from ancient superstitions which have kept men ignorant, destroying the foundations of true humanity."

In 1931 the Guardian of the Faith wrote: "The proclamation of the Oneness of Mankind . . . implies at once a warning and a promise — a warning that in it lies the sole means for the salvation of a greatly suffering world, a promise that its realization is at hand."

Viewing the ominous international situation he also wrote: "We have but to turn our gaze to humanity’s blood-stained history to realize that nothing short of intense mental as well as physical agony has been able to precipitate those epoch-making changes that constitute the greatest landmarks in the history of human civilization."

Membership in a Bahá’í community, participation in its worship, its activities and the operation of its elective institutions follow upon acceptance of the Faith, free from any racial or other discrimination. Bahá’í schools, wherever they have been established, are open to all members. The qualities and capacities of the individual Bahá’í determine his role in the community, not his race or class.

Bahá’í communities at this time exist in all the continents, with a membership representing great diversity of racial and religious backgrounds. Despite the pressure of international events, these communities are demonstrating that even today a religious fellowship can exist which represents a cross-section of the human race. Obedience to government is a definite requirement of their Faith. Therefore, Bahá’ís abide by the spiritual principle of oneness and do not become involved in political controversy. Inter-racial relationships are today no longer a matter of merely domestic concern — their influence is felt in distant countries.

This statement of Bahá’í teachings has been prepared in order to clarify the position of members of the Faith throughout the United States at this critical hour.

Wilmette, Illinois

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ’ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES
BAHÁ'Í TEN YEAR PLAN
Third Phase
Objectives for America Listed in the Guardian’s Message to the Forty-Eighth Annual Convention

1. Newly opened territories must not be allowed to become vacant.
2. Local Assemblies must not be allowed to dissolve or be endangered.
3. The process of increasing the number of supporters and multiplying isolated centers, groups and Assemblies must be accelerated.
4. Incorporation of local Assemblies must proceed with great rapidity.
5. The remaining unopened territories, outside the Soviet orbit, four islands, must have pioneers.
6. The Temple site in Stockholm must be speedily acquired.
7. The six remaining Haţíratu’l-Quds in Latin America and Europe must be rapidly established.
8. The Bahá’í endowments not yet acquired must be secured.
9. The remaining languages to be translated and published.
10. The construction of the home for the Aged in Wilmette must be started and rapidly carried forward.
11. The newly formed National Assemblies are to be incorporated, and those formed later are also to be incorporated.
12. Multiply local Assemblies in all territories where National Assemblies are to be established in the near future—South and Central America, Alaska, Japan, Scandinavia, Finland, Benelux Countries, Iberian Peninsula and France.

Beloved friends:
In the Guardian’s Convention Message, published in the May issue of Bahá’í News, Shoghi Effendi outlined the particular tasks to be achieved during the Third Phase of the Ten Year Plan. Of these tasks the twelve summarized above have direct reference to American Bahá’ís. Here we have clearly before us the objectives of our work until Riḍván, 1958.

Plans for acquiring the remaining Haţíratu’l-Quds and endowments in Latin America and Western Europe, and for translating and publishing Bahá’í texts in the remaining languages, are under way.

The most arduous tasks are these: (1) preparing for the formation of National Assemblies in Latin America, Alaska, and Japan; (2) preparing for the formation of National Assemblies in Western Europe; and (3) increasing the number of local Assemblies on the home front.

Therefore we are called upon collectively to give the utmost response to plans and appeals launched by the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, the Asia Teaching Committee, the European Teaching Committee and the American National Teaching Committee.

The notable successes achieved since the inauguration of the World Crusade are not ends in themselves but means for the achievement of all remaining tasks. Powerful teaching and administrative institutions have been created, and their facilities and experience are at the disposal of every heroic volunteer who arises in response to the Guardian’s call.

The process of dispersal from the larger centers should be vigorously continued, and this will supply the reservoir of new pioneers needed on all fronts.

Above all, the quickening and inspiration of the United States Bahá’í community is the essential requisite for success. We live in heroic days when “living the life” involves confirmation in the spirit of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh and not merely knowledge of His teachings and truths.

“Address yourselves to the promotion of the well-being and tranquility of the children of men,” Bahá’u’lláh wrote in a Tablet directed to the “people of Bahá.” “Bend your minds and wills to the education of the people and kindreds of the earth, that haply the disensions that divide it may, through the power of the Most Great Name, be blotted out from its face, and all mankind become the upholders of one Order and the inhabitants of one City.” “Illumine and hallow your hearts; let them not be profaned by the thorns of hate or the thistles of malice. Ye dwell in one world, and have been created through the operation of one Will. Blessed is he who mingleth with all men in a spirit of utmost kindness and love.” (Gl. pp. 333-334)

“Who so ariseth to teach Our Cause must needs detach himself from all earthly things, and regard, at all times, the triumph of Our Faith as his supreme objective.” (Gl. p. 334)

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-Eighth Annual Baha‘i Convention

On the following pages there is published a complete coverage of the National Convention: recommendations made to the National Spiritual Assembly and their actions, the official returns of the election of the new Assembly, and a descriptive account of the proceedings by the appointed Convention Reporter.

Action on Convention Resolutions by the National Spiritual Assembly

The following recommendations were adopted at the Forty-Eighth Annual Baha‘i Convention and were referred to the incoming National Spiritual Assembly, which has taken the action indicated under each one:

1. That the letter from the Guardian to Mrs. Vafa Kinney which was read at the Convention by one of the delegates be published in Baha‘i News.

   Action: This letter appears on page 13 of this issue of Baha‘i News.

2. That consideration be given to the possibility of interesting some publisher of pocket edition books in bringing out a small volume on the Baha‘i Faith similar to those already published on Islam, Hinduism, etc.

   Action: Steps have been taken to investigate this possibility as well as to interest a Baha‘i writer in preparing the manuscript for such a book.

3. That the friends be informed as to what steps can be taken legally to secure tax exemption on their contributions to the Faith.

   Action: The Legal Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly has requested to prepare for publication in Baha‘i News a summary of income tax considerations bearing upon contributions and bequests to the Faith.

4. That the incoming National Spiritual Assembly adopt the budget for 1956-1957 as presented by the Treasurer on behalf of the outgoing Assembly.

   Action: The incoming National Spiritual Assembly has adopted this budget which is described in the special insert accompanying this issue of Baha‘i News.

Child Education

5. That a brochure be prepared stating the basic Baha‘i principles on child education for distribution to non-Baha‘i parents.

   Action: The National Baha‘i Child Education Committee has been requested to submit a summary of the basic Baha‘i principles of child education in a form suitable for distribution to non-Baha‘i parents.

6. That a statement be prepared outlining the Baha‘i concept of education.

   Action: The National Spiritual Assembly has requested its Publishing Liaison Committee to consider this recommendation in the light of the present publishing policies and plans.

7. That consideration be given to the appointment of a College Speakers’ Bureau which would serve the National Baha‘i Youth Committee, the Area Teaching Committees, and the believers generally in promoting speaking opportunities for Baha‘is in colleges and providing the speakers to fill such engagements.

   Action: The National Spiritual Assembly is prepared to appoint a College Speakers’ Bureau whose first responsibility, before starting to function, will be to make a survey of the possibilities of their operation and to make recommendations to the NSA.

8. That the National Spiritual Assembly investigate the possibility of setting up a central organization for the printing and distribution of the bulletins of the various Baha‘i committees.

   Action: The National Spiritual Assembly has investigated the possibility of this type of service but finds it is not practical or feasible at the present time.

Youth Committees

9. That the structure of the Area Youth Committees be reconstituted rather than providing for youth representation on the Area Teaching Committees, but that in each case a member or members of the Area Youth Committee be designated to maintain contact with the Area Teaching Committee.

   Action: The National Spiritual Assembly will appoint Area Youth Committees in such areas where the National Baha‘i Youth Committee feels there is sufficient personnel for such committees. This will not change the policy of appointing a youth member to the Area Teaching Committee wherever possible.

10. That consideration be given to the appointment of a Youth Advisory or Youth Liaison Committee composed of adults to insure the continuity of the administrative activities of the National Baha‘i Youth Committee.

   Action: The National Spiritual Assembly recognizes the need for such an advisory group and will appoint one as soon as suitable personnel can be found, and after consultation with the National Baha‘i Youth Committee itself.

11. That the National Spiritual Assembly make available youth scholarships for both Baha‘i and non-Baha‘i youth to enable them to attend Baha‘i summer schools.

   Action: After consideration, the National Spiritual Assembly recorded the view that this is a matter to
be left to the discretion of each local Spiritual Assembly.

12. That the Forty-Eighth Annual Convention of the Bahá'ís of the United States, having considered a detailed report of the persecution of their Iranian co-religionists through the influence of fanatical forces in Iran, appeal to their newly elected NSA to take all possible and appropriate actions to bring about the termination of this cruel and disgraceful oppression which represents a repudiation of the concepts of human rights and religious liberty supported by the Charter of the United Nations and a betrayal of the fundamental principles revealed by all the Prophets.

Action: It is recorded that the Bahá'í Press Service transmitted this resolution to the Associated Press and the two leading Chicago newspapers. It is also recorded that the National Spiritual Assembly is continuing the energetic campaign undertaken last year with the approval of the Guardian, aimed at removal of the restrictions surrounding the Bahá'ís in Iran.

13. That consideration be given to means that will enable groups of Bahá'í youth to travel to areas which do not have Bahá'í youth, for the purpose of assisting the friends in those areas to contact youth, special emphasis being placed on the critical areas in the adult administrative structure, namely, small communities.

Action: Although it recognizes the desirability of such travel by groups of youth, the National Spiritual Assembly records the view that because of their responsibilities, both personal and Bahá'í, the Bahá'í youth currently lack time to devote to such projects.

14. That the National Spiritual Assembly consider the possibility of sponsoring some sort of annual public speaking contest on Bahá'í subjects at the high school level.

Action: In view of all the other demands upon the time and funds of the Bahá'ís, the Assembly voted to take no action on this recommendation.

15. That the Convention request the National Spiritual Assembly to express to the Secretary-General of the International Council on behalf of the Convention the gratification of the delegates and visitors in having the privilege of greeting Mr. Shalon, the distinguished visitor from Haifa.

Action: This action has been carried out.

16. That the Bahá'í Publishing Trust give consideration to the publication of choral arrangements of new music written by Bahá'í composers.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly records the view that at the present time the Bahá'í Publishing Trust can be authorized to publish and distribute only such music as is rendered by the A Cappella choir of the Bahá'í House of Worship.

17. That the National Spiritual Assembly consider ways and means of making available to the believers the type of display panel for literature which was exhibited at the Convention by a delegate from the State of Washington.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly commends the ingenuity of the friends in Washington and expresses the view that the same type of display can be developed in other parts of the country. Rather than attempting to develop such a project on a national scale, involving high costs of production and problems of distribution, the National Spiritual Assembly has requested the Bahá'í Publishing Trust to develop some suggestions for simple, inexpensive portable displays that can be produced locally by Bahá'í groups and communities.

Human Rights Day

18. That United Nations Human Rights Day (December 10) be included in the list of special events to be observed and publicized by the Bahá'í community this year.

Action: Bahá'í Press Service has been directed to include United Nations Human Rights Day in its list of special events to be publicized in the year 1956-1957.

19. That appreciations of the Faith be sought from the heads of the United Nations delegations of countries where the Faith is well established.

Action: The National Assembly records the view that appreciations of the Faith should not be solicited from representatives of other governments, but that no doubt such appreciations will come voluntarily from such officials as they learn more about the Cause and become favorably impressed with it.

20. That consideration be given to reinstating the holding of race amity conferences in various parts of the country sponsored by Bahá'í agencies.

Action: This action was referred to the Interracial Teaching Committee with the request that that committee make a recommendation to the National Spiritual Assembly as to the feasibility of conducting such a series of conferences under national direction.

21. That the National Spiritual Assembly instruct the Bahá'ís of the United States as to what stand they should take with respect to membership in the NAACP and similar organizations.

Action: It is the view of the National Spiritual Assembly that the friends should be urged to concentrate their time and energy on the
direct teaching of the Faith, which offers the only permanent solution to the problems of human relations, and not to dissipate their time and energies in the work of other organizations, no matter how worthy their objectives may be.

Summer Schools
22. That the Bahá’í Summer Schools be asked to include in every adult session a discussion on child education.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly voted to give consideration to this recommendation at the time the summer school committees are appointed for the 1957 sessions and when general instructions are issued on the types of programs desired by the Assembly.

23. That the National Spiritual Assembly call a conference of experienced Bahá’í teachers for the purpose of developing a coordinated teaching plan for the United States.

Action: The National Assembly appreciates the need for a coordinated national teaching plan, but after careful consideration it records the following views:

a. The Guardian has given us the basic elements of a national plan in calling upon the American believers to multiply the centers and bring groups to Assembly status this year at an accelerated pace.

b. A study of the annual reports received from local Spiritual Assemblies reveal the need of a thorough spiritual quickening of the entire American Bahá’í community.

c. The methods which the National Spiritual Assembly has adopted are aimed at accomplishing the objectives set forth by the Guardian in his Convention message and also at stimulating the believers to attain firmness in the Covenant and to acquire capacity and desire to serve the faith.

24. That the National Spiritual Assembly make available to the friends the article by Thornton Chase entitled “Before Abraham Was, I Am,” after eliminating any inaccuracies which it may contain.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly has referred this matter to its Publishing Liaison Committee for study and recommendation.

25. That members on the Summer School Committees be appointed for a two-year period, with half the membership of the committees being retained the succeeding year in order to give continuity for planning and programming.

Action: In its annual appointment of the school committees the National Assembly attempts to retain a nucleus of experienced committee members.

26. That the National Spiritual Assembly consider opening the third phase of the World Crusade with a strong appeal for dispersal on the home front.

Action: The National Assembly will include such an appeal in its general coordinated plan for the attainment of home front objectives in the third phase of the Crusade.

27. That the agenda for the State Conventions be prepared in such a way as to allow more time for those present to consult on their experiences and problems, thus giving those who are elected as delegates an opportunity to become familiar with these ideas and problems.

Action: This recommendation will be referred to the State Convention Planning Committee with the request that it be given consideration when plans are made for the 1956 State Conventions.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Election of New National Assembly

The votes cast by the delegates to the Forty-Eighth Annual Bahá’í Convention resulted in the election of the following members as the National Spiritual Assembly for the year 1956-57:

Paul E. Haney
Horace Holley
H. Borrah Kavelin
Charlotte M. Linfoot
Charles Wolcott
Margery McCormick
Edna M. True
Robert W. McLaughlin
Katherine K. True

The officers elected by the National Spiritual Assembly are as follows:

Chairman — Paul E. Haney
Vice-Chairman — Charles Wolcott
Secretary — Horace Holley
Assistant Secretary — Charlotte M. Linfoot
Recording Secretary — Edna M. True.
Treasurer — H. Borrah Kavelin

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Hasirâ‘-’Ulláh of Guatemala. The dedication ceremonies on February 24, 1956, were reported in “Bahá’í News” for May.
Expectancy, Accomplishments, Challenge

Keynote National Convention Business

Every annual Bahá’í convention opens on a note of expectancy. The progress of the Bahá’í Faith is now moving with so great a momentum on all continents of the planet that delegates and visitors arrive at the site of deliberations eager to hear of the latest conquests and to learn from the Riḍván Message of our beloved Guardian the next points of attack.

The Forty-Eighth Annual Convention of the Bahá’ís of the United States, held in Foundation Hall, Wilmette, Ill., for four days, April 26 through 29, 1956, was no exception. Even on Wednesday preceding the convention period, when registration was already climbing to well over the 300 mark, each believer knew that his fellow believers were wondering “What will this convention bring?”

The Ten-Year Crusade had come to the end of its first three years. Annual Reports of the committees of the National Spiritual Assembly disclosed all but the latest moves in the great drama as far as the American Bahá’í community was most closely concerned. What had been the successes, what the failures? How would the Riḍván Message of our beloved Guardian throw into perspective the whole picture and lead us into the future strengthened and re-confirmed?

Message from the Guardian

The Message from the Guardian, read about mid-way on the first morning, began on a note of victory. “The triumphant termination of the second phase of the decade-long global Spiritual Crusade on which the followers of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh have so auspiciously embarked” were the opening words that lifted our hearts to share in the “joy, pride and thankfulness” which Shoghi Effendi feels in his own heart.

As we listened to these ringing words, other words and other pictures crowded into my mind. Doubtless other delegates recalled how, one hundred years ago, according to Nabil’s Narrative, His Holiness the Báb sent His Letters of the Living forth to the far corners of Persia commissioned with a unique and blessed message, and strengthened with the divine assurance of “ultimate victory.” Their eyes, however, had to penetrate the thick clouds of oppression that hung over the world, and over their land in particular, to catch even a glimpse of the Day of Fulfillment.

Then as the dawn of a new world era became brighter and pioneer teachers crossed boundaries, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá stood one day some sixty-eight years later on a site in the western world, where He was heard to utter words expressive of deep feeling over the onward march of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh. “O Bahá’u’lláh! What hast thou done? O Bahá’u’lláh! May My life be sacrificed for Thee! O Bahá’u’lláh! May My soul be offered up for Thy sake!” How full were Thy days with trials and tribulations! How severe the ordeals Thou didst endure! How solid the foundation Thou has finally laid, and how glorious the banner Thou didst hoist!”

April, 1956. And the victory is almost at hand. “The year that has just ended,” the Guardian wrote the convention, is one “which posterity cannot fail to regard as one of the most eventful and challenging in the annals of the Formative Age of the Bahá’í Dispensation.” Over-shadowed as it was at the beginning by “a sudden and highly menacing crisis” in the recrudescence of persecution in Persia, which will lead to two “shining goals” in the cradle of the Faith, it has seen an “equally significant development” in the progressive unfoldment of the Ten-Year Plan all over the earth. It is now entering, he continued, “upon the third, and what promises to be the most brilliant, phase in its execution.”

A Major Turning Point

This Crusade now stands “at a major turning point in the history of its marvelous unfoldment,” was our Guardian’s statement as he opened before our eyes the years ahead with even greater clarity than ever before. “Premonitory signs can already be discerned when troops will flock to its standard.” Although the pitfalls that lie ahead are still numerous, he said, the Lord of Hosts will continue to assist His spiritual warriors “to a degree that no finite mind can imagine or human heart perceive.”

There is need to speed forward the remaining tasks of the Crusade, an urgency that the delegates caught at once as the Message was being read. For one long paragraph, as the Guardian delineated the unfinished work, step by step, he repeated with each step the call for rapid accomplishment, using one poignant phrase after another to build up the sense of acceleration: “With a rapidity” . . . “least possible delay” . . .

Hazíratu’l-Quds at Cuidad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, purchased on February 14, 1956.
The convention theme was “Unfoldment of the World Crusade.” The tentative agenda had been prepared by the National Spiritual Assembly to include two sub-themes that proved to be so closely interrelated that discussion of these often went hand-in-hand: objectives as given to the American Baha’i community by the Guardian, and suggestions for the convention consultation as sent in by delegates and by the December state conventions. After adoption of the agenda in the main, the convention got down to work to hear reports from the National Spiritual Assembly and its national committees and to consult with these bodies which serve the rising Order of Baha’u’llah.

Although the sessions were long in time and physically tiring; although committee members were laboring between the formal meetings and into the night; although there were exchanges of many kinds to be made between friends from states far and near and new friends to meet; nevertheless, never has a convention been more earnest or enthusiastic or quick-thinking, and never has the American convention experienced so great a measure of sustained interest and pointed concentration as this one. Zest, friendliness, charity and a spirit of dedication were united with ever-growing understanding of the staggering significance to humanity of the World Crusade goals.

The National Assembly Report

Horace Holley, secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly and Hand of the Cause of God, made the report for that body to the assembled delegates. It was an informative and kaleidoscopic view of the Baha’i world and of achievements of the Baha’i Community of the United States for the past year. Mimeographed copies supplied to the delegates, together with the copies provided of the Guardian’s Message, were a much-needed and much-used instrument for each delegate’s kit during the convention.

“The shape and meaning of this Baha’i year were set for us by the Guardian’s Message to the 1955 Convention in which he defined the World Crusade tasks to be completed, including the furtherance of the immediate tasks enumerated in his 1954 Message,” Mr. Holley said. He outlined the objectives calling for re-

Convention Begins Work

All Baha’is will want to read for themselves this victory message from Shoghi Effendi and ponder through the next months their place in the progress of the great Plan of salvation of mankind, (see May Baha’i News). Discussion of the message itself on convention floor did not come until Thursday afternoon and was brief in its nature, but the message became the guide for all the consultation periods of the entire convention.

Following a pre-convention day of registering, greeting friends, buying literature, studying the exhibits, and meeting with members of the National Spiritual Assembly in the evening for a social hour, the convention proper opened on Thursday morning, April 26, at 9:30, under nature’s most lowering skies. Clouds and rain persisted for four days, eager to satisfy a thirsty earth and to quicken belated blooms in the Temple gardens. Even as the first session began, a tornado warning sent drivers to check on precautions for their parked cars.

Registration through the sessions rose from the first formally announced count of 328 adults, 24 youth, 118 delegates, total of 832, to its peak Sunday of a total of 885, with 76 youth and 141 delegates, the largest Bahá’í convention in the United States with the exception of the Centenary in 1944 and the Jubilee in 1953.

After greetings from the National Spiritual Assembly to the convention, Paul E. Haney, chairman and Hand of the Cause, who presided temporarily to open the convention, brought the good news that the regional National Spiritual Assembly of South and West Africa was elected on Sunday, April 22. He had attended as convenor and representative of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States.

Permanent officers chosen by the delegates were Mr. Haney, chairman, and Horace Holley, secretary, 115 and 113 the total number of votes cast in each balloting.

Hoping that the national convention will be inspiring to the friends, and encourage both the pioneering work and the building-up of new centers and Assemblies on the Home Front, a much-needed but neglected task.”

Having in detail pictured the present status of the Crusade and outlined in review the tasks of the future without mention of additional obligations at this time, our beloved Guardian omitted speaking of what we had expected — an emphasis on the continued lag on the Home Front in America. This came as a gentle admonition and guide in one sentence of a note appended for us to the main message:

“... "immediate attention."
sults, 1954-55 and 1955-56, and stated that we must study annual reports of the Intercontinental and National Teaching Committees to find the true results as they have been achieved. A complete picture, even then, will not be available until the reports of local elections held on April 21 are all in.

"Suffice it to say," was his praise, "these committees have exerted every effort to increase the flow of pioneers in order to prepare for the 1957 elections of the National Assemblies, and to develop new Assemblies in the United States."

The American responsibility for projects in respect to Temple sites (4), ʻHaʻiratul-Quds (27), endowments and translations, nears completion. Incorporations have been increased in the United States by two, now making 83 of the 100 Assemblies required by the Plan. The Guardian sent very important cables throughout the year, specific ones dealing with the Persian persecutions, revitalization of the American Baha'i community, and approval of a new statement prepared by the National Spiritual Assembly on "The Oneness of Mankind," intended to explain the Baha'i position on race relationship at this time of confusion and agitation. Shoghi Effendi also gave permission for the publication of Marzieh Gail's translation of Mysterious Forces of Civilization, a work by 'Abdu'l-Baha.

Turning to the situation on the Home Front, the secretary reported, as of April, 1955, that nine new Assemblies were formed, nine lost and 10 re-established, totalling an addition of 10 when we need over 16 new Local Spiritual Assemblies each year to win the Crusade goal of 300 in the United States by 1963. "Under these circumstances it behooves the ... believers to assume, each one, a full measure of responsibility for living the Baha'i life."

Reviewing special activities the National Spiritual Assembly report covered responsibility for publishing Baha'i World Vol. XII; acting as representative for The Baha'i International Community to present letter and documents to the United Nations on Charter revision; appeal made to the United Nations in the matter of persecutions in Iran; the postponing of a decision to replace Temerity Baha'i School, now requisitioned by the Air Academy; and the plan of Ellsworth Blackwell, a member of the N.S.A., to enter the pioneer field. In addition to some items mentioned, Mr. Holley pointed to several others as bringing special blessings to the American community this year: The Festival of Faith at San Francisco; extensive publicity resulting from the Iranian persecution; continuing influence of World Religion Day; the first Baha'i Asian Conference, held in Japan; continuing influence of the Baha'i House of Worship; and formation of the National Spiritual Assembly of South and West Africa (the fifth "Pillar" brought into being with the assistance of the American National Spiritual Assembly).

Express Our Gratitude

To Shoghi Effendi the Convention cabled a message of gratitude and love in response to his Message, sent to us as to all other Baha'i National Spiritual Assemblies meeting during the Ridván period. This is what we said:

"The delegates and friends at the 48th Annual Convention express heartfelt gratitude for message announcing triumphant termination of the second phase of the global crusade.

"This message of the unfoldment Faith both at home and abroad under challenging conditions inspires increasing awareness of our spiritual world citizenship.

"We are gratified your prayers that we as individuals and as a community may develop our potentials and assume our responsibilities as called for in 3rd phase Crusade. Devoted love."

To this message the Guardian replied by cable the following day as follows: "Deeply appreciate message. Urge redouble efforts attainment goals (of Plan. Praying fervently (for) unprecedented victories. Deepest love."

Perhaps most of the believers gathered in Foundation Hall on the first day felt as I, that we would like to fully respond to the Guardian's dear wish for us and send him before long the completed list of tasks accomplished. Perhaps they, too, felt deeply his loving expression of hope that "the national convention will inspire to the friends." Perhaps they all resolved to play a part in making it so.

The annual convention is almost like a prism, reflecting light in manifold shades of color and brilliance. The many items of the agenda, the varied and beautiful personalities, the flashing consultation; the sacred moments of prayer at the cornerstone, the devotions together in the indescribably, heavenly beauty of the Auditorium, the thrill, and almost reverence, with which pioneers are received; the complexity of reports, statistics, exhibits and goals; the magnificence of the House of Worship rising on the ridge and reflected in its many tones of brilliance or softness against a changing

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Cap Haitian, Haiti, formed on April 21, 1956.
sky, the delightful moments of eating and drinking together; the hard, hard work of preparation and conduct of all aspects of the convention procedure and management, and the surprise events that break upon the scene sometimes—these things and others expand the soul, and polish it, till it, too, reflects in greater or lesser degree the lights of a new world in creation. May this spiritual renewal be enough this year among all believers to build up new centers and Assemblies on the Home Front, "a much-needed but neglected task," was the wish of the delegates often expressed.

On the Home Front
There has been progress this year in Home Front teaching, but it seems unlikely, when final reports are in, that we will find the very necessary foundation has been adequately laid here for the advance of the Crusade in its next phase in America and throughout the world. This was the core of the American National Teaching Committee’s presentation to the convention on Thursday afternoon, which started off one of the liveliest and most serious discussion periods of the whole four days.

Charles Wolcott, of the National Spiritual Assembly and chairman of the committee, and Mrs. Jesma Herbert, secretary, led the consultation period following their presentation. Delegates and visitors sat alert every moment, a large number of the former participating in rapid-fire succession for some four hours.

Again this year, with some reports still to come in, there is evidence of a failure to achieve Assembly goals: a possible gain of only 12 Assemblies (new, possibly 18, restored 6, and lost 12). With a need of nearly 20 every year for the duration of the Crusade to make a total of 300 for victory, we continue to fall short. And the situation is rendered the more serious by the immaturities causing the loss of once-established Assemblies.

On the enrollment side the record is better: 434 this year, including 69 youth, with much of this activity under area jurisdiction. Withdrawals as a result of special National Assembly letters sent out to determine the real status of inactive believers came to 355—a process of house-cleaning, a facing of facts. Last year enrollments came to only 140.

"Advance this year has been tangible evidence of the progress and use of the elements of our teaching structure (national, area and home front committees)," Mr. Wolcott said. After a review of objectives and goals, Mr. Wolcott pointed to the need of rapidity in the national field. "We cannot lose speed at any time. We cannot supply the needs in the foreign fields unless we fill the reservoir at home. Stalwart workers have left our Home Front. We must replace them. The new Message from the Guardian says: The mighty and steady process involving the increase in the number of the avowed supporters of the Faith, and the multiplication of isolated centers, groups and local assemblies must, throughout this newly opened phase of the Plan, be markedly accelerated." This is the keynote of the discussion.

"There is no arbitrary method of achieving what we are after," Mr. Wolcott continued... "Let us be happily dedicated and consecrated." Sparking the consultation was the first topic on the suggestion sheet accompanying the agenda pages:

"What is the reason for the present weakness in our American Bahá’í community... and what can be done about it?"

Questions and suggestions to get at the heart of the matter flowed: More of us must move to the weak areas and the new areas... We must not permit God’s work to be done in bungling fashion... Need for well taught, well-trained "amateurs"... Examine the strength of our own communities as a positive step... Revitalize our own bases of action... Be powerful in the Covenant, then we will be on fire... The one big thing being done by the pioneers in other lands is to live the Faith... Success is due to teamwork in a Bahá’í community—all down the line!... Help new believers to continue growing. Don’t drop them when they enroll... Let’s start being positive. We have a prestige that we never had before. It is getting a little more fashionable to be a Bahá’í. Let’s use this as a springboard to teaching others. The time has come when the individual must ask himself: Do I really believe? Then, I am ready to serve Bahá’u’lláh... What is wrong with us is not lack of information, but lack of enthusiasm... A teacher must cross the miles between himself and his student through knowledge and understanding... Pioneers often teach more receptive peoples. Let us analyze our environment in America and choose our tools accordingly, for we must win confi-

Báhá’ís of Rarotonga with the two pioneers, who elected the first Local Spiritual Assembly in the Cook Islands on April 21, 1956.
dence and meet people on their own level at first. If Bahá'ís have the fire they will set others aglow. Certainly to devote myself to the Cause I must learn and know. This is the way to regenerate. Do we need a full-time personnel director to study this membership situation? Do the friends really know that they are angels? We are doing something to the world! While teaching we need to instill, gently, a love for the Writings and an eagerness to learn the Bahá'í way of life. Need frequent and impressive public meetings. Walk with people you are trying to interest. Try pocket editions for presenting the Cause. Love, so that you will sense what the other soul needs. The cup of love must be spilled for others. The Guardian said to a pilgrim that we must become purified and welded together, and must dedicate ourselves.

A Divine Institution

Now that the House of Worship is completed in all its radiant beauty, the gardens planted and the new fountains in action, the American Bahá'ís seeing thousands of visitors attracted to the Temple each year, a time has come when the convention program need not include these things as an objective or for report. The rapid development of the divine institution of the Hands of the Cause requires special place.

Last year the American Hands met the convention and shared their experiences and wisdom. This year on the first evening they did likewise: Mrs. Corinne True, Mr. Horace Holley and Mr. Paul E. Haney, assisted by three members of the Auxiliary Board in the western hemisphere, Mrs. Margery McCormick, Mrs. Florence Mayberry and Mr. William deForge.

It was an impressive and inspiring evening, begun with readings about the Hands from Bahá'í literature. As Mrs. True stood to greet the convention all arose to honor her in an expression of gratitude for her long life of firmness, devotion and service.

In addressing the delegates and friends Mr. Haney pointed out for the Hands that the function now conferred on the institution is three-fold: to stress the verities of the Faith; to emphasize the tasks of the Crusade; and to assist local communities and groups to grow strong. The efforts of members of the Auxiliary Board have been dynamic in the last service. "In the institution of the Hands we have a body, the spiritual significance of which we are but dimly aware," he said.

A few inspirational lights from the brief talks of the Auxiliary Board members were: Mrs. McCormick—"One of the objectives of the members of the Auxiliary Board in assisting communities has been to help the Bahá'í believe that he is really significant to the Cause of God. For some mysterious reason we have been able to respond to the Cause; it is not our capacity that makes it possible for God to take a moth and make it an eagle. It is our willingness to let Him work through us."

Florence Mayberry: "You are the most important teachers in the world. You partake of the wonderful spirit of discipleship as the followers of Bahá'u'lláh, in spite of the fact that you are full of flaws. You are also full of beauty." She told the thrilling story of the power of the Faith in illuminating and confirming a famous Canadian geologist.

William deForge: How the power of God selected and brought thirty-seven to a public meeting in Latin America was related dramatically by him. "The lesson to me is this," he said. "If we will so discipline ourselves by God's love, thousands of affinities will search us out."

The tremendous feature of the evening, in detail and with careful explanation of the significances as far as we can understand them, was the account of the historic events occurring in Iran and the repercussions throughout the world in connection with the most recent persecutions of this past year. This was presented by Horace Holley, Hand of the Cause, and was to have been followed by a film showing scenes of spoliation and destruction in Iran, a showing made at a later time in the convention.

The chronological data cannot be included in this brief account of the convention, but we can include a few of Mr. Holley's interpretative remarks.

"The traditional enemies overlooked the power of Bahá'u'lláh. Unexpected friends began to arise." Here he cited the names of nine outstanding individuals who commented publicly on the injustice of the persecution of Iran's largest minority. The effect of cables to Iranian officials, the appeal to the United Nations, and the large measure of publicity throughout the world given by the press was to reveal to the
government and religious leaders of Iran that the Bahá'í Faith is no longer confined to their country, but is a world religion, he explained.

"Out of this bitter savagery has come a great quickening throughout the world. The Guardian said if we can't build the Temple in Iran according to the Ten-Year Plan then we will build it in Kampala, Uganda! We have more than offset the situation in Iran. We can serve the Faith with all our hearts. After all, demonstration of action is what counts."

During the discussion period, questions brought the following explanations from Mr. Holley and Mr. Haney: Properties belonging to the Faith have not been restored in Iran. Bahá'ís do not have unrestricted freedom of assembly. There was a recent renewal of persecution in one village. The United Nations Secretary-General's action to present the matter to the Iranian minister as a result of our appeal finishes the sequence of actions in regard to the U.N. appeal at the present time. Other possibilities may open up. A reshuffling of powers in Iran might ameliorate the situation because banning was by ministerial decree, not by act of Parliament. The Mullás seized a chance to strike at the Cause and "stampeded" action. It is their fanaticism and the human injustices that we may speak of and not draw attention to the governmental situation. Iran not only signed the United Nations Charter, but also the Declaration of Human Rights, so continued persecution of the type that has been is a violation, and as such is a threat to all the world now and is the concern of all peoples.

It is because of these things that the historic events in Iran are of such magnitude. This is why the Guardian lifted our sights by sending to the Bahá'í world his magnificent letter entitled "A Mysterious Dispensation of Providence."

In making his presentation of the historic events, step by step, Mr. Holley shared with the friends many details of what had happened in Iran, and of actions taken by the Iranian Bahá'ís, by the Guardian and by the American National Assembly which we had not known before or seen in their true significance. He made it clear that the United States State Department has been provided with complete information on the situation and on all action taken, and he explained the effectiveness of the Public Relations campaign inaugurated by the National Spiritual Assembly.

The Very Life Blood

The next morning, Friday, three wonderful hours were spent on another great institution of the Faith—the Fund! All figures came alive with spiritual vitality and world significance, as we realized how closely interwoven each budget item has been and will be with the objectives of the Crusade.

The National Assembly made its report of stewardship through another of its able members, the national treasurer, H. B. Kavelin, and also presented a proposed budget for the ensuing year, which the convention recommended for adoption by the National Spiritual Assembly. Delegates responded to the Assembly presentation with sustained interest, understanding, appreciation, and co-operation never before equalled in an American Bahá'í convention. The extended time of the session to 12:30 found almost every one breathless from the expenditure of energy and enthusiasm.

Mr. Kavelin spoke of the Mountain of God as a huge operating headquarters where the Ten-Year Plan begins its unfoldment. Directing this world-encircling operation is the "Sign of God" on earth. The Guardian is ever watchful of the slightest development . . . We may rejoice that we have participated in this carefully organized plan . . . Facts and figures of the treasurer's office are not cold; they are warm and pulsing when you translate them into actions. They are symbols of joyous sacrifice . . . And these symbols become component parts of the new World Order before our very eyes."

The budget recommended by the convention as proposed by the treasurer's office in accordance with needs of the Crusade for 1956-57 calls for $500,000, a reduction of $50,000 in comparison with last year, not because the requirements are really less but because the American Bahá'í community toalled contributions last year of $373,000. Special estate funds made up $110,500 and the use of a balance in estate funds from the previous year brought the moneys to be used up to $583,000, the amount that was expended. The treasurer explained that estate funds will not always be available.

Exact allocations were made clear by the treasurer's report and will be related to communities by the delegates. The amazing thing, said Mr. Kavelin, is that we accomplish so much with so little. He recounted, one by one, the tangible symbols of our achievement, beginning with the purchase of twenty-three Haziratu'll-Quds and allocation for four more. The spending up of this objective increased the outlay this past year and emergency costs were $34,000 for Persian relief and a $55,000 contract for a Public Relations campaign to continue till next December ($33,000 of this in last year).

Most of the committees last year spent less than their budget, largely because of their consciousness of the drains on the National Fund, and have this year been curtailed somewhat in budget allotments. This year new allocations have had to be made: anticipated expenses in formation of five new National Spiritual Assemblies, Bahá'í World Vol. XII, and the beginning of construction on the first Dependency.

While last year the convention consultation ran the more usual course of how to raise more for the Fund, this year there was a flood of questions concerning the structure, operation, and purposes of the Fund. With the needs to be met, it seemed that the delegates were bent on gaining understanding at every point, that they might in turn make clear at home how the budget is the life blood of the rising institutions of Bahá'u'lláh. We felt with the Na-
tional Assembly that success in the financial field can come on no other basis than that of Faith—that somehow the channels will be opened to us.

There was some discussion of how individuals may give, with clarification made of the four Funds through which an American Bahá’í may serve directly: the World Center Fund, to which donations are made through the Guardian; the Continental Fund; the National Fund; and local funds. The national treasurer pointed out our spiritual privilege and obligation, as individuals, to make contributions direct to the Guardian for the World Center. The National Spiritual Assembly also sustains this Fund with a contribution of $40,000. In order to fulfill its budget for this contribution, the National Assembly must receive contributions from individual Bahá’ís and local Assemblies.

From financial consideration of Crusade objectives, of which the American community has been allotted the “lion’s share” by Shoghi Effendi, the convention turned to reports of committees, Intercontinental, American Indian Service, Interracial, education and training, proclamation and service committees; receiving from each committee amazing reports of solid progress made, and asking from these committees how the local communities may be of further assistance to them.

Committee chairmen and secretaries did not attempt to give complete surveys of the work done in the past year, for this has been done most excellently in Annual Reports; but they did highlight some of the achievements and point the direction planned for 1956-57. In the Reports, from beginning to end, is a valuable and fascinating story of the activities of the American Bahá’í community that no believer will want to miss. (The pamphlet has been mailed to all with Bahá’í News.) With the aid of films and literature, or without such assistance, each committee on the floor of the convention was warmly received, made an excellent presentation, and called forth vigorous discussion. Notable, perhaps, as promoters of consultation were Bahá’í Interracial Teaching Committee, American Indian Service Committee, National Bahá’í Child Education Committee and National Bahá’í Youth Committee, a sign that in these phases of work the American believers themselves are vitally engaged.

Some committees had the good fortune to bring to the platform pioneers from goal or consolidation territories. William Sears arrived early in the African presentation. He gave a deeply moving account of the formation of the first regional National Assembly of South and West Africa, of which he is now the chairman. This fulfills a goal of three new regional Assemblies in Africa by Ridván, and was the responsibility of the National Bahá’í Youth Committee.

Mrs. Joyce Lawrence, pioneer with Mildred Clarke in the Lofoten Islands, used slides to show this European goal, with pictures also of Spitzbergen, where she had gone hoping to find a way to remain.

Fred and Jean Berest came in from Panama City, radiant from the south and with greetings from the National Spiritual Assembly of Central America.

Jamshed Fozdar of Saigon (Asia) spoke of plans of a conference in Jakarta in August, and Don Hawley, coming from the East, said: “If you want to serve God ... we want you in Africa.”

Thrilling stories were told of pioneering in our goal countries and islands by the committee representatives, tales that will live forever in Bahá’í history, many of them to be in Bahá’í World volumes.

The big work in Africa, in addition to constantly spreading the Faith, is now basically consolidation, so that the foundation of the new regional Assemblies may remain strong. A few more pioneers, preferably Negro, are still needed.

In Asia, two virgin goals are without pioneers and two islands are unsettled. Consolidation work is going forward in Japan, Formosa, and Korea with rapidity. The Nikko conference in Japan was an historic event and preparatory to the organization of the Japanese National Spiritual Assembly in Ridván, 1957.

Europe is slow to awaken, but the work goes forward with continuing victories toward every objective: new believers, purchase of Haqíqatu’l-Quds, endowments—and the anticipated consummation of purchase of the Temple site in Stockholm in the near future. Pioneers are still needed, especially in France, where a National Spiritual Assembly is to be formed in Ridván, 1958.

In the western hemisphere, holding prizes already won, and at the same time reaching as yet uncontacted native peoples, is the continuing task of the committee. This is true in Alaska in preparation for the Alaskan National Assembly by 1957, and in all parts of Latin America, where the goals are 20 National Assemblies, ultimately, and four regions before that time.

Introduced to the convention by the American Indian Service committee was Francis LaQuier, of the Chippewa tribe, the most recent new

Newly incorporated Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Heidelberg, Germany.
believer with American Indian ancestry. He came to the convention with the friends from Minneapolis. This same committee announced that Tim Ross has volunteered to go to Macy, Nebraska, to walk with the Indian "all the way" and help to restore there the first Indian Local Spiritual Assembly. In the past year a number of believers have gone to Indian reservations and are doing thrilling contact work. The committee "stands breathlessly waiting" for more pioneers.

A tape recording of the voice of the beloved Dorothy Baker reporting on her visit with Shoghi Effendi relative to the importance of teaching the American Negro was played in connection with the Interracial and American Indian presentations. This was a momentary emotional highlight of the convention.

The Bahá'í Youth chairman, Peter McLaren, set off an exceedingly stimulating and long discussion relative to ways to reach the youth in America, and to the cooperative relationship between youth and adult believers in every community.

The Bahá'í Publishing Trust announced that Bahá'í World Vol. XII, the Jubilee number, will be off the press in about eight weeks. The Bahá'í Press Service announced the new Schedule of Events for the coming year for proclaiming the Faith to the masses, calling attention to the inclusion of Woodrow Wilson Day for this year. The United Nations Committee carefully explained the steps taken in its contacts with U.N. bodies in respect to the Iranian persecutions, thus strengthening the ties of the International Bahá'í Community with the U.N., a Crusade goal.

The chief asset of the Audio-Visual Education committee in presenting its services to the convention was its exhibit booth, where believers kept the committee attendants busy every hour of the convention period. "We are trying to prepare for the day that is coming when you will need all of these aids in giving the Faith to the large numbers who will ask for it," the committee explained. Even now there is a large turnover and widespread use of the committees' materials. The Bahá'í Sales Committee, working with an enlarged staff for the convention, reported sales amounting to $11,921 last year.

The summer school committees described their programs for the coming season and presented problems that have faced them with the diminished budgets at their disposal since the Crusade opened. The national treasurer had reported that Louhelen, to be renamed on September first "Davison Bahá'í School," had been given an increased allocation this year for repairs. The Child Education Committee has many new materials which are making children and teachers happy.

The hard work being done by the other service committees was given deep attention by the delegates, who would go home with a broadened view of the aids that we have to assist us in our study and teaching of the most wondrous Message.

Election of National Assembly

The election of the new National Spiritual Assembly, held late Friday afternoon in a prayerful and sacred atmosphere, called once again to service eight members of the previous Assembly. The National Assembly had announced that Ellsworth Blackwell planned to leave after the convention for his new pioneer post in Haiti. The new member is Dr. Katherine K. True, well-known Bahá'í worker, sister of Miss Edna True, also on the National Assembly, and daughter of Mrs. Corinne True, American Hand of the Cause.

Of a possible total of 171 ballots, there were cast 186. Two were invalidated. Number of votes cast, 1476. Number of individuals voted for, 110. By vote of the convention it was decided that the names of no more than the nine receiving the largest number of votes should be read, with all others held available to individual request.

In the absence of Robert W. McLaughlin from the convention because of the death of his mother, the new National Spiritual Assembly organized tentatively as follows: Paul E. Hanev, chairman; Charles Wolcott, vice-chairman; Horace Holley, secretary; H. B. Kavelin, treasurer; Charlotte M. Linfoot, assistant secretary; Edna True, recording secretary; and Margery McCormick, Robert McLaughlin and Dr. Katherine True.

The long periods of consultation used by the convention this year brought forth stimulating ideas and resulted in twenty-seven formal recommendations to the National Spiritual Assembly, which are published elsewhere in this issue of Bahá'í News.

Distinguished Guest

Before we bring our story to a close, it is our pleasure to tell of the visitor from Haifa introduced to us by special message from Leroy Ioas, Secretary-General of the Interna-

Group attending the Regional Teaching Conference of North Rhine-Westphalia at Dusseldorf.
Riverside, Calif., community, which has reached Assembly status.

Another Baha'i Council, and greeted by us in the convention. Accorded the courtesy of the platform, Mr. Uriel Shalon, of the State of Israel, spoke briefly of his friendship with Mr. Morey and the appreciation of every citizen of Haifa for the work being done by the Baha'i Community in beautifying the city. "We are happy and proud to have in Haifa and Israel this Baha'i Community," he said, "and glad to see it growing and developing from year to year. . . . Your Shrine has become a landmark of Haifa."

"We pray and hope," he added, "that all of us may not be prevented from continuing our peaceful, constructive work and that soon the time will come when our neighbors will see that the progress of Israel is for their benefit, too."

Mr. Shalon, a citizen of Haifa since 1928, is Managing Director of the Shemen Oil Industry, Haifa; member and chairman of the development committee of the Haifa Municipal Council; president of the Association of Engineers and Architects of Israel; president of the Standard Institute of Israel, and member of the Branch of Governors of the Israel Institute of Technology.

International Archives

A word picture of the new International Archives Building under construction on Mt. Carmel was brought to the convention on Saturday evening by Fred Morey, returned pilgrim. Patterned after the Parthenon, two-thirds its size, it is one of at least four buildings to be erected in the arc, Mr. Morey explained. "The arc," or areaway, so-called because of its shape, will be the visible Ark of the Covenant on the Mountain of God when the other edifices are built, for the Guardianship, the House of Justice, and the Hands of the Cause. "The Ark will sail around the arc" Mr. Morey quoted the Guardian as saying.

At the Ridván Feast, a beautiful worship service which closed this day, Mr. Morey anointed each believer with attar of roses from Shoghi Effendi. Ethereal music and readings from heaven, in an Auditorium open to God and to man, this was the setting for meditation that re-kindled our souls with the joy and light of understanding that "the Best Beloved is come."

The convention came to a close on Sunday afternoon on a note of bursting enthusiasm for teaching, followed by a large public congress in the evening. Mrs. Florence Mayberry of Santa Paula, California, member of the American Auxiliary Board, was the speaker. Her subject was "The Transformation of Human Society." Mr. John Stroszaker of La Mesa, California, presided as chairman.

—Alice Simmons Cox
Convention Reporter

Guardian's Letter to Mrs. Kinney

In a recent letter to Mrs. Vaffa Kinney the Guardian, through his assistant secretary, describes what is necessary to achieve success in teaching on the home front. At the request of the delegates at the National Convention the following excerpts from this letter are published for the guidance of all the friends:

"The cause of God is developing rapidly in the virgin areas of the Crusade; but on the home front we seem to be not so successful. No doubt this is due to the fact that the friends at home are not as diligently taking advantage of every teaching opportunity as the pioneers do in foreign lands.

"Success will crown the efforts of the friends on the home front when they meditate on the teachings, pray fervently for divine confirmations for their work, study the teachings so they may carry the spirit to the seeker, and then act—and above all persevere in action. When these steps are followed, and the teaching work carried on sacrificially and with devoted enthusiasm, the Faith will spread rapidly."

—National Spiritual Assembly

Newly formed Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Yakima, Wash.
Beloved Friends:

How can we generate in the Bahá'í Community of the United States the intention and the joy of increased service to the Faith? How can we develop the spirit of confirmation which has inspired so many pioneers to leave our country and settle in lands beyond the sea? Potentially this community is able to fulfill the largest share of tasks defined in the Ten Year Plan. Its mission is heroic, its destiny sublime.

The National Spiritual Assembly is profoundly concerned with the need to bring about a quickening of spirit among the local communities and groups, that we may not fail to attain the blessing which awaits our whole-hearted response. Therefore the communities and groups are urged and, indeed, called upon, to turn to the very source of the true spiritual life.

What is this source? The compilation entitled The Covenant and Administration, compiled for Conference Institutes, offers us an incomparable selection of the Sacred Writings in their essential and potent purity. This work is divided into three main parts: The Covenant, The Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, The Administrative Order of Bahá'u'lláh. This sequence of excerpts carries the believer from the Great Covenant of God, to the Station of 'Abdu'l-Bahá as Center of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant with the Bahá'ís, to the Guardian's references to the meaning of the Master's Will and Testament, and thence to a spiritual concept of the Administrative Order and its wider implications for the community and the individual Bahá'í.

Let each Assembly and group plan to hold an Institute on The Covenant and Administration early in this Bahá'í year, that the declared believers, one and all, may gather together for reading and discussion of this text. Unanimity of attendance is the goal to be set. The results which flowed from the holding of such institutes a few years ago were notable. Copies can be obtained from the Bahá'í Publishing Trust.

The National Spiritual Assembly will welcome reports from Assemblies and Area Teaching Committees on the conduct of this Institute.

"The confirmation of the Kingdom of Abhá shall descend uninterrupted upon those souls who are firm in the Covenant." "Today the stirring power that exhibits itself through all regions is the power of the Covenant which, like unto the artery, beats and pulsates in the body of the world."

—National Spiritual Assembly

18 NEW ASSEMBLIES FORMED: TOTAL NOW 189

Reports received up to May 15 indicate the formation of eighteen new local Spiritual Assemblies on April 21, 1956, although the jurisdiction of one is still in question. They are: Ketchikan and Tanana Valley in Alaska; Tempe, Arizona; Central Marin J.D., San Jose, and Riverside in California; Pueblo, Colorado; Stamford, Connecticut; Dane County, St. Petersburg and Tampa in Florida; Davenport, Iowa; Sparks, Nevada; Roswell, New Mexico; Urbana, Ohio; Eugene, Oregon; Provo, Utah; Yakima, Washington.

The following communities were restored to Assembly status: Yuma, Arizona; South Bay J.D., California; Limestone Township, Illinois; Kansas City, Missouri; Ridgewood, New Jersey; Toledo, Ohio.

Unfortunately fourteen communities lost their Assembly status, thus reducing the gain that would have raised the total number of local Spiritual Assemblies above the two hundred mark. Therefore, this is where we stand, provided the jurisdiction of the one community in question is upheld:

Assemblies elected
April 21, 1955 .......... 179
New Assemblies elected
April 21, 1956 .......... 18
Assemblies restored
April 21, 1956 .......... 6
Less Assemblies lost on
April 21, 1956 .......... 14
Total Assemblies as of
April 21, 1956 .......... 189

—National Spiritual Assembly

ASSEMBLY REVIEWS

PROGRESS IN PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN

The following report covers activities from March 26 through April, 1956.

1. The Directors of the World Parliament of Religions have adopted a resolution expressing sympathy for the Bahá'ís in Iran and stating that the Parliament will do whatever it finds possible in Washington and at United Nations. A delegation plans to call on the Iranian Ambassador, some Senators, and to hold a press conference in Washington.

2. Another Senator has written the Secretary of State expressing concern about the persecutions.

3. The Washington Post on March 19 published an editorial about the persecutions, copies of which have been sent the Guardian and the other National Spiritual Assemblies.

4. A request has been received from the Managing Editor of Church and State Review, Washington, D.C., for a copy of the Appeal to United Nations, Bahá'í Appeal for Religious Freedom in Iran, and of the broadside representing international publicity.

5. Copies of The Oneness of Mankind have been sent to Bahá'í Press Service and the public relations counsel with request for widespread publicity.


7. The Fellowship of Reconciliation, New York, has requested a copy of the broadside.

8. An AP release based on interviews with Mr. Haney and Mr. Kavelin is being extensively used by local papers.

9. The New York Sunday Times of April 29 published an extensive report from Tehran reporting on the present situation affecting the Persian Bahá'ís.

10. A good contact has been made with a Sunday magazine, out of which may develop a human interest Bahá'í story.

—National Spiritual Assembly
Eskimo dancers from Nome, King Island, and Little Diomede Island, at a party given by the Anchorage, Alaska, Local Spiritual Assembly and the Northern People Teaching Committee, reported in the April "Baha'i News".

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Australia, New Zealand**

**PURCHASE TEMPLE SITE NEAR SYDNEY**

A Temple site on the Mona Vale road overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the wooded areas of Kuring-gai Chase has been purchased by the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia and New Zealand, it is reported in their Baha'i Bulletin.

This replaces the site purchased two years ago for the same purpose, but which was requisitioned by the New South Wales Government for educational and town planning purposes.

The new site is situated at an altitude of 700 feet, and is slightly over seven acres in area. Purchase of a Temple site in Sydney is a goal of the Ten Year Plan.

**Link With Holy Land**

The Australian Baha'i Bulletin also announces that two blocks of land on Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land have been transferred to the National Assembly of Australia and New Zealand.

This action followed the formal registration of the Israel Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia and New Zealand in Haifa, Israel.

Mr. Leroy Ioas, Secretary-General of the International Bahá'í Council,

During the afternoon some special contacts were invited to the Haziratu'l-Quds. There was a talk by Prof. Zeine on "The Necessity of Spiritual Values in the World."

In the evening a similar program was carried out. About 120 people were present for the whole day, with 80 present in the afternoon alone.

The dedication was the means of having the Cause televised for the first time in Belgium. One of the visiting guests was interviewed and allowed to speak openly on the Faith.

It is most confirming to see, in this dedication of one of the many Haziratu'l-Quds acquired recently, the attracting power and the vital function of this Bahá'í institution.

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has advised the Australian National Assembly that the two sections are a part of the gardens surrounding the Resting Places of the Greatest Holy Leaf and the Mother and Brother of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, as well as the gardens before the new International Archives Building. The area involved is approximately 1200 square meters of land.

Other National Assemblies establishing Israel Branches during the Ten Year Plan are British Isles, Canada, Egypt and Sudan, Germany and Austria, Iraq and Persia.

Canada

SAMOAN GROUP ATTAINS A CRUSADE GOAL

Details of how the Bahá’í message has been translated into another language were published in the Bulletin of the New Territories Committee of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly. The information is contained in a letter from Suhayl Ala’i, a pioneer in Samoa:

“You will no doubt be very happy to learn that on the last boat doing the round trip of the islands we received the completed translation of the pamphlet into the language of Niue, one of the goal languages of the Ten Year Plan, and it has already been forwarded to the Australasian N.S.A. so that it may arrive before Naw-Rúz.

“When the Australasian A.T.C. referred the translation to us as they were unable to find someone to do it, we thought the task well nigh impossible, as there are no believers or pioneers there, and there is no direct contact between Samoa and Niue. However, God works in mysterious ways. On his trip to New Zealand last year, Suhayl managed to discuss the matter with a non-Bahá’í friend who is a government official in Niue, and this friend promised to do what he could.

“We should mention here that Niue is a tiny island with perhaps three small stores. Not many hopes were held, seeing the wife of Suhayl’s friend has a father who is a minister, and she herself appears to be very strong in her church. The results of the help of this friend were that the official government translator did the job and the postmaster of Niue did the typing — so at least two Niueans have had the teachings by remote control, so to speak.

“We have been assured that the translation was the best that could be done and thus, although we do not seem to be able to teach much here, Bahá’u’lláh has used us to complete yet another part of the Ten Year Plan, and for this we are very grateful.”

Germany, Austria

ESCHBORN TEMPLE SITE HEARING DELAYED

The hearing before the German Court of Appeals on the purchase of the Temple site at Eschborn, scheduled for the middle of February, has been further delayed, according to Bahá’í Nachrichten, publication of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria.

Consequently, there are no new developments in the purchase negotiations. “No stone is being left unturned to secure the promise of permission to purchase the site,” the Assembly states.

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT TO BE ESTABLISHED

Plans are now under consideration by the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria for the establishment of a permanent seat for the National Secretariat in the Blickiratu’l-Quds at Frankfurt, Bahá’í Nachrichten reports.

This action followed the urging of the Guardian, through Leroy Ios, to take this important step, now that the national Blickiratu’l-Quds has been erected, and is able to serve as national headquarters.

A further problem confronting the Assembly is the appointment of a permanent Assistant Secretary. “The work of our community, internally and externally, has become so great and is constantly increasing in scope and importance, so that it is no longer possible for a single friend, even one who is able to give most of his personal life to the office, to take care of the work alone,” it was explained.

The National Assembly has called upon the German and Austrian friends for assistance in resolving this problem.

RIVERSIDE REACHES ASSEMBLY STATUS

On April 21 of this year, almost two years after the first pioneers settled in this Goal City, the Bahá’ís of Riverside elected their first Local Spiritual Assembly.

The new Assembly is outstanding proof that when we act to serve the Faith, and remain steadfast despite obstacles, God will bring victory for His Cause.

For a year and a half, firesides, publicity and public meetings seemed to have little discernible effect, but in the four months before Ridván, the Community grew steadily, until now there are fifteen Bahá’ís.

The future is even brighter, and soon Riverside may be able to send forth her own pioneers.

NAVAGO RESERVATION GROUP FORMED AT WINDOW ROCK

A meeting was held at Window Rock, Ariz., on March 17 to form the Navajo Reservation Group. All six members, (Mr. and Mrs. Camper, Mr. and Mrs. Gibson, and Mr. and Mrs. Ginnett) were present.

An election was held with the following results: Chairman, Mr. Amoz Gibson; Secretary, Mrs. Jean Ginnett.

In view of the fact of the great distance members of the group have to travel for a meeting, it was decided to plan to meet only once a month. If, however, something of importance arises, meetings will be held more often.

NEW YORK GIVES PROGRAM ON RACIAL INTEGRATION

The New York City Bahá’í Club presented a public discussion program on Negro-White race relations at the Bahá’í Center on May 4.

Guest speaker was Miss Manet Fowler, Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at Barnard College. Her subject, “Problems of Race,” covered the social, practical, and spiritual aspects of southern racial integration.

Her co-speaker, representing the Bahá’í Faith, was Ben Kaufman, an instructor in Social Studies in the Bergen County, N.J., school system.
GREEN ACRE '56

The following is the schedule of adult courses at Green Acre for the summer session of 1956. In addition to those listed below, there will be a course each week on "Fundamentals of the Bahá’í Faith."

The first two weeks are especially planned for the interest of the youth. Youth intending to visit Green Acre are urged to come during this period.

A children's School for children from five to fourteen will run continuously during the eight weeks of the summer school.

July 2-6
1. The Bahá’í and His Community
2. Youth and the World Crusade
3. How to Give a Bahá’í Talk

July 9-13
1. Bahá’í in Consultation.
2. The Covenant and the World Crusade
3. Co-ordination and Use of Bahá’í Literature

July 18-20
1. You and the World Crusade
2. Some Answered Questions
3. Islam

July 23-27
1. Consultation and the Covenant
2. World Order Letters of the Guardian
3. Teaching Problems in the World Crusade

July 30 - Aug. 3
1. Bahá’í Administration in Practice
2. Dawnbreakers and World Crusaders
3. Teaching the Individual

Aug. 6-10
1. Solving Community Problems
2. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá as Teacher
3. America’s Role in the World Crusade

Aug. 13-17
1. You, the Covenant and the World Crusade
2. The Kitáb-i-Íqán
3. How to give a Bahá’í Talk

Aug. 20-24
1. What is a Mature Bahá’í?
2. Faith and Prayer
3. Toward World Order

Make your reservations early — until June 29 write to Mrs. Irene Miniutti, Manager Elm Knoll Farm, Eliot, Maine

World Youth Day was observed in San Jose, Calif., with a picnic for the above group.

HOME FRONT WORKER GAINS MANY CONTACTS

The lone Bahá’í in Evansville, Ind., Margaret McConaughy, has reported the various ways in which she has proclaimed the Faith where she lives. It could serve as an inspiration to many others in similar situations.

“We have here in Evansville a very difficult territory, but were, after long and laborious attempts, able to obtain an invitation from Rabbi Ryback to furnish a speaker at one of his series of religious forums. Mr. and Mrs. L. Paul Harris came to our assistance and furnished a very wonderful evening, having brought with them their slides of the Holy Land.

“In addition to this I received an invitation to speak to the local Unitarian Group one Sunday in December.

“We have encountered great difficulty in obtaining any publicity from the newspapers here regarding our commemorations, but I found that by writing a “Letter to the Editor” and signing my name, they will publish these.

“I was able to obtain permission to place a Bahá’í display in the Evansville Central Library window, which is on the ground floor and directly on a busy street, commemorating World Religion Day, and also advertising the Harris meeting.”

LOUHELEN

This 1956 summer session marks the 25th anniversary of the Louhelen Bahá’í school and several special events have been planned for this occasion.

We are privileged to have one of the teachers from the first session 25 years ago, Mr. Harlan Ober, teaching again this summer. A special anniversary week end is planned from July 29 through August 1, which was the actual opening day in 1931. Mr. Stanwood Cobb will be the special anniversary guest. The National Spiritual Assembly has granted the use of the name "Louhelen" during the anniversary year.

As before, children's classes will be held for the period when parents will be in classes. At the request of the NSA, no special youth sessions will be held; however, Jr. Youth activities will be highlighted at General Session I; Sr. Youth at General Session VI. Counsellors will be provided at these times for the youth present.

A course in the World Crusade will be presented at each session. The schedule of classes is listed below:

General Session I—July 1-14
1. L.S.A. for a Day
Bahá’í Heroes

General Session II — July 15-21
Kitáb-i-Íqán
The Guardian
Research for Bahá’í Talks

General Session III — July 22-28
Stories of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá
“And Then There Were Nine"

General Session IV — July 29-Aug. 11
Progressive Revelation
Man’s Responsibility to God

General Session V — Aug. 12-18
Firesides and Deepening Classes
Bahá’í Revelation

General Session IV — Aug. 19-31
Progressive Revelation
Covenant and Administration Choir

Homecoming — Sept. 1-3
Please make reservations early for this anniversary year. Address them to:
Registrar, Louhelen Bahá’í School
3208 S. State Rd.
Davison, Michigan
ARIZONA YOUTH MEET AT GIMLIN RANCH

The Bahá’í youth of Arizona were given the great bounty of holding their first youth conference at the Gimlin Ranch at Camp Verde, Arizona, on April 13, 14, and 15. Theme for the weekend was “Religion Is Life.”

Nestled in a green and peaceful valley, the Gimlin Ranch accommodated approximately 70 youths from Arizona and California.

While breathing the fresh air of western ranch life in the northern Arizona springtime, Bahá’í youth gained fresh energy and new ideas for teaching work, and demonstrated to their non-Bahá’í friends what the Bahá’í way of life really means.

Friday evening was devoted to getting acquainted and settled, and to enjoying the warmth of the love radiating from all directions. The boys were settled in the barn and the girls were tucked away inside the ranch house.

Saturday began with dawn prayers, a breakfast of blueberry pancakes, eggs, bacon, coffee—and further getting acquainted with late night and early morning arrivals. The greater part of Saturday was devoted to visits to historic Indian ruins of the region, with talks by the guides concerning Indian culture and religion, to pot-luck lunch and to siesta and recreation time.

A delicious and filling ranch supper, cooked over campfires, began the conference proper. The evening social — consisting of skits and games, and singing around the campfire, followed by evening devotions — culminated the day.

Following dawn-prayers around crackling fires and steaming foods, came an always to be remembered chuck wagon breakfast.

Workshops on the Faith were made up of two main groups: “Social Standards for a New Day,” and “What is the Bahá’í Faith?” The former was divided into “Marriage and Family Living,” and “What Shall Youth Live By?”; the latter into “Bahá’í History—The Lives of its Founders and its Progress Since 1844,” and “Bahá’í Administration—Application of the Faith in Today’s World.”

Camper’s lunch preceded the final discussion group, a panel discussion with a question-answer period entitled “Patterns for Future Society.”

With the discussion ended, the youth co-operated in final cleanup and reluctantly climbed into the many cars for departure.

Naw-Bas in Alhambra, Calif. Part of the group of 70 people from surrounding communities who gathered for dinner and the observance of the New Year.

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

Fourth Year — 1956 — 1957

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<th>Budget Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Budget</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total Contributions</td>
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—National Spiritual Assembly

BAHÁ’Í IN THE NEWS

Jerusalem Post, December 29, 1955, presented an interview with Mayor Abba Khoushy of Haifa after his return from a visit to the United States. “Mr. Khoushy especially praised the American Bahá’í communities, whose representatives had welcomed him at every town of call. . . . The Bahá’ís told him that they considered themselves ‘citizens of Haifa’ which is their religious centre.”

Adventures in Paradise, by W. L. Price, published by John Day Company, New York, has two pages concerning the Faith. Mr. Price spoke of meeting two Bahá’í pioneers on Rarotonga, and their influence led him to present some of the Bahá’í teachings.

Ontariana, published monthly by the Y.M.C.A. of Ottawa, in its issue of January, 1956, has a drawing of the Temple and reprints the nine texts carved over the outside entrances, with excerpts from Basic Facts About the Bahá’í Faith. Quotations appear on two other pages.

International Non-Governmental Organizations by Lyman Cromwell White, Rutgers University Press, 1951, says of the Faith: “The Bahá’í Cause to awaken humanity to spiritual truths has attracted some attention. It is claimed that the founder, Bahá’u'lláh, laid the foundations of a new World Order giving a solution of racial, social and economic problems for this age.”

In God Will Work With You But Not For You by Lao Russell, published by Walter Russell Foundation, we find this reference: “Another modern mystic who has transformed millions of lives and turned their eyes to the Light is Bahá’u’lláh.”

Printers’ Ink will include World Religion Day in its 1957 list of dates of special events.

The Los Angeles Herald Express, March 7, 1956, presented an article on a Festival of Faith to be held April 22, 1956 in Bridges Auditorium, Claremont, California. The Bahá’í Faith is represented in this meeting, which follows the model of the Festival of Faith held in San Francisco last year. Mr. Charles Wolcott’s photograph was run with the article as he was requested to act as Bahá’í representative.
### SPECIAL EVENTS FOR PROCLAIMING BAHA’I FAITH

**TO THE PUBLIC**

1956-1957

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martyrdom of the Bab</td>
<td>July 9, 1956</td>
<td>To publicize developments at the Bab’s World Center, and the significance of the martyrdom of the Bab and of His Shrine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proclamation Day</td>
<td>September 23, 1956</td>
<td>To proclaim America’s spiritual mission; to observe the anniversary of the Bab’s introduction to America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Day</td>
<td>October 24, 1956</td>
<td>To proclaim the spiritual basis on which the nations can unite for lasting world peace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthday of Bahá’u’lláh</td>
<td>November 12, 1956</td>
<td>To proclaim the appearance of the Promised One of all religions as the hope of the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahá’í State Conventions</td>
<td>*December 2, 1956</td>
<td>To proclaim public service, and progress of the Ten-Year Spiritual Crusade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100th Anniversary of Birth of Woodrow Wilson</td>
<td>December 28, 1956</td>
<td>To honor the American president who was the world’s first statesman to express ideals closely akin to the Bahá’í principles for universal peace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Religion Day</td>
<td>January 20, 1957</td>
<td>To proclaim the fundamental oneness of religion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Brotherhood Week</td>
<td>February 17-23, 1957</td>
<td>To proclaim the oneness of mankind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naw-Rúz (Bahá’í New Year)</td>
<td>March 21, 1957</td>
<td>To proclaim the renewal of religion and a new spiritual springtime.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahá’í National Convention</td>
<td>*April 25-29, 1957</td>
<td>To publicize delegate attendance, and progress of the Ten-Year Spiritual Crusade.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Declaration of the Bab</td>
<td>May 23, 1957</td>
<td>To proclaim the birth of a new Universal Cycle, and the fulfillment of prophecy.</td>
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### SUGGESTED OCCASIONS FOR ADDITIONAL LOCAL PUBLICITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occasion</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freedom Day</td>
<td>May 20, 1956</td>
<td>To publicize delegate attendance, and progress of the Ten-Year Spiritual Crusade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>May 30, 1956</td>
<td>To promote delegate attendance, and progress of the Ten-Year Spiritual Crusade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day of the Covenant</td>
<td>Nov. 26, 1956</td>
<td>To proclaim the renewal of religion and a new spiritual springtime.</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Human Rights Day</td>
<td>Dec. 10, 1956</td>
<td>To honor the American president who was the world’s first statesman to express ideals closely akin to the Bahá’í principles for universal peace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Day of Prayer (To be proclaimed by the President)</td>
<td>March 28, 1957</td>
<td>To proclaim the birth of a new Universal Cycle, and the fulfillment of prophecy.</td>
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*Indicates Tentative Date

### NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

A member of the Bahá’í Inter­

tional Teaching Committee, Mrs. Bessie Barham, participated in two pro­grams at Washington, D.C. honor­
ing Tomlinson Todd, Founder, Pro­
ducer, Director, and Moderator of the Americans All radio program on station WOOK, on April 8. Promi­

inent representatives of the Press, the Bar, and various civic organiza­
tsions also spoke. The first program was broadcast over WOOK, the sec­
ted was held at Tabor Presbyterian

Church. The audiences were predo­mantly Negro.

A series of firesides on Progressive Revelation were given by the Stockton, Calif., community during March and April. The Christian, Mu­hammadan, Babi, and Bahá’i Faiths were represented, and several inquirers attended all sessions.

The Junior Youth Committee of the San Francisco, Calif., community arranged a special program during the Ridván period for parents and children, to demonstrate the Bahá’i children’s class in action. There were exhibits of the work done, and friends were invited to observe the activities.

### AREA NEWS BULLETINS

All goal cities in the Tennessee Valley States area have at least one settler or pioneer, and several have both, the Area Teaching Committee Bulletin reports. All groups in the area have been organized, and have been doing fine work in promulgation and firesides. In Louisville, Ky., the first Negro Bahá’í has been con­

firmed. The Nashville, Tenn., community conducts a most successful class for children, which is beginning to interest the parents. In Birmingham, Ala., the Faith has been widely proclaimed by public talks and association with other organizations. Many Bahá’i books have been placed in the main and branch libraries.

Following the National Convention, the Area Teaching Committee for the New England States scheduled convention report meetings in eight communities, according to their Area Bulletin. Cities represented include Providence, R.I., New Haven, Conn., Springfield and Boston, Mass., Brattleboro, Vt., Portsmouth, N.H., Portland and Eliot, Maine.

Santa Ana, Calif., has presented a series of six public meetings on the Nine Basic World Religions, the Bulletin for the Southwestern States Area Teaching Committee reports. A different speaker presided at each meeting, giving opportunity for concentrated preparation for each. As a follow-up to these meetings, a study course on God Passes By was presented. As many as 28 interested contacts were attracted to these offerings.

The South Central States Area Teaching Committee Bulletin has announced plans for a Conference at St. Louis, Mo., on June 16-17. Topeka, Kan., now has a Bahá’í Center at 620 Kansas Ave., Independence, Mo., reports continued response to their series of newspaper advertisements. Rogers, Ark., has had good response to their series of radio programs. Charles Hornby has visited libraries in seven towns in Missouri and Kansas, and the Educational Director of the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jeffer­son City.

P.S. Charleston, W.Va., was host to a Central Atlantic States Area Conference on April 14, their Bulletin states. A member of the Baltimore, Md., Bahá’í community gave a talk before 80 youth, members of a Comparative
Religion Class at the Temple School of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. The Baltimore community was also represented at a panel discussion on religion that included spokesmen for the Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant faiths, and the Ethical Society. The World Fellowship Committee of the Y.W.C.A. of Wilmington, Del., presented a talk by Mrs. Bula Mott Stewart in March. She showed color slides made while pioneering in Africa.

The Oneness of Mankind. Prepared by the National Spiritual Assembly. Since widespread publicity is planned for this official statement, local communities will find many uses for it. A statement by the National Assembly on the purpose of this single-page leaflet appears in May issue Bahá'í News.

8 copies (minimum order ...$ .25
100 copies ..........$2.50

The Covenant and Administration. Compiled from the Bahá'í Sacred Writings, from the letters and writings of the Guardian, and from statements approved by the Guardian, and arranged for use in conferences institutes. The National Assembly is stressing the importance of community study based on this work.

Per copy .................$ .75
(Revised from $1.25)

Living Today For Tomorrow's World. (A Junior's Book of Religion.) By Marguerite True. The material covers the Prophets, the new laws for the nations and for the people of the world, and questions and answers (with spaces for additional comments), as contained in the previous edition of A Junior's Book of Religion, with a few revisions. Illustrated with several drawings by Jean Hutchinson. This is a printed (not mimeographed) book, with colorful stiff paper cover. 24 pages.

Per copy .......................$ .75

Available from
Bahá'í PUBLISHING TRUST
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

BAHÁ'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting Hours
Weekdays: 10:30 A.M.—4:30 P.M.
7:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M.
Sundays and Holidays:
10:30 A.M.—9:00 P.M.
(Auditorium only will be open in the evenings)

Service of Worship
Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.

MARRIAGES

"Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord! Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace . . ."

—BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Berkeley, California: Miss Celestine Dean to Mr. Frederick Whittaker, on March 11, 1956.

Ann Arbor, Michigan: Miss Joy Suzanne Fally to Mr. Richard H. Benson on April 8, 1956.

Wilmette, Illinois: Miss Helen Lucille Hathorn to Mr. Ronald Lee Hack on April 21, 1956.


BAHÁ'Í NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá'í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHÁ'Í NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1956-57: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá'í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Beloved Friends:

Almost everyone person has some interval during the day when he is free from duty or outside obligation. These are the moments or hours when we feel “free” to do what we please.

Some people spend these intervals in complete relaxation, perhaps listening to radio, watching television, reading a newspaper, or doing nothing at all. Many Bahá'ís cherish these intervals as opportunities to read prayers or go over passages in Gleanings or Some Answered Questions.

But all human beings undergo tests, usually at unexpected times, calling for one's utmost capacity for courage, patience, self-sacrifice and wisdom, or compelling the individual to arrive at some crucial decision.

Bahá’ís understand the purpose and vital importance of tests. Tests come to measure us by the Divine standard and make us realize that our own self-created standard falls far short of the supremacy of the Faith. A test is like a crossroads we meet on our journey. We must make a turn right or left, and the directions are not marked, or we must turn back whence we came.

Decision is a great mystery. The final outcome of the struggle or perturbation seems to come from some depth or height of being beyond our conscious awareness. We note the outcome by a strange feeling of elation, gratitude, humility, discouragement, or remorse.

Perhaps we can realize something about decision if we view it as a final and inevitable outcome of forces we have released over a long period. The seizure of free periods for enaptured prayer or reverent study of the Word—these are building a will within our will—and at the crucial instant this takes control of our destiny and gives us the fruits of victory. Conversely, when a person, to the amazement of those who know him, makes an evil decision, it may be that this is the result of the influence exerted by the succession of his wasted moments when, without pressure from without, he indulges his secret self.

Since decisions determine our destiny, let us make effort to create the good, the holy decision before we are summoned to judgment, by devoting our so-called “free moments” or “spare time” to the remembrance of Him Who is the Remembrance of God.

These years of World Crusade offer continuous challenges to all Bahá’ís. A spiritual challenge compels a decision even if we think we have evaded the issue for ourselves. For what we can do with Divine help determines our right decision in the face of challenge. What we do not do is the sign of our negative decision.

Surely it is a most hopeful and helpful door opening into the spiritual life to know that actually we are called upon to make little daily decisions rather than occasional overwhelming ones. For when we bring the Faith into our daily life like an intimate Friend, we can be certain that this dearest Companion will guide us and encourage and help us when the great ordeal confronts us.

Take this very day. Let each Bahá’í calmly pick it up and look at it. “Have I used the daily Prayer? Have I displayed a real Bahá’í spirit in my encounters with others? Have I attended the meetings which were scheduled for today? Have I pondered over the Guardian’s Convention Message as a challenge directed to myself? Have I read even a little from the Literature?”

Did not Bahá’u’lláh tell us to “examine our deeds each day,” and do we not begin to realize the divine Mercy in that advice?

Beloved friends! We are all urgently called to return to the first and simplest truths of the Faith, that the foundation of our daily effort may be securely laid in the Kingdom as in human existence.

Here are a few brief passages from Gleanings which bring light and love.

“O ye lovers of the One true God! Strive, that ye may truly recognize and know Him, and observe befittingly His precepts. This is a Revelation, under which, if a man shed for its sake one drop of blood, myriads of oceans will be his recompense.” (pp.5-6).

“Whatever duty Thou hast prescribed unto Thy servants of extolling to the utmost Thy majesty and glory is but a token of Thy love unto them, that they may be enabled to ascend unto the station conferred upon their own inmost being, the station of the knowledge of their own selves.” (pp. 4-5, referring to prayer).
"The whole duty of man in this Day is to attain that share of the flood of grace which God poureth out for him." (p. 8).

"Bend your energies to whatever will foster the education of men. Nothing is, or can ever be, hidden from God. If you follow in His way, His incaulable and imperishable blessings will be showered upon you." (p. 9).

"Verily I say, this is the Day in which mankind can behold the Face, and hear the Voice, of the Promised One. The Call of God hath been raised, and the light of His Countenance hath been lifted up upon men." (pp. 10-11).

"It is incumbent, in this Day, upon every man to place his whole trust in the manifold bounties of God, and arise to disseminate, with the utmost wisdom, the verities of the Cause." (pp. 13-14).

"Look not upon the creatures of God except with the eye of kindness and of mercy, for Our loving providence hath pervaded all created things, and Our grace encompassed the earth and the heavens. This is the Day wherein the true servants of God partake of the life-giving waters of reunion..." (p. 33).

"He Who is everlastingly hidden from the eyes of man can never be known except through His Manifestation, and His Manifestation can adduce no greater proof of the truth of His Mission than the proof of His own Person." (p. 49).

"Having created the world and all that liveth and moveth therein, He chose to confer upon man the unique distinction and capacity to know Him and to love Him — a capacity that must needs be regarded as the generating impulse and the primary purpose underlying the whole of creation." (p. 65).

"Led by the light of unfalling guidance, and invested with supreme sovereignty, They (i.e. the Manifestations) are commissioned to use the inspiration of Their words, the effusions of Their infallible grace and the sanctifying breeze of Their Revelation for the cleansing of every longing heart and receptive spirit from the dross and dust of earthly cares and limitations."

"Through the Teachings of this Day-Star of Truth every man will advance and develop until he attaineth the station at which he can manifest all the potential forces with which his inmost true self hath been endowed." (p. 68).

"God's purpose in sending His Prophets unto men is twofold. The first is to liberate the children of men from the darkness and ignorance, and guide them to the light of true understanding. The second is to assure the peace and tranquility of mankind, and provide all the means by which they can be established." (pp. 79-80).

"These are not days of prosperity and triumph. The whole of mankind is in the grip of manifold ills. Strive, therefore, to save its life through the wholesome medicine which the almighty hand of the unerring Physician hath prepared." (p. 81).

When we make such words intimate and familiar by our love for them, then the great objectives of the Ten-Year Plan swing into the horizon of our own spiritual landscape, and we eagerly reflect upon what new things we can do for the Faith of God. He lays no burden on us beyond our capacity to bear!

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

"Faithful, Consecrated Handmaid of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá"

The National Spiritual Assembly reports that the Guardian has sent the following cable after learning of the passing of Mrs. Louise M. Gregory:

"Grieved news passing faithful, consecrated handmaid (of) ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. Confident rich reward Kingdom. (Her) pioneer services highly meritorious."

—SHOGI

Cable received May 29, 1956.

ANNOUNCE COMPLETION OF BAHÁ’I WORLD VOL. XII

The new volume of The Bahá’í World, which went into production January, 1956, is now ready for distribution. Volume XII, covering the four momentous years of 1950-1954, contains approximately 1,000 pages and includes such events as the Bahá’í Holy Year and Jubilee events, dedication of the Bahá’í Temple in Wilmette, Illinois, the four great intercontinental conferences, completion of the Shrine of the Báb in Haifa, Israel, and the launching of the World Crusade and accomplishments of the first year of the Ten-Year Global Teaching Plan. A beautiful four-color frontispiece of the Shrine of the Báb and over 300 other photographs, many of them full-page in size, illustrate this book.

Front and back cover pockets of the volume contain six large supplementary maps and charts, several in color, depicting goals of the World Crusade, movement of Bahá’í pioneer teachers to goal areas, and the spread of the Bahá’í Faith throughout the world.

The Bahá’í World is the only permanent record of current Bahá’í achievements throughout the world and is the chief source of information for keeping informed of the constant, steady development of the Bahá’í World Community.

Bahá’í individuals and communities will find it interesting and inspiring to read the Guardian’s letter in Bahá’í Administration (pages 156, 157) concerning these volumes. The following statement is excerpted from that letter:

"... it [The Bahá’í World] stands unexcelled and unapproached by any publication of its kind in the varied literature of our beloved Cause. It will, without the slightest doubt, if generously and vigorously supported, arouse unprecedented interest among all classes of civilized society."

The price of the book is $15.00. (If shipped outside the U.S. and its territories add $.75 postage).
Martyrdom of the Báb

"O thou Remnant of God! I have sacrificed myself wholly for Thee; I have accepted curses for Thy sake; and have yearned for naught but martyrdom in the path of Thy love. Sufficient witness unto me is God, the Exalted, the Protector, the Ancient of Days!"

Words of the Báb, in Kitáb-i-Íqán, p. 231

died voluntarily, sealing with His life the covenant of universal brotherhood.

As the declaration of the Báb was the generating impulse that created a new world, His martyrdom was the catalyst that quickened the life of this creation, that it might re-manifest itself "in the shape of a still more compelling Revelation."

Here is a Divine Mystery, the power of sacrifice. Bahá'u'lláh, writing of the Báb, stated, "He craved martyrdom, saying: 'Methinks I heard a Voice calling in my inmost being: 'Do thou sacrifice the thing which Thou lovest most in the path of God, even as Husayn, peace be upon him, hath offered up his life for My sake?' And were I not regardful of this inevitable mystery, by Him, Who hath my being between His hands even if all the kings of the earth were to be leagued together they would be powerless to take from me a single letter, how much less can these servants who are worthy of no attention, and who verily are of the outcast... That all may know the degree of My patience, My resignation, and self-sacrifice in the path of God.'" (Iqán, pp. 231, 232)

Here, moreover, is indubitable proof of the immortality of the soul. Bahá'u'lláh has written, "How could such Souls have consented to surrender themselves unto their enemies if they believed all the worlds of God to have been reduced to this earthly life? Would they have willingly suffered such afflictions and torments as no man hath ever experienced or witnessed?" (Cl., p. 158)

Finally, here is a demonstration of the invincibility and the unity of God, for the Báb, although martyred, reappeared as Bahá'u'lláh. Shoghi Effendi asks us to "regard the Forerunner and the Founder of our Faith as identical in reality—a truth which the text of the Súriy-i-Haykal unmistakably affirms. 'Had the Primal Point (the Báb) been someone else beside Me, as ye claim,' is Bahá'u'lláh's explicit statement, 'and had attained My presence, verily He would have never allowed Himself to be separated from Me, but rather We would have had mutual delights with each other in My Days.' 'He Who now voice-theth the Word of God,' Bahá'u'lláh again affirms, 'is none other except the Primal Point Who hath once again been made manifest.'" (D.O.B., pp. 46, 47)

Shrine of the Báb on the slopes of Mt. Carmel at Haifa, Israel.

The events leading up to this "miraculous tragedy," as Shoghi Effendi terms it, are described in detail in the pages of The Daenbreakers and God Passes By: His arrest, incarceration, humiliation, and torture, climaxing by death and mutilation before a firing squad of over seven hundred soldiers and ten thousand onlookers.

Of greater importance than the physical events surrounding this persecution and martyrdom of the Prophet of God is the inner significance of the Báb's consent to be martyred. He was not the victim of this savagery, but the Victor; He...
ARCTIC PIONEER
REPORTS HARDSHIPS

Trials and confirmations experienced in pioneering above the Arctic Circle at Point Barrow, Alaska are described in a letter from Frances Wells, distributed by the Geneva Bureau News Exchange. Excerpts from this account follow.

"As you recall, our beloved Guardian instructed the Alaskans back in 1946 'to carry the Message beyond Fairbanks and nearer to the Arctic Circle.' With this in mind Margaret and I talked it over, and as a result we now have a Bahá'í home in Barrow in 'Knob Hill.' It is a two room cabin belonging to a school teacher who is living at Barter Island. When we first saw the place, we shut our eyes in horror. No electricity, no bath, no furniture, no stove, no closets, no running water. One big hole in the roof, and dirty! It was the only house in Barrow, so we took it, but fast!

"Now that it is fixed up it doesn't look too bad, and many speak how cozy it is. But there is one thing of liking the little house, and another of trying to live in it. I use a coal stove to cook on, as wood is a scarce item and very costly up here. So it is either too hot or too cold. In sub-zero weather I had to set my alarm every two hours through the night to keep it going. Finally it got the best of me; then Rex King sent me a small oil heater which I set up in the room where I sleep. The little thing worked like a charm until the temperature dropped to 40 below, and during the last cold spell when it was 45 and 50 degrees below I hardly slept trying to keep warm. But now it is better. I have since learned to cut the oil with kerosene, and thus far—and it is 40 below today,—the little stove is still going.

"My next problem is the water situation. We chip ice from the Arctic ocean and melt it. Believe me, it takes a heap of ice to make a gallon of water! I have two 50-gallon drums in the kitchen part of the house which I feed constantly, so the chores of chopping wood, chipping ice and keeping the house warm are a full time job.

"When I came here I thought I would have a lot of time on my hands to study and read, but the days and nights are far too short. The electricity is so bad I have to use a flashlight whenever I read even a letter. The coal mine supplies our electricity, and when the motors freeze up we have no juice.

"Margaret tried desperately to get a teaching job here, but met with no success and had to leave last August. In the meantime I found a job as secretary to the Manager of the Barrow Native Store. It is quite an experience to work with people of another language, and who think so entirely differently. The Barrow Native Store is a corporation owned and operated by the natives.

"There are about 1200 Eskimos living here. We have only about three hours of daylight now, and the past week it has been moonlight. There are no trees or mountains, and the Arctic Ocean is frozen solid. All one can see is ice and snow, and more ice. The ground is frozen solid. My little house sits on top of an ice block, and as the ice shifts it sounds like someone is hitting the house. Sometimes it makes an awful noise.

"Alaska is really developing! Groups and centers are springing up everywhere: Valdez, Seward, Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka. It is thrilling to watch the Cause grow, and when I look back over the years I have been here I am grateful for the blessing of being able to offer a helping hand. Just think, next year we will establish our own National Assembly. Can you possibly come to Alaska for this occasion?"

NEW ASSEMBLIES FORMED
IN NORTH PACIFIC

Among the new countries electing local Spiritual Assemblies for the first time this year are two in the North Pacific: Formosa, with its first Assembly formed in Tainan; and Korea, with first Assemblies elected in Kwangju and Seoul. Already plans have been made for a summer conference in Kwangju the second week in July and for extension teaching in a number of other centers.

Japan, which will be the seat of the National Spiritual Assembly to be elected in the North Pacific next April, achieved a real victory by increasing its local Spiritual Assemblies fourfold over last year, making a total of eight. The cities now having Assemblies in Japan are: Tokyo, Amagasaki, Kobe, Kyoto, Osaka, Yokohama, Nishinomiya, and Nagoya.

When the National Spiritual Assembly is formed during Ridván 1957, it will include in its jurisdiction, in addition to Japan, Korea, Formosa, Hongkong, Macau and two areas still unopened to the Faith, Hainan and Sakhalin Islands.

Djakarta Conference

As an important step in preparation for the formation of the National Spiritual Assembly in South East Asia next April, the National Spiritual Assembly of India, Pakistan and Burma has called a regional teaching conference to be held in Djakarta, August 15-17, to which traveling Bahá'ís as well as delegates will be most welcome. Detailed information as to reservations and program can be supplied on request to the Asia Teaching Committee of the United States.

—Asia Teaching Committee
Dedication of Hazíratu’l-Quds at Montevideo Precedes Sixth South American Convention

The Sixth Convention of the Bahá’ís of South America was held at Montevideo, Uruguay, on April 27 to May 2, 1956. The newly elected National Spiritual Assembly of South America is shown to the right; below are pictured the delegates to the Convention.

On the night of April 26, 1956, members of the National Spiritual Assembly, and delegates and visitors to the Sixth South American Convention gathered for the ceremonies dedicating the Hazíratu’l-Quds at Montevideo, Uruguay, shown at the right.
Canada

ANTICOSTI SETTLED BY PIONEER

The last Canadian virgin goal, Anticosti Island, was opened to the Faith on April 18, 1956, by a Canadian pioneer, the Canadian National Assembly's Baha'i News has announced.

The Bulletin of the Canadian New Territories Committee has published the first letter received from Anticosti:

"Greetings from Anticosti! I am loving the island and already am making a few friends. My heart goes out to all the hard-working friends and pioneers.

"Walked along the shores of our half-frozen lake, logs jamming the shores, high snowbanks gradually melting, leaving dry, brown grass, dark green wind-swept spruce touched with a rusty color at the edges, and a gloriously lighted sky, sunset in full splendor. Yes, this is a lovely island!"

Baha'i News emphasized "While Anticosti is our last goal to be opened to the Faith, we must not forget our three goals which have been opened and have become vacant - Keewatin, Franklin, and the Marquesas Islands. Many jobs at excellent pay are available in Keewatin and Franklin, and the (New Territories) Committee would be happy to send complete information to any men wishing to pioneer to these goals. For the Marquesas we require a Baha'i with French citizenship."

CANADA ACQUIRES HAZIRATU'L-QUDS

Thursday, May 10, 1956 was a very important day for the Canadian Bahá'í community, their publication, Baha'i News, reports, for on that day the building at 274 Huron St., Toronto, was acquired as their Haziratu'l-Quds.

The Center is now available for use, and the material of suitable furnishings and equipment for the National Office and auxiliary meeting rooms is under consideration.

This acquisition was made possible by contributions from the Guardian, the National Assemblies of the British Isles and Germany, the Canadian believers, and a bequest, upon his death, by Fred Schopflocher.

LAURENTIAN SUMMER SCHOOL ANNOUNCES COURSES

The Laurentian Bahá'í School, Beaulac, P. Q., has issued its summer school program, listing classes from July 21 to August 5. Three teachers will conduct study courses for each of the two weeks.

Further information may be obtained by writing to Mr. R. Thomson, 845 Willibrord, Verdun, Quebec.

CANADIAN SHRINES COMMITTEE EXTENDS INVITATION

The Canadian National Shrines Committee invites the friends to visit the Shrine at 1548 Pine Ave. W., Montreal, when traveling through the city. The Shrine is open to Bahá'ís and their friends every Wednesday night from 8:00 to 10:00 P.M. A small library is provided for quiet study and a host or hostess is always present to answer questions.

The Master's room on the second floor is kept open for visitors and a pamphlet has been prepared to inform visitors of the dates and the response to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to Montreal in 1912.

Germany, Austria

HANNOVER ACHIEVES ASSEMBLY STATUS

The National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, through their publication Baha'i Nachrichten, has announced that Hannover attained Assembly status, with 11 members. This was made possible with the arrival of Persian settlers.

Baha'i Nachrichten also reports that Ulm is able to retain Assembly status through the settlement of Persian friends there.

The National Assembly has urged that the following Assemblies be incorporated: Berlin, Bonn, Ebingen, Frankfurt/M, Hamburg, Karlsruhe, and Stuttgart.

Bahá'í World Youth Day was observed at Karachi, Pakistan, on March 25, 1956, by this large gathering.
KAMPALA CONVENTION ELECTS REGIONAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

The British National Assembly convened the Convention of the Bahá’ís of Central and East Africa at Kampala, Uganda. The following report on the proceedings is by a British representative at the Convention.

About eleven o’clock on the morning of April 23, Mr. Hasan Balyuzi and myself arrived at the scene of the Convention, not, as expected, at the Haziratu’l-Quds in Kampala, but at a large meeting hall called the Budonian Club at Mengo on the outskirts of the town, almost under the shadow of the Kabaka’s Palace. This was because that historic great circular tent of the 1953 Conference, which had once again been erected in the Haziratu’l-Quds grounds, had suffered in one of the torrential downpours frequent at this time, so that it was no longer adequate to stand up to the rainy season.

Jurisdiction Explained

Inside the meeting hall were rows after row of black faces listening to what looked like a geography lesson, being delivered by Mr. Hassan Sabri. Hanging on the wall was a magnificent map of Africa, showing very clearly the boundary lines of the areas of jurisdiction of the four regional National Spiritual Assemblies to be elected in Africa, and the Bahá’í localities within each.

The assembled crowd of African gentlemen were delegates, mostly from Uganda, who were being instructed once again about the Convention, what role was theirs, and how they were to fulfill it. Our entry terminated that session by a change of subject, and shortly afterward we were carried off to our temporary home.

Unity Feast

The opening Unity Feast was not due to be held until 4:30 P.M. Somewhat later than the due time, all were assembled, this time under the tent in the heart of Kampala, because it was a brilliant, sunny afternoon.

All the African friends were seated on chairs or on straw mats, observing the utmost decorum and an awed silence as of great expectancy.

Mr. Hassan Sabri opened the Feast with words of welcome with the eloquence and dignity due on such an auspicious occasion, and then introduced Mr. Hasan M. Balyuzi, Chairman of the British National Spiritual Assembly.

He recalled the first meeting under the same tent in the same place three years previously, in such a way that all could glow with the pride of an achievement unprecedented and unforeseen by even the most prophetic three years ago.

Mr. Balyuzi’s talk then related the bounties and the miracle of the guardianship, whose utterance is synonymous with achievement. Amid a general feeling of happiness and joy the first meeting came to an end with refreshments.

Convention Opened

On Tuesday morning, April 24, 61 delegates and about 30 visitors, 13 being non-African, were suitably seated so that delegates occupied all the front benches and visitors the back ones, with an Ateso speaking block on the left, and Swahili, Luganda, and French speakers on the right, all supplied with translators placed at vantage points. These necessary translations were made simultaneously throughout.

From the more distant territories outside British East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika), from the Seychelles, from the Belgian Congo, and from Ruanda Urundi, the delegates had arrived. Two from Zanzibar, one from Ruanda Urundi, and one from French Equatorial Africa, with several from Kenya and Uganda, were unfortunately unable to be present.

The Convention was opened, the roll of delegates was called, and each received his badge and souvenir program. Then the Convenor read the letters from the British National Spiritual Assembly, the Africa Committee, and the Uganda Teaching Committee.

A prolonged period was then devoted to the election of Convention Chairman and Secretary. The former, Mr. Ali Nakhjavani, received a majority vote only on the third ballot, and the latter, Mr. Phillip Hainsworth, a majority vote on the second ballot.

Mr. Ali Nakhjavani had to explain with apologies that he and Mr. Banañí had been instructed by the Guardian to take part also in the Cairo Convention, which was being
held simultaneously, and as soon as plane reservations could be made, they would have to depart. Therefore, the steering committee decided to elect immediately a Vice-Chairman to deputize for him from the moment of his departure. The voting resulted in the election of Mr. Aziz Yazdi as Vice-Chairman.

Greetings From Delegates

The Chairman next explained the significance of the necessary approval by delegates of the agenda, and then one delegate from each territory mounted the platform to give greetings.

Some of these were delightful and touching, as when, for example, we heard of members of the Usumbara Community of Ruanda Urundi, who saw their delegate off at the airport weeping tears of emotion, and yet giving him "bon courage" for his journey.

The afternoon of that first day of the Convention was devoted to the messages of the beloved Guardian, presented by Mr. Banani, Hand of the Cause, through Ali Nakhjavani as interpreter.

After this, Mr. Banani told us that he had in his possession a bottle of attar of roses which had been sent through the Hand of the Cause, Mr. Paul Haney, with which the beloved Guardian wished him to anoint everyone present at each of the four Conventions.

After Mr. Balyuzi had responded to the Chairman's invitation to say a few words and had pledged, as authorized by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the British Isles, the utmost support and help in their power in the years to come, Mr. Banani circulated personally amongst all present to anoint each one with the precious attar of roses from the Guardian. In reverent silence all took this into palms cupped together.

At this juncture a committee was appointed to prepare a cable to the Guardian, and while this was being considered, the official photographs were arranged.

On re-assembling, the cable was read and approved, and then the Secretary spoke on the importance of suggestions and recommendations on the part of the delegates, and indicated some valuable lines of thought along which they might work overnight.

Progress of Faith

Wednesday morning's program opened with the reading of the article published in the newspaper, from an interview given the day we arrived in Kampala. The Chairman then spoke on Africa's role in the Seven Year Plan. He said that there are 58 countries in Africa where the Faith is established. Only four are left without Baha'is, but these have been opened.

On the other hand, four additional islands outside the Plan, Fernando Po, Croscia, Pemba, and Praslin of the Seychelles group have been opened.

Twenty-six of all the African languages have been completed, leaving five still to be accomplished, the translation of Baha'i literature has been done in 11 additional languages, so that with the 13 already in existence before the start of the Ten Year Plan, there is literature on the Faith in 50 languages.

Later, and in the first part of the afternoon also, delegates gave reports of the situation and needs in their territories.

Election of Assembly

After a little break came the culminating point of the whole Convention election hour. Mr. Balyuzi spoke on the importance of the election, and the Baha'i method of voting. He explained the function of the six tellers who had been appointed, and how they would assist delegates in need of help in writing their ballots, if necessary. He closed by asking the Chairman to read a prayer for guidance.

The six tellers from among the visitors, three non-Africans each with an African assistant to cope with the vernacular languages, took up their positions at tables in a small room behind the meeting hall, to serve both as information bureaux, and scribes where necessary.

An atmosphere of serious earnestness was everywhere apparent, in both rooms, on the verandah, and under the trees, wherever delegates found the most inspiration to perform the task to which they now obviously were putting their whole hearts and minds.

Complete control and orderliness prevailed for the succeeding half hour. Voting papers were handed in as names were called, which, when counted, totalled sixty-nine.

While the tellers repaired immediately to the home of the Sabris to count the votes, the remainder of those assembled were taken again to the tent in the grounds of the Haziratu'l-Quds for a viewing of the cloak of Baha'u'llah. After an introductory talk by Mr. Balyuzi and the reading of the Tablet of Visitation, Baha'is entered the Haziratu'l-Quds one by one to see this most precious relic.

Meanwhile, at the end of two and one half hours of concentrated activity, it was established that a fine strong National Spiritual Assembly had been elected, consisting of the three Board Members of the area, and six pillars of the Uganda Com-
munity, an Assembly of four Africans and five pioneers, as follows: Ali Nakhjavani, Philip Hainsworth, Hassan Sabri, Oloro Epyeru, Aziz Yazdi, Jalal Nakhjavani, Tito Wanantsusi, Sylvester Okurut, and Max Kenyerezi.

Assembly Introduced

The last day of the Convention opened with the announcement of the election results, and the new National Spiritual Assembly ascended the platform. Letters of congratulations were read.

The remainder of the morning was devoted to discussion of suggestions from the delegates for the guidance of the Assembly. Response here was remarkable and fruitful, and resulted in the Secretary's tabulating 49 recommendations, of which 34 became embodied in resolutions discussed and accepted. It seemed indeed as if the delegates were activated by a true spirit of cooperation, and many excellent and worthy suggestions pertaining to the organization of the work ahead under the Seven Year Plan was a source of inspiration and good augury for the future.

It revealed indeed a tremendous progress in both the spiritual and administrative development of the African Bahá'í's during the three years which have elapsed since the Intercontinental Conference, and it proved their readiness to get down to work with determination and without delay, and that communities possess members with a gratifying sense of responsibility and leadership.

Closing Session

The last session was devoted first to suggestions from visitors, and then to discussion of the Bahá'í Fund, its extreme importance being most simply illustrated by the Chairman, who used the analogies of a child who has now grown up and should not expect to be any longer dependent upon its parents, and of the blood stream to the heart, which keeps the body functioning, making absolutely clear that what is really important is the element of sacrifice for love of the Faith.

Finally, Mr. Balyuzi made the closing speech of the Convention, a vote of thanks was moved by the Chairman and Secretary, and just at the precise moment that the closing prayer was about to be read, Mrs. Nakhjavani arrived with the following cable from the beloved Guardian:

"OVERJOYED PROFOUNDLY
APPRECIATE SENTIMENTS
SHARE HOPES ASSEMBLED
FRIENDS FERVENTLY SUPPLI-
CATING UNPRECEDED
BLESSINGS CONFIDENT GREAT
VICTORIES AHEAD. URGE COM-
PLETE DEDICATION ATTAIN-
MENT OBJECTIVES NEW PLAN.
DEEPEST LOVE.

—SHOGHII

Sadly but triumphantly the Convention was closed, the map rolled up and the Greatest Name taken down. All were transported to the tent in the Hazíratu'l-Quds grounds for the concluding garden party, an occasion to which contacts had also been invited. Darkness fell upon one of the greatest of Bahá'ulláh's miracles—the unity of mankind in a gathering of loving harmony and fullest cooperation.

—Irene Bennett

PERSIAN GULF AREA GAINS
3 ASSEMBLIES, 3 GROUPS

A report has been received from Bahrayn that this Ridván three new Assemblies and three new groups have been added to those already established in the Persian Gulf area.

GUATEMALAN HAZIRATUL-QUDS
LOCATED IN GUATEMALA CITY

The report of the inauguration of the Hazíratu'l-Quds of Guatemala, in the May issue of Baha'i News, erroneously stated that the Center was at Retalahuie. It is situated in Guatemala City.

The World Youth Day picnic pictured in the June Baha'i News, captioned San Jose, Calif., was from San Jose, Costa Rica.

WORDS OF WISDOM

The source of all good is trust in God, submission unto His command, and contentment in His holy will and pleasure.

BWF, 140

The source of all glory is acceptance of whatsoever the Lord hath bestowed, and contentment with that which God hath ordained.

BWF, 140

True reliance is for the servant to pursue his profession and calling in this world, to hold fast unto the Lord, to seek naught but His grace, inasmuch as in His hands is the destiny of all His servants.
Six world religions, including the Bahá'í Faith, took part in the Pomona Valley Festival of Faith at Bridges Auditorium, Claremont, Calif., on April 22, 1956.

Charles Wolcott, Vice-chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, represented the Bahá'ís in this "Service of Prayer for Peace and for Divine Guidance to the United Nations."

Other religions participating included the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Moslem faiths.

Guest speakers at the festival were Gov. Goodwin J. Knight of California and Dr. K. C. Wu of Evanston, Ill., former governor general of Formosa.

An interracial, interfaith choir of 150 persons sang before the audience, estimated at over 2500 people.

Spokesmen for each of the six religious faiths presented a call for prayer and meditation, and a resolution endorsing world peace and the United Nations.

The Bahá'í prayer was by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, beginning "O Thou compassionate Lord! Thou who art generous and able."

A statement of the Bahá'í National Assembly was presented as the Bahá'í resolution, as follows:

"Bahá'ís believe that the world of humanity for a hundred years has been undergoing a great transformation, the end and aim of which is to establish a new order of justice and peace.

"The outer witness to this transformation is the rise of science and technology which abolish all old frontiers dividing the peoples and nations. The inner sign is the emergence of a new spirit in religion which recognizes that the Prophets all reveal the love of God for man and the possibility of love between men without distinction of race, nation, class, or creed.

"The final barrier is the existing conflict between spiritual and materialistic concepts of man himself. The appalling struggles resulting from this conflict have been prophesied as the final experience of suffering and purification, after which true peace can be established. The modern crisis has manifested the dire need for a universal religion.

"The Author of the Bahá'í Revelation, Bahá'u'lláh, has written: 'That which the Lord hath ordained as the sovereign remedy and mightiest instrument for the healing of all the world is the union of all its peoples in one universal Cause, one common Faith.'"

Gov. Knight called attention to California's harmony as an illustration that the people of all colors, all national origins, all political beliefs, all religious denominations, and all strata of material wealth, can live peaceably together.

An appeal for world peace was given by Dr. Wu, who urged that the Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations be observed.

Newspapers in the surrounding area gave widespread publicity to this Festival, both before and after the meeting. One prominent article was devoted to the invitation extended to the Bahá'í Faith to participate in the ceremony, as further evidence of the public's recognition of the Faith as an independent world religion.

This Festival of Faith, patterned after the San Francisco Festival of Faith on June 15, 1955, in observance of the Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations, was organized by the Pomona Valley Chapter of the U.N. Association.
YAKIMA ACTIVITIES GAIN WIDE PUBLIC RESPONSE

Yakima, Wash., is one of the home front goal cities to elect its first local Spiritual Assembly this year. The story of the rapid development of the Faith in this small western city is fascinating and inspiring. If it could be published in full it would give great encouragement to all who are considering the Guardian’s instructions to disperse from the large centers.

Mr. and Mrs. Edvard Lindstrom moved there in December, 1953, where Mrs. Emma Lawrence had been teaching the Faith for six years before leaving to pioneer in Costa Rica. In October, 1954, they were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Victor deAraujo and their two small children.

Newspaper publicity, radio programs, well planned public meetings, firesides, and personal teaching work have all been employed to tell the story of the Faith. Following are excerpts from one letter from one of the members of the Assembly. They are typical of the many that have been received. The full names of the individuals referred to have been omitted for various reasons:

“We have just had the most wonderful week-end. The J.’s came over, and Mr. J. spoke for our public meeting which was a great success. We had forty people there, including four Bahá’is and their four contacts from Wenatchee. Some entirely new people came through the newspaper publicity. We had a question period with quite a few questions from the audience. Our public meetings seem better every time. I think it is just that the activity here is steadily gaining momentum. Many people are hearing about the Faith and there is more than casual interest among quite a number. For example, one person called me today and mentioned that her husband had enjoyed the meeting so much that he came home and started reading a Bahá’í book to her . . . .

“Yesterday one person who has attended Bahá’í meetings for more than a year brought a young woman librarian to the meeting. She told J. that a nurse from the hospital inquired at the library for Bahá’í literature some time ago. The nurse said there had been two Bahá’í children at the hospital, and she wanted to know what the Bahá’í Faith was.

“V. contacted the city editor of the morning paper last week, who said we could have the ‘This We Believe’ column for this week. We had to work fast. The by-line (carrying the writer’s name) was the editor’s idea, because otherwise it would look as if the paper had prepared the material. The article came out yesterday in both morning and evening papers and we will really have things popping now. It’s already started. All of us have had people ask questions all week just on the election of our Assembly where our names appeared in the paper.

Our contact with the Indians is probably the next thing our whole group will cooperate on furthering. We have only one intimate contact so far, but we are hoping that we can get him and his family to join us in a picnic. They have three or four small children and our children could get acquainted with them along with the adults.

“We are very thrilled with all the developments and are happy because the Faith is now beginning to be really known in Yakima. People are at least going to have the opportunity to investigate it. It is hard to imagine how different a small town like this is. Everyone reads the local newspapers and it is quite amazing how aware they all seem to be of things in the paper.”

( Bahá’í News welcomes similar stories from growing communities that would like to share the story of their accomplishments and progress.)

FAITH DISCUSSED ON LOS ANGELES RADIO

A nightly radio program on station KFI, Los Angeles, Calif., broadcast from 11:00 P.M. to 5:30 A.M. Tuesday to Saturday, has gained a wide audience in the Western states and from ships and airplanes with two-way discussions between the announcer, Ben Hunter, and his listeners on varied topics of interest.

Some discussions have proven so worthwhile that Mr. Hunter publishes them in a periodical called The Limb. A recent edition of this magazine reported that a book titled The Oahspe Bible belonged to “the famous Bahá’í sect which has ten million followers in North America alone.”

Bahá’í community of the San Leandro-Hayward Judicial District, Calif.
A Bahá'í in the area read this report in The Limb, received permission from the proper source to correct the statements, and telephoned Mr. Hunter. He graciously broadcast her remarks, stating that the word “religion” applied to the Bahá'í Faith, instead of “sect,” as it is one of the great world religions, and that the National Bahá'í Assembly knows of no connection between the Bahá'í Sacred Writings and the so-called Oshose Bible.

Two hours later a student of Comparative Religions telephoned. The conversation was broadcast as he read the twelve Bahá’í Principles, with comments on the statement relating to equal rights for men and women, stating that this was an important question in Iran, where the Bahá'í Faith originated. He also spoke of the provision for a universal language, naming Esperanto as one considered.

He went on to give a beautiful description of the Bahá'í House of Worship, with comments on the entrances and parts of the interior.

A call from a second listener followed, who proclaimed that his mother assisted in the start of the building of the Temple.

Before the program went off the air the announcer, in reviewing the topics discussed, again mentioned the Faith, making four times it was called to the attention of the radio audience.

**BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS**


On the editorial page of *Manitowoc Wisconsin Herald-Times* of March 2, 1956, we note a two column article based on an interview with Mrs. Clarence Creager.

*Yearbook of American Churches for 1956* gives a brief listing of the Faith.

For two successive years a course has been given at Harvard University Center for Middle Eastern Studies in which the Faith is discussed. Excerpts from two Bahá’í books are on the reading list.

**WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET**

*Fourth Year — 1956 - 1957*

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—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

*Oklahoma Eagle,* published in Tulsa, has in its March 8 issue a long and favorable article on the Faith under the heading “Bahá’ís Need No Special Week for Brotherhood.”

Consolidated Book Publishers of Chicago is preparing a new general encyclopedia and will include photographs of the Shrine of the Báb and the House of Worship.

Dr. Marcus Bach has recently spoken before the Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan on four contemporaneous religious personalities whom he has personally interviewed. One of the four is Shoghi Effendi.

Secretariat News, published at United Nations Headquarters, in its issue of January 31, 1956, included under “Invitation” an announcement of a talk by Norman Cousins at the Welsh studio, Greenwich, Conn., to be held February 5. “This is the first of a series of meetings sponsored by the UN Committee of the Bahá'í International Community accredited to UN.”

*They Shall Not Hurt Nor Destroy* by Mary Hostetler Murray, Vantage Press, New York, is “the story of Beth, her husband Bill, and of their three children,” dealing with the tragedy and waste of inherent in war. It presents the Bahá'í teachings very clearly in six pages of this volume.

The Christian Century of May 23, reported the Festival of Faith held by representatives of six “world faiths” in Bridges auditorium, Claremont, California, on April 22, sponsored by various groups in the Pomona valley.

Bahá'í dates of special events in 1957 will be included in the 1957 Personal Record Book for Executives, published by The Dartnell Corporation, Chicago.

The weekly membership bulletin of the Wilmette Rotary Club, May 19, announced a program to be presented by Dr. Isaac Schour, dean of the University of Illinois College of Dentistry on “Observations While in Israel.” Dr. Schour used color slides of Israel to illustrate his talk, which included two views of the Shrine of the Báb.

*Adventures in Paradise,* by Willard Price, refers to two Bahá’í pioneers in the South Seas as “the most unusual missionaries” he encountered. In talking with them he learned the
basic Bahá'í teachings and described them in his book.

A transcript of the weekly Sunday night broadcast over American Broadcasting Company Stations, by George E. Sokolsky, April 15, 1956, was devoted to the subject of The Middle East. In his remarks about the Bahá'í Broadcasting Company Stations, by Bahá'u'lláh, the National Assembly of Bahá'ís devoted to the subject of The Faith: "In frán the persecution of Bahá'í continued. It will be remembered that Bahá'í had its origin in frán as an outgrowth from Islam. For several years pressures had been brought against it in the land of its birth."

The Willett Motor Coach Company, Chicago, has published a Field Trip Guide announcing the tours which can be arranged. The Bahá'í House of Worship is listed as one of the tours.

The Bahá'í Publishing Trust has received a number of press clippings of a book review syndicated by The Associated Negro Press throughout the country. The review deals with Race and Man, compiled by Maye Harvey Gift and Alice Simmons Cox, published by the Bahá'í Publishing Trust.

"One of the most complete compilations giving the solution of the race problem as outlined by recognized authorities in scientific and sociological fields is found in Race and Man . . . ."

"Religious leaders, public speakers, students of current affairs, world relief agencies and organizations working for interracial cooperation, will find Race and Man one of the best compilations in print today offering a solution to the race problem, with spiritual teachings on the unity of the human race as expounded by Bahá'u'lláh, the most extraordinary spiritual figure and the greatest progressive produced by the 19th century; 'Abdu'l-Bahá, his eldest son, who lectured in 39 cities of the United States in 1912, warning of race wars, religious conflicts and world upheavals; and Shoghi Effendi, present Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith, who resides at the Bahá'í World Center in Haifa, Israel . . . .";


Among the statements of particular interest to Bahá'ís we quote:

"The thought that science and religion agree has permeated contemporary society. Just as there are scientific laws, so too, there are spiritual laws, each of which is revealed to man according to man's capacity to find it."

"In this ever-evolving, maturing civilization man is slowly realizing that he has the right to investigate truth independently."

"The great pacifist, Tolstoy wrote: 'The man who holds the key to the universe is a Persian named Bahá'u'lláh.'"

World Book Encyclopedia on June 6 telegraphed the National Assembly requesting data for use in that Encyclopedia. The information desired covered the number of countries in which the Faith is represented, the number of its local centers, the number of its national administrative bodies and of the local Assemblies in the United States.

"Movie Pair to Wed in Bahá'í Rites" was the headline on a Hollywood dispatch appearing in Chicago American, June 6, above a photo of Janet Lake. "Robert Dix, actor-son of the late film star Richard Dix, and MGM starlet Janet Lake announced plans for one of the most unusual wedding ceremonies in Hollywood history this month.

"Dix said: 'We want to have a Bahá'í marriage. We both are followers of the faith.'"

As reported in the Lima, Peru, newspaper on May 17, Professor Arnold Toynbee's talk given at the San Marcos University contained the following statement:

"If we observe the course of history in relation to the high religions instead of to the civilizations, we can come to the conclusion that progress in religious matters has been continuous. Since the first appearance, around 2,500 years ago, of the societies of the high religions, there
has always been a certain number of high religions existing simultaneously at the side of each other. We have today at least eight. They all claim, with the exception of Bahá’ísm, to be the only way, truth and life.”

“... if... all of humanity would become converted some day to one religion, then the world will have become unified in the fundamental plane of human life.”

AMERICAN INDIAN NEWS

Since first contact was made with the nearby Lummi Indians in the fall of 1954, the friends of Bellingham, Washington, have developed increasing friendly relations with members of this tribe, including the son of the chief and his family. Indian friends have attended public meetings and firesides, cooperated in the presentation of a school program on Indian subjects, and participated in Intercollegiate Days celebrations.

When two small Indian villages on the Lummi reservation were flooded following early winter rainstorms, the Bahá’ís were the first to go to the aid of distressed families with clothing, bedding and food for material assistance and prayer books for spiritual. The story of the deepening friendships between the Bahá’ís of Bellingham and their neighbors the Lummi Indians seems to the Committee to reflect a fine blend of service, friendliness, and teaching. Results are sure to follow.

Loving welcome is extended to Francis La Quier of Minneapolis, Minnesota, enrolled by that Community recently and becoming the first of the Chippewa tribe to become a Bahá’í.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster Mudd, pioneers on the Macaw Reservation at Neah Bay, Washington, write that there is a real need for a physician to serve the needs of the Indians, who must at present go some distance to receive medical care. There is also a position open for a teacher of music in the elementary school. Both of these posts offer real fields of service for Bahá’í pioneers. The American Indian Service Committee would be grateful to hear from those who might qualify for either position and share the encouraging word of a recent enrollment among the Indians of this reservation.

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

Albion College, Albion, Mich., requested a Bahá’í representative to speak on the Faith on May 2, 1956. Lester W. Long, of Coldwater, Mich., filled the engagement and reported that it was a thrilling experience, with a warm response from the student body.

The day began with a Chapel talk before about 700 students at 10:00 A.M. A class at 2:00 P.M. for 12 students brought forth many questions showing an appreciation of the Faith from the brief summary given them. At 3:00 P.M. a class on Bahá’í Literature for 25 students was scheduled, but there were so many questions that there was little time to discuss the literature.

Later in the day a second Chapel talk was given, together with ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s prayer for mankind. This program was broadcast over the local radio station, WALM.

Burbank, Calif., reports a weekly radio program, Sunday evenings on KBLA, and good newspaper publicity in the Burbank Daily Review and the Burbank Independent.

The Los Angeles, Calif. community schedules ten weekly meetings, according to their publication, The Bahá’í Journal. Included are Adult and Children’s Classes and a Public Meeting at the Bahá’í Center, a fireside for youth, and seven additional firesides.

The series of firesides on Progressive Revelation given by the Stockton, Calif. community is being followed by a new series on the social teachings of Bahá’u’lláh.

Flint, Mich., observed the anniversary of the Declaration of the Báb with a meeting coinciding with a radio broadcast of “A New Interpretation of History” on station WBRC. There were ten radio spot announcements and seven newspaper articles relating to this observance.

The Declaration of the Báb was observed in Maui, Hawaii, with a buffet dinner, followed by a talk illustrated with slides on “Haifa, A Name to Remember,” given by a local non-Bahá’í who had recently returned from a visit to the Bahá’í World Center.

A New England Youth Conference was held at Brown University, Providence, R.I., May 5-6. The topic chosen for discussion was “Organization.” The next conference has been tentatively scheduled for September 18, with the location still to be determined.
PENDLETON, Oreg., was the scene of a two day teaching venture on March 24-25, according to the Northwestern States Area Bulletin. On Saturday evening there was a party at the home of the Merlin Youngs; Sunday there were three seminars for Baha'is and their contacts. Subjects of the seminars were (1) "The Baha'i Faith - The Need for this Faith," (2) "The Baha'i Faith - Its Use," (3) "The Baha'i Faith - Its Destiny and Ours." Also reported in the Bulletin was a very successful Intercalary Day Party at Kirkland, Wash. Attendance totalled 130, including 54 contacts. There was music, slides of world-wide Baha'i activities, a group of Makah Indian girls, and Chinese rice fortune cakes inscribed with Baha'i quotations.

Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo., has asked the Area Teaching Committee for the South Central States to send a panel of speakers and discussion leaders to discuss the Faith on the campus, the ATC Bulletin states. This request was the result of the visit of Charles Hornby, Peoria, Ill., to the Baha'i at the University. The school is an outgrowth of Lincoln Institute, founded after the Civil War by a group of white women for the freed Negroes of the community. It now is an integrated school serving all races.

The Bulletin for the South Central States gives the following information of local community activities: Hot Springs, Ark., now has a weekly study group each week; Kansas City, Mo., plans to achieve assembly status this Riqván; in Fort Smith, Ark., Mr. and Mrs. Winans mail a monthly calendar invitation to contacts, listing the subjects of weekly meetings; Rogers, Ark., reports lively firesides, a public meeting, and several radio broadcasts.

The group in Geneva, N.Y. reports through the Bulletin for the North Atlantic States that a local Baha'i spoke before a meeting of 50 women at Cornell University on April 15. During the year Geneva activities included three radio broadcasts over WGVA and two public meetings, as well as newspaper publicity and advertising.

Hamburg, N.Y. held a Youth Conference on March 31 and April 1. A total of 26 youth came from James-town, Lakewood, Buffalo, Eden, and Niagara Falls, and from Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana.

An Area Workshop Conference on Prayer and the Covenant was held at St. Louis, Mo., on June 16-17, the South Central States Bulletin announces. The booklets Institute on the Covenant and Administration and Do'a, The Call to Prayer were used in the round table discussions.

The Tennessee Valley States Area Bulletin states that a total of 35 firesides and four public meetings were held in Louisville, Ky., during the past year. In addition, the local Teaching Committee, working with teachers from Nashville, Tenn., have been doing extensive individual work.

The National Youth Committee will hold a Youth Conference at Green Acre Baha'i Institute, Eliot, Maine, on June 30 and July 1, preceding the opening of the summer season there. The first two weeks of the school will be "Youth Weeks," the New England States Area Bulletin reports.

The Stamford, Conn., community has planned picnics for June 10 and 24, July 8 and 22, to bring the friends together for study and fellowship.

Burlington, Vt., reports excellent publicity for their bi-monthly meetings through the newspapers and radio. Contacts have been gained through both mediums.

Window display at the Cleveland Trust Company, Euclid, Ohio, in observance of World Brotherhood Week, February 19-25. Baha'is throughout the country placed many similar displays in public places to proclaim the Baha'i principles for this occasion.
The Bulletin of the North Central States reports that Bahá'ís of the Black Hills Area have recently completed a study class on the Will and Testament, and are now beginning on the Kitáb-i-Iqán.

The Bahá'í World, Vol. XII, 1950-1954. Contains nearly 1,000 pages of text and over 300 illustrations including beautiful, four-color frontispiece of the Shrine of Báb and six large supplementary maps and charts, four in color. Covers the Bahá'í Holy Year and Jubilee events, dedication of the Bahá'í Temple in Wilmette, completion of the Shrine of the Báb, the Four Intercontinental Conferences, and many other of the most significant events in Bahá'í history. Bound in midnight blue.

Per copy (mailed within the U.S. or territories) $15.00
Per copy (mailed to any point outside the U.S.) $15.75

Bahá'í World Community Map. One of the supplementary maps from Bahá'í World XII available separately, showing countries opened to the Faith through April 1954. This map, clearly printed in black and red with bright red border and large heading “Bahá'í World Community,” will be very useful for display in Bahá'í Centers, in the home, and for window displays. Additional countries opened later can easily be printed in by hand for easy reference. Size 35 x 23 (mailed folded to 9 x 12).

Per Copy .................. $ .50
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National Bahá'í Addresses

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GUARDIAN'S SUPPLEMENTARY MESSAGE
TO THE FOUR AFRICA CONVENTIONS, APRIL 1956

At this historic hour, marking the opening of the third phase of the global Spiritual Crusade so courageously undertaken by the followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, I hail the convocation of the four epoch-making Bahá'í Conventions now being held in the African Continent.

My heart brims with joy and my soul is uplifted with thankfulness as I contemplate on this auspicious occasion, the magnificent feats which have been accomplished in recent years over the entire length and breadth of a rapidly quickening continent, feats which, in their range, number, quality and swiftness, have eclipsed the signal victories which have distinguished the campaigns successively launched in the Continent of Europe and in Latin America.

Continent Boasts Many Supporters

This vast, highly receptive, spiritually famished and long down-trodden continent—the nest of the Negro race, constituting so large a proportion of the world’s population—which was first opened, in an hour of trial and adversity, in the lifetime of Bahá'u'lláh; whose southern fringes were, during the last epoch of the Heroic Age of the Faith, illuminated by the rays of a divinely established Covenant; on whose northern shores the standard of Bahá'í emancipation has been hoisted and the struggle for the recognition of the independent character of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh has commenced—such a continent now boasts, by virtue of the dynamic influence exerted by a rising divinely conceived Order, and the propelling forces generated by a world-embracing, three-year-old Spiritual Crusade, over three thousand avowed supporters, five-sixths of whom belong to the Negro race, scattered throughout more than fifty territories and islands, and residing in over four hundred localities. Representatives of no less than one hundred and forty of its tribes have, moreover, enlisted under the banner of the Faith. Over a hundred and twenty Bahá'í local assemblies are already functioning throughout its territories. Into more than fifty of its indigenous languages Bahá'í literature has been and is being translated. The process of incorporating the newly formed local assemblies has furthermore been inaugurated. A National Administrative Headquarters has been established in each one of its four pivotal centers, while three Temple sites situated within its confines have been recently purchased, on one of which the Mother Temple of Africa is soon to be erected.

The Concourse on high cannot but laud such remarkable, soul-stirring exploits. The Captain, guiding from His throne of glory in the Abá' Kingdom the march of the army of Bahá'u'lláh’s Crusaders, undoubtedly applauds the fidelity, the valour, the zeal and the perseverance of the executors of His Design, while the Founder of the Faith Himself, the wellspring of the energizing influences nourishing the lives, and sustaining the activities, of these Crusaders, confers His benediction upon, and lays up treasures for, those who have so conspicuously contributed to the glory and honor of His Name.

I feel impelled, on so memorable an occasion, to pay a warm and heartfelt tribute to the Hand of the Cause appointed for the African Continent; to the members of the British, the American, the Persian, the Indian, the Egyptian and the Iraqi National Spiritual Assemblies; to the members of the African Auxiliary Board; to the numerous assemblies, committees and pioneers who, singly and collectively, contributed in such a large measure to the expansion of so colossal an enterprise, and who have had so decisive a share in directing its course, in stimulating its unfoldment, and in consolidating its foundations.

Assemblies Will Lend Impetus

I cannot but feel confident that the emergence of four regional National Spiritual Assemblies, as a result of the deliberations of the delegates attending these four Bahá'í Conventions—Assemblies designed to pave the way for the erection of the pillars which must support the future Universal House of Justice — will, by enabling the activities of the Faith to be directed and coordinated from within the Continent itself, lend a tremendous impetus to the progress and eventual fruition of the stupendous undertaking launched from coast to coast through the concerted and systematic efforts of the followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.
I call upon these Regional National Spiritual Assemblies to celebrate their birth, and signalize the opening of the third phase of this World Spiritual Crusade, through the formulation of four subsidiary Seven-Year Plans, designed to multiply the number of the avowed supporters of the Faith and of the isolated centers, groups and local Assemblies; to consolidate the work already achieved in the newly opened virgin territories within the confines of that Continent and in its neighboring islands; to initiate the institution of the National Bahá’í Fund; to stimulate the twin processes of establishing Bahá’í endowments and of incorporating local spiritual assemblies; to hasten the construction of the first Masjídu’-Adhkár of the African Continent; to ensure the establishment of the Bahá’í Publishing Trust in Egypt; and to speed up the translation of Bahá’í literature into the remaining African languages listed in the Ten Year Plan, as well as the incorporation of the newly formed Regional National Spiritual Assemblies.

Lend Continued Support

I appeal to the British, the American, the Persian, the Indian, the Egyptian and the Iraqi National Spiritual Assemblies, who have set in motion these vast undertakings, not to abandon these fledgling African Bahá’í communities to their fate, but to lend their support and assistance to the newly emerged Regional National Spiritual Assemblies, enriching thereby the record of the superb and historic services rendered by them, throughout that continent, to its diversified peoples, tribes and races.

May the manifold blessings of Bahá’u’l-Bahá, glorifying in His Kingdom the African victories won in His Name in such rapid succession, rest upon the deliberations of all the delegates attending these four history-making Conventions. May the combined efforts of the faithful, laboring now and in the days that lie ahead, yield, in the years to come, a harvest which will infinitely enable the record of unforgettable achievements associated with the rise of the Faith of Bahá’u’l-Bahá and the establishment of His World Order in the African Continent.

—Shoghi

April, 1956

Dear Bahá’í Friends:

The beloved Guardian on June 22 cabled the NSA: “Fervently praying great victories (on) home front. Appeal (to) entire community (to) arise, participate (and) insure attainment (of) goals.”

His prayer for great victories, and his appeal, are not directed primarily to Assemblies and Committees but to every individual Bahá’í. Shoghi Effendi has brought all of us within the realm of his spiritual influence, and made each one of us responsible for participation and assuring success in winning the goals set for the home front.

Bahá’í institutions have their essential and important functions to carry out, for example in defining particular goals for a particular period, coordinating the efforts of individual Bahá’ís, of communities and of groups, and supplying both information and material; but it is the resolution of individual Bahá’ís which endows the institutions with power to act.

Of what does the home front work consist? What are the goals to attain? (1) Restoration of dissolved Assemblies or substitution of new goals in the same States; (2) bringing to Assembly status by April 21, 1957, as many groups as possible; (3) increasing the number of enrollments by all local Assemblies and Area Teaching Committees.

What methods are employed? Area conferences; circuit teaching; pioneering; extension teaching; intensified local teaching by communities and groups.

What materials are available and helpful? Releases by Bahá’í Press Service for the observance of the selected Special Events for 1956-1957; Bahá’í Summer School courses, discussions and research; National and Area Teaching Committee bulletins; Bahá’í literature for study and for free distribution; and the Institute book on The Covenant and Administration which the National Spiritual Assembly has urged all Assemblies to use this year for community study and discussion, to deepen the understanding of fundamental Bahá’í teachings and to derive strength and resolution for ardent service to the Faith.

Among the materials special attention is called at this time to the pamphlet The Power of the Covenant which the National Assembly has compiled and is sending to every American Bahá’í with a letter setting forth its meaning and purpose. Copies are also being sent to pioneers in posts outside the United States.

Now let us recall with awe the fateful words written by the beloved Guardian in his letter dated July 28, 1954, issued as an insert in Bahá’í News under the title “American Bahá’ís In The Time of World Peril.”

“The administrative agencies of a divinely conceived Administrative Order at long last erected and relatively perfected stand in dire need of the individual believer to come forward and utilize them with undeviating purpose, serene confidence and exemplary dedication. The heart of the Guardian cannot but leap with joy, and his mind derive inspiration, at every evidence testifying to the response of the individual to his allotted task. The unseen legions, standing rank upon rank, and eager to pour forth from the Kingdom on high the full measure of their celestial strength on the individual participants of the incomparably glorious Crusade, are powerless unless and until each potential crusader decides for himself, and perseveres in his determination, to rush into the arena of service ready to sacrifice his all for the Cause he is called upon to champion.”

Where else outside His Faith is there a promise so overpowering, a reinforcement so assured, a reward so glorious as the Guardian offered us in these challenging words?

—National Spiritual Assembly
STATUS OF BAHÁ'ÍS IN IRÁN REVEALED

(The following summary has been made of the principal items recently received from authentic sources.)

1. Local and National Bahá'í Properties

Orders were issued some months ago by the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior that the Bahá'í administrative centers throughout the provinces were to be restored to their Bahá'í caretakers, but this action was made contingent on assurance from the Bahá'í caretakers that these properties would not be used for Bahá'í meetings. Moreover, of the eighty properties seized by the government last year only thirteen have been turned back to the Bahá'í owners. The reason for non-action in the case of the remaining sixty-seven Bahá'í properties is that civil officials disapproving the order have so far failed to carry it out.

In this connection the Bahá'í International Community emphasizes the fact that the severe conditions imposed upon the custodians of the thirteen local properties continue the policy of deliberate effort to extirpate the Bahá'í Faith in Irán.

As for the large and imposing national Bahá'í Center in Tihrán, whose beautiful dome was destroyed in 1955, this building is still occupied by the Military as their official headquarters.

2. Harsh Penalties Imposed on Individual Bahá'ís

That it is still illegal to accept and practice the tenets of the Bahá'í Faith in Irán is demonstrated by these specific instances:

A. Bahá'ís employed in government departments including the Ministry of Roads, the Ministry of Post and Telegraph and the Ministry of Education are dismissed from service or suspended. These employees are compelled to fill out a Personnel Card which calls for their religious affiliation, and those who name Bahá'í as their religion are severely penalized.

B. In Tihrán alone several score Bahá'ís work as bus drivers, conductors or ticket collectors. The private bus companies are uniting as a joint corporation under government supervision. Their employees are now obliged to fill out a form which provides a blank for their religious affiliation. Here, likewise, the Bahá'ís are being dismissed from their jobs.

C. While Iránian Bahá'ís are denied freedom of speech and access to the press, their fanatical enemies are allowed complete liberty to publish false accusations, calumnies and insults concerning the Bahá'í Faith and the Bahá'í community. There is no tribunal to which the Bahá'ís can appeal and submit their evidence and proof. The Iránian Bahá'ís are actually "stateless people," "untouchables" as it were, in a country which has officially registered its acceptance of the principles upheld by United Nations.

D. The police have been ordered by the Ministry of the Interior to prevent the Bahá'ís from observing their Holy Days. In some localities Bahá'í shopkeepers are not permitted to close their shops on these days, an unprecedented restriction.

E. Tragic to state, Bahá'í children attending schools in some parts of Irán are subjected to ridicule and contempt by their classmates. Is it from their teachers and school superintendents that Muslim children are instigated to join the persecutors of the Iránian Bahá'ís? For religious prejudice is not innate in the soul of man—it is always the result of indoctrination.

3. Economic Penalties

Our information discloses an intolerable condition for Bahá'ís in their business affairs, a condition approaching the appalling crime of genocide.

For example, in a village not far from Isfahan where there are some two hundred or more Bahá'í adults and their children, the Islamic mullahs prevent all other villagers from conducting customary commercial transactions with Bahá'ís. The government-operated oil stations will not sell them oil for heat and light. Non-Bahá'ís collect debts from Bahá'ís, but Bahá'ís cannot collect debts from others.

Bahá'í farms and orchards are not safe from depredation. The police collaborate with those who instigate mobs to overrun Bahá'í farms and orchards. The local bank gives no credit to Bahá'í firms.

National Spiritual Assembly
PRAY FOR OUR SUFFERING BRETHREN IN IRAN, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ASKS

The National Spiritual Assembly, deeply moved by the oppressive conditions still suffered by the Baha'is in Iran, invites the believers throughout the United States to unite in prayers to Baha'u'llah for the removal of their burdens and the achievement of their spiritual freedom and rights.

May our hearts be imbued with loving concern for these fellow-believers residing in the land where the Faith of God was first proclaimed, the Bab was cruelly slain, Baha'u'llah was imprisoned and the blood of the martyrs was poured forth in sacrifice to consecrate their souls to God.

That the land of Persia, and the city of Tehran, have a special destiny to fulfill in this Promised Day was attested by Baha'u'llah in Gleanings, pages 196, 219, 305, 104, 110, 120, and 228.

In order to set a definite time and an appropriate occasion for this nation-wide prayer, the National Spiritual Assembly designates the Nineteen Day Feast of August 20, celebrated between sunset on August 19 and sunset on August 20. As to the prayer or prayers, the Tablet of Ahmad is suggested, but the selection is left to the discretion of the friends in each community or group.

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

28 STATES RECOGNIZE BAHAI MARRIAGES

Up to April 21, 1956, a total of 28 States (including Territories of Alaska and Hawaii, and the District of Columbia) have recognized the authority of one or more local Assemblies to conduct a legal Bahai marriage. All incorporated Assemblies which have not received this authority are expected to apply for it so that Bahai's in the vicinity may have a Bahai ceremony.

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

EXPLAIN PROVISIONS FOR TAX DEDUCTIONS

Acting on the recommendation of the Forty-Eighth Annual Convention, the National Spiritual Assembly has prepared the following summary of income tax considerations related to contributions and bequests to the Bahai Faith.

Under the federal income tax provisions, a citizen can deduct from his income the amount he has donated to religious and other recognized humanitarian bodies up to a total of 30 per cent of his income for the year. Thus, donations to the National Bahai Fund or to the treasurer of a local Assembly give the benefit of this deduction to the Bahai taxpayer. Donations to a religious body located outside the United States are not deductible.

While state statutes differ in regard to bequests, and an attorney should be consulted in preparation of a will and testament by a Bahai, federal estate taxes exempt religious bequests, and most if not all states also exempt them from inheritance taxes up to a certain proportion of the estate. It is very important in providing for a Bahai bequest to designate very accurately the religious character of the body receiving the bequest. For example: "National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of the United States, the national administrative body of the Bahai religion in the United States, whose principal office is located at Wilmette, County of Cook, Illinois."

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

UNITED NATIONS DAY

All local Assemblies wishing to join in the nation-wide observance of United Nations Day on October 24, 1956, are requested to appoint a member of the Assembly or community to serve as U.N. Day Correspondent so that information and materials prepared by this Committee may be forwarded without delay. Please send the name and address of the Correspondent to the following address before August 20, 1956:

Mrs. Lee Blackwell
30 Grace Avenue
Great Neck, L.I., N.Y

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Newly acquired Haziratu'l-Quds of the National Spiritual Assembly of Canada at Toronto, purchased on May 10, 1956. The dedication ceremonies will be held on September 30.
Europe
CEREMONIES DEDICATE HAZIRATU’L-QUDS AT THE HAGUE


When they entered the rooms, all were deeply moved by the beauty which met their gaze. The sun streamed through the windows, and great branches of Japanese cherry blossoms overhung the scene, giving the atmosphere the breathless quality of Spring.

Huge bowls of tulips, every species imaginable, were placed on tables, the floor, and the mantel. At the speaker’s table a low, wide-spread floral arrangement of sweet peas filled the air with fragrance.

Opening Greetings

The dedication services opened with a greeting from Mr. Beets, expressing gratitude for the presence of so many who had come so far, and for the lovely gifts and flowers. He greeted especially the Hand of the Cause of God, Dr. Herman Grossmann, who had so graciously accepted the invitation to speak on this special occasion.

The recorded music of a Bach Brandenburg Concerto filled the room, while the singing of the birds through the open windows mingled with the melodic beauty of the Concerto.

Special prayers and readings from the Bahá’í Writings were read in French, German, and Dutch.

Then Dr. Grossmann arose, and with his face beaming with love, spoke of the great significance of this building. He said that these Haziratu’l-Quds are buildings made of brick, made by man, but nevertheless they are different.

Significance of Center

“They are institutions given by God through the mouth of the Manifestation. That is why they are different from other buildings. But the Spirit can only come into this building if we are ready to accept the fact that these Haziratu’l-Quds are buildings different from other buildings... and it is our responsibility to see that they are different.

“There are few Bahá’ís in the world compared to other groups. But these few are known throughout the world to be different. If Bahá’ís do something, it is different than if others do... for the shortcomings of others are taken naturally, but the public expects Bahá’ís to be perfect. This gives a tremendous responsibility to every believer. In this same way, even Haziratu’l-Quds are different from other buildings!”

Center Is First Step

He spoke of the fact that “This building was the beginning of the realization of the establishment of our own national body, and that it would depend upon our own efforts as to how long it would take. The acquisition of the Haziratu’l-Quds is the first step. Bahá’ís know this, but to the public it is our National Center. So at present we must not think it is only a small building in The Hague. It is different. The non-Bahá’í world expects the Bahá’ís to make it a real Bahá’í Center.

“There are many many people in the world who expect Bahá’ís to save humanity. We shall enter this house in the proper spirit and dedicate our knowledge and love for the sake of humanity, because God wishes this.”

Dr. Grossmann related in detail the many interesting stories in connection with the purchase of the temple site in Germany. One of the clergy had said, “Christianity is in danger because 600 Bahá’ís are building a temple!”

Professor Zeine-Zeine followed Dr. Grossmann to the speaker’s table. He apologized in his charming way for presuming to add “his footnote.

Bahá’ís attending the Italo-Swiss Convention held in Bern, Switzerland, April 28-30, 1956.
talk to the so-inspiring one of Dr. Grossmann."

Meaning of Hazratu'l-Quds

He also spoke of the fact that these Hazratu'l-Quds are buildings different from other buildings. He said, "Hazira in Arabic would mean an enclosure to keep sheep, or to protect them from wolves. El-Quds means sanctified, a spiritual fortress. That is the spirit in which we should enter these buildings, and we should give thanks to all those who have made it possible."

He quoted 'Abdu'l-Bahá: "Lift up your heads above the present; look with eyes of faith into the future. Rejoice and be glad that this day is here. Try to realize its power. God has crowned you with honor. Verily, the light thereof shall brighten the whole world."

The dedication services closed with prayers. The last note of beauty came when the sweet strains of a girl filled the air with its melody.

—ELEANOR HOLLIBAUGH

Western Hemisphere

EVERY GOAL OPENED,
WHTC ANNOUNCES

Another victory of the World Crusade has been achieved with the recent announcement of the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee that every virgin goal in the Western Hemisphere has been opened to the Bahá’í Faith.

"The army of pioneers has helped to make these new conquests for Bahá'u'lláh," the Committee's publication, The Crusader, states. "Today, the army in the Western Hemisphere stands at 140 pioneers and 3 youths."

"With each passing month, the army grows. The prayers of the Guardian and the new victories are releasing a new sense of dedication, new ideas, and new actions."

Other World Crusade achievements include an increase of 150% in the number of local Spiritual Assemblies in Alaska, and a total of 13 newly formed local Assemblies throughout the Western Hemisphere, as follows: Key West, Florida, 1; Alaska, 2; Antilles, 2; South America, 3; and Central America, 7.

Statistics on the growth of the Faith in South America will be found on page 13 of this issue of Bahá’í News.

In the area under the jurisdiction of the National Spiritual Assembly of Central America, including the Antilles, the following cities elected new local Assemblies on April 21, 1956: David, Panama; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; La Lima, Honduras; Santa Ana, El Salvador; El Quiche, Guatemala; Monterrey, Mexico; St. Marc and Cap Haitien, Haiti; and Hamilton, Bermuda.

There are now 30 local Spiritual Assemblies and 13 groups in Central America and the Antilles.

Pioneer Letters

The Crusader has published a selection of letters from these pioneers that reflects the dedication and faith of these servants of Bahá'u'lláh, excerpted as follows:

The Neffs, Guatemala

"It is difficult to put into words our deep thankfulness to Bahá'u'lláh for being allowed this blessed privilege of serving in this way. We felt extremely useless at first, but then Bahá'u'lláh gave us the opportunity every Saturday afternoon to teach English for one hour to a new believer and his family, and then the Bahá'í Faith for one hour. How did we do it, knowing only a half dozen Spanish words? Simple, when God shows you how.

"They wanted to teach us Spanish for the English lessons, so — an inspiration on high — together we would read aloud the Spanish edi-

First Local Spiritual Assembly of Monterrey, Mexico, formed on April 21, 1956.
Rezsi Sunshine, Bolivia

"I am happy . . . the doors to the teaching are open: radio stations, newspapers, etc. I am busy almost every moment. There are officially two public meetings at my house a week, all advertised in newspapers and on the radio. Besides this, I give private lessons in homes, for those who cannot come to the meetings. And there are the Indians. I am to visit four villages of Indians once every week, give English lessons free, and teach the Faith.

"Let me assure you of this: I would not exchange one hour of my pioneering in Bolivia for a year of all that the Queen of England's pomp and glory can offer."

Ruth Yancey, Honduras

"Any doubts which I may have entertained before my arrival have been completely erased. This is the most wonderful experience in my life, and I can't thank Bahá'u'lláh enough for granting me the privilege of contributing some infinitesimal part to this Great Spiritual Drama."

Asia

ENROLL MANY BELIEVERS IN PACIFIC ISLANDS

Through the Asian Teaching Committee of Central America we have received interesting news of the progress of the teaching work in the Pacific Islands under their supervision.

In the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, opened by the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fernie in March 1954, 123 native believers have enrolled. Four local Spiritual Assemblies were elected on April 21 this year, and five groups have been formed. The local Spiritual Assembly of Tuarabo is officially registered and recognized by the British Colonial Government.

Mrs. Fernie and the first Gilbertese believer, Mr. Peter Kanere, have almost completed translating a collection of the Bahá'í prayers, Hidden Words, and excerpts from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Additional pioneers are urgently needed to help with the teaching work.

The Marshall Islands, vacated for several months when it became necessary for Mrs. Marcia Stewart Atwater to leave, now have another Bahá'í pioneer in the person of Mrs. Betty Klaas, a believer from Honolulu.

The Tuamotu Archipelago, where the famous raft "Kon Tiki" ended its adventurous voyage on the coral reefs of the Island of Raroia, now claims three native believers. They, together with the Bahá'í pioneer, Mr. Jean Sevin, are actively teaching in some one hundred of four hundred islands in this South Pacific group.

—Asia Teaching Committee

HONG KONG PIONEERS

REPORT ACTIVITIES

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Y. Seto, American pioneers in Hong Kong, have sent a very interesting report of their activities during the first six months of this year, which is summarized as follows:

As a result of a series of informal meetings, firesides and study classes, four new Bahá'ís were enrolled, bringing the community membership to twelve, two of whom were under the age of twenty-one years. Thus, it was possible to form the first local Spiritual Assembly of Hong Kong this year.

Mrs. Seto has made many fine contacts for the Faith through her activities with the United Nations Association. She was chairman of one of their public meetings during UN Week in October, and was asked to serve as chairman of its social committee. A tea given by Mr. and Mrs. Seto in January for a number of the Association members turned into a complete Bahá'í meeting at which Mrs. Seto spoke of the Faith and presented pamphlets to all of the guests. She was later requested to record this talk for possible broadcast over the local radio.

On April 7 the Setos were guests at another tea given by one of the members of the United Nations Association who is very prominent in musical circles, and on April 24 were among the thirty guests at a dinner given by the Treasurer of the Association in his home. Among them were prominent business men, a professor of Hong Kong University, the Commissioner for India, and several women prominent in the cultural life of Hong Kong.

Mrs. Seto is also a member of the Hong Kong Council of Women, a non-political organization consisting of women of different nationalities, all very interested in world affairs.

The report concludes with the statement that Bahá'í literature has been presented to the head of the Department of Oriental Studies of Hong Kong University, who received it with warm appreciation and the assurance that it would be read with great interest.

—Asia Teaching Committee
For Christian Contacts

by George Townshend

The following article, taken from the Bahá’í Journal, published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the British Isles presents a point of view of interest to Christians as well as Bahá’ís.

No Christian objection to the claims of Baha’u’llah is made more commonly or more confidently than the statement that the Revelation of Jesus Christ is final and absolute, that the Spirit of Truth came at Pentecost or that Christ is the ‘Promised One of All Ages’, the ‘Lord of Hosts’, and the object of all the great titles, ‘the mighty God’, ‘the everlasting Father’, ‘the Prince of Peace’, and the rest in Isaiah ix, 6, and that therefore there is no need or room for a further revelation or a new prophet, whether Baha’u’llah or any other.

But no objection is more easily refuted from the pages of the Bible itself than is this. The followers of every world religion (except that of Baha’u’llah) claim finality: without being able to give any proof of it. Christ, however, says positively, ‘Other things I have to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now,’ thus revealing in one breath that His teaching is neither final nor absolute, but is measured to the capacity of the hearer, and that more is to follow. There is nothing in history to indicate either that the Spirit of Truth spoke to the disciples at Pentecost or that the Christian Churches have since then been guided unto all truth.

Christ Himself never made the assertion that He was the ‘Promised One of All Ages’ or ‘the Lord of Hosts’; nor did any of the apostles, nor indeed is it to be found in the Bible. Peter’s mighty declaration of faith on which the Christian Church is built (Matthew xvi, 16) is simply that ‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God’.

Furthermore, Jesus expressly denied that He was the ‘Prince of Peace’ when he said (Matthew x, 34), ‘Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword’. He denied that ‘the government shall be upon His shoulder . . . to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice, from henceforth even for ever’ (Isaiah ix, 6-7) when He said (John xviii, 36) ‘My kingdom is not of this world’. He disclaimed that He was the ‘everlasting Father’ when He said ‘my Father is greater than I’ (John xiv, 28) or that He was ‘the mighty God’ when He affirmed that ‘God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son’ (John iii, 16). Yet again, Moses’ great prophecy in Deuteronomy xxviii, 63-68; xxx, 1-6 makes it plain that Jesus Christ is not to be identified with him whom Isaiah described in ix, 6-7, for when the Restorer of the Jews came to earth Moses predicted He would find that the kingdom of the Jews had been utterly destroyed in Palestine, that it had been plucked out of the land, and that the Jewish people for their sins and crimes had for long ages been scattered in misery and degradation among the nations of the earth. Then, Moses continued, the Lord would regather His ancient people in compassion, as soon as they had learned to believe in the one true God, would establish them in peace, prosperity and honour in the home of their forefathers for ever. But when Jesus Christ appeared in Palestine the Jews were still settled securely in the country. Their scattering did not begin till after the fall of Jerusalem in the year A.D. 70.

It is in the Bahá’í Era, not the Christian, that Moses’ prophecy of the restoration of the Jews is being fulfilled. The year 1844 is an important date in the progress of the emancipation of the Jews and their regathering into Palestine. It is the date of the great ‘Declaration of Independence’. The Jews ever since have been in the process of their restoration, which will be completed, as Moses foretold, when they have learned to accept Baha’u’llah as their true Messiah.

All these commonly made objections to the Faith of Baha’u’llah are merely human traditions which it is impious to accept when they contradict the word of God itself.
From this fantastic delusion that Christ Jesus is not only the Son of
God but also the Father in heaven has flowed another consequence, not
the less mortal, perhaps, because it is often overlooked altogether by
both pew and pulpit.

It has secularized human history
for centuries past, and has materi-
alized and demoralized the whole at-
omosphere of Western action.

The way in which such a result has
come about is as follows:

The Old Testament reveals human
history as being concerned not only
with Man but with Man and God too;
and with God as no secondary figure.
God is the creator, man his creature;
God is master and man his servant;
God is all dominant, man has to
learn to obey and submit.

These two figures are bound to-
gether by the terms of an inescap-
able covenant which really consti-
tutes the shaping, directing, driving
force of all history. It enshrines a
promise that God will one day give
to mankind the supreme blessedness
of a redeemer who shall be the ever-
lasting Father, the mighty God,
on the performance of certain
conditions.

We are shown through the prophets
of Israel definite glimpses of what
the Kingdom will be like—glimpses
of something which has really al-
ready happened in the eternal world,
but which has not taken form on
earth yet. A Bible Prophecy (of, say,
Isaiah's) is not merely a prediction;
it is a true vision of something quite
real which the prophet's seership en-
ables him to oversee.

When Jesus, the Son of God, is
identified with the Father the Coven-
ant is fulfilled. The Great One
promised is come. The Covenant has
no longer a place in the progress of
mankind. History begins to follow a
new principle. In the time of Moses
and of Christ there was among all true
monotheists only one kind of history.
God through his Covenant designed
and carried out the destinies of man.
Now in this Christian era there ap-
ppears another kind of history. The
dictionary distinguishes "sacred his-
tory", which deals with the events
in the Bible narrative, from "secular
history", which deals with events
since Bible times. In "secular his-
tory" the Covenant is dropped. God
is no longer dominant, acting the
major part of the story as all-power-
ful, the judge and arbiter of men and
kings and nations. God is no longer
the omniscient, the omnipotent de-
signer of events and of their out-
come; He is no longer the jealous,
watchful overlord, the King of kings
who rewards or punishes his vassals,
condemns them or acquits, deposes
or exalts according to His own will
and determination. On the contrary,
events are estimated on a purely hu-
man basis. Kings, governments and
statesmen no longer seek to act and
live according to the Covenant. The
fear of God has disappeared as a de-
territor from wrong action. The his-
torians of Christendom write on the
same basis as did those of Greece
and Rome; as Herodotus or Livy or
Tacitus, Edward Gibbon or Macau-
lay, Grote and Lecky and the rest,
with the world historians and the na-
tional historians and continental his-
torians—all treat history as a merely
secular affair. None of them is able
to see any meaning or plot or pro-
gress in the pattern of human hap-
penings. Some of them confess and
comment on this inability. "I can
see", says one of the most learned of
them all, H. A. L Fisher, in his His-
tory of Europe, "only one emergency
following upon another as wave fol-
loes upon wave, only one great fact
with respect to which there can be no
generalizations, only one safe note
for the historians; that he should rec-
novize in the development of human
destinies the play of the contingent
and the unforeseen".

And religious history and church
history—are they not from the Coven-
ant point of view, secularized too?

The broad result has been that not
only the Covenant but the role of God
himself has disappeared from mod-
ern history. For all who read in
schools and college the works of his-
torians, life is secularized.

Meantime the Covenant of God pro-
ceeds upon its course as declared by
the Bible. Mankind moves upon his
appointed road towards the King-
dom. Unseen by the secular his-
torian, and by every reader who ac-
cepts his point of view, Jesus Christ
is succeeded by Muḥammad, Muḥam-
dad by the Bāb, the Bāb by the Lord
of Hosts, the Everlasting Father him-
self; and Christendom at last has
come to a dead end and finds itself
lost. No secular historian can explain
the crisis or bring comfort. Sacred
history alone can solve the enigma.
The Bible holds the key. But the only
people who can trace the real course
of the Covenant are those who (as the
Bābīs) have not misidentified Christ
with the Father, but in simple
Faith have regarded all history as
sacred history, as ruled by the ever-
lasting covenant, as designed, di-
rected and controlled by the change-
less will of the one omniscient and
omnipotent God who is the creator of
all and the Master of all.
Australia, New Zealand

PROGRESS CITED IN ANNUAL REPORT

The National Spiritual Assembly of Australia and New Zealand has summarized activities for 1955-1956 in their Annual Reports, which includes the following excerpts of special interest:

"The National Spiritual Assembly deeply appreciates the sacrifices made both in the teaching and in the administrative field, and brings before the friends the increasing need to arise with still greater fervour to meet the burden of the ever-increasing tasks of the Ten-Year Crusade.

"There are 103 Baha'i centers, including 17 Assemblies, 41 Groups, and 45 isolated believers.

"The sum of $1000 was donated by Mrs. Amelia Collins, Hand of the Cause of God, for the purchase of a Baha'i endowment in New Zealand.

"The goal islands of Cocos and Loyalty were achieved during the year, though the pioneers were able to remain only a short time in the area.

"The Baha'i community of Suva, Fiji, found itself in the unique position of being able to register its Assembly as a Religious Body. It has been found possible to incorporate in Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia, Queensland, and finally, a favourable report on New South Wales possibilities may open the way to incorporation in that State.

"A request by Shoghi Effendi that increased assistance be given to the New Zealand friends resulted in four visiting teachers going to New Zealand from October to and including March 1956.

"After much preliminary effort a number of our 14 (goal) languages have been translated, and preparation made to obtain some of the remaining translations.

"Upon the instruction of Shoghi Effendi a committee is to be formed to deal with contact work with Australian native people. A similar committee is to be established to contact the Maori people of New Zealand."

Goals

Progress in spreading the Faith has been reported in the following virgin goals: New Hebrides, Society, Mentawai, Portuguese Timor, Ad- mirality, Loyalty, and Cocos Islands; and in the following consolidation goals: New Caledonia, Bismark Archipelago, Papua, and Fiji Islands.

Translations have been made into the following languages: Kusaie (two prayers and the pamphlet produced by the American Indian Service Committee), Lifu (Principles of the Faith), Marquesas (the French pamphlet L'Appel Mondial de Bahá'u'lláh), Mentawai (The Bahá'í Faith), Mwala, Niue, Tonga (The Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, Descendant of Abraham), and Samoan. Bahá'í literature has also been translated into these extra languages: Roviana, Pidgin English, Tahitian, Nias, and Tapu anu.

In South Australia Naracoorte, Pt. Pirie, Salisbury, Lobethal, Tanunda, Kadina, Wallaroo, and Berri have been named goal cities.

New Plymouth and Wellington are goal cities in New Zealand.

Goal cities in New South Wales include Bathurst, Glen Innes, Nowra, Maitland, Griffith, Liverpool, Tamworth, Gosford, and Paramatta.

POST-CONVENTION INSTITUTE HELD AT SYDNEY

Bahá'í Bulletin, published by the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia and New Zealand, gives details of a post-Convention Teaching Institute conducted by the Regional Teaching Committee for New South Wales, held at the Hazratu'l-Quds in Sydney.

Purpose of the Institute was to deepen the knowledge of the Faith, and to stimulate interest by the exchange of ideas.


WORDS OF WISDOM

The essence of wisdom is the fear of God, the dread of His scourge and the apprehension of His justice and decrees.

BWF, 140
NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH WEST AFRICA FORMED AT CONVENTION IN TUNIS

The first convention of the Bahá’ís of North West Africa, held in the city of Tunis April 3 to May 1, 1956, brought together seventy delegates and visitors from twenty-five territories in North and West Africa to elect the first National Spiritual Assembly of North West Africa and to establish yet another pillar for the erection of the future Universal House of Justice.

Mr. Enoch Olinga, Convention Secretary, has prepared a very full report from which the following highlights have been gleaned.

Mr. 'Abdu'l-Rahim Yazdi, chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of Egypt and Sudan (now included in the National Spiritual Assembly of North East Africa) welcomed the delegates and the revered Hand of the Cause in Africa, Mr. Musa Banání, who was present as the Guardian’s special representative.

The opening prayers were read in Persian, English, and Ateso, and throughout the entire convention the business was conducted in Arabic, French, Persian, English, and Spanish. Miss Elsie Austin served as convention chairman and Mr. Enoch Olinga as convention secretary.

Message From Guardian

As in all Bahá’í conventions, the high point was the message from the Guardian. “While still swimming in the sea of joy, of delight and happiness there came what appeared to be a thunderbolt which... produced a splendor of light and showed the assembled delegates what lay in their path.” This was the Guardian’s special supplementary message addressed to all four of the African conventions, published on page 1 of this issue of Bahá’í News. After expressing his joy and thankfulness for “the magnificent feats which have been accomplished in recent years... over this highly receptive, spiritually famished and long down-trodden continent—the nest of the Negro race,” the Guardian called upon the new-born Regional National Spiritual Assemblies to “signalize the opening of the third phase of the World Crusade” through the formulation of subsidiary Seven-Year Plans whose nine objectives he clearly defined, and on which the delegates were to concentrate their deliberations.

In his speech, the Hand of the Cause, Mr. Banání, urged all the delegates to ponder carefully the message of the Guardian “and to translate all their gratitude to him in action”, by the rededication of themselves and the sacrifice of their comforts “for the further spiritual attainments which had placed the blessed continent in the forefront of the teaching work from the very start of the world-girdling spiritual drama launched by the entire Bahá’í World Community.” Later in the convention, each of the friends were appointed by Mr. Banání with attar of rose sent to him by the Guardian for this special purpose.

Progress of Faith

Messages of greetings and best wishes came from many countries, local Spiritual Assemblies, committees and individuals. The delegates gave stirring accounts of the progress of, and the difficulties confronting, the Faith in their respective localities, and “fact-finding” committees were appointed to furnish information and to open the consultation on various objectives called for in the Guardian’s letter. On the second day a message was cabled to the Guardian pledging the resolve of the delegates to “exert utmost (effort) (to) execute (the) said (objectives)” expressed in the Guardian’s convention message. To this came the prompt reply: “Deeply appreciate resolve delegates. Supplicating abundant blessings discharge be fittingly responsibilities attain goals plan. Deepest love.”

The election of the National Spiritual Assembly, the thrilling and exciting purpose of the convention, resulted in the election of the following members: Mr. Enoch Olinga, Miss Elsie Austin, Mr. S. Ghadimi, Mr. William Foster, Mr. Mustapha Bouchoucha, Mr. S. Riad Ruhani, Miss Valerie Wilson, Mr. Rowshan Mustapha, and Mr. Khamiri. At the first meeting of this newly formed institution, the following officers were elected: Chairman, Miss Elsie Austin; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Mus­ tapha Bouchoucha; Secretary, Mr. Rowshan Mustapha; Treasurer, Mr. S. Ghadimi.

Recommendations of Committees

Each of the six committees appointed to report and make recommendations to the delegates for consultation addressed itself to one or more of the nine objectives set forth in the Guardian’s convention message to the four African conventions. These included consideration of the manner in which to in-

Delegates and visitors attending the First National Convention of the Bahá’ís of North West Africa at Tunis.
corporate the newly formed National Assembly, opening the remaining virgin territories, translations, teaching, pioneering, means for reaching the most difficult areas, and the inauguration of a National Fund. The last-named subject was introduced by a committee that reported that "probably the only news they had to tell the convention" was their own contributions to the Fund. This shining example of devotion and sacrifice "produced such a tremendously reverberating effect" that "tears streamed as donations rained on the table," including precious jewelry and pieces of rich cloth.

Among the special recommendations made by the delegates was that of the amount contributed, one-fourth be earmarked for the erection of the Temple in Kampala and one-tenth for the African Continental Fund.

The problem of literature received much consultation and it was recommended that a special committee be appointed to study the needs of the different communities and to prepare literature suited to the particular needs of the various localities.

Methods of Teaching

The committee on teaching recommended that Bahá’í literature be translated immediately into all five major languages of that part of the continent, with priority being given to Spanish; that the new National Assembly help new believers to overcome their fears of persecution by supplying them with information about the persecutions of the early supporters of the Faith and of other religions, as well as with current news of persecutions of Bahá’ís in other territories. Itinerant teaching, special study classes for prospective pioneers, and the establishment of social and cultural activities as well as classes in sewing, reading, and writing were recommended as ways of increasing teaching opportunities and activities.

In consultation on the problems encountered by some of the pioneers a number of very practical ideas evolved as to how they might achieve permanent settlement on a self-supporting basis.

Throughout the entire convention the delegates concentrated their every thought on "ways and means through which they could fulfill the wishes which the beloved Guardian cherished for the spread of the Faith on the continent." As they parted for their homes they carried in their hearts the Guardian’s assurance that the "combined efforts of the faithful" would be aided by "the manifold blessings of Bahá’u’lláh" to produce "in the years to come, a harvest which will infinitely ennoble the record of unforgettable achievement associated with the rise of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh and the establishment of His Word in the African Continent."

Central America

HAVANA CONVENTION TERMED GREAT SUCCESS

The Sixth Annual Convention of the Bahá’ís of Central America, Mexico, and the Antilles was held in the Hotel Plaza at Havana, Cuba, from April 22 to 26, 1956, and was very successful.

This report is contained in Bahá’í News of Central America, published by the National Spiritual Assembly of Central America.

A total of 33 Bahá’ís were present, including delegates and visitors, as well as members of the Havana community.

The outstanding events of the Convention included the following:

2. Report of the National Assembly stating the activities carried out during 1955-1956, of which the following are cited: (a) The purchase of eight Haíratu’l-Quds and nine National Endowments in these countries: Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. (b) Establishment of nine new local Spiritual Assemblies. (c) The announcement that nine new pioneers have arisen during the year. (d) Establishment of four Assemblies and five groups in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.
3. Election of the new National Spiritual Assembly.
4. Commemoration of the Feast of Qíyán, when the new Haíratu’l-Quds of Havana was officially inaugurated.
5. Public conference.
6. Special publicity in Cien Fuegos, Cuba, including visits to the offices of the two daily newspapers, the city authorities, the Chamber of Commerce, and the site of the National Endowment there.
South America

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
LISTS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

The Annual Report of the National Spiritual Assembly of South America, summarizing the accomplishments of the past year, includes many items of international interest. Excerpts from the Report follow:

The work done by the members of the Auxiliary Board to the American Hands of the Cause is gaining importance, and the fruits of their visits to the Bahá'í communities and groups of the South American continent may be seen in increased enthusiasm and dedication to the teaching work. Margot Worley, Gayle Woolson, Katherine McLaughlin, and William deForge visited a total of 44 localities under the jurisdiction of this National Assembly.

Publications

The following publications were made during the year: In Spanish, The Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'í—A World Faith, Prophecies Fulfilled, What Is The Bahá'í Faith, Spiritual Resolution of Social and Economic Problems, Kitáb-i-Iqán, Norms of Bahá'í Administration, and Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era; In Portuguese, Renewal of Civilization. The following books in Spanish are in the process of revision: Bahá'í Prayers, Bahá'í Proofs, and Gleanings. The books Kitáb-i-Iqán and Norms of Bahá'í Administration are being translated into Portuguese.

Translations

The pamphlet The Coming of the Messengers of God was translated and published in Quechua; another pamphlet, The Bahá'í Faith, has been translated into Quechua and will be published soon. The Coming of the Messengers of God has been translated into Aymara and will be published soon. Basic Facts About The Bahá'í Faith was translated and published in Meraí in the Cook Islands, and a prayer book is being translated into that language.

Hazíratu'l-Quds

In accordance with the goals set by the Guardian, houses were bought in the capital cities of Santiago, Chile; Asuncion, Paraguay; La Paz, Bolivia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Quito, Ecuador; Bogota, Colombia; Montevideo, Uruguay; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which will serve as the Hazíratu'l-Quds of the future National Spiritual Assemblies of those countries. The purchase of these houses was made possible by our beloved Guardian's contributions of $1000 for each one, the contribution of Mrs. Amelia Collins of $1000 for each one, and the generous help of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, who furnished the rest of the amount spent.

Also thanks to the contribution of $1000 for each of the ten countries in the Continent by Mrs. Amelia Collins, it was possible to buy land which will serve as the endowment for the future National Spiritual Assemblies in Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela, Colombia, and land for the endowment in Chile was donated by Fabienne Guillen in Loncoche, and for the endowment in Brazil land was donated by Leonora Armstrong.

New Assemblies, Groups

It gives us great joy to announce the formation of three new Local Spiritual Assemblies in South America in April, 1956: in Huancayo, Peru; in Cochabamba, Bolivia; and in Ezeiza, Argentina, making a total of 25 Local Spiritual Assemblies on the Continent.

Since the Fifth Annual Convention of 1955, eight new groups were formed in South America, in the following cities: Zarate and Burzaco, Argentina; Santo Andre and Sao Caetano, Brazil; Loncoche and Puerto Varas, Chile; and Areguá and Trujillo, Peru, making a total of 25 groups in South America.

Indian Teaching

There are now Bahá'ís in a total of 31 isolated centers in the continent.

The first fruit of the Indian teaching work, begun this year, was the entrance of a civilized Indian as a member of the Bahá'í community of Bahia, Brazil. A Bahá'í recently went to live among the Indians in Chiquisaca, Bolivia, to give the message, and a new Bahá'í of Areguá, Peru, has secured a teaching job in Puno, a region of the Peruvian highlands where there are so many Indians.

It makes us sad to think that this Convention (1956) is the last one in which all of the Bahá'ís of the Continent will be united, but knowing that it is a necessary step in the progress of the Cause, we are looking forward with much anticipation and enthusiasm to the two conventions which will be held in the South and in the North of South America in 1957.

—DOROTHY CAMPBELL
Secretary
Navajo students attending the adult education class held each Saturday at the Bahá'í Indian Center in Gallup, N. Mex. Although none of these women ever attended school, some are beginning to read English, using old school textbooks.

PRESS PUBLICIZES
BAHÁ'Í INDIAN CENTER

The Independent, a daily newspaper in Gallup, N. Mex., published the photograph of Navajo women attending the adult education classes at the Bahá'í Indian Center there, which appears in this issue of Bahá'í News. The picture appeared with an article announcing the publication of the Navajo booklet, A New Day Comes, containing the translated selections from the Bahá'í Writings. A good account of the purpose of the Bahá'í Faith, its basic truths, and its appreciation of the accomplishments of various people were also included. Mention was made of the English language classes, which attract Navajos from the reservation.

KETCHIKAN ASSEMBLY
GAINED IN 2 YEARS

Ketchikan was designated a virgin goal city, along with five other Alaskan cities, by the Alaska Teaching Committee at the start of the World Crusade, who asked that three of the six be settled before Ridván 1954.

In February 1954 the first pioneers, Georgine and Pat Maul, arrived in Ketchikan, attaining the first of the goals set for that year.

A little more than two years later, by Ridván 1956, Ketchikan had enough Bahá'ís to elect an Assembly. The story of the development of this community to Assembly status in this brief period makes an exciting story of dedication, determination and action.

The Mauls were joined by Marguerite Meyer in March 1954. She stayed for two months until transferring to Juneau. While in Ketchikan she contacted Mrs. Vicki Jackson, and in July 1954 Mrs. Jackson became the first new believer enrolled in Alaska since the start of the World Crusade. In September 1954 Margaret Pirkey came to Ketchikan.

The next important step in the development of Ketchikan came in August 1955, with the visit of Florence Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board of the American Hands of the Cause. During her visit many people were contacted for the first time, and the first newspaper and radio publicity for the Faith was received.

A letter from one of the pioneers states, "About the first of the year 1955 our community decided we would have an Assembly by Ridván or bust! We all recited the Tablet of Ahmad daily for this purpose. We stepped up the pace of our firesides, and invited Bahá'ís we knew to settle in Ketchikan."

In March 1956 Leo Baldwin arrived from the Anchorage Recording District Community. A few weeks later Don Anderson, who has been coming to firesides since shortly before Mrs. Mayberry's visit declared himself. A week later Rex King arrived from the Anchorage Recording District. The number of Bahá'ís stood at seven, with Ridván two weeks away.

Several days later Mrs. Sarah "Granny" Roberts declared herself at the wonderful age of 87 years, and word came that Robin Fowler, the first person to become a Bahá'í in the Yukon Territory of Canada, planned to come to Ketchikan to make the ninth Bahá'í. The Assembly was assured.

On the night of April 20 Mrs. Joyce Combs declared herself, becoming the first Alaskan believer of the Indian race, and representing two of the three major tribes of Alaskan Indians.

With ten Bahá'ís on April 21, an election was held. Afterward, one of the first acts of the new Ketchikan Local Spiritual Assembly was to enroll Miss Joyce Campbell as a new believer. She is a Youth, and is not only the first youth enrolled in Ketchikan, but is a representative of the third Indian tribe of Alaska.

Ketchikan now turns to its neighbor, Juneau, hoping to assist them enlarge the nucleus of three Bahá'ís there. In addition, several of the new Ketchikan believers are doing extension teaching work at Metlakatla, Alaska, while residing there temporarily, and local firesides hold promise of several more enrollments in the near future.

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES
MEETING HELD AT RINDGE

The sixth annual public meeting at Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge, N. H., was held on July 14. The program included organ music, readings from the Bahá'í Scriptures, an address titled "One Universal Faith," and the "Prayer for all Nations."

These annual meetings are sponsored by the Area Teaching Committee for the New England States.
Residents within range of Television Station WBKB, Chicago, enjoyed a very unusual and interesting program on the Bahá'í House of Worship, Monday morning, June 25, during the regular "A.M. Show," when Ronny Bond spoke of the familiar Temple in Wilmette and presented a three-minute film of the interior of the auditorium. Besides excellent panoramic views of the interior of the dome and the texts in the nine alcoves, there were shots from inside the dome and upward through the ribs, views of the gardens and fountains from the dome, and a concluding close-up of one of the fountains in operation.

The short commentary mentioned the basic teachings of the Bahá'í Faith, the purpose of the Temple, its approximate cost, and the fact that it was built by the Bahá'ís alone.

That this program was offered at no cost whatever to the Bahá'ís is another evidence of the growing interest on the part of the general public in the Temple and what it stands for.

BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS

Wilmette Life for June 21, 1956 published a photograph of Mrs. Amelia Collins conducting some Bahá'í visitors through the Bahá'í gardens in Haifa, Israel. "Mrs. Amelia E. Collins, 121 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, has returned from Haifa, Israel, where she spent the winter at the Bahá'í World Center. As vice-president of the International Bahá'í Council, Mrs. Collins devotes the larger part of each year to international activities of the faith. Here she is shown... taking some Bahá'ís from New York and Karlsruhe, Germany, through the Bahá'í gardens in Haifa, Israel. The Bahá'ís were there as guests of Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, world head of the Bahá'í faith."

Several selections from Gleanings have been sent to Mr. Wing Anderson for use in a forthcoming book containing prophecies. Mr. Anderson has been collecting. From Bahá'í Writings he requested passages pertaining to the "coming world changes."

Westport Town Crier & Herald, Westport, Conn., in its issue of
AREA NEWS BULLETINS
The East Central States Bulletin lists 11 groups in that area that have been adopted as localities where there is a good opportunity to achieve Assembly status by April 1957: Mishawaka and Kokomo, Ind.; Marysville and Pontiac, Mich.; and Kettering, Cleveland Hts., East Cleveland, Hinckley Twp., Lake-wood, East Olmstead, and Findlay, Ohio.

"CHILD'S WAY" BULLETIN
ADDRESS LISTED
Mrs. Betty Fiedler, 836 Cedar Terrace, Deerfield, Illinois, is the Secretary of Child's Way bulletin. Address all correspondence and materials for Child's Way to Mrs. Fiedler. Mail requests for subscriptions to Miss Banu Hassan, 1244 Maple Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

BAHA'I HOUSE OF WORSHIP
Visiting Hours
Weekdays: 10:30 A.M.—4:30 P.M.
7:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M.
Sundays and Holidays: 10:30 A.M.—9:00 P.M.
(Auditorium only will be open in the evenings)
Service of Worship
Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.

MARRIAGES
"Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Verily, this Thy servant and this Thy maid-servant have gathered under the shadow of Thy mercy and they are united through Thy favor and generosity. O Lord! Assist them in this Thy world and Thy Kingdom and destine for them every good through Thy bounty and grace..."

BAHA'I\'U\'LLAH

MAIiHAms
Los Angeles, California: Miss Arleen Gloria Crook to Mr. James Kenneth Wiley on June 22, 1956.
Wilmette, Illinois: Miss Barbara Hannen to Mr. Wayne G. Griffin on June 16, 1956.
Los Angeles, California: Mrs. Doris Evelyn McClain to Mr. Charles Thomas Bewley on June 17, 1956.

IN MEMORIAM
"Death proffereth unto every faithful believer the cup that is life indeed. It becometh joy, and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life."

BAHA'I\'U\'LLAH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feasts
August 1 — Kamal (Perfection)
August 20 — Asma (Names)

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
August 31, September 1, 2, 3

Baha'i NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá'í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from the national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

Baha'i NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1956-57: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Change of address should be reported directly to National Baha'i Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
The Past Bahá’í Administrative Year

A Letter From the Guardian

The following passages of general Bahá’í interest and importance have been selected from a letter written on behalf of the Guardian by his Secretary, addressed to the National Spiritual Assembly under date of July 19, 1956. The Guardian’s hand written postscript to this letter is published as an insert in this issue of BAHÁ’Í NEWS.

“The past Bahá’í administrative year was one full of events, achievements and anxiety. In looking back over it, he feels that concrete progress has been made in many fields; that the American Bahá’ís have reason to feel encouraged by the scope of their activities, and by the fact that many of their enterprises connected with the Ten Year Plan have reached fruition.

“He was particularly glad to note that a friendly contact had been made with the Chief Executive of the United States, and that he had acknowledged over his own signature, in appreciative terms, the receipt of the Bahá’í prayer your Assembly had forwarded to him. He was also very pleased to note the helpful attitude of the State Department, particularly in connection with the persecutions of our brethren in Iran.

An Important Turning Point

“The establishment of the South and West Africa National Bahá’í Assembly signalizes an important turning-point in the execution of the Divine Plan by the Bahá’ís of America. A capable and representative national body has evidently been elected; and the Guardian cherishes the highest hopes for the unfoldment of the work in that part of the world, a work whose foundations have been so brilliantly laid down by a singularly distinguished and devoted group of pioneers from different countries, chief amongst them those from the western Hemisphere. The new world has indeed paid back part of its debt to the “dark continent” it at one time so ruthlessly exploited.

“The Guardian hopes that the Kampala Temple project, designs for which are now well advanced, and have been carried out by the Hand of the Cause, Mr. Mason Remey, will soon be set in motion. The new National Assembly for Central and East Africa will be directly responsible for this work.

Extraordinary Progress

“The new incorporations added during the past year in the United States, although a step in the right direction, are not sufficient. He feels that during the coming year every effort should be made by Assemblies that have a well-grounded, if small, community, to incorporate.

“He was particularly happy to hear of the incorporation of the Tokyo Spiritual Assembly. Indeed the initiative shown throughout the Pacific area in this respect and many others is truly challenging and stimulating; and the American Bahá’ís, the parents of so many of these other communities, should take heed and follow the lead of their exuberant offspring.

“The Guardian feels that during the coming year, the National Assembly should pay particular attention to getting teachers with spiritual capacity and a deep knowledge of the Covenant out to the weaker communities on circuit teaching trips, and that an effort should be made for them to stay for some time in each place. It is evident that one of the reasons that the work on the home front in America is so seriously lagging is that the Bahá’ís themselves, though undoubtedly devoted, loyal and conscientious, are not always very deeply grounded in the spiritual fundamentals of their Faith. This produces a maladjustment, so to speak, in the nature of their service to the Cause; and only through a deeper understanding of their Faith and the inner spiritual strength that this understanding brings will they be able to reinforce themselves to meet their tasks, to see the joy of discharging their duties and grasping their privileges.

Extraordinary Progress

“The Guardian has been particularly happy at the extraordinary progress made in acquiring Hazíratu’l-Quds and endowments all over the world. The Bahá’ís may well look upon the accomplishments in this field as little short of awe-inspiring, and every believer should feel highly encouraged that one of the most difficult aspects of the Ten Year Plan, namely the financing of such enterprises, has been more than two-thirds fulfilled by the end of the third year of the Plan.

“The Guardian feels that if the friends would meditate a little more objectively upon both their relation-
ship to the Cause and the vast non-Bahá'í public they hope to influence, they would see things more clearly.
The friends are not being forced to do anything, either by the Guardian or by the National Assembly. However, the condition that the world is in is bringing many issues to a head. It would be perhaps impossible to find a nation or people not in a state of crisis today. The materialism, the lack of true religion and the consequent baser forces in human nature which are being released, have brought the whole world to the brink of probably the greatest crisis it has ever faced or will have to face. The Bahá'ís are a part of the world. They too feel the great pressures which are brought to bear upon all people today, whoever and wherever they may be. On the other hand, the Divine Plan, which is the direct method of working toward the establishment of Peace and World Order, has perforce reached an important and challenging point in its unfoldment; because of the desperate needs of the world, the Bahá'ís find themselves, even though so limited in numbers, in financial strength and in prestige—called upon to fulfill a great responsibility. They must, at all times, remember that when the Guardian makes his appeals to the friends, he is only presenting the situation to them. Each one must evaluate what his own response can be and should be; nobody can do this for him. There is no other pressure than the pressure of historical circumstances. He fully realizes that the demands made upon the Bahá'ís are great, and that they often feel inadequate, tired and perhaps frightened in the face of the tasks that confront them. This is only natural. On the other hand, they must realize that the power of God can and will assist them; and that because they are privileged to have accepted the Manifestation of God for this Day, this very act has placed upon them a great moral responsibility toward their fellow-men. It is this moral responsibility to which the Guardian is constantly calling their attention, as he too cannot but obey the compelling force of circumstances and fulfill his paramount duty of calling to the attention of the believers their opportunity, their privileges, and their responsibilities.

"The American Bahá'ís have so far never failed in any mission they undertook, and he hopes and believes there will be no failure this time. He has the greatest confidence in their loyalty, their faith, and their devotion, and he feels sure that with the help of Bahá'u'lláh they will arise to the occasion which history has literally thrust upon them."

The Power of God Can and Will Assist Us

Beloved Friends:

While every paragraph in the letter written on behalf of the Guardian has vital significance, the National Spiritual Assembly calls to the urgent attention of every American Bahá'í the passage beginning: "The Guardian feels that if the friends would meditate a little more objectively upon both their relationship to the Cause and the vast non-Bahá'í public they hope to influence, they would see things more clearly."

In this passage each of us is addressed as an indivi-
The tympanum of the east facade of the Bahá'í International Archives Building on Mt. Carmel, Haifa, soon after its completion, is shown to the left, assembled for accuracy tests at the Chiampo Marble Works in Italy before shipment to Haifa. The central Monogram of the Greatest Name is of gilded metal on a green base of marble; the rays departing from the Monogram are of gilded marble. The entire tympanum when packed in wooden cases for shipment weighed more than 60 tons.

Antefixes of the tympanum, ready to be shipped, are shown to the right. Note the number on each one, which is affixed after each piece is tested for accuracy.

"This Four-Fold Purpose"

The Guardian's Challenge to the American Bahá'í Community

"A far greater proportion of the avowed supporters of the Faith must arise, ere the Crusade suffers any setback, for the four-fold purpose of winning over an infinitely greater number of recruits to the army of Bahá'u'lláh fighting on the home front, of swelling to an unprecedented degree the isolated centers now scattered within its confines, of converting an increasing number of them into firmly founded groups, and of accelerating the formation of local Assemblies, while safeguarding those already in existence." (excerpt from letter of July 19, 1956)

—Shoghi Effendi

HANDS OF THE CAUSE

TELL CURRENT PLANS

In planning missions for members of the Auxiliary Board this, the third year of their teaching work, the Hands of the Cause have acted on suggestions received from all four National Assemblies or their Teaching Committees. The schedule adopted will carry Board members into many Bahá'í Centers of Canada, the United States, Alaska, Central America, the Islands, and South America.

A message received by the Hands, from the Guardian through the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land, defined important goals for the current year: assisting in preparing communities for the formation of five National Spiritual Assemblies in 1957, the need of a new spirit of dedication and consecration on the home front, the dispersal of more believers to new centers, the encouragement of pioneers working in lonely areas, and the possibility of friends settling behind the Iron Curtain.

Each Board Member has been presented with a letter to read to each Bahá'í gathering the member addresses.

The lists of Bahá'í centers receiving visits from members of the Auxiliary Board will be presented in the annual report of the American Hands before the 1957 Convention. From time to time brief statements will be supplied to Bahá'í News outlining some of the special teaching methods which Auxiliary Board members have found effective.

Mrs. Margery McCormick, for example, in order to connect the individual with the creative Word from which she speaks, gives out copies of a brief little compilation she has prepared entitled Spirit-Lifters.

Mrs. Florence Mayberry, when conditions permit, carries on a Seminar for the progressive unfolding knowledge of the Teachings. One Seminar offers five consecutive
RENewed APPEAL
TO UNITED NATIONS

The friends are informed of a very important action taken on behalf of the oppressed Persian Bahá’ís.

Confidential, authentic information was received summarizing the condition of the Bahá’ís of Iran as of June 1956. This report revealed the fact that the assurances given the Secretary-General of United Nations by the Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs, as a result of the first appeal launched at the Geneva session last year, were not carried out. So grave was the condition that responsible Bahá’ís felt that the future functioning of the Bahá’í community in Iran might be involved.

With the approval of the Guardian, the American National Spiritual Assembly, acting for the Bahá’í International Community, assembled the facts and the International Observer, Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh, was requested to obtain advice on the best procedure to adopt in addressing a renewed appeal to the Secretary-General.

Thanks to the advice given by a friendly permanent delegate to UN, a letter was addressed to the Secretary-General on June 22, accompanied by a statement of facts which made the renewed appeal imperative. Copies of this document were reproduced and given to the International Observer for use in Geneva. Mrs. Mottahedeh and Amin Banáni were appointed the Bahá’í representatives to serve at Geneva during the sessions of the Economic and Social Council beginning July 12.

At Geneva the Bahá’í representatives distributed copies of the Bahá’í document to the permanent delegations and held a press conference attended by representatives of New York Times, London Times, Reuters, the Swiss Press, and also by representatives of the Jewish and Quaker NGOs. A long article about the case was published in the New York Times on July 21. Many personal calls were also made on delegations attending the sessions of ECOSOC.

On July 25 Dr. José Vícente Trujillo, Ecuadorian permanent delegate to UN, First Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, and Chairman of the Social Committee, opened the session with a talk on human rights and then proceeded to lay the Bahá’í case before the session. The result was that the Bahá’í case was put on the Human Rights section of United Nations for study.

This action by Dr. Trujillo gave our case an official status in United Nations far stronger than the status of the appeal made in 1955.

Returning to the United States via London, Mrs. Mottahedeh held a press conference at the London Times, summarizing the Bahá’í case and Dr. Trujillo’s action at Geneva.

Our public relations counsel has placed a statement on the Bahá’í case in the release issued by Religious News Service, New York, on July 23.

It was on the advice of the friendly UN delegate that no advance notice of this renewed appeal was made either to the public or to the Bahá’í communities.

Since the case was opened in the session of the Social Council on July 25, a letter has been written to a number of prominent Americans friendly to the Faith, enclosing the Bahá’í documents and requesting each to write the Iranian Ambassador.
in Washington. The result of this correspondence will be reported later.

The situation created by the Bahá’í case in Geneva does not mean any immediate recognition of the right of Persian Bahá’ís to practice their religion in complete freedom, but it does carry forward a process which can but eventuate in that prayed-for result.

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

COLUMBUS, TAKOMA PARK GIVE RECOGNITION TO HOLY DAYS

Children of Bahá’ís in Columbus, Ohio, and Takoma Park, Maryland, may be absent on the Bahá’í Holy Days. This makes a total of 33 cities where the local Assemblies have taken the matter up with the School Superintendent. The Guardian wishes all Assemblies to secure this recognition.

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Removed From Membership

Mrs. Marjorie J. Kirk, of Depew, New York, has been deprived of her membership in the Bahá’í Faith because of her refusal to cease association with a Persian who was communicated from the Faith by the Guardian some years ago before coming to the United States.

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

The Convention and the Regional Spiritual Assembly.” Then there followed an extended consultation on the letter from the European Teaching Committee and the teaching problems of the Benelux countries.

At 8:00 P.M. that day a Unity Banquet was held at the Municipal Museum in The Hague. During the banquet representatives of the Benelux communities spoke words of appreciation concerning the Conference and the hospitality of the local Bahá’ís.

On Monday, May 21, the Conference was opened by Lea Nys, who gave an inspiring talk on “Spiritual Dynamism.” This was followed by further consultation on overcoming the obstacles to the spread of the Faith in that area.

With the close of the Conference, the representatives returned to their home communities prepared to pass along the many suggestions and inspiring words for local consultations, with the hope that the World Crusade may be reinvigorated in the Benelux countries.

Summer School at Moss

The summer school motto, “Let your Light shine” was in itself an inspiration to absorb as much knowledge as possible from the brilliant lectures and fruitful consultation in which we were able to participate.

After music, prayers for all nations and for mankind, the summer school was opened by the chairman, Palle Bischoff, who welcomed the friends.


After dinner the Guardian’s 1956 Convention Message was read. Guðrun Østegaard read a translation of Don Corbin’s lecture on the Bahá’í administration’s progressive form, its authority, strength, and development. Afterward, the subject was developed further with a discussion on the Hands of the Cause, the Guardian, and the International House of Justice by Amelia Bowman.
A pupil of the Instituto Cultural Indigenista Bahá'í at Chichicastenango, Guatemalan, whose parents, Maya-Quiche Indians, are now registered Bahá'ís. As a result of work at the Institute, four Indians have accepted the Faith.

In the evening there was a splendid talk on the Bahá’í Faith in relation to other world organizations, and comments on the necessity of having a pure, warm, and friendly heart.

The second day there were readings from the Kitáb-i-Íqán, a talk on “Administration, Local and National Spiritual Assemblies,” and a discussion period, followed by the reading of a letter from the European Teaching Committee. After the evening supper an informal fireside was held. Five contacts from Moss were present.

On Monday, the third day of the Summer School, came the consultation on the letter from the European Teaching Committee. The chairman summed up the inspiring ideas that had been brought forth by the many speakers. A brief cable was composed for transmission to the Guardian, and after expressions of appreciation, the school was closed with a prayer for the Guardian.

The Summer School at Moss is over, and it has not only given us beautiful memories of friendly association and beautiful summer days, but it has given us knowledge and strength, each one of us, to go home and endeavor to share with others some of the great gift we had received, and our faith in a happy future for the Bahá’í Faith in our respective countries.

—GUDRUN OFSTEGAARD

Africa

PIONEER LETTER

REPORTS TEACHING WORK

Mr. and Mrs. Lyall Hadden, pioneers in Luanshya, Northern Rhodesia, where an Assembly was formed last April, have written of their activities to the United States Africa Teaching Committee. Excerpts from their letter follow:

“We now have eleven African members. One of our youngest members, Micah, 21 years old, has surprised us most happily by bringing into the Faith three new members during the past few weeks. He has been holding firesides in his home once or twice a week, and it is a wonderful experience to sit in that tiny room and listen to Micah translate what we have said into Bemba, and to watch the rapt expressions on the faces of his listeners!

“Many of our members are school teachers who are now on vacation, and who are leaving for their various home villages throughout Northern Rhodesia, where they will teach the Faith during the coming three months. By the first of September there should be many Bahá’ís throughout this country!

“One of the Africans who worked on the building of our house asked Lyall to come to his home and speak to some of his friends about the Faith. Saturday afternoon Lyall and Guy went, and found eight Africans gathered there. The meeting lasted for nearly two hours, and many questions were asked.

“It is strange, but almost always the first question these people ask is “Who was Adam? Was he really the first man?” When we give them the Bahá’í answer to this question they are satisfied and eager to go on from there. They do not accept the teaching of the Church in this respect.

“Dennis pointed out to us one day that most of our African Bahá’ís here in Luanshya were formerly pillars of the church; he, himself, of the Anglican church; Andrew of the Free Church; Paul of United Missions, or some such name; Richard was a Muslim; and the two newest ones were Catholics.

“We have stressed strongly the obligation of teaching, and Andre (the French-speaking Catholic from the Belgium Congo) replied that he recognized and accepted the obligation, that to be a Bahá’í and not teach would be like being a Christian and hiding the Bible under the bed.

“Lyall says he has often heard the Africans talking among themselves in their own language while they were working, and very, very frequently the words “Bahá’í!” and “Bahá’u’lláh” were spoken. There are 25,000 Africans here in Luanshya, and by now a great many of them have heard of the Faith and are trying to find out more about it.

“Our problem now is not how to attract them, but how to handle them if we were to hold a public meeting. So far we have not dared to do so, even if we had been able to find a place in which to meet, for there would undoubtedly be a large number attending, and as these people are still primitive, trouble could arise. We must take the slow way, the small meetings such as Micah holds in his little home, and the small groups the others gather together in their homes.

“When we return home we shall miss pioneering very much—in fact I do not see how we could possibly live without being able to teach the Faith. It has been an experience that we would not have missed—even though it has cost us all we had. To listen to Dennis teach, to see the glow in Micah’s eyes as he talks to his friends, to hear the name “Bahá’u’lláh” roll so smoothly from an African’s tongue, amidst a jargon of words that we cannot understand—these experiences are priceless.”
Cairo Convention Forms
National Spiritual Assembly of North East Africa

Some of the delegates and friends at the reception tea party at the Haziratu'l-Quds in Cairo on April 23.

Delegates at work during the Convention sessions.

Delegates to the Convention at the site of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkâr on the Nile Corniche on April 26.

Members of the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of North East Africa, formed at the Convention, Ridván 113.
British Isles

NSA MEMBER VISITS NORTHERN ISLES

"A Journey to the Northern Isles," an account of the visit of Marian Hofman, member of the British National Spiritual Assembly, to the islands north of England in the Spring of 1956, is published in the British Bahá'í Journal. Excerpts follow:

"A journey to the Northern Isles may well become, for this generation of British Bahá'ís, a longed-for goal which, once attained, will ever be cherished in memory as a wondrous time of spiritual experience. It is perhaps well to remind ourselves that only in the Islands around Britain — not on her mainland — do the Knights of Bahá'u'lláh dwell. The reality of these blessed Knights is veiled from us today, nor does it reveal itself save in their own lands, in those spots which the Hand of Destiny has given over to them, and to them alone, to be the 'spiritual conquerors.'

"It took but a few hours for the unique quality of Lerwick to come home to me. Our beloved Guardian has extolled the pure hearts of the African people, their severance from undue emphasis on material things, and to this he has ascribed their readiness for the Faith. I have not been to Africa, but in the Northern Isles I found purity and severance to a degree hitherto unknown to me.

"To meet in a few days a number of people athirst for the Teachings, who receive them eagerly and without conflict, their eyes reflecting the growing wonder they see in our Faith — this is an experience dearer than any other. And it was to be mine on several occasions in my nine wondrous days in the Northern Isles. It was a blessed privilege, too, to take part in the first public meeting in Shetland, and to find, to my astonishment, 17 new people awaiting my appearance.

"Both in Shetland and Orkney the public meetings were exciting for the scope and profundity of the questions, and both meetings continued for over two hours of penetrating discussion. Our prayer for these meetings had been that only those would come who cared to know, and our prayer was answered. A yet greater joy was the appearance at each meeting of one native person of truly native speech, showing especial interest in our Faith, and sent, so it seemed, by Bahá'u'lláh, since both were unknown to our Knights. Also in each town there came to us one person from an island lying further north.

"In the Northern Isles our Knights are raising up, under the guiding Hand of the beloved Master and our Guardian, a new creation — souls who, like fresh-running streams, will in days to come flow into our main river and invigorate the Cause of God in these British Isles."

ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP, ENDOWMENT REPORTED

The Bahá'í Journal, published by the British National Spiritual Assembly, lists the members of the newly elected Assembly for the 1956-1957.

The Assembly includes Hasan Balyuzi, Chairman; Ernest Gregory, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer; John Ferraby, Secretary; Dorothy Ferraby, Recording Secretary; David Hofman, Marion Hofman, Betty Reed, Louis Pass-Enfield, and Ian Semple.

First Endowment

Land for the first national endowment of the British Isles has been purchased at Wirksworth, Derbyshire. There are two fields known as Hatchetts Close, which are let to a farmer tenant for grazing cattle.
Central America

BAHÁ'I S GREET PANAMA CONFERENCE CHIEFS

Bahá'ís of Central America achieved outstanding publicity for the Faith at the recent meeting of 19 chief executives of American nations in the Republic of Panama.

A formal message of welcome was presented to the visiting dignitaries, in the name of the National Spiritual Assembly of Central America, Mexico, and the Antilles. The Bahá'í greeting was reported in the Panama Star & Herald, which published the complete text of the message and 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Prayer for All Nations.

The two-column headline stated "Local Bahá'ís Welcome All Chiefs of American States." The Bahá'í greetings stated, in part:

"The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Central America, Mexico, and the Antilles, with headquarters in the City of Panama, and in the name of all the Bahá’ís of the Territories, wishes to express to the illustrious Presidents of the American Republics its warmest and most cordial welcome, and it fervently prays that this historic and transcendent reunion of the Rulers of the American Nations will be crowned with the greatest success."

After paying tribute to the historic Congress of Panama 130 years ago, the Bahá'í message continued, "...the entire world fixes its gaze on this historic gathering which can point out specific ways of achieving a real unity of the American peoples, and which can serve as an example to all the peoples of the world that they can still find in the midst of chaos, both material and spiritual security.

"Over 90 years ago Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the Bahá'í World Religion, wishing to reveal the prerequisites of the peace and tranquility of the world and the advancement of its people, wrote: 'The time must come when the imperative necessity for the holding of a vast, all-embracing assemblage of men will be universally realized...

Several additional quotations of Bahá'u'lláh were included in the Bahá'í greetings, and the statement was closed with the Prayer for All Nations.

This Bahá'í salutation to the Americans officials was significantly related to the publicized objective of the conference. In another column the Panama Star & Herald stated, "The American nations joined in a rendezvous with history at Panama yesterday as 19 of its chief executives gathered to proclaim once more the unity of the hemisphere and its will for peace."

Germany, Austria

LIST MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, in its publication Bahá'í Nachrichten, lists its membership and officers for 1956-1957:

Dr. Eugen Schmidt, Chairman; Dr. Adelbert Muhlachiegel, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Anna Großmann, Secretary; Otto Hafner, Treasurer; Hans Randel, Ruprecht G. Kruger, Doris Lohse, Dr. Mehdi Varqa, and Hanni Weber.

Summer Schools

Also reported were four summer schools scheduled for the season:
Bahá'í Youth Summer School in Reichenbach/Odenwald, Germany, July 23-31; Bahá'í Summer School in Esslingen/N, August 12-13; Austrian Summer School in Gosauamuhle am Hallstatter See, Salzkammergut, August 26-Sept. 2; and a Teaching Conference in the Ha'iratu'l-Quds, Frankfurt/M, Sept. 30 through the beginning of October.

**India, Pakistan, Burma**

**REPORT CRUSADE**

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

The National Spiritual Assembly of India, Pakistan, and Burma, in its publication, *Bahá'í News Letter*, gives its pre-convention Annual Report listing the goals for the past year and the progress toward their attainment. This report is summarized as follows:

1. Purchase of Ha'iratu'l-Quds at Columbo and Djakarta: Completed.
2. Rebuilding of the Ha'iratu'l-Quds at Rangoon: Taken in hand and completed in nine months.
3. Establishment of the Publishing Trust at New Delhi: It was established in November 1955, and is now actively working as a distinct and separate institution under a Managing Director who will be elected every year.
4. Translation of Bahá'í literature into 40 languages: Out of the 26 languages undertaken to translate, translation and printing of nine languages have been finished, while the translation into five languages awaits printing. Negotiations for another three languages are going on, and it is hoped to complete these translations and printing within several months. Almost all the remaining nine languages belong to countries under the Communist sway.
5. Registering of local Spiritual Assemblies: In India there are 29 local Spiritual Assemblies; 16 were already registered, three were registered during the past year, and out of the remaining ten, Articles of Association have been filed for three and their certificates of registration are being awaited. Preliminary steps are being taken to get another three registered. In Pakistan there are 13 local Spiritual Assemblies; four were already registered, one is awaiting its certificate of registration, and efforts are begun to file the By-laws of three more for registration. In Burma there are six local Spiritual Assemblies; two were already registered, one was registered during the past year, and By-laws have been filed for the remaining three, and their certificates of registration are being awaited.
6. Doubling of the local Spiritual Assemblies: The definite number awaits reports of the elections on April 21, 1956, but it appears that six groups in Pakistan and three in Burma will form assemblies.
7. Multiplication of Bahá'í Centers: During the past year 23 new centers were opened, bringing the total to 35.
8. Bahá'í endowments in Karachí, Colombo, Rangoon, and Djakarta: In Pakistan a building was endowed for the Cause some years ago. In Ceylon, Burma, and Indonesia negotiations are in progress.
The Bahá'í House of Worship continues to draw large numbers of visitors every day of the week, and particularly on Sundays, when the attendance sometimes runs as high as 1800. They come singly, in small groups, and often by bus loads, to make the tour under special guides arranged for in advance. Occasionally conventions meeting in Chicago ask for special tours for groups sometimes as large as 300 persons.

A most distinguished and interested group to visit the Temple the first week in August was His Excellency Mr. U Win, Ambassador from Burma to the United States, and his family. After spending more than half an hour viewing the Temple, gardens and exhibits, the Ambassador wrote in the guest book these words: "Most beautiful and magnificent. Wonderful idea bearing fruit. Has brought wonderful union of faith."

Another unusual group was one of ten Eagle Scouts from Korea on a goodwill tour of the United States. Among them was an enrolled Bahá'í youth from Seoul and two others who are studying the Faith.

The gardens, too, are attracting special attention, and requests come from time to time from men's and women's garden clubs for a tour guided by the superintendent of the buildings and grounds.

During the first five days of August, the visitors who signed the guest register came from 25 states in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Mexico, Argentina, Lebanon, and India.

**Dumont Offers Scholarship Award**

A $50.00 award to a member of the Dumont, N.J. High School graduating class was offered by the Dumont Bahá'ís this Spring as a means of promulgating the Bahá'í teachings.

In a letter from the local Spiritual Assembly to the school principal, the qualifications for the selection of the student were specified: "A high moral character, a universal outlook toward the world of tomorrow, with a total lack of prejudice of any kind, and a well-trained mind. The senior selected preferably should be one who plans to make teaching his career and life's work. The teacher is given high regard by Bahá'u'lláh, Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, who said that every Bahá'í should remember his teacher in his will, making him the beneficiary of one-seventh of his estate."

At the commencement exercises, when this scholarship was presented, the principal explained how the recipient was selected. After reading the above qualifications, he said that the faculty selected nine names, which were then presented to the Student Council, which in turn reduced this number to three. Final choice from these three was based upon the vote of the entire senior class.

As a result of this scholarship, the Faith was mentioned at the graduating exercises before several hundred students, parents, guests and public officials. The Dumont Assembly believes this gesture improved the friendly relationship of the Bahá'ís with the community.

**REFERENCE LIBRARY SERVICES LISTED**

The National Reference Library Committee has been authorized by the National Spiritual Assembly "to supply on request Bahá'í references on particular subjects."

This opens the door to two kinds of service: (1) Answering questions from reference material already compiled; and (2) Receiving and distributing valuable compilations, indexes, outlines, or other reference material on special subjects that individuals have accumulated.

**Reference Material Compiled**

The sources from which the Reference Library Committee can supply answers to questions consists of material which it has laboriously compiled over a long period of time, such as a complete index of Bahá'í News through 1955, an index of all references in the Bahá'í Writings to any part of the Bible text, and a concordance for most of Bahá'u'lláh's Writings. (A concordance locates all references using a specific noun or verb.)
None of the foregoing material can be sent out to the believers, but the committee will be glad to supply answers to questions from it.

**Papers Available for Duplication**

The following compilations and "papers", approved by the National Reviewing Committee, are available for duplication:

Compilation on "Teaching."

Compilations of the Guardian's instructions on certain subjects as published in Bahá'í News during the last ten years.

List of historical events relating to the Bahá'í Faith in America up to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's arrival in the United States, from The Bahá'í Magazine.

"Papers" by Gene Crist (primarily compilations) on "Prophecies Fulfilled, Arranged by Time, Place, Name, and Characters"; "The Return of Christ," "God's Everlasting Covenant," and "Progressive Revelation."

If there is sufficient demand for the latter, mimeographed copies will be prepared and supplied at 2c per sheet.

Believers are asked to send to the committee secretary any material of this nature that has proved helpful in teaching or in deepening in the Faith; also any other reference material that has been found to be useful in the past, but is no longer available. If demand warrants, effort will be made to mimeograph these and supply them at cost.

In two or three months it is hoped to publicize a larger list of available references on particular subjects. Suggestions as to what subjects should be concentrated on, are solicited.

The committee continues to welcome volunteer workers for its various projects. A new indexing system is to be tested, for which help is especially needed.

In requesting references from the Index of Bahá'í News, write to Mrs. May Stebbins, 89 University Drive, Menlo Park, Calif. All other communications should be addressed to the Secretary of the National Reference Library Committee, Mrs. Marian Crist Lippitt, 1587 Virginia Street East, Charleston, W. Va.

**TEACHING CONFERENCE HELD AT FAIRBANKS**

The Alaska Teaching Committee held a Conference in the Mining Building at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, on July 27-29. Bahá'ís came from Anchorage, and the Anchorage Recording District, Nome, Valdez, Point Barrow, and Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

Features of the conference included three sessions on the Covenant and Administration; three Workshops on Procedure, including Instructions to New Assemblies, Enrollment, Assembly Problems, Importance of Consultation, and Backbiting; a Round Table Discussion on "Teaching the Eskimos, Indians, and Aleuts," by the Northern Peoples Teaching Committee; a report on the New Delhi Conference and on the National Convention by Hazel Mori; and a Youth Session.

For diversion there was an interesting boat ride up the Tanana River, with a picnic supper on Saturday evening, and a picnic supper on Sunday evening at the close of the Conference.

At 8:00 P.M. Sunday evening, Hazel Mori spoke at a public meeting at the Travelers Inn, Fairbanks, on "The Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled."

**ALL-FAITH CHAPEL GIVES BAHÁ'Í SERVICE**

A demonstration of the Unity of Religion was afforded the Faith in San Diego, Calif., on August 1, when the chaplain of the Solar Aircraft Co. All-Faith Chapel asked a Bahá'í employee, Waldo T. Boyd, to lead the two regular Wednesday services on that date.

Sixty employees attending the meetings listened to readings from the Hindu, Buddhist, Zoroastrian, Christian, Muslim, and Bahá'í Sacred Writings. The chaplain, Tipton L. Wood, a member of the Episcopal Church in Escondido, Calif., read the opening prayer, selected from Bahá'í Prayers. Vic Alexander, Chula Vista, Calif., Bahá'í and a Solar employee, read the Prayer for America as the closing prayer.

Response to the program varied from mild curiosity to enthusiastic approval. A number of inquiries about the Faith resulted, and two deeply interested contacts for firesides were made.

Bahá'í is the third major faith to be recognized at the chapel in this way. Fourteen denominations of Christianity, and the Jewish Faith have preceded.

This industrial chapel is unique in that it has been constructed entirely by volunteer labor by company employees. The chapel was built on company property, and was dedicated on May 28, 1955.
BAHA'I FAITH PRESENTED ON CHICAGO TELEVISION

An outstanding opportunity to present the Bahá'í message to Chicago area television viewers was offered by WTTW, Chicago's non-commercial, educational television station, on July 18. In a projected series of half-hour features explaining the major world religions, the Bahá'í Faith was given the opening program.

William B. Sears and Robert Quigley, professionally trained in the presentation of television programs, prepared the script. Mr. Sears served as the off-camera announcer during the program, and was interviewed briefly on his pioneer work in Africa. Mr. Quigley interviewed the guest speakers, which included Horace Holley, speaking on the many friends of the Faith who have written appreciations; Dr. Manuchir Javid, providing the background of heritage with Frán, the birthplace of the Faith, and of the continuing persecutions there; Miss Charlotte Linfoot, giving factual material illustrating the spread of the Faith to many lands; and Mr. Sears, relating the worldwide expectations of the Return of Christ that prevailed in the middle of the nineteenth century, culminating in the appearance of the Báb and of Bahá'u'lláh.

There were close-ups of representative volumes of the Holy Scriptures of the great world religions and of several Bahá'í publications, and pictures of the laying of the cornerstone of the Bahá'í House of Worship by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1912 and of the dedication ceremonies in 1953.

The program closed with an appealing prayer of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, read over a background of impressive music, with the camera focused on a picture of the Bahá'í Temple.

"VOICE OF AMERICA" EXPLAINS BAHÁ'I FAITH

The "Voice of America," broadcasting by short wave radio to the Middle East, gave an account of the Bahá'í Faith on July 19, 1956.

The 15 minute program dealt with a discussion of religious freedom in the United States. The narrator and author, Mrs. Margaret Abdel-Ahad Pannar, explained that one could worship as he wished in the United States, and that a fairly new religion, the Bahá'í World Faith, had made big strides here.

She then explained the main beliefs of the Bahá'í Faith, its connection with the United Nations, a description of the Bahá'í House of Worship, short resume of the history of the Faith, and a description of a fireside.

She opened the program by saying that she knew a member of the Bahá'í Faith, Keith de Folo, and that she had attended one of his firesides to "find out what it was all about."

This program, part of the regular series broadcast to the Middle East, was beamed to all of the Arabic speaking countries, except Frán, including Yemen, Syria, Libya, 'Irák, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. It reached these millions of people during the evening hours.

BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS

Lew Ayres, in his book Altars of the East, writes that he spent several days in the area around Haifa, and after a brief statement on the Bahá'í Faith, he writes: "As a contributing factor in any movement for world peace the importance of such an organization cannot be overestimated. The aims and principles as set forth are, to me, above reproach. They present a beautiful and mature ideal of world fellowship in the broadest possible aspect."

Seven Steps to Peace, by Ruth Bjorkman Samson (Exposition Press, Inc., New York) lists in its index five different references to the Faith. One reference states that "Bahá'u'lláh is the author of the expression, 'The Most Great Peace;'" another quotes 'Abdu'l-Bahá on the new age "in which the masculine and feminine elements of civilization will be more evenly balanced;" another quotes Dr. Esslemont on the "healing of humanity as a whole, of nations and of individuals;" Bahá'u'lláh's statement to Prof. Edward G. Browne is quoted in full; the Master's Tablet stating that arts, sciences and crafts are counted as worship is cited; and we find also an excerpt from Dr. Esslemont's book on harmony between religion and science.

"Land of the Bible," a movie short, illustrates scenes in the Holy Land, including one of the Shrine of the Báb.

The program of the International Dinner held by the American Overseas Educators Organization in Portland, Oregon, on July 5, 1956, shows that the invocation read at the dinner was 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Prayer for America. Miss Violet Wuerfel, of the Ann...
BAHA'IS ACTIVE IN INDIAN CLUB

In Sioux Falls, S. Dak., an Indian Club was formed by a local Indian last spring. Five of the Sioux Falls Baha'is joined the club to increase their contacts with the Indians.

One Baha'i was elected Secretary of the club, and another was appointed to the Welfare Committee.

Some of the club meetings have been held at the Baha'i Center, which has given some 20 Sioux Indians the opportunity to see a picture of the Baha'i House of Worship, a picture of 'Abdu'l-Baha, and the words 'Baha'i World Faith' for the first time. One of the members of the club is now attending a fireside given by a local Baha'i.

AMERICAN INDIAN NEWS

The American Indian Service Committee appeals to the Baha'i with the desire for pioneering deep in his heart, to consider the yet unfilled post on the Omaha Indian Reservation at Macy, Neb. Rebuilding this first American Indian Baha'i community offers perhaps the greatest challenge to pioneering in this country today.

In and around Macy are employment possibilities for school teachers, farmers, veterinarians, nurses, dentists, and doctors. Opportunities for selfless Baha'i service are unlimited. Those whose hearts are turned toward pioneering, without stint of time or dedication, are invited to write to the American Indian Service Committee for further information.

Nelson Green, a Makah Indian youth aged 19 from Neah Bay, Wash., was given a week's scholarship to attend the Baha'i School at Geyserville, Calif. The scholarship, provided by the Northwest Area Teaching Committee, is a wonderful way to not only support our Baha'i Schools, but also to make real contact with our American Indian friends.

A second Baha'i has joined in the pioneering effort at Devil's Lake Indian Reservation, Fort Totten, N. Dak. Among the group are the first declared Indian believers there, Mrs. Margaret Brown and Mrs. Mary Louise Swift Eagle. Children and adult classes have been established.

Arbor Baha'i Community, was elected the first President of AOEO.

Bergen (N.J.) Evening Record, Week-end Magazine Section, July 14, 1956, devoted an entire page to an exposition of the Faith by Curtis D. Kelsey, of the Teaneck Baha'i Public Relations Committee. The statement was illustrated with a photograph of the Master, one of the House of Worship, and one of the Shrine of the Baha. Mr. Kelsey summarized the aims and teachings of the Faith under fourteen interesting heads.

The Cedar Rapids Gazette, Sunday, July 22, carried an illustrated feature interview with Richmond Bawnah, a Gold Coast student who has left Cedar Rapids to serve his people as instructor in pharmacy at Kumasi College of Technology in the Gold Coast.

"A serious-minded youth, Rich became a member of the Baha'i Faith before leaving Cedar Rapids. He became interested in the religion, which describes itself as espousing world unity and encompassing all faiths, when he was in Denver in the summer of 1955."

Baha'is will recall Norman Cousins as one of the guest speakers on the programs of public meetings conducted during the Intercontinental Teaching Conference held in Chicago in observance of the Centenary of the Birth of the Mission of Baha'u'llah. As Editor of The Saturday Review, New York, he has written a truly enlightening and inspiring Editorial in the August 4 issue, entitled "Think of a Man." Briefly, he appeals to the individual to become aware of the real meaning of the dangers of H-bomb warfare, and to assert his innate but undeveloped passion for justice and world order. At the climax of this challenging appeal the author invites the individuals to think about the great spiritual leaders in human history—"about the prophets of the Old Testament" . . . the "purity, simplicity, and grandeur of . . . Jesus" . . . "About Baha'u'llah and his effort to provide a basis for spiritual and social unity among all men."

J. A. Rogers, writing of his impressions of the French people as compared to American, on the editorial page of the Pittsburgh Courier, July 14, 1956, emphasized the strong reaction of the French to the status of Negroes in America. After listening to one Frenchman he "told him that I know societies in America like the Baha'is, the Ethical Culture, the Riverside Church, and others, who are a hundred per cent against injustice based on color . . . "

Braille copies of "Christ's Promise Fulfilled" and "The Renewal of Civilization" ready for distribution to Distributing Libraries for the Blind. These volumes were prepared by the Baha'i Service for the Blind. There is also a six-volume edition of "Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah" in their lending library.
NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

A 25 minute interview of the "Homemakers' Club" program, conducted by Alma John on Radio Station WWRL in New York City, was given over to questions and answers on the Bahá’í Faith. Edward Schlesinger of New York and Curtis Kelsey of Teaneck, N. J., the Bahá’ís interviewed, gave an excellent presentation of the Faith. Miss John has requested Bahá’i presentations on her program for the next 13 weeks, to begin shortly.

The Flint, Mich., Bahá’í community sponsored a series of three radio broadcasts of 15 minutes each over Radio Station WBBC in observance of the 25th anniversary of the Louhelen Bahá’í School. Harlan Ober spoke on the Bahá’í Faith on July 17. Stanwood Cobb spoke on "The Meaning of Life" on July 21, and a third broadcast was scheduled for August 7.

A series of firesides in Kapaa, Kauai, T. H., are being conducted by the pioneers there as a follow-up to the recent visit of Auxiliary Board Member Florence Mayberry. Seven interested contacts have attended.

The Los Angeles, Calif., Bahá’í Assembly has appointed a Proclamation Committee to develop outstanding regular monthly public meetings, in place of the former weekly Sunday afternoon meetings. The first Proclamation Meeting was held August 24.

San Francisco, Calif., area Bahá’ís heard two pioneers of Swaziland, Africa, tell of their experiences in a talk at the San Francisco Bahá’í Center on June 26.

The Anchorage, Alaska, Bahá’í Assembly sponsored a public meeting at the Haiziratu’l-Quds on June 20. Mrs. Robert Atwood, wife of the editor of the Anchorage Daily Times, spoke of her recent trip to the Middle East with a group of newspaper editors. She told of the struggle for nationalism, and the problems people of various religious faiths face in breaking away from old traditions and finding their way in the modern world.

A public meeting in observance of the Martyrdom of the Bab was given by the Anchorage, Alaska, Recording District Bahá’í Assembly on the evening of July 9 at the Anchorage Haiziratu’l-Quds.

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

Fourth Year — 1956 - 1957

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<tr>
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—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

The first Iowa Teaching Institute was held at Scattergood Quaker Farm School near Iowa City, Iowa, on June 30 and July 1, the Area Bulletin for the Central States reports.

A Bahá’í International Club has been formed at Delaware State College, Dover, by two local Bahá’ís. The Area Bulletin for the Central Atlantic States reports that the first program featured an exchange student from New Zealand, who entertained with stories, songs, and dances of his homeland.

The Area Bulletin for the South Atlantic States lists locations for the first in a series of Area Conferences held on July 29: North Augusta, S.C., Atlanta, Ga., and Miami, Daytona Beach, and Tampa, Fla. An open air meeting, combining a box-lunch picnic and conference, was planned.

A Youth Teaching picnic was held at Princeton, N. J., on July 22, with outdoor activities in the morning, and a discussion program in the afternoon. The Area Youth Committee sponsored this meeting, the Area Bulletin for the North Atlantic States relates.

The Rocky Mountain States Area Bulletin states that a Sunday Children's Class has been established in Roswell, N. Mex.

BAHÁ’Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting Hours

Weekdays: 10:30 A.M.—4:30 P.M.
7:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M.

Sundays and Holidays: 10:30 A.M.—8:00 P.M.
(Auditorium only will be open in the evenings)

Service of Worship

Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.

The Religion of Mankind

Horace Holley. The essays and talks in this book are selected from the work, during half a century, of a Bahá’í who has served for more than thirty years as secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly, and in recent years as a Hand of the Cause. The book deals with many aspects of the Bahá’í Faith and the application of its principles as a solution to modern man's dilemma, both individual and collective. One never-to-be-forgotten chapter of the book deals with the author's privilege of meeting 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Europe.

The Religion of Mankind is excellent for presentation to libraries and to all interested seekers as well as for each personal Bahá’í library.

Available from

Bahá’í Publishing Trust
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

Part of the display of Bahá’í literature at the Los Angeles Bahá’í Center, where books and pamphlets are available to the community.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEASTS
September 8—‘Izzat (Might)
September 27—Mas’ihiyat (Will)

PROCLAMATION DAY
September 23—to proclaim America’s spiritual mission; to observe the anniversary of the Faith’s introduction to America.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
August 31, September 1, 2, 3 October 12, 13, 14

MARRIAGES
Helena, Montana: Miss Jean Stalnaker to Mr. Robert J. Gagnon on June 22, 1956.
Albuquerque, New Mexico: Miss Barbara Anne Kev to Mr. Don Hawley, on June 29, 1956.
Columbus, Ohio: Mrs. Bertha Harman to Mr. Frederick L. Morey on June 17, 1956.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Miss Phylliss Creager to Mr. James Doherty on July 19, 1956.

BAHA’I DIRECTORY CHANGES

ALEBAMA
Birmingham: Mrs. Rose Terry Brown, 986 North First Street, Z 4

ALASKA
Fairbanks: Mrs. Kathy Rodgers, P.O. Box 1659

ARIZONA
Yuma: Mrs. Lucy Belle Anderson, 2154 Sixth Avenue

CALIFORNIA (SOUTH)
National City: Mrs. Irma Haukedahl, 1747 E. 24th St.

ILLINOIS (NORTH)
Batavia: Mrs. Chester R. Oleson, 426 Delia Street

IOWA
Davenport: Miss Ethel W. Meyer, PSC Box 632

Maine
Elliot: Mrs. Charlotte E. Milden, Rural Route 1, Main Street

MINNESOTA
Minneapolis: Miss Sina O. Olsen, 123 S. 11th St., Apt. 401

MONTANA
Helena: Mr. Robert J. Gagnon, 880 5th Avenue

NEBRASKA
Omaha: Mrs. Sydna Moore, 3114 Miami

NORTH CAROLINA
Greensboro: Miss Zoe Meyer, 309 S. Trenton Dr.

PENNSYLVANIA
Pittsburgh: Mrs. Jean Minney, 806 Southern Avenue, Z 11

WYOMING
Laramie: Mrs. Solveig Velle Corbit, Sec. pro tem., 815 Ivinson

BAHA’I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHA’I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1956-57: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Mirzâ 'Ali-Muhammad, known as the Báb, was born in Shíráz, Irán, on October 20, 1819, scion of a house renowned for its nobility which traced its origin to Muhammad Himself.

At the age of twenty-five He declared His twofold Mission as an independent Manifestation of God and Herald of One greater than Himself, Who would inaugurate a new and unprecedented era in the religious history of mankind.

Six years later He was publicly martyred at Tabríz, Irán. His body was recovered by His disciples, concealed for many years, and finally transported to Haifa.

In 1909 'Abdu'l-Bahá deposited those remains within the vault of the Mausoleum he himself had erected for the Báb. Ever since that time, countless followers of the Bahá’í Faith have made the pilgrimage to this sacred spot.

The Shrine of the Báb on Mt. Carmel. Beyond the Shrine lies the city of Haifa, the harbor, the Bay of ‘Akká, and the hills of Lebanon.
“Above All, the Paramount Duty”

In a letter dated August 18, 1949, published in Bahá’í News of the following October, the beloved Guardian emphasized the obligation of the American believers to prepare the Bahá’ís of Latin America for the formation of their National Assemblies. Shoghi Effendi’s statement presents the “paramount duty” every Bahá’í must carry out in teaching new souls, in strengthening communities and groups, or in preparing himself for a useful Bahá’í life.

“Above all,” the Guardian wrote, “the paramount duty” is:
1. To deepen the spiritual life.
2. To enlighten the mind regarding the essential verities enshrined in the Faith.
3. Its fundamental institutions.
4. Its history and genesis — the twin Covenants of Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.
5. The present Administrative Order.
6. The future World Order.
8. The indispensable institutions of the Guardianship and of the Universal House of Justice.
10. Its relationship with the Dispensations that have preceded it.
11. Its attitude toward the social or political organizations in which it is surrounded.

Here, then, is a definite goal for the teacher and also the student.

Can each of us conscientiously say that he has already acquired this knowledge, and deepened his spiritual life? If not, where are we to turn for the necessary information? The Guardian has certainly not set forth a goal impossible for any Bahá’í to attain. The references are all in the readily accessible literature of the Faith: God Passes By, the Master’s Will and Testament, The World Order of Bahá’u’lláh, Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh, Bahá’í World Faith. In the indexes of these works any believer can find the passages which provide the enlightenment it is our “paramount duty” to possess and to share.

In that same message the Guardian wrote: “The Assemblies of the North American Continent, constituting the base for the gigantic operation destined to warm and illuminate, under American Bahá’í Auspices, the five continents of the globe, must, at no time and under no circumstance, be allowed to diminish in number or decline in strength and in influence. The groups and isolated centers so painstakingly formed and established, must be maintained, fostered and if possible multiplied.”

In this passage we perceive the vital necessity of attaining a sound understanding of the Bahá’í Message — for the Bahá’í life is not the enhancement of personality, but the spreading of the Faith.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Gleanings from the Convention

The National Budget—a Spiritual Obligation

“Dear Friends, I think that after this very fine presentation of the subject of the budget by the Treasurer and the many remarks made, we all realize that our annual budget does not begin in a Treasurer’s mind. We live in a Faith where the Master and now the Guardian has designated certain progressive tasks. Upon the American Bahá’ís particularly, great burdens have been laid from above, representing the spiritual concept of our collective capacities. Now, it becomes necessary to translate those spiritual obligations into material terms and that is all the budget really is. But when the Master or the Guardian, inspired by Bahá’u’lláh, lays upon us a collective task, that represents our sum-total capacity as a National Bahá’í body. But no one goes around and says, ‘Your share of that collective task is so much.’ That is where the individual enters, through his sense of participation, through his love for the Cause, and determines his share for himself. And apropos of that, let me remind you that in the Sacred Writings on more than one occasion it has been said that all wealth is God’s and that what we have is given us to use as trustees for God and that we will be called to account on the last day for our individual trustships.

“New, that is not old fundamentalism and trying to scare you with the fires of hell; it is a calm statement which is verified in the Bahá’í Writings. So let us try to enlarge our realization of the great work that the Cause is doing for humanity. We are trying to save mankind from destruction and the means and agencies for doing to bring about this result have been revealed to us and we have been given the privilege of establishing them and maintaining them. So, the budget, from first to last, is a spiritual rather than a material obligation.”

Statement by Horace Holley at the Forty-Eighth Annual Convention during a discussion on the National Budget.
program intended to bring assistance and inspiration to local Assemblies and groups. This plan will make effective use of all those Bahá'í who can devote up to a month on circuit teaching, and also those believers who are free to offer their services for weekend trips.

The details will be issued by the National Teaching Committee, and the National Spiritual Assembly urges whole-hearted response by individual teachers, local assemblies and the groups included in the teaching schedule.

As the body is maintained in health and strength by the circulation of blood through arteries and veins, by the purity of the heart, and by consecration of mind and will, so the great body of the Bahá'í Community, to realize its latent vigor and power, calls for the circulation of teachers through all parts of its organism. The plan is natural and inevitable. What makes it so vital now is its timing—its adoption in the hour of our greatest need on the homefront, and at the moment when the Guardian's Message generates the passion to serve the Faith of God.

During August the National Spiritual Assembly addressed a letter to every Bahá'í group appealing for strong and active local teaching programs and offering constructive suggestions. As this letter stated, the groups are the seed-bed of the Administrative Order, revealing where the next generation of Assemblies may be expected to arise.

Do the friends realize that there are groups of from two to eight Bahá'ís in 681 different localities? Here is a tremendous source of growth which must be utilized in order to establish the Faith impregnable in United States.

The nationwide teaching plan also includes observance of the Special Events spread throughout the year, and the holding of teaching institutes at periodic intervals.

The tide is at the flood, favoring winds blow strong! Let us raise the anchor, unfurl the sails and dare the great sea of human materialism and unbelief beyond which the Kingdom awaits.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

**INTERCONTINENTAL COMMITTEES**

**Asia**

**FIRST SOUTH EAST ASIA TEACHING CONFERENCE HELD IN DJAKARTA**

From August 15 to 18, 1956, the Bahá'ís of Jakarta, Indonesia, were hosts to an historical teaching conference, the first of its kind in South East Asia. It was called by the National Spiritual Assembly of India, Pakistan and Burma, and was sponsored jointly by the Regional Teaching and Assembly Development Committee of South East Asia and the local Spiritual Assembly of Jakarta. Its primary purpose was to plan for the expansion of the Faith throughout South East Asia and to prepare for the Regional National Spiritual Assembly to be elected in April 1957.

Several days before the opening of the conference Bahá'ís converged upon Djakarta from Vietnam, Sumatra, Java, Celebes, Molucca, Bali, Borneo, Mentawai, Malaya, Saigon, and Iran, and there were many joyous reunions. The climax of the pre-conference events was the arrival of Mr. Shu'u'llah 'Alá'í, revered Hand of the Cause in Asia, who came at the express request of the Guardian.

Informal meetings were held in the Hażratu'll-Quds several evenings before the formal sessions began, not only to become better acquainted and to renew old friendships, but also to meet with the local Spiritual Assembly, the Regional Teaching and Development Committee, and to select a temporary chairman in the event that Mr. E. Bakhtiari, President of the National Spiritual Assembly of India, Pakistan and Burma, did not arrive in time for the opening of the conference. Mr. A. Samimi, Chairman of the Djakarta Assembly, was selected for this function, and Mr. K. Payman of Djakarta was appointed official translator for the three languages which were to be used—Indonesian, Persian and English.

**Distinguished Visitors**

Besides Mr. 'Alá'í and Mr. Bakhtiari, the distinguished visitors included Mr. A. A. Butt, Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of India, Pakistan and Burma, and Mr. H. Collis Featherstone, Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia and New Zealand, both of whom are members of the Auxiliary Board in Asia. Mr. Carl Scherer, Bahá'í pioneer in Macao, another

Bahá'ís attending the South East Asia Teaching Conference at Djakarta, Indonesia, August 15-18 1956. Seated beneath the plaque of the Greatest Name is Shu'u'llah 'Alá'í, Hand of the Cause.
The discussions and talks by the pioneers expressed and emphasized the great determination and the steadfastness which characterizes their efforts. The sacrifices many are making by living in these primitive areas, lacking in even simple comforts and conveniences, proves their zeal and their devotion to the Guardian as well as their dedication to the tasks of the World Crusade.

Much of the success of the conference was due to the skillful manner in which the capable and dignified chairman, Mr. A. Samimi, guided the program. Mr. K. Payman, one of the first pioneers to reach and settle in Indonesia, contributed a very warm and charming personality to the difficult work of translating all talks, discussions, questions and answers into the three languages used. Dr. Jamshed Fozdar, the secretary, also made valuable contributions to the success of the meetings, and all were impressed by his clear, concise statement of the goals achieved and others still to be won in the World Crusade in South East Asia.

Account of Pilgrimage

Mr. A. A. Butt, secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of India, Pakistan and Burma, gave a thrilling, interesting account of his meetings with the beloved Guardian during his pilgrimage to Haifa. Mr. Bakhhtiar expressed his views on the problems of teaching in this area, and other talks were given by Mr. John Fozdar, Mr. Featherstone, Mrs. Shirin Fozdar, and Mr. Scherer on subjects assigned to them in advance of the conference. Everyone participated in the discussions. The speeches made by the Indonesian friends concerning the needs of Indonesia and their personal experiences were very moving.

In his talk, Mr. Sjamsuri explained how to teach the Faith in Sumatra, one of the larger islands of this huge chain of hundreds of islands extending for 2,000 miles from the eastern to the western ends, with a population of 80,000 people. He particularly emphasized the great need for schools, libraries, hospitals, and medicines throughout this vast area.

Mr. R. Mohajer outlined to the conference his carefully prepared plan for the expansion of Bahá'í activities in Indonesia, and others made their recommendations for expansion in the other countries of the South East Pacific.

Successes on Mentawai

Most surprising and astonishing—and confirming reports currently circulating throughout the area—was the news of the rapid acceptance of the Faith by the people of the Mentawai Islands, a group of islands lying west of Sumatra. This news was confirmed by Dr. R. Mohajer and Mrs. Iran Mohajer. Here this valiant couple, Knights of Bahá'u'lláh, have enrolled entire villages and have established three local Spiritual Assemblies and three groups, a total of six centers with over three hundred enrolled believers, a total of about one thousand believers throughout the entire island group, including the youth and children. Here was proof of the Guardian’s statements that the Islands of the
Pacific will see victories that will rival those achieved in Africa.

Before the final evening session of the closing day, August 18, a special commemorative service was held for Mr. Aziz Samandari, a pioneer to Turkey. Many floral arrangements decorated the hall and prayers for the departed were read. Mr. Mohajer spoke briefly about Mr. Samandari and his services to the Faith.

The closing speeches of the last evening were climaxed by an inspiring talk by Mr. S. 'Alá'í, who not only summarized the results of this historic conference, but also the total accomplishments in the South East Pacific, where, he said, there are 510 believers in 37 centers, and including eleven local Assemblies, of which eight are incorporated. He reported that all the FA'IRATU'L-QUDS and Bahá'í endowments have been purchased, and plans have been formulated for the expansion of the Faith throughout the entire Asia area.

Like the endings of all other conferences, there were reluctant, and tearful farewells, and the promise to meet again soon. Surely this promise will be fulfilled when delegates from all these areas will meet next April for the formation of the Regional National Spiritual Assembly of South East Asia.

—Carl A. Scherer

SUMMER CONFERENCE HELD AT KWANGJU

A Bahá'í Summer Conference, patterned after the successful Winter Conference of last December, was held at Kwangju, Korea, on July 16-20, 1956. An American Bahá'í pioneer there has written a colorful description of the events.

In the preparations for the Korea summer conference every Bahá'í endured real tests. The planning committee first expected six Persians from Japan plus at least one American and possibly one Japanese. As the guest list dwindled, the committee had to alter the program with almost every day's mail. The Seoul friends were much perturbed by the constantly changing date set for the conference. And the two friends from Japan had enough delays and problems that they were exhausted even before their plane took off from Tokyo.

Some of the Seoul friends who were awaiting the plane feared that they were about to witness two martyrdoms, since the airliner was obviously in trouble in the fog and rain. For more than an hour the plane circled the field and after one unsuccessful try finally put down its wheels on solid pavement, generating, no doubt, a chorus of sighs that must have been audible a long distance.

On Sunday, July 15, about eleven o'clock, William Smits appeared at the Center in Kwangju greatly fatigued. He appeared to be alone, but to everyone's astonished delight, lagging out-of-sight behind him, were Mr. Katarai and Mr. Moghbel, our Persian friends from Japan, along with Miss Webster, Miss Pang, and Dr. Oh, from Seoul.

They all thought it a delirious surprise for us, for we had no notion as to if or when they would finally come. Some had even begun to voice their suspicions that no one would be coming after all. The guests had ridden all night without sleep nor had they had their breakfast, so that the cook was hurriedly summoned to get breakfast for them. Then we all confessed to each other the anxieties that we had been through.

By and by they were served their meal and told to get ready for a press conference. (We in Kwangju had been trying to dream up possible excuses to give to the pressmen for the absence of the guests.) The center was a mad-house thereafter. People were constantly dropping in; we had to compose and type a press release, get it translated and then mimeograph it all by 3:00 o'clock.

In the meantime there were hosts' duties pressing and people never did stop coming, but they also stayed and stayed. Before order there was chaos. But somehow everything was done.

For the press conference all of the visiting Bahá'ís summoned enough strength to be present, plus about

A group of those attending the Bahá'í Summer Conference at Kwangju, Korea, July 16-20, 1956, before the gate to the school.
ten local Bahá'ís, two pressmen and one interpreter who is an English teacher at one of the local universities. The newsmen, to everyone's surprise, mostly asked questions about the religion; they seemed to be careful to avoid the usual trite queries. Their stories later, though spiced with interesting inaccuracies, carried the spirit of the Faith surprisingly well.

To all the Bahá'ís present we explained that we would have no meeting that night so as to allow our completely exhausted guests time to rest. But such was not to be! From that time on the house was like a local market-place, crowded, noisy and busy.

The Monday morning, July 16th, program served as a guide that kept us rolling: devotions at 9:45 a.m. after the registration; then two lectures plus an outdoor fireside led by Lecile Webster. The program itself specified "uplifting lectures" at 10:00 o'clock on such topics as "Spiritual Heroes," "Impressions of Haifa," "The Soul of Man," "The Glory of Islam," and "The Evolution of Man."

Following this was a class on the "Basic Teachings of the Faith" each morning at eleven. Then in the afternoon, a class on Bahá'í administration was held for the Bahá'ís only. At 4:30 p.m. a class on history was given. Originally, book-reviews were planned for 5:30 p.m., but the extension of discussion after the previous classes made this impractical.

Sticklers for rigidity would have been appalled at the abandon with which the program was modified almost every day. But various causes seemed to necessitate this.

On Monday evening a public meeting was held for adults. Attendance was surprisingly high. It included eight professors of Chonnam University; three doctors from the Chonnam Hospital; two graduates of Eiwa Women's University in Seoul, a rather famous university; and hosts of graduate students and other people who were somehow or another attracted to come. The program was handled interestingly: Mr. Katirai, Mr. Moghbel, Miss Webster and Mr. Smits each gave short talks like a panel discussion; then the people were divided into two groups for convenient discussion. Everyone felt that the Faith had been presented with dignity, forcefully and clearly. Everyone had a chance to ask questions while refreshments were served—an absolute necessity in Korea.

For the daytime meetings the attendance varied between twenty-five and forty, the Bahá'ís usually making up about two-thirds of the audience. Other evening meetings were for students, with one evening for only the Bahá'ís which had to be moved to the home of one of the Bahá'ís, in order to insure privacy. This meeting was devoted to story telling, mostly from the Dawn-Breakers. The last evening was a type of farewell party which in tone was probably the most spiritual of all the meetings. (Do Bahá'ís love farewell parties?)

Miss Webster and Dr. Oh had to leave the conference on Tuesday afternoon but not before they had become thoroughly acquainted with the local Bahá'ís and had endeared themselves to all (Dr. Oh is, incidentally, a lady physician). Mention should be made that the Dean of the Law School of Chonnam University and his faculty invited the guests, and the writer to a splendid Korean lunch at one of the downtown restaurants. It was a magnificent display of hospitality. In return, Mr. Katirai and Mr. Moghbel invited them all to dinner at the Center on a following evening, an invitation the lawyers kindly accepted. Cordial relations with them had been established by David Earl when he came for the Winter Conference, and these meetings drew them nearer to the Faith.

Another dinner was held for the editors of the Honam Press and one of their friends, a high school principal. These gentlemen asked many questions about the Faith and they were shown a few slides of the Temple and the Shrine of the Báb. Others were often invited to stay for one meal or another, including one other of the Chonnam faculty members, and a reporter from the Chonnam Press.

All in all, it is estimated that at least 100 different people came for one or more of these sessions of the conference. Although most were students, yet we feel that the Faith in Kwangju is ever increasing its circle of friends as a result of this conference. Particularly the immense publicity secured and the reports that we get of its reception by thinking men and women of this province, indicate that the Faith moved out of
the initial stage of obscurity in this area as a direct result of this conference.

The value of such “gatherings of the Faithful of God” cannot be reckoned or terms of attendance, or publicity, or any such statistical measuring stick. It is in that immeasurable quantity of inspiration and resolve that their worth lies. And though unmeasurable, it is certainly evident. The friends went back to Seoul completely infused with a new appreciation of the Cause, just as the friends of Kwangju seem vastly more interested in doing the day-to-day deeds that will determine eventual establishment of the Faith. Likewise, they all seem highly responsive to the new awareness of their obligation to teach the Faith as well as to enjoy the newfound prestige that comes with being a part of a Faith that secured such glowing treatment from the local press.

On Saturday morning, six days after the beginning, all of the Assembly and several other members journeyed the five miles to the train station to say goodbye to the visitors—probably the first Persians in Korea in modern history. Some of the passengers were visibly shocked to see Koreans being embraced by foreigners—it doesn’t happen between even father and son here. But, as one of the Bahá’ís said to me later, “I felt empty when they left.” At the same time some of us felt very full—full of that transcendent love that Bahá’u’lláh bountifully bestows upon his unworthy servants. Some were so full that the tears could not be held back.

—William H. Maxwell

WORK IN ASIA

The Asia Teaching Committee has information that jobs in Asia are available through certain government agencies for American citizens with training and experience in certain technical fields. The committee will be glad to furnish the names of these agencies on request. Address: Asia Teaching Committee, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.

Western Hemisphere

FIVE NEW ASSEMBLIES TO BE ELECTED RIDVÁN

The Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee continues to appeal for volunteers to pioneer in Alaska and Latin America.

Those who arise now will be participators in the giant steps to be taken next Ridván, when, in accordance with the Guardian’s instructions, Alaska will elect its own National Spiritual Assembly, and Latin America will elect four regional National Assemblies as an intermediate stage to the establishment of a National Assembly in each individual country.

Two of these will be in South America: one for the northern half of the country, and one for the southern half.

Central America will have one regional National Assembly for the countries on the mainland, and one for the island countries.

Teachers, Nurses Needed

Word comes from the Alaska Teaching Committee that nurses can always find employment in Alaska. Also, there is a severe teacher shortage for the Territorial schools. For information on where to apply for a teaching position, contact the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, Secretary, 73 College Road West, Princeton, N.J.

For Latin America pioneering, teaching remains one of the best opportunities known to this Committee. For skilled technical person-
nel there are good opportunities through such agencies as the United Nations.

Pioneer Letters

Of special interest to American believers is the following pioneer letter, which demonstrates the startling rapidity with which the Faith seems to be spread in other countries.

Hart Friedland, French Guinea

Left Cayenne on July 21st by plane of the Brazilian Air Force. On arriving in Macapa, located directly on the Equator and on one of the tributaries of the Amazon, the Captain of the plane approached me, knowing that I was the only American on board, told of his recent visit to Baltimore, and invited me to ride with him to the hotel. There we sat outdoors waiting for supper. After explaining the nature of my visit, I let him read a booklet on the Faith. Soon a Major sat next to him, asking what he was reading. The Major recognized the word Bahá’í and said that three years ago he had taken a lady from Rio to Bahia, who told him of the Bahá’í Faith. That evening I loaned him a Portuguese New Era, which a few days later he purchased.

On arriving in Belem, all hotels were taken. Happily enough, our beloved Margot Worley from Bahia had been a trail-blazer, and had located a “pension”. With this introduction I got the private living room.

In the evening the second New Era was loaned out; two weeks later sold.

Next day I registered at the American Consulate; the Consul asked about the nature of my visit, and knowing of the Faith and Temple, gave me about ten names. Four of them bought the New Era, which led to the Theosophists, who invited me to a home.

The Chief of the Bureau of Immigration took me to the Editor of one of the largest newspapers, resulting in a good write-up for the Cause, read by many. Three books were given to libraries. One lady who bought the New Era said she will buy all books on the Faith in Portuguese. A Professor of law who read the New Era said he would mention the book in his class on International Law.

Altogether, twenty Portuguese and one English New Era have been sold; nine more are on loan with busy people. Hope to have found at least four who seem to be seriously interested. Thanks to Bahá’u’lláh, thanks to Margot Worley who initiated this journey, thanks to the Brazilian Teaching Committee who supplied the books, and thanks to a beautiful edition of the Portuguese New Era; there was much invisible aid. Hope to return there in November. Thanks to the National Spiritual Assembly and your Committee who supplied the funds!

Frank Snyder, Lanai City, T.H.

When I arrived on July 3rd I did not know one soul; now I feel I have 2,000 friends. No Bahá’ís yet, but fine material. It is very lonely but Bahá’u’lláh showers his blessing on me every day.

At home the Lions Club always said they would invite me to tell of my Bahá’í experience, but never did. This morning I walked up to Richard Tamashira and said, “Richard, I’d like to tell your group about the Bahá’í Faith.” With the most radiant smile you ever saw he said, “Certainly,” and marked down the date, July 26, and I was most happy.

Australia, New Zealand

ABORIGINE, MAORI COMMITTEES FORMED

An Aborigine and a Maori Committee have been appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia and New Zealand to initiate teaching of the Faith among the Aborigines of Australia and the Maoris of New Zealand, the Australian Bahá’í Bulletin reports.

Leroy Ioas, in a letter advising the National Assembly that the Guardian is anxious that constructive steps be taken in this direction, wrote, “The beloved Master has often referred to the importance of the original inhabitants of a country being brought into the Faith, as the Cause of God will be the means of stimulating and activating these peoples and the cause of their progress in society.”

FIRST AUSTRALIAN ASSEMBLY INCORPORATED

Another historic milestone has been passed in Australia, with the incorporation of the Spiritual Assembly of Port Adelaide on August 10, 1956. This is the first incorporated Assembly in Australia in a defined civic area.
BAHA'I NEWS

Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Allancate, Spain, formed April 21, 1956.

British Isles

REPORT SUMMER TEACHING ACTIVITIES

The Home Front, a news bulletin issued by the National Teaching Committee of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles, reports an active summer teaching schedule throughout their area:

Bahá'ís from the South East Region held a Teaching Conference in London on June 16-17.

The same weekend Philip Hainsworth spoke at three meetings in Greater Manchester, two firesides and a Manchester public meeting.

The Belfast Assembly, joining with the new Northern Ireland Regional Teaching Committee, sponsored a Midsummer Symposium, centered around the theme "The New Era." Five public meetings were held from June 22 to 24. The following week, several firesides were held.

The Birmingham Center was officially opened and dedicated on June 23, with a program of lively interest, and an air of charming hospitality.

Nottingham has a new Center which is being used five times weekly.

Ted Cardell and Philip Hainsworth, British pioneers in South West Africa and Uganda, have spent a busy summer traveling around the islands, speaking in many places.

Canada

VARIETY MARKS SUMMER TEACHING WORK

The Canadian Bahá'í News lists the following teaching activities across Canada during the summer months:

Mrs. Joy Hill Earl, a pioneer of Tokyo, Japan, visited the London, Ont., community. She spoke at a well-attended meeting on "Building Towards One World." A lively discussion period followed the address.

Mrs. Terah Cowart-Smith of Rochester, N. Y., taught in the Hamilton-Dundas area. Firesides were held almost every night, and an interesting experiment on Group Prayer Therapy was carried out, showing the dynamic power of unity of thought and purpose.

The Burlington Bahá'í Children's fireside sponsored a "Children's Day" in the form of a picnic on July 1. Seventy-seven attended, and enjoyed a program of races, swimming, and a puppet show.

The Toronto community is now holding their Sunday evening meetings and Feasts at the Haíriatu'l-Quds.

Famous Players theaters across Canada have been showing the short-subject film titled "Land of the Bible," which includes views of Haifa, the Shrine of the Báb, and mention of the Faith.

The Commemoration of the visit of 'Abdu'l-Bahá to Montreal was held in the Maxwell Home there on September 8.

The Laurentian Bahá'í School Committee reports a successful session at Beaulac this year: successful because of the fellowship engendered during the two weeks it was open, successful financially in that they were able to assure an adequate water supply for all future summer sessions through the purchase of a pumping system, and successful from the teaching viewpoint.

Germany, Austria

ESCHBORN TEMPLE SITE ACQUISITION BLOCKED

Efforts to acquire title to the land of the projected Temple site at Eschborn have been unsuccessful to the present time, Baha'í Nachrichten, publication of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, reports.

The National Assembly is seeking further legal advice in order that no effort will be spared to strengthen the Bahá'í position. A year's time has been consumed in the first two hearings, and it is evident that there is much opposition to the project. The Christian Church, both Catholic and Protestant, are definitely anti-Bahá'í, and there is evidence that many people have been censured for having advised the Bahá'í officials in their procedure.

In the meantime progress continues in drawing up plans for the Temple edifice. Nineteen sets of plans have been submitted to the Guardian for his selection.

TEACHING CONFERENCE, SUMMER SCHOOL REPORTED

A Teaching Conference was planned for Sept. 28 to Oct. 1 in the Haíriatu'l-Quds at Frankfurt/Main. The three-fold program embraced the themes of "The Covenant," "The Ten Year Plan in its Third Phase," and "Practical Teaching Work."

Bahá'í Youth from Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Heidelberg, Frankfurt, and Esslingen, as well as guests from Norway, Denmark, and Switzerland, participated in the Youth Summer School in Reichenbach-Odenwald on July 23-31. Sessions were led by Doris Lohse and Hanni Weber.
Central and East Africa

NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ORGANIZES, BEGINS WORK

The National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa, formed at Ridván this year at Kampala, Uganda, (Baha'i News, July issue) has published the first issue of its Newsletter reporting the actions of the Assembly at the first two meetings.

Officers of the National Assembly include Ali Nakhjavani, Chairman; Aziz Yazdi, Vice Chairman; Philip Hainsworth, Secretary; and Hassan Sabri, Treasurer.

The first meeting in May included an inspiring consultation with Musa Banání, Hand of the Cause of God in Africa, and deliberations on the goals for the new Assembly, on the establishment of a budget and a National Fund, on plans to convert the Kampala Center to a National House of Worship, and on a meeting schedule for the balance of the year.

Afterward, the Assembly cabled the results of the meeting to the Guardian, and received the following reply:

"Delighted action taken contribute £500 supplicating manifold blessings. Shown."

At a later date the archives, furniture, and other materials of the Kampala headquarters were handed over to the National Assembly. Included in the archives was the precious Robe of Bahá'u'lláh.

On the subject of Regional Development, the Assembly determined to divide the region into the mainland, with five territorial areas, each area having a Territorial Teaching Committee, and the three island groups of Zanzibar, Seychelles, and Comoro.

Three national committees have been appointed, the Literature and Reviewing Committee, the Literature Production Committee, and the Book Stock Advisory Committee.

Many local Spiritual Assemblies have sent notice of their formation and elected officers to the National Assembly, and recognition is being sent to them.

The ambitious work of this Assembly in their first two meetings holds great promise for rich accomplishments in the months to come.

South America

ENDOWMENT SECURED IN ECUADOR

The National Spiritual Assembly of South America has announced the purchase of a plot of land for the national endowment of Ecuador. It is located beside Lake San Pablo, two kilometers from the city of Otavalo, and is 3,254 square meters in area.

Other Achievements

Also revealed is the legal incorporation of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Huancayo, Peru. A photograph of this Assembly was published in the August issue of Baha'i News.

A second pamphlet in Quechua, one of the Indian languages used in Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador, which is a translation of the pamphlet used by the British National Assembly for translation into the African languages, has now been published in Huancayo, Peru.
The Navajo Story

The land of the Navajo, largest of all American Indian tribes, is as varied as it is vast. Its brilliant canyons, desert stretches and pine-covered mountains comprise an area as large as Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire combined. Here the Dineh (or the People, as the Navajos call themselves) live isolated from the rest of the world and often from each other, since their hogans (dome-shaped earth houses) are not grouped into villages but are scattered about the reservation. They are farmers and sheep-herders upon a beautiful but arid and sometimes unyielding land. It is said that the average Navajo earns about $100 a year. Yet they love their land. Their awareness of its beauty and the order in the world about them is reflected in the designs of their famous rugs and sandpaintings.

Living among the Navajos in Arizona are two Bahá’í pioneers, Amoz Gibbons at Pinon and the Hayward Campers at Indian Wells. At the invitation of these pioneers, and under the auspices of the American Indian Service Committee, Mrs. Meherangiz Munsiff of Washington, D.C. (originally of Bombay, India) spent part of July and August in the reservation, assisting in the teaching work already so well begun.

On one evening in early August in the little village of Pinon, a meeting was held in the Amoz Gibbons’ home. A group of Navajos who speak English, with several children, arrived first to meet the guest, whose native East Indian dress attracted them, and whose loving greeting warmed their hearts. As a number of white people including a few of the missionaries arrived, the Navajos crowded together in a corner.

For a few unhappy moments the new arrivals spoke of the Navajos as though they were not there, commenting on their lack of intelligence and unwillingness to be taught. When it became apparent that these few had come to belittle the Indian people, both of the East and of the West, their attention was called to the fact that the very disciples of Christ could not read or write. To their attack on the backwardness of the people of India, Mrs. Munsiff countered with a reminder that the civilization of that country predates our own.

The Navajos were delighted, and remained after the white visitors left, stating simply that “we just want to stay.” In a spirit of happiness and oneness a Bahá’í study class began at midnight that very night.

The Hopi Story

The Hopi reservation of northern Arizona is small, completely surrounded by the Navajo. Upon its broad mesas, rising majestically from the vast desert below, rest ancient villages where the Hopi people have lived since pre-Columbian days, and loving their land and preserving their customs and religious beliefs. The meeting of the Oid and the New is the theme of this story.

In early August, Meherangiz Munsiff with Grace Dean, pioneer at Gallup, N. Mex. and Minnie Locke, Gallup, N. Mex. and Minnie Locke, travelled onto the Hopi reservation. Stopping in one of the villages, they learned of a conference called by the Chief at Hotevilla, on the most isolated of the Hopi mesas. From there had gone out a call for “men of good will” to hear the plea of the Hopi people that their mesa farmland be preserved for them as holy land upon which they believe the Creator placed them for a purpose.

In order to talk with the Chief, the Bahá’í travellers went on to Hotevilla. There the Chief welcomed them to his simple adobe dwelling where, seated in a circle on the dirt floor, the visitors took part in a remarkable conversation. Through his son as interpreter, the Chief told them the story of the origin of his people, of an ancient stone tablet preserved at Hotevilla which carries the precepts of the Hopi way of life, and of the hope held by his people that the day is fast approaching when they can deliver it into the hands of the Massawa, the Great Spirit who was once in human form on this earth, and who promised he would return to lead his people.

Mrs. Munsiff then spoke with compassion for the difficulties surrounding the Hopi, whose very name means “The Peaceful Ones.” She told of the sufferings of Bahá’u’lláh who was made to walk through the desert bareheaded and barefooted and who endured imprisonment for bringing His Message of Peace to mankind.

There were tears in the old Chief’s eyes as he listened to the story of the wrongs done to the Holy Ones of the Bahá’í Faith. Meanwhile others came into the room and listened, quietly and attentively, to the telling of Bahá’u’lláh’s message for all peoples and of the work of the Bahá’ís in fulfillment of the Hopi’s.

Through the hospitality of their new friends, the Bahá’ís were invited to talk with other Hopi leaders before leaving. Returning several days later for the Conference, they had occasion to speak of the Faith during the meeting and to individuals later. Among those was a young interpreter who, after leaving the reservation for several years of college and earnest study of the world’s religions, had returned to his home-land to help keep alive the Hopi belief in impending calamity and the Hopi vision of their Peaceful Way renewed.

It was this young man who later confided to one of the pioneers that he had talked with the oldest Hopi chief about the message the Bahá’ís had brought, and that when he spoke the name, Bahá’u’lláh, the old wise one had nodded, saying, “Of course. It is He to whom we have always been praying.”

This is only part of the story whose later chapters will be written in the deeds and devotion of these pioneers. May the Bahá’ís be moved to pray for the pioneers, for their beloved Indian friends, for the People, for the Peaceful Ones.

—American Indian Service Committee
Mrs. Nancy Phillips, Secretary
736 Encanto Drive, S.E.
Phoenix, Arizona
About 80 miles north of San Francisco the land opens up into a wide valley framed on both sides by rolling hills and mountain bluffs, rich with farms, orchards, and vineyards. There it is, the entrance to the Geyserville Bahá’í School.

You turn in the drive bordered by beautiful flowers and shrubbery, and your eyes fall expectantly on Geyserville’s most famous landmark — The Big Tree. It’s a Douglas Fir, deceptive in its symmetry as it towers above the surrounding trees and buildings. You look up and see that it comes to not one, but two points at the top. “Why, it’s symbolic of the Twin Prophets of our Faith, or of the Twin Pillars of the Administrative Order,” you think to yourself.

Later, you glance down under the Big Tree and see the Youth Class, heads still huddled in discussion, ignoring the class bell as usual.

This is one of the most wonderful things you’ve noticed about Geyserville: the children and young people. You see all ages, colors, and all kinds of temperaments mixing in a spirit of love and happiness; you see them working, playing, and studying together with a common sense of purpose. You see tomorrow’s pioneers, teachers, and administrators, and you’re boundlessly thankful for them.

That evening at the orientation meeting in Collins Hall the Program Director tells you a little of the history of the School, and then outlines some of the events and activities in store for you during the coming week.

This year’s theme is “Meeting the Challenge of the Bahá’í Way of Life.” Each day, except Sunday, you will attend five classes, like this one, all relating to this theme.
of Spiritual Strength and Dedication

You are happy to hear of the scope these classes will take, for you have come to Geyserville for two reasons: first, to put into practice the Bahá'í way of life, and second, to engage in intensive study of the teachings and history of the Bahá'í World Faith.

The next morning you are awakened by the quiet rustlings of your roommate. It's still dark outside, and you ask why they're up so early.

"We're going up to the Point for dawn prayers. Want to come?" Do you! You jump out of bed, dress in a hurry, and join the group outside as they climb the hill behind the School.

Soon you come to a point that overlooks the valley below, and here you all sit in the early morning stillness, while the first streaks of dawn appear in the eastern sky. Each in turn reads one of his favorite prayers as the sun rises above the hills across the valley.

The days rush together in prayer, study, and fellowship, all forming a continuous stream of harmonious activity. One Sunday remains bright in your memory, July 15, the day of the annual Unity Feast. You watch as over 450 Bahá'ís and their friends gather under the Big Tree. They have come from many parts of the world, and are united in a common purpose and aim — the establishment of the vital and binding principle, The Oneness of Mankind. You listen as pioneers from far-flung Crusade posts tell of their experiences, and as the day draws to a close you have a renewed realization of the organic unity of the Bahá'í World Community.
You prepare to leave with deep emotion. It's hard to think of going away from this place with its special spirit and atmosphere, its associations and way of life; yet, you are spurred on to accomplish greater things in service to your Faith, your strength and knowledge have been revitalized, there are challenges to be met and goals to be won, and you are anxious to play your part in the dramatic spiritual drama that is taking place all over the world.

As you leave, you turn for one last glimpse of the Big Tree, and its two towering points. Geyserville will always be a part of you now, and so you turn forward again and look at the road ahead. Your courage is undaunted, your dedication resolute, your faith unshakeable; you are taking a new place in the vanguard of Bahá’u'lláh’s army. There is work to be done!

—Val Sage

GROUP COMBINES CAMPING, DEEPENING

A novel idea for fellowship and study has been developed by the Bellingham, Wash., group with a two-day weekend camping trip and deepening in the Faith on August 25-26.

Scene of the camping was Mt. Baker, at Heather Meadows Recreation Area, about 60 miles northeast of Bellingham. Outdoor eating and sleeping was planned, amid beautiful mountain scenery.

The deepening classes concentrated on “The Power of the Covenant,” and “The Covenant, Crux of Teaching.”

BAHÁ’IS ENTERTAIN MAKAH INDIANS

Responding to the invitation of resident pioneers Modelle and Foster Mudd, who live on the Makah Reservation at Neah Bay, Wash., the Area Teaching Committee for the Northwestern States, with a few of the friends, made Neah Bay their destination for a July 1 weekend.

Laden with sleeping bags and other paraphernalia for “roughing it,” the Washington Bahá’ís met on Saturday with a sizable group of Makah youth for fun, frolic, and refreshments. The get-acquainted party lasted until late evening, when some of the men retired to sleep on the beach with the Indian boys.

The next morning slides of the Temple were shown to the Makah youth groups, who were able to learn through architectural symbols the basis of Bahá’í belief. Interest was concentrated, and one youth declared his intention of visiting the Temple this year.

Sunday afternoon a delightful Salmon Bake, artfully prepared, brought out many carloads of local Makahs, insuring the success of an event planned by the youth. They plan to use the proceeds for current youth projects supervised by the Mudds, who work with the boy and girl youth groups at Neah Bay.

The remainder of the afternoon was given over to comradeship, picture taking, and singing, the latter being highlighted by a vocal trio of Makah boys who, singing in close harmony, entertained generously.

Youth Visit Geyserville

The week following the ATC visit, Nelson and Cecil, two youth, the former a full-blooded Makah, the latter a member of the Clallam tribe, attended the first session at Geyserville with the Mudd family.

Nelson, a youth leader who was the recipient of an ATC scholarship for his week there, has placed his name first on the list at Geyserville which will enable him to attend all five sessions at the school next year.

So much enthusiasm has been generated over the first meeting at Neah Bay with the Makahs that an early follow-up to be climaxied by a public meeting in the local town hall is in the making.

NATION-WIDE TEACHING OPPORTUNITY

Adult Bible classes in Methodist Churches throughout the country are currently taking up four “emerging religious groups” for study and discussion: The Pentecostalists, the Mormons, Christian Scientists, and the Bahá’í Faith. Material for discussion is distributed in Adult Student and in Adult Teacher, monthly publications issued by The Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tenn.

It is of importance as well as interest to believers to note the main
points developed in these publications expressing the official Methodist view of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

1. The most important question in any study of the Bahá'í Faith is whether Bahá'u'lláh was a true Prophet.

2. The nine texts over the entrance portals of the House of Worship are cited in full.

3. Bahá'í history from the Bab to the Guardian is briefly summarized.

4. Bahá'í beliefs give the impression of contemporary importance.

5. There is actually nothing new or revolutionary in the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

6. The individual denominations must be perfected before we can hope to effect the larger kingdom of God.

7. What has Christianity to offer to parallel or surpass the claims of the Bahá'í movement?

8. The Bahá'í headquarters at Wilmette, Illinois, will send free leaflets concerning their faith.

9. As Moses was the prophet for his time, Christ for his, Muhammad for his, so Bahá'u'lláh is the prophet for this day, his followers claim.

10. Scarcely a generation goes by without someone convincing many people that he is a prophet. Jesus predicted that false Christs and false prophets would arise.

11. God Passes By, by Shoghi Effendi, is mentioned as the most definitive study of Bahá'í history from the Bahá'í point of view.

12. There is little doubt that Bahá'u'lláh was an impressive personality of great wisdom and of sacrificial devotion to his beliefs.

13. One can scarcely find anything in the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh not already in the Christian tradition.

14. All Christians should be aware of the uniqueness of the Christian revelation. None denies that God has in a limited manner spoken through other faiths, but only in Christianity has he spoken through His Son.

15. The Bahá'í organization is potentially totalitarian since leadership has passed to descendents of Bahá'u'lláh.

16. The Bahá'í faith does not offer the redemption from sin offered by the Christian gospel.

This information is brought to the attention of the believers for two reasons. First, as one more evidence of the spiritual power of the Faith in challenging the traditional religions to examine its claims. The Bahá'í Faith is publicized even when misunderstood and dismissed. Second, because the list of points no doubt represents the attitude of a large number of Protestants, and therefore each of us should study these points and then prepare ourselves to deal with them when encountered in public meetings or fireside groups.

Since students attending these Bible classes are referred to God Passes By, one thing each community or group can do is to see that this work is available in the local library.

**BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS**

The moving picture short, "Land of the Bible," briefly mentioned last month, has been identified as distributed by Twentieth Century-Fox in Canada and the United States. It runs eighteen minutes, includes two views of the Shrine of the Bab, and the narration refers to Haifa as the Headquarters of the Bahá'í World Faith.

Five musical compositions by Charles Duncan, American pioneer to Brunei, now in Bangkok, Thailand, were included in the program rendered by the Bangkok Music Group on July 30. Two of the five were songs composed for Words of Bahá'u'lláh. Mr. Duncan read the Bahá'í text to the audience and explained that it was taken from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, Founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

The visit made to the Temple by the Burmese Ambassador, U Win, was noted in Wilmette Life, August 16, 1956, and his photograph was published.

During the recent Democratic Convention in Chicago, The Chicago Daily Tribune ran a headline, "What To Do When You Are In Chicago," with a listing of Museums, Concerts, Park Attractions, Sightseeing, Points of Interest, Information, and Sports. The Bahá'í Temple was listed under "Points of Interest."

*Life*—"A Review of What's Right With the World," in January 1956 published material on the subject of the changing status of women. In the course of the summary it is pointed out that "women and men members of the Bahá'í Faith enjoy equal rights and privileges as a fundamental principle of this world religion."

An extensive tribute is paid to Táhirih—"The Persian Joan of Arc."

The Downey News, published by patients of V.A. Hospital, Downey, Ill., presented in its August 1956 number a description of a tour of the Bahá'í House of Worship by twenty-six hospital patients.
Third Blue Ridge Conference Sets Attendance Record

The third Blue Ridge Conference was again held at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, N.C., near Asheville, from the evening of August 25th through the morning of August 28th. Each year more of the friends and their Bahá'í contacts have attended; the first year there were 75, and this year that number had almost doubled, with 140 attending. This was probably the largest Bahá'í conference ever held in the South.

There were in particular two new additions to the program, both of which added greatly to the joy, the inspiration, and the activity of the Conference. The National Bahá'í Youth Committee sent representatives, and many other youth also attended, taking a very active part in all phases of the program, under the direction of Hamilton Niss.

The maturity and vigor of these young Bahá'ís was an inspiration to all. Not only did they carry out faithfully and fully all the tasks assigned them, such as conducting the program dedicated to a discussion of youth work locally and nationally, with Coral Varo speaking as official representative of the National Bahá'í Youth Committee, the devotions on Monday morning, and a large part of the social activities, under the direction of Jack Davis, but they entered whole-heartedly into all the discussions and classes conducted.

The second innovation at Blue Ridge was a special program for children, very ably conducted by Mrs. Thelma Allison and Mrs. Hazel McCulla, assisted by Mrs. Ruth Meurer. While the adults held their morning and afternoon sessions, the children had their own classes, separately, which they all not only enjoyed thoroughly, but from which they derived considerable knowledge and Bahá'í experience.

For the Conference as a whole, the two high spots of the children's activities came on Sunday afternoon, when Mrs. Margaret Gawan invited them to come into the main assembly hall to close her session on Consultation by singing the Bahá'í children's song, "Consultation means finding out what everybody is thinking about," and on Tuesday morning, when the children conducted the morning devotions, which were preceded by the recording of a choral group singing "From the sweet-scented streams of Thine eternity". Knowing that the children's program was planned, many more parents brought their children this year.

The over-all theme of the Conference was "The Power of the Creative Word". Three talks on 1) "Recognition," 2) "Realization," and 3) "Manifestation of the Power of the Creative Word," were given on the three successive mornings, by Louise Matthias, Winston Evans and John Inglis, respectively, carrying through from the individual spiritual reawakening or re-birth, to the practical application in passing on to others the spiritual dynamic of the Word of God.

Each talk was followed by questions and discussion from the floor, which brought out many more ideas for teaching. All the other classes and discussions were also built around this idea, such as "Teaching Techniques," given by Mrs. Terah Cowart-Smith, and "Being an International Bahá'í," by Mr. Eruch Munisiff.

The Interracial Committee, represented by Mrs. Etta Woodlen, sent greetings to the Conference. Mrs. Woodlen set forth the aims of that Committee, as given by the National Spiritual Assembly, and told us some of the activities and aids they plan for this year. She preceded her talk with the tape recording of Dorothy Baker, speaking to the Jubilee Convention in 1953, concerning teaching among the Negroes and American Indians, as set forth to her by the Guardian, during her pilgrimage. She brought out the following seven points, which still provide an excellent guide for us in this and in all our teaching work. 1) Where are the largest population centers? 2) List prominent leaders—have the right people meet them. 3) Visit those sections, to determine their receptivity to the Faith. 4) Send an Ali Nakhibjavi to eat, sleep, and live with them. 5) Supply enough inspiring visiting teachers. 6) Supply literature and helpful services. 7) Set a goal immediately for assembly establishment, and work toward it constantly.

One session, under the chairmanship of Hubert Matthias, was set aside for suggestions from the floor for next year's Conference. These few days at Blue Ridge are truly a spiritual oasis for the friends who are isolated or come from a small group or community. There, we get fresh inspiration from the Creative Word, and strengthen our own unity in our association and consultation with our fellow Bahá'ís.

We were greatly blessed in having Paul Haney with us. He told us many things about current world-wide Bahá'í activities, and projects presently under the direction of our American National Assembly. Even more vital, he keynoted the spirit with which we must work, and the tasks we must achieve, reviewing the Guardian's new message, a new letter from Rúhiyyih Khánum, and a letter from the Hands of the Cause in Israel, addressed to the Hands in America.

He ended by saying, "Failure to achieve any particular phase of the Plan at its appointed time jeopardizes further achievement . . . The entire Crusade will be jeopardized, if the home front is not re-vitalized, and the redemption of the world is also jeopardized . . . Bahá'u'lláh gave a Law to the nations. Its scope is far beyond that of any that came before. To ensure that it would be carried out, He gave the Covenant . . . The Guardian is the channel through whom the Will of God comes to the world today. The speed with which we respond to the tasks he gives determines the speed with which the World Order will be established . . . The friends at home must display the same dedication as the pioneers . . . Each one must be like a reed for the Holy Spirit."

—Louise B. Matthias
National Youth, Area Teaching Conferences Held at Green Acre

The National Bahá'í Youth Committee used the facilities of the Green Acre Bahá'í School, Eliot, Maine, for a National Youth Conference on the opening weekend of the summer school season, June 30 and July 1. To the right are pictured the youth attending this meeting.

On August 25 and 26, the Area Teaching Committees of the North Atlantic States and the New England States jointly sponsored an Inter-Area Teaching Conference at Green Acre. Over 100 Bahá'ís attended.

Mr. Matthew W. Bullock was the featured speaker on Saturday afternoon, August 25. His topic was "Race Amity," and following the talk the Conference divided into workshop groups like the one shown on the left, to discuss the subject. Later they re-

convened to hear the chairmen of the groups give a resume of the meetings.

On Saturday evening, Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, member of the Auxiliary Board of the American Hands of the Cause, shared a message from the Hands, and then discussed teaching problems on the home front.

The next day the theme was "Teaching on the Home Front," by George Spendlove. Workshops met a on the previous day.

At the right is the group picture of all the Bahá'ís attending this Inter-Area Conference.
NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Mrs. Meherangiz Munsiff, who visited the Navajo and Hopi Reservations this summer, made many stops along the way from Washington, D.C. to Arizona and return. An elaborate itinerary was arranged by the various communities, Area Committees, and the American National Teaching Committee, for teaching and public appearances.

She and her daughter, Jyoti, made stops westbound at Staunton and Roanoke, Va.; Oakridge, Chattanooga, and Memphis, Tenn.; Little Rock, Ark.; Dallas and El Paso, Texas; and Globe, Phoenix, Camp Verde, and Flagstaff, Ariz.

Returning by way of Gallup, N. Mex., Mrs. Munsiff stopped at Albuquerque, N. Mex.; Amarillo, Texas; Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla.; Springfield and St. Louis, Mo.; and Cincinnati, Ohio.

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

The Area Bulletin for the Northwestern States reports that Portland, Ore., Home Front Committee will assist Astoria this year; Walla Walla, Wash., maintains a Sunday deepening class followed by a devotional hour, and a regular weekly fireside; Everett, Wash., exhibited slides of the Temple, Guatemala, and Africa at a recent fireside.

An Area Teaching Conference based on “Faith in Action Through the Power of the Covenant” was conducted by the Area Teaching Committee for the East Central States at Louhelen Bahá’í School, Davison, Mich., their Area Bulletin reports. Also announced is the combining of extension teaching efforts by Terre Haute and Crawfordsville, Ind., with outstanding results in achieving greater coverage of the area. Kalamaoo, Mich., is planning a series of eight public meetings from October through February. Study classes were begun in June by Niles City, Cassopolis, and Howard Township, Mich.

The New Orleans, La., community reports monthly public meetings at which 20 to 40 people attend, in the Area Bulletin for the Gulf States. In Galveston, Texas, a local Bahá’í had the opportunity to tell of her visit to the National Convention in Wilmette on a local television program. On another television program three Galveston Bahá’ís described their local observance of the Martyrdom of the Báb. One of them, recently enrolled, was introduced as a new believer, and was asked to tell briefly about the Bahá’í Faith.

Dr. Joseph Collins spoke at a meeting of the Boston, Mass., Metaphysical Society in June, the New England States Area Bulletin reports. Dr. Collins wrote an article which appeared in the May issue of the American Medical Association Magazine, in which he discussed the Bahá’í Faith. In Falmouth, Mass., Matthew Bullock spoke to a group of friends, mostly non-Bahá’ís, on July 30.

Weekly firesides are now being held at Devil’s Lake, N. Dak., the North Central States Area Bulletin reports. Minot, N. Dak., is continuing their monthly series of radio programs. A two-day Teaching Conference was held at Fargo, N. Dak., on August 4-5, with the study of “The Power of the Covenant.”

Warm cooperation between the Seattle, Wash., Home Front Committee and the Olympia, Wash., group has resulted in a fine response at the past two public meetings held in the goal city of Olympia. Twenty seven people attended the July meeting, and there has been excellent publicity in a local newspaper on alternate weeks, the Northwestern States Area Bulletin reports.

The Area Bulletin for the South Atlantic States lists excellent reports on the Area Teaching Conferences held in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina on July 29. Aiken Co., S. C., had 16 Bahá’ís in attendance; Dayttona Beach, Fla., 16 Bahá’ís; Tampa, Fla., 10 Bahá’ís; and Miami, Fla., 49 Bahá’ís. Discussions centered on the Covenant and the Ten Year Plan.

The Birmingham, Ala., community was host to a Youth Conference at the Bahá’í Center on September 1, the Tennessee Valley States Area Bulletin reports. Three members of the Area Teaching Committee visited Jackson, Miss., on July 22, with wonderful fellowship and a good meeting. A Bahá’í stationed at Keesler Air Force Base, near Gulfport, Miss., brought airmen from many...
countries to Gulfport firesides. They have now scattered to many points throughout the world, with the invitation to look up Bahá’ís wherever they go. Bahá’ís of Memphis, Tenn., have an interesting method of teaching. They invite the public to view a series of television programs on “The Religions of Man,” after which a discussion meeting is held on the televised talk.

Braille copies of “Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh,” in six volumes, prepared by the Bahá’í Service for the Blind.

New Printings

Bahá’í Anniversary and Feast Day cards. A permanent Bahá’í calendar of the nineteen day Feast, anniversaries, festivities and days of fasting, with special information on them taken from a letter from Shoghi Effendi. Days on which work should be suspended are also listed. Printed on colorful double cards in purse or vest-pocket size, 3 x 5. (Please note new price and mark catalogs accordingly).

- 10 copies .................. $ .50
- 100 copies .................. $3.00

Introduction to a Study of The Qur’án (Koran) (With additional references from several Bahá’í texts.)

A new printing of a formerly mimeographed outline, following the new design for outlines, each on different colored stock for easy identification. An excellent aid for studying The Koran, with references from Gleanings, Kitáb-I-Iqán, Some Answered Questions, Hidden Words, and other basic Bahá’í texts. 8½ x 11. 24 pages printed on pink stock.

Per copy ........................ $ .50

New Clothbound Edition

The Advent of Divine Justice. By Shoghi Effendi. In this book the Guardian deals with the spiritual, intellectual, and social qualifications that are the prerequisites to success in the many responsibilities confronting the individual and the Bahá’í community. There is a special message to Bahá’í Youth, and a significant chapter on the destiny of America. Because this work so earnestly and clearly delineates those ideals which must characterize both private and public life, it is of vital importance to every student of the Bahá’í Faith. Now available only in hardbound, permanent edition, bound in turquoise blue linen.

Per copy ........................ $1.50

Religion For Mankind. By Horace Holley, (Ronald)

Cloth .......................... $3.00

Available for UN Week


- Per copy ....................... $ .35
- 12 copies .................... $3.00


- 10 copies ....................... $ .50
- 25 copies ...................... $1.00

(These two pamphlets are regular stock items)

Foreign Language Literature

One Universal Faith. (Chinese). A reproduction of our English language edition of this leaflet, including the diagram of the Divine Revelators.

Per copy ........................ $ .95

Out of Print

Story Supplement for God Passes By Not to be reprinted in present form.


Industrial Justice. Size 5½ x 8½ is out of print. A similar compilation, On Industrial Justice, originally prepared for a Public Relations project, in letter size 8½ x 11, will be substituted on all future orders.

- 10 copies ....................... $ .25
- 100 copies ..................... $2.00

A Pattern for Future Society. Size 5½ x 8½ is out of print. A similar compilation by same title, originally prepared for a Public Relations project, in letter size 8½ x 11, will be substituted on all future orders.

- 10 copies ....................... $ .25
- 100 copies ..................... $2.00

Note: Please correct catalogs according to above information.
FEASTS
October 15—Ilm (Knowledge)
November 4—Qudrat (Power)

UNITED NATIONS DAY
October 24—to proclaim the spiritual basis on which the nations can unite for lasting world peace.

BIRTHDAY OF THE BÁB
October 20

BIRTHDAY OF BÁBÁ’U’LLÁH
November 12—to proclaim the appearance of the Promised One of all religions as the hope of the world.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
October 12, 13, 14
November 22, 23, 24, 25

Mrs. Hannah Sprague
San Mateo, California
August 13, 1956

Mrs. William C. Dodge
Blue Point, Long Island, New York
September 3, 1956

BAHÁ’Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting Hours
Weekdays:
1:00 P.M.—4:00 P.M.
(Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays:
10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
(Entire building will be open)

Service of Worship
Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until
4:15.

MARRIAGES
Waukesha Wisconsin: Miss Nancy Luttenegger to Mr. Keith Parker on June 3, 1956.


Los Angeles, California: Miss Christine Larson to Mr. John F. Cook on August 12, 1956.

BAHÁ’Í DIRECTORY CHANGES

ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES

California (South)
Altadena: Mrs. Beatrice Buckley, 755 E. Poppyfields Drive
Beverly Hills: Miss Mary Ellen Reese, 148 South Elm Drive, Apt. 5.

Colorado
Pueblo: Mrs. Virginia Flood, 111 Broadway, Apt. 11

Illinois (South)
Limestone Twp.: Mrs. Mary Lou Wright, R. R. 3, Lancaster Road, Peoria

Montana
Helena: Mr. Robert J. Cagnon, 506 5th Avenue

North Carolina
Greensboro: Miss Zoe Meyer, 309 S. Trenton Dr.

RESIGNATIONS FROM COMMITTEES
Northern Peoples Teaching Committee
Mrs. Zora Banks

European Teaching Committee
Mr. Ned Blackmer
Mr. Henry Jarvis

Temple Worship Committee
Mr. Ned Blackmer

ADDITIONS TO COMMITTEES
United Nations
Observers for International Bahá’í Community
Mrs. O. H. Blackwell, U.S. Observer (omitted in error)

Central Area Youth Committee
Mr. Aden J. Lauchner

Davison School Maintenance Committee
Mrs. Robert Gaines

North Central States Area Teaching Committee
Mr. Tim Rost

BAHÁ’Í NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHÁ’Í NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1956-57: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou knowest that my sole aim in revealing Thy cause hath been to reveal Thee and not myself, and to manifest Thy glory rather than my glory. In Thy path, and to attain Thy pleasure, I have scorned rest, joy, delight. At all times and under all conditions my gaze hath been fixed on Thy precepts, and mine eyes bent upon the things Thou hast hidden me observe in Thy Tablets. I have wakened every morning to the light of Thy praise and Thy rememberance, and reached every evening inhaling the fragrance of Thy mercy.

And when the entire creation was stirred up, and the whole earth was convulsed, and the sweet savors of Thy name, the All-Praised, had almost ceased to breathe over Thy realms, and the winds of Thy mercy had well-nigh been stilled throughout Thy dominions, Thou didst, through the power of Thy might, raise me up among Thy servants, and bid me to show forth Thy sovereignty amidst Thy people. Thereupon I arose before all Thy creatures, strengthened by Thy help and Thy power, and summoned all the multitudes unto Thee, and announced unto all Thy servants Thy favors and Thy gifts, and invited them to turn towards this Ocean, every drop of the waters of which crieth out, proclaiming unto all that are in heaven and on earth that He is, in truth, the Fountain of all life, and the Quickener of the entire creation, and the object of the adoration of all worlds, and the Best-Beloved of every understanding heart, and the Desire of all them that are nigh unto Thee.

Though the fierce winds of the hatred of the wicked doers blew and beat on this Lamp, He was, at no time, in His love for Thy beauty, hindered from shedding the fragrance of His light. As the transgressions committed against Thee waxed greater and greater, my eagerness to reveal Thy Cause correspondingly increased, and as the tribulations deepened—and to this Thy glory beareth me witness—a fuller measure of Thy sovereignty and of Thy power was vouchsafed by me unto Thy creatures.

And finally, I was cast by the transgressors into the prison-city of 'Akka, and my kindred were made captive in Baghdd. The power of Thy might might hearth me witness, O my God! Every trouble that hath touched me in Thy path hath added to my joy and increased my gladness. I swear by Thee, O Thou Who art the King of Kings! None of the kings of the earth hath power to hinder me from remembering Thee or from extolling Thy virtues. Were they to be leagued—as they have been leagued—against me, and to brandish their sharpest swords and most afflictive spears against me, I would not hesitate to magnify Thy name before all them that are in Thy heaven and on Thy earth. Nay rather, I would cry out and say: "This, O my Beloved, is my face which I have offered up for Thy face, and this is my spirit which I have sacrificed for Thy spirit, and this is my blood that seetheth in my veins, in its longing to be shed for love of Thee and in Thy path."

—Prayers and Meditations, p. 103-105
Beloved Friends:

The National Spiritual Assembly, in its continuous effort to assist in activating the Bahá'í Community throughout the United States, has prepared and printed a compilation, a copy of which is being sent directly to every believer.

This compilation, similar in format to The Power of the Covenant issued to the friends in July, completes the plan adopted by the NSA to place in the hands of every believer for study, meditation and discussion, the basic Message of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh.

The new compilation, entitled The Charter of a Divine Civilization, carries forward the great Message from the principles expounded in The Power of the Covenant to their application to humanity through the Institutions of the Bahá'í Administrative Order. The Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá constitutes the Charter of this Order, the function of which is to unify mankind and usher in the Golden Age of a Divine Civilization.

This is the mystery of the Day of God, that Bahá'u'lláh both revealed the oneness of the Prophets and, through 'Abdu'l-Bahá, provided the instruments for establishing His Revelation as the Law and Order of a regenerated humanity.

Those who recognize and accept Bahá'u'lláh recognize and accept all the Prophets before Him. Those who repudiate Bahá'u'lláh repudiate all the Prophets, including Him whom they extol and claim to obey.

Furthermore, those who accept Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant, established in the Person of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, are members of that Administrative Order through which the Power of the Covenant flows, first to the Bahá'í's, and through them to the sincere members of every race, nation, class and creed.

This mystery signifies that our Bahá'í Communities and Institutions are the sole recipients and chosen trustees of the Bounty which God has destined for mankind in this age.

To ignore, to dislike, to repudiate the Institutions is to lose contact with the Bounty itself. It is because 'Abdu'l-Bahá authorized and appointed them, with the Authority conferred upon Him by Bahá'u'lláh, that we must respect the Bahá'í Institutions and serve them with all our hearts. Outside their authority and order we behold the dark jungle which human society has become.

By what (apparently) little deeds are the great results eventually won: purity of motive in consultation; cheerful acceptance of the final decision; support of the Fund; radiance of spirit in attending the Nineteen Day Feasts and Anniversaries; ardent participation in the success of the World Crusade; sincerity and patience in dealing with one's fellow believers.

Unity is that condition which attracts the Divine bounties. Only in a mutual understanding of His Message can unity be achieved.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Suggestions for Bahá'í Writers

The National Spiritual Assembly finds it necessary to remind the individual believers and committees who submit material for possible publication in Bahá'í News, The Bahá'í World, etc., as pamphlets, and in bulletins, that any excerpts quoted from the Bahá'í Writings must cite the authentic source and page number for each quotation used. This practice will not only save many hours of time for the Reviewing Committee or any other committees who are required to approve material for publication, but will also insure the accuracy of the quotations, which must be preserved.

It is further requested that all material intended for publication be submitted in manuscript form, typed in double space, correct and ready for the printer.

—National Spiritual Assembly

The friends are requested to give careful consideration to the Guardian's feeling about the matter of contacting minorities, as expressed in the following paragraphs of a letter written on behalf of the Guardian by his Secretary on July 19, 1956.

"The beloved Guardian feels that sufficient attention is not being paid to the matter of contacting minorities in the United States. A great impetus could be lent to the work in the European countries, in certain Far-Eastern areas, and in Latin America, if the Bahá'ís residing in the big cities and university towns would make a determined and sufficient effort to extend friendship and hospitality to students and nationals from countries where the Bahá'ís are struggling so hard to establish the Faith. They would not only have the possibility of making more local believers, but they might also increase the membership of communities abroad, by sending back Bahá'ís from the United States. This has happened already a number of times with Chinese and Japanese friends, etc., to the great advantage of the Cause.

"He feels that your Assembly should appoint a special committee to survey the possibilities of this kind of work and then instruct the local Assemblies accordingly, and in the meantime encourage the Bahá'ís to be active in this field, which is one open to everybody, as the minorities are invariably lonely and often respond to kindness much more quickly than the well-established majority of the population."

In order to make a definite beginning on this important teaching work, the National Assembly has appointed a committee to study the possibilities and recommend how local communities and groups can effectively respond to the Guardian's expressed desire. When the committee's recommendations are received, the National Assembly will bring them to the attention of the friends. Meanwhile the field is open for local activities by communities and groups.

—National Spiritual Assembly
Erection of the Baha'i International Archives Building on Mt. Carmel, Haifa, had reached the stage shown in these pictures by September 1, 1956. Above is the Archives Building, showing carved crowning on the North Wall, from the Shrine Gardens.

Front view showing two of the superimposing Entablature stones.

Carved Corner Crowning for Archives Building.

Entablature of the South Wall, Archives Building.
Correction In Text of Guardian’s Letter

The letter from the Guardian dated July 19, 1956, which went out to the friends as an insert in September Bahá’í News, is to be corrected as follows:

P. 4, left hand column, second paragraph from bottom of page, should read: “The history of a century old Faith eloquently bears witness.”

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Will You Be There?

Your State Convention for the election of delegates to the National Bahá’í Convention in April 1957 will be held on Sunday, December 2, 1956. Make plans now to attend and participate. Information regarding place, time and agenda, and ballots will be mailed to each enrolled adult believer about November 15.

The Guardian has stated that the State Conventions “will promote Bahá’í solidarity in every state... and, by bringing together the believers, enable them to function more efficiently and harmoniously, and promote the work of the Cause that lies ahead.”

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

RELIC OF MAH-KU PLACED IN MAXWELL GRAVE

The National Assembly of Canada has published in their Bahá’í News an account of a memorial service at the grave of Sutherland Maxwell in Montreal.

This gathering was held for the purpose of fulfilling the instructions of the Guardian for the placing, under the headstone of the grave, of a piece of plaster from the walls of the prison in Mah-ku where the Bab was incarcerated in 1847.

The Guardian had sent this piece of plaster enclosed in an alabaster box to the National Assembly. The Guardian pointed out that another piece of plaster from the same source had been placed under the first golden tile of the dome of the Shrine of the Bab on Mt. Carmel. The superstructure of the Shrine was designed by Sutherland Maxwell.

A simple but impressive service of prayers and readings was arranged by the National Shrines Committee.

This was followed by a brief statement on the life of Mr. Maxwell and his historic service to the Faith, especially as recalled in the Guardian’s cable at the time of his passing.

Mention was made of the period of the Bab’s ministry, during which He was incarcerated in Mah-ku, and of the special instructions of the Guardian regarding the piece of plaster from the prison wall.

The box containing the plaster was placed in a special excavation in the foundation stone under the headstone. Attar of roses, sent by the Guardian for the purpose, was poured over the alabaster box, which was then permanently sealed with tile and cement in the foundation stone in the presence of the friends.

The service closed with the reading of the Tablet of Visitation.

PIONEERS NEEDED IN N. W. AFRICA

Challenging opportunities to teach the Faith and participate in the rapid expansion of its Administrative Order in the many countries of North West Africa are open today.

The need for self-supporting pioneers in virgin and consolidation areas is both great and immediate. For further details write to:

U. S. Africa Teaching Committee
Mrs. Sylvia Parmalee, Secretary
4700 47th St. N.W.
Washington 16, D. C.

International News

Canada

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HAZIRATU’L-QUDS
OF CANADA DEDICATED

The dedication of the National Haziratu’l-Quds of the Bahá’ís of Canada took place at 274 Huron Street, Toronto, at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, September 30th. The meeting began with music, a devotional period, and an introduction by the Chairman, Mr. Lloyd Gardner, who read greetings from other countries and Bahá’í communities in Canada.

The Dedication Address, prepared by Horace Holley, Secretary of the American National Spiritual Assembly, and Hand of the Cause of God, was delivered by Mr. Rowland Estall, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands for Canada.

The address reviewed the growth of the Faith in Canada since its establishment, noting the history-making services of Mrs. May Maxwell, pioneer Bahá’í of Canada; of Sutherland Maxwell, Architect of the Shrine of the Báb on Mt. Carmel; and of Amatu’l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum, wife of the Guardian. Mr. Holley noted ‘Abdul-Bahá’s visit to Montreal in 1912. He wrote also of the memorable services of Fred Schopflocher, called by the Guardian “The Temple Builder.”

Then he went on to describe the significance of the Haziratu’l-Quds, its many functions as administrative headquarters, Secretariat, Library, Archives, and headquarters for teaching conferences and public meetings. Beyond its functions however, he wrote, is its threefold influence; first the enhancement and consolidation of the authority of the National Assembly throughout the Bahá’í community; second, the new dignity and prestige it confers upon the Faith in the eyes of the public; and third, its importance as the seat of one of the electoral bodies of the members of the future International House of Justice.

PIONEER ARRIVES
IN NEWFOUNDLAND

The Canadian New Territories Committee Bulletin has received a letter from Suzie Pawlowska, who recently arrived in St. Anthony, Newfoundland. Excerpts from her letter are reprinted here:

“By the grace of God I have arrived at St. Anthony. So many new impressions and my exacting school activities have impeded me from writing you earlier.

“We sailed into the harbor on the beautifully sunny Sunday morning of September 2. Just outside the harbor was a leftover iceberg (my introduction to the North). It seemed to augur well for Bahá’í teaching that as we were sailing into sight of the town we were right in the midst of a discussion about the Faith. One of the teachers at the school had been in the Yukon and had heard about the Faith there.

“To tell you all about the activities here would take much too long. The most important things are that it is possible and easy to bring up the Faith, that the mission workers with whom I have talked about it seemed interested and aware of religious questions.

“You have no idea with what gratitude I am filled at these plentiful opportunities and occasions to teach the Faith. After a year at St. Pierre, where such discussions were
as difficult to introduce as light into a blind eye, it is like being among people who can see again and being able to show them the potent life-giving source of light.

"On the school where I teach is the big sign "All Thy children shall be taught of the Lord and great shall be the peace of Thy children." Always looking at it, I am struck anew with the Bahá’í implications of this quotation.

"As you may already know, the Mission is interdenominational, and the school is not a part of the Mission anymore, but all the workers, whether from the Mission hospital or at the school, have the wonderful quality of dedication in common.

"The spirit of Sir Wilfred Grenfell, and of his dedicated service to mankind, seems to pervade the atmosphere of the town, and especially of the house where I am staying, for it used to be his home. What better soil for the development of Bahá’i ideals!"

"The opportunities for working with the Eskimos are also abundant. We intend to organize classes after school for the TB cases of Eskimo children at the San."

"I have also been asked to supervise the overflow of several older Eskimo boys from the orphanage. Visits to the Eskimo patients at the hospital are encouraged, for they are starved for companionship.

"These are just some of the things that have come up in the first week. The ability of work to be of service is such an immense privilege that, although my day begins at six and does not end till about midnight, tiredness seems almost completely illuminated by the joy of serving both on the human level, and for the Faith.""

**Baha’i Institute at Chichicastenango Attracts Maya-Quiche Indians**

The picture above shows some of the students of the Bahá’í Indian Cultural Institute at Chichicastenango, Guatemala, with the Director, Mrs. Jennie Taylor, who does everything from teaching, nursing, and even to assisting in the delivery of Indian babies. A night class has been inaugurated for the parents of these students, who are anxious to improve along with their children. They speak Maya-Quiche, Spanish, and some English.

Top right shows the National Endowment in Chichicastenango. The Bahá’ís are fortunate in having the Guardian’s approval for the purchase of the land and a building for the Indian work. This has brought great joy to the hearts of the Indians. The property is in the center of the town on a hill, and measures half an acre of land.

Bottom right shows how happy the students of the Institute are, plowing and planting corn. Through this Institute the Bahá’í message is carried to many of the Indians living in the mountains.
Central America
FIRST TEACHING CONGRESS HELD IN MEXICO
Bahá’í News of Central America, published by the Central America National Spiritual Assembly, reports the first Bahá’í Teaching Congress of Mexico, held in Mexico City on July 28-29, 1956.

The two-day meetings for Bahá’ís were climaxed with a public meeting on Sunday evening, featuring the inauguration of the Mexico City Hażíratu’l-Quds.

The Teaching Congress program included talks on conducting local Spiritual Assembly meetings and Feasts, the Covenant and Administration, importance of the Bahá’í Fund, the individual’s relationship to the World Crusade, and other related topics.

South America
STUDY INSTITUTE HELD IN RIO DE JANEIRO
The annual Study Institute of the Bahá’ís of Brazil took place in the lovely mountain resort of Rezende, midway between Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, on September 7-9, 1956. Attending the Institute were four Bahá’ís from Rio and four from Sao Paulo.

The books chosen for study during the three days of the meeting were those recently published by the National Publishing Committee of Rio Janeiro: The Kitáb-i-Íqán, Renewal of Civilization, and Bahá’í Administration.

Among the suggestions made for furthering the teaching of the Faith was the formation of various language study groups, in order to cope with the diversity of languages among the newcomers to Brazil.
LETTER APPRAISES PIONEER PROBLEMS

A recent letter from Mrs. Roberta Christian, Secretary of the Bahá’í Group in Athens, Greece, tells of the enrollment in the Faith of the first mainland Greek, and then continues with an excellent evaluation of the problems and needs of pioneers everywhere.

“We do so wish that we had thrilling news to transmit more often. But we have all had to learn that there are all kinds of pioneering. The glamorous kind always makes the headlines and, we know, thrills and inspires the believers at home. The other kind is going on, too, in many places, among those of us who have had to learn the bitter-sweet lesson of patience and sustained steadfastness.

“Time is relative, of course; but it is extremely difficult to balance one’s eagerness against the rocky pinnacles of seemingly unscalable impediments. Under such circumstances, the pioneer learns — hard and slow — that progress is made by putting one foot in front of the other, husbanding one’s strength, never succumbing to frustration or discouragement, and keeping one’s eyes fixed upward and ahead.

“We know that the friends at home continue to pray for all the pioneers everywhere. But we hope that they do two things besides: first, that they give praise at all times for their freedom to teach and to testify; and, second, that they pray especially for the pioneers who very rarely even sip of the life-renewing draught of success.

“Those of us in this category need such assistance more than you can imagine. The weeks turn into months and the months into years, and loneliness and frustration are almost tangible enemies which it takes strength to combat. Our strength, of course, lies in our love and consecrated devotion to our Cause, and its agencies and institutions; but our human natures also need the sustenance to be found in the association with and prayers of our fellow believers.

“We can associate only in spirit, but that spiritual association surely spans the oceans and continents. And so we turn in thought so often to our memories of the radiant faces of the friends we know and love, and hope that their faces are turned also to us.”

INTERRACIAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES PROGRAM

The Bahá’í Interracial Teaching Committee was established as one of the national teaching committees in 1953 when Dorothy Baker brought back from Haifa the Guardian’s message that we were failing to attract a sufficient number of Negroes to the Faith, and that a special committee must be set up to concentrate on this aspect of teaching work.

The goal of this committee is to act as a clearing house for news, projects, and ideas that could be of benefit to all communities or individuals who need such information and assistance. It is recommended that communities appoint an inter­racial news representative to send reports, beginning immediately with an account of interracial activities that have been carried on between last April and the present time. Groups and isolated Bahá’ís are also urged to inform us of their work in this field.

The committee stands ready to serve in many different ways. Questions, requests for help, and suggestions are invited. Following is an outline of the interracial teaching program approved by the National Spiritual Assembly for this year. Complete details will be sent to all local Spiritual Assemblies and Area Teaching Committees, as well as to individual Bahá’ís who do not have access to them through these channels.

1. Race Amity Conferences

‘Abdu’l-Bahá inspired the original race amity conferences which Mrs. Agnes Parsons initiated in Washington, D.C. As originally conducted, they brought together both white and colored speakers on the Bahá’í platform, at least one speaker and the chairman being Bahá’ís; the others being identified with the spirit of race amity.

To give the conferences a national perspective, the Interracial Committee recommends that as many communities as possible plan to hold conferences at the same time, between February 10 and 17, 1957, which is Negro History Week.

The extent to which a community acts upon this recommendation must
be determined by the locality, the size, and financial resources of the community. However, every community, group, and isolated believer can participate in some manner as suggested in the committee’s detailed program.

2. Survey of Local Leaders

As a first step in making plans to reach Negro and white leaders, the committee recommends making a survey of such leaders, male and female, at the young adult, college student, and youth level. Because the prestige of the mature leaders — Negro or white — religious, political or social — in any community depends upon maintaining the status quo, the mature leaders are less likely to become actively interested or involved in what they consider a “new religion.” By contrast, the young leaders are generally willing to investigate new horizons.

The Interracial Teaching Committee offers suggestions on how to gather names. It has prepared a special letter on committee stationery, and has selected special Bahá’í literature to be sent to the names collected. The actual mailing is to be done by the local community. Please inform the committee of the number of letters required.

3. Introduction to the American Negro’s World

If we are to adequately and persuasively present the Bahá’í story to the Negro people, we should go armed first with love, followed by facts. The individual Bahá’í supplies the love, but the committee will supply the facts in the form of free and inexpensive literature. What it is, how and where to get it, is outlined in the detailed program, but the committee will be glad to furnish on request a copy of the literature list.

4. Institute on “Faith in Action”

Faith in Action is the compilation prepared by the 1953-1954 Interracial Teaching Committee for an organized study of the Bahá’í approach to human relations. Copies may be obtained from the Bahá’í Publishing Trust.

5. Circulate and use the book “Race and Man”

This is one of the most complete compilations giving the solution of the race problem as outlined by recognized authorities in scientific and sociological fields, with spiritual teachings on the unity of the human race as expounded by Bahá’u’lláh. Please see the announcement by the Bahá’í Publishing Trust regarding the price of this publication.

6. Use of the Statement on Race Relations

Widespread use should be made of the statement, “The Oneness of Mankind,” issued by the National Spiritual Assembly and sent to every believer as an insert in the May 1956 issue of Bahá’í News. One suggestion is that a copy be sent to local newspapers for their files on race relations so that the editorial office may have available for ready reference the Bahá’í view on race. Copies of this statement are available from the Bahá’í Publishing Trust.

7. Pioneering in a Southern City

Bahá’ís in America do not need to be told that the situation in the southern states is grave. The committee urges the friends to give prayerful consideration to accepting one of the most challenging Bahá’í teaching assignments, that of settling in a goal city in the South. The committee’s detailed program includes a list of such places.

To sum up the goals toward which the Interracial Teaching Committee is striving, we quote the following from a statement by the National Spiritual Assembly published in the October 1954 issue of Bahá’í News:

“... true solidarity in every Bahá’í community whose members represent more than one race; local public programs for promotion of that principle in all who can be attracted, white or colored alike, continuous resolve to influence the white people we encounter to accept the principle of the oneness of mankind; and creation of a spirit of unity so strong that it will consciously or unconsciously affect every Negro we encounter with respect for and interest in the teachings of Bahá’u’lláh.”

—Baha’i INTERRACIAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Etta Woodlen, Secretary
206 North Scott St.
Wilmington, Del.

MASTER INDEX PLANNED BY LIBRARY COMMITTEE; SEEK ASSISTANCE

With the approval of the National Spiritual Assembly, the National Reference Library Committee has developed a plan for compiling a master index of the entire Writings in English of Bahá’u’lláh, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi.

When completed, the index will be of immeasurable and enduring value to the entire Bahá’í community.
However, it can only be accomplished with the assistance of a great many believers who are willing to devote any time ranging from fifteen minutes daily to two or three hours a week to this service.

The system that has been adopted is a definite mechanical process in which anyone can participate. The only requirement is the ability to recognize and summarize a verity that is expressed in a sentence, or an idea that is expounded in one or more paragraphs.

The National Spiritual Assembly has reminded us that successful teaching is based on three fundamental requirements: (1) study of the Creative Word, (2) "living the life," and (3) telling the story. The Guardian has pointed out that some of our difficulties can be traced to neglect of this first step. This indexing project offers an excellent, systematic and effective way to study the Creative Word.

Even though an assignment will not be large in scope, a worker will be assured of digesting every bit of truth embodied in that part of the Writings. Moreover, the work will cultivate the habit of recognizing and summarizing each gem of truth as he encounters it. Also there is the "influence upon his soul" which Bahá'u'lláh has promised to the person who "reciteth, in the privacy of his chamber, the verses revealed by God."

A secondary bounty accruing to the individual will be the satisfaction of having contributed to something that will be of great assistance to all believers. Is this not a valuable investment of time?

Any Bahá'í willing to work on this project is requested to write for complete instructions to:

National Reference Library Committee
Mrs. Marian C. Lippitt, Secretary
1387 Virginia Street East
Charleston 1, West Virginia

NEW MAILING PIECE PRESENTED

The "Campaign Ensemble," a new mailing unit, has been announced by the National Committee on Bahá'í Questionnaires.

It embodies several new developments which should assist in locating seekers of the Bahá'í teachings, by serving as the initial step in local teaching campaigns.

The Ensemble consists of a questionnaire, a covering letter, and an envelope. It is designed to be used with a three-mailing follow-up series of mailings, and the Committee suggests at least a five-month campaign for maximum effectiveness.

Question Cards feature questions of the type found most effective in locating the sincere religious investigators who are the ones most easily attracted to fireside classes.

The brief, friendly covering letter embodies the style of letters used by direct mail specialists.

These Campaign Ensembles may be ordered at a special low price when it is agreed to purchase a specified number of 100, 200, or 500 each month for five months, at $2.85 per hundred. On single orders, the Campaign Ensembles cost $3.00 per hundred.

In addition, the Questionnaires Committee has issued a more formal mailing piece, called the Announcement Questionnaire. This is a four-page folded engraved-announcement type, containing a picture of the House of Worship, a quotation of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on the Bahá'í Revelation, and an offer of free literature on the Faith. Included in this mailing is a Question Card similar to the one used in the Campaign Ensemble.

This Announcement Questionnaire is available at $3.00 per hundred.

Further information and orders for these mailing pieces can be obtained from National Bahá'í Questionnaires Committee, Mrs. Sylvia Calhoon, Treasurer, P. O. 545, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

ALBUQUERQUE EXHIBITS

2 BAHÁ'Í DISPLAYS

The Albuquerque, N. Mex., Bahá'í community has recently brought the Faith to the attention of the public with two types of exhibits.

An attractive window display in the Public Service Building in Albuquerque brought comments of visitors from New Mexico, Texas, and California, as well as from local residents. The display featured the ten principles of the Faith, ten characteristics of the Faith, and the symbols of the world religions. Located in the heart of the city, the display faced the main thoroughfare, Highway 66.

Cards carrying date for contacting Bahá'ís in Santa Fe, Gallup, Roswell and Albuquerque, N. Mex., were distributed from the Bahá'í Booth at the New Mexico State Fair. This booth, built by the Albuquerque Bahá'í community, was located beside two of the largest and most popular exhibits at the Fair, those of the Atomic Energy Commission.

TEMPLE MODEL SUPPLY LIMITED

Bahá'í communities or individuals considering the purchase of a Temple model for display purposes should place their orders promptly. A very limited number of models are now available and no further supply is contemplated.

The model measures nine inches in height and eleven inches across the base. The price is $15.00.

The committee also has imported from Italy beautiful printings of "The Greatest Name" in gold lettering on brown, dark red, pale green, and tan leathers. The sheepskin edition sells for $3.00 and the calfskin (in tan only) sells for $4.00. When ordering please give first, second and third choice of color.

—Bahá'í Sales Committee
Harry E. Walrath, Chairman
909 West Foster St.
Chicago 40, Ill.
BAHA'I IN THE NEWS

A review of Arnold Toynbee's An Historian's Approach to Religion, signed by Gifford Ernest, appeared in the Chicago Sun-Times of September 9, 1956. In the course of this review Mr. Ernest states: "The effort to harmonize the substance of each of the six higher religions serves to reveal the key to the learned historian's personal religion, which has been a matter of conjecture to many, even to his disciples.

"His profession of faith is that of a liberal Christian in the catholic sense of its cosmic and metaphysical meaning.

"His approach to history is that of a theologian, not that of a skeptic or freethinker.

"His theology can with little reservation be classified as that of a mystic.

"But the learned historian may not be quite sure himself to which he adhere if the higher religions that agree that absolute reality has a personal element. He could well be classified as a Bahá'í, with credit to that religious order and to himself."

During the week of September 21, 1956 a new Shopping Center was opened in Hillside, Illinois. The curtain department of the new Goldblatt Store, wishing to make their display as attractive as possible, used a scene of the Bahá'í Temple as a view which could be seen from one of their model kitchen windows.

One of the most detailed and favorable notices of the Faith contained in current books is one found in God Will Work With You But Not For You, A Living Philosophy, by Lao Russell. Among Mr. Russell's references we quote:

"Another modern mystic who has transformed millions of lives and turned their eyes to the Light is Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of a great religious movement known as the Bahá'í Faith.

"In Bahá'u'lláh is an exemplification of this trait (i.e., sacrifice) of human nature, for he was tortured and imprisoned in chains for years in a filthy black dungeon, with thieves and murderers, until he was near death. Many of his followers were imprisoned with him and executed, yet the cosmic ecstasy of an eternally happy man remained with him through his far greater sufferings than even a crucifixion. . . ."

"The Bahá'í Faith is world-wide and its followers give evidence of the inspiring nature of its teachings by their exemplary lives and actions."

AMERICAN INDIAN NEWS

The American Indian Service Committee invites the friends to write for the following teaching aids:

Brochure for Teaching among the American Indians, with supplement, price 50c.

Pamphlet A New Day Comes, in Cherokee, in English, or in Navajo-English, no charge.

American Indian Service Committee
Mrs. Nancy Phillips, Secretary
736 Encanto Drive, S. E.
Phoenix, Arizona

BAHA'I PUBLISHING TRUST

The Lord of the New Age. By Win­ston Evans. A dynamic and challenging message to Christians proclaiming Bahá'u'lláh to be the Promised One, the Lord of the Age. This item was particularly prepared at the request of the National Assembly to be used in meeting the "Nationwide Teaching Opportunity" mentioned in their letter to all local assemblies and in October 1956 Bahá'í News. Prepared in standard, small pamphlet size with colorful two-toned blue cover.

10 copies (minimum order) . $ .50
100 copies ............................... $4.50

Reprinted — New Format
The Divine Art of Living Study Guide. Seven Round Table Discussions prepared by Marian Lippitt to facilitate study of Bahá'í teachings on individual life needs. Printed (not mimeographed) on yellow stock, following the new design recently implemented on study outlines, each on different colored paper for easy identification, 8½ x 11, 12 pages, printed on yellow stock.

Per copy ............................... $ .35

Special Price Offered on Presentation Copies

Race and Man. Compiled by Maye Harvey Gift and Alice Cox. For a limited period of time a 50% reduction in price will be in effect on this 134-page book when used for presentation to libraries, or to selected individuals and organizations. (Please see Interracial Committee announcement in this issue.)

This book recently received some excellent and lengthy reviews in several newspapers of the Associated Negro Press which included the following statement: "Religious leaders, public speakers, students of current affairs, world relief agencies and organizations working for interracial cooperation, will find Race and Man one of the best compilations in print today offering a solution to the race problem, with spiritual teachings on the unity of the human race as expounded by Bahá'u'lláh, the most extraordinary spiritual figure . . . ."

When ordering for this purpose be certain to specify presentation copies so that the reduced price will be billed on the order.

The regular selling price of $1.00 for individual personal copies continues to be in effect.

Reduced price (for presentation) .................. $ .50

Available from
Bahá'í Publishing Trust
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

PUBLISHING TRUST INVITES INQUIRY ON SPECIAL ITEMS

The Bahá'í Publishing Trust emphasizes the importance of having all committees inquire concerning the status of any literature item before recommending it for use in a special teaching program or publicity campaign. There are always certain items going out of stock, or being eliminated entirely, which can-
not therefore be available. Sometimes a small supply, sufficient for months of ordinary use, is not sufficient in quantity when a special emphasis is placed upon it.

An inquiry to the Publishing Trust in advance of any such committee announcement will insure having a sufficient quantity of the item in stock and avoid needless explanations when orders are received for it.

—BAHA’I PUBLISHING TRUST

"BAHA’I News"
October Supplement
The October issue of Bahai News, made up for 20 pages by the Editorial Committee, was sent out with pages 17-20 missing, due to an error by the printer. These pages are being distributed with this issue, as a separate four-page supplement.

BAHA’I HOUSE OF WORSHIP
Visiting hours
Weekdays and Saturdays:
1:00—4:00 P.M.
(the Auditorium will be open)
Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
(the entire building will be open)
Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feasts
November 4—Quadrat (Power)
November 23—Qawl (Speech)
December 12—Mas‘ul (Questions)

HOLY DAYS
November 12—Birth of Bahai’llah
November 26—Day of the Covenant
November 28—Ascension of ‘Abdu’l-Baha

(Bahai Days and Anniversaries celebrated at the Bahai House of Worship are open to the public. The first part of the meeting will be held in the Auditorium; the second part in Foundation Hall. The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. of the day preceding the anniversary date.)

BAHA’I STATE CONVENTIONS
December 2—for election of delegates to the 1957 National Bahai’ Convention.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
November 22, 23, 24, 25
December 29, 30, 31, January 1

MARRIAGES
Alhambra, California: Miss Joanne Elizabeth Laux to Mr. James Hollinger on August 24, 1956.

BAHA’I DIRECTORY CHANGES

ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES

Colorado
Colorado Springs: Mrs. Gladys Roberts, Secretary Pro Tem, 915 N. Hancock.
Denver: Miss Gwili Posey, 2290 S. Race, Apt. 636, z.10.

Michigan
Muskegon: Mrs. Katherine Schott, 1885 Roberts.

Montana
Helena: Mrs. Mary Cottrill, Acting Secretary, 1296 Lamborn.

New Mexico
Albuquerque: Mrs. Rosemarie Smith, 8101 Princess Jeanne Ave., N.E.

North Carolina
Greensboro: Miss Zoe Meyer, 309 S. Tremont Dr.

Wisconsin
Whitefish Bay: Mrs. Vivian Fellows, 4857 N. Oakland Ave., z.17.

BAHA’I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai’s of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahai’ World Community

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHA’I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1956-57: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahai’ Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
The Great Reservoir of Power

Beloved Friends:
The National Spiritual Assembly, on behalf of the Baha'is throughout the United States, is at present actively engaged in planning ten National Conventions to be held during Ridvan, 1957.

These ten include: the Annual Convention of the Baha'is of the United States; the first Annual Convention of the Baha'is of Alaska; the first Annual Convention of the Baha'is of Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru; the first Annual Convention of the Baha'is of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay; the first Annual Convention of the Baha'is of Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama; the first Annual Convention of the Baha'is of Haiti, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Bermuda; the first Annual Convention of the Baha'is of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland; the first Annual Convention of the Baha'is of Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg; the first Annual Convention of the Baha'is of Japan, Sakhalin Island, Formosa, Korea, Hong Kong, Macau and Hainan.

Among these new National Assemblies it will be noted that the four to be established in Latin America are formed from the two existing National Assemblies of Central and South America, making a net addition of seven to the number of National Spiritual Assemblies now existing.

As it is necessary for one member of the U. S. National Assembly to be present at each of the nine Conventions, this means that its entire membership will be absent from the United States during the first few days of Ridvan, returning in time for the Convention in Wilmette.

The formation of these nine Regional National and National Assemblies will mark a tremendous conquest for the beloved Guardian's Ten Year Plan. Latin America, the Territory of Alaska, Western Europe, and the Far East are all involved, manifesting the world-wide spread of the Faith of Baha'u'llah. At present there are fifteen National administrative bodies, and by the end of Ridvan there will be twenty-six, a greatly strengthened basis for the Baha'i Order and a corresponding increase in the communities directly linked to the beloved Guardian.

The second consideration of vital importance is that the great reservoir of power making the formation of these new National bodies possible is directly or indirectly the American Baha'i community. From here went forth the original impetus to settle and consolidate all these administrative areas. It is an hour of victorious achievement.

At the same time, the victory itself is but a prelude to greater tasks ahead. Therefore America, the great reservoir of power, must gird itself at this very moment to multiply its members, its local Assemblies, its groups and its isolated believers. The homefront is a world front. This is the fact which the National Assembly urgently presents to all the American believers and all the Assemblies, groups and committees concerned with the teaching and consolidation work throughout the country.

Once again the National Spiritual Assembly appeals for support of the new circuit teaching plan and whole-hearted study of The Power of the Covenant and the Charter of a Divine Civilization. The supreme need is for spiritually enthused, and mature and well-balanced Baha'is whose daily lives act on the realization that sacrifice and continuous service are the dearest privilege of those who are near to God.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

REPORTS SHOW INCREASED INTEREST IN FAITH

While it is too early to determine the amount of interest in the Baha'i Faith aroused by the articles on the Faith in the October issues of the Methodist publications, Adult Student and Adult Teacher, the friends will be interested to know that requests for additional information are being received daily by the National Spiritual Assembly.

Between October 15 and 31, twenty-three individuals in eleven states asked for factual material which they could present to their adult Bible classes. During the same period there were ten other requests from six states which could have been inspired by these articles, although no direct reference was made to them. These figures do not take into account any requests for literature or speakers that may have been received by local Spiritual Assemblies or individual Baha'is.

The Spiritual Assembly of Nashville, Tenn. reports that one of its members had been asked to speak
on the Faith at one of the local Methodist churches on November 4, and to a young adult class in another on the following Sunday.

A note from the Assembly in Arlington, Va., states that Methodists in two churches asked Baha’is to be present for the study and discussion of the Faith on October 28.

The local Spiritual Assembly of Dallas, Texas, in a well-written letter to each of the Methodist churches in that city, offered to supply a speaker on the basic principles and history of the Faith, or to answer questions during the discussion period. The letter emphasized the fact that this offer was made only in the hope of being of service and not to proselytize. It also extended a warm invitation to the members of the adult classes to attend the local Baha’i observance of United Nations Day, and the anniversary celebration of the birth of Bahá’u’lláh.

Sherman Rosenberg, East Lansing, Mich., was invited to present the Faith before the adult study group in a neighboring Community Church. He reports: “It would be difficult to say how much further interest was aroused by our visit. However, there was not enough time to answer all the questions raised after I presented particular aspects of the Faith to them, specifically correcting the major mistakes appearing in the article, and commenting on the criticism of this being one in a series of Revelations from God.”

The Audio-Visual Education Committee reports that 100 recordings of the talks by Winston Evans, “The Lord of the New Age,” and “The Promised Day of God,” were shipped before October 22 for use by local radio stations. The Baha’i Publishing Trust also reports that more than 8,000 copies of the new pamphlet, “The Lord of the New Age,” were ordered within three weeks after it was announced to the believers.

The immediate and wide response to this teaching opportunity announced by the National Spiritual Assembly is a most encouraging indication of the ability of the friends to arise and seize the special occasions offered them. The long-term value of this particular project can well be far greater than we realize now.

Other teaching opportunities, local in character and less spectacular than this, frequently arise in most cities and towns. Thus each local Assembly and group should be on the alert to adopt the right method to present the Faith on every possible occasion.

The special characteristic of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh, that it has no professional clergy but ordains every believer to the office of teacher, multiplies our contacts and keeps the Baha’i community vigorous and alert.

—National Spiritual Assembly

SUGGEST “BAHA’I WORLD” FOR COLLEGE LIBRARIES

In making plans to carry out the Guardian’s instructions for promoting the Baha’i Faith among college students and persons from other countries, local Spiritual Assemblies, Baha’i groups and individuals should consider the possibility of placing a copy of The Baha’i World, Volume XII, in the local college libraries.

This current volume is one of the most impressive evidences we have of the world-wide scope of the Faith, its achievements and its vigorous response to the Ten Year Plan. Its many illustrations and maps, as well as its statement and articles on the aims, purposes and teachings of the Faith, have particular interest for the student mind.

The Baha’i Publishing Trust will send with each copy ordered for this purpose a mimeographed review-
summary of the book which can be given the librarian when copies are presented, and which may also be used for local publicity concerning the gift.

Assemblies, groups, and individual Bahá'ís acting on this suggestion are requested to report to the National Library Service Committee their placement of copies of these volumes in college libraries.

The true value of The Bahá'í World, Volume XII, depends on current distribution. The American Bahá'ís are urged to give this plan their careful attention.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Asia

BAHÁ'ÍS PARTICIPATE IN TOKYO CONGRESS OF WORLD FELLOWSHIP

The City of Tokyo, Japan, was host to an International Congress of World Fellowship of Faith on October 3 and 4, when 360 delegates representing the religions of the world met "to draw in a common band of fellowship people of all denominations, races and countries, to comprehend that the whole human race is one and that all religions are different manifestations of the Supreme Reality."

The special guest speaker at the opening session was Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India. Several Ambassadors and other important persons brought messages of greeting and good wishes from their respective countries for the success of the deliberations.

The agenda for the second session was devoted to discussion of the question: "How we reach the common square where all the followers of different religions, each of them having their own faiths, doctrines and rites, can heartily join hands."

The speakers as announced in the printed program were:

Dr. S. Ono (Shintoist); Reverend T. Miki (Newreligionist)
Mr. S. Imaoka (Unitarian); Mr. W. P. Woodard (Christian)
Mr. Philip Marangella (Bahá'íst)

"Pattern for World Unity"

Dr. R. Masunga,
Mr. L. H. Hamilton, a member of the Tokyo local Spiritual Assembly, who served as a member of the planning committee for the Congress, also spoke on the Bahá'í Faith during the discussion of one of the subjects having to do with the unity of religions. Bahá'ís from a number of communities attended as observers and talked with many delegates about the Faith.

—Asia Teaching Committee

JAPAN BAHÁ'ÍS ATTEND TEACHING CONFERENCE

A two-day teaching conference arranged by the National Teaching Committee of Japan was held September 23 and 24 at Shogoin Nakamachi, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, with 58 adults and 15 children in attendance, representing all Bahá'í communities in Japan. The program was designed mainly for study and discussion of the Covenant and Bahá'í Administration.

The agenda for the first session, on Saturday afternoon, included an outline of the purpose and scope of the conference by the chairman of the National Teaching Committee, Mr. Philip Marangella, followed by brief talks on: "Teaching in Japan," by Miss Agnes Alexander; "Need for Expansion," by Mr. A. Moghbel, and "Method of Teaching" by Mr. N. Mottazi and Mr. A. Mohtadi.

The study and discussion of The Covenant and Administration began Saturday evening and continued most of Sunday forenoon, led by Mr. Marangella and by Mr. William Maxwell of Kwangju, Korea, with Mr. M. Zenimoto and Mr. Nakajima serving as chairmen of these two sessions, respectively.

The conference closed Sunday noon with a panel discussion on "Why Japan Needs the Bahá'í Faith," presented by Mr. T. Torii, Mr. T. Ishii, Mr. A. Yokoyama and Miss M. Morita.

A message of greeting from the conference to the Guardian brought his inspiring reply: "Deeply appreciate message. Welcome renewed dedication. Fervently supplicating great victories."

As a follow-up of the conference, the National Teaching Committee has scheduled visits by members of the committee to every Bahá'í community beginning November first, for a six or eight week intensive study with the community members of The Covenant and Administration. Translations of parts of the compilation on this subject have been made into Japanese for the Bahá'ís who do not know English.

The immediate objective of the conference and this follow-up program is preparation of the Bahá'ís of Japan for the formation of their National Spiritual Assembly next April.

—Asia Teaching Committee

Teaching Conference at Kyoto, Japan, September 23-24, at which all Bahá'í communities in Japan were represented.
North Pacific Area Assemblies to Participate

First Spiritual Assembly of Kyoto, Japan, elected April 21, 1956.

First Spiritual Assembly of Nagoya, Japan, elected April 21, 1956.

First Spiritual Assembly of Kwangju, Chollanam-do, Korea, elected April 21, 1956.

First Spiritual Assembly of Seoul, Korea, elected April 21, 1955.

Eight of the members of the first Spiritual Assembly of Hong Kong, elected April 21, 1956.

Members of the Spiritual Assembly of Tokyo, Japan, for the year 1956-1957.
First Spiritual Assembly of Nishinomiya, Japan, elected April 21, 1956.

Dahi'j community of Tainan, Formosa, on the occasion of the election of the first Spiritual Assembly in Formosa, on April 21, 1956.

First Spiritual Assembly of Yokohama, Japan, elected April 21, 1956.

First Spiritual Assembly of Osaka, Japan, elected April 21, 1956. Osaka was formerly part of the Hyogo-ken Bahá'í community.

First Spiritual Assembly of Kobe, Japan, elected April 21, 1956.

Spiritual Assembly of Amagasaki, Japan, elected April 21, 1956. This community was formerly part of the Hyogo-ken community.
Europe
MANY BÁHÁ'ÍS ATTEND FRANCE SUMMER SCHOOL

The second France Bahá'í Summer School, August 24-September 2, held at Menton-Garavan, opened with a one-day Teaching Conference which was attended by 63 adult believers, 5 youth and 15 children, representing 14 French localities and 7 countries.

The theme of the Conference was “The Ten Year Global Crusade and Specific Goals for France.” Mr. Joel Marangella, chairman of the School Committee, was first speaker. By contrasting the remarkable rate of growth of the Faith during the first three years of the Ten Year Global Crusade with its growth during the first Bahá’í century and the period between the First Bahá’í Jubilee (1944) and the second Bahá’í Jubilee (1953), he called attention to the phenomenal progress which had been made by the Faith since the beginning of the Global Crusade in relationship to the previous 11 decades.

The drama of the Crusade, its accomplishments and goals yet to be won, was graphically illustrated by a giant map covering one entire wall of the conference room, and including every detail of our beloved Guardian’s own map of the Crusade.

A special map of France showed the assemblies, groups and isolated centers of the Faith in this country. Paris, Lyon, Marseille and Nice have assemblies, Nice forming its assembly this year. Orleans has good prospects of re-establishing its assembly next April 21.

Other goal cities designated by the Guardian are Bordeaux, Poitier, Lille, Metz, Nancy, Strasbourg and Dijon, the last five not having a single believer. However, there are eight other groups and 13 isolated centers in France. Mr. Marangella reminded us, “We have until Ridván of 1957 to establish the additional local Assemblies necessary for a firm foundation upon which France can form its first National Spiritual Assembly during Ridván, 1958.”

We have been given the vision of what could be done—what must be done—before Ridván of 1963; now it was up to us to decide how we, individually and collectively, would play our part in its realization.

Teaching Plan Outlined

On the subject “Teaching Plan for All of France”, Mrs. Sara Kenny spoke on “Consolidation.” She pointed out that impetus in the Faith comes from two directions, from the top down, through the Guardian, who has divine guidance, and from the bottom up, from the individual. The latter must be channeled through the various institutions of the Faith or the individual’s efforts will be diffused and lost. Mrs. Kenny emphasized the importance of “communication” through the Guardian’s messages and other important correspondence read at the Nineteen-Day Feasts, through attendance at conventions, conferences and summer schools.

“Each of us must try to strengthen and beautify in our own community as the Guardian does at the Center. We know where to turn for answers to every problem today, and these problems must be faced courageously and forthrightly,” Mrs. Kenny stated.

On this same subject, Miss Farrukh Ioas outlined a plan for “Prolongation.” The aim is to increase the membership in order to attain the specific goals in France—at least 8 assemblies and 15 groups. To do this, Miss Ioas said, we must find ways to make the Faith widely known, we must increase the number of our individual contacts, and we must be able to inform our contacts about the Faith.

“Initiative, desire, and the will of the individual is required to carry out these tasks. Committees, Assemblies and bulletins cannot do the job for him. When our efforts lead to regular Firesides and classes we should constantly keep in mind the requirements for membership: that complete understanding is required, not partial; that our aim is to increase the number of world citizens, new soldiers in the army of Bahá’u’lláh.”

Review Help Needed

The final topic of the Conference was “Ways and Means”, a consultation period led by Mlle. Lucienne Migette, chairman of the Paris Assembly. Representatives from each assembly and group reported on the existing status, plans and problems in their own communities, and outlined the help they needed as well as the help they could give.

There can be no doubt that the Conference succeeded in impressing on all the believers present the urgency of the tasks ahead of us, and it was with a renewed spirit of determination and seriousness that the school opened the next morning.

All of the sessions were held in the Chalet des Rosiers, property gen-
Australia, New Zealand

U. N. Social Club

Hears of Faith

A Panel of Religions was presented to the United Nations Social Club of Wellington, New Zealand on July 29, the New Zealand Newsletter reports.

Represented were the Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Bahá’í Faiths. Percy Leadley, secretary of the Wellington Bahá’í Spiritual Assembly, spoke on the Bahá’í Faith.

Each speaker gave quarter-hour talks on the religion they represented, and a question period followed each talk. Mr. Leadley spoke briefly on the birth and early history of the Faith, concentrated on each of the 12 Bahá’í principles, and closed by touching on the Administrative Order and by reading the appreciations of the Faith of Queen Marie of Roumania and Leo Tolstoy.

This evening of religious discussion was a departure from the usual U.N. Social Club activity, which usually keeps to the lighter side of entertainment. Its realization was due to the patient efforts of Suhayl ‘Alá’í and Clarice White, and lately of Vernon Mackenzie and Hooshang Mosaed, in breaking down the opposition of certain club committee members. The latter two also took part in the Panel of Religions.

Many questions were asked at the meeting following the Bahá’í exposition, and the club committee was surprised to find the largest audience in attendance for some weeks.

Teaching Conference Held in Wellington

The Regional Teaching Conference for New Zealand sponsored a Teaching Conference in Wellington on September 8 and 9. The New Zealand Newsletter has published a detailed account of the actions of this meeting, which are excerpted below.

After greetings by the Chairman, Vernon Mackenzie, excerpts from the Guardian’s convention message were read, to emphasize four particular points: (1) Newly opened territories must not be allowed to

First Spiritual Assembly of Lausanne, Switzerland, formed April 21, 1955

erously loaned for the occasion by two Monaco believers. In a semitropical setting, the Chalet perches on the side of a mountain overlooking the sparkling Mediterranean. It is historically famous as the residence for two years of Queen Victoria, who in turn is famous in Bahá’í history for her reported remark on reading the Tablet addressed to her by Báb: “If this is of God, it will endure; if not, it can do no harm.”

In this lovely spot the believers and friends turned their serious attention to the study of such subjects as the Kitáb-i-Iqán, the Covenant, The Promised Day Is Come, Seven Valleys, Dawn-Breakers, the spiritual attributes, and the administration. Presentation of the latter subject included an unusual round-table panel which answered questions on local administrative problems.

Great talent and understanding of the Teachings were demonstrated by the French believers, many of whom were teaching in a Bahá’í Summer School for the first time.

Youth Plan Meetings

The Youth held frequent impromptu meetings to discuss their own problems. Deciding to combine their strength to attract other youth to the Faith, they planned a series of get-togethers to be held in different cities during the year to which they could bring their friends. The time and place of the first meeting was set for September 29-30, at Orleans.

Beloved Hand of the Cause, Ugo Gachery, made many inspiring contributions during his two-day visit to the school, and related several interesting facts concerning the construction of the International Archives Building on Mount Carmel.

Great was our joy when a cable from our beloved Guardian arrived. Time was set aside for discussion and consultation on the goals re-emphasized by him. Quote: “Delighted large attendance praying great victories urge intensify efforts multiplication consolidation centres deepest love Shoghi.”

A public meeting sponsored by the Summer School Committee, held in Nice, August 26, was an outstanding success with an attendance of 84 persons. Mrs. Harold Gail spoke on “World Peace and the Bahá’í World Faith.”

The friends departed from Menton, somewhat exhausted after such a busy week, but happy in the knowledge that during this period of daily intimate association and study of the Teachings they had become a close-knit community with a single desire—to promote the Cause of God throughout France.

—Florence Bagley
become vacant, (2) Local Assemblies must not be allowed to dissolve or be endangered, (3) The process of increasing the number of supporters and multiplying isolated centers, groups, and Assemblies must be accelerated, (4) Incorporation of local Assemblies must proceed with great rapidity.

Local Assemblies then reported their present strength and what their requirements would be by next Ridván, when the adjustment of the areas of jurisdiction would come into operation.

Miss Joyce of Christchurch Group reported that she has presented seven Bahá’í books in a canister to the officer in charge of the American Antarctic Expedition, for their library. Others are to be sent to another Antarctic base at McMurdo Sound later on.

A new approach to Regional Teaching Work was presented for Assembly consideration: that local Assemblies “adopt” certain Goal Groups for a full measure of support.

Teaching through service was stressed as a means of appealing to some people who would not be reached by pamphlets and meetings.

The conference was closed with suitable prayers. The Teaching Committee termed the meetings a notable success.

YERRINBOOL SCHOOL PROGRAMS LISTED

December 26, 1956, to January 7, 1957, will be the dates of the Yerrinbool Bahá’í School, Yerrinbool, New South Wales.

Topics will include, “The Place of Islam in Progressive Revelation,” “Spiritual Laws and Ordinances,” and classes on the teaching and administration of the Faith.

Inquiries may be addressed to the secretary, Mrs. S. W. Bolton, 40 Clinton St., Orange, N. S. W.

British Isles

GLYNLLIFON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES RELATED

Impressions of the Summer School held at Glynllifon, near Caernarvon, North Wales, have been published in the British Bahá’í Journal. This account is reprinted in part below:

The quiet grey and green setting of Glynllifon was perfect for a Summer School. Its wide lawns and stretches of water, the tall pillars of the house, and the pine woods folded us into its atmosphere and made us feel as though we were an international community on a green island.

During the first week we were fortunate in having with us Dr. Moayyad, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s personal doctor, who told us of his work among the believers in Haifa, of how he longed to examine ‘Abdu’l-Bahá himself, and of when the opportunity finally came.

On another occasion Dr. Moayyad gave us a moving account of how the remains of the Báb were transferred, over long years, to their final resting place on Mt. Carmel. These accounts all brought the early history of the Faith very near, and we were caught up in the enthusiasm and verve of those early days.

In a series of discussions led by Dr. Moayyad and Philip Hainsworth we heard stressed the power of the Guardian and of the Covenant which binds all Bahá’ís to God, and helps us forward in teaching and pioneer work.

There were alternative courses each week on Bahá’í Administration and the Gleanings, also two series of lectures on Christianity and Islam. Much interest was aroused by David Hofman’s review of George Townshend’s book, Christ and Bahá’u’lláh, which we are told to expect towards the end of the year, and we are looking forward to its publication.

Thus we leave Summer School 1956 with impressions of fun, comrade-ship, love for each other and the Guardian, and gratitude to God that we have been touched by His great bounty.

—AUDREY ROGERS

Irish Translation

The Bahá’í Journal also reports that the translation of a pamphlet into Irish has been received, and an order placed for its printing in Ireland. The Dagbane translation has been received from the printer, bringing the number of Ten-Year Crusade translations to eleven.

Central America

PANAMA PRESIDENT RECEIVES U. N. FLAG FROM BAHÁ’I OFFICER

Esteban Canales, Secretary of the National Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Central America, and member of the Auxiliary Board, in his capacity as United Nations Information Agent presented a United Nations flag to newly-elected President Ernesto de la Guardia Jr., of Panama.

The occasion was the observance of the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations on October 24. The Panama Star & Herald published a three-column photograph showing the presentation ceremony.

Other officials present included Juvenal Castrellon, chief of the International Organizations section of the Foreign Office, Camilo Levy Salcedo, chief of protocol, and Foreign Minister Aquillino Boyd.

First Spiritual Assembly of Wellington, New Zealand, formed on April 21, 1956.
Congresses, Dedications Stimulate Central America Teaching

Bahá'í communities of Central America, Mexico, and Panama were visited by Esteban Canales, Member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause, from July 25 to September 9, 1956. He spoke at public meetings, held consultations with the Bahá'ís on teaching projects, and shared with them a special message from the Hands of the Cause regarding teaching contacts collectively and individually.

The following cities were visited: Mexico City and Puebla, Mexico; Guatemala City, Chichicastenango, and Quiche, Guatemala; San Salvador and Santa Ana, El Salvador; San Pedro Sula, La Lima, and Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Managua and Nandaime, Nicaragua; San Jose, Escazu, Limon, Puntarenas, and Alajuela, Costa Rica; and David, Colon, Canal Zone, and Panama City, Panama.

Reports from these communities reveal that his visit was the source of great inspiration and encouragement, and there have been many new confirmed believers received into the Faith as a result of these activities.

Four of these countries scheduled Teaching Congresses in conjunction with Mr. Canales' visit, and two countries held ceremonies dedicating their Ḥaziratu'l-Quds during these summer months.

San Jose, Costa Rica

A Teaching Congress was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on August 24-26 during the visit of Mr. Canales there. Topics included "The Assembly, Axis of a Community," "The Power of the Nineteen Day Feasts," and "Teaching the Faith by Our Example." Mr. Canales spoke on "How to Gain Success in the World Crusade."

Mexico City, Mexico

The inauguration of the Ḥaziratu'l-Quds took place during the visit of Mr. Canales in Mexico City from July 25-29. Over 70 persons attended the inauguration, including visiting Bahá'ís from Monterrey and Puebla, and from the United States. Mr. Canales was the guest speaker on this occasion. On July 28-29 a Teaching Congress was held for the Mexican Bahá'ís.

Managua, Nicaragua

The inauguration of the Ḥaziratu'l-Quds in Managua, Nicaragua, was held on July 12, 1956. The National Spiritual Assembly of Central America was represented by Jenny Taylor and Donald Ross Witzel, and the event was celebrated along with the observance of the Martyrdom of the Báb.

From August 21 to 24, Esteban Canales visited Nicaragua. On August 22 he spoke at a public meeting in the Bahá'í Center at Managua, and the next day he addressed the Bahá'í community on "Teaching Goals" and "How to Teach the Faith." On August 24 he spoke at the village of Nandaime, a goal city, and afterwards spoke individually with the contacts there.

The response to his conferences, talks, and individual teaching efforts was unparalleled. In Nandaime, a town
of 1500 inhabitants, he spoke to an audience of 30 contacts.

Bahá'ís of Managua held their Teaching Congress on September 14-15, which served to deepen the members of the community in the Faith. Miss Rosy Vodonovic, representing the National Teaching Committee of Central America, was the guest speaker at a public meeting on September 15.

The Teaching Congress in reality was a workshop, which was put into practice in Nandaime on September 16, when Miss Vodonovic spoke on "The Twelve Principles" before an interested audience of 22 contacts.

**Santa Ana, El Salvador**

A Teaching Congress was opened in Santa Ana on August 11, and continued for two days, during the visit of Esteban Canales. Bahá'ís from San Salvador as well as Santa Ana attended, and 35 persons availed themselves of the opportunity of deepening their knowledge of the Faith at these classes.

Speakers at the Congress included Miss Marjorie Stee, Mrs. Mercedes Vides, Miss Margaret Mills, Mr. Artemus Lamb, and Mr. Esteban Canales.

Many new believers were confirmed, and a great spirit of joy and unity reigned throughout the meetings.

**India, Pakistan, Burma**

**MALACCA ASSEMBLY REPORTS ON FAITH IN MALAYA**

The National Assembly of India, Pakistan, and Burma has forwarded to Baha'i News an account of the progress of the Faith in Malaya, sent by the Secretary of the local Spiritual Assembly of Malacca:

Malaya is a pleasant land of eternal sunshine and tropical beauty. But its people are all today in a "melting pot" both politically and socially. Bahá'u'lláh and His Cause has come to the peoples of Malaya (with their diversity of cultures and racial background) as an inspiration in their best interests.

Bahá'ís in Malaya and Singapore are well versed in the teachings of the Faith and they are everyday disseminating the new knowledge to countless people everywhere, without fearing the Muslim and Christian missionaries, who are dead against Bahá'ís for their tolerant views and aim of religious unification.

We need pioneers from England and America very badly, and we have been promised by Mr. 'Alá'í, the Hand of the Cause, pioneers from Iran. However, Bahá'ís here are well calibered to work for the Cause and follow His divine instructions. They are the best souls waiting for communion with others who may like to share with them the Bahá'í way of life.

—MINAL KANTI PAUL

**Canada**

**WESTERN CANADA SUMMER CONFERENCE REPORTED**

The Canadian Bahá'í News has reported the Western Canada Bahá'í Summer Conference, held at the Banff School of Fine Arts, Banff, Alberta, September 2-8, 1956, reprinted below.

On Sunday evening, September 2, Bahá'ís and their friends were given
Within a radius of about seven hundred meters distant from the African shores of the Mediterranean Sea, in an oasis-like locality surrounded by red glowing sand, with here and there thinly scattered clusters of palm trees, which area, not many years ago—only 19 years before the birthday of the Author of our Faith—had been, during the Napoleonic wars, the scene of roaring guns and the clinking of arms, and later on, 14 years subsequent to the arrival of Bahá'u'lláh at the penal colony of 'Akká, had witnessed similar warfare activities, and now privileged to lie in peace and tranquility but shaken, at regular intervals, by the whistling and tremor of the passenger train that plies between Alexandria and its suburb town of Abou Qir; herein lies the premises rented by the National Spiritual Assembly for the use of the 7th session of the Bahá'í Summer School for the Bahá'ís of Egypt and Sudan, but the first to be held under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly for the Bahá'ís of North East Africa, and at this very locality on the 8th of August 1956 on the occasion of the birthday of Bahá'u'lláh, the friends from Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said, Ismailia and Djibouti gathered together and filled the whole atmosphere with prayers and songs in praise of this Blessed Beauty.

The school was formally opened on Sunday night 8th Rahmat 113, 1st July 1956, to extend during July and August, in the open air, at the roof of the hired villa attended by about 70 friends from different parts of the country. The prevailing spiritual atmosphere, the blowing of a gentle northern breeze, impregnated with sweet fragrances from the Holy Shrines, the clear starlit firmament, the serene quiet surroundings, the stalwart green palm trees with their leaves rustling with musical notes, all coalesced to bring about a frame of mind attuned to absorbed medita-
ton and translation into a world of complete detachment from all mundane affairs, turning all thoughts to the great bounty that Bahá'u'lláh has given us through His unique Covenant as crystallized in the peerless institution of Guardianship.

This spiritually charged atmosphere visualized before our eyes the exploits of the standard bearers of the new Dispensation. Everyone present visualized the eventful numbered days of the summer of 1848, which were instrumental in bringing about a fundamental change of attitude in the minds of those who had found their spiritual quest, what a miraculous change! Over a hundred years ago, by the solitary mountains of Ahdírbayján, in the frontier line of Persian and Russian territories, within the four walls of a prison cell, in a well guarded castle, a divinely inspired soul was incarcerated. Physically barred, yet he was busy formulating fundamental laws and principles to inaugurate a new Era, a prelude to a far greater Dispensation. The dynamic force behind these laws surpassed all physical barriers and found its reaction outside the prison walls.

Loyal, devoted and leading followers of the Báb, including a woman, whose presence amongst men was diametrically opposed to the Muslim tradition at the time, gathered together, numbering four score and one, in a hamlet on the border line between Khurásán and Mázin-darán, accommodated in three gardens, in order to discuss the potentialities of the new Dispensation and having arrived at a concerted conclusion to announce the formal extinction of the old order and the inauguration of a new Dispensation.

The effect of the spiritual energies released from the prison cell of the Báb was the enkindlement of an ever burning torch of guidance which was taken over by the champions of His Cause with the full determination to keep it aflame and relay same to posterity.

This was the occasion which gave birth to the Badaíí Conference in the summer of 1848. The wonderful role it played at the very start of the Apostolic Age of the new Revelation may be taken as a source of inspiration to all the Bahá'í Summer schools. What a stupendous source of inspiration to every attendant of these Bahá'í schools, to feel that each one is attuned to the spirit that was pervading the Badaíí Conference, and fully armed with the principles of the Cause under the Administrative Order of the Blessed Beauty to take delivery of the torch of guidance to enlighten the souls in every country and clime. Then may we perceive the words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá when he says:—“The friends of God are the eagles of the height of unity and the hawks of the heavens of detachment; they take their flight from the wrist of might and ascend to the atmosphere of the love of the Peerless one. Whatsoever they will they can accomplish through the assistance of the sovereign of the Divine Kingdom; whatsoever they seek they will find through the confirmation of the King of Kings of the Abhá horizon”...

With a spirit as such, and in the name of Bahá'u'lláh, every Bahá'í would be in a position to do wonders and miracles in the field of the service of our Great Cause.

With the gracious prayers of our beloved Guardian and his cherished hope that every attendant of the summer school should concentrate upon the attainment of the objectives of the Seven Year Plan we fervently supplicate the Blessed Beauty to assist us realize this supreme heartfelt desire.

—Báji Bushrúí

Correction
The friends are requested to note that the population of Indonesia is 80,000,000 instead of 90,000 as stated in the twelfth line of column 3 on page 4 of the October Bahá'í News.

WORDS OF WISDOM

The essence of religion is to testify unto that which the Lord hath revealed, and follow that which He hath ordained in His mighty Book.

The essence of love is for man to turn his heart to the Beloved One, and sever himself from all else but God, and desire naught save that which is the desire of his Lord.

—BWF, 140

BWF, 141
PUBLICITY ANALYZED
FOR SIX-MONTH PERIOD

Results of publicity for the Special Events for Proclaiming the Bahá’í Faith to the Public have been revealed by the Bahá’í Press Service, for the first six months of the present Bahá’í year.

Publicity for Naw-Rúz, March 21, 1956, brought the greatest coverage for this period, with 100 newspapers publishing information about this Bahá’í Holy Day. Total circulation is estimated at 5,990,563 copies, with over 400 column-inches of publicity and 100 column-inches of advertising.

Other events publicized on a national scale and the results are: National Convention, 58 newspapers and 5,262,335 circulation; Declaration of the Bab, 56 newspapers and 2,611,646 circulation; Martyrdom of the Bab, 86 newspapers and 3,448,740 circulation; Bahá’í Proclamation Day, 63 newspapers and 4,796,364 circulation; and the release on the renewed appeal to the United Nations on behalf of the Iranian Bahá’ís, 32 newspapers and 2,568,355 circulation.

Circulation for these six publicity releases combined gives a total of 24,678,000 for 2,164 column-inches. Advertising for this period totaled 4,057,664 circulation and 443 column-inches.

TEACHING AIDS DISCUSSED
AT TOPEKA CONFERENCE

An Area Teaching Conference held at Topeka, Kans., on October 6-7, attended by 55 Bahá’ís from 18 localities, emphasized many valuable suggestions for teaching the Faith.

How to Make Contacts: Gladys Bradley stated that we can best reach contacts by the life we live. We must be interested in, and have a sincere concern for, all those we meet. Alex Bird suggested that we use the words of Bahá’u’lláh because they have great power. This message has given us light. Submitting it to others is the greatest task of our lives.

How to Conduct Firesides and Study Classes: Pearle Easterbrook spoke on this subject. She stated that we are in a Crusade. We have a troubled Guardian because of the home front in the United States.

Many of us have thought that to become a Bahá’í all we had to do was to say “I want to be a Bahá’í,” and when we stepped over the line we stopped studying. Those of us who thought we were studying forgot we cannot see in the dark. Without an illuminated soul we can go to the books and come away with something, but it is not enough because our souls are not illuminated.

We came in as individuals. We didn’t know how to become amalgamated into the group. If a group is not united the spiritual confirmations are completely cut off. In some communities there has not been any ability to consult together, pray together, or work together.

How to Prepare Applicants for Membership: Margaret Ruhe stated that there is no set way to prepare an applicant, and there is no one party to confirmation. However, we do have some guides as how to proceed.

She referred the members present to the Teaching Manual issued by the National Projects Committee for 1951-1953, and quoted several excerpts from letters of the Guardian taken from this manual.

Continuing, Mrs. Ruhe stated that the teacher is a very important person in the life of the applicant, and the teacher who has a thorough understanding of the Teachings will be able to impart knowledge and understanding. If the teacher does not know his part the whole process disintegrates.

How to Deepen New Believers: Cora Schulte brought forth these ideas: We should not drop the new applicant after he has signed the membership card. We may expect too much of them, and we may fail to help them grow and deepen in the Faith. We must help them become a real part of the community and encourage them to attend conferences and summer schools.

After each of these topics was presented, there was an extended discussion period so that further ideas might be voiced.
Nature in her brightest colors; a profusion of flowers, shrubs, and trees displaying every color of the spectrum in patterned array, with a precious jewel set in the middle.

Such are the gardens surrounding the Bahá’í Temple in Wilmette, as seen through the eyes of countless visitors this past season.

The summer of 1956 marked the completion of the landscaping of the Bahá’í House of Worship, and the operation of the water fountains placed in each of the gardens.

The nine gardens are numbered, starting to the east of the Temple, and rotating in a clockwise direction. Each garden has a distinctive floral design, with the following selections:

1. Roses.
2. Flat geraniums with white petunia border.
3. Perennials.
4. Roses.
5. Red Barney geraniums with white sweet alyssum border.
6. Blue Bedder petunias with Dusty Miller border. The banks are covered with English lavender.
7. Blue dwarf ageratum with center bed of yellow snapdragons. Borders are yellow pygmy marigolds.
8. White petunias with pink coleus borders.

The Sheridan-Linden walk is flanked by borders of Japanese yew, ajunco spirea, and Chinese junipers. Behind the borders are honeysuckle and flowering quince, with honey locust and red oak trees beyond on the lawn.

Ranging around the borders of the Linden Avenue walk are aronia, quince, red barberry, and lilac, with pfitzers near the street. The trees at the Temple base are linden.

Photographs on these pages show the gardens as they looked early this Fall. The picture at the bottom left shows the view of the walk from the intersec-
Awe-Inspiring Beauty of Temple Gardens

tion of Sheridan Road and Linden Avenue, looking eastward across Sheridan Road to Lake Michigan beyond. Garden No. 2 is to the left of the walk, and Garden No. 3 is to the right.

Bottom right shows the walk from Linden Avenue to the main entrance to the Temple. Garden No. 4 is to the left of this walk, and Garden No. 5 is to the right.

The picture at the top right is from Garden No. 5, looking toward the main entrance to the Temple. The stairs going up lead to the Auditorium; the stairs at the side leading down go to the Reception Room, Foundation Hall, and the exhibits.
TEMPLE VISITORS NEAR 3/4 MILLION MARK

The Temple Guides Committee has released the following statistics on visitors to the Bahá’í House of Worship:

Total visitors during the first nine months of the calendar year:
1954 - 91,231
1955 - 85,493
1956 - 77,698

Total number of visitors since guiding started in 1932-705,634.

Names of some of the groups on scheduled tours in 1956:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Number in tour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Bicycle Dealers (wives)</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evanston High School Freshmen</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Auditors and Comptrollers</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Park Academy</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake County Chamber of Illinois Secretaries of Professional Engineers</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Wolf High School, Oklahoma</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson School, Waukegan</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Association of Cost Accountants</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joliet Church Group</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Trier Men’s Garden Club</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students, Northwestern University</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Ridge YMCA (children)</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregg College Students (two tours)</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order of St. Francis, Chicago</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providence Baptist Church Nurses</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Christians and Jews</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(with Protestant Minister)</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concordia Teachers College</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students, Northwestern University</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Dairy and Poultry Association</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist Youth, Joliet, Illinois</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Federal Bureau, Chatham, Canada</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical Society</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Finance Conference</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Society of Mechanical Engineers (wives)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rochester, N.Y.</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Congregational Church, Benton Harbor, Mich.</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Business Officials</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many other groups were HI-YI, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and youth groups from various churches, schools, and clubs groups.

Among the interesting visitors was the Ambassador from Burma and his family, and ten Eagle Scouts from Korea on tour in the U.S. as guests of our government.

Among the visitors who signed the guest registers during the month of September were one or more from these countries: Brazil, Cuba, Sweden, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Canada, Australia, India, Iran, Peru, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Greece, South Africa, Iraq, East Africa, Italy, Hawaii, Israel, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, and Turkey.

WORLD RELIGION DAY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has once more included World Religion Day in the Special Days, Weeks and Months in 1957.

Friends wishing copies for their own Bahá’í files and to show to local editors, TV and radio station directors can obtain them for 25c each by applying to Chamber of Commerce of the United States, 1615 H. Street, N. W., Washington 6, D.C.

"CONNECTICUT SUNDAYS" WARMLY RECEIVED

A total of seven Sunday meetings titled “Connecticut Sundays for Study and Sociability” were held during the four summer months under the sponsorship of the Stamford Baha’i Spiritual Assembly, proved highly successful. Bahá’ís of the area have reported that these meetings drew them closer together in a warm bond of friendship, equally as valuable as the talks and classes.

Six of the meetings were for Bahá’ís only. They opened at 11:00 a.m. with a period of devotions, followed by a class of one hour’s duration. Then there was a social hour and a half over picnic lunches, two hours of classes in the afternoon, and sometimes a period of consultation.

For each meeting a special speaker was invited who could contribute something particularly noteworthy or timely. The subjects included “Pilgrimage to Haifa,” “Talks on Africa,” “Reminiscences of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá,” “Observations of a Bahá’í Traveler: Florence to Fiji,” “Pioneering in South America,” and many others.

To meet the convenience of all the Bahá’ís in the state, the meetings were held in different localities: Stamford, West Haven, Washington, Greenwich, Trumbull, and Norwich. Attendance ran from 32 to 50 adults and a generous number of children.

At the August meeting the Bahá’ís invited guests and contacts. It began with a picnic at noon, a leisurely, pleasant time, followed by a short introduction to the Faith by the chairman and a travel talk by Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh, deftly tying in the Bahá’í Faith around the world.

INSTITUTE ON COVENANT HELD AT VICTOR, N.Y.

The first in a series of three institutes on the Covenant was held on October 14 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Woolston of Victor, N.Y. All three institutes are under the auspices of the Inter-Community Relations Project of the Bahá’ís of Upper New York.

The 33 Bahá’ís attending represented the following Bahá’í communities: East Rochester, Linwood, Penn Yan, Rochester, Irondequoit, Rome, Syracuse, Seneca Township, Waterloo, Victor, and Trumansburg.

All present had the opportunity to select one of four workshop sessions. The sessions covered the following subjects: “Our Divine Destiny,” “How to Become a True Exponent of the Covenant,” “How to Fulfill Our Glorious Destiny,” which covered “Teaching—the Cornerstone of Service,” and “The Principle of Consultation, the Keynote of the Collective Life of the Community.”

References based on the pamphlet The Power of the Covenant were sent to the friends 6 to 8 weeks in advance in order to give them the opportunity to participate in the discussion during the workshop sessions.

After luncheon the friends assembled and a report was given on each one of the workshops. It was very significant that “unity” had been stressed in all four sessions.

BAHÁ’I RECORDINGS, SLIDES, POSTERS LISTED

Increasing interest in the Bahá’í Faith on the part of the general public is opening new doors and providing new opportunities for radio and television programs and displays, often on very short notice.

Bahá’í communities and groups should be prepared to take immediate advantage of these opportunities, as well as seek ways and means to give publicity to the Faith on every appropriate occasion. A number of materials that can be used effectively in connection with many Bahá’í events as well as for regular public meetings and firesides are available through the Audio-Visual Education Committee, which has
been appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly specifically for the purpose of supplying such aids.

Following are a few of the items that should be available wherever active teaching work is going on or being planned:

Recordings:
A new long-playing recording of two talks by Winston G. Evans—“The Lord of the New Age,” and “The Promised Day of God”—thirteen and a half minutes each; price $2.50 for the two talks, one on each side of the record.

"Words for the World," now out of stock, will be made available again provided the number of orders warrant the expense. The set consists of two long-playing records for $5.00, with complete 16 four-minute radio presentations.

Color Slides:
Three different packets of four color slides each are available at $1.00 each packet. These sets consist of: (1) views of Bahji, ‘Akka, and the Shrine Gardens; (2) views of the Bahá’í House of Worship; and (3) views of Haifa, the Shrine of the Báb and the Bahá’í Gardens on Mt. Carmel.

A “color” catalog listing all available color slides, stills, records, and tape recordings, may be obtained from the Audio-Visual Education Committee for $1.00. An order for this catalog entitles the individual to one of the following items without cost: (1) four glossy prints of the Temple or Haifa or the Jubilee; (2) four 5 x 7 inch photographs of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá; (3) four color slides of Haifa or the Temple or the Jubilee; (4) a four-inch sample tape recording.

Display Posters:
Three-wing folding panel, with letters “Bahá’í World Faith,” suitable for a backcrop for a display in the Bahá’í center, at public meetings, libraries, or other exhibits. The photographs on the panels include three recent pictures of the Temple and the gardens. Price postpaid in the United States, $3.50.

All of the above items should be ordered from:

—Audio Visual Education Committee
126 Evergreen Place
West Englewood, N.J.

30 YOUTH ATTEND
DAVINSON CONFERENCE

An Area Youth Conference was held at the Davison Bahá’í School on September 22-23. Attending the Conference were over 30 youth, including Bahá’is and non-Bahá’ís from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

On Saturday afternoon there was a stimulating discussion on the Twelve Principles of the Faith, how they may be applied in the process of Bahá’í life, how best to use them in teaching efforts, and their importance in establishing a new type of world organization.

After a wonderful meal, cooked and served by local Bahá’ís, a dance was held in the auditorium, followed by a hamburger snack and a great deal of fellowship.

On Sunday after devotions and breakfast, the business meeting was held. There was a discussion of the agendas for future youth conferences. During this session the need for personal deepening in the Faith, teaching methods for youth, and many other topics were discussed.

Many adults contributed to the success of this conference by donating their services to cook and clean up the buildings.

—Bahá’í Youth Bulletin

BAHÁ’Í IN THE NEWS


The office of The Homefinders, Inc., Wilmette, has a sketch of the House of Worship made by local artist Georgie Dearborn. A photograph of the artist and two officers of the firm holding the framed sketch has been received by the National Spiritual Assembly.

Irán Past and Present, by Donald N. Wilber, published by Princeton University Press in 1950, contains a brief reference to the Faith which states that Mirzíyá Bahá’í became the head of the religion founded by the Báb and “the leader of the opposing group . . . . . took the title of Bahá’u’lláh . . . . . in 1863, and Bábism gave way to Bahá’ísm.” Literature explaining the station of Bahá’u’lláh has been sent the editor of the Press.

Friendly Isle News, a newspaper of Kaunahakai, Molokai, T. H., on October 5 contained an editorial commenting on the blessings of religious liberty and the number of faiths represented on the Island.

“There is even a follower of the Bha’i (sic) Faith”.

The Sunday School Times, a weekly published in Philadelphia, carries in its July 28, 1956, issue a letter from a reader, with editorial comment, under the heading “Bahá’ísm—A Fake Cult.” The comment quotes from ‘The Chaos of Cults” by Jan Karl Van Baalen, and refers to the booklet “Bahá’ísm in America” by Jessie A. Tritt. The editor ends his comment by quoting from the New Testament: “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

A letter has been written to the editor offering literature in case he is willing to make an independent investigation of the truth.

Dr. Marcus Bach has an article “What’s Happening on Church Street, U.S.A.” in Better Homes and Gardens, October, 1956, which emphasizes the current “trend toward a personalized faith,” in which he states: “Church Street has sanctioned this personalized gospel of abundance with a phrase. It calls it ‘Christian materialism . . . .’ This typically American approach to religion came into the traditional churches by way of the new groups which have come strongly into our religious culture within the past 30 years.”

Enumerating the new values brought in by various “new groups” Dr. Bach includes the Bahá’í Faith in these words: “The Bahá’í Faith with its $3,000,000 temple in Wilmette, Illinois, proclaimed, ‘In creation there is no evil. All is good.’”

The Pittsburgh Press, June 25, 1956, presents an article on the Temple, with illustration, written by Gilbert Love, who visited the House of Worship and attended a meeting of public worship. The author reports his own observation and experience at the Temple, and what he learned there about the Faith. This article is vivid and understanding, a tribute to the House of Worship and the Bahá’í teaching.
The Coast of Maine, by Louise Dickinson Rich, a recent book containing an interesting reference to Green Acre in the days of Sarah J. Farmer. "At first it was really successful, and some of the best minds of the time lectured and conversed there—men like John Fiske, Edward Everett Hale, and William Dean Howells." However, the author based her conclusion on an incomplete set of facts. "But as is too often true when idealism is unsupported by hard-boiled realism, the colony later fell into the hands of crackpots and self-interested promoters—actually, I suppose, a type of racketeer—and gradually lost prestige until it was abandoned."

The U. N. Advocate, Portland, Ore., in its September 1956 issue states: "Increasing interest in the display was shown by other Salem organizations and the following shared in manning the booth: Bahá'ís World Faith, Catholic Daughters of America, Order of Odd Fellows and Salem Council of Church Women."

In an article entitled "Hollywood and Its People," published in the October issue of Cosmopolitan Magazine, a section is devoted to "Focus On Religion" which states that "The swing to religion is more noticeable...it would be difficult to estimate the numbers of people who hold to Unity, B'Hai (sic), Self-Realization, and many other more or less obscure religions..."

Mrs. Alice S. Cox contributed a well-prepared article on "Bahá'í World Faith" to the October number of Fellowship in Prayer, published in New York. Its statement of purpose is: "To promote the practice of prayer among all religious Faiths whose fundamental belief is in God, regardless of race, creed, or color, and whose tenets include the universal attributes of truth, honesty, justice and mercy, that thereby there may arise a closer relation to Almighty God and a deeper spirit of fellowship among mankind." Mrs. Cox, in three pages, outlined the aims and teachings of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. Bahá'í prayers she submitted are to appear in later issues.

The Chicago Defender, world's largest Negro newspaper, has on many occasions published articles very commendatory of the Bahá'í Faith. Its founder and publisher, the late Robert S. Abbott, became a member of the Bahá'í Community.

Its issue of November 3, 1956, presents a full-page story of the Temple and the Faith under the seven-column head "Bahá'í Temple—The World Worships Under Its Majestic Dome." The story is illustrated with seven photographs: 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Temple exterior view, Temple interior view, three views of the gardens, a photo of the Chicago Spiritual Assembly, and a photo of a gathering in the former Chicago Bahá'í Center.

Under the captions describing the illustrations, a three-column head "Bahá'í Faith Based on World Unity and Tolerance" is followed by a staff writer's story of the Temple, what the Temple means, Bahá'u'lláh, the Bahá'í purpose, and reference to prominent Bahá'ís, with excerpts from the Sacred Writings.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

The Boise, Idaho, Spiritual Assembly has sponsored a deepening class for Bahá'ís using the outline prepared by Horace Holley on The Mission of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. It was divided into seven weekly classes. In September a second deepening class was begun, using the Institute on The Covenant and Administration.

The Ketchikan, Alaska, Assembly has distributed the first issue of a newsletter titled The Northern Star. It reports statistics on the visit of Mrs. Florence Mayberry, Member of the Auxiliary Board, to Ketchikan; the first Bahá'í wedding in Southeastern Alaska; new members of the Faith, and other information about the activities of the community.

The Los Angeles, Calif., deepening class has augmented their study with an hour devoted to the text of Promulgation of Universal Peace, and the second hour for brief talks by all members of the group on assigned subjects.

The Hawaii Teaching Committee has sent copies of God Passes By, Gleanings, and Bahá'í World Faith to Maui for their placement, along with three books they are donating, in the Molokai library.

Sixty members of the Young Adult Group of the First Methodist Church of Honolulu, Hawaii, attended a talk on the Faith given by Major Salvatore Pelle. After the meeting many questions were asked, and great interest was shown.

Hawaii has welcomed the first declared Bahá'í on the island of Molokai, a native Hawaiian.

Dr. Hushang Javid spoke before a group of 40 people at the Methodist Church in Tacoma, Wash., on November 11, the anniversary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh.

Daytona Beach, Fla., reports a two-day Institute on The Covenant and Administration through the Area Bulletin for the South Atlantic States. Friends from Holly Hill, Ormond Beach, Ft. Pierce, Orlando, and Orange County, Fla., and Hamilton Ont., attended.

The only Negro church of Wheaton, Silver Spring, Md., was shown the slides on "Palestine, A Land of Many Faiths" on October 26. Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Barham conducted the program and discussed the slides. In spite of a heavy rain, out of a Negro community of about 50 families, 35 adults, young people and children, including the presiding Elder and Minister attended. An invitation to return has been extended.

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

The Bulletin of the East Central States Area Teaching Committee lists seven teaching conferences held during September, October, and November: Columbus, Cleveland, Warren, and Lima, Ohio; Indianapolis, Ind.; and Kalamazoo and Muskegon, Mich.

The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh was the subject of three lectures by Dr. Genevieve Coy at the Boston Mass., Bahá'í Center on October 26-28, the New England States Bulletin announced.

Lewiston, Idaho, has taken part in a variety of activities the past months in working toward their goal of an Assembly next April, the Northwestern States Area Bulletin reports. In July there was a window display in the Public Service Co. featuring the Bahá'í House of Worship, and 26 inches of newspaper publicity; in August a public meeting at-
BAHA'I NEWS

tracted 25 persons, with 14 contacts. There was a two-day Youth Conference with discussions, talks, and recreation. A Picnic and swim brought two Indian guests, and there was a later meeting at Lapwai with Nez Perce Indians for an outdoor potluck supper, singing, talks, and discussion. Only one more Bahá’í is now needed to attain Assembly status.

Six Colorado communities were represented at an all-state conference at the Colorado Springs Bahá’í Center on September 16. Consultation was based upon the Guardian’s letter of July 19 and the accompanying letter from his secretary. Other topics included “Revitalization of the Home Front Through Group Effort,” and “The Individual Must Arise,” the Bulletin of the Rocky Mountain states reports.

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

At Upsala College, East Orange, N. J., one of the two Bahá’í youth in attendance, Jamshid Nassehi, a Persian belonging to the International Club, was asked to speak for 15 minutes on the Bahá’í Faith at the Chapel there on October 3. He brought out the basic principles of the Faith, and Bahá’u’lláh’s claim to be the return of Christ.

The Lord of the New Age. By Winston Evans. A dynamic and challenging message to Christians proclaiming Bahá’u’lláh to be the Promised One, the Lord of the Age. This item was particularly prepared at the request of the National Assembly to be used in meeting the “Nationwide Teaching Opportunity” mentioned in their letter to all local assemblies and in October 1956 Bahá’í News. Prepared in standard, small pamphlet size with colorful two-toned blue cover.

30 copies (minimum order) $ .50
100 copies ....................... $ 4.50

BAHA'I PUBLISHING TRUST

Know Your Literature

Declaration of Trust. By the National Spiritual Assembly of the U.S. (By-Laws of National and Local Assemblies).

Who may call a meeting of the Local Assembly? How many members must be present to conduct business? How are vacancies on a Local Assembly filled? How many days’ notice must be given to all members of the community before holding an election? How does an individual appeal a decision of the Local Assembly?

These and many other questions regarding the functioning of the Local and National Assembly are answered in the above publication. This knowledge is vital, not only to Assembly members, but to everyone in the Bahá’í Community. (Ask your Librarian about this publication).

Per copy ................. $ .20
Ten copies .................... $ 1.50

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

Fourth Year—1956-1957

Annual Budget .......... $ 500,000.00
Total Requirements May
1 to November 15 .......... 270,400.00
Total Contributions May
1 to November 15 .......... 171,000.00
—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

BAHA’I Calendar, 1957 (Bahá’í Year 113-114). Carl Scheffler has again prepared a beautiful drawing to illustrate the calendar—a picture of one of the Temple gardens and fountains, with part of the Temple visible, in red, green, blue, and black. Feast and Holy Days are depicted in red and green, and all pertinent information is contained on back of calendar. 8½ x 12.

Four copies .................. $ 1.00
Ten copies .................... $ 2.00

Spiritual Perspective. By Marie M. Kershaw Frain. Additional copies of this excellent teaching aid included as an insert in November Bahá’í News are available. Explains how to “build a thought bridge” with each contact you make by an association of ideas and by linking the teachings to the experience of the individual.

10 copies .................. $ .50
50 copies .................. $ 2.00

Extra Copies of Compilations Available

Extra copies of The Power of the Covenant, a compilation prepared by the National Assembly some months ago and mailed to each believer in the U.S., and the new compilation, Charter of a Divine Civilization, can be obtained from the Publishing Trust. Please specify correct title when ordering.

Per copy .................. $ .15

Out of Print


Bahá’u’lláh and the New Era. (Icelandic). A supply obtained several years ago is now exhausted, and no source is presently available for a new supply.

STAR OF THE WEST SUPPLY LIMITED

The miscellaneous assortment of 50 copies of Star of the West (and Bahá’í Magazine) at $4.00 can no longer be furnished. Less than 50 individual monthly issues of these magazines are now available, and the number of copies of each issue is also considerably limited. Anyone desiring even a token assortment of these remaining copies should send orders promptly. The price is $10 per copy, with a minimum order of ten copies, postpaid.

Minimum Mail Order, $1.00

Available from

BAHA’I PUBLISHING TRUST

110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois
BAHÁ'í HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting hours
Weekdays and Saturdays: 1:00—4:00 P.M.
(the Auditorium will be open)
Sundays: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
(the entire building will be open)

Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FIRSTS
December 12—Masá'íl (Questions)
December 31—Sharaf (Honor)

BAHÁ'í DIRECTORY CHANGES

BAHÁ'í STATE CONVENTIONS
December 2—for election of delegates to the 1957 National Bahá'í Convention.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
December 29, 30, 31, January 1

IN MEMORIAM
Mrs. Ruby Dillingham
Flint, Michigan
September 29, 1956
Mrs. Vera M. Vaughn
San Francisco, California
October 2, 1956
Mr. Oscar Ketels
Port Huron, Michigan
October 3, 1956

FACETS

DECEMBER 1956

BAHÁ'í SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Temple Public Meetings Committee
Mr. Harlan Scheffler

Geyersville School Program Committee
Mr. John Bustard, Chairman
Mrs. Viviana Lisota, Secretary, 910 Sierra Vista, Redding, Calif.

American Indian Service Committee
Mr. Allan Ward

NORTHERN PEOPLES TEACHING COMMITTEE
Mr. Elmer Guffey

ADDITIONS TO COMMITTEES

FLORIDA
St. Petersburg: Mrs. Mary A. Marlow, 1024 Chelly St., N.E.

NEW YORK (EASTERN)
Yonkers: Mrs. Lilian Rogers, 64 Locust Hill

NORTHERN PEOPLES TEACHING COMMITTEE
Mr. Elmer Guffey

AMERICAN INDIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE
Mr. Allan Ward

CENTRAL AREA YOUTH COMMITTEE
Mr. Alden J. Lauchner

NORTH ATLANTIC STATES AREA YOUTH COMMITTEE
Miss Sue Willston

SOUVENIR OF 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ COMMITTEE
Mrs. Blanche Kaufman
Mr. Robert Schmitz

BAHÁ'í TEMPLE WORSHIP COMMITTEE
Mr. Joseph Peter

DAVISON SCHOOL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
Mr. Robert J. Sevier
Mr. Paul Peters
Mr. Richard Bruce
Miss Pauline A. Rushing
Mr. Daniel Lupu

BAHÁ'í NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá'í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHÁ'í NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1956-57: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá'í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
American Hands of the Cause Address Baha'is at State Conventions

Beloved Friends:

The American Hands of the Cause send you loving greetings.

You are assembled for consultation as well as for election of delegates. To contribute the Guardian's advice and appeal to your consultation we quote these passages from a letter directed to us on behalf of Shoghi Effendi by the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land.

"The need of the Hour is teaching on the Home Front. Its goals can only be won by a new spirit of dedication and consecration on the part of the friends, each in his own country, in his own home. Miraculous victories are being won, in the difficult virgin areas, because the pioneers have consecrated their lives to the noble mission they have embarked upon. The friends at home must display this same consecration and dedication. Never must they let a day pass without teaching some soul, trusting to Baha'u'llah that the seed will grow. The friends should seek pure souls, gain their confidence, and then teach that person carefully until he becomes a Baha'i, and then nurture him until he becomes a firm and active supporter of the Faith.

"The friends must realize that it is the individual effort and initiative that are needed for victory at home, just as it is in the virgin areas. Every one must remember that it is the 'Holy Spirit' that guides us and therefore the teacher must become like a reed through which the Holy Spirit may reach the seeking soul.

"The beloved Guardian has stressed over and over again, that to effectively teach the Faith, the individual must study deeply the Divine Word, imbibe Its life-giving waters, and feast upon Its glorious teachings. He should then meditate on the import of the Word, and finding Its spiritual depths, pray for guidance and assistance. But most important, after prayer is action. After one has prayed and meditated, he must arise, relying fully on the guidance and confirmation of Baha-
Beloved Friends:

Since the National Assembly prepared the letter published in December Baha'i News, the skies have darkened with new evidence of international discord. Pilgrimage to our Center is interrupted. The Holy Land of four Faiths has become the focus of current trends striving both for peace and war.

Having no commentary by the beloved Guardian on this situation, we cannot grasp its true significance as one step in the swift process which is destined to culminate in a new order and one universal Faith. Nevertheless every follower of Baha'u'llah understands that as perils increase, so the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit is offered Baha'is in fuller measure.

Now, therefore, is the time for heroism and sacrifice for service to the World Crusade in unsurpassed degree. Capacity to achieve all its present goals has been conferred upon the Community of the Greatest Name. The trumpet sounds for every intrepid warrior enrolled under the banner of the Lord of Hosts.

Let us ponder anew, and more deeply, why the World Crusade is established for the period 1953-1953. Is not this the crucial time for building the Ark of security for mankind? It coincides with the swift movement of Destiny itself, arousing both good and evil to their peak of action.

Thus, in the settlement of virgin goals, in the purchase of Temple sites and Haziratu'll-Quds, in the formation of new local and National Assemblies, in the completion of the Shrine, the purchase of lands on Mt. Carmel, and the construction of the International Archives Building as the first in a series of International Institutions at the Center—here before our eyes we behold the framework of the Ark of a regenerated humanity take shape and strength to ride the storm and enter the Haven of Divine Grace.

The Ten Year Plan is a perfect unit, and all its tasks are of utmost importance, but year by year some tasks must be given central attention. It is for this reason that the beloved Guardian has so strongly called for work on the home front at this time. Every fresh increment there means greater potentiality for supporting the Crusade in all parts of the world.

The American National Teaching Committee in this issue of Baha'i News has provided a list of home-front goals. The National Assembly appeals to the friends to give these goals utmost concern in the light of the supreme importance of the World Crusade.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

2 ASSEMBLIES JOIN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The various National Spiritual Assemblies which are related to United Nations through the Baha'i International Community have been increased by the addition of the National Spiritual Assemblies of Central and East Africa, and of North West Africa.

The Assembly formerly known as the National Spiritual Assembly of Egypt and the Sudan is now registered as the National Spiritual Assembly of North East Africa.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

GREEN BAY SCHOOLS RECOGNIZE BAHAI HOLY DAYS

The Superintendent of Schools, Green Bay, Wisc., has issued a notice, dated November 6, 1956, to all Principals, listing the Baha'i Religious Holy Days. Absence by Baha'i children on these days is to be excused.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Voting Rights Restored

The voting rights of Mrs. Charles W. (Mina Belle) Smith, of Tulsa, Okla., have been restored. These rights were removed several months ago.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
Asia
FIRST ALL-TAIWAN CONVENTION HELD

Eighteen Bahá'ís representing five localities in Taiwan attended the first All-Taiwan Bahá'í Teaching Conference held in Tainan November 11 and 12, 1956. Miss Agnez Alexander, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause in Asia, who had just arrived for a two weeks visit to the area, brought great inspiration to the friends, both by her presence and her participation in the program, which was designed principally to aid in increasing the understanding of the believers of the institutions of the Faith and of the World Spiritual Crusade.

The conference opened with a prayer in memory of Mr. H. Oskouli, who passed away a few months ago after many years of devoted service to the Faith in China. The subjects during the first session, the afternoon of November 11, were: "How the Bahá'í Faith was Introduced to China," "Our Part in the World Spiritual Crusade," "The Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the Institution of the Guardianship," Slides of Haifa and of the Bahá'í House of Worship were shown in the evening to an audience of more than forty.

The second day was devoted mainly to consultation and a panel discussion on how to increase and promote the teaching work in Taiwan, and many practical suggestions were given as to how each believer can participate.

Through contacts with Bahá'ís in Taipei, two local newspaper reporters attended a tea on the second afternoon, and learned a great deal from Miss Alexander about the history of the Faith and its teachings. Both promised to publish articles on the Faith in their respective papers.

It is interesting to note that the chairman and the interpreter for the conference were both Chinese who had become Bahá'ís in America some years ago.

Cablegrams and letters from the Hand of the Cause of God, Mr. Dhibru'lláh Khádem, the Asia Teaching Committee, friends in Japan, Korea, and in the United States, as well as from the other believers in Taiwan who could not be present, made this a most inspiring experience for most of the new Bahá'ís.

—Asia Teaching Committee

Western Hemisphere
OPPORTUNITIES CALL IN KEY WEST, SOUTH AMERICA

Two Bahá'ís are needed in Key West, Fla., within the near future to replace two members of the local
Assembly who are going to Cuba to help build the Latin American institutions, subsequent to the election of two new regional National Spiritual Assemblies next April. The Key West Assembly was newly formed last April and must not be jeopardized by departures before replacements can be found.

Key West has an excellent year-round climate, even in the heat of summer. It is largely tourist, and there is probably little opportunity to work there. Therefore, settlers who have an independent income are to be preferred. Anyone wishing to consider this post may have further information by writing to the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee at the address given below.

South America

An unusual opportunity for a pioneer to get a foothold in South America has come to the attention of the WHTC. A Bahá'í couple living off the west coast of South America will be returning to the States in March for six months, and will make their home available to one or more Bahá'ís who could continue the meetings and keep up the contacts that have been already established. At the end of the six-month period there would be a good chance on finding a way to stay on, if so desired. Although travelling expenses would be about $800 round trip, living expenses while there would be only about $20.00 per month! It is frontier living, Spanish speaking.

"It is not a place to come looking for a job. But people with some capital and know-how can make better than just a living if their occupation is one that fills a need. For instance, both our physicians came here young and inexperienced, have acquired and supported families, own fine homes and other properties, and may be considered well-to-do. A young Spaniard opened a hardware store six years ago, and in spite of the opening of another by a home town boy at just about the same time, has made his fortune and so has the other.

"Modest fortunes, perhaps, but such opportunities for individuals don't grow on bushes in more civilized and competitive parts of the world these days ... What I can produce in the backyard goes quite a way toward feeding us and there is enough to sell to bring in a little cash each month besides ... I have been able to make a few pesos sewing ... Many people have their meals sent in, instead of bothering with the preparation themselves. There seems to be an opportunity here for someone who could open and operate a stove-wood depository. I figure that would take bought or rented land close in, and at least a machine-driven saw, preferably also a truck. I suppose there are an infinity of other possibilities that I wouldn't even imagine. This whole south of Chile is real frontier as to opportunities."

While this is a specific description of one of the many posts the WHTC is trying to fill, it is fairly typical of many other attractive Latin American posts such as Mexico, David, Panama, Cali, and islands off Chile.

Many of these places would be ideal for a retired person, for example, who has a small pension that is not adequate for the States, but would be the equivalent of wealth in Latin America. On forty to fifty dollars a month in many places, one can live like a king. Knowledge of Spanish or ability to learn it quickly is very important.

The official Call for the approaching national conventions of Latin America are now going out, and there is a great stirring among the Latin American Bahá'ís, who are looking forward with great excitement to this coming Ridván. The Auxiliary Board and WHTC members who have recently travelled in these countries report that the people talk about nothing else. The help of North American pioneers is needed to give a good start to these new institutions, and we urgently request that any of you who have been thinking about pioneering but have not written to the WHTC do so now, and let us help you smooth out the obstacles and get started. Write to:

Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, Secretary, Western Hemisphere Teaching Comm., 73 College Road West, Princeton, N. J.
At a service of the Congregational Church at Medindie, a suburb of Adelaide in South Australia, the Bahá’í Message was specially delivered to the assembled congregation.

This was arranged with the pastor, Rev. Aubrey Stevens, by E. S. G. Bowes, a South Australian Bahá’í. The service was held on Sunday, August 12.

Rev. Stevens conducted the service, using hymns and Scripture readings chosen by Mr. Bowes, with whom he shared the pulpit.

Mr. Bowes gave the Children’s Address, being a story based upon the Bahá’í teachings. Later he delivered the sermon. This took the form of a brief account of the three central figures of the Bahá’í Faith, with quotations of Bahá’u’lláh’s words, and references to Him by Prof. E. C. Browne.

The address closed with extracts from ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s talk given at City Temple, London, 45 years ago, to the Congregational Church of London, and a Bahá’í prayer.

The newly opened City Library of Orange, New South Wales, includes on an engraved plaque at the entrance the name of the Bahá’í World Faith, along with other local organizations, as having donated at least one shelf of books.

The Bahá’í group of Orange, in buying a shelf, is enthusiastic about their “silent teacher,” and hopes to add to their present collection of Bahá’í publications.

Huapaypallana is the name given to a new publication of the Huan­cayo, Peru, local Spiritual Assembly, which was formed last April. Its first edition, No. 001, was issued in October 1956, carrying news, information, and other material of interest to Bahá’ís.

The first issue carried news of the visit of Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, member of the Auxiliary Board, to South America, the protest of the American National Assembly to the United Nations concerning the Iranian persecutions, Bahá’í Youth activities, new Bahá’í literature, a report on the local Bahá’í Fund, and many other items of interest.

Further reports of teaching activities in Central America, to be added to the account published in the December issue of Bahá’í News, have been excerpted from the Central American Bahá’í News.

The National Teaching Committee of the Antilles reports that very good activities are being carried out in Haiti. The committee secretary, Mrs. Dee Worth, spent the months of August and September in Haiti, collaborating with the pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Blackwell, in consolidation of the communities of Port au Prince, St. Marc, and Cap Haitian. Work has also been commenced in the cities of Liancourt and Gonives, Assembly and Group goals, respectively.

The new American Committee, established this year in the Bahamas, is doing magnificent work with the American virgin areas: British Honduras, Curacao, Isla Margarita, Bahamas, and Bermuda (consolidation). This committee publishes an interesting bulletin periodically for distribution in that area.

A Juvenile Group has been formed in Nassau, Bahamas, the local Spiritual Assembly announces, with a membership of four youth.
Canada
CONFERENCES HELD AT BEAULAC, CHARLOTTETOWN

Canadian Baha'i News reports two teaching conferences in their November issue, held at Beaulac and Charlottetown.

To the one at Beaulac about 23 people from six national backgrounds came to enjoy the fellowship of friends, and a spiritual feast. There were two study courses, "The Goals Which Draw Us Onward," and "The Bible and the Baha'i Faith," conducted by Vicki Bond and Fred Graham, respectively.

A Maritime Teaching Conference was held in Charlottetown, with over 20 adults and children in attendance. Ken Bolton was the speaker, covering the following topics: "Fireside Patterns," "Direct and Indirect Teaching Methods," and "The Ten Year Crusade."

SAMOA WELCOMES SECOND NATIVE BELIEVER

News from Samoa is published in the Bulletin of the Canadian New Territories Committee:

"It is indeed with joyous and thankful hearts that we are writing this letter and are enclosing the cards of the newest declared believer in Western Samoa.

"You will, no doubt, recall that in a recent letter we mentioned that one of the people here was studying the Teachings. Sa'ilalala joined us officially at the last Feast, and it was a wonderful occasion for us all. Through Sa'ilalala's efforts we now have another person interested in the Teachings, and we all pray that he, too, may understand a little of Baha'u'llah's Revelation.

"The Translating Committee has commenced to function again, and is now preparing a series of small pamphlets which the Group thinks will be suitable for the local population. One pamphlet will be based on Some Answered Questions, the answers being those of 'Abdu'l-Baha simplified, to questions which the local Samoans always ask."

North East Africa
ASSEMBLIES URGED TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS

During the convention of the Baha'is of North East Africa last April, it was recommended that regular public meetings be arranged in local Haziratu'l-Quds, affording a greater chance for the spread of the Cause.

This recommendation has been approved by the National Spiritual Assembly of North East Africa, and all local Spiritual Assemblies have been requested to put this into effect. The Baha'i Youth Committee of Alexandria was the first to respond to this call. A public meeting was arranged at the Haziratu'l-Quds on October 21, 1956, to which about 50 non-Baha'is were invited. About one-third of those invited attended the meeting. The subject of the talk, given in Arabic, was "The Agreement of Science and Religion." The meeting was termed a success, and it is planned to have further meetings regularly.
India, Pakistan, Burma

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT, SUMMER SCHOOL, LOCAL ASSEMBLIES PICTURED

Bahá’í Summer School held at Montgomery, Pakistan, on October 11-19, 1956.

Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Ernakulam, India, formed April 21, 1956.

Site of the National Endowment in Rangoon, Burma.
"To Act, . . . Promptly and Decisively"

In our beloved Guardian's message, "Inestimable Prizes within Our Reach," he states: "A far greater proportion of the avowed supporters of the Faith must arise, ere the Crusade suffers any set back, for the four-fold purpose of winning over an infinitely greater number of recruits to the army of Bahá'u'lláh fighting on the home front, of swallowing to an unprecedented degree the isolated centers now scattered within its confines, of converting an increasing number of them into firmly founded groups, and of accelerating the formation of local Assemblies, while safe-guarding those already in existence."

With this four-fold purpose in mind, our immediate objectives are:

1. To restore or form at least one local Assembly in each of the four States which have none at the present time: Vermont, Rhode Island, South Carolina, North Dakota.
2. To strengthen all Assemblies in danger of losing their status, especially if such an Assembly is the only one in the State.
3. To bring promising groups to Assembly status, regardless of whether or not they are in goal cities.

We submit the following list of localities where settlers and special teaching effort are needed, and where immediate help will be effective.

Please give this appeal prayerful thought. Then contact the secretary of the Area Teaching Committee of the area in which you are interested for information as to what you may do to assist in this urgent teaching endeavor.

—American National Teaching Committee

Edna Voight, Secretary

New England States
Mrs. Ethelinda Merson, Secretary
5 Katy Hatch's Hill
Falmouth, Mass.

CONNECTICUT
Bridgeport
Hamden

MASSACHUSETTS

Ipswich

**Worcester

*Cambridge

MAINE
Augusta

Fryeburg

Bangor

Lewiston

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Concord
Keene
Manchester

RHODE ISLAND
**Providence

East Providence

Pawtucket

Cranston

VERMONT
**Brattleboro

Burlington

Rutland

North Atlantic States
Mrs. Florence Steinhauer, Secretary
5 Ridgetell Ave.
Hastings-on-Hudson, N. Y.

NEW JERSEY
Elizabeth

Jersey City

**Ridgewood

Hackensack

NEW YORK

*Yonkers

Geneva

Niagara Falls

Victor

**Syracuse

*Seneca Twp.

Poughkeepsie

Pennsylvania

*Scranton

Erie

West Goshen Twp.

**West Chester

Central Atlantic States
Mrs. Margaret Gawen, Secretary
5917-14th St. N. Arlington, Va.

Delaware

Dover

MARYLAND
**Prince Georges County
**Montgomery County

NORTH CAROLINA
Charlotte
Durham
Raleigh
Winston Salem

Haitian Teaching Congress held at Port au Prince November 1-4, 1956. Bábís and friends gathered on the steps of a park to hear an address by Mrs. Gayle Woolson, Member of the Auxiliary Board. Four cities in Haiti were represented at this Congress.
BAHÁ’I NEWS

VIRGINIA
Norfolk

WEST VIRGINIA
*Charleston

South Atlantic States
Mrs. Beatrice Alexander, Secretary
P. O. Box 843, Tampa, Fla.

FLORIDA
*Tampa
*Miami Beach
*Orange County
Sarasota
St. Augustine

SOUTH CAROLINA
**North Augusta
**Greenville

Miss D. Thelma Jackson, Secretary
302 E. Huisache, Apt. 9
San Antonio, Texas.

LOUISIANA
Baton Rouge
*New Orleans

TENNESSEE
*Chattanooga

Mrs. Mildred Birkett, Secretary
4053 Lindell St., St. Louis, Mo.

KANSAS
*Wichita
*Kansas City

ARKANSAS
Eureka Springs

OKLAHOMA
Tulsa

MISSOURI
*Springfield
Independence
St. Joseph
Webster Groves

South Central States
Mrs. Mary Lou Ewing, Secretary
1836 Arizona Ave., N. E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

COLORADO
*Pueblo
*El Paso County

NEW MEXICO
*Bernalillo County
*Roswell

WYOMING
*Laramie
Casper

Northwestern States
Mrs. Helen Wilks, Secretary
12710-11th N. W.
Seattle 77, Washington

IDAHO
Lewiston

MONTANA
**Great Falls
Missoula
**Butte

OREGON
*Eugene
Astoria
Salem

WASHINGTON
Monroe
Wenatchee
Walla Walla
Kirkland
*Yakima

Southwestern States
Mrs. Loraine Johnson, Secretary
1001 W. Solano Dr., Phoenix, Arizona.

ARIZONA
*Tucson Sub Area
Flagstaff
*Yuma
*Tempe

CALIFORNIA
*Chula Vista
*National City
*Cloverdale J. D.
*El Monte J. D.
**Escondido J. D.
**Glendale J. D.
**Inglewood
**Inglewood J. D.
*South Gate
**Millbrae
*Burlingame
Santa Ana
Redding
Twenty Nine Palms
Alhambra J. D.
Healdsburg J. D.
*San Leandro-Hayward J. D.
*San Mateo
South Bay J. D.

NEVADA
Las Vegas
*Sparks

UTAH
*Provo
*Ogden
*Assembly status in danger
**Dismanded Assembly
American Baha'i Communities Achieve Wide

Baha'is throughout the United States—from Burlington, Vt., to Missoula, Mont., from Miami, Fla., to Tacoma, Wash., Hawaii and Alaska—may all take pride in the many excellent programs presented by Baha'i communities and groups in observance of the Eleventh Anniversary of the United Nations.

Reports of meetings held are still coming in to the Baha'i U.S. United Nations Committee, many of which are sensationally interesting and most of which are excellent, not only in the results reported, but in the methods and manner of planning and executing UN Day activities.

Obviously, space does not permit a complete run-down of programs reported, yet we know you will enjoy reading of some, from which it is hoped inspiration and renewed determination to redouble our teaching efforts may be gained by all of us.

Missoula, Mont., with a group of only seven Baha'is, launched a full-scale community-wide observance of UN Day. From the University there they obtained the services of two university "co-chairmen" who aided in securing many foreign students to take part in the pageantry, music and dancing. It was possible, through the students, to secure the new and very beautiful University Music Hall for the meeting place. Through contact with the Ministerial Association, the Council of Churches (Jewish, Christian, Greek, and Mormon), and over forty other groups, invitations to them to participate in the program brought wide-spread acceptance with many of them giving one to two-minute talks along with brief selected readings from their own Holy Books.

The Baha'i speaker, Mr. John Morgan, was interviewed by two radio stations; spot announcements of the meeting were used by all three local radio stations; the local press cooperated fully with news items, photos and announcements in advance of and after the meeting. All of the publicity used was prepared by the Baha'is.

At the meeting the Mayor of Missoula read President Eisenhower's UN Day Message, and then he officially proclaimed "UN Week 1956" to the citizenry of Missoula; leading business firms contributed, without charge, engraved and printed programs; colorful posters were given by the airlines office; large green plants were donated for stage decor; a set of flags of the member nations of UN was received; Boy Scouts and Campfire Girls assisted as ushers at the public meeting, which was attended by approximately 400.
Response to United Nations Day Programs

The full report of this UN observance is thrilling, indeed, for there is much more than can be set forth in this article. The tenor of the report, however, can be demonstrated in Bill Musler's own words in reporting the activities. He writes, "I cannot transmit to you in letter form the many opportunities we had—some striking—to call attention to the Bahá’í Faith before, during, and after this program. On several occasions we were able to present the tenets of the Faith with much prestige... One or two religious leaders have most earnestly inquired as to learning more about the Faith. They (seem) instinctively to have recognized something wonderful here... The Faith in Missoula has, through Bahá'u'lláh and His Teachings brought our local citizenry a little closer. 'A Path to Peace' has aided in getting many people here to think more on the international level, and at the same time much prestige has been attained for our Cause and the friends here. For all of this we are forever grateful."

No less impressive was the UN Day observance held in Burlington, Vt., where a group of only three Bahá’ís reside. They, too, were the ones to initiate a city-wide UN Day observance. Paul Meade contacted all of the religious groups and civic, cultural and humanitarian organizations to form the Burlington UN Day Committee, and was, himself, elected chairman of "UN Day in Burlington."

As chairman, he was interviewed on the local television station; one of the ladies of the Committee was interviewed on radio, during which she stated, "Everyone was wishing someone would do something about UN Day in Burlington and it took Paul Meade with his Bahá’í Faith to get it organized." That is certainly a fine example of action gaining results.

It is interesting to note the organizations represented on the committee: Burlington Council of Churches, local synagogues, Catholic Diocese, Vermont Council on World Affairs, American Heritage Group, and YWCA. Many other organizations participated in the program and ceremonies. Local newspapers cooperated in this case also to the fullest extent, giving six separate articles concerning the program. All of the publicity was prepared by Mrs. Juliette Meade, a Bahá’í.

The program consisted of a public flag raising ceremony on one day; church bells throughout the city were rung on another day as a call to prayer for all Burlington people to pray for the UN's success in its role of peacemaker; special services were held in churches and synagogues on other days. On UN Day the three Burlington Bahá’ís placed a Bahá’í advertisement in the local
paper showing a picture of the Temple, and on that same day the Baha'i Press Service release was carried by the paper.

Mrs. Meade writes, "So, in reporting what part the Burlington Baha'is played in a jointly sponsored UN Day program here, you may state that one of the Baha'is here organized it and acted as citywide Chairman . . . As a result of these UN Day activities, it is possible that in the future Burlington will be more ready to celebrate the Day. Also, as a result of the part the Baha'is played in the UN Day activities here, Paul was invited to attend a meeting of the Burlington Council of Churches to meet the ministers."

Milwaukee, Wis., held a public meeting to which 66 persons came, including 22 non-Baha'i friends. Louisville, Ky., held a public meeting and a fireside meeting, with attendances of 20 and 55, respectively.

The Baha'is on Long Island, N.Y., cooperated in holding a Program Tea in the home of one of the Baha'is. Advertisements and news releases appeared in six Long Island newspapers (in six different cities) announcing the program. Forty-five attended, including 30 non-Baha'i friends.

The group of three Baha'is in Northbrook, Ill., cooperated with the League of Women Voters and the World Federalists in a UN Day program which was a social-fireside type meeting. They were successful in having four displays of UN-Baha'i material in prominent public places, and in obtaining newspaper publicity for the meeting.

The Three Rivers, Mass., group observed UN Day by presenting to the local grammar school a shelf of UN material, in addition to holding a fireside meeting.

Englewood, N.J., held a public meeting, a fireside, and also cooperated in the community-wide observance. They report having received newspaper publicity for the Baha'i meetings which were attended by 50 persons, 15 of whom were contacts.

The Baha'i Group of Norfolk, Va., along with nearby isolated believers, cooperated in holding a public meeting. Four newspaper articles were obtained in their local paper in connection with their meeting.

The two local Assemblies of Miami and Dade County, Fla., sponsored a joint UN Day meeting to which 63 persons came, 33 of whom were not Baha'is. They, too, reported success in securing four news articles concerning their meeting.

Anchorage Recording District, Alaska, reports an excellent public meeting attended by 36 persons. Their speaker was interviewed on television; they received several radio spot announcements; and secured newspaper publicity. They also report a series of five fireside meetings held the week prior to their UN Day public meeting.

The small group in Galveston, Texas, achieved fine results through their arrangements for a UN Day observance. They were given a 7½ minute television interview; four radio spot announcements, and excellent newspaper publicity.

Indianapolis, Ind., held a public meeting, placed Baha'i UN Day notices on bulletin boards of 7 organizations of the city. The audience at the public meeting included 24 non-Baha'is.

Riverside, Calif., reports a public meeting and a fireside, exhibits placed in several strategic spots in town. They were given 7 radio spot announcements of the meeting, 1 news item in the local press along with a paid advertisement.

The Tanana Valley, Alaska, Baha'i Assembly was the only organization in Fairbanks that celebrated UN Day. In addition to the Baha'i speaker there was a non-Baha'i speaker, Mr. Norman Hogg, who is in charge of the Territory of Alaska Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. A sudden snow storm affected the wide attendance anticipated but "those who came" it was reported, "were very interested and receptive." Several days after the meeting Mr. Hogg wrote to the Baha'is thanking them for the privilege of speaking at their meeting and commending them for having the only UN Day program in Fairbanks.

This is the first year that the Davenport, Iowa, Baha'is have attempted to hold a special UN Day observance, and the result is most impressive. The Baha'is contacted six other local organizations, all of which expressed interest. Soon there were 14 organizations working with them. Letters were sent to all teachers, civic groups, ministers, and other interested persons (approxi-
As a follow-up for the 1956 World Religion Day meeting, this buffet dinner was held in the New Orleans, La., Bahá’í Center last February. Such meetings are fine examples of what can be done to invite contacts established at the World Religion Day observances this year.

The cooperation from other organizations was splendid. There is now considerable interest in forming a permanent observance committee for UN Week so that in succeeding years a more ambitious program can be undertaken. The name Bahá’í was heard by many people who had not known of it before. Many new contacts were made which may result in some new inquirers."

The Augusta, Ga., community held a panel discussion meeting composed of a Bahá’í speaker and several outstanding people of the community. They report, "We had no difficulty in getting speakers for the panel. We were all very happy to be able to get a message so outstanding to the public. One local library asked for some of our UN literature, which was given to them. Our UN meeting was the only public meeting held in the city."

This spot-check of Bahá’í activities for UN Day 1956 shows at a glance that exceptionally fine efforts have produced similarly fine results in prestige for our beloved Faith in our local communities, in the joy we received in working together in unity and harmony for our common purposes, and in establishing contacts among progressive and liberal-minded organizations and individuals.

The U.S. United Nations Committee is indeed grateful for the whole-hearted cooperation on the part of Bahá’ís in the United States for UN Day 1956, and you may be assured that our report to UN Headquarters of this year’s celebration of UN Day will be made with justifiable pride.

—Lee Blackwell

UNITED NATIONS DAY PUBLICITY SHOWS GAIN

Newspaper publicity and advertising for the observance of United Nations Day on October 24 shows totals more than double last year’s results, according to the Bahá’í Press Service.

Publication of the Bahá’í activities in connection with this anniversary appeared in 118 cities with a total circulation over 8,000,000. Advertising space in newspapers was purchased by 27 Bahá’í communities, adding another million circulation to the totals.

Lineage totals for publicity and advertising combined shows 969 column inches.

NEGRO CHURCH GROUP ATTENDS BOISE MEETING

The entire congregation of the Bethel African Methodist Church of Boise, Idaho, attended the observance of the Birth of Bahá’u’lláh jointly sponsored by the Boise and Ada County Bahá’í communities.

This is the first time that such a large representation of the Negro race attended a Bahá’í meeting there, and the Bahá’ís welcomed them with great joy.

A fellowship hour followed a talk by Mrs. Fredye Stanley of Salt Lake City, in which she explained the station of Bahá’u’lláh as the Lord of the New Age. Refreshments were served, and a large quantity of Bahá’í literature, placed in the lobby of the meeting hall at Julia Davis Park, was depleted by the close of the evening.

UNITED ACTION BRINGS SUCCESS IN ALASKA

The Alaska Teaching Committee, with the cooperation of the Anchorage and Anchorage Recording District Assemblies, united in action to secure the maximum benefit from the scheduled visit of the Auxiliary Board member, Mrs. Florence Mayberry, from October 16 through the 26th.

In addition to a five-evening seminar with an average attendance of 36 and several fireside meetings, these local communities arranged guest speaker appearances and colored slide showings for the USO-YMCA, the NAACP, a Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Kiwanis Club luncheon, and several school classes.

Radio, TV, and newspaper coverage was excellent. All three radio stations announced the various lectures, three radio and TV interviews were secured, as well as four newspaper releases which included publicity on the forthcoming formation of a National Assembly in Alaska next April. Over 500 printed invitations were distributed for the public lectures, a United Nations Day program, and an open house tea at the Naziratu’l-Quds.

BAHA’I IN THE NEWS

From Germany in a personal letter to an American believer, we find this important item, translated from
World Mirror Magazine, where it was published as a letter to the editor: “It is hoped that the Bahá’í religious authorities (i.e., the National Assembly of Germany and Austria) will be able to find a new location for their House of Worship. Though the Bahá’í religion has its roots in Asia (its home is in Persia), its deeply anchored religious convictions have stirred one of our choicest men, namely Albert Schweitzer, to unmistakably express his deep sympathy for the Bahá’ís. I myself have read (his) mail sent to the Bahá’ís!

“If Christianity so far has failed to unite mankind, perhaps the Bahá’ís will be successful in their efforts.” (Signed) Hans Grog Remus, Minister of the Unitarian Church.

(The statement in the above letter about a new location for their House of Worship refers to the fact that the site selected by the National Assembly of Germany and Austria was withheld by the civil authorities.)

The Baptist Message dated November 29 quoted a remark made by a missionary who recently visited Soviet Russia: “Moscow, a city of 3,000,000 people, has only eight congregations of all faiths—Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist and Bahá’í.” It is not necessary to add that we have no information about believers in Russia. The above quotation also appeared in The Nashville Tennessean of November 16.

Wilmette Life for November 29 had an article about the Temple gardens illustrated with three photographs. The article described the plantings in each of the nine gardens and listed the number of visitors who have toured the building since 1932.

Horace Sutton, travel editor of Saturday Review, wrote in the issue of November 17: “The last time I saw Haifa I saw it from the deck of the ‘Independence.’ It was a tremendous sight, for the time was twilight and the lights had come on across the whole city, which is built on the rising slopes of Mount Carmel. Earlier that day I had visited the Bahá’í Temple, the world headquarters of a religious group that preaches love and peace, tolerance and good will... Now, as we were ready to sail, the dome of the Bahá’í Temple (i.e. Shrine) shimmered in floodlight.”

The Publisher’s Auxiliary, November 10, Chicago, reprints the list of special days, weeks and months in 1957 compiled by the Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., including World Religion Day, January 20.

The 1956-57 calendar prepared for the Public Schools of Wilmington, Del., contains a list of Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox and Bahá’í Holy Days. The Bahá’í Holy Days were recognized by the Superintendent of Wilmington Schools prior to April 21, 1954.

The Memphis Press-Scimitar, June 30, quoted the National Spiritual Assembly statement on “The Oneness of Mankind” under a two column head: “Bahá’í Sets Forth Its Integration Position.”

AMERICAN INDIAN NEWS

There are many teaching positions open on American Indian Reservations at both the grade and the high school levels. If you are interested in pioneering among the American Indians, this should be a good opportunity for you.

Those interested should write to the Secretary of the American Indian Service Committee, Mrs. Nancy Phillips, 736 Encanto Drive S. E., Phoenix, Arizona.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

In the course of his extensive travel for business, Challoner Chute of Charlottesville, Va., has been able to give teaching assistance to Bahá’ís in many cities throughout the South during the past months. A particularly successful service was a visit in company with Randolph Bolles to a group affiliated with the Episcopal Church of Howard University in Washington, D. C. More than 50 students from various parts of Africa and the West Indies heard about the Faith for the first time, eagerly accepted the literature offered, and expressed great interest in studying with the Bahá’ís. Similar teaching was done at a fireside in Mr. Chute’s locality, comprising the head of the School of Religion at the University of Virginia, a minister of the local Mormon Church, and a professor of physics. Jamshed Fozdar, a pioneer from Vietnam home on leave, also addressed the group.

Little Rock, Ark., has been conducting a series of study classes using the panel discussion format, with an average attendance of 16 adults. The outline course, The Bahá’í Faith — A Synoptic View, is used as a guide.

A Hawaii Teaching Conference was held at the Honolulu Bahá’í Center on December 1, with the morning session devoted to consideration of teaching goals for the Hawaiian Islands, and the afternoon session given to the topics, “Teaching Problems,” “Publicity,” “Teaching Aids,” and “Confirming the New Believer.”

A second Area Teaching Conference was held at Burlingame, Calif., on November 18. “Obstacles of Personality,” and “The Bahá’í Way of Life” were topics to be discussed. The first of these area conferences was held at Burlingame on Oct. 21.

Ketchikan, Alaska’s news bulletin, The Northern Star, reports that in less than a year since the formation of their local Spiritual Assembly from a community of 10 Bahá’ís on April 21, 1956, 14 new believers have been enrolled in the Faith. Thus, the Ketchikan Bahá’ís have surpassed their goal of doubling their numbers.

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

Peter McLaren, former Chairman of the National Youth Committee, spoke in Charleston, W. Va., on September 9 before the York Club, a group of 25 young adults belonging to the largest Episcopal Church there, the Bulletin for the Central Atlantic States reports. Mrs. Marian Lippitt has been invited to speak on “The Great Religions of the World” before the Young Women’s Auxiliary of the Charleston Women’s Club.

The Central States Area Teaching Committee held an Area Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on September 29 and 30, their Bulletin states. A public meeting on Saturday evening featured a talk by Robert Wolff, a pioneer from Dutch Guiana, and the Sunday conference meeting had as a theme, “The Power of the Covenant—Individual Responsibility.” Also reported was the recent teaching trip by Mrs. Evelyn Allen in Iowa and Nebraska. She appeared on television programs in Waterloo, Iowa, and Omaha, Neb., showing slides of the Bahá’í House of Worship. Firesides and public meetings were held in Waterloo and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and in Omaha.

The Bulletin of the Gulf States Area Teaching Committee an-
announces that another isolated center has been opened in Alexandria, La. The first Bahá'í function in that city was a Feast held at the YWCA with two attending, including a Bahá'í visitor from neighboring Pineville. Also reported was a Bahá'í Youth Conference in Dallas, Texas, on October 6-7, for Bahá'ís and their friends.

A picnic-fireside, given by the Area Youth Committee under the sponsorship of the ATC, was held at Evergreen Cabin on September 3, the Bulletin for the North Atlantic States reports. Les Marcus and Mrs. Beatrice Thiipen led a discussion on “Progressive Revelation” and “Current Events in the Bahá’í Faith.” Friends in Waterloo, N.Y., decided to take a “fresh air” child for a two-week period, as a group project. A 7½ year old girl enjoyed the healthy surroundings of Waterloo as a result of this generous offer, which made new acquaintances for the Faith.

A highly inspirational Teaching Conference was held at Laramie, Wyo., on August 5, sponsored by the Laramie Assembly and the Area Teaching Committee, the Area Bulletin reports. Dr. and Mrs. David Rube of Kansas City, Mo., conducted the meetings, speaking on teaching problems and Bahá’í Administration. Since the Assembly in Laramie now numbers less than nine members, it is hoped that additions to the Bahá’í community will enable this Assembly to be held. It is the only one in Wyoming. Crusade goal cities in the area include Casper, Cheyenne, and Sheridan, Wyo., Greeley, Colo., and Santa Fe, N. Mex.

The Tennessee Valley States Area Bulletin now recommends a Book of the Month to their readers. For September it was The Advent of Divine Justice, by Shoghi Effendi.

The Hawaii Teaching Committee Bulletin reports that the local Spiritual Assembly of Honolulu has been doing constructive work with the Hawaii Chapter of World Brotherhood. Major and Mrs. Salvatore Pelle are Bahá’í representatives to the Religious Education Committee of the Chapter. One of the Committee’s meetings was held at the Bahá’í Center last summer, and the group was given the history and principles of the Faith.

Bahá'ís from Honolulu flew to the islands of Kauai and Lanai during the autumn months to visit the pioneers and their contacts, the Hawaiian Bulletin reports. On Maui, one of the regular radio programs on the Faith departed from the usual script type presentation to a reading by Edwin Dover of direct quotations from the Bahá’í Writings.

A feature of the Area Conference held at Charlottesville, Va., on October 27 was a report by Mrs. Dorothy Frey on the activities of the Bahá’í Interracial Committee, and the importance of interracial work, according to the Bulletin of the Central Atlantic States.

The Greensboro, N.C., Spiritual Assembly reports, through the Central Atlantic States Bulletin, that weekly firesides are being carried on in Winston-Salem, N.C., as a part of the extension teaching work.

Area Conferences held in Muskegon, Mich.; Lima, Ohio; and Indianapolis, Ind., are reported in the East Central States Bulletin, with 23 attending at Muskegon, 44 at Lima, and 34 at Indianapolis. The Compilations on The Power of the Covenant was discussed. Indianapolis also reports that a Deepening Class has been organized. A New Carlisle, Ind., Bahá'í reports a newspaper advertising series on the Faith in La Porte, Rolling Prairie, and La Crosse, as well as New Carlisle, Fort Wayne, Ind., tells of three “Park-Lecture-Breakfasts” during the summer months that were successfully received.

An Area Youth Conference was held at South Bend, Ind., on October 20-21, the East Central States Area Bulletin reports, with over 20 youth in attendance from Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. One of the topics discussed was “Detachment.” On Saturday evening a potluck dinner and Social was held, with discussion sessions. Sunday morning the subject undertaken was “Teaching”: “Individual Teaching,” “Conference Teaching,” and “Circuit Teaching.” “The Promising Land of Africa” was the topic of a public meeting held on October 20 during an Area Conference at Fargo, N.D., with the speaker, Mavis Nymo, dressed in Jofa costume, showing colored slides of West Africa, reports the North Central States Bulletin.

The Youth and Young Adult Committee of the Los Angeles, Calif., community announces in the Southwestern States Bulletin that it is now conducting panels, consisting of three or four youth and one adult, covering various Bahá’í subjects. Hours of study, analysis of teaching requirements, and public speaking practice under the guidance of Mrs. Jesma Herbert have evolved a well-paced presentation. Panel groups are available weekends, and will travel to points seven hours travel time from Los Angeles.

Stimulating Progress Reports from Memphis and Nashville, Tenn., Louisville, Ky., and Jackson, Miss., have been acknowledged in the Tennessee Valley States Bulletin.

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**WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET**

_Fourth Year—1956-1957_

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Budget</td>
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<td>Total Contributions May 1 to December 15</td>
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—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feasts
January 19—Sultán (Sovereignty)
February 7—Mulk (Dominion)

World Religion Day
January 20—to proclaim the fundamental oneness of religion.

World Brotherhood Week
February 17-23—to proclaim the oneness of mankind.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
February 8, 9, 10.

BAHA'I HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Visiting hours
Weekdays and Saturdays: 1:00—4:00 P.M.
(Sunday: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
(Sunday: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
(Sunday: 10:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
Service of Worship: Sunday at 3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.

MARRIAGES

Boise, Idaho: Miss Barbara May Bekker to Mr. Alapur 'Ala'i on September 15, 1956.

BAHA'I DIRECTORY CHANGES

ASSEMBLY SECRETARY
Wisconsin
Green Bay: Miss Florence Delany, 309 S. Webster Ave.

ADDITIONS TO COMMITTEES
Area Teaching Committee — Rocky Mountain States
Mr. Tom Ewing

Area Youth Committee — North Central States (new)
Mr. Harry T. D. Rost, Convener

Mr. Alvin Myers
Mr. Cyrus Omidvaran
Mr. Yossif Babhani
Mr. Farhang Roshan-Zamir

Ketchikan, Alaska: Miss Joyce R. Campbell to Mr. J. Leo Baldwin on October 12, 1956.


BaBâ'I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Baha'i World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHA'I News is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1956-57: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá'í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Beloved Friends:

Many requests have been received for copies of the letter addressed to all State Conventions. Since it is not feasible to reprint the entire letter in Baha'i News, the NSA shares the following excerpts with the believers.

"Since the Baha'i communities constitute the source of pioneers, settlers, extension teaching, the strength and activity of these communities is reflected in this summary of the annual reports received from the 179 local Spiritual Assemblies in existence during the year 1955-1956:

1. Number of Assemblies reporting any new enrollments during the year. 85
2. Number of new believers enrolled in these communities. 227
3. Number of communities carrying on some type of fireside teaching. 153
4. Number of communities conducting study classes. 135
   Of these, 112 have classes for deepening the believers, and 83 have classes for inquirers and beginning students.
5. Number of communities holding one or more institutes during the year. 51
6. Number of communities having youth members. 78
7. Number of youth members in these communities. 139
8. Number of communities carrying on any youth activities. 52
   It should be noted that many of the larger communities have no youth members and are not carrying on any activities to attract youth.
9. Number of communities carrying on some type of extension teaching work. 55

"The foregoing figures speak for themselves. As we consider them, should we not ask ourselves if it is any wonder that the Guardian expresses concern about the 'progressive devitalization of the homefront' and states that 'no sacrifice can be deemed too great for its revitalization and the broadening and consolidation of its foundations.' "The manpower of the community," he says, 'must, rapidly, and at all costs, increase....' "A far greater proportion of the avowed supporters of the Faith must arise, ere the Crusade suffers any setback, for the four-fold purpose of winning over an infinitely greater number of recruits to the army of Bahá'u'lláh fighting on the homefronts, of swelling to an unprecedented degree the isolated centers now scattered within its confines, of converting an increasing number of them into firmly founded groups, and of accelerating the formation of local Assemblies, while safe-guarding those already in existence."

"It is primarily a task that concerns the individual believer," states the Guardian, 'wherever he may be, and whatever his calling, his resources, his race, or his age.'

National Assembly Assistance

"What is the National Spiritual Assembly doing to assist the individual to discharge his task?

1. All communications from the Guardian other than those dealing strictly with business of the National Spiritual Assembly are sent to all the believers with minimum delay, principally through Baha'i News.
2. Through reports, statements, and inserts in Baha'i News, it endeavors to keep the community informed of the progress of the World Crusade and of other developments and activities, and to provide material which will inspire and aid the friends in carrying out their individual and collective responsibilities.
3. Through the Baha'i Publishing Trust an abundance of literature for study and teaching is readily available to all.
4. In an effort to aid the entire Baha'i community to gain a deeper understanding of 'the most vitalizing forces of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh released by God Himself for the regeneration of souls and the ordering of the world of humanity,' the National Assembly prepared and distributed as a gift to every believer two compilations—The Power of the Covenant and Charter of a Divine Civilization. Individual and group study of these two booklets not only deepens the believer in the knowledge and understanding of his station and his responsibility as a follower of Bahá'u'lláh, and of the spiritual force.
ments and the lack of knowledge which the Guardian says are the chief reasons why the work on the homestfront is lagging.

"The National Teaching Committee is developing a panel of teachers and through the Area Teaching Committees it is working out circuits to make most effective use of the time these teachers can devote to such service. The National Spiritual Assembly appeals for the fullest possible cooperation on the part of every community and group that will be offered such assistance.

"b. The local Spiritual Assemblies are urged to aid in converting isolated centers into firmly founded groups and accelerating the growth of groups into Assemblies, by providing consistent extension teaching to nearby localities. As reported earlier in this statement there are 675 Bahá'í groups, 675 seed beds for future Assemblies—and 622 isolated centers which should be converted into groups. Perhaps the act of bringing into being another local Spiritual Assembly is the greatest service any community can perform during the next few years.

Appeal for Settlers

"c. In an effort to safeguard the communities that are in danger of losing Assembly status as well as to restore those Assemblies that have been dissolved, the American National Teaching Committee urgently appeals for Bahá'í settlers. The only source from which these settlers can come is the larger communities and yet last year only 168 settlers moved to other cities, and, unfortunately a large percentage of these did not go to goal cities or centers where their membership might have counted in establishing Assemblies or groups. The need for settlers is urgent. As of this date 22 local Spiritual Assemblies formed or elected on April 21 this year have since fallen below a membership of nine and others are in danger. 'To act, and act promptly and decisively is the need of the present hour...'"

"Dear friends, the time when we could talk and consult about preparation for teaching, and plan for a future teaching program, is past. It is too late for that now. Because of the desperate needs of the world at this hour, only prompt and decisive action is left to us. In the words of the Guardian: 'Neither the local or national representatives of the Community...nor even the Guardian himself, however much he may yearn for this consummation, can decide where the duty of the individual lies, or supplant him in the discharge of that task.' Each must evaluate what his own response can and should be; nobody can do this for him.'...

...because they (the believers) are privileged to have accepted the Manifestation of God for this day, this very act has placed upon them a great moral responsibility, to which the Guardian is constantly calling attention."

—National Spiritual Assembly

Recommendations from State Conventions and Actions Taken by the NSA

All recommendations received from the 1956 State Conventions were carefully considered by the National Spiritual Assembly at its December-January meeting. Many of the recommendations were directed to the Area Teaching Committees or to the details of arrangements for future State Conventions. These are not being published, but they have been referred to the appropriate committees for action.

Following are the recommendations adopted and acted upon by the National Spiritual Assembly:

1. That the National Spiritual Assembly list in Bahá'í News the current Bahá'í literature that can be helpful to the believers in creating a bridge between Christian friends and the Bahá'í Faith.

Action: The Bahá'í News Editorial Committee has been instructed to publish from time to time brief listings of Bahá'í literature and suggestions for its effective use in creating bridges between the Bahá'í Faith and people of various backgrounds, including those of the Christian faith.

2. That the National Spiritual As-
The National Spiritual Assembly believes that the publication of the various national committees in the hands of the delegates to the National Convention at least a week before the Convention.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly makes every possible effort to have the printed annual reports in the hands of the Convention delegates at least ten days before the Convention.

12. That the book The Glorious Kingdom of the Father Foretold be reprinted.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly is considering this book along with others, in its plan for bringing Bahá’í publications.

13. That National Spiritual Assembly endeavor to find a way to contact the isolated believers more directly with regard to contributions to the National Bahá’í Fund.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly feels that the isolated believers obtain full information on the status of the National Fund from the reports published regularly in Bahá’í News, and that the Guardian’s messages, also published in Bahá’í News, are the best means of stimulating awareness of the obligation of Bahá’ís to support all Crusade objectives, including the various Bahá’í Funds.

14. That the National Spiritual Assembly send a questionnaire to all believers asking them to indicate...
their chief problem in teaching the Faith, in order to determine what particular assistance is required to overcome those problems.

**Action:** The National Spiritual Assembly feels that the questionnaire approach on a wide scale is impractical, but the Bahá'í Summer School Committees are being requested to make this recommendation a matter of consultation during seminar and workshop courses on teaching during the 1957 sessions.

**New Pamphlet**

15. Since there is nothing currently available to take the place of the pamphlet, *Victory of the Spirit* by Dorothy Baker, it is recommended that this pamphlet be reprinted.

**Action:** The National Spiritual Assembly has already included in its schedule of publications a pamphlet that will fill this need.

16. That local Spiritual Assemblies be encouraged to send ninety per cent of all contributions to the National Fund every nineteen days.

**Action:** While it endorses the sending of the maximum amount to the National Fund, which must be the source of financing many World Crusade projects throughout the world, the National Spiritual Assembly feels that it is improper to set a too rigid percentage or goal.

17. That the National Spiritual Assembly consider the feasibility of making it mandatory for persons whose voting rights have been suspended or who have voluntarily withdrawn from activity, to go through the usual process of preparation for enrollment before reinstating these individuals to full membership.

**Action:** The National Spiritual Assembly approves the principle that deepening study and classes should be provided for believers who have been inactive for any lengthy period, for whatever reason.

18. That the National Spiritual Assembly clarify what is meant by the "reasonable length of time" in which believers should sever connections with other religious groups and/or fraternal and other organizations in which the Guardian has said the believers should not hold membership.

**Action:** The National Spiritual Assembly records the following principles to be applied in carrying out the Guardian's instructions referred to in this recommendation: (a) a rigid time limit cannot be established for complying with these instructions for the reason that individual circumstances differ; however, (b) the Guardian's instructions must be obeyed, and (c) Bahá'í administrative bodies have the obligation to report to the National Spiritual Assembly any continued disregard of the warnings that failure to obey them will result in deprivation of voting rights.

19. That the National Spiritual Assembly make suggestions as to how provisions should be made and carried out for having Bahá'í children brought up in the Bahá'í Faith in the event of their parents' death.

**Action:** The National Spiritual Assembly encourages Bahá'í parents to make such provisions in their wills that will insure their children receiving Bahá'í training.

### Pictures of Temple

20. That the National Spiritual Assembly consider the production of a large-size picture of the Temple suitable for display in homes and public places.

**Action:** The National Spiritual Assembly has under consideration a plan for the production of a group of pictures of the Temple and Temple gardens, and will attempt to expand the plan to include this recommendation.

21. Several states recommended that their states be represented in the membership of their respective Area Teaching Committees.

**Action:** The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to explain that the Area Teaching Committees were not designed to be representative in structure, but, in accordance with the instructions of the Guardian, they are composed of a small number of believers centrally located for the purposes of consultation, and as such committees they serve as arms of the National Teaching Committee in planning and supervising the teaching activities for a given area.

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**Memorial Service for Juliet Thompson**

In accordance with the instructions from the Guardian in his cablegram of tribute to Miss Juliet Thompson (published in the January *Bahá'í News*), the National Spiritual Assembly will hold a memorial service for Miss Thompson in the Bahá'í House of Worship on Saturday evening, February 9, at 8:00 o'clock.

It is hoped that as many friends as possible will be present to pay fitting tribute to the memory of this "exemplary handmaid of 'Abdu'l-Bahá."

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*First Bahá'í Teaching Conference on Taiwan, held in Taiwan on November 11-12, 1956, and reported in "Bahá'í News" for January.*
This convention will be held in the Haziratu'l-Quds in Auckland, and will elect New Zealand's first National Spiritual Assembly. It will be one of 13 National and Regional-National Spiritual Assemblies to be formed during Ri'vân next year throughout the Bahá'í world.

**Canada**

**PIONEERS WRITE OF AFRICAN TOUR**

The Canadian Bahá'í News has published a letter from John and Audrey Robarts, Canadian pioneers in Africa, that is of interest to all Bahá'ís. Excerpts are reprinted below.

"A few days ago Audrey and I returned from a most interesting 17 day trip which included the islands of Mauritius, Reunion, and Madagascar. "There are three local Spiritual Assemblies in Mauritius, and much activity. One recently formed community, of mostly young men, have a study class, or fireside, in their center every day, often two a day, and there is much teaching outside the center. It was a joy to see such enthusiasm, activity, and dedication. Even the new members are called upon to teach, and they do. "Reunion is like a beautiful bit of old Quebec. We loved the people, and had many happy times. There is an Assembly there, due to the wonderful'

**Australia, New Zealand**

**NEW ZEALAND PREPARES FOR FIRST CONVENTION**

Preparations for the historic first national Bahá'í Convention to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, on April 25-28, 1957, are well in hand, the Bahá'í Bulletin from the National Assembly of Australia and New Zealand reports.

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**Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Fort Adelaide, South Australia, incorporated on August 10, 1956.**

**"Service Unforgettable"**

_Cable from the Guardian_

Grieved news dear father's death. Pioneer teaching (and) administrative services unforgettable, highly meritorious. Assure (you) (of) fervent prayers (for the) progress (of) his soul (in the) Abhá Kingdom.

(signed) Sadri

December 27, 1956

The foregoing cablegram from the Guardian was addressed to the family of Mr. Edwin W. Mattoon, who passed away in Key West, Florida, December 24, 1956, after a long period of illness. He and Mrs. Mattoon settled in Key West as Bahá'í pioneers in August 1954.

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**NATIONAL CONVENTION DATES ANNOUNCED**

The Forty-Ninth Annual Bahá'í Convention will be held in Foundation Hall of the Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette, Illinois, Sunday, April 28 through Wednesday, May 1, 1957.

Delegates and visitors wishing accommodations in private homes should send their request for reservations to: Mrs. Priscilla Hassan, 1244 Maple Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, Chairman of the Housing Committee, or to the Co-Chairman, Mrs. Edna Coleman, 1227 Leon Place, Evanston, Illinois. A list of nearby hotels, together with rates, will be published in the next issue of Bahá'í News. The friends wishing this type of accommodation are requested to make their own reservations.

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**Bahá'ís attending the Benelux Conference held at the Brussels, Belgium, Haziratu'l-Quds on September 15-17, 1956.**
pioneering work of Dr. Leland Jensen and his wife, Dr. Opal Jensen, from St. Louis. They spoke no French. How they made their contacts, lent books in French, gradually learned the language, and attracted fine people, is a story that proved to us the ever-presence of chosen angels.

"Tananarive and Tamatave on Madagascar are lovely cities. The Cause was taken there by Mrs. Meherangiz Munsiff, a beautiful Indian woman, now in the United States. After many months of pioneering and having no believers, with a broken heart she cabled the Guardian lamenting that she had failed. He replied, 'Wait. They are coming.' The very next day our friends arrived at her door to inquire about the new religion. They stayed and are now active and devoted.

"In these parts one develops a new perspective on the value of the Faith. Here we see it as the breath of life to so many people who are so desperately in need of a divine remedy for their ills. What hope would they have it were not for this Faith of God?"

**WHITEHORSE FORMS INDIAN ASSOCIATION**

An Indian Advancement Association has been formed in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, under the leadership of two Bahá’í pioneers there, Joan and Ted Anderson. The Canadian New Territories Committee Bulletin has published the following letter from Whitehorse, telling of this event.

"Our big news this time is the first meeting of the Indian Advancement Association. We were thrilled to have 24 people come, including the Commissioner of the Yukon, the Superintendent of Schools, the Indian Agent, the Indian Health nurse and doctor, the Bishop of the Anglican Church, the newspaper editor's wife, a reporter from the newspaper (although we asked for no publicity as yet) and seven Indians."

"Ted chaired the meeting and the group discussed the proposed aims, and changed and revised them to

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**Baha’i Youth Are Active Around the World**

*Baha’i Youth Group of Buenos Aires, Argentina.*

*Baha’i Youth of Rangoon, Burma.*

*Baha’i Youth of Kampur, India.*

*Baha’i Youth Club of Lima, Peru.*
suit conditions here. It was decided to call the organization the Yukon Indian Advancement Association for the time being.

"By this time it was 10:30 p.m., so it was decided to have another meeting on the first Wednesday in December to make further plans. We were most happy to see the Commissioner there in particular, as he is a very busy man, and it was kind of him to give his time. He had some very helpful suggestions, too."

BAHÁ'ÍS STRESS

WEEKEND SCHOOLS

Ten Weekend Schools have been held in the British Isles since the Summer School of 1956. The Home Front, publication of the British National Teaching Committee, reports.

"In November 1955," The Home Front states, "our dear Dr. Grossmann, Hand of the Cause of God, having completed his tour of Bahá'í communities, suggested that 'neighboring centres should come together more often,' as our 'lilliputian centres give no idea to new contacts of Bahá'í community life, which is essential.'

"If this kind of regional cooperation could be stressed," he wrote, 'I feel work would go ahead more quickly and encourage isolated believers and pioneers.'

"How pertinent was this suggestion," The Home Front continues, "and how prophetic of the Weekend Schools which were soon to appear in every corner of Britain!"

The ten locations of these Weekend Schools are: Lerwick, Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Belfast, London, Torquay, Cardiff, Edinburgh, and Blackpool.

Central America

PLAN FORMATION OF TWO NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES

Bahá'í News of Central America has announced an election, January 6, 1957, for delegates to participate in the formation of two national Spiritual Assemblies next Ríjávn.

The National Spiritual Assembly of Central America will represent Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico.

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Antilles will represent Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica.

British Isles

GUARDIAN'S LETTER THEME

OF TEACHING CONFERENCE

A Teaching Conference held in Birmingham on January 5-6, 1957, drew its themes from the Guardian's latest letter to Britain. "The Process Set in Motion" was the keynote topic.

The first day sessions were conducted on "Igniting a Fire in the Hearts of Our Countrymen." The next morning the conference considered the subject, "Building the New Communities," with emphasis on fireside teaching, the question of new believers, and the role of groups as the nuclei of Assemblies.

"The Call of the Present Hour," Sunday afternoon, was concerned with that flow of pioneers and concentration of material resources which must be "unexampled" in our history.

Mealtime at the International Bahá'í Summer School of Ezeiza, Argentina, 1956.
RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS WEEK OBSERVED IN MANHATTAN BEACH SCHOOLS

South Bay District High Schools in Manhattan Beach, Calif., designate the three days preceding Thanksgiving as "Religious Emphasis" Week, in which any religious organization may participate.

In addition to spiritual emphasis in the class rooms by the teachers, in an effort to show the relationship between the material and the spiritual side of man without actually teaching about God or any sectarian belief, there are assemblies held each day in the auditorium.

Each religious organization represented was assigned a room where students were free to go to ask questions during their lunch hour. Because of the law prohibiting the teaching of religion in the public schools, the students could not visit the religious groups during a class period.

After the first question period apparently the word got around that the Bahá’ís had something of interest to offer, as the next periods were so crowded the door had to be left open for all to hear. The Bahá’í youth were not able to give out literature or take names of interested seekers, but were able to give them the name of Brenda Gangel, a Bahá’í youth of Manhattan Beach, and a student in Mira Costa High School. She reported that the entire campus was buzzing with "Bahá’í."

Since then, Seymour Malkin represented the Faith at a breakfast given by the Ministerial Association. There was a Catholic priest, and a Mormon and Salvation Army representative present, in addition to the regular members. The Bahá’í spokesman suggested that next year all participants should have a voice in the program planning, and the idea was accepted. This year’s publicity, handled by a member of the Ministerial Association, eliminated reference to Bahá’í participation in the activities. It is hoped that next year a publicity chairman can be elected, who will give more complete publicity coverage.

It is estimated that 200 students and teachers were told of the Bahá’í Faith during Religious Emphasis Week, and many more heard about it indirectly. A Public Youth Meeting was held as a follow-up, with new contacts expressing interest. There is a regular Youth Fireside Night for further teaching work.

COMMITTEE REVISES MAILING PIECES

Changes in the "Campaign Ensemble," a direct mailing unit distributed by the National Committee on Bahá’í Questionnaires, have been announced. A description of the material produced by this committee was published in the November issue of Bahá’í News, page 10.

The cost of producing the "Announcement Questionnaire" as described in that article, proved to make it unsatisfactory for direct mail use. Instead, features of this Questionnaire will be combined with a revised "Campaign Ensemble," which was also described in the November Bahá’í News.

The new "Campaign Ensemble" will be printed on a four-page folder, with a new type of letter appearing on the first page, written in a manner to appeal to those who are world minded.

On the left inner page is a statement about the Bahá’í Faith by the Guardian, and on the facing page is an illustration of the Bahá’í House of Worship.

This folder will be enclosed in an envelop with a white question card. This ensemble is designed to present the dignity of the former "Announcement Questionnaire" and possesses the result-getting features of the former "Campaign Ensemble."

The cost of these ensembles is $3.75 per hundred. Orders should be addressed to the Questionnaires Committee, in care of Mrs. Sylvia Calhoun, Treasurer, P.O. Box 545, Green Bay, Wisc.

Latest returns on the questionnaires show a new trend, according to the committee. A recent upsurge has been noted, with more men checking the questionnaires. In the past they were checked mostly by women. There has been an increase in the percentage of inquirers who have indicated their desire to learn more of the Bahá’í teachings.

The most popular questions on these cards have proven to concern immortality, the spiritual meaning of adversity, proof of the existence of God, the destiny of America, and soul, mind, and spirit.

WINTER SESSION HELD AT DAVISON SCHOOL

"Security in a Failing World" was the theme of the Winter Session at Davison Bahá’í School, Davison, Mich., held from December 26 to January 1.

There were four courses of study: "Individual Responsibility in the Bahá’í Community," "Christianity in Today’s World," "Healing Methods Revealed by Bahá’ulláh," and "The World Crusade," based upon the Guardian’s letter, "Inestimable Prizes to be Won."

Four communities of Colombia were present at the dedication of the Hazíratu’l-Quds at Bogotá on October 12, 1956.
VALUE OF CONSULTATION DESCRIBED IN BULLETIN

The "Teaching Column," a feature of the Bahá’í Youth Bulletin, in its December issue publishes an excellent exposition by Allan Ward on achieving unity through consultation. Bahá’í News reprints portions of this article in the belief that it is of value to all Bahá’ís.

The author develops his theme by explaining that "any group must agree on their definitions before they can discuss any given topic." He then proceeds to ask, "How can we have unity of action, let alone a world-wide brotherhood, if we do not have unity of thought—if we do not have unity of thought on the spiritual teachings which are our life-blood?"

"One group, which has just begun this sort of consultation to understand the Teachings together, began with the 'Tablet to the Seeker' (Gleanings, page 264). The first meeting lasted two hours. And the material covered was the first three sentences of that Tablet.

"And let me mention the background of preparation for this consultation. One of the members had typed up copies of the first paragraph of the Tablet. Members of the group had carried it with them for a week previously, reading it and meditating on it every spare moment during the day, even while walking between classes at school, and at mealtimes. Can you imagine the unity achieved by this?

"The meeting itself was the essence of discipline in consultation, for each member was to listen fully to whomever was speaking, instead of formulating his own next comment, and to say exactly what he thought, no matter how inconsequential it seemed.

"Now, how can this help you? This can serve as a deepening class for you personally, as you meditate during the week; it forms a powerful cord of spiritual unity for the minds attuned to the same teachings; it promotes understanding of the group and it can be used for any number, anywhere, whether a community, or youth group, or an isolated believer and his friends. And contacts, in our experience, have found these meetings challenging and enlightening—a clearer path to our supreme goal of spiritual unity."

PUBLICITY REPORTED FOR BIRTH OF BAHÁ’U’LLAH

An analysis of publicity received for the anniversary of the Birth of Bahá’u’lláh has been reported by the Bahá’í Press Service.

Bahá’í publicity appeared in 147 newspapers, and advertising in 37 newspapers. There was a total of 839 column-inches of publicity and 263 column-inches of advertising. One hundred ten cities were represented by these publications.

DEMAND FOR COMPILATION PROMPTS NEW EDITION

Demand for the four compilation-articles by Mrs. Gene Crist, written for Bahá’ís as a "bridge" from Christianity to the Bahá’í Faith, has necessitated a second edition, according to the National Reference Library Committee.

These four papers, described in the September 1956 issue of Bahá’í News, include "Prophesies Fulfilled, Arranged by Time, Place, Name, and Characters," "The Return of Christ," "God's Everlasting Covenant," and "Progressive Revelation." The set, comprising about 40 pages, sells for 75c.

Another compilation, "Teaching the Bahá’í Faith," is available at 15c additional when ordered with the above set, or 20c when mailed separately. The committee bears the expense of mailing, which is considerable, and therefore requests that the money be sent with the order to eliminate additional postage, bookkeeping, and time.

Orders should be sent to the National Reference Library Committee, Mrs. Marian Crist Lippitt, Secretary, 1587 Virginia St. East, Charleston, W. Va.

BAHÁ’I CHILDREN PERFORM ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PROGRAM

UN Human Rights Day was observed by the Nassau County, N.Y., Woman's Forum with an interfaith festival featuring the music and dances of the major world religions.

Mrs. Hubert Cowan, a Bahá’í of Garden City, N.Y., serves as chairman of the Nassau County Woman's Forum, a group that numbers other Bahá’ís among the membership.

The Bahá’í contribution to the festival was the Children's Choir, from the Roslyn Bahá’í Sunday School, singing two songs. The group was trained by Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, and accompanied by Mrs. Martha Kavelin.

Other religions represented on the program included the Moslem, Hindu, Jewish, and Buddhist faiths.

BAHÁ’I IN THE NEWS

Dr. Marcus Bach, School of Religion, University of Iowa, has writ-
ten a book reporting his personal interviews with five religious personalities. One chapter is devoted to each interview. The published volume presents these reports in the following order: Therese Neumann, Shoghi Effendi, Helen Keller, Pope Pius XII, Albert Schweitzer.

Preceding these chapters is an introductory chapter entitled “The Search.” The book title is The Circle of Faith. The introductory chapter makes it clear that what Dr. Bach sought was a way to find the sum total of what men professed about Christ, feeling that this sum total “would constitute the most valid Christian faith that anyone could find.” The Bahá’í reader will appreciate the fact that what the seeker finds in the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh cannot exceed the degree of independence with which the investigation is made.

Despite this self-imposed limitation, the author’s experience in meeting the Guardian is described with dignity and reverence. The nobility and power of the Guardian, if not understanding of the Guardianship, will become apparent to the non-Bahá’í reader. Thus the area of knowledge about the Guardian and about some of his profoundest convictions, will be considerably enlarged as Dr. Bach’s book is reviewed and distributed. The Circle of Faith is not the universal orbit of the Bahá’í Revelation, but it is as large as contemporary western religious culture can at present encompass.

For the Bahá’í the chapter concerning Shoghi Effendi is made additionally interesting by the author’s account of his visits to the Prison in ‘Akká, Bahjí, and the gardens, and by his meeting with Ruhiyyih Khanum, Mrs. Amelia Collins, Dr. Lotfollah, Mrs. Leroy Ioas, and Jessie and Ethel Revell.

“To the Guardian the relationship between Jesus and Bahá’u’lláh was consistently unvarying. The world, he recalled, had rejected the Christ. It was again seeking to reject the Spender of God. But as the Prophet of Nazareth seized and conquered the minds of men, so the Prophet of Teheran was conquering too. As the Prince of Peace shook and terrified the kingdoms of selfish individuals, so the Prince of Unity was even now beginning to shatter the kingdoms of selfish systems. Jesus and Bahá’u’lláh were Divine Manifestations, whole and inseparable.”


The Continental Assurance Co. of Chicago has distributed a very impressive Season’s Greetings card reproducing a beautiful illustration of the Bahá’í House of Worship, identified as one of the “Landmarks of Chicago.” Permission to use the Temple as theme for the card was given by the National Spiritual Assembly some months ago.

The Washington, D.C., Sunday Star Magazine for December 30 contains a two-page illustrated article on “The Many-Sided Mme. Munsiff.” The text presents Mrs. Munsiff as lecturer, world traveler, social worker, fashion designer, mother, and diplomat’s wife, and states that she has lectured for the Faith throughout the British Isles, in Africa, and on a tour of our own Western States. Ten interesting photos of Mrs. Munsiff enhance the human interest of this feature story.

A pocket size magazine, The New Christian Advocate, an official journal of Methodism, published in Chicago, reviews in its December 1956 issue Dr. Toynbee’s An Historian’s Approach to Religion. The reviewer states: “What might be termed the author’s glorified approach to a new Bahá’í synthesis reminds one of the ancient gnostic syncretizing system. Toynbee himself might be called a devotee of a veritable Christian-Mahayanaist-Buddhist faith with undertone of Islam and Hinduism.”

Bahá’ís in their study of the Kitáb-i-Igán learn the reasons for the blind rejection of the Manifestation by the professional clergy in every Dispensation.

Field Trip Guide for Chicagoland, December 1956, January 1957, published bimonthly by the Willett Motor
Coach Company, Chicago, lists the places to be visited by tourists. Under the heading “Famous Churches,” the Bahá’í Temple heads the list.

The Concord Daily Monitor and New Hampshire Patriot, November 29, 1956, presented a feature article entitled “With N. H. Women” by a staff writer, Nyleen Morrison. This article presents a detailed sketch of Mrs. Gladys Weeden, including her deep interest in the Bahá’í Faith. “She has lectured in 75 major cities. She has spent six years in Haifa, Israel, lived for a time in Vermont, and now enjoys life in Henniker, where she and her husband, Benjamin Weeden, settled a couple of years ago on his retirement.” The references to the Faith are clear and accurate.

In the December 1956 number of Travel, a monthly publication of the National Travel Club, an article by Thomas B. Leslie entitled “Sacred American Shrines” included a photograph of the Bahá’í House of Worship, and in the text of the article refers to it as “a striking example of church architecture” erected by followers of the Persian religious leader, Bahá’u’lláh.”

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

The Bahá’í Club on the campus of Delaware State College entered a float in the annual Homecoming Day parade on October 13, an automobile decorated with travel posters of many lands with a large banner on the roof reading “This Earth is One Country and Mankind its Citizens.” Preceding the car were 14 children dressed in costumes representing members of the United Nations Organization.

As the float circled the football field at half-time, the crowd gave it a loud ovation, and in the judging it was awarded first prize of $20.00.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

A Lutheran Church in Arlington, Va., invited the chairman of the Bahá’í local Spiritual Assembly to speak about the Faith to a Sunday School class of teen-agers. There were 20 youth present, and the direct teachings were given. An enthusiastic question period followed the talk, extending the class for two hours duration. Some asked if they might come to Bahá’í meetings for further information.

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

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<td>May 1 to January 15 .... 353,500.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total Contributions</strong></td>
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—National Spiritual Assembly

The recording “The Lord of the New Age,” by Winston Evans, was broadcast on radio station KTIM, San Rafael, Calif., on November 11. The station offered their public service time for this program, and there was no charge.

Incorporation of the local Spiritual Assembly of Ketchikan, Alaska, has been undertaken and plans are proceeding as speedily as possible.

An Area Teaching Conference was held at Stockton, Calif., on November 11 at the Clark Hotel. Bahá’ís from Berkeley, Concord, Sacramento and Stockton attended these workshop sessions on teaching methods.

Eight weekly firesides are now conducted by members of the Los Angeles, Calif., Bahá’í community.

Anchorage, Alaska, observed Human Rights Day on December 10 with a panel discussion program featuring questions and answers, to stimulate audience participation.

The Lions Club of Kalapapa, the Hansen’s Disease Settlement on Molokai, T.H., invited Bula Mott Lewiston, Idaho, held a public meeting on December 9, with Arthur Dahl as speaker.

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

Teaching circuits in Wisconsin and Illinois have been scheduled by the Central States Area Teaching Committee for the winter months, with Margery McCormick, Zella Svendson and Vivian Fellows participating.

Prince Georges County, Md., Bahá’ís showed slides of the Holy Land to a group in Clinton, Md., in October, and were invited to return in November for a repeat showing. Since then two local families have invited Bahá’ís to dinner to discuss the Bahá’í teachings, and it is hoped that a study class will soon be organized in Clinton.

Consuls with Bahá’ís of Beverly and Springfield, Mass., Brattleboro, Vt., and Danbury, Conn., were scheduled by the New England States Area Teaching Committee during the autumn months.

Goal cities of Gulfport, Miss., and Chattanooga, Tenn., are receiving the concentrated teaching efforts of the Tennessee Valley States Area Teaching Committee. It is hoped to have a local Spiritual Assembly by April.

The UN Day activities of the Mis­soula, Mont., Bahá’í group, reported in the January 1957 issue of Bahá’í News, has prompted several forms of public recognition for the Faith. A formerly antagonistic newspaper has promised to publish a complete feature story on the Faith when the local Bahá’í assembly is formed. The Chamber of Commerce now lists the Bahá’í Faith in its directory. A Methodist church student newspaper, Tower Tidings, published an account of the UN Day program. The church pastor is President of the Ministerial Association.

Lewiston, Idaho, held a public meeting on November 4, attended by 40 persons, including 25 contacts. Three radio stations, a television station, and a newspaper publicized the program.

The women members of the Altadena, Calif., Bahá’í community have planned a series of monthly meetings to acquaint their friends and neighbors with the Faith. The first program presented a sound movie in color, “And They Met in Galilee,” furnished by the Israeli Tourist Office. The film included views of the Shrine of the Báb and the surrounding gardens. Planning for future programs has brought forth wonderful cooperation from various sources, including film, use of a projector, and screen.

Excerpts from Area Teaching Committee reports
BAHA’I PUBLISHING TRUST

What Is A Bahá’í? By Stanwood Cobb. Reprinted from Washington Daily News. In this interview such questions as is the Bahá’í Faith a new religion? how is the Bahá’í Faith organized? are answered by Mr. Cobb. Excellent contact leaflet for mass distribution. 3½ x 1½ Frenchfold.

25 copies (minimum order) $1.00
100 copies ........................................ $3.00

Minimum Mail Order, $1.00

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BAHA’I PUBLISHING TRUST
110 Linden Avenue
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Baha’i House of Worship

Visiting Hours
Weekdays and Saturdays
1:00 — 4:00 P.M.
(Auditorium open)

Sundays
10:30 A.M. — 5:00 P.M.
(Entire building open)

Service of Worship
Sundays
3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15

BAHA’I DIRECTORY CHANGES

ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES

California (Northern)
San José: Mrs. Adrienne Reeves, 240 N. 15th St.

California (Southern)
Glendale: Mrs. Garnette Whitefield, 315 W. Lomita Ave., Apt. 217, z. 4

Colorado
Colorado Springs: Mrs. Gladys Roberts, 915 N. Hancock

Hawaii
Mauí: Mrs. Mable J. Van Valkenburg, Kibei, Mauí

Illinois (Northern)
Elmhurst: Mrs. Lois Whitaker, 375 N. York St.

Illinois (Southern)
Quincy: Mrs. Eunice I. Hannawalt, 524 Spring St.

Missouri
Kansas City: Mrs. Jeanne Laite, 1533 Lexington Ct., z. 10

Wisconsin
Green Bay: Miss Florence Delaney, 338 S. Adams, Street

Baha’i SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Davisson School Program Committee
Mrs. Lois Nochman, Secretary,
532 Western Avenue, Inkster, Michigan

Green Acre Institute Program Committee
Mr. Kenneth Kalantar (added to replace Mr. Roy Mottahedeh, who cannot serve)

AREA TEACHING COMMITTEE

North Atlantic States
Mrs. Mary Jane Bramel (added)

BAHA’I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHA’I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1956-57: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
"The Most Important of All Things"

"In these days, the most important of all things is the guidance of the nations and peoples of the world."

Under the direction of our beloved Guardian, the Bahá'ís of all continents are engaged in a World Crusade to carry out this instruction, revealed in the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Through the dispersal of pioneers and the translation of the Teachings in many languages, the Message of Bahá'u'lláh has now reached almost every nation and dependency and peoples of many different tongues.

Young Bahá'ís, and indeed even those who have been members of the American Bahá'í community for the past twenty years, wishing to understand better why the believers of America are called upon to play a "preponderating role" in carrying out this instruction of 'Abdu'l-Bahá as well as the various stages by which we have arrived at this particular phase in the spread of the Faith, will find an excellent source for this background in the compilation America's God-Given Mission. It is a good follow-up to the study of the booklets, The Power of the Covenant and The Chart of Divine Civilization, and it lends itself well to either group or individual study.

In the first chapter the quotations explain the significance of the Bahá'í cycle which inaugurates the unfoldment of "the grand redemptive scheme of God," through the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, "The Glory of God," and the unique mission of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Master "Architect of His World Order." They move quickly to the quotations from God Passes By which define the destiny of America in the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth.

The quotations in the second chapter give a brief and moving summary of the beginning of the Faith in America, the first teachers, the first pilgrims, the visit of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and the steps the Faith passed through in America while the foundation was being laid for the teaching campaigns that were soon to carry the Faith to all countries and peoples of the earth.

The third chapter gives a brief review of the goals and achievements of the First and Second Seven-Year Plans, which were trials of strength and preparation for the

Two views of the Bahá'í International Archives Building on Mt. Carmel, Haifa, showing progress in construction.
great global crusade. There are references also to the events that have been taking place in the outside world in the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies about “the time of the end” and the preparation of the world for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

The compilation closes with the international events in the Bahá’í world that immediately preceded the launching of the World Crusade in Chicago on May 1, 1953: the Centenary of the Martyrdom of the Báb, the inauguration of the African campaign, the formation of the International Bahá’í Council, the appointment of the Hands of the Cause of God, and the announcement of “the great Jubilee.”

With an understanding of this background, the subsequent messages of the Guardian directing the World Crusade and announcing its progress become more meaningful and exciting for all believers, and enable them to explain to friends and contacts the swift-moving expansion of the Faith throughout the world.

—National Spiritual Assembly

TRANSLATIONS
NEAR COMPLETION

Of the 91 languages into which Bahá’í literature was to be translated during the World Crusade, the Guardian assigned responsibility for twenty to the Bahá’ís of the United States—ten in Europe and ten in the Americas.

All the European translations except Lapp have been completed. Thus far it has been impossible to find a translator either in Europe or America for this language.

Of the ten American languages, it became necessary to secure the Guardian’s permission to make substitutions for seven, for the reason that these were completely extinct or peoples and translators who knew the languages could not be found.

The three languages which were not changed were American Indian languages or dialects—Blackfoot, Cherokee, and Iroquois, all of which have been translated and printed through the cooperation of the American Indian Service Committees of the United States and of Canada.

In addition, introductory pamphlets have been translated and printed in Navajo and Mohawk. The final checking of the translation of a pamphlet in Oneida is being completed. Thus six instead of three American Indian tribes now have Bahá’í literature in their languages.

In Latin America, pamphlets have been published in Quecha, Guarani, Nahuatl, and Maya Quiche; one in Aymara is ready for printing. No translators have yet been found for remaining two — Nongre, and Araucano.

The World Crusade list included only one translation for the islands that constitute the Trust Territory of the United States in the Pacific. This was Kusale, which has been completed and printed by the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia and New Zealand. However, with the help of native people, an introductory pamphlet is now being translated into Trukese. A few quotations from the Sacred Writings have also been translated into Ponapean and Chamorro, the latter being the language of the natives of Guam.

Thus the beautiful words of Bahá’u’lláh, “Blessed is the spot . . .” are now known and loved by peoples in even the most remote places, whether they are written: “Bendisi y logot, y gima, y suid . . .” for the Chamorros, or “Ak mutal ye an siirik se inge, a city se inge . . .” for the Kusaiens of the Micronesian Islands, or “Kum kupure wasat, Im wet wasat kiset, o kan im . . .” for the Ponapeans, or “Bik’iheojidligo haz’a Tahgo, ‘inda dahoohangoo doo dabinagaoo . . .” for the Navajo Indians of the Southwest.

From information available in the Administrative Headquarters of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, it appears that of the languages listed for the World Crusade, 23 of the 41 for Asian peoples have been translated, and 11 of the 31 African languages have been completed.

In addition 23 other African and Asiatic languages not a part of the Crusade have been translated, bringing the known translations since the opening of the Crusade to at least 77. Thus another important goal of the World Crusade is nearing completion, and may even be exceeded by the end of this Bahá’í year.

—National Spiritual Assembly

SCHOOLS OF 3 CITIES RECOGNIZE HOLY DAYS

The public schools of Danbury, Conn., the Novato School District of San Rafael, Calif., and San Jose, Calif., have given permission for Bahá’í children to be absent on Bahá’í Holy Days. This brings to 36 the number of cities or states which recognize the Holy Days.

In San Jose, permission was also given for Bahá’í children to have one hour each week for religious education in the Bahá’í Faith, outside the school. This is an application of the local Religious Education in the Schools program.

—National Spiritual Assembly
"Service Highly Meritorious"

Grieved passing (your) dear mother. Her services highly meritori­ous. Assure fervent prayers (for) progress (of her) soul (in) Kingdom. (signed) SHOGHI

The above cablegram was sent by the Guardian to Mr. Wilfrid Barton after the passing of his mother, Mrs. Mary Barton. It was received January 26, 1957.
—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Asia

100 ATTEND INSPIRING KWANGJU CONFERENCE

A Bahá’í Winter Conference was held at Kwangju, Korea, on December 26 to 30, 1956. The following account of this memorable meeting has been written by the pioneer there.

The Conference was scheduled to begin the day after Christmas and run for five days, but with the arrival of Bill Smits and Huh Hong from Seoul on the 24th, the "teaching" aspect of the conference really began.

On the 25th of December John McHenry from Yokohama and the two Bahá’ís from Mokpo arrived, accelerating the power of the Conference. It was not really to ebb until about 20 people journeyed the five miles to the railroad station to say goodbye to Phil Marangella, Smits, and McHenry.

On Wednesday, December 26th, the program formally began with welcomes and introductions of guests and local Bahá’ís. The daily program was arranged so that only one lecture in the morning followed the daily devotions.

In the afternoon three classes were conducted simultaneously; one was for adults who had almost finished the Ten-Lesson Study Course; one was for students studying the same book; and one was a class exclusively for Bahá’ís.

This latter class covered "Fundamental Verities of the Faith"—an outline from the Dispensation of Bahá’u’lláh prepared by the Japan Teaching Committee. The Bahá’ís also discussed recent letters from the Guardian; this was led by John McHenry.

The evening sessions were arranged as follows: a showing of colored slides, a public meeting for students, a public meeting for adults, and an evening with the Bahá’ís. On Sunday, December 30, the Feast Committee of Kwangju was host for the largest Feast ever held in this city.

The previous two conferences here in Kwangju were criticized as being too full; this time the program was greatly sheared to allow time for more intimate contacts among the Bahá’ís. Recreation time was scheduled from 1:30 to 3:00, with Scrabble being the favorite game. On Saturday a $64 quiz program was held, with candy replacing dollars. Also, the losers had to sing, the result being that no one tried very hard to win. Even winners were penalized, and to everyone’s delight had to find a partner for a duet.

On the last day, Sunday, an afternoon reception for ladies was planned. The afternoon got started off gaily with some of the ladies doing ancient interpretive dancing. Then a round of singing ensued, the highlight being an almost-professional duet of "O Solo Mio" by Mrs. Pak, wife of a university president, and Phil Marangella.

The program changed key with stories of outstanding Bahá’í women. This part of the program was cut short by the ladies asking deep theological questions about the Faith.

The guests for this program included many high school and college girls, and the Kwangju Chapter of the Ewa Women’s University Alumni Association.

"One Continuous Session"

In looking back over the crowded events of this conference, we cannot say which was the highlight, or which part was the most stimulating. It can be truly said that this conference was not a series of meetings; rather it was one continuous session with occasional times out for sleeping.

There was the Feast in which prayers were read in six languages, and which was so unifying that curfew almost caught people away from home. There was the Bahá’í night in which Phil discussed the “Valley of Search.” There was the reception, the lectures, the classes; or maybe it was the free time sandwiched in between all of these.

Not one of the more than 100 people who attended some or all of the conference could have left without a boost in spiritual joy, in understanding, and in awareness of that Bahá’í love which alone can unite this planet.

Each of the three conferences held here has had a different emphasis,
a different spirit. The first one a year ago concentrated upon basic teachings; the one last summer, with two Persians as guests, concentrated upon history.

An outsider listening from around the corner would have said that this one concentrated upon singing. Even John McHenry, who at first protested that he could not sing, joined everyone in the many song fests. Bill Smits woke up singing. Phil Marangella almost learned a Korean song to add to his vast repertoire, and we in Kwangju all had a chance to exercise our vocal chords. But the singing was, after all, only symbolic.

The last night of the conference, at the Feast of Honor, every heart united to send our beloved Guardian the following cable:

"Representatives Nishinomiya Yokohama Seoul Mokpo Hwasoon Kwangju Bahá’í Teaching Conference send warmest love."

—William H. Maxwell

**STUDY COURSE PREPARES JAPANESE FOR CONVENTION**

The Bahá’ís of Japan are engaged in an intensive two months’ study program aimed at preparing themselves for participation in the Convention and the formation of the first National Spiritual Assembly in the North East Pacific during Ridván 1957. The program consists of the following subjects:

1. **Japan’s Place in the Divine Plan: The Global Crusade**—what it is; the future world civilization; Japan’s role; formation of National Assemblies throughout the world.

2. **The Responsibility of Being a Bahá’í:** The application of Bahá’u’lláh’s Teachings to the life of the individual whether in the West or the East; teaching the Cause; the Guardian’s Messages of July 19, 1957.


4. **The National Spiritual Assembly:** its place in the Administrative Order; its responsibilities; how elected.

5. **The Application of Administrative Procedures:** Practice of holding a National Convention; practice of electing a National Spiritual Assembly.

References used in the course include: Messages from the Guardian; Tablets of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá to America and to Japan; The Advent of Divine Justice; The Will and Testament of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá; The Covenant and Administration Compilation, and the Guardian’s Statistical Survey—The Bahá’í Faith.

The National Convention will be held in Tokyo on April 27, 28, and 29, following a one-day teaching conference on April 26. The nineteen delegates were elected on December 2, 1956, by the Bahá’ís communities in Japan, Korea, Formosa, and Hong Kong.

—Asia Teaching Committee

**Western Hemisphere Committee Reports Pioneer Openings in Alaska, Latin America**

The Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee submits the following report on pioneer opportunities in Alaska and Latin America:

**Alaska**

From time to time the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee receives information from the believers in Alaska relative to employment opportunities, which we wish to share with you through the Bahá’í News, hoping to encourage as many believers as possible, who can be spared from the Home Front, to pioneer in Alaska.

This is the year of the election of the first Alaskan National Spiritual Assembly, and excitement is in the air throughout all Alaska! The following letter from Ann Ashen in Juneau speaks for itself:

“For some time I have wanted to write you to... make a plea for assistance for others to be encouraged to come here to help us to form our assembly. There is a crying need for stenographers here and a number of government agencies always in search of office personnel. Jobs are easy to find and pay is quite good. We will welcome anyone you can persuade to come here. We Bahá’ís will give them all the assistance in finding employment and a place to stay. We are four active and one inactive—and must have our assembly by April. We hope most sincerely that you will be able to find someone to join us.”

**Latin America**

In one of the Tablets of the Divine Plan, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá wrote: “You must give great importance to teaching the Indians, i.e., the aborigines of America. For these souls are like the ancient inhabitants of Peninsular Arabia, who previous to the Manifestation of His Holiness Muhammad were treated as savages. But when the Muhammadan light shone forth in their midst, they became so illumined that they brightened the world. Likewise, should these Indians and aborigines be educated and ob-
tain guidance, there is no doubt that through the divine teachings they will become so enlightened as in turn to shed light to all regions.'

This native race of the Western Hemisphere inhabits lands all the way from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, at the tip of South America. There are about 300,000 in the United States, but they are numbered in the millions in Latin America. In two of the American Republics, Guatemala and Bolivia, they form the majority of the population. So far, not only have they met oppression by the "white man," but also in only a few places has there been any effort by the Bahá'ís to carry out the Master’s mandate. But a start has been made, notably at the Bahá’í Indian Institute in Guatemala; there are now Indian believers in Alaska, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico and Peru. In the January issue of Bahá’í News, a picture was published of the first two Bolivian Indian Bahá'ís. Here is an account of the meeting of a North American traveler with these brothers in the Cause.

"You can imagine my thrill when told I was to meet two Indian Bahá'ís, newly enrolled, for everywhere I had seen Indians in their colorful costumes—in the cities, in the markets toiling under their burdens over the mountain roads—and had been longing for the time when the message would be brought to these people.

"When our two brothers, dressed in their native clothes, joined us—Bahá'ís of North and South America—how truly Bahá’í was the meeting. The elder of these brothers, the ‘mayor’ of his ‘estancia’, told us of his search for, and final finding of, the Truth. Standing, with the dignity of a king, he told how he had been searching for years and years; how he had looked at the sky and the stars, the mountains and the miles of the Bolivian Altiplano, and had thought there must be only one God and one Creator; how he had thought it was wrong to worship ‘stones’; how he had gone into Church and again felt it wrong to worship ‘idols’; how he had investigated the Protestant Missions, still unsatisfied; how he had been persecuted by the authorities in his search; and how, when walking the streets of the Capital, La Paz, he had seen the Bahá’í Center, with its sign inviting inquiry, and had knocked at the door for information. (This was a distinctive act, for, as in many of these countries, there is great prejudice and a strong line of demarkation in Bolivia, where the Indian was a serf until only a few years ago.)

"Andrés, for that is his name, told of his great happiness in at last encountering the ‘word of God’, of his determination to take it to his people, and of his hope that the ‘law of God’ would be brought to all the Indians of the world and that all human beings would unite and obey God and find peace. He said that many Indians have been searching for years and years for the ‘word of God’, and that there has been no one to teach them; that they do not like war and killing and quarrels, they do not like ‘drunken fiestas’; that they are searching for liberty, justice, education, peace, and for love between men; that for centuries they have been oppressed and that up until today they have not encountered the truth.

"Next day, before leaving to take the message back to his people, Andrés and Carmelo, his brother, gathered a group of Indians from various parts of Bolivia, to hear this new message. Each in the costume of his own locality, men and women, and suckling babies, gathered under the tree in the garden of the Seton Smiths, pioneers to Bolivia, to hear Andrés translate into their native Quechua. How sweet and simple they were! And what radiance shown in their faces when they heard the prayers!"

With the millions of Indians in Latin America, most of them living about the same life they led when the Conquistadores first landed, it is significant that the Master placed the paragraph with which this article opens, in the midst of His list of the lands of the Americas in which we are to promulgate the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh.

Anyone who is interested in pioneering among the Indians of South or Central America may write for information to: Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, Secretary, Western Hemisphere Teaching Comm., 73 College Road West, Princeton, N.J.

Central and East Africa
NEWSLETTER TELLS OF TWO AFRICAN TOURS

Musa Banáni, Hand of the Cause for Africa, has distributed a new issue of his informative “Newsletter” to the Bahá'ís of Africa. The following excerpts are of especial interest to all Bahá’ís:

"Board Member William Sears recently traveled to Zululand, accompanied by our new arrival, Robert Quigley. The purpose of the visit
Pioneers serving in the Seychelles Islands.

was to meet the lonely pioneer there, but they soon learned that she was not there, as she was spending a few days (visiting).

"We decided that the thing to do," writes William Sears, "would be to get a car and go to Zululand the very next day ourselves, have a special session of prayers on the land, and hope that a new spirit would come into the work.

"In order that we should not lose any teaching time, we took two of the African believers with us. In this way we had three hours of teaching on the way over, and three on the way back. Mr. Quigley rented the car and drove, and I sat and taught the boys. It was a thrilling trip for all of us, Mr. Quigley joining in on the teaching whenever he didn't have to duck a giant hole in the appalling roads.

"We prayed (all four of us) for some time on a high hill overlooking the sea and the city. There is a cross there to the first martyr among the Zulas to believe in Christ. We thought the spot significant. We prayed the Tablet of Visitation, and called out the Greatest Name in all directions, as well as the Remover of Difficulties. There was a strong wind blowing in from the sea, and it seemed to us that it took the prayers from our very lips and scattered them throughout that lovely land. Then we returned (home), continuing our deepening sessions on the way back.

"This little moving story is, I know, but one of many similar experiences that pioneers and friends have in the service of their Beloved Faith. When prayer and service join forces, the results are overwhelming. This account is a demonstration of the deep conviction the friends must have in the power of prayer. The work of the Faith is, in its final analysis, a spiritual activity. The great force that Bahá'ú'lláh has promised us shall be ours only if we dissipate the darkness of our own self-importance from our hearts, and allow the light of humble prayer to shine and guide our path—a prayer symbolizing our complete dependence upon God, a token of our weaknesses and our constant need for His aid. When we succeed in combining our services to Bahá'ú'lláh with such a prayerful attitude, we are bound to attract to ourselves His promised blessings.

**French Togoland**

"There is also the story of a team of three African believers from Lomé, French Togoland, who went on a teaching trip to nearby Dahomey to visit members of a Bahá'í group in Agoue-Adjigo, one of whom is a tribal chief. A picturesque description of this trip has come to hand; it rings with the spirit of faith, of dedication, and of a consciousness of Bahá'í responsibility on the part of the rising Bahá'í generation in Africa.

"On Sunday morning our three man delegation headed to Agoue-Adjigo to visit the friends there on teaching work and deepening. A little shower stormed the vicinity, and we drove away in a misty cloud. The ride was loving and beautiful. The sea gave plenty catch; our main agricultural crop, coconut, gave chrysoberyl grandeur to the scene.

"About 9 a.m. we finally reached our destination. We were escorted to the king's palace to pay perfunctory loyalties. Through friendly conversations we learned that the new believers had all gone outside the town on pleasure trips. Our informative letter was never received, except an only one received this morning per the courtesy of a bearer. It was therefore not possible to meet all the friends to participate together in our deliberations.

"We began our activities with opening prayer said in Ewe: "O God, unite the hearts of Thy servants..." Following this the king was taught how to direct declarations of individual believers (filling of forms). The king also informed us of his contact-campaigns, and hoped that the group would reach Assembly status before Ridván. Cheers!

"This group has also two French literates, of whom the king is one, two English and French literates, and two illiterates, all quite a nice composition of six members.

"Our local Assembly fostering this group freely gave out the follow-books: Bahá'í World Faith, Man One Family, and the Bahá'í calendar.

"The most orderly procedure sprang up with listening ears as David Tanyi gave a 55 minute account of the Báb, Bahá'ú'lláh, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and mainly about the world encircling work the Guardian has divinely shoulders.

"Then the king gave a short but impressive address on why he became a Bahá'í. The scene closed with the Prayer for All Nations. Pictures were taken and delicious dishes were served to round off the occasion. When we said goodbye the king said, "I am never tired of seeing you. It is hard for me you are parting. Always try to increase your visits. Never fail to lend us your knowledge, and we will also bear your burdens abreast with you. Goodbye..."

"A postscript to this report adds "We are glad to report that at our visit we attested the declarations of four more believers."

**Letter from Guardian**

"To one of our pioneers in the African campaign our Guardian has written recently through his secre-
SEYCHELLES BAHÁ'IS EXPECT TO WIN GOALS

Progress of the Faith and hopes for the attainment of teaching goals in the Seychelles Islands, now under the Central and East Africa National Assembly, has been related in a report from the local Spiritual Assembly there:

At the time of writing this short account of the progress of the Faith in the Seychelles Archipelago the number of adult believers is 26, which includes 8 pioneers and 18 local believers.

Generally the Seychelles is known as a penal colony and thus it might give an impression to some that the life here must be a difficult one. Far from it, there are the loveliest groups of islands that you can imagine, full of scenic beauty, grand panoramic views, fine beaches, no dearth of anything to eat, no malaria and no poisonous insects. Climate is wonderful and on top of everything some 30,000 simple folk inhabit them.

Some very useful work in the teaching field has been done in these so-far forlorn islands, which may be attributed to the fact that these islands, once these were opened to the Faith, remained without a pioneer and some of the pioneers who actually were not destined for this place had perforce to stay and do work. In fact we are looking forward to very good prospects in course of time.

Mahe is the main island of the Group and the seat of the Government. We have an Assembly which will get incorporated before the close of the year, two isolated centers and one group, while two other islands of the Archipelago have one believer in each.

The Local Assembly has a one year teaching plan based on the beloved Guardian's latest instructions about priority tasks under the Crusade, and we are confident that we shall achieve all the objectives laid down therein and perhaps something more.

—A. Rahman

Australia, New Zealand

LANGUAGE TRANSLATION GOALS NEARLY WON

Of the 14 language translation goals of the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia and New Zealand under the Ten Year Crusade, only three remain to be secured, according to the Australian Bahá’í Bulletin.

Translations secured and now undergoing checking before passed for use are Petats and Manus, as well as Marquesas.

Pamphlets already printed and available are in Tongan, Samoan, Mwala, Lifu, Kusaien, Mentawai, Tetum, and Pidgin English, as well as a reprinted Fijian leaflet. Pamphlets undergoing printing are Nuie, Binandere, and a second Tetum and a second Tongan publication. A duplicated issue of Roviana was prepared for use in the Solomon Islands.

Roviana, Tetum, and Pidgin English are in addition to goal languages.

MANY YOUTH ATTEND YERRINBOOL SCHOOL

The Twenty-First Annual Bahá’í Summer School was held at “Bolton Place,” Yerrinbool, New South Wales, from December 26 to January 7, 1957. A total of 72 persons attended, with about 50 of these youth.

The states of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania were represented. We were blessed by having Clara Dunn, Hand of the Cause of God, with us for the entire period.

At the school were many nationalities of various religious backgrounds, such as Jewish, Christian, and Muslim, all mingling and studying the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh.

The courses of study were “Islam and Progressive Revelation,” “Spiritual Laws of the Qurán,” “Administration of the Bahá’í Faith,” and “Teaching the Bahá’í Faith.” Each night there were lectures covering a great variety of subjects.

During spare hours a film evening was held, and a picnic and visit to a Bahá’í home in the local community.

—MADELINE G. BOLTON

First local Spiritual Assembly of New Plymouth, New Zealand, formed on April 21, 1956.
PERSONAL TEACHING STRESSED AT TORONTO

The importance of personal teaching as the only means by which the home front goals can be achieved, was the message of the Canadian National Teaching Committee at a conference in Toronto on December 8, Canadian Bahá'í News reports.

The conference was jointly sponsored by the National Teaching Committee and the New Territories Committee.

A drama, “The Seated Bahá'í,” written and produced by the New Territories Committee, was also presented. It portrays the imagined obstacles that Bahá'ís find in their way when deciding to pioneer.

Saskatoon Seminar

A seminar on “The Covenant and Administration” and the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá was given by the Saskatoon Assembly on the weekend of November 25, with the Regina community as guests. It is hoped that this seminar will prove to be a step toward the establishment of an intercommunity teaching program between Saskatoon and Regina Bahá'ís.

Montreal Broadcasts

The Bahá'í News also reports that a Montreal radio station is broadcasting a Bahá'í prayer for peace every ninth day.

India, Pakistan, Burma

PAKISTÁN BAHÁ’ÍS PLAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

Representatives of most of the local Spiritual Assemblies of Pakistan met in Karachi last autumn to prepare the ground for the establishment of the National Spiritual Assembly, to be elected during Rajáván 1957, the Indian Bahá'í News Letter reports.

Also present was Shu’á’u’lláh 'Alá’í, Hand of the Cause, who had been visiting various cities in the Indian area following the Jakarta Conference of last August. He was accompanied by Isfandiar Bakhtiari, Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of India, Pakistan, and Burma.

Mr. ‘Alá’í will represent the Guardian at the Pakistan National Convention, and the new National Spiritual Assembly will be formed under his supervision.

MARIANAS OBSERVE WORLD RELIGION DAY

The Bahá'ís of Agana, Guam, Mariana Islands, took advantage of the annual observance of World Religion Day to hold their second public meeting on the Island. Although the attendance was small there was widespread publicity. In addition to a large paid advertisement in the Guam Daily News there was a news item announcing the speaker and the theme. Posters were placed in the windows of the largest department store, a sports goods store and at the Civil Service Community Housing. The meeting was announced twice a day for several days before the meeting, as part of the general announcement of events scheduled to take place in Guam. On Sunday morning, the day of the meeting, a talk on the Faith was given by Mrs. Cynthia Olson. The speaker at the public meeting was Mr. Edgar Olson and Miss Virginia Breaks of the Island of Truk was his chairman.
Germany, Austria
TEACHING TRIP, WINTER SCHOOL REPORTED

Baha'i Nachrichten, news organ of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, has published details of a teaching trip by Dr. Hermann Grossmann, Hand of the Cause, to Vienna and the goal cities of Austria last autumn.

Dr. Grossmann reported gratifying consolidations and deepening of the work. Vienna is continuing its regular teaching and study activities. His journey continued to Graz, where the untiring work of Edna Johnson and Robert Schultheiss has interested an enlarged circle of people. Here the work has been strengthened by the arrival of Iranian friends.

In Salzburg, next visited by Dr. Grossmann, the work is also very active. The six friends living there are untiringly engaged in deepening the interested inquirers in the Faith.

It was stressed that one thing is extremely necessary—that more German friends go to Austria. Only in that way can the Guardian's wish be fulfilled, that three more local Spiritual Assemblies, in Graz, Salzburg, and Innsbruck, be established by Riphân 1957.

Winter School

A Youth Winter School was held in the Freiburger Swimsport club in Titisee/Schwarzwald from December 27 to January 2, 1957. The site of the meeting lies on the south shore of a lake.

The general theme was "Youth in Modern Society," with these subjects: "Isolation and Community Today," "Religion and Society," "A New Order?", "Our Situation and the Baha'i Principles," and "How Do We Youth Unlock Religion?"

Recreation was planned to include a trip to a nearby mountain, skiing and social gatherings.

Faith Taught in School

A course in "The Denominations of Christianity, the Sects, and the Baha'i Religion" is being offered in the high school in Hannover. The secretary of the local Spiritual Assembly there reports that the references to the Faith were accurate and positive, and that the difficulties the Bahá'ís experienced from the churches in acquiring the Eschborn Temple site were mentioned.

Italy, Switzerland

TEN-DAY WINTER SCHOOL HELD NEAR ST. MORITZ

During the Italo-Swiss Youth Winter School of December 22 to January 2, 1957, 28 people representing nine countries attended the ten-day sessions. The school was held in a Swiss chalet in a small town near St. Moritz, Switzerland.

Youth came from Ireland, England, France, Sicily, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Germany, and Iran.

"Some Answered Questions" was the subject of the morning class presented by Mrs. Florence Bagley. During the evening, special subjects such as chapters from Prescription for Living, and presentations on "Plan for a New World Order," and "What's New in the Baha'i Faith" were given. German, English, French, and Persian were the four languages spoken.

Recreation consisted of skiing, skating, sightseeing, dancing, and various games and talent shows. On New Year's Eve a masquerade proved to be lots of fun, bringing forth ideas of the youth of several nationalities.

—Carol Bagley
Early American Bahá'í's Honor Juliet Thompson at Memorial Service in House of Worship

"Juliet Thompson truly was one who loved her Lord."

This opening remark by Paul E. Haney, Hand of the Cause, was the keynote of tributes offered in memory of Juliet Thompson at a memorial service in Foundation Hall of the Bahá'í House of Worship on February 9, 1957.

The program had been opened by Mr. Haney, serving as chairman, with a reading of the Guardian's cable, received in Wilmette on December 6, 1956, following Juliet Thompson's passing on December 4:

"Deplore loss much-loved, greatly admired Juliet Thompson, outstanding, exemplary handmaid (of) 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Over half-century record of manifold, meritorious services, embracing concluding years (of) Heroic, (and) opening decades (of) Formative Age (of) Bahá'í Dispensation, won her envious position (in) glorious company (of) triumphant disciples (of) beloved Master Abhá Kingdom. Advise hold memorial gathering (in) Mashriq-i-Adhkar pay befitting tribute (to the) imperishable memory (of) one so wholly consecrated (to) Faith (of) Bahá'u'lláh, (and) fired (with) such consuming devotion (to) Center (of) His Covenant."

—SHOGI"

Following the reading by Borra Kavelin of Bahá'u'lláh's Prayer *From the sweet-scented streams of Thine eternity give me to drink, O my God . . . .*, the chairman explained that the National Spiritual Assembly, in planning this memorial service, had asked several of the early American believers, who had shared Juliet Thompson's period of service to the Faith, to contribute comments on their remembrance of her.

Charles Mason Remey, Hand of the Cause, unable to attend the memorial service, wrote a letter eulogizing her service in propagating the Bahá'í Cause that covered a period of over 55 years. It was read to the gathering by Miss Edna True.

"I first heard the name Juliet Thompson in Washington in the middle 1890's," Mr. Remey wrote, "when she, a young girl in her early 20's, was already known as a portrait artist. Her work had a very pleasing, flower-like, and ephemeral quality that attracted one's attention.

"Juliet Thompson, however, was but the name of a young artist to me until I first met her in Paris in 1901. This was in the house of Mrs. Barney, at a meeting where Mirzá Abu'l-Fadl, the Bahá'í savant, was giving lessons to the groups of very early-in-the-Faith believers. Then it was I learned that Juliet had been a believer for several months, having heard the Message in Washington shortly before coming to Paris, with her mother and brother, to spend a season or more in her studies in Art.

"It was in 1904, 1905, and 1906, in New York, that I next met Juliet, where her studio in the National Arts Club in Gramercy Square was one of the centers of Bahá'í meetings in the city.

"Juliet's contribution to the Cause was her great love for, and devotion to, the Master, 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Her spirit of enthusiasm for the Faith was soul-warming and contagious, and people were attracted to the Cause by Juliet and joined the expanding numbers of the Faith.

"Juliet's chief art contribution to the Bahá'í Faith," Mr. Remey's eulogy continued, "was her portrait of the Master, done in pastels during His visit to this country.

"At the time of the Master's visit to America, Juliet was particularly active in the Cause. It was through her efforts that the Rector of the Church of the Ascension in New York received the Master at a Sunday evening service in his church, seating the Master in the Bishop's Chair beside the altar in the sanctuary of the chancel. Here it was that the Master answered many questions about the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh that were asked by people in the congregation.

"Juliet Thompson did not lose the vision of the Bahá'í promise of peace, even in the midst of World War I. In those days it was dangerous to say anything about world peace. Reprehensible as was this subject, particularly in Washington in those days, Juliet didn't lose any opportunities to voice the Bahá'í teachings upon this subject. Often she was misunderstood and even threatened, but she never capitulated in her stand.

"After years of service amongst the Bahá'ís of New York, not long after our beloved Guardian had sent the first Bahá'í pioneer teachers into the Latin American countries, Juliet spent over a year teaching in Mexico.

"During her many services to the Cause, Juliet made two pilgrimages to the sacred Bahá'í Shrines in the Holy Land.

"During the later years of her life she was quite invalided in New York. Nevertheless, wherever she was, there was a center around which Bahá'í thought and activity revolved."

After Mr. Remey's remarks, Charles Wolcott read three selections from *The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh*. Mr. Haney then presented a commendation of Juliet Thompson by one who had intimate knowledge of her, Mrs. Mariam Haney.

"Who among us can understand the character of Juliet?, Mrs. Haney wrote. "She was much more the heart type than the intellectual type, and yet she was at times so brilliant she could cope with the scholars she knew, and in teaching the Bahá'í Faith she became a spiritual scholar and answered successfully the deepest questions."

After reviewing Juliet Thompson's art studies in Paris and her meetings with many of the early Bahá'ís, Mrs. Haney stated, "Later Juliet met Mr. Thomas Breakwell, the first English Bahá'í, (who) gave her Gordon's description in French of The Martyrdom of the Báb, and this completely confirmed her.

"That which amazed me in those extremely happy spiritual days was Juliet's capacity to accept the Teachings instantly. There can be no doubt that she was of the 'called and chosen,' and the Master said, 'The chosen have heard and understood the Call from the Divine Assembly.'

"From the beginning of Juliet's complete acceptance of the Faith, she wanted to serve the Bahá'í Cause, and from the start of a small meeting
in her studios, this effort continued to grow for years; here she spread the Message among her extensive contacts with non-Bahá'ís, and also always had a weekly meeting for Bahá'ís only. She had read in the Tablets of 'Abdul-Bahá, 'If thou art seeking a heavenly palace, make thy house the gathering place of the friends of God.'

In recalling 'Abdul-Bahá's visit to New York in 1912, Mrs. Haney related, 'Juliet followed the Master everywhere; she attended all the meetings in New York, as well as the meetings in Brooklyn and New Jersey, and the Master graciously addressed a meeting she had arranged for Him in her studio. Several times He called her to walk with Him on Riverside Drive, with Vahid Varqā as interpreter.

"Juliet was greatly confirmed in keeping a complete diary of the tremendous events transpiring during the Master's visit in and around New York. The story of the great events taking place day by day, recorded in this diary, have been preserved. It has an unusual sweetness, spirituality, and heart appeal.

"Once again a faithful early American believer has left this earthly world of service, but 'God loves the believers, consequently He will deliver them from darkness and bring them into the World of Light,'" Mrs. Haney's eulogy concluded.

A reading of the words of Bahá'u'lláh from the Gleanings by Dr. Katherine True followed, and then Mr. Haney turned to a message from another early and distinguished believer asked to contribute to this memorial service, Mme. Laura Dreyfus-Barney.

Writing from Paris, Mme. Dreyfus-Barney stated, in part, "My mother had invited Juliet to study painting in Paris around 1898. This is when and where we became lifelong friends. Often we spoke together of religion and art. She was open-minded and bighearted. She accepted the Message as naturally as a swallow takes to the air. Her radiant belief never faltered or diminished.

"Later on, others gave her Bahá'í teachings. The summer the Master was in Thonon-les-bains, Juliet Thompson was one of the privileged ones who came to see Him there. I recall a long drive when we were seated with Him in a landau. During the drive He had the horses stopped before a waterfall. He spoke quietly of the harmony of nature and of the interdependence of all creation. Juliet listened eagerly and never forgot.'"

Following Mr. Haney's reading of Mme. Dreyfus-Barney's letter, Horace Holley, Hand of the Cause, arose to pay his tribute to Juliet Thompson.

He first quoted from a clipping of Juliet Thompson's obituary, published in a New York newspaper, stating that she was a portrait painter, having done "portraits of Woodrow Wilson, Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, and 'Abdül-Bahá, son of Bahá'u'lláh, Founder of the Bahá'í Faith." "Even in leaving this earth," Mr. Holley remarked, "Juliet Thompson served the Faith."

Referring to Mme. Dreyfus-Barney's letter, Mr. Holley stated that he had reached Thonon one week after Juliet Thompson's departure. "From the friends I learned of the great bounty I had lost by missing her," he said.

Mr. Holley recalled his first visit to Juliet Thompson's weekly Bahá'í class at 48 West 10th St., New York City, where she had a studio on the top floor of the building. "That evening there was such an overflow crowd that I could not only not get into her studio, I couldn't even get to the bottom step of the flight of stairs on the floor below!" Describing his memories of later visits to her class, Mr. Holley pictured her sitting in the midst of some of her finished and unfinished portraits, with a volume of the Bahá'í teachings on her lap. She always read from the Master's Tablets, and he recalled the great influence radiating from these meetings.

In speaking of Juliet Thompson's painting of 'Abdul-Bahá's portrait, Mr. Holley emphasized that it was at this time, during His visit to New York City, that 'Abdul-Bahá first revealed His station as the Center of the Covenant.

"Thus we see Him, as in Juliet Thompson's picture, the limelight figure, talking to the New York Bahá'ís about this station as the Center of the Covenant. Here is 'Abdul-Bahá, endowed with power greater than the negative forces of war, Who came to New York to establish a community which would bring about the spread of the Faith throughout the world."

In closing, Mr. Holley directed attention to Juliet Thompson's pamphlet, 'Abdul-Bahá, Center of the Covenant. "In it she has perpetuated the sense of the Master, Who has lived again in Juliet's love."

The first and last paragraphs from the address given by 'Abdul-Bahá at Juliet Thompson's studio, were then read by Miss Charlotte Linfoot, from Proclamation of Universal Peace, Volume II, page 426.

The memorial service was fittingly closed with the reading of a Bahá'í prayer by Mrs. Amelia Collins, Hand of the Cause.
To proclaim the fundamental oneness of religion

World Religion Day, 1957

The eighth annual World Religion Day was observed on Sunday, January 20, by over 100 Bahá'í Centers in 34 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, according to reports received at the time. Baha'í News goes to press.

These observances were in the form of 73 public meetings based on the theme “To proclaim the fundamental oneness of religion.” Many used the topic suggested by the Bahá'í Press Service for this year, “One Common Faith: Basis for World Peace.” The meetings ranged from panel discussions on comparative religions to direct talks by representatives of the Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Sikh, Christian, Muslim, and Bahá'í faiths.

In conjunction with these meetings, several communities exhibited Holy Books of the various revealed religions, showed films, had special musical programs, or held fellowship gatherings after the meetings. Several reported radio broadcasts and spot announcements, and television interviews.

These observances were held in Bahá'í Centers, homes of Bahá'ís, public libraries, YMCA and YWCA rooms, college campuses, University Clubs, Federation of Women's Clubs, Girl Scout Headquarters, hotels, churches, and our own Bahá'í House of Worship.

In recognition of those who cooperated in using this event to proclaim the Faith, communities which have reported on their activities to date are listed:

Alaska: Anchorage and vicinity, a panel discussion on comparative religions, and an exhibit of the Holy Books of these faiths.

Hawaii: Kauai, Molokai, and Maui, two public meetings and one fireside with Bahá'í speakers, one a pioneer.

Arizona: Flagstaff, a public meeting and broadcast over radio station KVNA. Phoenix, a public meeting at the Phoenix College Club room, and the film “And They Met in Galilee,” loaned by Israel Airlines. Prescott, a public meeting. Tucson, a public meeting at the YWCA, with readings from the scriptures of the world's great religions.

Arkansas: Little Rock, a public meeting at the Hotel Lafayette, with a rabbi, a minister, and a Bahá'í participating in a panel discussion.

California: At Berkeley, a public meeting at the Berkeley Women's City Club, with a musical program. Burbank, a public meeting, with a special presentation by the Bahá'í Sunday School and a musical program. Escondido, with Ramona Bahá'ís participating, held a panel discussion by youth from the Los Angeles community. There was special music and a social hour. Fresno, a panel discussion at the Hotel Californian by young adults from the Los Angeles community. Monterey, a public meeting with a Bahá'í speaker held at the Carmel Girl Scout House. Monrovia, a meeting at the home of a Bahá'í. Manhattan Beach, including the South Bay area, held a meeting in the home of a local Bahá'í, which received excellent publicity and a four-column picture in the newspaper. Pasadena, in which the Alhambra, Altadena, El Monte, San Marino, Sierra Madre, and Temple City communities participated, held a public meeting at La Casita del Arroya. Santa Ana, a public meeting at the YMCA in which a minister, a rabbi, and a Bahá'í participated.

Santa Clara, a public meeting in the library with a minister, a rabbi, and Bahá'í speakers. San Francisco, a public meeting at the Bahá'í Center. San Diego, a public meeting in the First Unitarian Church, at which a Methodist minister, a Chinese minister of the Community Church, and a Bahá'í from La Mesa participated.

Connecticut: Bridgeport, a public meeting sponsored by the Bahá'ís of Connecticut.

This window display for World Religion Day at Webster Grove, Mo., portraying the Holy Scriptures of nine known religious dispensations, is representative of many public displays placed by Bahá'ís throughout the nation for the World Religion Day observance.
Many World Religion Day programs featured speakers representing some of the major world faiths, to demonstrate the Bahá’í principle of the fundamental oneness of religion. Rochester, N.Y., representative of communities using this type of program, presented spokesmen for the Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, and Bahá’í faiths, pictured above.

Florida: Key West, a public meeting at the Bahá’í Center. St. Petersburg, a public meeting at Bahá’í Center, with newspaper publicity that included a three-column picture of the speakers.

Idaho: Boise, a public meeting at their Center.

Illinois: Batavia, a public meeting at Library Hall with colored slides of “Palestine, Land of Many Faiths.”

Belleville, a public meeting at which The Promise of All Ages by George Townshend was reviewed. Elmhurst, a public meeting at the Elmhurst Youth Center with a Buddhist, a Jew, a Christian, and a Bahá’í. Springfield, a meeting at the home of a Bahá’í. Peoria, a public meeting and tea at the Center. At the Bahá’í House of Worship in Wilmette, a public meeting was held, with the communities of Wilmette, Evanston, Maywood, and Chicago participating.

Indiana: Fort Wayne, a panel discussion at the Bahá’í Center with a Jew, a Muslim, a Christian, and Bahá’í participating. Indianapolis, a public meeting with a Bahá’í speaker. Lafayette, a public meeting publicized with 180 invitational form letters, 21 posters, and 510 mailed questionnaire cards.

Iowa: Waterloo, a meeting in the home of a Bahá’í.

Kentucky: Louisville, a public meeting at the University of Louisville.

Massachusetts: Beverly, a meeting at a Bahá’í home, with readings on the oneness of religion.

Michigan: Detroit, a public meeting at the Veterers’ Memorial Building. Muskegon, a public meeting at the YWCA. Flint, a public meeting at the Federation of Women’s Clubs, with special music and refreshments, and publicized with 25 free radio announcements, newspapers items, and 12 posters.

Minnesota: Duluth, a public meeting at the Bahá’í Center, a radio broadcast of the recording, “The Lord of the New Age” over station WEBC, and a television interview over WDSM-TV. Rochester, a public meeting at a Bahá’í home.

Mississippi: Jackson, a public meeting at the Bahá’í Center.

Missouri: Springfield, a public meeting at the YWCA.

Montana: Butte, a public meeting at a Bahá’í home.

Maine: Eliot, a public meeting with Bahá’ís of Eliot, Kittery, York, Portsmouth, and Dover participating.

New Jersey: Montclair, a public meeting at a Bahá’í home. Newark, a public meeting at the Bahá’í Center, and a book display in the library. Teaneck, a public meeting at the Evergreen Cabin, with spécial music.

New Mexico: Roswell, a supper in a Bahá’í home.

New York: Buffalo, a public meeting in the Kenmore YWCA. New York City, a public meeting at their new Bahá’í Center. Rochester, a public meeting at a hotel, with speakers of the Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and Bahá’í faiths.

Ohio: Ashland, a public meeting at the YMCA. Fostoria, a public meeting in a Bahá’í home. Toledo, a public meeting at the YWCA with Muslim and Bahá’í speakers.

Oregon: Eugene, an informal talk and discussion at the University of Oregon. Salem, a public meeting at the YWCA.

Pennsylvania: Easton, a meeting in a Bahá’í home.

Rhode Island: Providence, a public meeting at the Bahá’í Center.

Texas: Galveston, a public meeting in a Bahá’í home, featuring a talk on the Sikh religion by a speaker from New Delhi, India.

Vermont: Burlington, a public meeting at the University of Vermont.

West Virginia: Charleston, a public meeting at the Bahá’í Center.

Washington: Everett, a public meeting with Bahá’ís of Everett, Lake Stevens, Monroe, and Marysville participating. Seattle, a panel presentation at the YWCA with a Buddhist, a Jew, a Muslim, a Christian, and a Bahá’í. Tacoma, a public meeting at the YWCA, Walla Walla, an exhibit at the public library.

Wisconsin: Kenosha, a public meeting at the Bahá’í Center. Madison, a public meeting at the YWCA Building at the University of Wisconsin. Milwaukee, a public meeting at the Bahá’í Center.

—Bahá’í Press Service
CONVENTION HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS LISTED

The Convention Arrangements Committee urges the Bahá’ís delegates and visitors planning to attend the Convention to make their housing reservations promptly. Hotel reservations should be made direct and a deposit must accompany the letter. Hotels in Evanston where all Bahá’ís are welcome are:

Evanshire Hotel
860 Hinman Avenue
Single, $6.00; Double, $7.50; Twin Beds, $9.00.

Evanston Hotel*
840 Forest Avenue
Single, $5.00; Twins, $7.50; Double beds, $10.00.

Georgian Hotel
422 Davis Street
Single rooms (depending upon size and location), $6.50, 6.75, 7.00, and 8.00; Twin beds or Doubles, $10.25, 10.50, 11.50 and 13.00.

Library Plaza Hotel
1637 Orrington Avenue
Single, $6.50; Twins, $10.00.

Orrington Hotel
1710 Orrington Avenue
Single, $7.00 to $12.00; Single with double bed, $5.00 per person; Twins, $8.00 for one person, $11.00 for two; Twin double beds, $11.00 to $15.00.

North Shore Hotel**
Single, $6.50; Single double bed (two people), $8.00; Same, but larger and better location), $7.50 and $9.00 respectively; Twin beds, $9.50 and $10.00.

*Hotel requires full payment at time of reservation.

**Enclose deposit for one day at time of making reservation. Only about 20 vacancies available at time of Convention.

It should be understood that it is the responsibility of the Bahá’í making the reservation to remain the entire time contracted for, or pay for the complete reservation.

Delegates and visitors wishing accommodations in private homes should send their request for reservations to:

Mrs. Priscilla Hassan
1244 Maple Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

or to

Mrs. Edna Coleman
1227 Leon Place
Evanston, Illinois

Child care will be provided only during daytime sessions, but the arrangements do not include care for infants or very young children requiring individual attention.

The believers are again requested not to bring to the Convention any non-Bahá’ís, for they cannot be admitted to the sessions no matter how close to the Faith they may be. The Feast of Ridván is the only occasion when non-Bahá’ís will be admitted. The Ridván Feast, always held during the Convention, will be scheduled for Saturday evening, April 27, with the program in the Auditorium followed by the social hour and reception downstairs.

Believers who are planning to arrive a few days early, or to leave a few days after the Convention, and who will be able to help with various details are requested to notify the Convention Arrangements Committee as soon as possible: Mrs. Dorothy Redstone, 681 Garland, Winnetka, Illinois.

INDIAN RESERVATIONS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES

"God will assist all those who arise . . ."

Macy, Nebraska

This is a direct appeal to Bahá’ís in the teaching profession to consider applying for a position for next year in the public school at Macy, Neb., on the Omaha Indian reservation. A new domestic science and shop facility, as well as more elementary classrooms, are being added to the present school.

There is a high school in nearby Winnebago which Macy children of that age attend, so that there now are employment opportunities for teachers of all grades in the Macy area. There is no greater need for loving Bahá’í service than that which exists in the little reservation town of Macy.

Crow Agency, Montana

At Crow Agency, Mont., there are positions open for a registered and a practical nurse at the hospital, which is run by the Public Health Service. Many friends for the Faith have been won by Dr. Fazly Melany, who has just concluded a year’s contract as Medical Officer among the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indians.

Dr. Melany adds his appeal to the Committee’s for a pioneer to carry on the work among the Indians in this spot where, as he says, the weather is ideal and the people very friendly.

Just before leaving the reservation, Dr. Melany was told by one of his good Indian friends, "I dreamed the Northern Cheyenne tribe are building a Bahá’í Temple and I had
to get there to be in the Temple the first woman from Crow".

To qualified teachers and nurses who cherish the hope of serving the Faith among a needy people at this critical hour, this appeal is earnestly directed. For those who respond, the first step is to write to the American Indian Service Committee for important additional information, rather than to make employment application direct: Nancy Phillips, Secretary, 736 Encanto Drive, S.E., Phoenix, Ariz.

WOMEN'S CLUBS STRESS STUDY OF RELIGIONS

The General Federation of Women's Clubs in its current two-year program is encouraging local women's clubs to undertake the comparative study of the history and basic teachings of the religions of the world as one of its efforts to increase understanding among peoples at home and in other lands.

One of the books recommended by the General Federation of Women's Clubs for use in this study program is Truth is One, by Henry James Forman and Roland Gammon, in which there is an illustrated account of the Bahá'í Faith.

In her speech of acceptance of the office of president of this organization last May, Mrs. Robert I. C. Prout, in referring to this particular activity in the Federation's program said:

"An avenue of approach to understanding the cultures and history of mankind is through the comparative study of the religions of the world. . . Today, the most literate and educated nation in the world (the United States) is suffering from a tragic and pathetic illiteracy. . . an ignorance of the historical foundations of its own religion . . . God is the God of all mankind, and humanity is made up of many peoples and nations—precious in His sight, sharing a common humanity answerable to abiding values of truth, justice and love . . . There is a Divine pattern for humanity and within this pattern there is a variation, which individualizes each one of us . . . The individual—as an individual—may be powerless to shape events. The sum of the individuals—organized in high endeavor—may be potent enough through knowledge to lead the world out of the shadow of war into a lasting peace . . ."

As a result of this emphasis, opportunities have already been provided for a number of Bahá'ís in various states to provide literature and even speakers on the Faith for local women's clubs. Thus, another fine avenue of teaching has been opened to the believers by the Hand of God.

"CHILD'S WAY" PLANS NEW FORMAT

Bahá'u'lláh's Teachings embody a new standard of education with emphasis on spiritual values which will ultimately free mankind from the bonds of ignorance and animalism. Bahá'í children, though scattered and few, are being versed in this standard through the efforts of parents and teachers dedicated to the highest calling—the education of children, who are the potential new creation envisioned by Bahá'u'lláh.

Child's Way, the only Bahá'í publication in this country prepared especially for teachers and children, draws together from all corners of the world the small, distant groups united in the great goal of unifying all mankind.

The National Child Education Committee has devoted its efforts and talents to the task of making all communities, groups, and isolated believers aware of the vital importance of child education. One of the Committee's goals, the publication of an eight-page bulletin, has been reached. The new eight-page format will appear with the April issue of Child's Way.

Present subscribers who appreciate the privilege of receiving Child's Way can make the committee's second goal of 1200 subscriptions possible by promoting this publication at Feasts and conferences, and through gift subscriptions to friends. The attainment of this goal will help the National Fund by making Child's Way self-sustaining.

To new subscribers the Editors offer all past issues for this year, including the new eight page April issue, for $1.00. A further announcement about the 1957-1958 series beginning with June issue will be carried in the April bulletin. Mail requests for subscriptions to Miss Banu Hassan, 1244 Maple Ave., Wilmette, Ill.

—NATIONAL CHILD EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Hawaii-Wide Teaching Conference and State Convention, the first attended by Bahá'ís from all the major islands of the Territory, held at Honolulu on December 1-2, 1956.
LIBRARY CONTACTS,
DONATIONS EXPLAINED

When the World Crusade pioneers first went to their far assignments, the Guardian advised them not to publicize their presence, but rather to build a firm foundation of friendship and trust in those whom they were to serve.

This service is also available to workers on the Home Front who wish to establish a workable contact with libraries. Bahá'ís should be patrons of the libraries in their own cities or districts, become acquainted with their book collections, the librarian and staff, and wholeheartedly make use of the varied facilities offered.

Although it may appear slow, it lays a firmer foundation for future cooperation than does the more or less propagandist approach when a stranger appears out of nowhere to donate a book about which the librarian too frequently knows nothing.

This year the following book donation record form was sent to all believers who indicated that they wished to contribute books to libraries:

"The Bahá’í book(s) was (were) placed in (name of library) (address of library) by (individual, group, Assembly) on (date).

With this definite detailing of information, it is hoped that many of the uncertainties and errors formerly accompanying records of book donations will be prevented in the future.

You will note that the statement reads "books were PLACED." This does not mean that the donor INTENDED to place, but that the books were ACCEPTED by the library.

The name and location of the library should be accurately given, as there is frequently more than one library or library system in a city or county. The name of the donor and the date of donation are also important, as at times the same donations have apparently been reported by more than one person in a place, or the same titles were sent in at different times in the same year, or in the ensuing year.

In some cities the believers have begun a check-up of Bahá'í books in the libraries, with the object of replacing old and inadequate titles with new and more attractive and accurate editions.

All such work should be done only by those duly appointed for the task, and with the full understanding and cooperation of the library authorities.

Replacements and new donations should be made a little at a time, rather than in quantity, as it is professionally easier and more agreeable to catalog and prepare one or two books and get them on the shelves than to tackle a sizeable collection. Librarians are busy people.

The National Library Service Committee thanks all those who have aided this quiet and inconspicuous but basic branch of the teaching service on the Home Front, and it hopes that another year will see an upsurge of renewed activity on the part of both field workers and committee members whoever and wherever they may be.

—NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE COMMITTEE

HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM FOLLOWED BY TEACHING

The February BAHÁ’Í NEWS reported briefly the program for the observance of Human Rights Day in which the Bahá’í women of Long Island, N.Y., were active participants. This further report is given here as an illustration of good follow-up for a public teaching event.

Having found that the contributions of the Bahá’ís to the Human Rights Day program had aroused great interest in the Faith, several of the Long Island believers consulted on how to capitalize on this development by providing an opportunity for those wishing it to receive further information. Therefore, a tea was arranged at the home of Mrs. Hubert H. Cowan in Garden City on January 13 for all who wished to come. Approximately 25 people attended—all non-Bahá'ís. Mr. O. Z. Whitehead, chairman of the New York local Spiritual Assembly, gave a direct talk on the Faith. Three days later there was further follow-up in the form of a ten-minute radio discussion of the coming World Religion Day observance, with Mrs. Cowan and Mr. Whitehead as the participants.

Plans for any public presentation of the Faith, whether by the Bahá’ís themselves or in cooperation with other local groups, should include arrangements for prompt follow-up, thus providing for some carry-over of whatever interest in further contact with the Faith may have been aroused.

SERVICE FOR BLIND APPEALS FOR HELP

At one time the records of the Bahá’í Service for the Blind, listing the Bahá’ís who must read the Teachings in Braille were up to date. However, since there has been much change, and many changes have not been reported, the Service for the Blind appeals for help from groups, Assemblies, and isolated believers in correcting these records.

Please send them the correct names and addresses of Bahá’ís who make use of Braille. Address the Bahá’í Service for the Blind, Mrs. Amedee Gibson, Chairman; 842 N. Hayworth Ave., Los Angeles 46, Calif.

The Bahá’í Service for the Blind wishes to emphasize that they have the Will and Testament of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and the Dispensation of Bahá’u’lláh in Braille, to be used in preparing contacts for enrollment in the Faith. They invite correspondence on other available Braille books, since there are many titles which may be borrowed by those who find this medium necessary, or by those who are preparing them for enrollment.

BAHÁ’Í ESPERANTO ACTIVITIES REPORTED

From Miss Roan U. Orloff, Newton Center, Mass., has come an interesting report of how the Bahá’í Faith is being promulgated throughout the world through Esperanto.

Some months ago, Miss Orloff, who is a member of the Universal Esperanto Association, translated and printed the Guardian’s statement, "The Bahá’í Faith, a World Religion," which he prepared in 1947 for the United Nations. Miss Orloff sent copies to all Bahá’ís who are delegates to this Association for distribution among the Esperantists at their meetings.

Copies were sent also to all im-
important Esperanto publications for review, of which there are approximately thirty-five. The reviews are now beginning to appear. The first one was in La Norda Prismo in Sweden, and the second one appeared in Heroldo de Esperanto, the only Esperanto newspaper in the world.

The reviews state that a copy of the pamphlet would be sent to anyone interested in having it. Requests have already been received from Belgium, The Netherlands, and Sweden.

In the November issue of Esperanto Revue Internacia, the official organ of the Universal Esperanto Association, which has a subscription membership all over the world, even in the Iron Curtain countries, Dr. Tibor Sekelj of Hungary, who is traveling in the Orient in the interests of the Association, mentions two long interviews with Mr. Leroy Toas regarding Esperanto.

This same magazine carried an advertisement paid for by one of the Baha'is of Portugal, offering information about the Faith to interested seekers. This is to run for three months. At the end of the first month 22 requests had come from 12 countries, including a request for an article about the Faith from the American Branch of the Protestant Esperanto League.

**BAHA'I IN THE NEWS**

The World's Great Religions, which appeared serially in Life Magazine, has been published in book form. While the Baha'i Faith was not included, there are two references to it.

On page 5: “One illustration is the recent brutal persecution of the Baha'is in Iran. It is true, of course, that the Baha'i faith emerged in the last century as a reform movement within Persian Islam, and that it thus — insofar as it occurs within Persia — represents a refusal to submit to compressing the Persian populace into one united body of Islamic doctrine. But that would not justify or explain the ruthless treatment of the little Persian portion of what has by now become the Baha'i world brotherhood seeking peace among all races, peoples, nations and sects.”

Page 118: “One offshoot (from Shi'ah Islam) the pacifist faith called Baha'i, founded in Persia in the mid-Nineteenth Century, is now an independent religion intermittently persecuted in the land of its birth.”

Teacher's Letter, a bi-monthly bulletin issued September through May by Arthur C. Croft Publications, referred to the Faith in its Christmas 1956 number. “Good guidance is said to be based on affection for the child. Says a Baha'i dictum: ‘All beside love is but words.’”

Altars of the East, by Lew Ayers, Doubleday, 1956, contains the following passage on pp. 258-259: “As a contributing factor in any movement for world peace, the importance of such an organization cannot be overestimated. The aims and principles as set forth, are to me, above reproach. They present a beautiful and mature ideal of world fellowship in the broadest possible aspect.” This passage ends a description of the author's visit to the Shrine and Gardens on Mt. Carmel, with some of the Baha'i principles stated.

Chicago Daily Tribune, December 18, 1956, featured a story on its front page about the “Boom In Religion.” The Baha'i Temple was illustrated.

Columbus, Ohio, Despatch, December 19, 1956, presented a two-column illustration of the International Archives Building on Mt. Carmel with caption: “Baha'i Museum In Israel.” The picture was credited to Wide World Photo, and therefore might have been syndicated.

Herald Statesman, Yonkers, N. Y., carried a story about H. B. Kavelin in connection with the sale of Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, and indicated not only his business position but also referred to him as a leader in the Baha'i World Faith who was to speak at the First Unitarian Church in Yonkers.

Memo, a newsletter published by the American Institute of Architects, announced in its January 25, 1957, issue that “The Fine Arts Medal, the highest honor the Institute can bestow in the fine arts other than architecture, is to be awarded to Mark Tobey of Seattle, Wash., for distinguished achievement in painting.”

“Missionary Zeal Today in Upswing,” an article in the Gazette, Indiana, Pa., distributed by United Press, announces the date of the Baha'i annual State Convention.


Good Housekeeping Magazine, January, 1957, has a crossword puzzle using the word “Baha'i.”

*Children's study group of Compton Judicial District and South Bay Judicial District, Calif., conducted each Sunday morning.*
NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Four tape-recorded programs were broadcast over radio station WACE, Springfield, Mass., during January. The programs were composed of direct quotations from the writings of Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.

A weekly children’s class patterned after the Nineteen Day Feast is held on Saturday afternoons at the Hagíratu’l-Quds in Anchorage, Alaska. The first part of the program is for study of the lesson, memory verse, and prayers; the second part is for consultation on future plans, the Fund, and other business; the third part is the social, devoted to arts, crafts, and refreshments.

A representative of the San Francisco, Calif., community was invited to speak on the Faith to the Evening Alliance, Branch of the National Unitarian Alliance, on January 9. The members are mostly business and professional women.

The Los Angeles, Calif., Spiritual Assembly sponsored an institute on January 12 at the Bahá’í Center on The Power of the Covenant, Spiritual Perspectives, and Charter of a Divine Civilization.

A member of the Minneapolis, Minn., community was contacted by a Methodist missionary to give the Bahá’í message to the Adult Bible Study Group of about 20 people at the Aldersgate Methodist Church there. Much interest was shown by this group, and the Bahá’í speaker was invited to return at a future date.

Fairbanks, Alaska, has been promoting the Faith with many newspaper articles publicizing its public meetings, with free television time on the occasion of visits from Bahá’ís from the States, with purchased radio time for the broadcast of Bahá’í tape recordings, and with activities as an auxiliary member of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Adult Sunday School class of the Methodist Church in Aurora, Colo., invited a local Bahá’í to present the principles of the Faith at a Sunday morning meeting. One member of the class borrowed a copy of Gleanings from the public library and prepared and introduced a study statement about Bahá’u’lláh, on which the Bahá’í speaker enlarged.

A regular Sunday morning service of the First Unitarian Church in Yonkers, N.Y., attended by over 150 persons, presented Borrah Kavelin speaking on "The Bahá’í Faith, Pathway to Religious Unity." The pastor read a Bahá’í prayer and selections from Gleanings.

The chairman of the Fort Wayne, Ind., local Spiritual Assembly spoke by invitation to an audience of 150 people at a Methodist Church. One of the members of the church later served as a member of the panel of speakers for the World Religion Day observance.

A Methodist class at Cape Vincent, N.Y., asked for literature on the Faith, and later wrote a letter of appreciation.

A Persian Bahá’í student attending college in Edmond, Okla., spoke on the Faith before the Methodist Church there.

Friendships made by a Bahá’í in Grand Island, Neb., while teaching a public speaking class at the YWCA, led to the formation of a study group to discuss problems of world peace. Books on race and the unity of mankind were discussed, as well as the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. Sources of statements on human rights from earlier religions, and from the teachings of Bahá’u’lláh were presented.

The Bahá’í group of Santa Monica Judicial District, Calif., reports that its four members have been conducting Bahá’í meetings in the Veterans Administration facility, attended by from twelve to twenty people. Three new contacts are ready to declare their faith. When a student has advanced far enough, the group arranges to have him join a study class in the Los Angeles Bahá’í community where he is prepared for membership. This is perhaps the only Government reservation of this kind on which Bahá’í activities are being carried on in a continuous fashion.

The local Spiritual Assembly of Bernalillo County, N. Mex., reports that since last July it has carried on what is called a "Practice Teaching Class" jointly with members from the Albuquerque community. This class meets weekly and the members state that they have gained much in poise and confidence in presenting the teachings to others.

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

The Youth and Young Adult Committee of Los Angeles, Calif., whose panel discussion programs were described in the January issue of Baha’i News, conducted an outstanding public meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., in December. Topic for the meeting was "Human Life and Purpose," and attendance was estimated near 50 persons, with several good contacts gained.

The Central Atlantic States Area Teaching Committee held a Teaching Conference at Inspiration House, Washington, D.C., on January 26. The theme of the meeting was "The Meaning of the Covenant Today."

Area Teaching Conferences were held at Toledo, Ohio, on January 26-27, and at Fort Wayne, Ind., on February 9-10, sponsored by the East Central States Area Teaching Committee.

Two Bahá’ís spoke at the Wayne State University Campus Conference on Religion, Detroit, Mich., on December 46. Four classes were addressed on the principles of the Faith, and almost 100 contacts were made during the sessions.

A Unitarian Fellowship meeting in Waco, Texas, was given the Bahá’í message by two Bahá’ís of the Fort Worth community.

Mrs. Gladys Weeden addressed an assembly of 50 mothers of the Eastman School Mothers’ Club in Concord, N.H., last autumn, and spoke to 30 members at a dinner meeting of the Hadassah there. The theme was "Human Prerequisites for Teachings" was the theme of a Teaching Conference in Jersey City, N.J., on January 27. A similar conference was held in Elizabeth, N.J., a goal city, on February 24, and a third is sched-
uled for March 31 in another goal city, Trenton, N.J.

The Pittsburgh, Pa., local Spiritual Assembly sponsors weekly public meetings on Sunday afternoons at the YWCA.

"Translate Sentiment into Action," was the keynote of a teaching conference held at East Providence, R.I., on December 16. Four future meetings are planned on the following topics: "Personal Contacts and How to Handle Them," "Questions You Are Asked and How to Answer Them," "Firesides and How to Conduct Them," and "Improve the Efficiency of All Our Baha'i Meetings."

The North and South Dakota Area Committee held a conference at Sioux Falls, S.D., on December 22. Subjects discussed included Firesides, Youths, and Area Bulletins. Newspaper publicity, Pamphlets and books, and Local records.

Greeley, Colo., reports that it "started its public life as a group" with a meeting commemorating the birth of Baha'u'llah at the Hotel Camfield there. Newspaper advertising and publicity was used to announce the meeting.

The busy teaching schedule followed by the Gallup, N. Mex., group includes: Mondays, attendance in a class in conversational Navajo at Window Rock, Ariz.; Tuesday, Baha'i study class at Cameron; Thursday, Baha'i study class at Zuni, on the Zuni Reservation; and Saturday, class in English for Indians at Gallup. The community maintains an active Baha'i Center in Gallup, and is finding increasing ways in which they may serve the Indians of the area.

Area Teaching Conferences were scheduled by the South Atlantic States Area Teaching Committee on January 27 at the following places: Greenville, S.C., Atlanta, Ga., and Gainesville and St. Petersburg, Fla. The theme was "The Charter of a Divine Civilization."

The Area Bulletin of the Tennessee Valley States publishes regularly an educational feature. Each month a Baha'i book is reviewed briefly, a work is analyzed for pronunciation and meaning, and a question of the type frequently asked by inquirers is answered with references. Although only a few minutes per month is required to absorb this information so clearly and compactly presented, a year of such study can add up to a considerable store of knowledge about the Faith.

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET
Fourth Year — 1956-57

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<td>Total Requirements</td>
<td>$395,200.00</td>
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—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

The Role of American Baha'is

America's God-Given Mission. A compilation for round table study. On page 1 of this issue of Baha'i News the National Assembly points out the significance of this material concerning the particular mission of the American Baha'i Community in this day, and suggests it for individual or group study.

Free Booklet Included

With each copy of this compilation, a free copy of the booklet 'Abdu'l-Baha, Center of the Covenant will be included. In this booklet, written by the late Juliet Thompson (revered by the Guardian in his recent message to Baha'i News), we have one of the most warm and revealing pictures of the Master that we have in our literature by one who had close association with Him. It is a story that could have strong appeal to friends of the Faith, as well as to Baha'is. (Additional copies of this booklet are available at 8 copies for $1.00).

The price of America's God-Given Mission is $.15 each.

The Books of God Are Open. By E. S. Campbell. Friends will be glad to know that this publication, which deals competently with the theme of Bible prophecy, is again available. This edition, which has certain revisions, has been reprinted in a format that is more attractive and easier to read. A thorough study of the material presented by Mr. Campbell (formerly a minister of the Baptist church and Head of a college Bible Department for many years) should make the sincere seeker ready to go into a broader study of the subject of Bible prophecy and its fulfillment in the Baha'i teachings — works such as Some Answered Questions by 'Abdu'l-Baha, The Heart of the Gospel, The Promise of all Ages (both by Townshend,) and the many works available that relate both Old and New Testament teachings to the Baha'i Faith.

A larger printing has resulted in another decrease in the price to enable Baha'is to make a wide distribution of this booklet.

Per Copy .................................. $3.50

20 copies ................................ $5.00

A Spiritual Assembly's Growing Pains. A play by Ruhiyih Khanum. This is a new edition of a play written by the wife of the Guardian, published by the Baha'i Publishing Trust at New Delhi, India, and originally published in the United States. The title is indicative of the theme. The humor in the situations presented help to emphasize problems of immaturity that exist, and ways of solving them. 29 pp., 8½x5½, toast brown paper cover.

Per Copy .................................. $3.50

Fireside Teaching Baha'i News Insert. Additional copies of this statement on fireside teaching by the National Assembly are available.

Per Copy .................................. $0.05

Per 100 copies ................................ $3.00

Foreign Language Literature

Remembrance of God (Spanish). A small vest pocket edition of prayers, newly translated and published. (The larger Baha'i Prayer Book in Spanish is not presently available).

Per Copy .................................. $0.10

Out of Print

Oneness of Mankind. This one-page statement by the National Spiritual Assembly is no longer available. There is stock available on The Elimination of Prejudice, another National Assembly statement, which can be used in its place.

Minimum Mail Order, $1.00

Available from

Baha'i Publishing Trust
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois
FEASTS
March 2 — 'Ala' (Loftiness)
March 21—Bahá (Splendor)
April 9 — Jalá (Glory)

DAYS OF FASTING
March 2-21

NAW-RUZ
(Bahá'í New Year)
March 21, To proclaim the renewal of religion and a new spiritual springtime.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
March 22, 23, 24
April 27

ANNUAL CONVENTION
April 28, 29, 30
May 1

Bahá'í House of Worship
Visiting Hours
Weekdays and Saturdays
1:00 - 4:00 P.M.
(Auditorium open)
Sundays
10:30 A.M. — 5:00 P.M.
(Entire building open)
Service of Worship
Sundays
3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15

BAHÁ'Í DIRECTORY CHANGES

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New York Bahá'í Center
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BAHÁ'Í NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá'í World Community.
Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.
BAHÁ'Í NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1956-57: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Mr. Richard C. Thomas.
Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá'í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Our Annual Convention

Forty-nine years ago the first Bahá’í Convention was held in the city of Chicago.

That Convention was called because ‘Abdu’l-Bahá informed the Chicago Assembly that the Temple building project was national, and that all the Assemblies and friends should be associated together in this important undertaking. The Chicago Assembly then invited its sister-Assemblies to send representatives to the Convention.

This first Convention did not elect a National Spiritual Assembly, because such a Bahá’í body was yet unknown. Out of it came Bahá’í Temple Unity to function primarily on Temple matters, though it also appointed a Teaching Committee, a Reviewing Committee, and others.

The first American National Spiritual Assembly, as we understand the term, was formed in 1923 under direction of the Guardian. Bahá’í Temple Unity continued to hold title to Temple property and the Temple funds until its trustees executed an Indenture of Trust (recorded November 13, 1928) for the Benefit of the National Spiritual Assembly. Under its terms those persons elected annually to the National Spiritual Assembly constitute the Bahá’í Temple Trustees.

Attorneys and a title company consulted in the matter recommended this type of trust deed, and the same form was followed in the case of Green Acre, Geyserville, Davison, and Temerity Schools, and the Wilson and Wilhelm properties. Since the members of the National Spiritual Assembly are under all these trusteeships the trustees, national Bahá’í matters are coordinated without confusion, with the further advantage that any liability laid against one property could not involve any other property nor the National Spiritual Assembly itself.

Aside from such legal considerations, the great distinction between the National Spiritual Assembly and Bahá’í Temple Unity is that the National Spiritual Assembly has final power of decision, while the Temple Unity had authority only to carry out the plans adopted by the Annual Convention.

The Temple Unity Constitution reflected American political practice while the National Spiritual Assembly represents the Guardian’s interpretation of Bahá’í law and principle. That is why, in all basic particulars, the constitutions of all National Spiritual Assemblies are identical throughout the world, and will continue in their present form until, as the Guardian has written, the House of Justice will review the whole situation. At that time the constitutional basis of a National Spiritual Assembly will no doubt derive from the organic powers of the House of Justice and sustain a secondary relationship to that world body.

When delegates and visitors arrive for the Forty-Ninth Annual Bahá’í Convention, they will give consideration to projects beyond the conception of those attending the first Convention.

On account of the fact that all nine members of the present National Spiritual Assembly will attend the nine Conventions sponsored by our body, the Convention dates here had to be placed at the very end of the Ridván period. Our Convention, therefore, opens on Sunday morning, April 28, and continues until four o’clock Wednesday afternoon, May 1.

The Convention theme is: “The American Bahá’í Community in the World Crusade.” After the Convention officers have been elected, the first and all-important item will be the reading of the Guardian’s message to the Convention. Discussion of this message will take place during the same morning session. The Convention photograph will be taken at noon on April 28.

This year the Ridván Feast will be held Saturday evening, April 27, preceding the Convention. The customary public congress will not be held.

Other Convention items involve our most important responsibilities: The Crusade on the Home Front; reports on the formation of the nine new National Spiritual Assemblies sponsored by the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States; World Crusade financial requirements; progress report on the First Dependency; remaining tasks of the Intercontinental Teaching Committee; tasks of the American Indian Service Committee and the Bahá’í Interracial Teaching Committee; Child Education, Bahá’í Youth, Summer Schools, reports of the various service committees, and special topics suggested by delegates.

The annual election of the National Spiritual Assembly will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 29.

Bahá’ís unable to attend the Convention are urged to pray for its spiritual success. For it is the Annual Convention which releases the forces of the entire American Bahá’í community and generates inspiring power for the incoming National Spiritual Assembly. Those planning to attend are urged to prepare themselves by prayer and meditation to receive the confirmation of the Holy Spirit.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
GUARDIAN APPROVES SUMMER SCHOOL IN SOUTHERN AREA

The National Spiritual Assembly shares with the friends the following passage from a letter written on behalf of the Guardian by his secretary, dated January 29, 1957:

"As regards the suggestion that a Summer School be established in the South, the Guardian feels that there is no objection, as the southern friends are so far from the three existing Bahá’í Summer Schools, to a southern region Summer School being held similar to what they do in Europe, where the friends meet in some particular place and hold a Summer School, which is not on Bahá’í property. To purchase property for this purpose and try and set up a fourth Summer School would naturally be very unwise at the present time, but he feels that the activities which are conducted under the auspices of a Summer School would be a great stimulation to the Faith in the South, and further the teaching work there."

This permission, it will be noted, is for a School consisting of sessions planned for only a week to ten days, and not involving the purchase and maintenance of a Bahá’í School property.

The National Spiritual Assembly is requesting the Area Teaching Committees and local Assemblies throughout the Southern States area (as defined by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in His Tablets of the Divine Plan) to consult and report recommendations as to a suitable site where interracial gatherings can be held. The matter will also be discussed at the National Convention.

Since advance planning is required, the new school cannot be launched until the summer of 1958.

Meanwhile, the Blue Ridge Conference will be held as usual in the summer of 1957, since arrangements have already been made and its duration is too limited for the program of a Summer School session.

—National Spiritual Assembly

BAHÁ’Í CENTERS RESTORED IN IRÁN

The National Spiritual Assembly is happy to inform the believers that all but a few Ḥazíratu’l-Quds in Iran have been returned to their Bahá’í custodians.

The believers throughout Iran are especially grateful and joyous over the restoration of the House of the Báb in Shiráz and of His shop in Būlābāh.

As for the National Ḥazíratu’l-Quds in Teherán, orders were issued by the Royal Court and the Prime Minister to evacuate and restore this property. However, since the Military Headquarters was renewed for three months, there is every reason to expect its return early in 1957.

—National Spiritual Assembly

yuma Schools Recognize Bahá’í Holy Days

The Spiritual Assembly of Yuma, Ariz., has reported that Bahá’í students in the public schools are granted excused absence on Bahá’í Holy Days.

—National Spiritual Assembly

voting Rights Removed

The National Spiritual Assembly has taken action to remove Mr. C. G. Nordquist and Miss Elsa Nordquist of Seattle, Wash., from the Bahá’í membership list.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Western Hemisphere

Alaska Achieves Maturity This Month

On April 21 the Bahá’ís of Alaska will elect its long and eagerly awaited first National Spiritual Assembly. It will thereby have achieved its coming of age, and will no longer be under the guidance of the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee.

Nine delegates from the five local Assemblies were elected on January 6 at local conventions. The National Convention is to be held in Anchorage, and Paul E. Haney, Hand of the Cause and chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, will be in attendance.

The achievements leading up to this prize goal have been spectacular in the Bahá’í world, and Alaska has been a shining star of energy and activity since the beginning of the Crusade in 1953.

At that time there were two Assemblies. The third Assembly was formed in April 1955, and last year Ketchikan and Tanana Valley reached Assembly status, completing the present five.

This year Juneau will undoubtedly become the sixth Alaskan Assembly. In addition, the cities of Barrow, Nome, and Valdez have been opened to the Faith; Indian and Eskimo believers have entered the Faith; and translations have been started in Eskimo and Aleut.

"Child's Way" Magazine Enlarged in Size, Features

Beginning with the April issue, Child's Way will be enlarged to an 8-page bi-monthly publication, including a complete section for children and for junior youth, thus making it a more valuable teaching aid for Bahá’í parents and teachers.

The enlarged format and increased printing costs, plus the desire to make Child’s Way self-supporting, necessitate an increase in the subscription price to $2.00 a year (for six issues). The National Spiritual Assembly urges all local Assemblies, Bahá’í groups, and individuals to subscribe to and support this publication, which is valuable to all believers interested in Bahá’í child education and the training of the future generations on whom will depend the establishment of the World Order of Bahá’ulláh.

Mail requests for subscriptions to Miss Banu Hassan, 1244 Maple Ave., Wilmette, Ill.

—National Spiritual Assembly
About 149ioneers have gone to Alaska from the States. The total number of believers in Alaska at the present time is about 100, with 32 new enrollments during the past year.

The election of the National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska, however, is only a beginning, rather than an end, and the future of Alaska appears to be very great. Economically it is a frontier, and we receive continual reports concerning opportunities for employment.

Labor Shortage

There is at the present time a great shortage of labor in nearly all fields, presenting the Bahá'ís living in the United States a challenge to pioneer in Alaska, and an opportunity to assist in the building up of the newly formed institution of the Faith.

The Alaska Teaching Bulletin for January reports that “in Nome, lab or X-ray technicians or nurses could easily obtain employment with the ANS, and would be working with the natives. This is a wonderful opportunity for persons in these professions, and we hope that anyone having Bahá'í friends trained in them will write them of these openings. A hospital under construction in Kotzebue will also create job openings.”

A Bahá'í has written: “Here at the Sitka Community Hospital where I am working we have urgent need for a laboratory technician or medical technologist... This is a new hospital just opened last April... The place was started with a skeleton crew and a big question mark as to how much business the two could afford to give us. People have been coming from all over southeastern Alaska for care by our orthopedic surgeon, and we have been trying to increase the staff... We need a bacteriologist... We could help with living arrangements.”

For further information about these openings, please write to the committee: Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, secretary; 73 College Road West, Princeton, N.J.

Growth of Faith

In September the Guardian wrote urging the members of the Alaska Teaching Committee and all the friends to “leave no stone unturned to gain new believers, and also to do all in their power to assist in the further consolidation of the Faith throughout the important lands.”

As an example of the rapidity with which the Faith seems to be growing in Alaska, Ketchikan started in April with 10 believers, set a goal of 20 before the end of the year, and by January already had 22. As with Anchorage Recording District and Fairbanks Recording District (Tanana Valley), the nucleus for an Assembly outside Ketchikan has already been formed with three adults and one youth.

Cooperation Appreciated

Space does not permit a complete survey of the outstanding things that have been achieved in Alaska, but as the retiring “parent” or “guardian” of the Alaska community, this Committee is taking its last opportunity to express its appreciation of the fine cooperation that has existed between the WHTC and the Alaska Teaching Committee, the Alaskan Assemblies, and the pioneers—all of whom will now be under the leadership of the National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska.

We will miss our responsibility, but it will be outweighed by our pleasure at having watched our “child” grow swiftly and move successfully into its own sphere of activity and responsibility.

—WESTERN HEMISPHERE TEACHING COMMITTEE
Asia
WIDE VARIETY OF JOBS
IN KOREA OPEN TO
U.S. CITIZENS

There is need for qualified U.S. citizens to fill administrative, clerical, and professional jobs with the U.S. Army in Korea. These openings are supervisory positions in such fields as general maintenance, carpentry, plumbing, electricity, sheet metal, etc.

There are provisions open also in stenography and typing, budget and accounting, education advisors, engineering drafting, special services (crafts, libraries, entertainment, etc.), supply (stock control, storage, storekeeping, etc.), and others.

Favorable Pay Differential
The pay is very good and a 25% differential is payable to eligible U.S. citizens.

Any U.S. citizen interested should submit Form 57, which can be secured at any post office, to: Civilian Personnel Officer, HQ. AFFE/8th Army, APO 301, San Francisco, Calif.

--ASIA TEACHING COMMITTEE

International News

Australia, New Zealand
ASSEMBLY INCORPORATION WIDELY PUBLICIZED

On January 10, 1957, the letters patent, which formally incorporated the Brisbane, Australia, Local Spiritual Assembly, was signed by the State Governor of Queensland, the Australian Baha'i Bulletin reports.

The Brisbane Assembly issued a press release announcing this achievement. A section of this was used by the ABC News Service in the State News Bulletin and the Brisbane Telegraph on the following day. It was used in its entirety by the Queensland Times at Ipswich on January 12.

Radio publicity was also obtained. A member of the community was given a four minute interview on "Radio News Reel" over Stations 4-BC, 4SB, and 4GR. A 2 minute explanation of the Faith was broadcast over the ABC State network in "Queensland Magazine" on January 19.

Central and East Africa
ASSEMBLY REVIEWS
SEVEN-YEAR GOALS

Progress in the work toward goals of the Guardian’s Seven Year Plan for the new National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa is reported in the latest issue of their Newsletter, published in December:

1. To do as much as the Guardian will permit for the establishment of the Masriqul-Adhkar, which he called the "supreme objective." This is going on very well.

2. To obtain national incorporation, which means that the National Assembly must become a legally recognized body. The application for incorporation is now being considered by the government.

3. To obtain incorporation for some local Assemblies. Those of Dar-es-Salaam, Kampala, Mombasa, Nairobi, and Port Victoria were chosen as being ready and strong enough for such incorporation. The necessary documents are now being studied by the local Assemblies and their lawyers.

4. To establish 15 new Assemblies. The National Assembly has allocated these projected Assemblies as follows: Uganda, 10; Kenya, 3; Tanganyika, 1; and Comoro Islands, 1. At the time of writing, only one of these goals has been won, but the situation is favorable, as new declarations are being accepted and there is a great deal of teaching in progress.

5. To strengthen the Fund. The teaching work has suffered because of a lack of funds, and the National Assembly has the task of making the believers aware of the importance of the Fund and of contributing to it.

Assembly Consolidation

6. To consolidate local Assemblies. The National Assembly has attempted to help local Assemblies become strong by producing literature in Ateso, French, Luganda, Swahili, Runyoro-rutooro, Acholi, Lugbara and Luo, and Lumasaba; by sending pioneers; by forming District and Territorial Committees; and by holding 11 weekend schools to encourage and strengthen the local Assemblies and to deepen the believers.

7. To make the Haqiratu’l-Quds a national institution. The National Assembly has taken over the running

Clara Dunn, Hand of the Cause, surrounded by youth attending the Australian Baha'i Summer School at Yerrinbool, New South Wales. The school, held from December 26 to January 7, was reported in "Bahá’í News" for March, page 7.
of the Hazíratu'l-Quds, all Assembly meetings are held there, and the important documents and precious relics are stored there. When the National Assembly receives incorporation papers, the Hazíratu'l-Quds will be registered in the name of the Assembly.

Teaching Stimulation

8. To stimulate the spirit of teaching. This work was detailed in point No. 6 above, and the Assembly reports that the teaching work throughout the region is generally good.

The Newsletter also reports that a total of 61 local Assemblies have now been formed and recognized by the National Assembly.

Germany, Austria

FAITH PARTICIPATES IN RADIO DISCUSSION

Der 19-Tafl Brief, a letter from the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria distributed among the Bahá'ís of those countries at Nineteen-Day Feasts, carries in the issue of January 19, 1957, a report of a radio program of interest to the believers.

The Hesse Radio invited the National Spiritual Assembly to have a representative participate in a panel discussion, "Frankfurt Conversation," on the subject of tolerance in connection with the building of the Bahá'í Temple in Germany.

Dr. Eugen Schmidt, who was the chosen representative, was asked to explain what the Bahá'í Faith is, and its aims and objects. Most of the questions following the several presentations were addressed to Dr. Schmidt.

Since there appears to be no possibility now of securing property on which to erect the Temple in the vicinity of Frankfurt as originally intended, consideration is being given to a site in Offenbach.

The letter expresses the belief that this radio talk will do much to forward the Temple building project.

Annual Teaching Conference held on January 5-6 at Birmingham, England, under the auspices of the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles.
American Bahá'ís' newest national public relations event, race amity meetings held this year in conjunction with the observance of Negro History Week from February 10 to 17, proved to be highly successful throughout the nation.

The Bahá'í Interracial Teaching Committee, which made extensive plans for this event, reports that 83 Bahá'í communities in 35 states presented some form of public meetings to carry out the Guardian's injunction that we must attract more Negroes to the Faith.

Of these meetings, 48 presented both non-Bahá'í and Bahá'í speakers, 7 featured a Bahá'í speaker alone, and 4 heard a non-Bahá'í as the speaker. Eight communities gave a banquet or similar form of dinner, while 16 communities presented panel discussions or symposiums. Others held firesides, or informal programs of readings or discussions.

An outgrowth of the Interracial Teaching Committee's planning for these race amity meetings on a national scale was close cooperation with the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, a 32-year-old non-profit, scientific organization. It works through the schools for the adoption of textbooks which include Negro history and literature, and seeks revision of those textbooks which continue to promote the belief in the inherent inferiority of the Negro.

The Association voluntarily distributed a large quantity of Bahá'í literature to its special mailing list of eminent American Negroes. The Interracial Teaching Committee also provided the Association with 500 copies of Race and Man, which they mailed out from their Washington, D.C., headquarters. Each book contained a small card stating "Compliments of the Bahá'í Interracial Teaching Committee."

A feature story of these nationwide observances has been requested by this Association for publication in the May issue of their magazine The Negro History Bulletin, circulated throughout the United States, and in South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

**Highlights of Meetings**

Bahá'í News has selected highlights of the Interracial Teaching Committee's report on these race amity meetings to illustrate the content and diversity of some of the programs. Comments from the communities themselves are quoted to emphasize the reactions to these presentations:

Fairbanks, Alaska, held a Race Amity Banquet attended by 61 guests and 17 Bahá'ís. Two non-Bahá'í speakers talked on "Race and Biology," and "The Negro and World History"; the Bahá'í speaker spoke on "Race Amity and the Bahá'í Faith."

Fairbanks reported the meeting was "most successful . . . (with) largest crowd of people ever attending Bahá'í sponsored program to date."

Phoenix, Ariz., held a public meeting at the Park Recreation Hall in the Negro and Mexican district with Bahá'í speakers. Sixteen non-Bahá'ís and ten Bahá'ís were present.

They reported: "We wanted to go to these people, not expect them to come to a home or predominately 'white' meeting place. . . . your program awakened us to this field of teaching which has been neglected in this area. . . . With the integration in the schools taking place with such success here, we must not lag behind in sharing . . . the spark that has made this possible." A public meeting in the public library of Monrovia, Calif., was attended by 46 non-Bahá'ís and 14 Bahá'ís. A Bahá'í spoke on "The Meaning of Race Unity."

Monrovia reported: " . . . feeling of non-Bahá'ís was one of great joy at the complete harmony here . . . several Bahá'ís from other communities said 'never witnessed such warmth and appreciation on the part of an audience.'"

Colorado Springs and El Paso county, Colo., jointly sponsored a public meeting at the Negro City Recreation Center, attended by 35 non-Bahá'ís and 11 Bahá'ís. A non-Bahá'í and a Bahá'í speaker shared the speaker's platform.

The El Paso county Assembly stated: "There was a very friendly relationship . . . all Negroes present were so happy to find the fellowship between us."

The St. Petersburg, Fla., Bahá'ís participated in the Negro History
**Baha’i Teaching of The Oneness of Mankind**

Week observance with the Negro Baptist Church at their invitation. In addition to the church program, a Baha’i spoke on “The Oneness of Mankind.”

The African Methodist Church of Ada County, Idaho, invited the neighboring Baha’is to attend services at the church in fellowship with Negro friends. Mrs. Mildred Cossey gave comments on the Oneness of God, the Oneness of His Prophets, and the Oneness of Mankind.

“These are the Negro friends,” Ada County reported, “who attended the observance of the Birthday of Baha’u’llah at the Art Gallery in November 1956.”

Lafayette, Ind., held a public meeting in a private home with two Baha’i speakers, Negro and white. Fourteen non-Baha’is were present, in what Lafayette reported “apparently was the first fruitful interracial meeting in Lafayette in years.”

“The Quakers tried in December and got none to show up. Civic groups had met with disappointment.” Besides two Negro ministers, the Vice-President of the NAACP, and a teacher, two Asian Buddhists also attended. “We cannot work with Negroes on a more spiritual level, which we think is the best way. Other ways had failed here,” Lafayette’s report stated.

A Race Amity Conference was sponsored by the Baha’is of Niles Township, Mich., with three speakers, two non-Baha’i and one Baha’i. Topics were: “Amity Through Legislation,” “Amity Through Education,” and “Amity Through Religion.” There were 14 non-Baha’is and 22 Baha’is present.

Niles Township reported this meeting the “most successful yet. Publicity given, comparatively speaking, was excellent. . . . Activity of community organizations stimulated by project. It appears that two firesides will develop as a result of project.”

A fireside at the Baha’i Center in Jackson, Miss., featured a non-Baha’i speaker; Dr. John E. Eubanks, Negro, Head of the Sociology Department, Jackson State College. The Jackson Baha’is, in reporting on Dr. Eubanks’ talk, stated: “The knowledge he has of the Baha’i Faith and other world religions makes him a channel for our committee to work at Jackson College, which has a student body of 1500. He is using Race and Man as required reading in his anthropology classes.”

Waterloo, Iowa, Baha’is participated in three events. On February 11 the chairman of the local Baha’i Assembly was present on the platform at the Antioch Baptist Church for the opening observance of Negro History Week. Baha’is in the audience were publicly recognized. On February 15 George Amerson of Maywood, III., spoke at a panel discussion at Union Hall on “A Heavenly Gem,” bringing out the brotherhood of all mankind.

That same evening, at a recital by Mahalia Jackson, well-known Negro singer, at one of the Junior High Schools, she was presented with a copy of Race and Man. Three Baha’is were present on the platform at this recital, and the “Prayer for All Mankind’’ was read. The Baha’is report that many contacts and friends were made through their participation with the Negroes of the city during this observance.

Widespread publicity through press and radio attended the panel discussion held at Flint, Mich. Two non-Baha’i and one Baha’i speakers, and a Baha’i moderator took part in this meeting at International Institute, with 30 non-Baha’is and 15 Baha’is present.

Twelve newspaper articles totaling 81 column-inches, and 20 free radio announcements publicized this meeting.

A panel discussion was also presented at the Douglass Interracial Community Center in Kalamazoo, Mich., with a non-Baha’i speaker and moderator, and two Baha’i speakers. “There isn’t any doubt that this was the best meeting ever held in Kalamazoo,” their report stated.

“A . . . the spirit displayed was beyond description, there seemed to be complete unity and harmony. The question period, limited to ten minutes, went to 40 minutes.”

In Trenton, N.J., a public meeting in a Baptist Church featured a non-Baha’i Negro teacher of Latin and social studies in Trenton Junior High School, and a Baha’i speaker. Of 100 persons attending, 90 were non-Baha’is.

Discussion group at Marysville, Mich., race amity meeting, representing five religious faiths.
"A complete success!," Trenton reported.

Mount Vernon and Yonkers, N.Y., sponsored jointly a symposium in a Bahá'í home. Four prominent non-Bahá'í Negroes spoke, in addition to a Bahá'í speaker. The Bahá'í subject was "The Contribution of the Bahá'í Faith to Racial Understanding."

The report of the Mount Vernon Assembly said: "The meeting was on a high level. . . . We feel a greater understanding exists between those who attended and participated in the meeting, both Negro and white. This was the finest thing we have ever done."

Rochester, N.Y., Bahá'ís' public meeting attracted "the largest number of Negro guests ever had. Usually quiet during the meeting, and people stayed long after it was over, discussing it." The program included a non-Bahá'í and a Bahá'í speaker, a vocalist and accompanist.

In Greensboro, N.C., a large audience of 82 non-Bahá'ís and 16 Bahá'ís heard a panel discussion featuring a white and a Negro college professor, and a Bahá'í representative. Subjects of the talks were "Anthropology Versus Myths," "Contributions to Society," and "Man: His Reality and Goal." The Bahá'í community sent out 240 invitations for the meeting, and placed posters in store windows, libraries, and college halls.

A similar type of panel discussion in Eugene, Ore., brought together a college professor, a Christian minister, and a Bahá'í speaker on the University of Oregon campus. The program was co-sponsored by the Bahá'ís of Eugene and the local chapter of the NAACP.

The Eugene report stated: "A fine meeting with a good, relaxed, and gay spirit. . . . There was a good representation of Negroes present, mostly from the university, and also a number of foreign students. Most of the audience heard of the Bahá'í Faith for the first time."

"Toward True Integration" was the topic of the public meeting at Providence, R.I., held at Brown University. A Negro feature writer for a Providence newspaper and Mrs. Robert McLaughlin, Bahá'í, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause, shared the platform.

Memphis, Tenn., Bahá'ís presented a banquet and symposium at the Negro YMCA, with two non-Bahá'í speakers and one Bahá'í representative. Seventy non-Bahá'ís and 15 Bahá'ís attended this meeting, which elicited the comment, "We had the best response ever achieved here. . . . Among our guests were two educators from LeMoyne College, a Chinese and a Nigerian. There was also a young Chinese woman from Hawaii. Other guests included businessmen, two newspaper women, several ministers, professional men, young people, and old people."

In Yakima, Wash., the Bahá'í community invited 32 non-Bahá'í guests to a banquet at the Elks' Hall. Two Bahá'í speakers, representing the African Methodist-Episcopal Church and the Baptist Church, a Negro college student active in youth work, and a local Bahá'í were the speakers. The guest list was limited, as the Bahá'í community financed the banquet.

At a public meeting in Tacoma, Wash., the president of the NAACP local chapter spoke on "The Meaning of Race Unity," and a Thlinget Indian Bahá'í spoke on "The Progress of Religion."

The Tacoma Assembly commented: "At the meeting we had Eskimo, Indian, colored and white. We had a man from Jerusalem, one from Frankfurt, Germany, and one from South Africa."

The Governor of Wisconsin, invited to the Amity Day dinner sponsored by the Madison community and the Monona Group, sent a telegram of commendation when he was unable to attend: "Sorry that I cannot be with you for the Amity Day observance. You are all to be commended for your efforts in behalf of tolerance and world brotherhood. I hope you will continue with great success this worthy and important endeavor. With good wishes, Vernon W. Thompson, Governor."

The non-Bahá'í speaker at this Madison observance was William T. Evjue, nationally known newspaperman, and editor of the Capital Times. At one point in his talk, Mr. Evjue, in speaking directly to the Bahá'ís present, said, "When I learned that the fundamental doctrine of your faith is the oneness of the entire human race, I began to have a feeling on oneness with you. I am at one with you in other principles which you support: the condemnation of prejudice—religious, racial, class, or national; equality of men and women; compulsory education; abolition of extremes of wealth and poverty; a world tribunal for adjudicating disputes between nations; and belief in justice as the ruling principle in human society."

The above quotation, as well as other comments on the dinner, were published in Mr. Evjue's newspaper the next day. The Madison Assembly reported that 11 nations and 5 religions were represented at this affair. Attendance included 83 non-Bahá'ís and 37 Bahá'ís.

Milwaukee, Wisc., gave a buffet supper and public meeting that was..."
attended by a total of 179 people; of these, 35 were Negro non-Bahá'ís, 25 were white non-Bahá'ís, and the rest were Bahá'ís. A Negro professor of philosophy at the University of Wisconsin spoke on “The High Cost of Desegregation.” The chairman was an Oceana Indian Bahá'í.

“It was one of the largest meetings held at the Center,” the Milwaukee Assembly reported. “The Interracial Committee of Milwaukee finds this type of informal meeting most gratifying, and hopes to elaborate on it for other interracial meetings in the future.”

A fireside at the home of a Bahá'í in Laramie, Wyo., was the first of its kind ever held in that city. “It deepened our friendship with some of the finest Negroes in town,” the Laramie Bahá'í stated.

The Bahá'í community of Des Moines, Iowa, initiated plans for a race amity meeting during Negro History Week, and gained the cooperation of the Des Moines Interracial Commission and the local chapter of the NAACP, with all three organizations jointly sponsoring the program. A panel discussion, exhibit, and tea attracted 210 non-Bahá'ís, as well as 14 Bahá'ís.

Comments from Des Moines Bahá'ís stated: “Great success. Best ever,” according to our Negro friends. We had our new City Manager and our new Governor's wife . . . good talks, beautiful music, lovely tea table, handsome exhibit, friendly folks, and people learning to say, properly, the new words ‘Bahá’í’ and ‘Bahá'u'lláh’ . . . it's a beginning!“

Albuquerque, N. Mex., sponsored a panel discussion that listed as speakers a white Presbyterian minister, a Negro African Methodist-Episcopal minister, a Catholic layman, a Jewish layman, and a Bahá'í. The theme was “Race and Democracy,” and 25 non-Bahá'ís and 15 Bahá'ís attended.

“Stimulating, excellent panel,” Albuquerque Bahá'ís reported. “We discussed racial relations in the United States, both from a social and a religious angle. . . . We agree that a Racial Amity Conference should become an annual Bahá'í event.”

Seattle, Richmond Highlands, and Kirkland, Wash., Bahá'ís joined to present a banquet and musical program, with a presentation on the theme “Spiritual Mission of the American People.”

The report on this observance stated: “The program was actually one in which the Negro community felt it was working with the Bahá'ís in giving a suitable program. The script was so written that it carried the audience along with it completely. Artistically it was splendid; moreover it was a tremendous spiritual experience for participants and audience alike.”

Bahá'í News could quote from many more of these reports if space permitted, but those published above should convey the warm acceptance and enthusiasm with which these programs were received.
GREEN ACRE PLANS
8-WEEK SESSION

Green Acre will have an eight week session this summer extending from June 30 through August 25. Regular classes throughout the school season will be open to both youth and adults, but courses of special interest to youth are being planned for the first two weeks and the last week of the session. The curriculum is based on a unit of one week so that those attending the school should plan to come for at least one full week.

A Children's School for children ages 5 through 13, divided into three age groups, will be in session throughout the summer with classes in the mornings and organized recreation for part of the afternoon.

As in the past there will be varied weekend programs in which students will have the opportunity to be heard from and meet members of various National Committees, Hands of the Cause, visiting pioneers, and others. A mid-summer Teaching Conference under Area Teaching Committee auspices will take place July 27 and 28.

The basic Green Acre program design this summer includes one course each week given by an outstanding Bahá’í teacher to which the entire school will be invited. Following this course there will be two periods each day during which the students will break up into small seminar or workshop groups for more intensive and collaborative study of various aspects of the Faith with the assistance of selected discussion leaders.

The Schedule of Courses, subject to revision, is as follows:

July 1-5: The Guardian—On Teaching
July 8-12: The Covenant and You
July 15-19: Bahá’ís By The Hundreds
July 22-26: Our Place in History
July 29-Aug. 2: Spiritual Verities and the Individual
Aug. 5-9: Toward World Order
Aug. 12-16: Powers and Attributes of the Manifestations
Aug. 19-23: Spiritual Laws

Workshops and seminars will each focus attention on a subject included under one of the following headings:

1. Study of the Writings and History of the Faith.
2. How To—give a Bahá’í talk, conduct a fireside, consult, raise children in the Faith, serve on an Assembly or committee, etc.
3. Action Projects—work on a concordance project, talk at a local fireside, etc.

Watch subsequent issues of Bahá’í News and your Area Teaching Bulletins for further details of the Green Acre School program for 1957 as they are developed.

What is Youth?

(The following is from a keynote talk on “Action for Youth,” given at a Central States Area Teaching Conference at Kenosha, Wisc., on Oct. 21, 1956, by a member of the National Bahá’í Youth Committee.)

“Youth is not a time of life, it is a state of mind. Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old by deserting their ideals. Years wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair, these are the long, long years that bow the head, and turn the growing spirit back to dust. You are as young as your self-confidence, as old as your doubt, as young as your faith, as old as your fear. As long as your heart receives messages of beauty, cheer, courage, grandeur, and power, from the earth, from man and from the infinite, so long you are young.”

Let us remain “as young as our Faith” to keep alive its beauty, grandeur, and cheer in these days of world crises, lack of faith, and darkness. To protect our beloved Faith from the ailments of “old age” which are apathy, bias, and fear, we must live in the present by living for the future. To do this let us constantly strive to develop the youth within us, among us and surrounding us.

The youth within us is in our enthusiasm, awareness, steadfastness, and courage to be different in an age of conformity, indoctrination, and compromise. Being “different” requires courage, strength of will, and firmness in our principles, yet retaining an open mind receptive to the needs, interests, and questions of those around us. In this way we are vanguards rather than followers in the creation of the future world order.

Helping the youth who surround us means increasing our youth contacts to connect them with the spirit of Bahá’u’lláh. This may be done by surveying the existing organizations of your community where there is youth activity and participating with them.

Such organizations include youth recreational centers; Junior Chambers of Commerce, and interracial organizations. Colleges also sponsor inter-faith, interracial and international clubs which welcome and often
need outside interest and assistance. Other sources for youth contacts can be found through YWCA’s, YMCA’s, YMHA’s, 4-H clubs, and court cases such as juvenile delinquents. Your own relatives, friends, and neighborhood may provide other untapped resources.

Wherever they may be, you will certainly find that youth are only too eager to be considered as adults and included in the serious discussions and concerns related to our teachings. With vitality, elasticity, and independence, they are ready and waiting to investigate the divine teachings revealed for this age and to bring them into their lives. Just as society is influenced by our concern with its problems, so can youth contacts be reached for Bahá’u’lláh by working through their needs and interests.

There is also much which can be done for the youth already with us in the Faith. Their participation can be enlisted in youth panels, talks, and circuit teaching. Such activities provide the impetus for deepening as well as the stimulus to apply our writings to present day questions and concerns. They also offer practice in speaking before the vast non-Bahá’í public soon to be at our door, as well as familiarity with Bahá’í communities and areas.

By establishing, supporting, and maintaining youth committees, youth can become familiar with administration while acquiring the practical experience needed to establish future and distant assemblies.

Deepening classes can be planned for youth with an eye to their present and future concerns. Among the immediate needs for those who have been brought up within the Faith, is a thorough knowledge of Christian writings and the Bible, so that we may introduce our contacts to our Faith from the background with which they are most familiar.

Another need, especially in view of present difficulties between the Muslim East and the Western world, is a more thorough understanding of Islam and recognition of its place as a step beyond the Gospel in the direction of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas.

Finances for youth activities and transportation to and from conferences, meetings, and schools are two more ways to help youth. Hospitality also plays an important part for Bahá’í youth and their contacts. This is especially true for the youth scattered in colleges and universities who do not have the facilities of a home to which they can introduce their friends and contacts.

Since very few colleges or universities have Bahá’í representation on campus, communities and groups can help by working with campus activities providing teachers, speakers, and literature for such events as those sponsored by interracial, international, and religious organizations. Notices of Bahá’í activities when placed in school papers are another way of reaching seekers.

By keeping in touch with the youth and assisting their growth and development, our Faith is ascertained of future triumphs from an increased legacy of strength, vigor and vitality.

—Carol Vardo

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

Fourth Year—1956-1957

Annual Budget .......... $500,000.00
Total Requirements May 1 to March 15 ...... 436,800.00
Total Contributions May 1 to March 15 ...... 293,670.00
—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

BAHA'I IN THE NEWS

"Travel Sketchbook," by George Neuzil, a feature presented in The Milwaukee Turner for December 1956, carries a large display photo of the Temple which it describes as "One of the most beautiful sights to be seen anywhere along the shores of Lake Michigan."

New York World-Telegram and Sun, December 8, 1956, presents under "Religious News" a story on the Meditation Room at United Nations, emphasizing the fact that the guest book has been signed by Bahá’ís as well as members of other religions.

Horoscope, January 1957, contains an article by Dane Rudhyar which states: "We also find Queen Marie of Romania, a great person, first of the European royalty to accept the Bahá’í faith."

The name of the Bahá’í Observer at UN appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly as national non-governmental organization, is listed by the United States Mission to United Nations in its "list of Observers and Alternate Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations," dated January 10, 1957.

Wayne State University, Detroit, issued an attractive booklet program of its Campus Conference on Religion conducted December 3-6, 1956. "A Bahá’í View" was presented by Lois Nochman at 1:30 P.M., December 6. Mrs. Etta C. Catlin, A.B., was listed as one of the Conference leaders.

Wayne State University also published a program of Religious Activities which lists the Bahá’í Club, Mrs. Etta Catlin, Advisor, among the campus religious organizations.

Orangeville (Calif.) News, December 13, 1956, published an interview with Else Norden on December 12, 1956. The reporter described her as artist-nurse, world traveler, and member of the Bahá’í Faith. The interview was illustrated with a press photo of Miss Norden.

From far-off South Australia comes a copy of Northern Argus of Clare, a country town some 80 miles distant from Adelaide. It contains, under date of September 19, 1956, an illustrated article on The Bahá’í House of Worship, contributed by the Unley, South Australia Assembly. The article is an accurate and appealing description of the architecture and meaning of the Temple.

Also from Australia arrives a copy of Parade, 1956, a monthly magazine
The discussions that developed from the reading of Charter of a Divine Civilization were termed "excellent and pertinent."

Kansas City, Mo., held a teaching conference on March 2-3, with Mrs. Margery McCormick, member of the National Spiritual Assembly and of the Auxiliary Board, speaking on "A New Approach to Teaching" and "The Fulfillment of Prophecies." A public dinner meeting was held on the evening of March 2, when Mrs. McCormick also spoke.

**Excerpts from Area Teaching Committee reports**

**BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST**

Man One Family. Excerpts from Race and Man. This is a completely revised and re-designed edition, now available in small pamphlet size for easy distribution. There is an introductory statement to the excerpts that follow. An unusually attractive cover design has been created by Wm. Musler in soft yellow, grey, and black, with seed, branch, and tree motif to illustrate cover quotation, "Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch."

Ten copies ......................... $1.00
50 copies ......................... $3.00

Minimum Mail Order, $1.00

**BAHÁ'Í NEWS**

The Fourth Blue Ridge Conference will be held on August 24-28, 1957. The location is near Asheville, N.C. The Chicago, Ill., community was host for an Area Teaching Conference at the Bahá'í Center on February 3. The pamphlets The Power of the Covenant, The Charter of a Divine Civilization, and Spiritual Perspective were discussed, with two teachers at each session conducting the class. Attendance totaled 24 persons.

**AREA NEWS BULLETINS**

The Chicago, Ill., community was host for an Area Teaching Conference at the Bahá'í Center on February 3. The pamphlets The Power of the Covenant and Charter of a Divine Civilization were discussed, and the consultation period brought out many fine ideas with a wide participation.

Area Teaching Conferences were held on January 2 in Hollywood, St. Petersburg, and Gainesville, Fla., Augusta, Ga., and Greenville, S.C.
Cable from the Guardian to Hands of the Cause and National Assemblies

“Inform Hands (and) National Assemblies (of the) Bahá’í world, (of the) passing (into) Abhá Kingdom (of) Hand (of) Cause George Townshend, indefatigable, highly talented, fearless defender (of the) Faith (of) Bahá’u’lláh. Agnes Alexander, distinguished pioneer (of the) Faith, elevated (to) rank (of) Hand (of) Cause. Confident (her) appointment will spiritually reinforce teaching campaign simultaneously conducted (in) North, South (and) Heart (of) Pacific Ocean.” —Shoghi

Haifa, March 27, 1957

Beloved Friends:

As directed by Shoghi Effendi, our Assembly has dispatched copies of this message to Hands of the Cause in Asia, Europe, Africa, and America, and also to all National Spiritual Assemblies now in existence.

The brilliant Bahá’í career of Dr. Townshend, so praised by the beloved Guardian, does not terminate with his departure from this world. His books and pamphlets will continue to deepen the understanding of Bahá’ís and offer them a highly effective contact with the public. Indeed, his latest work, Christ and Bahá’u’lláh, is now on the press in England and copies will soon be available through the United States Publishing Trust and Publishing Trusts or Committees in other countries.

The elevation of Agnes Alexander to the rank of a Hand of the Cause, simultaneously announced by the beloved Guardian, establishes a valued representative of the Guardian in an important, rapidly growing Bahá’í area of the Far East. By the time this issue of Bahá’í News appears, two new National Spiritual Assemblies will have been elected in that area—the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of North East Pacific, and the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of South East Pacific. Their services will be blessed and enriched by the appointment of one long associated with pioneer teaching in that area.

—National Spiritual Assembly

The Guardian’s Tribute to George Townshend, Hand of the Cause

The following cablegram was received by the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles after the Guardian was informed of the passing of George Townshend, Hand of the Cause, on March 25.

“Deeply mourn passing dearly loved, much admired, greatly gifted, outstanding Hand Cause George Townshend. His death morrow publication his crowning achievement robs British followers Bahá’u’lláh their most distinguished collaborator and Faith itself one of its stoutest defenders. His sterling qualities, his scholarship, his challenging writings, his high ecclesiastical position unrivalled any Bahá’í Western world, entitle him rank with Thomas Breakwell, Dr. Esslemont, one of three luminaries shedding brilliant lustre annals Irish, English, Scottish Bahá’í communities. His fearless championship Cause he loved so dearly, served so valiantly, constitutes significant landmark British Bahá’í history. So enviable position calls for National tribute his memory by assembled delegates, visitors, forthcoming British Bahá’í Convention. Assure relatives deepest loving sympathy grievous loss. Confident his reward inestimable Abhá Kingdom.” —Shoghi

—National Spiritual Assembly

RACE AMITY DAY
A New Annual Event

With the Guardian’s approval, the National Spiritual Assembly has instituted an important new annual event to be observed with public meetings and publicity by local Assemblies and groups throughout the United States. This event, comparable in importance with World Religion Day, will be known as Race Amity Day and observed on the second Sunday of June beginning June 9, 1957.

Race Amity Day is exclusively sponsored by Bahá’ís, and unlike Brotherhood Week or Negro History Week, not merely Bahá’í participation in an event sponsored by another organization. Its purpose is to celebrate the Bahá’í teaching of the Oneness of Mankind, the distinguishing feature of the Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh.

Press releases and other materials will be provided as they are for the other special events composing the annual Bahá’í teaching program. Meanwhile the Assemblies and groups are urged not merely to note the date and the theme, but also to begin planning their public meeting on as large a scale as possible, including non-Bahá’í as well as Bahá’í speakers, and the cooperation of local racial groups. Negro History Week will in future not be listed as a special Bahá’í event, though Assemblies are perfectly free to cooperate with the various local organizations which endorse and sponsor it.

The complete list of Bahá’í Special Events for 1957-1958 will be published in the June issue of Bahá’í News.

—National Spiritual Assembly
May 23, 1944, signals the commencement of the most turbulent period of the Heroic Age of the Baha'í Era, an age which marks the opening of the most glorious epoch in the greatest cycle which the spiritual history of mankind has yet witnessed. No more than a span of nine short years marks the duration of this most spectacular, this most tragic, this most eventful period of the first Baha'i century.

It was ushered in by the birth of a Revelation whose Bearer posterity will acclaim as the "point round Whom the realities of the Prophets and Messengers revolve," and terminated with the first stirrings of a still more potent Revelation, "whose day," Bahá'u'lláh Himself affirms, "every Prophet hath announced," for which "the soul of every Divine Messenger hath thirsted," and through which "God hath proved the hearts of the entire company of His Messengers and Prophets."

He Who communicated the original impulse to so incalculable a Movement was none other than the promised Qá'im (He who ariseth), the Sáhibu'-Zamán (the Lord of the Age), Who assumed the exclusive right of annulling the whole Qur'anic Dispensation, Who styled Himself "the Primal Point from which have been generated all created things . . . the Countenance of God Whose splendor can never be obscured, the Light of God Whose radiance can never fade."

The opening scene of the initial act of this great drama was laid in the upper chamber of the modest residence of the son of a mercer of Shíráz, in an obscure corner of that city. The time was the hour before sunset, on the 22nd day of May, 1844. The participants were the Báb, a twenty-five year old siyyid, of pure and holy lineage, and the young Mulla Husayn, the first to believe in Him.

Their meeting immediately before that interview seemed to be purely fortuitous. The interview itself was protracted till the hour of dawn. The Host remained closeted alone with His guest, nor was the sleeping city remotely aware of the import of the conversation they held with each other. No record has passed to posterity of that unique night save the fragmentary but highly illuminating account that fell from the lips of Mulla Husayn.

"I sat spellbound by His utterance, oblivious of time and of those who awaited me," he himself has testified, after describing the nature of the questions he had put to His Host and the conclusive replies he had received from Him, replies which had established beyond the shadow of a doubt the validity of His claim to be the promised Qá'im.

"This Revelation," Mulla Husayn has further testified, "so suddenly and impetuously thrust upon me, came as a thunderbolt which, for a time, seemed to have numbed my faculties. I was blinded by its dazzling splendor and overwhelmed by its crushing force. Excitement, joy, awe, and wonder stirred the depths of my soul. Predominant among these emotions was a sense of gladness and strength which seemed to have transfigured me. How feeble and impotent, how dejected and timid, I had felt previously! Then I could neither write nor walk, so tremulous were my hands and feet. Now, however, the knowledge of His Revelation had galvanized my being. I felt possessed of such courage and power that all the world, all its peoples and potentates, to rise against me, I would, alone and undaunted, withstand their onslaught. The universe seemed but a handful of dust in my grasp. I seemed to be the voice of Gabriel personified, calling unto all mankind: 'Awake, for lo! the morning Light has broken. Arise, for His Cause is made manifest. The portal of His grace is open wide; enter therein, O peoples of the world! For He Who is your promised One is come!'

A more significant light, however, is shed on this episode, marking the Declaration of the Mission of the Báb, by the perusal of the "first, greatest and mightiest" of all books in the Bábí Dispensation, the celebrated commentary on the Surih of Joseph, the first chapter of which, we are assured, proceeded, in its entirety, in the course of that night of nights from the pen of its divine Revealer.

The description of this episode by Mulla Husayn, as well as the opening pages of that Book attest the magnitude and force of that weighty Declaration. A claim to be no less than the mouthpiece of God Himself, promised by the Prophets of bygone ages; the assertion that He was, at the same time, the Herald of One immeasurably greater than Himself; the summons which He trumpeted forth to the kings and princes of the earth; the dire warnings directed to the Chief Magistrate of the realm, Muhammad Sháh; the counsel imparted to Háji Mirzá Aqásí to fear God, and the peremptory command to abdicate his authority as grand vizir of the Sháh and submit to the One Who is the "Inheritor of the earth and all that is therein"; the challenge issued to the rulers of the world proclaiming the self-sufficiency of His Cause, denouncing the vanity of their ephemeral power, and calling upon them to "lay aside, one and all, their dominion," and deliver His Message to "lands in both the East and the West"—these constitute the dominant features of that initial contact that marked the birth, and fixed the date, of the inception of the most glorious era in the spiritual life of mankind.

(Excerpts from God Passes By, pages 3-7)
NORWAY HAZIRATUL-QUDS

DEDICATION REPORTED

“Blessed is the spot, and the house, . . . where mention of God hath been made, and His praise glorified.”

The white cement bungalow, nestled among the pines on a hilltop near Oslo, became indeed a “blessed” spot, when on the occasion of the Feast of Dominion, February 6, 1957, a “mere handful of His loved ones” gathered to dedicate the house as the seat of the Institution of the future National Spiritual Assembly and the Haziratul-Quds of Norway. The house, made of white cement blocks, stands as an achievement of the Crusade bestowed on Norway through the inspired leadership of our beloved Guardian, and the agency of Mrs. Amelia Collins, Hand of the Cause of God, and Vice-president of the International Bahá’í Council.

A Persian brother and sister arrived unexpectedly, just before the meeting, and East and West met and embraced each other in joyous exultation! Mr. and Mrs. Habib Sabet, fresh from the presence of the Guardian who had requested them to visit Norway, brought the wonderful news that our Guardian was well and very happy. Happy for two reasons: first, over the lifting of the persecutions in Persia; and second, over the rapid progress of the Global Crusade.

Therefore, it was in an atmosphere of the greatest joy and happiness as well as deepest reverence, evoked by the occasion, that the chairman of the Oslo Spiritual Assembly, Mrs. Sigry Sørlie, opened the dedication program. There were readings from the Sacred Writings given by Winnie Ringstad, Asta Barnholdt, Bodil Skodstrup, Ciss Hannevig, and Gerd Strand.

In the dedication address given by Amelia Bowman, the growth of the Faith in Norway was reviewed as a continuity of teaching activity from the first known mention of the Faith in 1911 at the Theological Seminary at Elverum; the translations provided by Johanne Schubarth, “mother of the Faith in Norway,” under the direction of Shoghi Effendi; the long list of itinerant teachers, which included Martha Root, “archetype of Bahá’í teachers,” who had visited Norway; the arrival of the pioneers, Solveig Corbit, Mildred Clark, Elinor Gregory, and others, followed by the establishment of the first Spiritual Assembly of Oslo in 1948; each had contributed something to the achievement of this spiritual victory for the Faith, when we shall begin the next stage of our development on a higher plane of co-operation through the establishment of a Regional National Assembly, a prelude to the National Spiritual Assembly of Norway.

The gift from the Guardian, a hanging from the Shrine of the Báb, was opened; and the friends, appointed with altar of rose from the Holy Land, inhaled the fragrance and were brought close in spirit to the heart of the Faith, our beloved Guardian.

Greetings were read from Edna True, chairman of the European Teaching Committee in America; Mrs. Dorothy Ferraby, member of the Auxiliary Board in London; the Bergen Spiritual Assembly; the groups in Lofoten and Stavanger; and other friends. The many gifts and furnishings which had been received, made the Haziratul-Quds festive with candle light and flowers, and colorful with stunning coral draperies, a blue-green corner divan, a yellow banquet cloth on the table; the chairs and lamps; the Bahá’í books in the white bookcases which flanked a cozy red-brick fireplace; and with pictures of the Temple in America and the symbol of the Greatest Name which hung on the white plastered walls.

During the refreshment period of the celebration, Mr. and Mrs. Sabet spoke of their recent visit to the Guardian, and made a contribution to help with the teaching activity in Oslo. So it was with heartfelt gratitude that the following cable was sent to the beloved Guardian: “Deeply appreciate gift from Guardian and visit Sabets at dedication Haziratul-Quds. Requesting prayers progress success.” A reply came shortly afterward “Assure loving prayers success activities. Shoghi” —AMELIA BOWMAN
Western Hemisphere
PIONEERS NEEDED IN LATIN AMERICA, MEXICO

With the establishment of the four new National Spiritual Assemblies in Central and South America, another victory has been won. However, this is but a step in the objectives of the World Crusade, since these are interim Assemblies, out of which 20 National Assemblies are to be built during the Ten Year Plan. The door of opportunity is still open to any who may yet wish to face the challenge of pioneering. In all three of the following National Assembly goals the Faith has been established so far only in the capital cities. All are Spanish-speaking.

Latin America

Uruguay is the most socially advanced country in the entire Western Hemisphere. It has a beautiful climate, and its capital, Montevideo, is a modern, cosmopolitan city.

Paraguay, on the other hand, is perhaps the least "advanced" country, but a very fascinating one. It has an unusually interesting Indian history, as the Indians were protected by the government and not exploited as in other countries.

Nicaragua, located in the heart of Central America, is very Latin, though it has interesting Indian archaeological remains and there are still some Indians. On the East coast there are English-speaking settlements, their population descended in part from former African slaves.

The cost of living varies from country to country, and the problem of support will always be an individual one, depending on what one is able to do. If anyone would like to consider Latin American pioneering, please contact this Committee, giving as much information about yourself as you can.

Mexico

Dr. Edris Rice-Wray is now in Mexico with the World Health Organization, and has sent us some valuable information on possible job opportunities with WHO. We quote from her letter of March 18, 1957: "The World Health is a terrific organization for a Bahá'í. We are told we are world citizens; we must accept all peoples of whatever race, religion, or nationality. We are not permitted to engage in politics or take sides in any controversial issue.

The staff is composed of many nationals all working together to serve people everywhere—not special groups but people. The secretarial staff, janitors, etc., are recruited from the local country, but the technical staff can be from anywhere. There are positions for doctors, nurses, and veterinarians, who have public health training, health educators, administrators with training in personnel, also nurses trained in nursing education, and sanitary engineers and sanitarians.

"The Bahá'ís should know about this possibility. There are many scholarships available to get a master's degree in public health for doctors, nurses, veterinarians, and health educators; anyone interested can write to the U.S. Public Health Service, Washington, D.C., for information about scholarships.

"For information about jobs with WHO, write Pan American Sanitary Bureau, 1501 New Hampshire N.W., Washington, D.C.

"For U.S. citizens there are also similar jobs with the ICA (International Cooperation Administration) of the U.S. Government. They have projects everywhere also, and cooperate with us in this field.

"The World Health Organization has projects all over the world. This is one way Bahá'ís can get around. I am delighted to be here. I love Mexico and love my job."

Further information about opportunities in Latin America or Mexico, as well as in Alaska, described in Bahá'í News for April, is available.

Write in care of Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, secretary, 73 College Road West, Princeton, N.J.

Haziratu'l-Quds of Madrid, Spain, purchased April 23, 1956, the site of the first National Convention of the Bahá'ís of the Iberian Peninsula during Ridván 1957.

—Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Australia, New Zealand**

**AUCKLAND HOLDS 17th ANNUAL SUMMER SCHOOL**

The 17th Annual Summer School of the Baha’is of New Zealand was held in almost perfect weather at Camp Wesley, Henderson Valley, Auckland, from December 28 to January 7, 1957.

*God Passes By* was the main study course for this year. With this, the second session morning talks and study on “A New Way of Life,” the interpretation of the *Tablet of the Holy Mariner*, a review of the *Kitab-i-Iqan*, letters from pioneers, personal experiences, and the history of the early Baha’i days in Auckland, all seemed to combine to provide a striking theme for the school: how the Cause moves steadily on despite all opposition, and how tremendously we ourselves can help it on if we live this new way of life according to the laws of Baha’u’llah, steadfastly, determinedly, in deeds, not words.

Round table discussions also strengthened this theme, the subjects being “Freedom and Discipline,” “Personal and Social Prejudice,” “Psychology as an Aid to Spiritual Matters,” and “Fear, a Barrier to Truth—How to Conquer It.”

The children were not neglected in Morning Study. Mrs. G. Milne planned and conducted Baha’i readings for children, in which much interest was shown by the young ones.

A Regional Teaching Conference was called during the school, with representatives from the local Spiritual Assemblies of Auckland, New Plymouth, and Wellington, and groups of Whangarei and Mangawhai attending.

All who attended summer school this year go out again fortified and rededicated, more steadfast in the Faith of Baha’u’llah, to meet and solve the problems before us and the world around us.

(From the New Zealand Newsletter, published by the Regional Teaching Committee for New Zealand.)

There are now two believers in Sierra Leone, which was formerly a virgin territory.

Successful teaching work in this region by the pioneers has been crowned with the enrollment of 16 new believers, the establishment of four new localities where Baha’is reside, and by the possibility of a new Assembly being formed during Ridván this year.

The Northwest Africa *Baha’i News* is published at present in four languages to meet the requirements of the Baha’is of the region: Arabic, English, French, and Persian. It is hoped that in the near future it will be necessary to also publish in Portuguese and Spanish.

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**Northwest Africa**

**ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

**PROGRESS IN LIBERIA**

The Northwest Africa *Baha’i News*, published by the National Spiritual Assembly of Northwest Africa, lists three new achievements in Liberia in their February issue.

Incorporation of the Monrovia Local Spiritual Assembly has been granted, and Baha’i marriages recognized by the government of Liberia.

An endowment has been established in Bomi Hills in the form of a plot of land, given by a Chief there, to establish a school. This came as a result of the successful Literacy School held by the Baha’is there.

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First Local Spiritual Assembly of Abou-Qir, Egypt, formed during Ridván 1956.
Consequently the Assembly has appointed a Ḥāẓiratu’l-Quds Location Committee to find a place as soon as possible that will meet the minimum requirements at the lowest possible price. As soon as this is done, the expropriated property will be sold.

LAURENTIAN SCHOOL LISTS SUMMER PLANS

A preliminary announcement listing the summer school sessions at Laurentian Bahá’í School, Beaulac, P.Q., gives the dates as July 20 to August 3, 1957.

Three topics, “The Covenant,” “Spiritual Verities,” and “History of the Faith” will be given each of the two weeks. The sessions have been designed as a teacher-training project, so that those attending may teach the courses at regional seminars on weekends and evenings.

Further information may be obtained from R. Thomson, 845 Willibrord Ave., Verdun, Quebec.

SUMMER CONFERENCE PLANNED AT BANFF

A Western Canada Bahá’í Summer Conference will be held on August 25-31, inclusive, at the Banff School of Fine Arts, Banff, Alberta.

Mrs. Edna J. Montfort, 3119 Barnard Avenue, Vernon, B.C., Canada, will send further information upon request.

Germany, Austria

CONTINUE SEARCH FOR TEMPLE SITE

Negotiations for a site for the proposed Bahá’í House of Worship in Germany are being conducted in a hostile atmosphere of confusion and rumor on the part of elements of the populace, according to Bahá’í-Nachrichten, published by the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria.

“From week to week, yes, from day to day, the situation changes in this unbelievably and indescribably difficult struggle,” Bahá’í-Nachrichten states.

“Propositions, offers, purchase negotiations, protests, rebuffs, acceptances, again refusals, enthusiastic agreement, bitter abuse, succeed one another like the pictures of an exciting newsreel.

“The press is eager for the latest news, and often a decision is reported in the newspapers before it has been made.

Five Sites Considered

“At present five sites are in process of negotiation. Three are west of Frankfurt, and two lie to the east of the city. The decision rests with three rural boards and one civil board.

“The watchfulness of the Evangelical Church, which has now officially and repeatedly protested, is grotesque, but so effective that our every step must be made with the greatest care and wariness.

“Everything possible is being done to conclude this matter in the shortest possible time,” the publication states. “We need the prayers of the friends.”

Canada

EXPROPRIATE CANADA HAZIRATU’L-QUDS

The national Ḥāẓiratu’l-Quds of the Bahá’ís of Canada, located at 274 Huron street, Toronto, has been expropriated by the University of Toronto.

This property was included in the 26 acres taken over for expansion of the university campus.

University authorities advised the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly that they will not require the property for some time, and that the Bahá’ís may rent the building from them, possibly for several years.

This proposal is not satisfactory, as the Guardian wishes all National Spiritual Assemblies to own their Ḥāẓiratu’l-Quds.

Three topics, “The Covenant,” “Spiritual Verities,” and “History of the Faith” will be given each of the two weeks. The sessions have been designed as a teacher-training project, so that those attending may teach the courses at regional seminars on weekends and evenings.

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Local Spiritual Assembly of Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, incorporated in May 1936.

Local Spiritual Assembly of Tania, Egypt, for 1956-1957.
GEYSERVILLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES PROGRAMS

For the 29th summer, Bahá'ís and their friends are offered the opportunity at the Geyserville Bahá'í School to have time to deepen their knowledge of the Bahá'í World Faith.

Again, the opportunity is offered to experience, during their visit, living in a society which foreshadows the New Age. Here the principles of the Bahá'í Faith can be put into practice, and here one may have some time away from the tensions and strife of a confused and bewildering world.

The 1957 schedule lists six weekly sessions, beginning with the week of June 30, and ending with the week of August 4. The annual Unity Feast will be held on Sunday, July 14.


Daily Workshops Planned

During the conference period workshops, seminars, and conferences will be held to consider the problems which confront the Bahá'í as he attempts to promulgate the Faith. A workshop will be offered daily throughout the six sessions dealing with specific teaching problems.

Classes will be held six days each week. Different Bahá'ís who are giving their time to this program will conduct the courses during the six different sessions. Special programs will be held on Sundays.

Special Class for Youth

For young people, ages 15 to 21, a special class will be held each morning from 10:00 to 10:50. This special hour will be devoted to those interests and problems of the Bahá'í youth and their friends.

Special classes for children, ages 2 to 15, will be held during the mornings.

Further information may be obtained by writing to Mrs. Viviana Lisota, secretary, 910 Sierra Vista, Redding, Calif.

DAVISON SCHOOL TO STRESS INDIVIDUAL DEEPENING

Courses at the summer session of the Davison Bahá'í School will emphasize the deepening of the individual to participate in the World Crusade: in administration, in the Creative Word, and in practical methods. There will be children's classes at all family sessions. The family sessions will be scheduled by the week beginning Monday July 15 through Friday August 16.

There will be a Junior Youth Session (ages 10-14) July 1-July 12, and a Senior Youth Session (ages 15-21) August 19-August 30. Adults should plan to attend the Family sessions.

Special weekend sessions are being planned for those believers who cannot attend a week session. These will begin July 13-15 and will culminate in the Homecoming Weekend August 31-Sept. 2.

Rates for the sessions vary from $4.00 to $3.50, depending on the length of stay and the type of accommodation. The Junior Youth rates are about $3.00 a day. The friends are asked to make reservations with the Registrar, Miss Judy Long, Box 213, R.R. No. 3, Coldwater, Mich.

If you do not normally receive a program, write to Mrs. Lois Nouchman, secretary, 532 Western, Inkster, Mich.

Panel of speakers for a race amity meeting at New Rochelle, N.Y., held on February 10, 1957, during observance of Negro History Week, arranged by the Bahá'ís of Yonkers, Mt. Vernon, Mamaroneck, Hastings-on-Hudson, and New Rochelle.

YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS GIVE PANEL DISCUSSIONS

During the year the Los Angeles, Calif., Youth and Young Adult Committee, through the Southwestern States Area Teaching Committee, has been doing circuit teaching with panel discussion programs. An adult moderator always accompanies the panel and gives a brief introduction to the Faith.

Panels have spoken in Las Vegas, Nev., and in Fresno, Escondido, and Almaden, Calif.

To prepare the youth and young adults for circuit teaching, a two-hour study class has been held every Tuesday night. The attendance has averaged 15 to 20 each week.

These study classes covered three phases:

(1) The Advent of Divine Justice was studied during the first hour. During the second hour, five minute talks on the Faith were given by those present. The talks were recorded on tape, and played back for constructive criticism.

(2) A two-hour deepening class on The Promulgation of Universal Peace was conducted.

(3) A two-hour study class on the Covenant and Administration was given. The last class was devoted to a workshop with a mock Spiritual Assembly, with elections and the handling of various problems.
NAW-RUZ PUBLICITY PROCLAIMS
THE RENEWAL OF RELIGION

The Bahá’í Press Service Committee welcomes the opportunity to report on the publicity for the observance of Naw-Rúz on March 21, 1957, received through the first week of April.

Fifty-six communities in 23 states are represented in this report, which may be only one-third of the total number of localities gaining recognition from the press for this celebration.

It is interesting to find that many of the communities received publicity on the Fast and the Intercalary Days as well.

Following is the list of communities reporting:

Alabama: Mobile received publicity in the Beacon, a Negro newspaper.

Arkansas: Little Rock and North Little Rock gave a dinner at the Hotel Lafayette, at which Rev. and Mrs. R. D. Adams of the First Presbyterian Church showed slides of their five-week tour of the Middle East, and the chairman of the local Bahá’í Assembly gave a brief talk on Naw-Rúz.

California: Anaheim held a public meeting in a Bahá’í home. Beverly Hills received newspaper publicity, and ran an advertisement in the local newspaper. Escondido held a potluck supper at a Bahá’í home. Each guest was met at the door by a flower girl, who presented a rose boutonniere as a Naw-Rúz greeting. The 12 Bahá’í principles were illustrated on a huge poster over the fireplace, showing a rising sun with 12 different colored rays, each ray a principle. The names of the nine revealed religions were below the horizon, indicating that the Bahá’í Faith is the culmination of all previous revealed religions. Music was provided during the evening. There were 55 adults and children attending this festivity. Fresno held a dinner at the El Rancho Hotel, followed by a public meeting at which Rhoderick W. Delaney, president of the Market Research Foundation, Inc., was the principal speaker. His topic was “Thoughts to Live By.” Long Beach held a dish supper at Morgan Hall, followed by a talk on the Bahá’í Peace Program by Mrs. Virginia Foster. Forty adults were present, of which 18 were non-Bahá’ís. Monterey Peninsula Herald carried publicity on a tea given at a Bahá’í home in Carmel. This was followed on the next evening with a meeting for worship. Redding had publicity in the Record Searchlight, and also carried an advertisement on Naw-Rúz. Riverside held an open house at a Bahá’í home. Sacramento and surrounding Bahá’í communities held a meeting at a Bahá’í home.

Colorado: Colorado Springs and El Paso county celebrated Naw-Rúz with a covered dish supper at Carpenter’s Hall. This was followed by a public meeting on the significance of the spiritual springtime.

Connecticut: Norwich featured a reading of the Bahá’í Peace Program at a Bahá’í home.

Florida: Miami and the surrounding communities served a supper to 91 guests, about half being non-Bahá’ís, in a Bahá’í home, followed by a talk on “What Does the Future Hold For Us?” Publicity appeared in the Miami Herald.

Hawaii: Honolulu, Maui, and Kahului held a public meeting in a Bahá’í home.

Idaho: Ada County held a dinner meeting for Bahá’ís and their guests, with discussion and music.

Illinois: Belleville held a celebration at the Melbourne Hotel in St. Louis. Decatur carried an advertisement in the Advertiser. Peoria observed Naw-Rúz at sundown at the Bahá’í Center with special services.

Massachusetts: Attleboro held a meeting at a Bahá’í home, with eight non-Bahá’ís and six Bahá’ís attending. Colored slides of Haifa and the House of Worship were shown. The Attleboro Sun ran a 22-inch story on Naw-Rúz and the Bahá’í principles, with a picture of the Temple. Beverly held a meeting at the Beverly Cove Community Center, with a talk on “Guidance for Today.” A buffet luncheon was served at the close of the meeting. Palmer received publicity in the Journal-Register. Waltham ran an advertisement in the News-Tribune. Boston held a meeting at their Bahá’í Center.

Michigan: Ann Arbor and the Ypsilanti area celebrated the occasion at a Bahá’í home in Dexter Township. A Persian dinner was served, followed by a film “Haifa, A Name to Remember,” and a talk on the meaning of Naw-Rúz. Inkster held a community dinner at a Bahá’í home. Niles, with the Bahá’ís of South Bend, Ind., held a meeting at the YWCA in South Bend.

Minnesota: Minneapolis held a public meeting at their Bahá’í Center. St. Cloud ran a Naw-Rúz advertisement. Rochester celebrated their first Naw-Rúz observance with 15 attending.

Montana: Butte held a public meeting in a Bahá’í home.

Nevada: Las Vegas celebrated the Fast with a “Kick-Off” breakfast at a Bahá’í home.

New Jersey: Montclair held a special observance for Bahá’ís and friends.

New York: Hamburg and Hamburg Township held a public meeting with the theme “The New Look on Life.” There was also a buffet supper for Bahá’ís and guests. Rochester gave a dinner at a Bahá’í home. The previous Sunday there was a public meeting, with slides of the Temple and a talk on the meaning of Naw-Rúz. Each guest received a long-stemmed rose as a symbol of the New Year.

North Carolina: Raleigh held a meeting in a Bahá’í home.

Ohio: Ashland also used a Bahá’í home for a public meeting.

Pennsylvania: Philadelphia sponsored a meeting at the Bahá’í Center. Utah: Logan gave a public meeting, featuring slides of the Temple, and the Shrines in Haifa, a speaker, and music.

Washington: Chelan received publicity in the Chelan Valley Mirror. Seattle planned a round robin dinner with each course served at a different home, and an exchange of gifts for the Intercalary Days observance. Tacoma gave a public meeting in a Bahá’í home. Eighteen were present, with six non-Bahá’ís.

Wisconsin: Wauwatosa gave a public meeting at the Bahá’í Center. Milwaukee also held a public meeting at their Bahá’í Center. Racine received publicity in the Journal Times.

—BAHÁ’Í PRESS SERVICE
Baltimore Fireside Technique Explained

In response to a letter from the National Spiritual Assembly asking for a description of the fireside teaching technique that has resulted in several recent enrollments in Baltimore, Md., the following account has been received:

Several months ago you asked that we send the techniques we use at the fireside, since we had two enrollments last year. The two that I have just sent in really make seven declarations that have been made from the firesides. Four came into our community, but three lived just outside the city limits and therefore came in through the Area Teaching Committee.

The fireside is held at my apartment, but Bill Burgess of our community comes over and we have it together. We are the only Bahá'ís present and we work like a team. The techniques we use are those that were in the insert of Bahá'í News with a few additions which I am happy to pass on.

We hold them regularly, every Friday night. We keep them small, not more than three contacts. We take a positive and prayerful attitude, knowing that Bahá'u'lláh will send us someone. The few times no one came are so few and far between I cannot remember. Sometimes I did not know the people who phoned and invited; the chain of circumstances that they related of how they got my telephone number would sound fantastic to a non-believer, but we know it is Bahá'u'lláh's work.

We prepare what points we want to cover but make it conversation, seemingly spontaneous. We have worked out our team work so well that it goes like a breeze. We do not make it too serious. We put a little humor in the conversation whenever appropriate. We laugh together, we eat together (very simple refreshments). We talk with them of their hobbies, baseball, football etc., always coming back to the Faith.

They themselves bring it back, but by this time they are relaxed and are drawn closer and they speak of the Faith from their hearts.

While these are little techniques we use, we feel the real fundamental that has helped us is the fact that we love our contacts and let them feel the love and warmth.

We try to create a loving, happy and enthusiastic atmosphere and before long they say the cherished words: "I want to be a Bahá'í."

To close with a little statistical note, there have been 37 different people who have attended. Seven became Bahá'ís, or 20 per cent.

—Alma L. Heise

Dallas Sponsors Study of Religions

The Bahá'ís of Dallas and the Park Cities, Texas, are jointly sponsoring a ten-week series on "The Study of the World's Religions." The first meeting, held on March 15 in the Theology Department of Southern Methodist University, was an introduction to the series and a general presentation of the Bahá'í concept of progressive revelation. There were 31 present; 17 of these were non-Bahá'ís who had not previously attended a Bahá'í meeting.

Due to an unforeseen problem, the meeting place was changed following the first meeting and the second week only 13 were present for the study of the Sabaean religion. The three non-Bahá'ís attending had also been to the previous meeting. On March 29 the Hindu religion was presented to an audience of 27; 17 of this number were non-Bahá'ís.

This type of meeting, to study the religions of the world, seems to be of particular interest to the public at this time. The audiences have been quite receptive and the discussion period following the various presentations very good. The remainder of the series will cover Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, the Bábí religion and the Bahá'í Faith.

Highly successful World Religion Day meeting presented by the Durham, N.C., Bahá'í group, attended by more than 60 non-Bahá'ís.
GREENSBORO YOUTH DAY PUBLICIZES FAITH

The Youth Committee of the Bahá’ís of Greensboro, N. C., sponsored a World Youth Day meeting in the Civic Room of the O. Henry hotel on March 24. Twelve were present, with three races represented, Indian, Negro, and white.

To break the initial self-consciousness, games were played, establishing a spirit of friendship that gave added value to the group discussion following the talk.

The World Youth Day theme, “Divine Physician for an Afflicted World,” was discussed by Glenn Mitchell, a young Bahá’í from Kingston, Jamaica, who is pioneering in Raleigh and attending Shaw University.

The hotel was abuzz with talk about “those young people of different races meeting in the Civic Room.” Getting this room for a mixed meeting was a triumph for the Greensboro community.

If Bahá’ís of the North and West could imagine the stares that were evoked when the little group stepped out of the hotel when the meeting was over! People almost wrecked their cars upon seeing the attractive little Indian girl, dressed in her beautiful clothes, and the unimaginable thing of Negroes and whites acting like brothers, laughing and talking. It was a wonderful sight to see in this stronghold of the old South, already tempered by the progressively greater influence of the six colleges within its limits, for Greensboro is far better off than other cities where vicious prejudice is concerned.

It seems that there’s no better teaching medium than practicing Bahá’í brotherhood, quietly and unashamedly, under the eyes of others in this darkened land.

—F. KIMBALL KINNEY

YOUTH COMMITTEE ACTIVE IN DAKOTAS

The North Central States Area Youth Committee has been assisting the Area Teaching Committee with teaching activities in four areas of South Dakota and three areas of North Dakota.

In the Black Hills, S. Dak., pamphlets have been distributed and firesides are being held. The Youth Group of the Methodist Church in Piedmont has heard the Bahá’í Message through a contact made in this work.

At Brookings, S. Dak., there are weekly firesides. The first public meeting held here attracted 19 people, representing every race.

The Bahá’í youth of Mitchell, S. Dak., have made contacts locally, and have distributed Bahá’í literature. They have presented a copy of Bahá’u’lláh and the New Era to the head of the Religion Department of Dakota Wesleyan College.

Regular youth classes are held in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., each week, and the Bahá’í youth have given literature to other localities in the state. These youths have also made circuit teaching trips to Mitchell and Brookings.

In North Dakota, at Minot children’s classes are held each Sunday. At Devil’s Lake conditions for continuation of classes with the Indian children have been greatly improved. The Devil’s Lake Bahá’ís have placed literature locally, and in Leeds, Knox, Rugby, Towner, and Jamestown. Fargo held a World Youth Day program at the Bahá’í Center.

BAHÁ’ÍS SPEAK AT OHIO WESLEYAN UNIV.

The Religious Co-ordinator’s Committee of Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, sent an invitation to the National Spiritual Assembly for a Bahá’í representative to speak on “Brotherhood” at the University Chapel service on February 27.

The National Assembly informed the Columbus, Ohio, Local Spiritual Assembly, who contacted Richard Gay, the Religious Co-ordinator, for details of the program.

Miss Beverley Bennett, a teacher in the experimental school at Ohio State University, consented to be the speaker, and five Bahá’ís from Columbus were invited to accompany her to Ohio Wesleyan and sit with her on the stage. They included a Bahá’í youth, an Ohio State University student of Filipino and German parentage, a youth from Iran, and a Negro and a white woman.

The audience included 1600 students and many faculty members. After the meeting closed, many students came to the platform to ask questions and request literature. Copies of What is a Bahá’í? and The Universal Faith were distributed.

PRESS SERVICE REQUESTS ADDRESSES OF PRESS REPS

To local Spiritual Assemblies, groups, and isolated believers:

Please appoint or re-appoint your Press Representatives for 1957-1958 immediately, in order to be assured of future Press Service mailings.

Isolated believers, upon request for our service, will be placed on the mailing list.

Address all communications to Mrs. Dorothea Reed, secretary, Bahá’í Press Service, 434 Thomas Avenue, Rochester 17, N. Y.

AMERICAN INDIAN NEWS

In a traditional Makah ceremony, the Indian name of Kleesi-oo-hocks was given to pioneer Mrs. Modeille Mudd by the chief of the Makah tribe at Neah Bay, Wash., on February 11. Only two other non-Indians have been so honored by the tribe.

At the ceremony, Mrs. Mudd was given a document signed by the chief bearing these words: “I, Chief Moquinna, Jongie Claplanhoo, do honor my good friend Mrs. Modelle Mudd, for her constant show of admiration, love, and friendship to my people, the members of the Makah Tribe, by giving her an Indian name. Since coming to live among us she has striven, by her actions, to teach what my people have always known, that all men are brothers! It is my wish that she will always cherish this greatest of honors, which I, by the authority of my heritage bestow upon her. You will receive your name in solemn trust. You must strive to live up to and honor this name always. Because the Sun is the Great Lightgiver, it is in my heart to give you the name Kleesi-oo-hocks, First Rays of the New Sun. To you, Kleesi-oo-hocks, I, Moquinna, give my blessing.”

Members of the Neah Bay Bahá’í Group are Mr. and Mrs. Foster Mudd, pioneers, Mrs. Kiara Tyler, and Nelson Greene (youth). They would welcome assistance from other pioneers. A doctor is greatly needed on the Makah reservation.

Details about the unique pioneering opportunity at Neah Bay may be had by writing to the American Indian Service Committee, Mrs. Nancy Phillips, secretary, 736 Encanto Drive, S. E., Phoenix, Ariz.

—AMERICAN INDIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE
COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

A Bahá’í youth at the University of Illinois, Champaign, was asked to speak about the Faith to a class on the Philosophy of World Religion. Although the presentation was scheduled to last for a half-hour, a whole hour was spent discussing the Faith because of the numerous questions of the students.

Moojan Khadem wrote of his experience: “I never saw such an audience in my life. They took notes of every word, and they were absorbing it like sponges, especially when the Bahá’í view on miracles, resurrection, and the Trinity were presented. The interest was fantastic. I guess they were ready, because one whole semester they were discussing religion, and so they were ready and confused.”

At Lincoln University, located in Lincoln, University, Pa., Hormoz Sabet spoke to 53 ministerial students on the Bahá’í Faith. He was one of four speaking on religions in general, and he was asked the majority of questions afterward.

A symposium held at the International Center on the University of Michigan campus at Ann Arbor, jointly sponsored by the Bahá’í Student Group and the Ann Arbor Baha’i Community, attracted a capacity crowd.

The theme, “Attitudes Toward World Peace,” was developed by representatives of six faiths: Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Bahá’í.

Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., are co-sponsors of a Bahá’í Club, established at the University of Minnesota after almost two years of effort. A young Bahá’í couple, John and Beverley Kolstoe, are students at the university this year, and through their efforts this club has become a reality. Mr. Kolstoe is the club’s president.

Cyrus Omidvaran and Farhang Roshan-Zamir were hosts at a Bahá’í meeting at the Union Building of South Dakota State College on February 28. Of 50 invitations sent out, 14 responded, representing five races. The room, decorated by Farhang, had cards lettered with the Bahá’í principles, artistically arranged with a large picture of the House of Worship. This meeting was reported by the college newspaper Collegian.

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

Fourth Year — 1956–1957

Annual Budget ............ $500,000.00

Total Requirements: May
1 to April 15 .............. 478,403.03

Total Contributions: May
1 to April 15 .............. 311,820.00

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

The Naw-Rúz observance at Anchorage, Alaska, featured colored slides of scenes of the Bahá’í Shrines on Mt. Carmel and other places in the Holy Land, a short talk on the meaning of Naw-Rúz, and a display of rare Persian antiques by a non-Bahá’í, Mrs. Milan Eloit of Fort Richardson. Mrs. Eloit collected the antiques from 1951 to 1953 when she and her husband, a U. S. Army officer, were stationed in Iran. Nearly 30 Bahá’ís and their guests enjoyed the program.

Flinn, Mich., observed World Youth Day with a public meeting at the International Institute. John Nash spoke for the Bahá’í Faith, and a non-Bahá’í showed colored slides of France.

The 12 children enrolled in the Bahá’í Children’s Class on Maui, T. H., have completed a study of the lives of the Messengers of God, and will next study the teachings which Bahá’u’lláh has revealed for today.

A group of young people of the First Methodist Church of Riverside, Calif., who are studying Comparative Religion, invited a representative of the local Bahá’í community to explain the teachings of the Bahá’í Faith to them.

A panel discussion on “Death,” at the Unitarian Church of Santa Monica, Calif., attracted over 100 people, including 12 Bahá’ís. Arthur Dalil, Jr., offered the Bahá’í assurance of life after death, in contrast to speakers representing other faiths who made no point of eternal life.

The Unitarian Church of Santa Monica, Calif., jointly sponsored a public meeting in March in collaboration with the American Association for United Nations, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples. A Bahá’í presided, and short talks were given by representatives of all three groups. Thirty-five attended, including 20 non-Bahá’ís.

NEW TRANSLATION PUBLISHED

The Secret of Divine Civilization. By 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Translated by Marzieh Gail. Introduction by Horace Holley. This work, written in 1875, first published in English in London, 1910, and in Chicago in 1918 under the title Mysterious Forces of Civilization, is more accurately rendered in this new translation. Although this message was ignored by the rulers and people of Persia to whom it is addressed, it applies to the general state of modern civilization as a whole today. 'Abdu'l-Bahá has employed passages from the Qur’án on which to establish the spiritual significances of His theme. Since the Qur’án is little known in the West, these passages have an incidental importance in making the Western reader more familiar with the Holy Book of the Arabic and Persian peoples at a time when understanding of the Orient is direly needed in Europe and America.

This book, handsomely printed and bound, is set in Fairfield type with Civilité initial letters, and has a two-piece binding of natural linen and deep red, with gold stamping. The cloth is pyroxylin treated to resist moisture and soil.

Per copy ............... $2.50

BAHÁ’Í ANSWERS.

This pamphlet answers many of the questions most frequently asked about the Bahá’í Faith, such as: What does the word “Bahá’í” mean? Is the Bahá’í Faith essentially an oriental religion? What new teachings are found in the Bahá’í Faith? Do the Bahá’ís believe in a life after death? In reincarnation?

There are nineteen questions in all, briefly but clearly answered.

This booklet, prepared in convenient pocket size for easy carrying or mailing, with an attractive cover design showing a portion of the Bahá’í Temple designed by Wm. Musler, should prove to be an excellent teaching and contact pamphlet for all Bahá’ís.

Ten copies .................. $ .75

Pocket Calendar. This calendar, running from May 1957 through April
1958, indicates all Feast and Holy Days, and is small enough to be inserted in a billfold.

Ten copies .................. $ .50
25 copies .................... $1.00

New Printing

The Covenant and Administration. A Compilation of excerpts for use in Conference Institutes. A few changes and corrections have been made in this new printing. For those who may wish to correct old editions, please refer to pages 20 and 68. Covers are stamped in royal blue on grey granite, 8½x11.

Per copy ...................... $1.00

Suggestions for the Conduct of Institutes on the Covenant and Administration. Originally prepared by the Projects Development Committee some years ago in mimeographed form, this four-page leaflet offers excellent ideas for conducting effective institutes on this subject. Printed on colored stock, 8½x11. A copy is included free of charge with each edition of The Covenant and Administration, or can be purchased separately.

Per copy ..................... $ .10

Foreign Language Literature

Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era (Japanese). A new translation imported from Japan, bound in cloth.

Per copy ..................... $2.00


Per copy ...................... $ .35

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh (Italian). A small supply of this new attractive edition is available, and more will be imported if there is sufficient demand.

Per copy ...................... $4.00

Out of Print

The Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh. By Horace Holley. Reprint of the aims and purposes of the Faith which has appeared in successive volumes of The Bahá'í World.

Minimum Mail Order, $1.00

Available from
BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEASTS
May 17—'Azamat (Grandeur)
June 5—Núr (Light)

HOLY DAYS
May 2—Twelfth day of Ridván
May 5—Opening of the Bahá'í House of Worship
May 29—Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh

Bahá'í House of Worship

Visiting Hours
Weekdays and Saturdays
1:00 — 4:00 P.M.
(Auditorium open)

Sundays
10:30 A.M. — 5:00 P.M.
(Entire building open)

Service of Worship

Sundays
3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15

BAHÁ'Í DIRECTORY CHANGES

ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES

Alaska
Tanana Valley: Mrs. Mable Amidon, Secy/pro tem, 219 5th Ave., Hamilton Acres, Fairbanks

Florida
Dade County: Mrs. Zilpha Sawyer, 2400 Golden Glade Drive, Opa Locka

Michigan
Detroit: Mr. Samuel H. Clark, 12361 Stahelin, 23

New Jersey
Teaneck: Mrs. Pearl Hafer, c/o Evergreen Cabin, 136 Evergreen Place, West Englewood

BAHÁ'Í NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá'í World Community. Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHÁ'Í NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1956–57: Mr. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá'í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Baha'i World Center Beautifies Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land

International Archives Building, nearing completion, with Shrine of the Báb in the distance.
"Dual Inescapable, Paramount Responsibilities"

Message From the Guardian

Assembly's dual inescapable, paramount responsibilities (for) current year (are to) ensure expansion (and) consolidation (of the) homefront (and the) rapid multiplication (of) pioneers abroad (to) reinforce Latin American, African, European (and) Pacific campaigns (of) World Crusade. Fervently supplicating signal success (in) fulfillment dearest hopes.

Cable received May 7, 1957

Beloved Friends:

In this post-Convention message addressed to the National Spiritual Assembly the beloved Guardian concentrates upon two "inescapable, paramount responsibilities" of the majestic import of his Convention Message. Let us ponder that message in the light of this later cable.

The various tasks listed in Shoghi Effendi's Convention Message are discussed elsewhere in this issue of Baha'i News.

The whole impact of our collective undertakings this year is tremendous, and their importance must be taken to heart and fulfilled in heroic sacrifice and action.

—National Spiritual Assembly

A Thrice Blessed
World Crusade
1957-1958

Dear Baha'i Friends:

The National Convention held this year assembled 967 Baha'is, and concentrated their serious and reverent attention on the beloved Guardian's Convention Message, a copy of which went to every believer with the May issue of Baha'i News. The unity of spirit, the maturity of understanding, and the stirring response evidenced to Shoghi Effendi's appeal made this Convention a potent instrument for arousing the entire American Baha'i Community to achieve its historic mission during the current year.

What is this historic mission? The Guardian's Message challenges us to carry out the following tasks:

1. The rededication of the individual believers.
2. Proclamation of the Faith to the multitudes.
3. Resettlement of any virgin territories which pioneers have been obliged to abandon.
4. Opening up the three remaining islands assigned to the United States—Spitzbergen, Hainan, and Sakhalin.
5. Settlement of one Baha'i in each Soviet Republic on the European continent: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, White Russia, Moldavia and Ukraine. (Some of these areas have been assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of Persia, some to the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, and some to the National Spiritual Assembly of Scandinavia and Finland. However, American Baha'is are called upon to assist in this project as a task of utmost importance.)
7. Settlement of the two islands in the Soviet orbit assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States: Sakhalin and Hainan.
8. The broadening and consolidating of the foundations of the newly-emerged National and regional National Spiritual Assemblies.
9. Safeguarding the status of all established local Spiritual Assem-
blies and increasing the number of Assemblies.
10. Multiplication of the number of local groups and isolated centers.
11. Acquisition of the two remaining Ha'izratul-Quds: Lisbon and Caracas.
12. Acquisition of the two remaining endowments: Peru and Portugal.
13. Acquisition of the remaining Temple site: Stockholm.
14. Translation and publication of the remaining languages listed in the Ten Year Plan: some Latin American Indian languages, and Lapp in Europe.
16. Expediting the incorporation of local and newly formed National Spiritual Assemblies.
17. Assisting in the establishment of the Bahá'í Publishing Trust in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
18. Obtaining the right to conduct legal Bahá'í marriages by an increasing number of local Assemblies.
19. Increasing the number of public schools recognizing Bahá'í Holy Days.
20. Contributing to the cost of constructing the Bahá'í Temples in Sydney, Australia; Frankfurt, Germany; and Kampala, Uganda.
21. Deepening the Bahá'ís on the home front, expanding the number of individual believers, and consolidating the local institutions in order to provide a larger reservoir for the World Crusade.

Beloved Friends! To appreciate the vital urgency of achieving these tasks we must, as individuals, as local groups and communities, and as committees, study and meditate on the Guardian's Convention Message as a whole, recalling that this same Message was sent to all national conventions throughout the world. The above list of tasks represents those particularly related to the United States. This Message, incidentally, presents a most significant summary of the decline of the old order amidst afflictive disturbances and the rise of the Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

Our tasks for 1957-1958 fall into several classifications: individual regeneration, which each Bahá'í must undertake with God's help for himself by prayer, meditation, and whole-hearted service to the Faith; proclamation of the Faith to the multitudes, a collective task with which the National Spiritual Assembly and many of its national committees are deeply concerned; pioneer settlements and consolidation of the foundations of the nine new National Spiritual Assemblies, a task primarily resting upon the Intercontinental Teaching Committees functioning in the Western Hemisphere, in Western Europe, in Africa and in Asia; settlement of Soviet Republics and satellites, a project involving special conditions and one which the National Spiritual Assembly will directly supervise; tasks related to the home front, the special responsibility of the National and Area Teaching Committees, the American Indian Service Committee and the Bahá'í Interracial Committee, with the assistance of the National Spiritual Assembly in devising special homefront campaigns and materials; contributing to the cost of three Temples, a task which can only be performed as American Bahá'ís support the National Fund. Indeed, as the Guardian pointed out years ago, the National Fund is the "life blood" of all our national institutions and enterprises, and the means by which the individual Bahá'í can measure his own devotion to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

The National Spiritual Assembly asks for intensive study of the two homefront campaigns presented elsewhere in this issue of Bahá'í News.

Why has the Guardian termed this a "thrice blessed Crusade"? The National Spiritual Assembly under-

New door for the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh in Bahjí. Beyond this door, beneath the floor, the Roll of Honor of the Knights of Bahá'u'lláh will be placed.
stands this term to refer to the blessing conferred by the Master in revealing the Tablets of the Divine Plan, and to the blessings received by association with the Jubilee of the Birth of the Mission of Baha'u'llah in 1953 and with the Great Jubilee to be celebrated in 1963 when the Crusade attains its consummation in Baghdad.

—National Spiritual Assembly

The Conference of Badasht

In accordance with a Convention recommendation, the National Spiritual Assembly makes the following brief reference to the Conference of Badasht in order to explain the Guardian's allusion to the Conference in his Convention Message:

"In 1963, a conference was held during the early days of the incarnation of the Bab in the fortress of Qadii'a. 'The primary purpose of that gathering was to implement the revelation of the Bayan by a sudden, a complete and dramatic break with the past—with its ecclesiasticism, its traditions, and ceremonials.' In the hamlet of Badasht Baha'u'llah rented three gardens, one assigned to Qadii'a, another to Tahirih, the third reserved for Himself. Eighty-one disciples of the Bab assembled as the guests of Baha'u'llah. The climax of the conference was the action of Tahirih in divesting herself of the traditional veil worn by the women of Islam and proclaiming the inauguration of a new Dispensation. 'The call she sounded was the death-knell of the twelve hundred year old law of Islam.'

—National Spiritual Assembly

A Teaching Campaign to Revitalize the Home Community

The First Step

Beloved Friends:

American Baha'is will be startled to learn that Marcus Bach, author of The Circle of Faith and several other studies in current religions, has written an article entitled "Baha'i: A Second Look," which appeared in the Christian Century magazine of April 10, 1957. The National Spiritual Assembly is reliably informed that this article is the most effective publicity about the Faith yet seen, by an outstanding university educator in touch with developments in the religious field.

Appreciating the possibilities of wide use of the Bach article, and realizing the need of a strong teaching impetus throughout the home front, the National Assembly has authorized the Baha'i Publishing Trust to order a large quantity of reprints. A reprint is enclosed with this issue of Baha'i News sent to every American believer, with a large supply on reserve for purchase by individual friends and local communities to hand or mail to their Christian friends and contracts.

What the National Spiritual Assembly proposes is nation-wide participation in a simple yet effective teaching plan as the first step in a determined effort to revitalize the home community. Therefore the friends are urged to send the Publishing Trust immediate orders for good quantities of the Christian Century reprint in order that tens of thousands of Christians may receive this challenging statement by the eminent Marcus Bach. The Christian Century itself is regarded as the expression of liberal Christianity and is read by leaders in all sects.

It should be noted that all copies of the reprint distributed, whether by individual believers or by local Assemblies, should carry the identification of the donor in order to assure that interested inquirers can be duly handled.

The cost of the reprint is exceedingly low. The Publishing Trust supplies it in quantities of 25 at $1.00, and in quantities of 100 at $3.00, 500 for $12.00.

The most convenient and helpful Baha'i reply to the vital question raised by Marcus Bach in his article is the use of the Baha'i pamphlet The Lord of the New Age. This offers the friends an ideal follow-up to the reprint, and in ordering the reprints the individual believer and the local Assembly should also order a good supply of The Lord of the New Age. This item is supplied by the Publishing Trust at the very moderate cost of 20 copies for $1.00, or 100 copies for $4.50.
As this teaching campaign develops there will be other featured Bahá’í material for effective contact and fireside use. The new pamphlet Bahá’í Answers has an unlimited field of service, and soon we will have a portfolio of Temple photographs, which makes an impressive gift to an editor, a radio or TV worker, George Townshend, Christ and Bahá’u’lláh.

"The beloved Guardian has been very impressed with the latest book written by our dear departed coworker, George Townshend, Christ and Bahá’u’lláh.

"This book outlines clearly the relationship of Christ and Bahá’u’lláh, and presents the manner in which the Bahá’ís are setting up the Kingdom of God for which the Christians are praying.

"It is challenging, and surely will affect many religious leaders.

"The Guardian feels your Assembly should make this book the basis of a very active teaching campaign."

After consultation on this important directive, the National Spiritual Assembly has adopted plans involving: distribution of copies directly by the National Assembly to a large number of representative Christian clergy of various denominations; efforts to obtain publicity and book reviews; advertising the book in a leading Christian weekly magazine.

Believers are requested to send to our National Headquarters the names and addresses of church leaders who they feel should be included in the National Spiritual Assembly distribution.

Other assistance needed in this campaign is the placing of a copy in the local library by individual believers, groups or committees, and the widespread use of Christ and Bahá’u’lláh in Bahá’í study classes and as material for public teaching.

The vital importance of Mr. Townshend’s book is as an exposition of the Faith which answers the questions raised by the prophecies of the Old and New Testaments.

The distribution of the book to clergy at this time is undertaken solely by the National Spiritual Assembly.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Contacts with Visitors from Other Countries

In the November 1956 Bahá’í News (page 2) the National Spiritual Assembly published certain paragraphs of a letter written on behalf of the Guardian by his Secretary on July 19, 1956, calling upon the American Bahá’ís to give more attention to the matter of making contacts with minorities in the United States.

In light of the Guardian’s Convention Message, which emphasizes the all-important task of broadening and consolidating the foundations of the newly-emerged national and regional assemblies as well as for “acceleration in the process of individual conversion,” the instructions of the Guardian in the letter referred to above take on even greater significance.

“A great impetus could be lent to the work in the European countries, in certain far-eastern areas, and in Latin America,” he says, “if the Bahá’ís residing in the big cities and university towns would make a determined and sufficient effort to extend friendship and hospitality to students and nationals from countries where the Bahá’ís are struggling so hard to establish the Faith. They would not only have the possibility of making more local believers, but they would also increase the membership of communities abroad, by sending back Bahá’ís from the United States.”

In accordance with the Guardian’s instructions contained in the same letter, the National Spiritual Assembly appointed a special committee to survey the possibilities and to make recommendations as to how the American Bahá’í community can apply this directive. The report of the committee has been studied and the National Spiritual Assembly now takes this means of conveying its suggestions to the believers.
These suggestions are by no means the only ways in which this important work may be carried forward, but they provide a starting point and the National Spiritual Assembly hopes that as the communities develop local plans and gain experience in this type of teaching they will send their reports to be shared with all the Baha'is through Baha'i News.

From the survey of the special committee we quote the following comments and recommendations:

"The number of foreign students in this country runs into the tens of thousands. Many of them are befriended by Baha'is. At most of our larger universities the Baha'is make every effort to work with these minorities, but there must be thousands more who could be reached if we make the effort.

"How does one get to know foreign students? Sometimes a university will have a dean, or a counselor, of foreign students who is usually only too happy to have others help him with this concern for the visitors. Or there may be a local organization, such as the YWCA or YMCA, a service group, or perhaps one sponsored by one or more churches, in charge of placing foreign students in American homes. If there are these opportunities, the Baha'is should let it be known that they are eager to cooperate. It is important to make it clear that our interest is genuine and personal, and not primarily to proselytize.

"If there is no person or organization to help foreign students at a university, or at a near-by Army or Air Force base, here is a wonderful opportunity for the Baha'is to organize a service committee.

"What can you do with foreign students? Above all, give them or show them family life. You can, and you should be, their family away from home. Invite them to informal meals (include the children) and visit them afterwards. Show them places of local or historical interest; take them to visit a farm or a school. These things are far more interesting than a conducted tour.

"Always be guided by their reactions and by what they say as to how you can show your friendship or what to do with them. Simple things like finding a doctor or a dentist, getting proper clothing for winter, finding the foods they are used to, or finding a tutor for English—all offer opportunities to show real interest and concern.

"And finally, ask them to speak at a fireside or other Baha'i gathering about their country, their faith. It will be interesting to the friends and gratifying to them to be asked. Do not exert pressure toward getting them to attend study classes unless they express interest."

The National Spiritual Assembly strongly recommends that youth members of the community, or even youth contacts, make friends with these visitors; also that every effort be made to keep in touch with them as they move about within the country by putting them in touch with other believers who might follow up the interest that has been created. Make real friends of them, and encourage them to include a fellow student or national in whatever plans are made for them from time to time.

Another suggestion for communities in cities where there are foreign consulates is to offer the assistance of the Baha'is to entertain for a few hours individual members of groups of visitors who come to this country from time to time for study purposes. Experience has shown that this is a service that is greatly welcomed both by those responsible for planning the programs for these people (particularly over weekends), and by the visitors themselves, who may have few opportunities in their crowded schedules to observe American family life.

Dear friends: These are but a few first suggestions as to how we can not only befriend and serve these visitors who, as our Guardian says, "... are invariably lonely, and often respond to kindness much more quickly than the well-established majority of the population," but through whom we may be of inestimable assistance to the pioneers.

In the words of the survey committee: "Think what it must mean to a pioneer to find a friend among the native population, someone who has been with the Baha'is in this country while he was a student at one of our universities, or a visitor on some special study. It would be wonderful, of course, if the visitor could go home a Baha'i, but there may be very good reasons why he does not, or cannot, declare himself here. But even as 'a friend of the Cause' he will be able to open doors for the pioneer that otherwise might remain shut."

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Moved from Membership

The National Spiritual Assembly has found it necessary to remove Mr. Calvin C. Steinmetz from membership in the Baha'i community. This action deprives him of his voting rights, participation in Nineteen Day Feasts, and other activities reserved for Baha'is.

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
**Alaska**

**ALASKAN BAHÁ'ÍS FORM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

"The historic moment has arrived!" With these words, and the reading of the Tablets of Visitation revealed by Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Paul E. Haney, Hand of the Cause of God, opened the first Alaskan Convention in Anchorage on April 22, 1957.

With 100% representation of delegates, the Convention got under way with the election of permanent convention officers. Mr. Robert E. Maul was elected chairman and Mrs. Rose Perkal Yarno, secretary.

The first thing on the agenda was the reading of the Convention Message from the beloved Guardian to the Alaskan Bahá'ís, by Mr. Haney. Discussion of this letter was taken up throughout the three-day Convention. The long Convention Letter was also read.

There were many greetings received and read. A cablegram from Honor Kempton, first Bahá'í to settle in Alaska, was received from Switzerland. A letter from the Auxiliary Board member, Florence Mayberry, was read and tears of joy shown in the eyes of all present when she wrote: "The prayers that I shall be saying will have a special potency, not due to the one who will . . ."

**Europe**

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR FRANCE ACQUIRED**

Exciting news for all Bahá'ís is the accomplishment of one of the French goals of the Ten-Year Crusade. On March 2, 1957, a beautiful tract of wooded land was purchased to serve as the Bahá'í National Endowment for France.

The French Endowment is located in Normandy, in the Department of Orne, about six kilometers from the town of Le Théil sur Huise.

An irregular rectangle of land, the property is situated in a lovely green and rolling countryside of farms and forests. Lying atop a small plateau, it overlooks a shallow valley.

The achievement of this goal was made possible through the generous contributions of Mrs. Amelia Collins, Hand of the Cause, and a Persian Bahá'í pioneer to France.

After signing of the contract, the special committee of the Paris Assembly charged with the execution of the purchase of the Endowment visited the property. In a small clearing of a grove of trees, the group sat on the trunk of a felled pine tree for a brief service of dedication.

Three prayers of praise were read, followed by the reading of "From the sweet-scented streams . . .," "Blessed is the spot . . .," and the prayer from the "Tablets of the Divine Plan," "O Thou incomparable God!" It was a deeply moving experience, and each one fervently hoped that this beautiful spot would, in the years to come, be a rallying point for a strong French Bahá'í Community.

—European Teaching Committee

be saying them, but the Holy grounds on which they will be uttered, as I shall arrive in the Holy Land on April 22, 1957." This was the very day that our Convention opened and throughout the three days there prevailed a great spiritual force that was felt by all. She referred to the Alaskan Baha'is as "the Northern Lights of Baha'u'llah."

As the time drew near for the election of the National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska, Mr. Haney said "The mysterious process of Baha'i elections constitute worship in the real sense of the word." He also said, "An event is about to take place in this room, the significance of which no one of us can fully understand ... only the Guardian can grasp its full significance!"

After reading words from the beloved Guardian, Mr. Haney called for absolute silence. Upon completion of the reading of two prayers, the roll call of delegates took place.

The newly elected National Spiritual Assembly and its officers are as follows: Robert E. Maul, chairman; Howard J. Brown, vice-chairman; Evelyn Huffman, secretary; Kathy Rodgers, recording secretary; and Lois K. Lee, treasurer. Other members are: Warren H. Rodgers, Janet Stout, Verne Stout, and Rose Perkal Yarno.

Regarding the teaching problems of the Native Peoples, the following are quotations from the various pioneers and the first Indians to embrace the Faith:

Frances Wells, pioneer at Barrow: "According to an Alaskan Native School teacher, the Barrow people have come up from the Stone Age to the Jet Age within 50 years."

Bernard Blumenstein, pioneer at Nome: "What we need is more pioneers to go out into the field and 'live the life.'"

Elaine Caldwell, pioneer at Unalaska: "When teaching by word of mouth we don't get very far; living the life is the best teacher."

Joyce Combs, first Indian believer in the Territory: "This Faith is for our people—we have been looking for it and need it!"

Mrs. Joyce Baldwin, Tsinshian Tribe: "Our people are united in race, disunited in feelings—when you teach, teach from your heart; our people know when you are sincere."

Bernard Guhrke, pioneer at Kodiak: "I'm sure that Kodiak has a great future, but we must proceed with caution."

Maude Hartline, pioneer at Juneau: "The only way you can contact people is to work with them—meet them as friends first."

Highlight of the Convention was when Paul Haney, acting as the Guardian's personal representative, anointed all present with attar of roses. The children were anointed during the noontime recess and the adults in the evening after the election of the National Spiritual Assembly.

At that time many wonderful gifts were presented to the National Spiritual Assembly, including two beautifully bound volumes of pictures from the Guardian.

There were two public meetings held during Convention: one, the Baha'i Congress, held Sunday night preceding the opening, drew a crowd of 87 people. Mr. Verne Stout was chairman, with Mr. Paul Haney as speaker. The second public meeting was the Feast of Ridvan. Mrs. Evelyn Huffman and Mrs. Lea Brown were on the program with Mr. Haney. Refreshments were served by the women of the Anchorage area.

Average attendance throughout the Convention was 66.

Referring to the Six-Year Plan that lies ahead for the newly formed National Spiritual Assembly, Mr. Haney said: "What has been done in the past four years is just plain impossible, but it has been done because of the Guardian. The same will be true with the next six years —what the beloved Guardian has set for our goal will be accomplished!

It was apparent that those assembled left the first National Convention of Alaska with renewed spirit and energy, and that everyone returned to their respective homes with one objective foremost in their minds, to rededicate their lives to the teaching of the Cause of Baha'u'llah.

—KATHY RODGERS
Convention Reporter
ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, CHILE, PARAGUAY, URUGUAY
FORM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN BUENOS AIRES

The first historic Convention of the five countries of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay was held April 22, 23, 24 in the beautiful Alvear Palace Hotel, having a panoramic view of Buenos Aires.

Two days of Pre-Convention School (April 20, 21) preceded the Convention with the study of the Igân, Baha'i Administration with emphasis on the internal functioning of a National Spiritual Assembly, as well as inspiring talks by the distinguished representative of the Guardian and Hand of the Cause, Dr. 'Ali Muhammad Varqâ and by Mrs. Margery McCormick, representative of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States. On the evening of April 19, all delegates and visitors were guests at a tea reception held in the Haźiratu'l-Quds.

Since space would not permit a detailed report of this historic Convention, a resume of the distinctive events follows.

Baha'i history will record the first pilgrimage of the believers of the five countries accompanying the Hand of the Cause, Dr. Varqâ, to the Tomb of May Maxwell “living in solitary glory in the southern outpost of the Western Hemisphere,” whose Tomb, as promised by Shoghi Effendi “will become the historic center of pioneer Baha'i activity.” The event took place on the first day of Ridván, April 21, as the friends gathered in the tranquil cemetery outside the village of Quijmes to pay homage to the radiant martyr who fills a special niche in the hearts of all South American believers.

The “Tablet of Visitation” was chanted in Persian by the Hand of the Cause, followed by its recitation for the first time in the Spanish language at this sacred spot.

Mrs. Margery McCormick placed rose petals from the Threshold of the Tomb of Bahá'u'lláh in front of the winged Monument.

A bouquet of the most fragrant flowers obtainable (carnations) was placed in the name of May Maxwell’s beloved daughter, Rúhíyyih Khánum. The fragrance and beauty of banked flowers lovingly arranged by the friends, birds singing their praises, a vibrating atmosphere of intense peace, the abiding sense of the presence of May Maxwell and her cohorts in the Supreme Concourse combined to make this an unforgettable shared experience. Without doubt, the high inspiration and success of the Convention can be greatly attributed to this united pilgrimage.

Unforgettable, too, will be the joyful Ridván Festival, held on the evening of April 21, as Dr. Varqâ gave a new awareness of the meaning of this sacred festival, recalling the first Ridván when the great Declaration was made, and the annual celebration of this event as the only holy period in which Baha’i forces are united in formulating plans for action in the year ahead.

The recorded divine voice of the “star servant,” Martha Root, recited in clear ringing tones the “Tablet of Ahmad,” spoke of the Ridván, gave a farewell exhortation to teach the Cause unceasingly, closed with the Greatest Name with such poignancy and power that all felt this ever-living heroine and “Pride of Baha’i Teachers” in our midst.

To each of the National Haźiratu'l-Quds, the Paraguayan friends presented a Ridván gift of framed delicate native nanduti lace with an inscription of love “that our hearts are woven together as in a delicate filigree of exquisite lace.”

The Convention was officially opened April 22 by Mrs. Margery McCormick in her capacity as representative of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States. She focussed attention on the institutions of the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh.

“The Crusades of the Middle Ages had as their goal the conquering of cities with brick, stone and mortar; our purpose in the Global Crusade is to conquer the cities of men’s hearts. What is the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh? The Guardian has defined it as the sum total of all the institutions revealed by Bahá’u’lláh, through which the spirit of Bahá’u’lláh works and flows forth regenerating all mankind, bringing not only individual salvation but social salvation to all the human race.”

Then the Hand of the Cause, Dr. Varqâ, lighted a candle from the Tomb of Bahá’u’lláh, symbolically shedding illumination on the assemblage during the election of the Convention officers.

This was followed by the anointing of the friends by Dr. Varqâ, using four flasks of attar of roses sent by the beloved Guardian for this purpose. Dr. Varqâ then read the Guardian’s Convention Message to the four Latin-American Conventions.

The friends listened joyously to the congratulatory messages received from the American Hands of the Cause, the 15 National Spiritual Assemblies, the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, the Local Spiritual Assemblies of Paris, France; Anchorage, Alaska; Bahia, Brazil; from the pioneer in the island of

Precious gifts for the new Archives included the two albums prepared by the Guardian with drawings of the Temples to be constructed and photos of all the Haizratu'l-Quds; an exquisitely mosaic-framed picture of the Master, presented by Dr. Varqā in the name of the Bahá'ís of Tehran; a gold-lettered Greatest Name presented by Mrs. McCormick to all the local assemblies in the five countries.

The outstanding triumph announced this year was the formation of the first all-Indian assembly of South America in Bolivia. The Convention had the honor of receiving as a visitor Andres Jachacollo, first Bolivian Indian believer, who had undertaken the difficult train trip after taking the responsibility of participating in the election of this first assembly. Never will the voice of this mountain Indian believer be forgotten in his humble supplication and communion with his newly-found Lord, Bahá'u'lláh, as he offered up his first prayer in the Convention.

In solemn prayerful silence the delegates cast their votes, electing as their trustees for the coming year the first Regional National Spiritual Assembly of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay: Jose Mielenk, chairman; Roque Centurion, vice-chairman; Roberto Cazcarra, secretary; Athos Costas, recording secretary; Fabienne Guillen, treasurer; and Alejandro Reid, Salvador Torno, Ellen Sims, and Else Cazcarra.

The following Convention message was sent to the Beloved Guardian: "Believers, delegates deeply grateful presence Varqā, McCormick, express undeviating loyalty and devotion, beseech prayers Guardian merit trust, bring victorious conclusion tasks assigned Six-Year Plan, loving Ridván greetings."

Ellen Sims
Convention Reporter

Hong Kong Bahá'í community and their guests at the celebration of Naw-Ruz on March 21, 1957. The group includes an officer of the United Nations Association who recently became a Bahá'í, and an American author and his wife who had visited the House of Worship in Wilmette.

Iberian Peninsula
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FORMED IN MADRID

Under extraordinary divine protection, and with joyous thanksgiving and eager expectations, the first Iberian Convention was held in Madrid, on April 22-24, 1957, for the purpose of electing the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Iberian Peninsula. The scene of this "epochal" event, fraught with such far-reaching consequences, and designed to confer manifold and enduring benefits on the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, (to use the Guardian's own words)—was the new Haizratu'l-Quds, which had been officially dedicated, on the evening of April 21st, by the Hand of the Cause, Dr. Ugo Giachery.

Charles Wolcott, member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, sent especially to represent that body, convoked the Iberian Convention in its name, and presided until the election of its permanent chairman, Miss Virginia Orsibor, and secretary, Mr. Manuel Garcia Vasquez, after which he acted as counsellor on matters pertaining to administration and procedure.

Dr. Ugo Giachery, Hand of the Cause, acting as the Guardian's personal representative, brought two transcendental messages, one to the Conventions in general, duly translated into Spanish and read to the assembled delegates, and the special message addressed to the "simultaneously convoked Conventions," read in its translation by Dr. Giachery, who also presented two unique and prized gifts, these being two beautifully leather-bound albums, one containing photographs of the existing Haizratu'l-Quds, among them that of Madrid, and the other containing pictures of the Holy Places of the Bahá'í World; all this arranged and written in by the beloved Guardian's own hand.

Dr. Giachery himself brought, to borrow his own words, "a small useful memento, a bell for the future chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly. It is an exact replica of the ship-bell of the Nina, Christopher Columbus' little flag-ship," symbol of "the debt of gratitude owed by America to Europe," and in this later day, "a reminder of the debt of gratitude owed by Europe to the Americans for having brought the Bahá'í world civilization to its shores."

Mr. Wolcott presented, in the name of the European Teaching Committee, a beautiful looseleaf book with plastic envelope leaves containing letters of acclamation from various national assemblies, among these being one from the United States and one from Persia. A wonderful letter from the beloved European Teaching Committee, who so tenderly and generously has directed faltering steps and encouraged efforts during the ten years of painful gestation, was read, and also deep gratitude was felt at being assured that a continued relationship would be maintained.


Mr. Charles Ioas, Mr. Angelo Carneiro, and Mr. Lopez Monge were
asked to draft a cable to the Guardian in which the Convention expressed its profound gratitude for the stimulating messages and for the unique gifts, pledging united, dedicated, and active love. The cable was worded to comply with the restrictions to which the Bahá’ís are subject in Spain and Portugal.

On the afternoon of April 22nd, after special and fervent prayers said in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian, the 19 delegates (two by absentee ballots) from nine local Spiritual Assemblies, seven of Spain and two of Portugal, addressed themselves to the sacred task of selecting the nine members of the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the Iberian Peninsula. The three tellers, Mr. Luis Ortuno, Mr. Isidro Torrella and Mr. Pablo Fuentes, announced the following names as having received the highest number of votes: Charles Monroe Ioas, Ramon Escartin Alamanac, Manuel Garcia Vasquez, Virginia Orbison, Angelo da Silva Carneiro, Sara Tiffon Ramonet, Isidro Torrella Arnau, Luis Ortuno Puche, and Francisco Salas Heras.

This historic moment is one which can never be forgotten by those privileged to be present, and the embrace given each elected member of the new Spiritual Assembly by the revered Hand of the Cause were accompanied by tears and exclamations of profound emotion and gratitude for having witnessed the seemingly impossible become a living and potent reality! Surely each heart made its own pledge to increase its devotion and service to the creative Cause of Bahá’u’lláh.

Mr. Charles Monroe Ioas convoked the newly elected members in order to choose by secret majority vote the officers of the Regional Spiritual Assembly of the Iberian Peninsula, who were duly presented to the Convention during the Feast of Ridvan celebrated that same evening. They were: Charles Monroe Ioas, chairman; Ramon Escartin, vice-chairman; Manuel Garcia, secretary; Luis Ortuno, treasurer; Angelo Carneiro, ass. treasurer for Portugal; and Sara Tiffon, recording secretary.

Each of those present then had the honor of receiving from the Hand of the Cause the fragrance of attar of roses sent by the Guardian, thus feeling anew the blessing of a gift from the Sign of God on earth.

On the morning of the second day, April 23, the Guardian’s message to the Iberian Convention was again read, this time by the Secretary of the Convention, Mr. Garcia, after which the delegates made an official recommendation to the new National Assembly to the effect that the subsidiary Six-Year Plan, contained in the message, be officially inaugurated.

During the ensuing sessions, attention and effort were concentrated on the goals outlined in the new Plan, which briefly, are: increase numbers of believers; multiply isolated centers, groups, and local assemblies; incorporate local assemblies when possible; inaugurate Regional Funds; stimulate translating, printing and disseminating of literature; obtain recognition by authorities of Bahá’í marriage certificates and Holy Days; extend the scope, and increase the number of summer schools; attraction, and conversion of Gypsies and Basques; and purchase plot for Temple on outskirts of Madrid.

Two of these goals were given a beginning by the opening of the Regional Fund with contributions from the various communities and individuals. A Temple Fund was also begun.

The beloved Guardian, in his message, again called upon the American Bahá’í Community to continue its “material and moral support” in this effort, for which indeed the Bahá’ís of the Peninsula felt most profound gratitude.

On the last day of the Convention, April 24, a cable was received from the beloved Guardian through the Hand of the Cause, in answer to the convention message sent to him. The text of the Guardian’s cable was:

“Assure friends supplicating fervently abundant blessings meritorious activities. Urge redoubled efforts. Deepest Love.”

—SHOOHI

The Convention was officially closed after a brief summing up by the Secretary, the pronouncements by Mr. Wootton, Mrs. Tove Deleuran, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands, and by Dr. Ugo Giachery, Hand of the Cause of God, who assured the assembled friends that he saw the light of Bahá’u’lláh in their eyes, brightly shining. All present were again appointed with the attar of roses from the Guardian, and the flask containing it presented to the Iberian Community.

Due to the fact that the Spanish and Portuguese authorities have so far refused to recognize the Faith, the rule that more than twenty persons cannot meet together without permission was observed. Therefore, as only the delegates and several official visitors were allowed to attend the sessions, a tape recording was made of the highlights, during the proceedings, to be played back to the Iberian communities in separate gatherings, so that they might also enjoy, even in such a restricted manner, the thrilling and historic happenings, which, through the power and unfailing protection of Bahá’u’lláh were celebrated by hearts overflowing with gratitude and a new spirit of complete dedication.

—Virginia Orbison
Convention Reporter

Benelux Countries

BRUSSELS CONVENTION
FORMS BENELUX NSA

At this unique occasion, the gathering of the delegates for the first National Convention of the Benelux countries in Brussels, Belgium, our thoughts went back over the past years.

It was a little over ten years ago that our beloved Guardian entrusted the American believers with the tremendous task to spread the Faith in the European countries, and that pioneers settle in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

A few years later, in 1949, the Benelux Regional Committee was appointed, with the purpose to sow the seed of cooperation in these three little countries.

With the never-failing help and assistance of our American friends, in the course of the following years the seed grew up, till a little but strong young tree was rooted in the soil of three neighboring countries.

An overwhelming feeling of joy and gratitude came over us all when we learned that our beloved Guardian found the young Benelux tree strong enough to range as a new pillar for the future International House of Justice in the row of National Spiritual Assemblies.

Almost 60 Benelux Bahá’ís came on April 20-22 to Brussels, to be presented at this historic event.
Our ranks were reinforced by our reliable friend, Dr. Herman Grossmann, Hand of the Cause of God, whose presence on various occasions in the past had become so very dear to us, and who came with a special message of our Guardian; and by two members of the Auxiliary Board, Louis Henuzet and Joel Marangella, who with their clear explanations contributed a better insight into our tasks for the remaining six years of the World Crusade.

At this historic moment a very special place in our midst was taken by H. Borrah Kavelin, treasurer and representative of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States.

He fulfilled his tasks, to direct the Convention and later to assist the members of the newly elected National Spiritual Assembly, so inspiringly and charmingly that we could not help but see him as the personification of the cordial love that we experienced all the years before from the American National Assembly.

The Guardian’s message to the Convention and his special letter, presented to us by Dr. Grossmann, containing the specific tasks and goals for the Benelux countries, formed the main subject of the consultation.

We learned that from now on we have to share our own National Spiritual Assembly in the many-fold tasks, as: increasing to an unprecedented degree the number of the believers, multiplying the local Spiritual Assemblies and groups, inaugurating Regional and National in incorporating the Spiritual Assemblies, selecting and purchasing ground for the Mashriqu’l-Adhkár, and many others.

We realized very well that all of these tasks are heavy for us, very heavy; but in full trust in the Guardian’s guidance, his powerful prayers, and our own combined forces, we promised ourselves to go to work immediately, to show that we will be equal to the tasks that are entrusted to us, and that we have really understood God’s Plan for us and for the world we live in.

The election of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Benelux countries, so eagerly awaited, gave the following results: Louis Henuzet, Roger Swinnen, Mrs. Lea Nys, Miss Else de Koninck, Bob van Lith, Claude Levy, Jean Nys, Jan van Syd, and Fernand Nadar.

With that lovely aroma of the altar of roses around us, specially sent by the Guardian to Dr. Grossmann to anoint the friends, and loaded with a dynamic desire to proceed to action, we all went back to our own places enriched again by that very strange power that we drew from our first Convention.

—Mr. and Mrs. B. Van Lith
Convention Reporters

Scandinavia, Finland

STOCKHOLM HOLDS FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Like birds coming from all directions, delegates, visitors, and messages converged on Stockholm, Sweden, April 22 for the first Convention to elect a National Spiritual Assembly for Scandinavia and Finland, representing Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland, to be held through April 24, 1957.

Edna True, National Spiritual Assembly representative for the United States, came from Wilmette; Dr. Adelbert Mühlschlegel, Hand of the Cause of God, from Stuttgart; Honor Kempton, E.T.C. representative, from Geneva; Dorothy Ferraby, Auxiliary Board member, from London; Joyce Lawrence, Mildred Clark, Amelia Bowman, Josephine Kruka, and Greta Jankko, American pioneers, from Norway and Finland.

On arrival we were given the added joy of being present for the dedication of the newly acquired Haţratul’-Qud’s. The Stockholm Baha’is had worked day and night to have the house in readiness for the occasion, and now all was in order with beautiful flower arrangements adding perfume and beauty to the warmth and coziness of the house.

As Dr. Mühlschlegel pointed out in his dedication address, we felt at home in this house, which “is like a flower to gladden seeking souls.” A warm welcome was extended by Hans Odemyr, chairman of the Stockholm Local Spiritual Assembly, to the delegates and visitors, and the hearts joined in loving reunion with the reading of the prayers by Edna True, Dorothy Ferraby and Martha Collander.

The Convention was opened by Edna True, official representative of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, who evaluated the significance of the occasion for Scandinavia and Finland, and for the world, as beyond our comprehension, that we were witnessing “a momentous stage in the establishment of a New World Order, which we know is the Ark of Salvation to all mankind.” She also called attention to what was happening in the world this Ridván with more than 42 territories participating in the election of 13 national Spiritual Assemblies on four continents of the globe.

Dr. Mühlschlegel in his remarks alluded to the American Baha’i community, who through the pioneers had brought the seed to these countries that “had grown and flourished, and is now gathered by the Will of God and His Covenant to achieve a oneness and unity in variety through the institution of the National Spiritual Assembly.”

Sixteen of the nineteen delegates assigned by the Guardian—and who had been elected by the Bahá’ís communities of Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, Oslo, and Bergen—answered the roll call. The Convention then proceeded to elect the Convention chairman, Hans Odemyr of Stockholm; and secretary, Gerd Strand of Oslo.

Our beloved Guardian’s message was then read by Dr. Mühlschlegel, and brought forth the first recommendation to the forthcoming National Spiritual Assembly that copies be made available to the believers in all four countries. Messages were also read from the European Teaching Committee, Assemblies, groups, and friends over the world, and all too quickly the first session was over.

At the Ridván Feast held that evening, the fervor of the prayers and supplications read, created a heavenly atmosphere in which one felt God very near! A gift from the Guardian,—altar of roses,—was given by Dr. Mühlschlegel, who pointed out that when we use altar of roses, it is not rite or cult, “simply a token of the Guardian’s feelings for you all! The rose, the king of the flowers, gives its essence to the Guardian, the noblest of men, who gives it to you with the king of feelings, love, and with this I acquaint you.” As we listened to the recording of the Message of the beloved Guardian, read by his representative, Amatu’l-Baha Ruhíyyih Khánum, on the occasion of the dedica-
tion of the Temple in Wilmette, the fragrance of our Guardian’s love pervaded the atmosphere.

The program included a presentation of the goals of the World Crusade, with special reference to Scandinavia and Finland, by Lotus Nielsen of Stockholm; and “The Spiritual Significance of the National Spiritual Assembly,” by Gudrun Ofstegaard of Bergen. At the public meeting Gerd Strand of Oslo spoke of “Faith, Hope and Conviction,” and Hans Odemyr of Stockholm on “The Significance of the Bahá’í Teachings for the Individual and the Community.” Colored pictures of Bahá’í edifices at the World Center, and of the Temple in Wilmette added also to this lovely evening.

Each session began with a devotional period that was indeed the source of a great spiritual outpouring that prevailed during the entire Convention, and which reached the apex during the election of the National Spiritual Assembly. Edna True, before the prayers were read, called on the delegates to forget national boundaries and to be entirely impersonal in the performance of this greatest of all responsibilities which they were called upon to assume.

“Surely the eyes of Bahá’u’lláh are upon us,” she said. “Now let us strive to give Him those whom He wishes to serve Him in this area,” lifting the consciousness of all to that “rarified atmosphere of selflessness and detachment...” so necessary in our Bahá’í elections.

Surely not one of us present will ever forget the spiritual atmosphere of that moment, nor the thrill that came with the announcement that the National Spiritual Assembly of Scandinavia and Finland had been elected with the following members, listed with their appointed officers: Hans Odemyr, chairman; John Nielsen, vice-chairman; Gerd Strand, secretary; Lotus Nielsen, recording secretary; Gudrun Ofstegaard, treasurer; and Lisbeth Anderson, Palle Bischoff, Josephine Kruka, and Modesta Hvide.

The next morning we shared the great bounty of hearing the voice of the Master chanting “Glad Tidings,” and the hearts were filled with such love, we became indeed as one family! Gifts from the Guardian were presented by Dr. Mühlschlegel,—two beautifully tooled leather albums,—one containing colored pictures of Bahá’í edifices and the designs of future Temples to be erected, and the other contained pictures of the Hazíratu’l-Quds over the world. Edna True presented a red leather folder, a gift from the E.T.C., containing the acclamations of the established National Spiritual Assemblies, which she read, and messages from loving friends conveying greetings and congratulations followed.

Then the melody from the hearts of these birds “in the rose garden of His grace” rose in a great anthem of thanksgiving for the great love of the Guardian and his precious gifts; to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States, whose pioneers had brought the seed of truth to them; to Jenny Anderson, the first pioneer to Sweden under the Plan; to the European Teaching Committee, who had followed their progress from the first uncertain steps to this moment of consummation; to Julia Shows (“J.S.”) whose initials had appeared on all European Teaching Committee correspondence during these years of service.

The Convention then settled down to a consideration of the goals set forth in the Guardian’s Convention Message. These goals, constituting a subsidiary Six-Year Plan, were: the multiplication of Assemblies, groups and believers; the incorporation of the local Assemblies; the inauguration of a National Fund; the translating, printing and dissemination of Bahá’í literature; the increase in the number of summer schools; the introduction of the Faith into the three Baltic States; the recognition of the Bahá’í marriage and Holy Days; the attraction and conversion of racial minorities, particularly the Finns and Lapps; and the purchase of a Temple site in Stockholm. To accomplish these momentous achievements, each believer resolved to consider himself a pioneer on the home front.

As we returned to our homes we carried with us a lovely gold-lettered souvenir program of this first Convention in these Northern countries, containing a picture of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Author of the Divine Plan, Who had given the original impulse to the teaching effort which was now consummated with the election of the Divine Institution of the National Spiritual Assembly of Scandinavia and Finland.

—AMELIA BOWMAN
Convention Reporter

Central and East Africa
HAZIRATU’L-QUDS
ACQUIRED IN VICTORIA

From a circular letter addressed by Musa Banjá, Hand of the Cause for Africa, dated March 28, 1957, these facts have been gleaned:

In a cablegram sent by the beloved Guardian to Mr. Banjá, Shoghi Effendi acclaims the services rendered by Enoch Olinga, pioneer to the British Cameroons, and declares that as the result of the status of the Faith produced there by Mr. Olinga, a Hazíratu’l-Quds is to be established in Victoria.

Mr. Banjá has recently been informed that this Hazíratu’l-Quds has already been acquired.
Forty-Ninth Annual Convention, Stirred by Guardian's Appeal.

To take stock of its present position in the spiritual Army of Bahá'u'lláh and to begin plans for the immediate year ahead through election and consultation, were the tasks that faced the Forty-Ninth Annual Convention of the Bahá'ís of the United States as it convened in Foundation Hall of the Bahá'í House of Worship on Sunday morning, April 28, 1957. The theme of the convention was: “The American Bahá'í Community in the World Crusade.”

Most of the 133 delegates present on that first morning already knew that the fourth year of the Ten-Year Crusade was coming to a close with triumphant victory on the world front. For here had been the establishment during the Ridván period of thirteen new National Spiritual Assemblies, bringing the total number of existing “Pillars” of the rising world order of Bahá'u'lláh to twenty-six. Of these, nine were nurtured into being by the American Bahá'ís.

Had the American Bahá'í community achieved like victory on its own homefront? Had it strengthened itself within? What increasing material and spiritual resources was it gaining with which to play its “lion’s share” in serving a rapidly developing Faith?

These were questions in the minds of every delegate and visitor as the work of the four-day convention began. Reports from the outgoing National Spiritual Assembly and its committees would be revealing. Already the formal Annual Reports, edition for 1956-57, was in their hands with the lesser victories and some failures apparent.

The spiritual tone of the convention this year was actually established on the preceding night with the Feast of Ridván, when devotions concentrated around the words of Bahá'u'lláh, “Arise, and proclaim unto the entire creation the tidings that He Who is the All-Merciful hath directed His steps towards the Ridván and entered it.” With the beautiful singing of the children’s Temple choir flooding our hearts and the words of Bahá'u'lláh: “O Son of Being! Walk in my statutes for love of Me!” lingering with us, Bahá'ís gathered for the social period in Foundation Hall, renewing friendships while at the same time preparing for the convention.

Devotions each morning at 9 o'clock, the regular Sunday afternoon devotions for the public, all in the auditorium, and the opening prayers for the consultation sessions, brought to every heart the creative words of our Founders. This inspiration and renewal was essential to the action required of the convention.

Fulfillment of Promise
On behalf of the National Spiritual Assembly, Paul E. Haney, its chairman, welcomed the delegates and visitors and then called attention to the significance of the establishment of the thirteen new “pillars” of the Cause. “These wonderful events mark the ninety-fourth anniversary of the greatest event in the history of the world, the Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh,” he said. “These events are a reflection of the fulfillment of the promise made to Bahá'u'lláh in the Siyáh-Chá: ‘Grieve Thou not for that which hath befallen Thee, neither be Thou afraid, for Thou art in safety. Breathe will God raise up the treasures of the earth—men who will aid Thee through Thyself and through Thy Name, wherewith God hath revived the hearts of such as have recognized Him’.”

Mr. Haney made the first reference to the Convention Message received from Shoghi Effendi with the words “one of the most wonderful documents he has ever sent to us.”

After the convention had organized itself with Mr. Haney as chairman and Horace Holley as secretary, had adopted the agenda with the qualification that it could be changed at any time by vote of the delegates, and heard the first of the greetings that were to come in from other Bahá'í communities and individuals, the “Table of Visitation” revealed by ‘Abdu'l-Bahá was read to precede the reading of the Guardian's Message.

Message of the Guardian
At the direction of the Guardian the chairman read the Message which he had sent them, for sharing with them and with twenty-three other Bahá'í Conventions simultaneously during Ridván, the joyful word of victories won, directives for the forwarding of the Crusade and inspiration for meeting the challenging issues that history has given to this age.

Against the background of the world's turmoil Shoghi Effendi calls the Bahá'ís to ponder the “portentous prophecies” of Bahá'u'lláh and the “dire predictions” of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, “all foreshadowing a universal commotion, of a scope and intensity unparalleled in the annals of mankind.” And then he renews our vision which is the purpose of our lives and the overall purpose of all convention consultation:

"—a calamity which must purge the human race of the dross of its age-long corruptions, and weld its component parts into a world-embracing Fellowship—a Fellowship destined, in the fullness of time, to be incorporated in the framework, and to be galvanized by the spiritualizing influences, of a mysteriously expanding, divinely appointed Order, and to flower, in the course of future Dispensations, into a Civilization, the like of which mankind has, at no stage in its evolution, witnessed."

Parallel with the process of progressive deterioration in human affairs has been the process of “integration,” the Message continues, “as demonstrated by the increasing cohesion, the multiplication, and the reinforcement of the foundations, of the institutions of the embryonic Bahá'í World Order.” This is a process that is contributing “to the building up, slowly but irresistibly, of the Ark of human salvation,” ordained as the ultimate haven for human society.

After enumerating the outstanding achievements of the World Crusade in detail to show the gains made in the remotest area or on the smallest scale as well as the triumphant es-
Stimulates Renewed Dedication to Tasks and Ideals of Faith

tablishment of the thirteen new National Assemblies and the lifting of the grave persecution in Iran, the Guardian turns our attention to the tasks ahead. Most brilliant of the accomplishments just ahead must be the erection of three Temples, Mother-Temples of the European, the Australian and the African continents. The designs are ready; the construction must begin.

In the current year no gain must be allowed to be lost, the Guardian emphasizes, and a “determined effort must be made to insure, as speedily as possible, the resettlement of the territories which Bahá’í pioneers have been forced to abandon, and the opening of the three virgin islands situated in the North Sea and in the Indian Ocean, as well as the six Republics of the Soviet Union and the five territories included within the Soviet Orbit.”

The safeguarding of all existing institutions and the broadening of their foundations must be accompanied with a rapid increase in the number of believers in every continent in order to insure the completion of all future tasks and the spread of the healing light of the Bahá’í Faith.

Renewal on Homefronts

“Great are the strides that have already been made, and phenomenal the success achieved . . . . The tasks that still remain to be accomplished, however, are truly formidable. Above all, the homefront, that must serve as a reservoir for the supply of a steady flow of pioneers and resources for the multiple organized operations of a continually expanding Crusade, and which, alas, in several countries . . . has been progressively declining, must, at whatever cost, and within as short a time as possible, be revitalized, extended, and consolidated.”

The Guardian closed his “review of the superb feats already accomplished,” with an appeal for a “renewed dedication” on the part of every Bahá’í throughout the world—his “spiritual brethren”—a dedication that is a pledge “willingly and solemnly made for the prosecution of the collective task” which they are confronted.

The Guardian’s deep hope is that the Crusade, speeding on to its midway point, may reap such a harvest “as will amaze its prosecutors, astonish the world at large, and draw forth from the Source on high a measure of celestial strength adequate to insure its triumphant consummation.”

Arising to the Challenge

The convention appointed a committee to draft a reply to the Guardian, which was sent by cable within a few hours. It was a pledge, sincerely made, as follows:

“With joyous hearts, gratitude, thanksgiving thrilling achievements announced stirring message, assembled delegates solemnly pledge whole-hearted effort inspire renewal of dedication entire American community to fulfill remaining goals World Crusade at home, abroad. Deeply grateful beloved Guardian’s continuing prayers for our strength, steadfastness, victory. Send devoted love, Ridván Greetings.”

—49th ANNUAL CONVENTION

On April 29 the Guardian replied to our message with the following message carrying a plea for “unprecedented” effort on the American homefront:

“Welcome pledge (by) delegates. Fervently supplicating Bahá’u’lláh’s sustaining grace; urge intensification efforts rededication achievement goals (of) plan, discharge befittingly sacred, manifold, inescapable, urgent responsibilities confronting entire American Bahá’í community. Appeal unprecedented increase pioneers homefront all continents (of) globe on which prosperity, security (and) destiny (of) American believers must ultimately rest.”

—Sohn

Deeply stirred by the victories already won and our Guardian’s appeal to move forward together for the redemption for mankind, the convention took up its work with a solemnity and dedication that increased as the hours passed. If we felt that we must “dig in,” as it were, for a rugged pull, it was because there was much to be done and little time at convention sessions to speak of all that was in our hearts and minds. Yet, looking back on those four days we find, from notes taken at the time, that the sessions were marked with an efficiency, a speed, a realistic approach and a mutual courtesy unequalled at previous American Bahá’í conventions. Consultation is becoming a wonderful instrument in the light of the new Day of God.

To the call of the Guardian was to be added, during convention reports, the specific challenges of the growing recognition of the Faith by racial minorities in America, of notice taken of it by religious commentators and of the increasing space given to its announcements in the press. The publication of Dr. George Townshend’s last book, Christ and Bahá’u’lláh, was hailed as an unusual opportunity for proclaiming clearly to the Christians of the West the Second Coming of Christ.

And so the tone and temper of the convention rose as the hours passed, the delegates striving to attain the station of love and ardor which would produce good recommendations to the incoming National Assembly and go forth with them for revitalization of the friends back home . . . . the ninety percent that could not be present among the 967 Bahá’ís who “feasted” at the convention table of bounty.

Greetings of the Hands

The American Hands of the Cause greeted the convention on the first afternoon in a message shared with seven national conventions of the western hemisphere. “Let us pause and give thought to the mighty upsurge that we are witnessing in the Cause,” this message said. A review of the establishment of the thirteen new “pillars” gives a threefold sign: The Guardian is provided with more powerful institutions for the fulfillment of the Will and Testament pro-
visions; new agencies have been created for spreading and consolidating the Faith; and we have a stronger administration which reinforces our contacts with the United Nations and its member states.

"These victories, marking the year 1956 to 1957, are a means to an end. The Ten-Year Plan presents new goals to be reached; the race is still to be won. The Bahá'í world is in motion and its consecrated energies will not be relaxed until all people are gathered into one fold and under one Shepherd. . . . Would the Bahá'ís themselves have conceived of this vast World Crusade? The Guardian alone knows the swift movement of destiny."

High tribute was paid by the Hands, Mrs. Corinne True, Mr. Horace Holley and Mr. Paul Haney to the members of the Auxiliary Board for the western hemisphere: Margery McCormick, Florence Mayberry, William deForge, Katherine McLaughlin, Gayle Woolson, Rowland Estall, Margot Worley, Esteban Canales and Dr. Sarah Martin Pereira.

Services of the Hands and of the Board members were offered to the Bahá'ís of the western hemisphere, who have a particular mission as we know when we ponder the words of the Tablet which Bahá'u'lláh revealed to the Americans: "Assist with the hands of justice the brokenhearted, and crush the great oppressors with the scourge of the Commands of your Lord, the Powerful, the Wise."

We Look at Our Objectives

The convention began its detailed appraisal of the American community's position in relation to its Crusade objectives through the supplementary report given by the secretary of the National Assembly, Mr. Holley. (Annual Reports gives all but the recent facts.)

1. A cable from the Guardian dated March 27, 1957, informed the Hands and the NSA's of the passing into the Abáh Kingdom of Hand of the Cause, George Townshend, speaking of this beloved servant of the Faith as "indefatigable" . . . "highly talented" . . . "fearless defender" of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.

In the same cable the Guardian announced the appointment of Miss Agnes Alexander, pioneer to the Japanese, to the station of Hand of the Cause, thus retaining the number of 19 at the present time for service to this divine institution.

2. In a letter from Shoghi Effendi's secretary reference was made to Dr. Townshend's book, Christ and Bahá'u'lláh, with the comment that the Guardian is very impressed with it. The National Assembly will work out details for carrying out Shoghi Effendi's directives concerning our use of the book in giving the Message to Christian people, obtaining press publicity and presenting copies to ecclesiastics. The Guardian asked that a copy be sent to Marcus Bach.

3. Each of the nine members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States assisted at the organization of nine of the thirteen new National Assemblies organized at conventions meetings during the Ridván period. For five or six days all members were outside of this country. In discharging this mission for the American Bahá'ís in their sponsorship of the new Assemblies, the places of mission and the members were as follows:

(1) National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of North East Asia; Tokyo, Japan; Charlotte Linfoot.
(2) National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Alaska; Anchorage, Alaska; Paul E. Haney.
(3) National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central America and Mexico; Panama City, Panama; Robert W. McLaughlin.
(4) National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Greater Antilles; Kingston, Jamaica; Dr. Katherine True.
(5) National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í of Brazil, Peru, Columbia, Ecuador and Venezuela; Lima, Peru; Horace Holley.
(6) National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Margery McCormick.
(7) National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Scandinavia and Finland; Stockholm, Sweden; Edna True.
(8) National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Benelux Countries; Brussels, Belgium; H. Borrah Kavelin.
(9) National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Iberian Peninsula; Madrid, Spain; Charles Wolcott.

(Note: The other four National Assemblies to be established were: the Bahá'ís of Pakistan; of South East Asia; of New Zealand, and of the Arabian Peninsula . . . under other sponsorship.)

4. Yuma, Arizona, has secured recognition of Bahá'í Holy Days, (making six places added since April 21, 1956).

5. A letter from Haifa made reference to Dr. Bach's article in a recent Christian Century called "Bahá': A Second Look." This article by a member of the Department of Religion at the University of Iowa and writer on religion, is very excellent publicity, Mr. Holley remarked. (Dr. Bach was a guest of Shoghi Effendi three years ago.)

6. The National Assembly held meetings during the year with 33 days of work, and recorded 1,255 actions taken. Absences were brief and rare.

7. A new translation of Mysterious Force of Civilization, authored by 'Abdu'l-Bahá is now off the Bahá'í press. It is entitled The Secret of Divine Civilization and was translated by Marzieh Gail. With many quotations from the Qur'án, Mr. Holley remarked that it is particularly good for the West, and it proves that Islam was the basis of modern civilization.

8. A most recent report on the situation in Iran made by Habib Sabet shows that the government is regretful of what it did, but not yet willing to give full liberty to the Bahá'ís.

9. The institution of Race Amity Day (for the second Sunday in June) the Guardian hopes will become very important and ultimately listed with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as is World Religion Day.

10. The Home for the Aged (left for special report).

11. Enrollments, May 1, 1956, to April 15, 1957:
   Adults by Local Assemblies ......... 244
   Adults by Area Teaching Committees ......... 164
   Youth by Local Assemblies ......... 52
   Youth by Area Teaching Committees ......... 27
   Alaska, Hawaii ......... 17
   Total ......... 504

Lost from membership: 130 by
withdrawal and 94 by death (224); Net increase, 280. Five or six states made no enrollments; 95 of 188 LSA's enrolled one or more; and 92 of 188 LSA's enrolled none.

Last year up to convention time the enrollment figures were: 233 by Local Assemblies; 211 by Area Teaching Committees; total 434, with 69 being youth. Withdrawals were 355; deaths, 199; lost, 474. This meant a net loss of 49 members in 1955-56.

12. Other goals: in addition to the objectives reviewed in Annual Reports eleven goals have been opened in Africa and a Local Spiritual Assembly has been established in the Balearic Islands.

On the Home Front

The objective of the national teaching this year, reported by the National Teaching Committee on the first afternoon of convention, was to establish 30 new Local Spiritual Assemblies with a minimum of one in each state. This seemed necessary if we are to meet the objective of 300 strong local Assemblies by 1963. As a result of a message from the Guardian urging that teachers with knowledge of the Covenant travel in circuits, the new committee, delayed somewhat by change in personnel this year, instituted two circuit plans that by now are running smoothly in many sections of the country. Results as far as figures go: new Local Assemblies, 23; restored, 5; lost, 10; net gain, 18. Four states were without a local Assembly; now we have one in Greensville, S. Car., and Minot, S. Dak., leaving just Rhode Island and Vermont without Assemblies. Sixteen states have only one Assembly. We must move from the cities, the Committee advised, to obey the Guardian, even if it is just to the suburbs.

On Tuesday when more reports had come in from the April 21 elections the National Teaching Committee reported: "It now seems that we have 209 Assemblies. Twenty-two are new and seven are restored. Many are still in danger because weak."

"We must double our efforts to deepen and attract," the committee stated; then, quoting the Guardian: "It is primarily a task that concerns the individual believer, wherever he may be, and whatever his calling, his resources, his race, or his age." (From "Inestimable Prizes. . . .")

The National Teaching Committee report was a springboard for vigorous consultation that began with the rousing statement: "This next year can be the most interesting and exciting on the homefront if we arise and seize the God-given opportunities before us. It seems time to take the Message to the Christians."

There followed in rapid succession many suggestions, recommendations and experience stories of helpful nature, beginning with a formal recommendation to the National Spiritual Assembly to consider securing reprints of the Christian Century article by Dr. Marcus Bach and distributing it widely throughout America, making an introduction to Dr. Townsend's latest book also in this connection.

The consultation, which continued through the afternoon on Sunday and was allotted time on other days, ran a long gamut of ideas including the presentation of other committees, all of which were bent on assisting and serving the World Crusade in their respective spheres.

"The homefront, that must serve as a base, and act as a reservoir for the supply of a steady flow of pioneers and resources for the multiple organized operations of a continually expanding Crusade . . . has been progressively declining," were the words of the Guardian that spurred on the discussion and made the American believers come to grips with their situation once again this year and face themselves with truthfulness.

"We have a clear-cut direction to initiate a deeper and wider program for fulfilling our obligations under the Covenant; "each one teach one," is what the Master said; when lighted we do spontaneous teaching; get the "unknown quantity," the inactive believers to work through stimulation from Local Assemblies or area teaching committees; assist the isolated believers more than is being done now through state conferences and corner-state gatherings; "We have the problem of combining the administrative order with the flame of the spirit—keeping everyone busy is contagious." "We must believe that the Power will be released to help us," pray more, learn to attract, study diligently and act continuously; set local goals that will lead us to the goals of the Crusade; such as so many firesides, card campaigns, etc.: "We have need of revitalization. Let us do our utmost to achieve it... The Administrative Order and the homefront plans are carried out by administrative bodies, of which the Guardian says we have enough. Let us give all the emphasis to personal regeneration. If we are active we don't need elaborate plans. People come into our lives."

Continuing the consultation—encourage the setting up of more extension committees by local Assemblies; use tact and courtesy between an extension committee and groups it endeavors to serve; call groups and isolated believers in to an Assembly for consultation; ask isolated believers to help in the work of a locality or an area; extension work goes on easily if properly planned; use the administrative bodies that we do have and developing special projects which the Area Teaching Committees can set up in an area; isolated believers can work together to study, learn and increase their numbers.

Out of this consultation came the recommendation: that the area committees encourage special projects in a state or smaller area where Assemblies need assistance and isolated believers need fellowship and stimulation to teach.

Speaking to the subject of spiritual revitalization, which grew more and more to be the basic theme of the convention, the delegates were deeply moved to offer remarks that were inspiring to all present and helped to make the convention, in the opinion of many, one of the best in many a year.

Recommendation: that the NSA consider asking the National Teaching Committee to look into opportunities for co-operating in an international teaching plan with the communities near the border states.

Recommendation: that the Convention record a solemn appeal to individual Bahá'í's throughout the United States to respond wholeheartedly in acceptance of the Guardian's appeal for renewed consecration in the teaching work; and that the Convention refer this message to the National Spiritual Assembly with the request that it devise such measures as will fulfill the collective desire of the American Bahá'ís; and, that the Bahá'í community of the United States accept whatever plans are announced, and then give its whole-
hearted effort and devotion.

"Let the Breeze of God awaken you. Verily, it hath wafted over the world. Well is it with him that hath discovered the fragrance thereof and been accounted among the well-assured."

Evidence of Resistless March

The program Sunday evening was a moving experience, giving to the assembled Bahá’ís a two-fold picture of historic happenings in the Faith in lands far-flung from their own but closely allied in heart through the love of Bahá’u’lláh. First came the presentation, one by one, by members of the National Spiritual Assembly, of word pictures of the nine conventions which convened for the first time to elect National Spiritual Assemblies under the sponsorship of the American Bahá’í community; and second, came a graphic recital by Habíb Sabet of the special mission which he served for the Guardian in the land that is the Cradle of the Faith.

To be privileged to hear these first-hand stories by eyewitnesses and participants in these historic events was a rare blessing for Bahá’ís in convention. And yet how small may be our comprehension of the great significance of these recent steps which have been taken in the building and protection of the Cause!

Varied in their ethnic and religious background are the peoples now drawn within Bahá’í National Assembly jurisdiction by the new institutions; different in their cultural and economic way of living; in temperament contrasted in many ways to our own; but alike in their love of Bahá’u’lláh, our National Assembly members reported. To each convention the Guardian sent gifts: altar of roses for anointment of the believers; albums with pictures of the Temples and the Hazíratulláh-Quds; loving messages; a six-year plan for their participation in the Ten-Year Crusade. These plans are patterned much the same with the assignment of ten or eleven tasks for the expansion and consolidation of the Faith, the building of a National Fund and the acquisition of Temple sites. While in Alaska this means one Temple site, in the areas where there are several states now under a regional NSA jurisdiction, such as that of the Greater Antilles or of the two divisions of South America, it calls for a Temple site to be purchased in each state division.

A Hand of the Cause representing the Guardian presented the gifts and addressed the assembled delegates at each convention: Paul Haney at the Alaskan convention; Horace Holley at the one in Peru; Díkhrúlláh Khádem, at Panama City; Mrs. Corinne True, who at 95 years of age went to Kingston, accompanied by her daughter who represented the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States: Ugo Giachery, at Madrid; Dr. Hermann Grossmann, at Brussels; Adelbert Mühschlegel, Stockholm; Dr. ‘Alí Muhammad Varqā, Buenos Aires, and Djalál Khážeh, Tokyo.

Attendance at the conventions ranged from 17 at Madrid to 85 at Anchorage. An objective of the years ahead for the United States National Assembly will be the strengthening of these new bodies within the Bahá’í Administrative Order that they may become firm pillars. This will undoubtedly mean financial aid as well as guidance and love.

Memorable was the experience to these intrepid workers of the Faith and memorable the stories that they related of seeming miracles wrought to bring these countries and regions to Assembly status.

Defender of the Faith

In introducing Habíb Sabet, who gave a revealing account of his mission in Iran the past two years, Mír­dred Mottahedeh explained how after he had finished his work in respect to the persecution of the Bahá’ís there, the Guardian said to him: "You are the standard bearer of the innocents. You are the Defender of the Faith." And he called him Násirí’d-Dín, which means "defender of the faith." (This was the name of the Shí’í who persecuted the Bahá’ís; there seems a significance, that Mr. Sabet has made the name "clean.")

Immediately after May 15, 1955, when the Bahá’í community of Iran fell under what the Guardian has termed “barbarous” persecution, Mr Sabet was called by the Guardian to proceed to Tíhrán, where he began special negotiations with the officials.

Many were the delicate tasks he had to perform until at last His Majesty’s government was convinced through these efforts and those of the Bahá’ís throughout the world, that it should bring the persecution to an end. Baha’i property has been returned, though the central Hazíratulláh-Quds has not been completely vacated. There is still such restriction on assemblage that the national convention could not meet this Ridván. Election for the National Assembly was deferred.

Verily, the Bedrock

To support the World Crusade undertakings of the American Bahá’í community, at home and abroad, stands the National Fund. Consideration of the achievements, the responsibilities, the objectives and the problems associated with this fund was given by the delegates in consultation with the National Spiritual Assembly on Monday morning.

"What we can be aware of (since the Guardian’s Message) is that the great institution of the National Fund in the United States is more and more demonstrating that it is the bedrock upon which other institutions must rest; and as it grows in scope so likewise will other Pillars of the Cause increase in numbers and grow in strength," said Bórah Kavelin, national treasurer, as he introduced the presentation.

"As tensions mount, as signs of unrest multiply, and as people everywhere seem to have lost their grip on the hand of God, a world within a world is being fashioned. A little circle of light is expanding, pushing outward, drawing larger areas within itself, sustaining with hope and faith more and more of the world’s peoples."

Mr. Kavelin continued: "We are all soldiers of this Army of Light, marshalling our forces together,symbolizing the advent of a new Faith.

We bear the seeds of human transformation and the seeds of the Most Great Peace. We in America have been placed in the vanguard of this Army of Light, as a bounty from our beloved Guardian. Our duties are consummated in carrying out this responsibility placed upon us. Then, how have we fared?"

After describing what objectives we have achieved that called upon the National Fund, the nature of which are described at other places in this story, Mr. Kavelin presented the budget of National Assembly suggested for the new year and made the report on expenditures and receipts for 1956-57. The convention adopted the budget as it has been
outlined, with a total of $425,000 as the goal, a reduction of $75,000 compared to last year. With receipts only $327,000 from contributions last year and $348,600 the amount collected, even including estate funds available, it seems realistic to reduce the budget for 1957-58. There were attempts on the part of the delegation to raise this total by recommendation of a $40,000 to $50,000 increase; there were many questions of why national committees had not spent all the sum allocated to them in several instances; and there was careful scrutiny of the trusteeships, particularly the Summer Schools.

The treasurer explained that the income from the Mathews property in Colorado when the government expropriated it for an Air Force Academy has been allocated for the much-needed deferred repairs at Green Acre, Davison and Geyserville.

"It is fitting", the treasurer explained, "that the monthly report in Baha'i News which the NSA makes be dignified and simple so each of you can respond as you feel impelled to do. I hope that this standard of advising the friends on the Fund will be maintained."

An item in the budget that is new is the token gifts for the two new Temples, Germany and Australia—$2,500—one thousand a year for two years and then five hundred dollars. (The Kampala Temple contribution has already been budgeted.) And the budget is set up for the new fledgling Assemblies, to each of which Amelia Collins, Hand of the Cause in Haifa has already given $1,000 each.

So strong was the feeling about the inadvisability of the National Teaching Committee continuing to spend less than allowed that a recommendation passed which in its final form included all the committees and suggested to the National Assembly the propriety of making a realistic analysis of expenses involved for the purpose of meeting needs of the teaching campaign, in the United States particularly.

Our Home for the Aged

Presentations made by all other committees, teaching, proclamation, and service—were excellent, helpful for the delegates and stimulating splendid consultation, with requests for information and final recommendations to the National Assembly. Some were exceptionally thrilling because of achievements; others notable because of unique plans for the future; and all correlated with the needs of the World Crusade on some one of its many fronts.

Because of the principle of the oneness of mankind to which the Baha'is must adhere, the First Dependency, or Home for the Aged, to be erected on property that we own in Wilmette, has been delayed. "We must await the judgment of the court on May 13 to know our next move."

Plans for the building to house 20 guests are now complete and were explained by the committee, with prints also for the delegates to see. Allocations made for the Home in the budget have not been spent. It will be a home for elderly people, not a hospital, and a large proportion may be paying guests, though it will have its humanitarian aspects.

Teaching Abroad

The vivid pictures drawn by the Intercontinental Teaching committees were fascinating disclosures of the heroic endeavors of pioneers. In Asia all virgin goals are now filled except those behind the Iron Curtain. More pioneers are needed to strengthen the base for the new regional National Spiritual Assembly of North East Asia, the third Pillar in the Pacific area.

In Europe three new National Assemblies will need assistance and a new one is to be established in France, 1958. We are not yet reaching the French natives and need pioneers to teach the French. There are still virgin goals, including Spitzbergen to the far north where an airline has recently established a base. A devoted committee searches weekends for appropriate property for a Temple site in Stockholm.

In Northwest Africa where a National Spiritual Assembly was established in 1956 there is need of pioneers; and the Guardian has called for purchase of an Ḥaḍiratu'l-Quds in each opened territory. Nigeria needs pioneers and Ghana is now open to Baha'is. South and West Africa is having phenomenal success in spite of difficulties, though without love we could not have won." Because of restrictions on assemblage the National Assembly was elected this Ridván by mail.

In the Western Hemisphere we have six years to evolve the four new regional National Assemblies and one new National Assembly into 20 National Spiritual Assemblies. There are many waiting to be led.
Many new Local Assemblies must be formed to form the base for the future. The Guardian determines when the base is strong enough. The one remaining Hazíratul-Quds, in Caracas, remains to be secured.

Our Younger Bahá’ís

One of the most outstanding presentations of the Convention was that of the Child Education Committee, now working on a philosophy of education, which when completed from a study of Bahá’í writings, will influence Child’s Way and all other material produced by the committee and which the committee believes will be an approach to what ‘Abdu’l-Bahá often stated would revolutionize the teaching methods in current use. The first statement on this philosophy was made available to the delegates in printed form and will be studied, with the consent of the National Assembly, in Summer Schools. It is a philosophy, not a technique, but from it techniques may be evolved. Its basic viewpoint is the “independent investigation of truth,” a privilege that the committee has come to believe must be encouraged for the child as well as the adult. Only then can the child really learn; then will he become a Bahá’í so firm that he will not waver from the Faith. The convention expressed a need for more children’s literature.

The Youth Committee in a careful presentation and during a long consultation made it clear that the youth need the adults, want to cooperate with them on committees and in conferences, wish to make use of the Persian Bahá’í students in this country, suggest the scattering of Bahá’í youth in many colleges, advise the formation of youth committees even in communities where there are no youth, and encourage the sharing of the Youth Bulletin with all the community.

Reaching the Minorities

The Interracial Teaching Committee reached the highlight of its presentation with details of observance of Negro History Week, a thrilling story of the greatest response from the Negro population in this country that there has yet been. Out of this came the idea for a Bahá’í Race Amity Day, which the National Assembly and the Guardian have approved, and on which we may concentrate on the Bahá’í principle of the oneness of mankind.

One of the goals of the Divine Plan and an objective of the Crusade is to introduce the Teachings to the American Indian. The Indian Service Committee reported that its work in two fields, translation and conversion of tribes, has had small successes this year, with translation proving an open door to the Indians. “A new day is coming” if and when we can have more Bahá’í pioneers on the reservations; but Indian contacts can be found in the big cities also.

Amoz Gibson, a delegate, and pioneer on the great Navajo reservation; Ethel Murray, the beloved pioneer on the Cherokee reservation; and Dr. F. Melany, who for a year held the Indian Service medical post on the Crow Agency, Montana, told wonderful stories of the Indians and how they receive the message of Bahá’u’lláh.

Other Pioneers

In addition to these three special speakers, there were other pioneers at convention: Miss Valerie Wilson, member of the Auxiliary Board for Africa, who was one of the first pioneers to that continent and who spoke of the needs there now; Mrs. Robert Miller, of South Africa, who brought greetings from the friends there; Mrs. Carole Hautz, pioneer to South Africa; Dr. Leland and Opal Jensen, Mauritius; Mrs. Charlotte Pinto, Mozambique, and Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Hadden of Rhodesia. Miss Leslie Webster, who has been pioneering in the Far East, spoke stirringly of Korea and neighboring lands.

Mr. Bert Rakovsky was accorded the platform to bring greetings from our sister community of Canada.

Arms of the NSA

There is only space here to point out important features of the fine presentations of all other committees of the National Assembly and urge that the believers read not only their Annual Reports but also the NSA report in Baha’i News on its action on all convention recommendations.

The Summer School program committees called attention to the Guardian’s oft repeated plea that the believers go to the schools, Green Acre, Davison and Geyersville, reviewed the curriculum for this year and distributed attractive program folders. The fourth Blue Ridge Conference was announced for August by the three area committees sponsoring it, and plans for the first Southern Region Summer School in the summer of 1958 were discussed. It was pointed out that it is not necessary to purchase property to set up the activities of a summer school. The question of location is not determined yet, nor whether there will be only one such school.

Mildred Mottahedeh, representative of the Bahá’í International Community, revealed that the Guardian has warned that we will again have persecution in Iran and so the UN contacts committee will be needed. Choosing one of the exciting conferences of the United Nations which she has attended, she described the interest shown by contacts at the Ceylon meeting.

The Bahá’í Publishing Trust, which came into existence as an objective of the World Crusade, the first and only institution that exists in the Faith that is self-sustaining, conducts its business on the basis of teaching the Faith through literature and of building something toward a reserve fund for expansion in the future. Mrs. Enice Braun, Managing Director, laid special emphasis on setting up of more efficient distribution mediums, such as local Assembly committees and area conference displays.

The United Nations Committee urged celebration of UN Day and likewise of Human Rights Day next fall. The Radio Reviewing Committee reported it will be glad to receive new scripts, and it urged the convention to prepare a catalogue of existing scripts and tapes. The Press Service Committee reported a gratifying increase in circulation and column inches for Bahá’í releases and advertising, and reviewed by the use of cards the Schedule of Special Events for the current year, with Race Amity Day as the most important addition, in this systematic campaign.

The Audio-Visual Committee can supply a great variety of tapes, records and slides suitable for Bahá’í and for public use. Convention showed enthusiasm over several proposed projects. Service for the Blind receives appealing letters for more Bahá’í literature in Braille than we have produced.

Election of the NSA

About midway of the Convention,
so that consultation could be possible with both the outgoing National Assembly and the incoming one, the national election was held, with delegates casting their ballots in the dedicated and prayerful atmosphere of a quiet Foundation Hall. Total number of delegates entitled to vote was 171; voting in person, 131 and by mail 38; total votes cast 1,521. The Bahá'ís named to serve on the national body for this year with the office that subsequent organization of the Assembly gave them, are as follows: Paul E. Haney, Chairman; Charles Welcott, Vice-Chairman; Horace Holley, Secretary; Edna True, Recording Secretary; Borrah Kavelin, treasurer; Charlotte Linfoot, Assistant Secretary; and Margery McCormick, Dr. Katherine True and Robert McLaughlin.

Convention registration figures on the last day were: number of delegates 136; Bahá'í visitors, 809; Bahá'ís from abroad, 29; total attendance 987, a new high for years other than Jubilee.

The three American Hands of the Cause, Mrs. Corinne True, Mr. Holley and Mr. Haney, closed the convention Wednesday afternoon with their presence and words of wisdom. Mr. Holley said:

"The divine institutions imply a divine community raised to a certain level of insight and co-operation. We can be carried along by the rest of the group just as a child is by its parents and we as Bahá'ís often are, and not from the light in our own hearts. Each individual has a responsibility between himself and God. He must take the step from the unconscious, the hereditary and the instinctual to the realm of the spirit. When we as a community have each taken that step the institutions will operate as well-oiled machinery. This is the mystery of the unfoldment of the light of God in our hearts."

"So my appeal to you is that we realize that as individuals we must take that most decisive step. We must be on the level of carrying ourselves, not of being carried along."

Mr. Haney reminded us that in this Faith blessings bring responsibilities and quoted: "His grace shall assist thee at all times, ere long it shall be manifest."

—Alice Simmons Cox
Convention Reporter

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tr>
<td>Race Amity Day</td>
<td>June 9, 1957</td>
<td>To proclaim the oneness of humanity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martyrdom of the Báb</td>
<td>July 9, 1957</td>
<td>To publicize developments at the Bahá'í World Center and the significance of the martyrdom of the Báb and His Shrine.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahá'í Proclamation Day</td>
<td>September 23, 1957</td>
<td>To proclaim America's spiritual mission; to observe the anniversary of the Faith's introduction to America.</td>
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<td>United Nations Day</td>
<td>October 24, 1957</td>
<td>To proclaim the spiritual basis on which the nations can unite for lasting peace.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh</td>
<td>November 12, 1957</td>
<td>To proclaim the appearance of the Promised One of all religions as the Lord of the New Age.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahá'í State Conventions</td>
<td>December 1, 1957</td>
<td>To publicize attendance and progress of the Ten-Year Spiritual Crusade.</td>
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<td>Human Rights Day</td>
<td>December 10, 1957</td>
<td>To proclaim the Bahá'í principles of justice for all mankind.</td>
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<td>World Religion Day</td>
<td>January 19, 1958</td>
<td>To proclaim the fundamental oneness of religion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naw-Rúz (Bahá'í New Year)</td>
<td>March 21, 1958</td>
<td>To proclaim the renewal of religion and a new spiritual springtime.</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Youth Day</td>
<td>March 25, 1958</td>
<td>To arouse the interest of all youth in the Bahá'í prescription for a united world.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahá'í National Convention</td>
<td>April 24-27, 1958</td>
<td>To publicize the delegate attendance and progress of the Ten-Year Spiritual Crusade.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Declaration of the Báb</td>
<td>May 23, 1958</td>
<td>To proclaim the oneness of humanity.</td>
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**SPECIAL EVENTS FOR PROCLAIMING BAHÁ'Í FAITH TO THE PUBLIC**

**BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS**

The Bridgeport Sunday Post (Conn.) of March 17, 1957, published a feature story on Israel as a home not only for Jews but for Christians, Arabs, and others. "The different non-Jewish communities within the state of Israel are assisted by the Ministry for Religious Affairs. Special departments serve the Moslem, Christian, Druze and Bahá'í communities." "The Bahá'ís have an enormously impressive temple (i.e., Shrine of the Báb) in Haifa, bringing disciples from everywhere to their world center."

The Jerusalem Post, March 21, 1957, noted the Bahá'í New Year's Day with a feature article with illustration of the International Archives Building showing the dome of the Shrine of the Báb in right background. Written by Ya'acov Ardon, this article presents the history and teachings of the Faith with accuracy and sympathetic understanding. "The religious principles of the Bahá'í faith, as expounded by the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh are similar to those of older monotheistic faiths and express restatement of 'the eternal verities of underlying all the religions of the past.' There is, however, an essential point of difference with a distinctly modern flavor: re-
religious truth, according to Bahá'í conception, is not absolute but relative and divine revelation (is) continuous and progressive."


A special article on Dr. Marcus Bach by Dan L. Thropp, religious editor, published in *Los Angeles Times*, March 30, 1957, includes the Bahá'í faith among the religions Dr. Bach has studied. "With the collapse of schemes for improving the world through political devices," he said, "we are turning to an honest investigation of the eternal values and our relationship with them."

The *Finnish-American Blue-White Book* for 1957, a yearbook published in the Finnish language by Finnish Newspaper Co., Brooklyn, publishes a detailed article about the Faith based upon an approved Bahá'í text. Two Finnish-American Bahá'ís, Ida Hiltunen, Chicago, and Josephine Kruka, are mentioned at the end of the article.

A pamphlet entitled *Some Current Religious Teachings on Biological Matters in the United States*, by Phyllis C. Martin, Chatham College, Pittsburgh, reprinted from *Proceedings of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science*, Vol. XXX, 1956, lists *Some Answered Questions* as one of the references used. The author has sought to find religious teachings dealing with the origin of life, the origin of species, the place of man among the species, diet, surgery, marriage, etc.

The *Vista*, Central State College newspaper, Edmond, Okla., on March 14 ran a brief sketch of an Iranian Bahá'í student, Mohabat Sobhani, with a photograph of him showing the reporter some Bahá'í illustrations.

La Table Ronde, September 1956, a monthly review published in Paris, presents an article by Robert Amadan which devotes a paragraph to summarizing the Bahá'í Faith.

**Prairie Club Bulletin**, March 1957, which supplies information about weekend walking tours for members, for April 7, 1957, listed the Bahá'í Temple, the Sunday afternoon worship service, and a guided tour.

The Wilmette Park District has circulated an illustrated brochure on local parks and playgrounds. A photograph of Wilmette Harbor shows the Temple in the background.

A newspaper in Stavanger, Norway, has published an article devoted to the Bahá'í Faith under the title "Eastern Unity Religion That Is Spreading Over the World." Based on an interview with Mrs. Amelia Bowman, American Bahá'í pioneer, the article answers the questions: *What Is Bahá'í? What Are the Bahá'í Ideas,* and furnishes its readers with a very interesting summary of the present worldwide status of the Faith.


The Delta Trading Co., Ltd., of Tel Aviv, Israel, publishes a daily calendar for 1957 with full page illustration of the Shrine of the Báb. The calendar dates are given in English, French, and Spanish.

**Bryce News**, mimeographed house organ published by the patients of Bryce Hospital, Tuscaloosa, Ala., on March 23, 1957, devoted an article entitled "Bahá'í Dies" to the passing of George Stephens Fraim in Northport on March 16. His wife, Dr. Marie Fraim, is a psychiatrist and physician on the hospital staff.

The *Ledger-Star*, of Inkster, Mich., on February 28, 1957, announced a Bahá'í talk by Mrs. Lois Nochman, with photo. Mrs. Nochman was referred to as author of *The Curtel Sonnets of Gerard Manley Hopkins*, and was an instructor of English at Highland Park Junior College.


**Radio Replies**, Vol. III, a Catholic work published in St. Paul, Minn., refers to the Faith, concluding with this statement: "This strange religious aberration is winning many credulous souls who have lost their grip on such religion as they previously possessed, and are in search of a new one."

**Ledger-Divwatch and Star**, March 30, 1957, published in Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va., ran an extensive interview with Mrs. Behjat Arnold with a three-column photo of Mrs. Arnold seated in her home with a picture of the Master and a framed Greatest Name in the background. This interview was arranged after Mrs. Arnold had spoken to the Chesapeake Women's Club and its members had brought her talk to the attention of the editor. The reporter emphasized Mrs. Arnold's Persian background but made it possible for her to introduce the subject of the Faith. "When Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned in the Great Prison of Acca, Palestine . . . the prophet sent for Mrs. Arnold's great grandparents. Though they were allowed to live in homes, they were still considered prisoners. Thus it was that Mrs. Arnold was
born in Palestine.'"


A novel entitled The Valleys of the Assassins, by Freya Stark, a Penguin book, has a brief but favorable reference to the Faith on page 162.

The New York Times Book Review section, Sunday, March 10, 1957, carried a large advertisement of Marcus Bach's The Circle of Faith which includes the name of Shoghi Effendi as one of the “great figures of our time” interviewed by the author.

The Illinois Times, Negro paper published in Champaign, Ill., on March 26 announced the Bahá'í Friendship dinner given on March 23 at the University YMCA at which Prof. F. G. Banta of the University of Illinois, and George R. Brawley, Bahá'í, were the speakers.

The April 21 issue of the Sunday Star-Ledger of Newark, N.J., announced on its religion page the beginning of Ridván with a brief reference to the three Central Figures of the Faith.

The New York Sunday Mirror, March 31, 1957, published a photograph of Actress Lisa Monteel over the caption “Actress to Be a Bahá'í Bride.”

The photograph of the International Archives Building has now appeared in the Seattle Times of March 3.

The Pampa, Texas, Daily News, reporting on February 22 on State Legislature events, mentioned that a bill had been introduced to allow Bahá'í officers to perform marriage ceremonies and had been passed by the House.

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

Fifth Year: 1957-1958

Daily Budget .......... $425,000.00

Total Contributions:

May 1 to May 15 ....... $17,708.00

May 1 to May 15 ..... 19,500.00

AREA NEWS BULLETINS

The Area Teaching Conference held in Austin, Texas, on February 24 attracted over 20 Bahá'ís from Texas and Louisiana. The Charter of a Divine Civilization and a paper titled “Action for the Individual” were studied. A summary of the plans of the four Texas communities for extension teaching was presented, and consultation followed on the agenda theme “What You Want to Do to Further the Ten-Year Crusade.”

A series of public meetings on “A Common Faith: Basis of World Peace” has been conducted by the Galveston, Texas, group. Guest speakers gave talks on some of the world religions, and Bahá'í speakers presented the principles of the Muslim and Bahá'í Faiths. This series was preceded by a television interview with two Bahá'ís and one guest.

“Bahá’ís in Their Community,” “Bahá’ís in Their Non-Bahá’í Community of Everyday Life,” and “Our Attitude and What It Means” were the subjects for consultation at a New England Area Teaching Conference held at Worcester, Mass., on February 17.

An inspiring all-state dual adult and youth conference was held at Lakewood, Colo., on February 17. Mrs. Ruth Moffett conducted the morning session consultation on “Revitalization of the Home Front.” At the afternoon session local activity reports from seven communities were given, while the youth consulted on questions submitted by the National Youth Committee.

Six New Mexico communities were represented at a state conference held at Albuquerque on March 3.

Laramie, Wyo., Bahá'ís held 15 firesides during January, at two of which there were Indian guests, and 24 meetings of various types during February, including small but effective open meetings. One fireside was attended by 12 Navajos, including six children.

The regular Sunday Study Class held by the North Little Rock and Little Rock, Ark., Bahá'ís has outgrown the homes formerly used for the meetings, and is now given in the Y.W.C.A.

Rogers, Ark., Bahá'ís have arranged to have Bahá'í literature placed in the bus depot, housed in a newly constructed bank building.
The literature container was designed in the shape of the Baha'i House of Worship, and was painted gold, with a glass front added to hold the pamphlets.

Regular weekly firesides at Greeley, Colo., brought ten new contacts in one month. Additional firesides have been held in non-Baha'i homes at the specific request of several new contacts, "as yet too shy to attend the regular gatherings."

SALES COMMITTEE OFFERS PLAQUE OF "GREATEST NAME"

The Bahá’í Sales Committee can fill orders for "The Greatest Name" printed on heavy white stock in gold for 35 cents a copy, and in black for 25 cents a copy. Orders should be sent to: Mr. Harry E. Walrath, 909 West Foster St., Chicago 40, Ill.

BAHÁ’Í PUBLISHING TRUST

Bahá’í: A Second Look. Reprint from Christian Century Magazine of April 10, 1957. For information on this item and how it is to be used see article on page 4, "A Teaching Campaign to Revitalize the Home Community" by the National Spiritual Assembly. Size 6 x 9, four pages.

25 copies .................. $ 1.00
100 copies .................. 3.00
500 copies .................. 12.00

Christ and Bahá’u’lláh. By George Townshend. (Published by George Ronald). For information on this item read the article concerning it on page 5 by the National Spiritual Assembly.

Per copy (Bound in cloth) ... $2.00
(If not available please order 25 copies at $1.00)

Per copy (Bound in paper) ... 1.00
(Available about June 15.)

The Secret of Divine Civilization.

By ’Abdu’l-Bahá. Translated by Márzieh Gail. Introduction by Horace Holley. This work, written in 1875, first published in English in London, 1910, and in Chicago in 1918 under the title Mysteries of Civilization, is more accurately rendered in this new translation.

The book, handsomely printed and bound, is set in Fairfield type with Civilite initial letters, and has a two-piece binding of natural linen and deep red, with gold stamping. The cloth is pyroxylin treated to resist moisture and soil.

Per copy .................. $2.50

Bahá’í Answers. This pamphlet answers many of the questions most frequently asked about the Bahá’í Faith.

There are nineteen questions in all, briefly but clearly answered, and prepared in convenient pocket size for easy carrying or mailing, with an attractive cover design showing a portion of the Bahá’í Temple designed by Wm. Musler. It should prove to be an excellent teaching and contact pamphlet for all Bahá’ís.

Ten copies .................. $ .75
100 copies ............... 6.00

Foreign Language Literature

The Hidden Words of Bahá’u’lláh (Spanish). Bound in paper.

Per copy .................. $.60

Out of Print

What Modern Man Must Know About Religion. Study Outline.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR DAVISON SCHOOL REGISTRAR

The Davison Bahá’í School, Davison, Mich., announces a new address for the Registrar, to whom reservations should be sent:

Mr. Rason Dobbs, Registrar
3208 S. State Road
Davison, Mich.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEASTS

June 5 — Nur (Light)
June 24 — Rahmat (Mercy)

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

June 21, 22, 23

MARRIAGES

Ketchikan, Alaska: Mrs. Gail F. Avery to Mr. Albert S. Davis on March 20, 1957.

Los Angeles, California: Miss Irene Montwill to Mr. Azemat Y. Seto on March 31, 1957.

Teaneck, New Jersey: Mrs. Audrey Jane Henderson to Mr. Leslie Marcus on April 12, 1957.

Los Angeles, California: Miss Jane Cartwright to Mr. Andrew N. Montwill on April 19, 1957.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Jewel Dunham
Phoenix, Arizona
March 22, 1957

Mrs. Paul White
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
April 2, 1957

Mr. Lewis C. Fair
Fresno, California
April 9, 1957

Mrs. Olive Gardner
Chicago, Illinois
April 11, 1957

Anthony Y. Seto
Tokyo, Japan
May 6, 1957

BAHÁ’Í NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Baha’i World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHÁ’Í NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1957-58: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Supreme through adverse decision just adversaries remnants (of the) once redoubtable labored so long (and) so assiduously ing (with) inexpressible anguish Holy Land (and) beyond its confines, the) Concourse on high, (and) pronounced (by) same Court, enabling ers within (the) enemies through appeal (to) Israel's cently contested (by) these same tioned (in the) recent Convention the) Lord (of the) Covenant through acts of overt hostility (and) property owned (by) Covenant-break­ [1.5] (the) heart (of) 'Abdu'l-Baha. (to) disrupt (the) foundations (of with the) eviction (of the) wretched (the) original decision (and) proceed (the) civil authorities (of the) right (of the) authorit [2] (the) course (of) over six [3] (to) crucify (the) Center (of the) Covenant outside (the) main gate (of the) fortress (of) Foreign Affairs (to) demolish (the) ruined building close (to the) vicinity (of) Bahá'u'lláh's Tomb; finally, by (the) extinction (of the) life (of the) prime mover (in the) diabolical plans directed (during the) course (of) three decades against 'Abdu'l-Bahá. (The) implementation (of) this order will, (at) long last, cleanse (the) Outer Sanctuary (of the) Qiblih (of the) Bahá'í world (of the) pollution staining (the) fair name (of the) Faith (and) pave (the) way (for the) adoption (and) execution (of) pre­ luminary measures designed (to) herald (the) construction (in) future decades (of the) stately, befitting
Mausoleum designed (to) enshrine
the holiest dust (the) earth ever
received (into) its bosom.

Share announcement Hands (of)
the Cause (and) all National
Assemblies.

-Haifa, June 3, 1957

Dear Bahá‘í Friends:
The beloved Guardian’s message, addressed
to all Hands of the Cause
and all National Assemblies, reveals
the mysterious power of the Mani-
ifestation, operating on its own time
schedule, to protect the Faith of
God. Terminated at last are those
evil efforts to suppress the Divine
Word which so long assailed
Bahá‘u’lláh, the revered Master, and
later our Leader and Head, Shoghi
Effendi.

Now at last the sacred area con-
stituting the Shrines and the spiritu-
al and administrative World Center
in the Holy Land has been purged of
the presence of the Covenant-
breakers. Pure and stainless, it sym-
bolizes for Bahá’ís the origin and the
unfolding of the World Faith des-
tined to unify mankind in one reli-
gerion and one order; and for non-
Bahá’ís their supreme challenge and
fateful test.

Likewise this victory calls to all
believers to arise, in deeper
understanding, firmer conviction, and will-
fulfillment of effectively prosecuting
the World Spiritual Crusade, (the)
primary obligation (to) watch over
and insure protection to the
Bahá’í world community, in close
collaboration (with) these same Na-
tional Assemblies, (is) now added.

Recent events, (the) triumphant
cumulative (of) a series of historic enter-
pri ses, such as (the)
construction (of) the superstructure (of)
the Báb’s Sepulchre, (the) dedica-
tion (of) the Mother Temple (of) the
West, (the) world-wide celebrations
(of) the Holy Year, (the) convoca-
tion (of) four Intercntinental Teaching
Conferences launching (the) Ten
Year Crusade, (the) unprecedented
dispersal (of) its valiant prosecutors
(over the) face (of) the globe, (the)
extraordinary progress (of) the Afri-
can (and) Pacific campaigns, (the)
rise (of) the administrative order (in
the) Arabian Peninsula (in the) heart
(of) the Islamic world, (the) discom-
fiture (of) the powerful antagonists
(in the) Cradle (of) the Faith, (the)
erection (of) the International Ar-
chives, heralding (of) the establish-
ment (of) the seat (of) the World Admin-
istrative Order (in the) Holy Land,
served (to) enflame (the) unquench-
able animosity (of its) Muslim op-
oponents (and) raised up (a) new set
(of) adversaries (in the) Christian
told (and) roused internal enemies,
old (and) new Covenant-breakers,
to fresh attempts (to) arrest (the)
march (of) the Cause of God, mis-
represent its purpose, disrupt its ad-
ministrative institutions, dampen
the zeal (and) sap (the) loyalty
(of) its supporters.

Evidences (of) increasing hostility
without, persistent machinations
within, foreshadowing dire contests
destined (to) range (the) Army (of)
Light (against the) forces (of) dark-
ness, both secular (and) religious,
predicted (in) unequivocal language
(by) ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, necessitate (in)
this crucial hour closer association
(of) the Hands (of) the five con-
tinents (and) the bodies (of the)
elected representatives (of the) na-
tional Bahá’í communities (the)
world over (for) joint investigation
(of) the nefarious activities (of)
internal enemies (and the) adoption
(of) wise, effective measures (to)
counteract their treacherous
schemes, protect (the) mass (of the)
believers, (and) arrest (the) spread
(of their) evil influence.

Call upon Hands (and) National
Assemblies, each continent separate-
ly, (to) establish henceforth direct
contact (and) deliberate, whenever
feasible, as frequently (as) possible,
to exchange reports to be submitted
by their respective Auxiliary
Boards (and) national committees,
to exercise unremitting vigilance
and carry out unflinchingly (their)
sacred, inescapable duties. (The)
security (of our) precious Faith, (the)
preservation (of) the spiritual health
(of the) Bahá’í communities, (the)
vitality (of the) faith (of) its indi-
vidual members, (the) proper func-
tioning (of) its laboriously erected
institutions, (the) fruition (of) its
worldwide enterprises, (the) fulfil-
ment (of) its ultimate destiny, all
are directly dependent (upon the)
befitting discharge (of the) weighty
responsibilities now resting (upon
the) members (of these two insti-
tutions, occupying, with (the)
Universal House (of) Justice, next (to
the) Institution (of the) Guardianship,
foremost rank (in the) divinely
ordained administrative hierarchy
(of the) World Order (of) Bahá-
’u’lláh.

-Haifa, June 4, 1957

Dear Bahá’í Friends:
The Victory announced by the be-
loved Guardian in his message of
June 3 marks a turning-point in the
evolution of the Bahá’í world com-
munity.

The present message, following so
closely, calls upon the two insti-
tutions of the Faith, the Hands of the
Cause and the National Assemblies,
to assume greater responsibilities in prosecution of the Ten-Year Plan.

For each victory raises up new enemies and by successive victories the Faith of Baha'u'llah establishes itself throughout the world. As every religion born of God testified, the quality of faith is inseparable from struggle to save mankind from superstition, dogma, materialism, which are the dark shadows cast by those who turn their backs to the Sun.

The Institution of the Hands, Shoghi Effendi announces, is "now entering a new phase (in the) process (of the) unfoldment (of) its sacred mission."

To its responsibility for assisting National Spiritual Assemblies in their prosecution of the World Crusade the Guardian now adds that of watching over and insuring the protection of the Bahá'í Community in collaboration with these same National Assemblies.

The great historic achievements of the Faith, the Guardian points out, have inflamed the "unquenchable animosity (of its) Muslim opponents," "raised up (a) new set (of) adversaries" in Christendom, and "roused internal enemies, old (and) new Covenant-breakers (to) fresh attempts" to destroy the Cause of God.

The Guardian finds "evidences (of) increasing hostility without" and "persistent machinations within" which foreshadow "dire contests" destined to bring into complete opposition the Bahá'ís and the "forces (of) darkness, both secular (and) religious" which 'Abdu'l-Bahá plainly foretold.

Such a formidable world-wide struggle, as the Guardian states, call for "closer association (of the) Hands (of the) five continents (and the) bodies (of the) elected representatives (of the) national Bahá'í communities (the) world over (for) joint investigation" and the "adoption (of) wise, effective measures (to) counteract their treacherous schemes, protect (the) mass (of the) believers and arrest (the) spread (of their) evil influence."

He further adds: "Security (of our) precious Faith, preservation (of the) spiritual health (of the) Bahá'í communities ... fruition (of) its worldwide enterprises, fulfillment (of) its ultimate destiny" are directly dependent upon the discharge of their weighty responsibilities by the members of these two institutions.

While this message is primarily directed to the Hands of the Cause and the National Assemblies, the individual Bahá'í is also wholly involved. For this climax of resistance to the Promised One will, sooner or later, present each Bahá'í with some situation which will either demon-
Guardian Announces
Return of National Center in Tihran

In a cable received June 8, 1957, which directed our National Spiritual Assembly to cable the text to the other National Assemblies, the beloved Guardian stated: “Rejoice announce yet another victory won (in) cradle (of) Faith, swiftly following crushing defeat recently sustained (by) Covenant-breakers (in) Holy Land. National Hażratu’l-Quds (in) Tihrán (has been) returned, completing thereby (the) restitution (of) Bahá’í properties seized (at the) instigation (of) traditional enemies (in) Bahu’lláh’s native land.”

The same cable directed that the National Spiritual Assemblies, and the local Assemblies under their jurisdiction, cable the Sháh expressing their gratitude. All local Assemblies in the United States were immediately advised by letter.

The Guardian in a separate cable received at the same time directed that all National Assemblies are to avoid publicity concerning the restoration of this Hażratu’l-Quds. The same directive naturally applies to all local Assemblies, Committees and individual believers.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Individual Firesides

The following excerpt is taken from a letter written on behalf of the Guardian by the Assistant Secretary dated March 6, 1957, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bennett of Butte, Mont. It is published as an incentive to all American Bahá’ís.

“The friends must realize their individual responsibility. Each must hold a Fireside in his or her home, once in 19 days, where new people are invited, and where some phase of the Faith is mentioned and discussed. If this is done with the intent of showing Bahá’í hospitality and love, then there will be results. People will become interested in ‘what’ you are interested in, and then be interested in studying. Individual firesides will bring the knowledge of the Faith to more people, under favorable circumstances, and thus constantly enrich its circle of friends, and finally its members. There is no substitute for the teaching work of the individual.”

—National Spiritual Assembly

Our Inescapable Responsibility

In response to the recommendation of the delegates to the Forty-Ninth Annual Convention, the National Spiritual Assembly is calling to the attention of every Bahá’í the following closing paragraphs from the “Report of the Secretary” (of the National Spiritual Assembly) published on pages 8 and 9 of the Bahá’í Annual Reports, 1955-1957, a copy of which was sent to every American believer with the May issue of Bahá’í News. The friends are requested to read these paragraphs carefully, to discuss them at an early Nineteen Day Feast and to relate them to the Guardian’s cable reply to the pledge contained in the message sent to him from the Convention. (See page 15, column 2, June Bahá’í News.)

Whatever tasks are allotted to the Bahá’ís of the United States during the next phase of the Ten Year Plan, the strengthening of the home front will be an essential requisite to our success as trustees of the Master’s Divine Plan.

At the root of this particular, long-term task lies the spiritualization of the individual Bahá’í.

In the Master’s era stalwart believers arose whose teaching classes and lectures established Bahá’í communities across the land. Upon their strong shoulders it sat for the mass of believers to lay their personal and community responsibilities. These great teachers answered the questions, knew the Bahá’í literature, courageously and eloquently proclaimed the Message, made the decisions. Aside from the beloved Master (and He was cut off during the years of the First World War) the element of authority, as in all primitive societies, existed by virtue of the influence emanating from the strong and active person.

Then followed the years when local and national institutions had to be established, replace with their actual authority the assumed authority of the teachers, and undergo a long process of development in order to acquire experience and capacity. During that period there was repression of personal initiative because personal initiative had never before been called upon to recognize a
higher authority within the local and national community, and the boundaries of effective Bahá'í activity had not been defined. There was also repression of local Assembly initiative whenever Assemblies exceeded their powers or misdirected their efforts.

The call was raised for detailed and specific answers to all types of administrative situations. Believers wanted rule 1 for one problem and rule 7 for another, so that the mere application of a rule seemed all that was necessary.

At a certain point the Guardian interrupted this trend and pointed out that the institutions were not ends in themselves but instruments for the channeling of the spiritual forces of the Faith to the public. The Divine Plan was put into operation by the Guardian's First Seven Year Plan, followed by the Second Seven Year Plan, and then the Ten Year Plan of the World Crusade, 1953-1963.

No believer can now fail to realize that faith is an evolving, dynamic reality demonstrated in action and not a passive belief or passive membership in a community of fellow believers who listen to a talk, read prayers, contribute some funds, and then go their separate ways. For the dire state of civilization coincides with the challenging plans of the Guardian. The Faith of Bahá'u'lláh is the sole salvation of a stricken humanity.

All our talents, capacities, training and experience are needed today to help fulfill the divine Mission of the Faith. There are no repressions nor restrictions laid upon us when we walk the right path. Courage, initiative, intuition, emotion, knowledge, understanding—all we possess and are, in whatever measure, the Faith requires and Bahá'u'lláh expects.

Once knowing the few basic principles of administration, this knowledge becomes a habit we individual Bahá'ís can practice without conscious thought, and thus free ourselves of inhibition, fear, scorn and jealousy of other Bahá'ís, and throw ourselves wholeheartedly into service for the World Crusade. When every local Assembly harmoniously discharges its duties with devotion and justice; when every committee thinks only of its privilege of serving some particular aspect of community activity; when every individual Bahá'í realizes that he must unfold his God-given capacities and powers—then will our anxieties and burdens vanish and the world about us will be discerned as a starving orphan crying for food. Our contacts resist us because we resist the Spirit. Opportunities elude us because we have strayed from the path.

Now, as a new Bahá'í year opens may we not feel complete assurance that the Bahá'í community possesses every resource required for a far more energetic and determined teaching campaign than we have ever undertaken before. It has become the most elemental issue of all: our own relationship to the Manifestation of God.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY ACTS ON CONVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations adopted by the delegates to the Forty-Ninth Annual Bahá'í Convention and referred to the National Spiritual Assembly for action were given careful consideration at the first two meetings of this body. Following is a report of the decisions and actions taken by the Assembly:


Action: This recommendation was acted on by the National Spiritual Assembly at its meeting following the Convention as reported in the June issue of BAHÁ'Í NEWS.

2. That the National Spiritual Assembly print those excerpts from the Guardian's messages which outline what the believers need to do to increase their capacity to teach and to deepen themselves in the Faith.

Action: The intent of this recommendation is being carried out in the steps being taken by the National Spiritual Assembly this year to revitalize the entire Bahá'í Community.

Summary of Teaching Needs

3. That each Assembly, group, and isolated believer in an area be encouraged to send to the Area Teaching Committee at the beginning of the year, a summary of their teaching needs.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly feels that Assemblies, groups, and individuals should submit their requests for such help at any time in the year and as far in advance as possible so that the Area Teaching Committee may be able to incorporate such assistance in its plans for the area.

4. That the National Spiritual Assembly stimulate all local Spiritual Assemblies to carry on extension teaching activities in cooperation with the Area Teaching Committee concerned and that this activity be continued and not sporadic.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly has for many years encouraged this type of teaching service on the part of every local Assembly that feels able to undertake it.

5. That the Area Teaching Committees encourage special projects in states or smaller areas where Assemblies need assistance and isolated believers need fellowship and stimulation to teach.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly points out that this has always been a function of the Area Teaching Committee and approves encouraging groups and isolated believers to cooperate in organizing and carrying out teaching activities in their respective areas.

"Philosophy of Education"

6. That the statement by the National Bahá'í Child Education Committee on the "Philosophy of Education" be made available in printed form to the believers, either in Child's Way or in some other medium that will give the widest possible circulation.

Action: The National Child Education Committee has been authorized to prepare this material for circula-
tion throughout the American Bahá'í Community at an early date.

7. That the National Child Education Committee be requested to provide additional teaching material, such as stories from the Dawn-Breakers and material from The Epistle to the Son of the Wolf; graded to various age levels so that the children do their own reading.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly calls attention to the fact that there already exists one book of stories from the Dawn-Breakers for children. However, this recommendation has been referred to the National Child Education Committee for study and recommendation to the National Assembly.

8. That stories which have been appearing in Child’s Way be compiled in some manner and made available to the believers as a collection.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to remind the friends that the National Bahá’í Child Education Committee will welcome subscriptions for Child’s Way so that the friends themselves can compile their own files on this type of material.

9. That Child’s Way be sent directly to Bahá’í children without charge.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly feels that this recommendation is impracticable at this time.

Children’s Classes

10. That Bahá’í Communities be urged to sponsor Bahá’í children’s classes open to both Bahá’í and non-Bahá’í children and that children in outlying areas where such classes are not available be invited to attend.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly encourages this type of activity wherever it is possible.

11. That the National Bahá’í Child Education Committee make a survey among youth between the ages of 15 and 21 as to the type of Bahá’í education they have received, and solicit their recommendations with a view to planning a course of study and preparation for declaration by Bahá’í youth.

Action: This recommendation is being referred by the National Spiritual Assembly to the Child Education Committee for study and recommendation.

12. That the agendas for the State Conventions and inter-community teaching conferences include events for children of the age group between 10 and 15 years.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly feels that this is a matter which can be arranged by the host city wherever such arrangements seem desirable.

13. That the Child Education Committee solicit songs and poems which will help in teaching history to children of the younger age levels.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly reminds the friends that the National Bahá’í Child Education Committee welcomes materials of this type.

Political Controversies

14. That the National Spiritual Assembly clarify for all the believers the reasons why Bahá’ís, either individually or as administrative bodies, do not take specific positions on pending legislation and current political controversies.

Action: The clarifying statement requested by this recommendation will be published in an early issue of Bahá’í News.

15. That the National Spiritual Assembly again call the attention of the Bahá’ís to that portion of its annual report appearing on pages 8 and 9 of the Annual Reports, under the heading "Our Inescapable Responsibility," and urge the believers to study and act upon it.

Action: The action on this recommendation appears on page 4 of this issue of Bahá’í News.

16. That the National Spiritual Assembly clarify the relationship between Local Spiritual Assemblies and Area Teaching Committees and make that clarification available to the believers.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly recommends that the believers refer to the statement of functions assigned to the Area Teaching Committees as published in the annual Bahá’í Directory. The aim of the Area Teaching Committee is to offer teaching service and the Local Spiritual Assemblies, particularly the smaller ones, should gratefully accept such service, while the larger Assemblies should participate actively in extension and circuit teaching work and Area conferences.

Convention Reports

17. That when delegates give their reports on the Convention they include the reading of the Guardian’s message and make every effort to share with the friends the spirit of the Convention; that in those states from which no delegates or visitors attended the Convention, a delegate or visitor from some other state be invited to give the report.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly records its hope that all of the believers who attended the Convention have shared with the friends in all localities the inspiration and consultation of the Convention and that they made a special effort to reach those states which were not represented by delegates or visitors.

18. That the National Spiritual Assembly gather together a group of experienced teachers and request them to consult on a coordinated plan of teaching for the American Bahá’ís; that the recommendations of this group be submitted to the National Spiritual Assembly for study and review, and that the portions of the program which may be approved by the National Spiritual Assembly be offered to the believers through the American National Teaching Committee.

Action: The National Spiritual Assembly recognizes the merit of this recommendation, but feels that the primary urgency at this time is re-emphasis of the Guardian’s repeated direct appeals to the individual believers and their response to his call for dispersal at home and abroad. However, the Assembly will consider this recommendation again at a later time.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Western Hemisphere

LETTERS RECOUNT INSPIRATION GIVEN BY CONVENTIONS

Letters coming from the pioneers since this spring’s Conventions reflect the immeasurable which these historic assemblies have lent to the march of the Crusade, as well as the inspiration received by those who attended. The Committee wishes to share some excerpts from a few of these letters.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Tucker, Cordoba, Argentina

"... our historic Convention in
Buenos Aires was thrilling and inspiring. The Guardian’s representative, Hand of the Cause ‘Ali Muhammad Varqā, was a beautiful example of devotion and humility and we were doubly blessed because the Convention was small and we were able to become well acquainted with him. We almost feel that Mar­gery McCormick, representative of the National Assembly of the United States, was sent just for us; she did so much to uplift our spirits . . . we shall be forever grateful for her visit.”

Cora Oliver,
Belize, British Honduras

“How good it was for us to have the visit of Mabel Sneider after the Convention in Panama — and to­morrow we are to have the bounty of receiving our beloved Guardian’s representative, Mr. Khádem. The friends here are anticipating his visit with considerable interest and understanding so we expect extremely happy days ahead. We do believe that they are aware that theirs is a special bounty which others in vir­gin areas are not enjoying. May we all arise with greater zeal and de­vor­tion as a result of this precious gift.”

George Haley,
San Pedro Sula, Honduras

“It seems impossible that over a month has elapsed since we were in Panama . . . Mr. Khádem’s visit was marvelous, and even though Honduras was in a state of war and we held our public meeting in a pri­vate home without any advertising, we had almost 30 in attendance. The tempo of activities has not decreased and we continue to be very happy with the possibilities. We have three classes each week for different stages of study, but most of our faith­ful Baha’is come to all of them, and, bless them, usually bring a con­tact to a deepening class and sometimes still bring them to strictly Baha’i meetings.”

Three new pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Hoeppner and Mr. Joseph Carroll, are now en route to their posts, and more offers are coming to the Committee. Anyone consider­ing pioneering, or who can make a teaching trip in the Western Hemi­sphere is asked to write to Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, secre­tary, 73 College Road West, Prince­ton, New Jersey.

Members of the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela, elected at the first National Convention held in Lima, Peru, on April 22-24, 1957, with Horace Holley, Hand of the Cause, present as the Guardian’s representative.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela**

**FORM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN LIMA**

For most of the delegates and visit­ing Baha’is the Convention began Friday evening, April 19th, with the reception at the Haziratull-Quds of Lima where old friends met again and others met for the first time.

April 20th and 21st were set aside for pre-convention school, which con­sisted of four sessions each preceded by prayers and meditations in Span­ish and English.

The first class encompassed a study of The Kitáb-i-Iṣqán. The follow­ing points were brought out in this course: The Kitáb-i-Iṣqán proves the Station of the Bab and Baha’u’llah and discusses the pur­pose of the Prophets and Their teachings. The primary requisites for one who seeks the City of Certi­tude; the real and true guides to reach that City were discussed, and the sixteen points touched by The Kitáb-i-Iṣqán as written by the Guardian in God Passes By were briefly mentioned.

The important principles of Baha’i Administration were stressed such as: attending meetings, revision of voting lists before elections, the work of the Regional Teaching Commit­tees. The functions of the National Spiritual Assembly were studied Sun­day morning. A discussion was held on the importance of harmony and unity, obedience to the Guardian’s suggestions; the Hands of the Cause; committees and their responsibili­ties, enrollment of new believers, voting rights.

On Sunday afternoon the two Per­sian delegates, Djalal Eghrari and Cyrus Monadjemi from Brazil told of the early history of the Faith in Persia and its significance. In the evening the Feast of Ridván was celebrated. Mr. Horace Holley, Hand of the Cause, and the Guardian’s repre­sentative to this convention, told the story of the Announcement of Baha’u’llah as the Promised One in the Garden of Ridván in Bagh­dad. Mr. Holley then appointed each of the friends with the Beloved Guard­ian’s gift of Attar of Roses. The scent of roses permeated the room and an atmosphere of love and a great peace could be felt by all. After dinner on Sunday evening the English speaking Baha’is gathered for the reading of the Guardian’s message in English.

On Monday, April 22, the Conven­tion was convened by Mr. Holley, who told us how this year was designated by the Guardian for the formation of many regional National Spiritual As­semblies and the Guardian asked the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States to convene nine of the conventions for the formation of
these Assemblies. Mr. Holley then read the Guardian’s message to the Convention, which was received with great love and appreciation.

There were 26 delegates attending the Convention and approximately 35 visiting friends from the five countries. Margot Worley was elected chairman of the Convention and Dorothy Campbell, secretary. Fifty-eight letters of greeting from Bahá’í Spiritual Assemblies throughout the world were then read before the Convention and a committee was named to write up a message from the Convention to the Guardian.

Mr. Holley presented the Guardian’s beautiful gift albums for the newly-formed regional National Spiritual Assembly. These albums were received with great interest and love. One contains photographs of all the Haźiratu’l-Quds purchased and the other pictures of the Sacred Shrines and Temples, some of which are to be constructed. These albums are made of beautiful hand-tooled Italian leather.

The National Spiritual Assembly reported that five new local Spiritual Assemblies had been formed in the past year, making a total of 18 local Spiritual Assemblies in the five countries of South America. The National Treasurer’s report was presented and the assembled delegates resolved to stress the need for contributing to the National Fund in their respective communities. The Guardian’s message was then read by the whole Convention with emphasis placed on the new goals.

The Convention was opened on the second day with a feeling of dedication and dignity and a resolve for action. Mr. Holley, Hand of the Cause, lent his assistance in answering several questions concerning administrative procedure. With prayerful meditation the members of the new National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’í of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela were then elected and later organized into their respective offices as follows: Margot Worley, chairman; Edmund Miessler, vice-chairman; Dorothy Campbell, corresponding secretary; Gayle Woolson, recording secretary; Jorge Bejar, treasurer; and Eve Nicklin, Mercedes Sanchez, Djalal Eghrari, and Cyrus Monadjem.

At noon several delegates representing each of the five countries were interviewed and questioned about the Faith on a radio program in Lima. The interview consisted of direct, concise questions which were answered clearly, briefly and warmly.

The delegates from Brazil exuberantly requested the National Spiritual Assembly of the five countries to ask the Guardian if he would approve Brazil’s forming their own National Spiritual Assembly in 1958, as they felt they would be ready to accept this responsibility at that time. This created great joy in the Convention and admiration for the valor and accomplishment manifested by Brazil.

Detailed reports were presented by all national committees. In the evening an excellent talk, “The Unity of Mankind,” was given by Mr. Horace Holley, Hand of the Cause, in the Haźiratu’l-Quds. There was a good attendance and the talk stimulated questions and interest among non-Bahá’ís. It gave inspiration to all attending and insight to the friends of a way to present the Bahá’í message. The last day of the Convention was largely devoted to the presentation of recommendations of the delegates to the new Regional National Assembly. A spirit of earnest striving filled the Convention and 76 recommendations were presented with much discussion and consultation.

Mr. Holley addressed the Convention at its close, saying that the delegates had performed a great service to the Cause of God by electing a new National Assembly to unify the friends and to stimulate them to perform the work which must be done in these five great countries under the guidance of the Guardian.

He called on them for their continued devotion and their own obedience to their National Assembly. Mr. Holley’s departure was accompanied with joy and sorrow. His love, insight, humility and dignity were a living lesson for all assembled. The members of the new Regional National Spiritual Assembly, the Bahá’ís and non-Bahá’ís alike, escorted Mr. Holley to the airport to see him off.

All Bahá’ís attending the Convention extend their heart-felt thanks to the Guardian for sending Mr. Horace Holley as his representative to this Convention of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. His love and presence touched and opened every heart there.

—DOROTHY CAMPELL
Convention Reporter

Central America and Mexico
NEW ASSEMBLY
FORMED IN PANAMA

The National Convention of Central America and Mexico was inaugurated under the inspired guidance of the distinguished representative of the beloved Guardian, Ḍhikr’u’lláh Khádem, Hand of the Cause; the representative of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, Robert McLaughlin; and the representative of the Hands of the Cause of America, Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, member of the Auxiliary Board.

Twenty-seven delegates attended from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salva-

Delegates to the first National Convention held in Lima, Peru.
Dhikru'lláh Khádem, Hand of the Cause; Robert McLaughlin, representative of the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly; Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, representative of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause of America; and the newly elected National Spiritual Assembly of Central America and Mexico.

dor, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. In addition there were many visitors from other countries.

The convention opened with a brilliant reception on April 21 in the beautiful salon of the Hotel International, the site of the convention. Among those attending the opening was an official representative of the Panama government, Juvenal Castrellon Adames.

The business sessions of the convention opened on April 22, with Mr. McLaughlin presiding at the election of the convention officers. The delegates elected Artemus Lamb as chairman, and Esteban Canales as secretary.

Then the Guardian's representative, Mr. Khádem, Hand of the Cause, presented the message from the Guardian to the Latin American conventions, which was immediately translated and read to the audience. The Guardian's message to all the conventions was also translated and presented to the delegates for study and consultation.

The spirit of the delegates during their deliberations on the Guardian's messages was beautiful. There was a great display of courage and strength as the delegates faced the challenge outlined in the new Six-Year Plan.

A new spirit of dedication was pledged in the following cable sent to our beloved Guardian: "Hearts overflowing deepest gratitude great
healthy beginning of the activities of the National Spiritual Assembly of Central America and Mexico.

With this new spirit of dedication we begin a new phase of extensive work which will bring great victories for the Faith in the Central American territory.

International School

Following the National Convention of Central America and Mexico, an International Bahá’í School was held on April 25-26, on the theme “The Bahá’í Life.”

Central and East Africa

SECOND CONVENTION HELD IN KAMPALA

The spirit of convention here is very much the same as everywhere else, and there is the same wonderful, uplifting feeling that brings everyone joyously together.

All through our convention it is necessary to have three translators interpreting every word of the proceedings. The general feeling was different again from the convention of last year, which had been the very first in Central and East Africa. Then there had been the wonder and excitement of something quite new and the thrill of meeting overseas visitors. This time there were no such visitors and, although many of the same faces were to be seen, a much more businesslike atmosphere prevailed; these people were here with problems to voice and ideas to share.

The convention opened with prayers and readings which had been chosen by the Kenya delegates, after which the Chairman of the outgoing National Spiritual Assembly addressed the gathering, welcoming them to the convention.

The roll was called, and it was found that 42 out of the 76 delegates were present. Two others came later. Following this, the Chairman explained the procedure for electing convention officers, and voting commenced. The results were that Ali Nakhjavani, chairman of the outgoing National Assembly, would serve as chairman of the convention, and Hassan Sabri would be its secretary.

The Chairman then told the delegates of the wonderful Ridván message from the Guardian, copies of it were given to the English-speaking delegates, and a summary in the vernacular languages was promised.

A special cable from the Guardian to the National Assembly was read, as follows:

“DELIGHTED URGE GREATER CONCENTRATION COURSE CURRENT YEAR MULTIPLICATION CENTRES INCREASE NUMBER BELIEVERS. FERVENTLY SUPPLICATING SIGNAL VICTORIES, SHRINES.”

Following this the revered Hand of the Cause, Musa Banání, spoke in Persian of his appreciation that so many delegates had come such long distances; he spoke of the Guardian’s message and his wish that all the delegates should read it, study it, and realize the great expectations which the Guardian has of us all; he stressed the importance of teaching so that the number of believers, tribes, centres, and Assemblies would increase, and added that he was hoping and praying that in their consultations the delegates would adopt useful decisions which would promote the teaching work; he urged the delegates, when they returned, to become promoters of the teaching work in their localities, and said that this was how all would attain the good pleasure of our well-loved Guardian. He finished by saying that the Guardian was very happy with Africa, and prayed that he might continue in his happiness in our work.

Delegates to the second National Convention of the Bahá’ís of Central and East Africa at Kampala, Uganda, on April 27-30, 1957.
National Convention of Central and East Africa in session at Kampala, Uganda.

National Assembly Report

The report of the National Spiritual Assembly followed, and contained the exciting news that 21 new Assemblies had been formed in the region, 9 in Kenya and 12 in Uganda, raising the total number of Assemblies to 82.

Eighty-nine new centres had been opened to the Faith, raising the total number of places in the region where Bahá'ís are living to 341, while over 500 new believers raise the total in the territory to 1909.

During the afternoon the cable to the Guardian was presented and approved as follows:

"44 DELEGATES 19 VISITORS ASSEMBLED KAMPALA BLESSED BY PRESENCE HAND CAUSE SEND LOVING GREETINGS HEARTFELT THANKS CONVENTION MESSAGE GRATITUDE YOUR BOUNTIFUL PRAYERS JOINING SUCCESSES ACHIEVED CONSULTING BASIS YOUR BLESSED GUIDANCE."

Next an analysis of the Guardian's Ridván message was read and translated. The delegates then consulted upon it, and in the ensuing discussions 21 out of the 29 resolutions passed were related to the teaching goals set by the beloved Guardian.

Monday, voting day, began with readings on elections and prayers for the guidance of the delegates, after which the names of the tellers were announced and instructions for voting given. Some delegates who had been unable to attend had sent their ballots by post and these, together with those placed in the box of this day, totalled 64.

At the beginning of the second session of the morning the delegates were delighted to find that a prisoner who had just been released from Kitalya Prison Farm had arrived, bringing with him a message of greeting from the 25 other Bahá'ís still detained, and a letter from the Bahá'í who had first spread the Faith in this prison.

The letter was read, and the released prisoner asked to speak. The hearts of all who were present were most touched by his words when he spoke of his surprise and perplexity at finding himself welcomed in such a gathering immediately after his release from prison.

He told the delegates how grateful he and his fellow-prisoners had been for the coming of the Light, and left everybody with the impression that great good was being done in this prison, where the authorities had already allowed the Bahá'ís to keep the Holy Days.

Shortly after this the Guardian's reply to the convention was received as follows:

"DEEPLY APPRECIATE MESSAGE URGE INTENSIFICATION TM SPLENDID ACHIEVEMENTS FERVENTLY SUPPLICAING RICHEST BLESSINGS MIGHTY VICTORIES, DEEPEST LOVE."

-SHOGHI

Election Results

At the afternoon session the tell-ers arrived with their report, and announced the results of the election: Ali Nakhjavani, Philip Hains-worth, Oloro Epyeru, Hassan Sabri, Aziz Yazdi, Max Kanyerezi, Kolonario Oule, Irene Bennett, and Javan Gutosi. Of these, the last three are new members.

The announcement of the election results was followed by a display of the Temple designs, with a talk and questions on the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár. Photographs of the new National Spiritual Assembly were taken, and a second small committee was appointed for the drafting of a second cable to the Guardian. This cable was read, ap­proved, and dispatched, and the convention was closed with a prayer.

The presence of all the members of the new National Spiritual Assembly at the convention enabled them to meet on two evenings during that time and elect their officers: Ali Nakhjavani, chairman; Philip Hains­worth, secretary; Aziz Yazdi, vice­chairman; Hassan Sabri, treasurer. In addition, Irene Bennett was appointed recording secretary, and Hassan Sabri librarian.

The National Spiritual Assembly was also able to appoint the three main working committees, and the Bahá'í Temple and Literature Reviewing Committees, deal with all urgent matters, and approve the budget which had been recommend­ed by the convention.

—LOS HAINSWORTH

Convention Reporter

CONVENTION DELEGATES VISIT TEMPLE SITE

We were standing at the top of "our" hill, the hill on which the Mother Temple of Africa is to be built, feeling very small and awed and humble, watching a procession of little white-shirted figures picking its way up the steep winding path. We had passed them a few moments before, in a car that had bucked like a mad horse, the access road had been so muddy and full of deep holes. As the procession drew nearer the approach road to the land, we could hear that they were singing, and as they closed we heard that it was "Alláh'u'Abhá, Alláh'u'Abhá . . ." Quite spontaneously, as they had set foot on the
Bahá'í land, they had begun to chant this.

These were the delegates to the Central and East African second convention, paying their first visit to the Temple land, and when they arrived, the Unity Prayer was sung, a prayer was chanted in Persian, prayers read in English and Ateso, and once again the delegates sang “Alláh'u'Abhá . . .”

Then they began to look at the land. On a small rise there is an enormous mvuli tree, which is going to remain there, and which will be almost as high as the Temple itself. The Temple will be built so that the door facing Haifa will look over landscaped gardens and through a valley where no buildings are yet to be seen.

The other side of the Temple faces Kampala, so that, as one of the visitors said, you can turn your back on the world and look towards Haifa.

Looking across the city, on the different hills surrounding it, are the seat of learning for East Africa, Makerere College, the hospital, the Governor's Lodge, the weather station, the Cathedral, all of which can be seen from “our” land, and from which the Temple, when built, will be visible.

The architect paid a special visit to the site at this time to explain something of the plans to the delegates, and to answer any questions.

This was very thrilling for everybody and we left the site feeling excited and uplifted, and hardly able to wait for the time when the Temple would rise into the blue African sky—a shining symbol that our beloved Faith is indeed established in the hearts of our African brothers.

—Lois Hainsworth

SCHOOLS STIMULATE GROWTH OF FAITH

In a drive to implement the Guardian’s plea to increase the number of believers and centers, the Central and East African National Spiritual Assembly has encouraged the holding of schools which would be designed to deepen as well as to teach.

These schools were of two kinds: the first was of the weekend type initiated during the English Six-Year Plan, organized to commence late on Saturday afternoon with an opening devotional program and an initial class, followed by dinner and an evening of social activity to enable those attending to enjoy each other’s company.

Sunday morning and part of Sunday afternoon was devoted to more classes, panel discussions, demonstrations of the various procedures of Bahá’í administrative life, such as elections and consultations, and to question and answer sessions. They terminated with a devotional.

The second type was for more experienced Bahá’ís selected by the teaching committees as being suitable for training as teachers. Those chosen had to be willing and able to give up some of their time to travelling around their districts and passing on to other Bahá’ís and new believers what they had learned at the school.

Sessions were planned to include history, administration and law, and practical demonstrations of how Assembly meetings, Feasts, and elections were conducted. This particular type of school was intended to alleviate the severe manpower shortage by providing the region with a number of African Bahá’ís well-versed in their Faith.

Put into practice, both types of school proved to be most successful, there having been three week-long training schools and seventeen weekend schools.

At the end of each of the training schools, consultations were held between teachers and students to discover whether any improvement might be made and whether those attending felt that they had gained from the experience.

It was generally felt by all concerned that a great deal of good had been done and that every effort should be made in the coming year to increase both the number of schools and the number of students attending them.

Of the 17 weekend schools, 13 were held in Uganda, three in Kenya and one in Tanganyika. In many cases the organization of the physical arrangements was left to the local believers themselves, who were re-
Members of the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Greater Antilles, elected at the National Convention at Kingston, Jamaica, on April 22, 1957.

All delegates from other countries had to surmount great difficulties to attend. This brought a strong spirit of sacrifice and dedication, which was deepened by the inspiring messages received from our beloved Guardian. All hearts were filled to overflowing with the joy of the privilege of participation in this glorious task.

The convention was opened by Dr. Katherine True, representing the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, who served as temporary chairman until convention officers could be elected. Dr. True's first action was to introduce her mother, Mrs. Corinne True, Hand of the Cause, serving as the Guardian's representative at the convention.

Mrs. True, after greeting the delegates and friends, asked that the Guardian's message be read by her daughter, Mrs. Arna Perron.

Next Dr. True presented the gifts to the Bahá'ís of the Greater Antilles from the Guardian, exquisitely bound books containing photographs of the Hazíratú'l-Quds and Maḥríqú'l-Adhkár.

Following the roll call of delegates, permanent convention officers were elected: W. A. W. Mitchell, chairman; and Mrs. Dee Worth, secretary.

A committee appointed to draft a

Greater Antilles
NATIONAL CONVENTION
HELD IN JAMAICA

Our first National Convention, establishing the National Spiritual Assembly of the Greater Antilles, was held in Kingston, Jamaica, on April 22-24, 1957. It was one of great inspiration and loving cooperation.

The Jamaican believers showered everyone with love and kindness, and were deeply grateful for the privilege of serving as hosts to the convention. Their gentle devotion and sacrifices were an inspiration to everyone present, and the spiritual power poured upon the meetings will never be forgotten.
message to the Guardian submitted the following text for a cablegram, which was approved and dispatched:

"Your divinely inspired message, heart-felt visit revered Hand Cause Corinne True, precious gifts all received with over-flowing hearts. United dedicated determination fulfill goals. Supplicating prayers, deepest love." First Bahá'í Convention Greater Antilles.

On the second morning of the convention came the election of the first National Spiritual Assembly. Dr. True spoke on the importance of the election, pointing out that this was the primary purpose of the convention, and a most solemn occasion. After the reading of prayers, the ballots were cast.

During the counting of the ballots, Mrs. Corinne True, Hand of the Cause, anointed all present with attar of rose, sent by the Guardian, and then spoke of the miracle of the presence of the Bahá'ís there, under the shade of the Guardian's name, and of the fulfillment of the Christian prophecies in the advent and teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

Results of the election were later announced, with the following membership of the National Spiritual Assembly, listed with their officers: W. A. W. Mitchell, chairman; Elizabeth Cheney, vice-chairman; Mrs. Dee Worth, secretary; Sheila Rice Wray, treasurer; Randolph Fitz-Henley, recording secretary; and Eustace Bailey, Circe Brantome, Celestina Perez, and Juana Ortuno.

Many messages of acclamation from national and local Assemblies were read to the convention, and there was valuable consultation on the Guardian's messages.

All of these activities, the beautiful words of our beloved Hand of the Cause, Mrs. Corinne True, the receiving of the gifts from the Guardian, the anointing with the attar of rose, and the letters of acclamation, brought deep inspiration and a stronger realization of our unity in the divine Administrative Order, as we strive here in the Antilles to establish another Pillar.

—Dee Worth
Convention Reporter

North East Asia

TOKYO CONVENTION ELECTS FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Two stirring messages from the Guardian, the presence of two Hands of the Cause of God, and greetings
First National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of North East Asia, elected at the first National Convention held in Tokyo, Japan, on April 27-29, 1957.

from Bahá'í Assemblies, groups, and individuals in many parts of the world, brought to the Convention of the Bahá'ís of North East Asia, meeting at the University Club in Tokyo April 27, 28 and 29, 1957, a bounteous joy from which overflowed a devotion and dedication apparent throughout the meeting.

The knowledge that in this Pacific area, as assured by the Guardian, "Bahá'í exploits bid fair to outshine the feats achieved in any other ocean, and indeed in every continent of the globe," gave to this gathering also a sense of urgency, of that "The time is now," and "We must get going fast."

Without doubt, the Guardian's messages were the highlights of this historic convention. The teaching session which preceded it, the prayers in four languages with which each session opened, the stimulation and inspiration which radiated from the Hands of the Cause, Djalâl Khâzeh and Miss Agnes Alexander; the anointing of the former of the 80 believers present with the attar of rose sent from the Guardian; the roll call of the delegates; the formation of the new Assembly and the election of its officers; the splendid publicity in Japan's leading newspapers; the thoughtful deliberations, and the presentation of gifts inaugurating the National Fund—all were significant phases of the convention, but it rose to its greatest heights when the two messages from Haifa were read and discussed. Their contents and portents lifted the hearts of the delegates and others there assembled, and gave them a thrilling awareness, first, of goals accomplished, and second, responsibility in the tasks ahead.

The opening words of the Guardian's message, "With feelings of exultation, joy and pride I hail the convocation of this history-making convention of the Bahá'ís of North East Asia, paving the way for the emergence of a Regional Spiritual Assembly with an area of jurisdiction embracing Japan, Korea, Formosa, Macao, Hong Kong, Hainan Island and Sakhalin Island," stirred the hearts of all present with the realization of the greatness of this moment and the purpose for which they had assembled.

Then came the beloved Guardian's recognition of this event as the culmination of a process initiated half a century ago in the capital city of Japan, under the watchful care and direct inspiration of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. "Such a consummation cannot fail to lend a tremendous impetus to its onward march in the entire Pacific Ocean. . . . " Next the Guardian paid tribute to the members of the American Bahá'í community for their part in promoting the interests of the Faith in Japan and its neighboring islands.

**Six-Year Plan**

There then followed the Guardian's appeal to signalize the birth of this new assembly through the initiation of a subsidiary Six-Year Plan. In his review of the 11 goals assigned by the Guardian the devoted Hand of the Cause, Mr. Khâzeh, said: "One of the goals is to increase the centers. We should not be satisfied with the 21 or 22 groups we have, but we should increase very fast . . . and we should incorporate the different Assemblies as soon as possible . . .; also we should get the certificate for the right to perform marriages . . . Now that we have an Assembly in North East Asia, we should have a strong fund with support from all the Assemblies . . . also a summer school . . . also a plot of land for the first Masir-qul-Adhkár . . . and we should give strong financial support to the Fund . . . It is not for us to spend our money much for ourselves and a little for the Cause, but much for the Cause, and a little for ourselves, in the way the Guardian does. . . ." Upon the heights reached from the reading of the specific message to this convention on Saturday morning, came the reading in the afternoon of the Guardian's other message to the 24 Bahá'í conventions being held simultaneously. This message, following so closely upon the one to their own area, left the listeners fairly breathless, astonished, and excited.

There was a special moment of reverence as the Hand of the Cause, Mr. Djalâl Khâzeh, touched each of those present with the attar of rose, saying as he did so that he was spreading the fragrance of love from the Guardian, and also the fragrance of the Cause all over the area.

Then he offered his sincere congratulations to "the daughter of the Kingdom," Miss Agnes Alexander, upon her elevation to the rank of Hand of the Cause, and he repeated that part of a Tablet written by 'Abdu'l-Bahá wherein He said of Miss Alexander: "If she had founded an empire, it would not be as great as this empire, for this is eternal glory."

"The convention on the second day was devoted to discussion of the goals in North East Asia, and the election of the new Assembly. In opening the discussion period, Miss Linfoot stated that the Guardian had emphasized the importance of the believers settling in the northern islands of Japan. "If we scatter, as the Guardian wishes us to do, and make more assemblies, then we will have a solid foundation for this Regional Spiritual Assembly."

The magnitude of the teaching
tasks and the vast extent of the area under the jurisdiction of this new assembly called forth much serious consultation on how to proceed most effectively in the six short years left before 1963.

Accomplishments Reviewed

Preceding the Assembly election, the Hand of the Cause, Mr. Kházeh, addressed the delegates in the name of the Guardian whom he represented upon this occasion. He reviewed the accomplishments of the Faith in the last 35 years and spoke lovingly of the part played by the Knights and heroes of the Faith who came to Japan and the surrounding areas in fulfillment of the Ten Year Crusade.

Then followed the historic act of electing the nine members of this new pillar of the future Universal House of Justice. The spiritual atmosphere in which the delegates carried out this responsibility, created by the reading of prayers and appropriate selections from the Writings, was sustained during the writing of the ballots by the continuing silent prayers of the visitors.

National Assembly Elected

The members of the new Spiritual Assembly and the officers whom they elected are: William Maxwell, chairman; Hiroyaso Takano, vice-chairman; Yadullah Rafaat, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Barbara Sims, recording secretary; Noureddin Montazi, treasurer; Miss Agnes Alexander, Philip Marangella, Ataullah Moghbel, and Michitoshi Zenimoto. The election officers elected at the opening session, were Philip Marangella, chairman and Barbara Sims, secretary.

Many greetings had come to the new Assembly. On behalf of the beloved Guardian, Mr. Kházeh presented two handsomely bound photograph albums, one consisting of pictures of the Bahá’í holy places, including the architects’ drawings of the Mashriqu’l-Adhkár to be erected in Sydney, Kampala, Frankfurt, and on Mount Carmel.

The other album was of the Ḥaziratu’l-Quds already acquired in the Ten-Year Plan. Letters of acclaim were read from the National Spiritual Assemblies round the world, all preserved for the national archives in a beautiful red leather book presented by the members of the Asia Teaching Committee of the United States.

There then followed a most moving demonstration of love and generosity; delegates and friends arose in quick succession, and presented their gifts.

This session of spontaneous giving epitomized the spirit of dedication which prevailed throughout the convention, and which was expressed in the message sent to the Guardian on the opening day, "Profoundest gratitude presence Hands and manifold bounties. Renewing dedication sacred tasks. Earnestly beseeching prayers. Deepest love." In response the Guardian cabled, "Deeply appreciate message. Welcome dedication delegates, tasks ahead. Fer­vently supplicating richest blessings. Deepest love." —CYNTHIA OLSON

Convention Reporter

North East Africa

2ND ANNUAL CONVENTION
MEETS IN CAIRO

On April 27, 1957, 30 delegates, representing nine nationalities, gathered together at the National Headquarters in Cairo to discuss ways and means for the dissemination of the heavenly Divine Principles in the nine localities under the jurisdiction of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Hiroshima, Japan, formed on April 21, 1957.
The Baha'is of North East Africa, which extend from Tripoli at the extreme north to Mogadiscio and Socatra at the other extreme ends.

The assembled delegates, humbly kneeling, expressed to the beloved Guardian, through ethereal waves, their loyal devotion, seeking the Guardian's prayers at the Sacred Shrines for abundant lasting confirmations to serve the Cause of God upon earth.

This humble prayer was answered in the following inspiring words: "Deeply appreciate message, urge redouble efforts, attainment goals Plan. Fervently supplicating abundant blessings." Shoghi

Guardian's Message Read

The convention, in session from April 28 to 30, 1957, was blessed with the Ridván Message of our most beloved Guardian which, in most spiritually laden and emphatic words, pointed out to every individual the stupendous responsibility that is laid upon him in his or her capacity as an avowed follower of the great Baha'i Principles, the sole panacea for a perturbed and ailing world.

It was a most inspiring scene to watch the exchange of greetings, in various forms, between the African, European, Asian, and American members of the convention—a real rose garden, each spiritual flower giving out its aromatic emanations and variegated colour.

The inspiration of the beloved Guardian from the Holy Land created an atmosphere of peace of heart and composure of mind enabling the sincere well-wishers of human society to deliberate, with greater depth, upon the methods of teaching and guidance of the many souls who are anxiously awaiting the establishment of the Kingdom of God upon earth.

It is interesting to note that the first National Spiritual Assembly for the Baha'is of Egypt was established in 1924 and was incorporated in 1936, a duration of 12 years. It took a period of another 12 years to amend the articles of association to include the Sudan.

But in view of the divinely ordained acceleration bestowed upon the holy Ten-Year Crusade, the amended incorporation of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of North East Africa took only 12 months to be consummated. Measures for this incorporation were taken immediately the National Spiritual Assembly was constituted in May 1956 and was finally completed on April 10, 1957.

It was not easy to achieve this end; lack of sympathy, sectarian prejudices, fanaticism, and other forms of embarrassments were strongly leagued to check the realization of this goal, but the dynamic power of the Cause of God mustered invisible forces from the Abha Kingdom to untie this Gordian knot.

New Name Acknowledged

The convention was doubly rejoiced to learn from the copy of a letter dated September 21, 1956, No. Pu. 160(1-1-29) from the United Nations, Section for Non-Governmental Organization Department of Public Information, acknowledging receipt of advice about the change of name of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Egypt and Sudan to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of North East Africa.

Our heartfelt prayer is that each one of us may deeply appreciate the words of our most beloved Guardian incorporating same into our daily life. "I feel that the dominating purpose inspiring the assembled friends, delegates, and visitors alike, should be a two-fold one. The first is a challenge to the individual, the second a collective responsibility." —Mirza Badi Bushiri

Convention Reporter

Naw-Ruz celebration for Baha'is and friends at Las Palmas, Canary Islands, on March 20, 1957.
Denbergen-Langehain street, 230 meters above sea level. There is a view across the Main River valley to Frankfurt. It is easily accessible from the Rhein-Main airport, from Frankfurt, and from Weisbaden; it is beautifully located and meets all the requirements.

On March 1, 1957, the purchase contract for the property was agreed upon between the National Spiritual Assembly and the local government of Diedenbergen.

The contract was publicized by the radio and press of Hesse without Baha’i action. Even before the conclusion of the contract the Evangelical Deanery of the area distributed leaflets aimed at arousing the public against the Temple project.

Meetings were held for the same purpose, but since the Baha’is were able to speak at these meetings, they ended favorably for the Baha’i Cause.

On March 1, 1957, the People’s Court sanctioned the contract, although on March 20 the sub-prefect had refused to approve. This, too, has been reported by radio and press.

There are still many difficulties to overcome before building can begin. The struggle for the Temple has entered upon the most difficult phase as yet encountered. Our strongest weapon, Bahá’í-Nachrichten reports, is the purity of our efforts.

North West Africa
12 NEW ASSEMBLIES ESTABLISHED

The North West Africa News Bulletin, published by the National Spiritual Assembly there, joyfully announces that 12 new local Spiritual Assemblies were established on April 21, 1957.

There were seven established in the British Cameroons, and one each in Nigeria, Dahomey, Ghana, Cape Verde Islands, and Tunisia.

National Assembly Election

Also listed in the News Bulletin is the membership and officers of the new National Spiritual Assembly: Miss Elsie Austin, chairman; Mustapha Bouchoucha, vice-chairman; Rowshan Mustapha, secretary; S. Ghadimi, treasurer; and Abdullah Mesbah, William Foster, Enoch Ol inga, Mohamed Mustapha, and Abdulhamid Khemiri.

Germany, Austria
TEMPLE SITE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

Selection of a new location for the Temple site in Germany and negotiations for its purchase is reported in Bahá’í-Nachrichten, publication of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria.

The property is located north of the town of Diedenbergen, on Diedenbergen-Langehain street, 230 meters above sea level. There is a view across the Main River valley to Frankfurt. It is easily accessible from the Rhein-Main airport, from Frankfurt, and from Weisbaden; it is beautifully located and meets all the requirements.

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Canada
ONTARIO SUMMER CONFERENCE DATES ANNOUNCED

The Ontario Summer Conference will be held on August 10-17 at Geneva Park, Lake Couchiching, Ontario.

Miss Jean Smith, 213 Geneva Street, S. Catherines, Ontario, will send further information upon request.
Recognizing the growing importance of presenting the Faith effectively to young people in school, the National Spiritual Assembly has appointed a Bahá’í College Bureau, with responsibility for coordinating and expediting all Bahá’í teaching work done in universities, colleges, junior colleges and trade schools.

Since this is a long-term project, the committee must first collect and organize the necessary background information before it can begin its broader program. To help it get started on this important work, the committee requests all Bahá’ís to send, at their earliest convenience, any information they may have concerning the following:

1. Bahá’í teaching or contact work done in any school above the high school level, including information on the nature of the contact, the individuals involved, the results, and any special problems encountered; any information, in short, which would be of value to another Bahá’i doing teaching at the same institution.

2. Bahá’í books, or books concerning the Bahá’í Faith, now in college libraries.

3. Bahá’í students now registered in colleges, or expecting to go there in the near future.

4. Bahá’í communities adjacent to colleges, and their experiences and relationships with these institutions.

5. Teachers in colleges who are Bahá’ís, or known to be friendly to the Faith.

The committee would appreciate all such information known to Bahá’ís, even though some of it may be duplicated from other sources. The committee will be able to analyze the material and make allowance for such duplication. It wants to get as complete a picture as possible of the college teaching scene at the present time, to help it determine how best it can further

Blue Ridge Conference held at the YMCA at Blue Ridge Assembly, North Carolina, August 25-28, 1956. This summer the Conference will be held at the same place, August 24-28, 1957. An excellent program has been prepared including an excursion to the nearby Cherokee Indian Reservation where Bahá’í pioneering efforts are being directed.
work in this field in the future. It would appreciate receiving much of this data by its August meeting, so that it can at least make a start in its analysis by the start of the fall school term.

Further information on the same subjects should be sent to the committee as it becomes available.

With two exceptions, the eleven members of this committee live in the vicinity of Stanford University, where an active Bahá'í Club is now functioning.

Communications should be addressed to: Bahá'í College Bureau, Miss Barbara Roberts, corresponding secretary, P. O. Box 956, Stanford, Calif.

OGDEN ACHIEVES ASSEMBLY STATUS

Although various members of the Bahá'í Faith had passed through Ogden, Utah, from time to time over the last 30 years, leaving books in the library, not until the Ten-Year Crusade began did this city feel the impact of the teachings.

Mrs. Leroy K. Fouts, formerly of San Diego, Calif., and Yuma, Ariz., answered the Guardian's call and pioneered this area in 1954. Unaided, she arranged public meetings when Mrs. Florence Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board, included Ogden in her teaching tours, and through contact with schools and colleges, the NAACP group, the beginning of the local United Nations group, radio, and newspapers, Mrs. Fouts soon became a well-loved and well-known local figure.

In 1955 other settlers began to arrive, and by 1957 the membership had reached ten adults and four junior youth members.

The first week of every month a public meeting is held, with out-of-town speakers. Every Thursday night the Center, which is in the home of one of the Bahá'í families, is open to a public fireside, with local members taking turns serving as host, chairman, and speaker.

Every Sunday four classes are maintained for adults, junior high school, elementary, and nursery levels, with local members teaching the classes and a non-Bahá'í playing music for the songs.

The junior youth members serve on committees and act as ushers at public meetings.

A mailing list of 200 names was used during the three-day seminar conducted by Mrs. Mayberry in January. All the special events have been commemorated with a large showing either at the Center or at a hotel. Many telephone inquirers have been received at the Center.

Study classes for preparation for membership have been conducted by various members. Never is the study confined to one member.

BRAILLE BOOK GIVEN TO MARYLAND SCHOOL

A specially bound Braille copy of The Story of Louis G. Gregory, by Elsie Austin, has been presented to Albert N. D. Brooks, secretary-treasurer of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, by the Bahá'í Service for the Blind, with the suggestion that Mr. Brooks present it to a school of his choice.

The Bahá'í Service for the Blind has been informed that the volume was presented to the Maryland...
Over the years isolated Baha’is have found various opportunities to speak before non-Baha’i audiences: to a group at the First Baptist Church in Philadelphia where there was a series on the “Living Religions of The World”; to the Trinity Club of the Church of the Holy Trinity (an indirect approach on “Is One World Possible—Socially, Politically, Economically, Religiously?”); to the Elm Methodist Church; to the Universalist Church of the Messiah on “Why I am a Bahá’í”; to the Unitarian Fellowship; and finally to the Media Providence Friends Meeting forum.

As a result of a Lincoln University philosophy teacher’s attendance at a fireside, Hormoz Sabet was the Bahá’í student speaker at a forum with representatives from different faiths at Lincoln University.

A Bahá’í Children’s and Youth Meeting is now moving along happily in its second year. For the first year meetings were held in Media Fellowship House, an interracial and inter-religious institution, which welcomed our activity and would welcome us back.

However, at present we meet in the West Chester Bahá’í Center, where Patricia Tomarelli of the West Goshen Township Group has joined us in teaching the children and youth. This activity serves a wide area extending as far away as Lancaster.

School for the Blind at Overlea, Md. This school was founded in 1853, and no longer has separate departments for pupils of different races. The presentation was made in the name of the Bahá’í Service for the Blind.

This Braille copy of The Story of Louis G. Gregory made an impressive book 9½ by 11 inches in size, and over one-half inch thick.

SWARTHMORE BAHÁ’IS
DESCRIBE FIRESIDE TEACHING METHODS

The few Bahá’ís of Delaware County, Penn., are widely scattered and no two form a group. Yet there has been considerable activity. A report may help to encourage others who also are isolated.

Over the years firesides have been held at various intervals. These included experimentation with morning coffee hours and occasional luncheons. Several homes in Lima and Swarthmore, including that of a contact, are now open for meetings. For Naw-Rúz two Bahá’ís joined an isolated friend in an adjoining county.

Lending support to one another and meeting in loving fellowship breaks down the feeling of being alone. A monthly deepening class has been started with the realization that much is gained even if only one or two earnest contacts study and discuss together.

Negro History Week lent itself to getting publicity in the Media Weekly Visitor. The results of an invitation to attend a fireside and of a boxed Bahá’í quotation were gratifying.

Books on the Faith have been placed with the Swarthmore College Library, Swarthmore Public Library, Pendle Hill, and Media Fellowship House.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Victor, N.Y., formed on April 21, 1957.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Flagstaff, Ariz., formed on April 21, 1957.
The intercalary party in Feb. was greatly enjoyed by all present. The gifts exchanged were small (as agreed upon beforehand), but the feeling of joy and happiness was very great indeed.

The Youth planned the Naw·Rúz celebration. These youth have gotten together at other times for further study and fellowship. Meeting recently at the time of an adult conference proved successful.

A youth was responsible for one of the finest openings we have had.

For one of her classes, Carol Hon·nold wrote a theme on the Bahá'í Faith. Her teacher had previously had another theme on this subject and had come to feel that what she needed was world religion. It was at this time in her life that she came across Carol's theme. As a result she is studying and attending firesides. When this same teacher was made responsible for a Senior High School Assembly meeting during Brotherhood Week, she went to a Bahá'í for help. As a result a program on “Getting Rid of our Prejudices” was worked up which included a film and short talks on the subject from three points of view: Jewish, Christian, and Bahá'í. Some 250 students in the Swarthmore Senior High School, located in a town of 6000 people, heard about the Faith. After the Bahá'í had spoken, she had requests for more information.

We have found that our contact with non-Bahá'ís in the interracial field is most productive in finding receptive souls. Indeed, we continue to be astonished at the number of doors that open as we try to mix with people with love and gladness in our hearts.

—JEAN MACKAY
ANNAMARIE HONNOLD

CHARLESTON TRIES
NEW TYPE OF MEETING

Charleston, W. Va., Bahá'ís are finding that their new kind of Sunday meetings are very successful in attracting the believers themselves and uniting them in a stronger bond of spiritual unity; also that the contacts who come like the meetings very much.

There is one hour of worship together at 11:00 a.m., introduced by 15 minutes of recorded music, followed by a recording of “Words for the World.” Then there is a half-hour of meditation, with very short readings of a strictly inspirational nature, without any attempt to teach or preach, in which all are invited to participate. The hour is closed with more music.

The local Bahá'ís hope to advertise this meeting with church notices in the newspapers in the near future. The notices will stress the fact that the meetings are for all denominations, and are services without a sermon.

NORTHERN PEOPLES
TEACHING REPORTED

The Northern Peoples Teaching Committee, organized in Alaska under the supervision of the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, has as its function “To reach and teach the Eskimos, Indians, and Aleuts.”

Their annual report of activities during the past year emphasizes the problems of translating the Bahá'í writings into the various native languages, revealed in the following excerpts:

“Translation of the Teachings into the various native dialects, which the Guardian has never ceased to stress, were given much consideration, and many attempts were made and leads followed to gain a foothold in this important phase of reaching and
teaching the native peoples of this country.

"While this committee is not directly responsible for the translation, except through our prayers, we are pleased to report a translation into Aleut of Bahá'u'lláh's prayer "Blessed is the spot . . . ." which is now in the hands of the WHTC and the printers.

"Dr. Robert Marsh, teacher of languages at the University of Alaska, was contacted. He discussed at length the technical side of the translation problem with two members of the committee.

"It sums up to this: there are many different dialects among the natives, just about one for each tribe and each section of the Territory.

"The next point to consider is the absence of a written language. Dr. Marsh, who seemed more interested in Aleut, stated that most Aleut writing is done in Russian printing type. Other dialects may be written by using the English alphabet to form the various sounds. He made us more conscious of the largeness of the task. However, he was also extremely generous, and offered his assistance to any potential translators in getting the work onto paper.

"Using the natives themselves to do translating is hampered by the fact that they are slow to adopt new concepts; that is, they must be "sold on an idea." They must be fully convinced of the sincerity of anyone approaching them for any reason.

"When they have accepted a religion, which they have done numerious times in whole tribes, they will not jeopardize their standing in the church by doing something like translating the literature of another religion.

"As the Eskimos and Indians have little or no written languages, but do express their thoughts quite well in the form of dances and in drawings, the idea of getting some of the teachings in these graphic forms is being investigated.

"The Eskimos love parties, and invitations to them to attend the Nawa Rúz Feast are always stressed in the Fairbanks area. This year they were well represented.

"The evening of April 12 a party to which only Eskimo guests were invited, along with local Bahá'ís, was sponsored by the NPTC. There was a full evening of fun and games. Each of the Eskimo guests was given a copy of the Eskimo pamphlet translated by Mrs. Hadley Ferguson.

"During the last week of July 1956 an All-Alaska Teaching Conference was held in Fairbanks. This was reported in the September issue of Bahá'í News."

—Northern Peoples Teaching Committee

LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION IN BUTTE BUS STATION TOTALLED

The Butte, Mont., community's proclamation project of free literature distribution through a cabinet located in the Butte bus station, reported in Bahá'í News for April 1956, has been terminated for the present, due to a rearrangement of the station facilities.

From January 18, 1955, to March 4, 1957, a total of 6337 pieces of Bahá'í literature was taken by the public. Of the more than 14 titles placed in the cabinet, the most frequently taken pieces were Life After Death, Bahá'í Teachings for a World Faith, and Communion With God.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Dhikru'lláh Khádem, Hand of the Cause, was guest speaker at the Mi-
ami, Fla., observance of the First Day of Rîvân. In his talk he referred to the many cablegrams received in Tehrân by the Shâh from Bahá'ís throughout the world at the time of the persecutions of Bahá'ís in Iran.

Greensboro, N.C., observed the anniversary of the Declaration of the Báb with a public meeting in a hotel. Attendance totalled 36, with 22 non-Bahá'ís. Interest shown by the guests was the most profound in Greensboro to date, and many said they wished to attend firesides and other future meetings.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, reports that Dr. Marcus Bach gave an excellent presentation of the Bahá'í Faith on the local television station. Also reported was a talk on the Faith at the Guild of the Congregational Church by a local Bahá'í.

The Birmingham, Ala., Local Spiritual Assembly has mailed 250 letters to churches and organizations offering speakers and any assistance they can give to programs for the betterment of mankind and the peace of the world.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan McCormick of Provo, Utah, spoke at several public meetings in Reno and Sparks, Nev., on the weekend of April 5. The story of the Bahá'í Faith, illustrated with slides, was given in Sparks at a Bahá'í home, and in Reno Mr. McCormick spoke at the Y.W.C.A. on "The Path to a Secure World."

Miss Charlotte Linfoot, assistant secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly, spoke at three meetings in San Francisco, Calif., on one en route to attend the first national convention in Tokyo, Japan, and two on her way back to Wilmette, and also at a public meeting in San Rafael. Two of these were addressed to the Bahá'ís, and two were public meetings.

A series of six public lectures on "The World's Great Religions" was presented by the Bahá'ís of South Bend, Ind., during April and May, using the Life magazine Film-Strip Lecture Series. Religions discussed included the Hindu, Jewish, Buddhist, Taoist, Christian, Islâmic, and Bahá'í. Discussion leaders were all non-Bahá'ís except for the Bahá'í Faith; total attendance included over 175 persons.

"GREATEST NAME" AVAILABLE IN GOLD ON BROWN CALF

"The Greatest Name" is now available in gold on brown calf at $4.00 each. It is also available in gold printing on heavy paper at 25 cents and in black printing at 25 cents each. Orders should be sent to the Bahá'í Sales Committee, Harry E. Walrath, 909 W. Foster Ave., Chicago 40, Ill.

CARLTON PRESS

Baha'i PUBLISHING TRUST

The Principles of Child Education in the Bahá'í Faith

A clarifying statement on the character and aim of Bahá'í education. This statement is not only of interest to Bahá'í teachers and parents, but to every individual in the Cause, both for his own enlightenment and so that he might make clear to others the true nature and purpose of education in the light of the Bahá'í teachings. It is also valuable for presentation to friends of the Cause and seekers interested in this aspect of the Teachings. Attractively printed on light blue quality paper, a French-fold, 3½ x 8½, to fit standard business envelope.

Single copy .................. $ .10
15 copies .................. 1.00
50 copies .................. 3.00

Bahá'í: A Second Look. Reprint from Christian Century Magazine of April 10, 1957. For information on this item and how it is to be used see article on page 4 of the June issue of Bahá'í News, "A Teaching Campaign to Revitalize the Home Community."

Size 6 x 9, four pages.
25 copies .................. $ 1.00
100 copies .................. 3.00
500 copies .................. 12.00

Fireside Teaching. Bahá'í News Insert. Additional copies of this statement on fireside teaching by the National Assembly are available.
Per copy .................. $ .05
100 copies .................. 3.00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEASTS
July 13—Kalimát (Words)
August 1—Kamál (Perfection)

HOLY DAYS
July 9—Martyrdom of the Báb

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
July 19-20-21.

Bahá'í House of Worship
Visiting Hours
Weekdays and Saturdays
1:00 — 4:00 P.M.
(Auditorium open)

Sundays
10:30 A.M. — 5:00 P.M.
(Entire building open)

Service of Worship
Sundays
3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15
The Assurance of Firmness

'Abdu'l-Bahá's Talk on Attacks by Ministers

"But after I leave, some people may arise in opposition, heaping persecutions upon you in their bitterness, and in the newspaper there may be articles published against the Cause. Rest ye in the assurance of firmness.

"... If such things do not happen, the fame of the Cause will not become widespread and the summons of God will not be heard.

"Consider the history of the past. Recall for instance the days of His Holiness Christ and the events subsequent thereto... But remember that these statements did not affect the Cause of Christianity. On the contrary, Christianity advanced daily in power and potency.

"Day by day the majesty of Christ grew in splendor and effulgence. Therefore my purpose is to warn you and strengthen you against accusations, criticisms, revilings, and derision in newspaper articles or other publications. Be not disturbed by them. They are the very confirmation of the Cause; the very source of upbuilding to the movement. May God confirm the day when a score of the ministers of the churches may arise and with bared heads cry at the top of their voices that the Bahá'ís are misguided. I would like to see that day, for that is the time when the Cause of God will spread.

"Bahá'u'lláh has pronounced such as these the couriers (heralds) of the Cause. They will proclaim from pulpits that the Bahá'ís are fools; that they are a wicked and unrighteous people; but be ye steadfast and unwavering in the Cause of God. They will spread the message of Bahá'u'lláh." (Promulgation of Universal Peace, pp. 423, 424.)

The Station and Function of the Hands of the Cause

Dear Bahá'i Friends:

In a letter written on behalf of the Guardian, the National Assembly has been informed that some National Assemblies do not understand the position and rank of the Hands of the Cause. These Assemblies, in writing the Guardian, mention first their relationship to the Guardian, next their relationship to National Assemblies and then their relationship to the Hands of the Case.

The communication directs our Assembly, after clearly understanding the station and functions of the Hands of the Cause, to inform the friends.

"The rank and position of the Hands of the Cause are superior to the position of the National Assemblies. In writing concerning the Hands, therefore, when there is reference to the Institutions of the Faith, after the Guardian should be mentioned the Hands, and then the national bodies."

The NSA understands from this explanation that in corresponding or reporting about any Bahá'í situation which includes the Hands of the Cause, or a Hand of the Cause, reference to the Hands, or to the Hand, precedes reference to any other Bahá'í institution except the Guardian himself.

To clarify this matter for the present generation of believers, the National Assembly has reviewed references to the Hands of the Cause published in Bahá'í literature or reported in Baha'i News. "Hour now ripe take long inevitably deferred step, (in) conformity (with) provisions (of) 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Testament... through appointment first contingent (of) Hands (of) the Cause of God, twelve in number, equally allocated (to) Holy Land, Asiatic, American, European continents..."

As to their function at that time, the Guardian stated: "Nine elevated rank Hands three continents outside Holy Land advised remain present posts continue discharge vital administrative, teaching duties pending assignment specific functions as need arises. Urge all nine attend as my representatives all four forthcoming Intercontinental Conferences..." (Guardian's cable of December 24, 1951)

This same cable states that the appointments of the first contingent were made in conjunction with these six historic steps in the history of the Faith: first, the inauguration of construction of the superstructure of the Sepulchre of the Báb; second,
the creation of the International Baha'i Council; third, the acquisition, restoration and embellishment of the historic sites associated with the incarceration of Baha'u'lllah and 'Abdu'l-Baha; fourth, the initiation of formal negotiations with central municipal authorities of Israel to preserve for posterity the neighborhood of the Most Holy Tomb of Baha'u'llah and acquire properties near the Sepulchre of the Bab as site for future edifice housing the auxiliary agencies revolving around the Guardianship and the House of Justice; fifth, preparation of the design of the House of Worship to be constructed on Mount Carmel; and sixth, the inauguration of the intercontinental stage of Baha'i activity through the Intercontinental Teaching Conference to be held in 1953 preparing for the final step, the calling of an assemblage representative of the Baha'i communities of all sovereign states, chief dependencies and islands of the entire planet (1963).

On April 6, 1954, the Guardian cabled all Hands of the Cause and all National Assemblies a message marking a further unfoldment of the function of the Hands.

"This newly constituted body, embarked (on) its mission (with) such auspicious circumstances, (is) now entering second phase (of) its evolution signalized (by) forging ties (with the) National Spiritual Assemblies (of the) Baha'i world (for the) purpose (of) lending them assistance (in) attaining (the) objectives (of the) Ten Year Plan.

"The hour (is) ripe (for the) fifteen Hands residing outside (the) Holy Land (to) proceed during Ridvan (with the) appointment, (in) each continent separately, from among the resident Baha'i's (of) that continent, (of) Auxiliary Boards, whose members acting (as) deputies, assistants (and) advisors (of the) Hands, must increasingly lend (their) assistance (for the) promotion (of the) interests (of the) Ten Year Crusade. . . .

"All Boards must report (and) be responsible (to the) Hands charged (with) their appointment. . . .

"Urge initiation (of) five Continental Baha'i Funds which, as they develop, will increasingly facilitate (the) discharge (of the) functions assigned (to the) Boards."

In this same message the Hands were directed to keep in close touch with, and report the result of the nominations and progress of the activities of the Boards to the National Assemblies of their respective continents, as well as to the four Hands residing in the Holy Land "destined (to) act (as) liaison between themselves (i.e., the various Hands) (and the) Guardian (of the) Faith."

We now turn to the Guardian's latest reference, his cable of June 4, 1957, addressed to all the Hands and all the National Assemblies, published in the July issue of Baha'i News.

"Divinely appointed Institution (of the) Hands (of the) Cause, invested (by) virtue (of the) authority conferred (by the) Testament (of the) Center (of the) Covenant (with the) twin functions (of) protecting (and) propagating (the) Faith (of) Baha'u'llah, now entering new phase (in the) process (of the) unfoldment (of) its sacred mission. To its newly assumed responsibility (to) assist National Spiritual Assemblies (of the) Baha'i world (in the) specific purpose (of) effectively prosecuting (the) World Spiritual Crusade, (the) primary obligation (to) watch over (and) insure protection (to the) Baha'i World community in close collaboration (with) these same National Assemblies (is) now added."

Hostility to Cause Noted

The friends have by now carefully noted the Guardian's powerful exposition of the hostility from without, and the persistent machinations within the Cause, which impelled him to issue this call to the Hands and the National Assemblies to establish contact and deliberate on all evidences of hostility and the efforts of Covenant-breakers to destroy the Faith.

Master's Will Cited

Finally is cited the passage in the Master's will and Testament which invested the Guardian with authority to appoint Hands of the Cause.

"O friends! The Hands of the Cause of God must be nominated and appointed by the Guardian of the Cause of God. All must be under his shadow and obey his command. Should any, within or without the company of the Hands of the Cause of God disobey and seek division, the wrath of God and His vengeance will be upon him, for he will have caused a break in the true Faith of God."

"The obligations of the Hands of the Cause of God are to diffuse the divine fragrances, to edify the souls of men, to promote learning, to improve the character of all men, and to be, at all times, and under all conditions, sanctified and detached from earthly things. They must manifest the fear of God by their conduct, their manners, their deeds and their words."

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
Dear Bahá’í Friends:

Impelled by an urgent message from the Guardian, the American Hands of the Cause issued on June 19 a letter to every believer in the United States. This letter cited the Guardian’s appeals and warnings of 1954, 1956, and 1957 concerning the deterioration of the homefront and the menace of catastrophe to the nation through a third war.

At the request of the Hands, the National Spiritual Assembly called fifteen conferences in population centers throughout the country to be held on June 29 or 30, each conducted by a Hand of the Cause, a member of the Auxiliary Board or a member of the National Spiritual Assembly. The purpose of these rallies was to consult on the letter from the Hands which appealed to each individual believer to make a response to the Guardian’s continued appeal.

All possible effort was made, through the local Assembly of the city selected, and through the Area Teaching Committees to bring together the Bahá’ís from surrounding communities and groups.

The forms of action to which response must be made were outlined in the letter of June 19: pioneer abroad in Europe, Latin America, Africa, or Asia; pioneer on the homefront—dispersal to some weak community, bring a group to Assembly status, or establish a new isolated center anywhere in the United States; actively, prayerfully give the Message and confirm souls in one’s own town or city if dispersal is not immediately possible; contribute to the National Fund in the full measure of devotion and sacrifice called for by the Guardian.

Fifteen meetings were held.

New York, conducted by Paul E. Haney, Hand of the Cause; Temple Foundation Hall, conducted by Horace Holley, Hand of the Cause; Philadelphia, conducted by William de-Forge, member of the Auxiliary Board; Seattle and Los Angeles, conducted by Mrs. Florence Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board; Lima and Cleveland, conducted by Mrs. Margery McCormick, member of the Auxiliary Board; Washington, D.C., conducted by Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, member of the Auxiliary Board; Atlanta, conducted by Dr. Sarah M. Pereira, member of the Auxiliary Board; San Francisco, conducted by Charles Wolcott, member of the NSA; Albuquerque and Phoenix, conducted by Charlotte M. Linfoot, member of the NSA; St. Louis, conducted by Edna M. True, member of the NSA; Boston, conducted by H. B. Kavelin, member of the NSA; Detroit, conducted by Dr. Katherine K. True, member of the NSA.

Reports indicate that a total of 2216 believers attended the fifteen conferences. Without doubt, these conferences represent the greatest gathering of American Bahá’ís ever held for concentration on one essential objective, except for the great Centenary celebrations of 1944 and 1953.

While the Guardian’s repeated appeals were expressed by the American Hands, the responses by individual believers are to be channeled through the regular administrative channels—the Intercontinental Teaching Committees for pioneering abroad, and the American National Teaching Committee for pioneering on the homefront.

The National Spiritual Assembly awaits prayerfully the evidences of a tremendous outpouring of the spirit in terms of actual responses to the beloved Guardian’s warnings and appeals.

—National Spiritual Assembly

The Non-Political Character of the Bahá’í Faith

Dear Friends:

In these days of worldwide political disturbance it seems wise to review the Master’s teachings, the Guardian’s directions, and explanations by the National Spiritual Assembly published on this subject over the years. The references are so numerous that another explanation at this time would be out of place and unnecessary.

These essential points must be universally upheld: obedience to civil government; complete non-association with any subversive movement; non-acceptance of any political office by vote of a political party; enrollment as a non-partisan and not as a member of any political party.

Local Assemblies and individual believers, therefore, are urged to study, if the subject is not already clear, the following references:

The Bahá’í World, XII, pp. 306-312. Bahá’í News Nos. 69, pp. 3-4; 72, p. 4; 78, p. 2; 80, p. 2; 105, p. 4; 140, p. 2.

Another view of the new entrance door of the Shrine of Báb’suláh at Bahji
Indeed, it is an important element in administrative efficiency for local Assemblies to preserve published references on subjects important to the preservation of the integrity of public teaching and individual Bahá'í belief and action. The National Spiritual Assembly is called upon to devote much time to answering questions already fully answered in Bahá'í literature, The Bahá'í World and Bahá'í News.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

**Your Bahá'í Directory**

With this issue of Bahá'í News each American believer will receive a copy of the Bahá'í Directory for 1957-1958. This publication is issued annually for the sole purpose of providing information that can be valuable to local Spiritual Assemblies, groups, national and local committees, and individuals in planning and carrying out their teaching work.

Reference to the functions assigned to each committee will indicate the type of assistance and information available from those sources. The “proclamation” and “service” committees particularly have much to offer both in the way of materials and suggestions.

Bahá'ís traveling or settling in other areas can find the addresses of local Spiritual Assemblies and Area Teaching Committees through which they can get in touch with the other believers in those localities.

In a further effort to aid in channeling requests to the proper source this year, the National Spiritual Assembly has added general information where to order or send the various types of material. In the past much valuable time has been spent in forwarding to various committees and offices requests and materials that have come to the wrong place, frequently resulting in the recipient not receiving it in time. The Bahá'í Publishing Trust, which is greatly under-staffed, has particularly been the victim of far too many requests for services and materials which that office does not handle and which would not have come there if the sender had referred to his directory or the Bahá'í literature catalog.

If the directory is to serve its purpose it should be carefully filed for ready reference and kept up to date by noting the directory changes that are published in Bahá'í News.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

**'Be Not Distressed’**

Letters frequently come from pioneers who mention early difficulties and discouragements in their first attempts to establish the Cause in a new land. Then, suddenly, after persistent effort and prayer, the circumstances change and the doors are opened to fruitful activity and achievement. The Master, ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, speaking in Paris said:

"... do not be discouraged because you are few or because people think that your Cause is of no importance. If few people come to your gatherings do not lose heart, and if you are ridiculed and contradicted be not distressed, for the apostles of Christ had the same to bear.

“Lift up your hearts above the present and look with eyes of faith into the future! Today the seed is sown, the grain falls upon the earth... Rejoice and be glad that this day has dawned, try to realize its power, for it is indeed wonderful! God has crowned you with honour and in your hearts has set a radiant star; verily the light thereof shall brighten the whole world!”

Now a letter has come from Charles Duncan, pioneer in Bangkok, Thailand, which records something of teaching efforts expended in that country. It follows in part:

"... As you know I lived at the YMCA for over a year. It was the only place that I could find that I could afford. I wasn't able to have any firesides and I couldn't find any-

Dr. ‘Ali Muhammad Varqá, Hand of the Cause, and Mrs. Margery McCormick, member of the Auxiliary Board and of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, at the Tomb of May Maxwell, near Quilmés, Argentina, on April 21, 1957. The memorial service was reported in Bahá'í News for June.
Dr. ‘Ali Muhammad Varqa, Hand of the Cause, Mrs. Margery McCormick, representing the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States; and the newly elected National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

It was getting very discouraging because I could spend so little time teaching the Cause. "Then circumstances changed. I was able to get a new job teaching which paid more money and took less time. So I have rented a house and it is now the Bahá'í Center in Bangkok. There is a sign over the gate in English and Thai. The House is on the road to the airport so it must be seen by hundreds of people each day, both Thais and foreigners. We now have firesides every Sunday morning with attendance of 12 or so people each time.

"In addition to this a friend of mine has an English school. He has invited me to speak on the Bahá'í Faith at his school. I did this last week and everyone was enthusiastic. So now I am preparing a nine lecture series to give the general outline of the Cause. I am starting with social teaching and the importance of religion to civilization. Introducing the Manifestation is easy, but introducing God is much more difficult because the Buddhists don't believe in God or any gods. Needless to say I feel elated after treading the mill for so long. It's very gratifying to see the students nod their heads from time to time showing their approval.

"The last big item of news is that we are translating the Esslemont book into Thai. A friend of mine translates during the week and we go over it on Sundays. Although this method is much slower than having a professional translator, it is better in the long run because I can check each sentence to make sure that there are no misinterpretations (which are usual in translations from Thaí to English). I know just enough Thai to keep an eye on things. Then another friend checks the two and makes suggestions. The translator is a Buddhist and the checker is a Christian.

"Now that things are at last underway in Thailand, I'm sure that we shall have some results."

Again the Master's words: "Only have faith, patience and courage—this is but the beginning, but surely you will succeed, for God is with you!" (Quotations from Paris Talks)

Western Hemisphere
HAWAIIAN, NICARAGUAN PIONEERS NEEDED

Because of the renewed stress and urgency of the appeals by the Guardian for more American pioneers, the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee continues to use this means of acquainting potential pioneers with current goals to be filled, as well as job opportunities which come to our attention. Anyone thinking of pioneering either now or at a later date is urged to get in touch with this Committee through its Secretary at the address below.

It should be noted that qualified teachers can expect to find employment almost anywhere except in Hawaii.

In addition to persons able to pioneer on a permanent basis, this Committee needs the services of traveling teachers as well, and would be very happy to hear from anyone who is in a position to take on a circuit teaching trip for a period of several weeks.

Maui, Hawaiian Islands

Maui is the only other established local Spiritual Assembly in the Hawaiian Islands, besides Honolulu. One or two pioneers are needed there before next Ridván in order to preserve its Assembly status. As em-
employment possibilities are not great, the best suggestion is that this post be filled by retired Bahá'ís with independent income sufficient for an average American city.

Bluefields, Nicaragua

Bluefields has no pioneer at the present time, but is a good possibility for an Assembly next Ridván, as the way has been paved with contacts (some of whom are earnest seekers) by our pioneer, Ruth Yancey, who spent two months there recently on a special teaching project sponsored by the Nicaraguan Teaching Committee. We quote from her report:

"The population of Bluefields is approximately 15,000 inhabitants, composed mostly of Creoles from the English speaking islands of the Atlantic with a smaller minority group of Spanish speaking peoples and a smattering of Mosquito Indians... Until recently, all teaching was done in English with Spanish being taught as a foreign language. As a result... the people regard English as their mother tongue and prefer it to Spanish.

"The mode of living in some respects is comparable to that in the United States possibly half a century ago. The homes are all of wooden construction and for the most part lack running water and indoor plumbing. The diet consists principally of rice and beans plus fruits which grow naturally and are available at certain seasons of the year. Fish is free for the fishing."

Miss Yancey, in her two months at Bluefields, made a number of contacts "who are begging for a permanent pioneer and books..."

"The contacts themselves in requesting a resident pioneer for Bluefields, have expressed the wish that it be a person who is mature, well versed in the Teachings and capable of explaining things in a simple, clear, and eloquent manner. To them this is a matter of utmost importance.

"Bluefields is fertile ground and ripe for the Faith. Because of the constant friction which exists between the groups already established there... many people are seeking and more will be seeking for a resident pioneer and books...

For further information please contact the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, secretary, 73 College Road West, Princeton, N.J.

First National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Benelux Countries, elected at Brussels, in April 1957.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Australia

ANNUAL CONVENTION HELD IN SYDNEY

The Annual National Convention of the Bahá'ís of Australia was opened on the evening of April 25, 1957, by Stanley Bolton, vice-chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly, in the absence of Collis Featherstone, chairman, who was attending the first New Zealand Convention.

Mr. Bolton welcomed the delegates and friends, and expressed the regret of the friends at the absence of Mrs. Clara Dunn, Hand of the Cause, who was attending the New Zealand Convention as the representative of the Guardian.

Following his welcome, Mr. Bolton incorporated into his address the Guardian's message to the New Zealand Convention, sent by Mrs. Dunn, which called upon the National Assembly of Australia to continue to assist the New Zealand Bahá'í community in every possible way.

At the roll call of delegates, 22 were present.

Convention officers were elected, with Mr. P. Bird serving as Chairman, and Mr. J. Heggie as Secretary.

The Guardian's message was read by the convention secretary, who also, as arranged by the National Spiritual Assembly, unveiled a sketch of the Australian Temple as the Temple plans were announced in the Guardian's message.

This was a momentous period in the reading of the Guardian's stupendous record of World Crusade accomplishments. Only time and much study will reveal the full implication of this wonderful message, which left the convention filled with the wonder of the greatness of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh under the unerring guidance of Shoghi Effendi.

The first session was closed with the reports of the secretary and treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly.

On the next day, April 26, various committees made their annual reports, and recommendations were made and discussed pertaining to the Australian Bahá'í activities.

Cable to Guardian

The Cable Committee submitted a draft of a message to the Guardian, which was approved as follows:

"AUSTRALIAN CONVENTION DEEPLY MOVED YOUR MESSAGE REJOICES CRUSADE ADVANCES HEARTS OVERFLOWING AWE HUMILITY LOVE GRATITUDE MAGNIFICENT TEMPLE PLANS SUPPLICATE YOUR PRAYERS STRENGTH POWER COURAGE ARISE ACHIEVE ALLOTTED TASKS GREETINGS LOVING ASSURANCES REDEDICATION."

On Saturday, April 27, the voting for the new National Spiritual As-
Assembly was conducted, with these results: Mr. J. Heggie, Mr. H. C. Featherstone, Mr. P. Bird, Mr. N. P. L. Walker, Mrs. D. Whiting, Miss T. Perks, Mr. S. W. Bolton, Miss M. Degotardi, and Mr. F. Wyss.

Visit Temple Site

Sunday morning, April 28, over 60 people assembled at the Temple Site despite an early morning rain. The site had recently been cleared of trees, and the markers for the Temple foundations were found, with one pylon site partly excavated. The friends gathered around for prayers, including a prayer for the departed, with special thought of Mr. George Townshend, Hand of the Cause.

Receive Guardian's Reply

In the afternoon the Guardian's reply to the convention cable was received: DEEPLY APPRECIATE MESSAGE APPEAL ENTIRE BODY AUSTRALIAN BELIEVERS RE-DUOLE EFFORTS BETITLINGLY DISCHARGE SACRED HEAVY MANIFOLD RESPONSIBILITIES PRAYING FERVENTLY FULFILLMENT CHERISHED HOPES.

SHOGHI

Following further discussion on teaching ideas, the convention was closed, and the friends assembled to commemorate the Feast of Beauty.

—AUSTRALIAN Baha’i Bulletin

CRUSADE TRANSLATION

GOAL ACHIEVED

The Australian Baha’i Bulletin reports that the translation in Houailou has been completed. This is one of the three remaining goal translations undertaken by Australia and New Zealand. The others are Aneityum and Bentuni.

Canada

TENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD

The tenth annual National Convention of the Baha’is of Canada was held on April 26-28, 1957 in Toronto, Ontario.

This history-making convention, which was held for the first time in our own Haziratu’l-Quds, opened on Friday morning with devotions, which assisted each delegate to prepare himself humbly and sincerely for the work to be done.

The beloved Guardian’s message, addressed this year for the first time to 24 national conventions assembled throughout the world, invited the delegates to survey with him “the latest evidences of (the Faith’s) resistless march along the path traced for it by both its Founder and the appointed Center of His Covenant.”

In answer to this message the convention sent this heartfelt response by cable to Shoghi Effendi: “Convention message tremendous inspiration. Overjoyed global successes. Rededication greater fervour fulfillment Crusade, Beseech prayers assistance tasks allotted Canadian community. Loving greetings.”

During the first afternoon much time was given to discussion of the reports of the National Teaching and New Territories Committees, particularly the matter of lost local Spiritual Assemblies. Sixty Assemblies are required by the completion of the Ten-Year Crusade, and the present status is 18. There was a general feeling, not only by the Committee but also by the delegates, that teaching activity appears to be on the increase throughout Canada.

Ridvan Feast Observed

The Ridvan Feast was held in the basement of the Haziratu’l-Quds on Friday evening. Following the readings and prayers, Winnifred Harvey spoke briefly of her recent pilgrimage to Haifa, the play “The Seated Baha’i” was presented, and Mrs. Meherangiz Munsiff, a visitor from India via the United States, spoke.

Midway in the convention the elec-
tion of the new National Spiritual Assembly for 1957-1958 was held. In an atmosphere of devotion and prayerful thought the delegates cast their ballots.

In all, 19 delegates voted, the two absentee sending in their ballots by mail. The following were elected: Hart Bowesfield, Peggy Ross, Winifred Harvey, Audrey Westheuser, Allan Raynor, Lloyd Gardiner, Rowland Estall, Fred Graham, and Harold Moscrop.

A Public Congress was held on Saturday evening in the Royal Ontario Museum Theater, at which Mrs. Munsiff was the speaker.

The remainder of the convention was given over to consultation on the plans and objectives for the coming year on the home front, on the national, regional, and individual levels.

There was an acute awareness on the part of those present of a subtle change in the Baha’is throughout Canada. More active teaching, a greater sense of maturity, was expressed.

In one of the most inspiring keynote talks in any Canadian convention, Fred Graham summed up the attitude of the individual by calling upon us all to arise and act. We must rely on the promise of our Faith for aid and know that success will come through “all those who arise” in “whom the Word of God taketh effect.”

To the 17 delegates who were present must be added the over 100 registered visitors during the convention, who returned to their homes with renewed dedication, determined to put into action what they had experienced.

—Canadian Baha’i News

**FIRST ASSEMBLY FORMED IN SAMOA**

Details of the formation of the first Local Spiritual Assembly in Samoa have been published in the Canadian New Territories Committee Newsletter, quoting a letter from Suhayl ‘Ala’í:

“First day of Ridván was a truly joyous occasion for every one of us in Samoa. We are sure that you were just as happy to see the formation of the first Spiritual Assembly in the Samoan Islands come to realization.

“On the morning of that ‘Blessed Festival’ we all gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nemat ‘Ala’í for the wonderful occasion we had all longed for. After appropriate excerpts from the writings of Baha’u’llah, ‘Abdu’l-Baha, and the Guardian were read, a joint declaration was signed by the nine present. We had received your welcome cable about midnight, the night before the formation of the Assembly. It was certainly most inspiring and deeply appreciated by every one of us.”

**Germany, Austria**

**SUMMER SCHOOL THEMES ANNOUNCED**

The National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, through its publication Baha’i Nachrichten, has listed the themes of their summer school sessions for Esslingen, Germany, and for a second school which it is hoped can be established in central Germany at Clausthal-Zellerfeld.


**India, Burma**

**BAHA’IS PARTICIPATE IN U.N. CONFERENCE AT COLOMBO**

A conference of United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations met in Colombo, Ceylon, on October 29 to November 1, 1956, in which three representatives of the Baha’i Faith took part.

One hundred ninety-seven delegates representing 75 organizations in Burma, Ceylon, India, Nepal, and Pakistan participated.

Baha’is included Mr. K. Sivapirakasam, chairman of the Colombo Local Spiritual Assembly, representing Ceylon; Mr. Lionel J. Peraj, representing India; and Mr. N. A. M. Sultan, representing Pakistan.

During the first three days of the conference there were talks on “The UN Technical Assistance Program,” “The Establishment of a Better Understanding of the UN,” “The Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy,” and “The Role of the UN in World Affairs Today.”

Many of the delegates contacted by the Baha’is individually were of the opinion that ultimately the doings of United Nations would lead to universal peace and one world, promulgated by Baha’u’llah. The Director of the UNIC in Pakistan, who was one of the leading figures at the conference, told the Baha’is that he was from the land of our Beloved,
First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Porto Alegre, Brazil, formed on April 21, 1957.

and that he had a good number of relatives who were Bahá'ís and lived in Persia.

On the final day of the conference the participants divided into four informal working groups. The Bahá'ís joined the group of “Teaching about the United Nations and Cooperation Between the Various Organizations.” At this group level Mr. Sivappirakasan delivered a short speech. He stressed that it is the spiritual force only, and not the force of arms and not economic emancipation that would give stability to universal peace and happiness to the human race. If, with the technical, health, and other assistance given to the underdeveloped areas, spiritual education is imparted from a common pool, the world would be a paradise enjoying universal peace.

Many friends of the Bahá'í representatives were contacted during tea, lunch, and other intervals, and were given the Bahá'í Message. Pamphlets pertaining to our Beloved's Cause were distributed. Most of the delegates from India and Pakistan had earlier acquaintance of the Faith, but some of the delegates from Nepal had not heard of it, and were anxious to have more literature.

One important fact to be noted was that not a single delegate had any ill will towards the Faith. One Mr. Chakravarthi from New Delhi, in a short speech, said that the world was heading for a one-world government. When he was contacted by the Bahá'ís after his speech he said that he had heard about the Faith, and that the Bahá'í idea of one world government could only be realized after a decade or two, and not in the near future.

—Lionel J. Peraji

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCED

The following were elected to form the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India and Burma for the Bahá'í year 114 (1957-58):

Mr. G. A. Amreliwala, chairman; Dr. M. E. Lutfman, vice-chairman; Mr. Abbasally Butt, secretary; H. Fatheazam, assistant secretary; Mr. K. J. Hakimian, treasurer; and Mrs. Shiriin Boman, Mr. R. N. Shah, Mr. M. Samimi, and U Ba Sein.

Brasil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF PERU ACQUIRED

Purchase of the National Endowment of Peru has been announced by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

The site is located 30 kilometers from Huancayo near Apana, and consists of 6,051 square meters of land. It was purchased in April 1957, and is easily accessible by highway and railroad.

Pakistan

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FORMED IN KARACHI

All the friends were delighted when the holding of the First Convention of the Bahá'ís of Pakistan was announced. The dates fixed for it were from April 27 to 30, 1957. The meetings of the convention were to be held at Bahá'í Hall, Deepchand Ojha Road, Karachi.

Delegates of the local Assemblies of the Bahá'ís of Pakistan, except a few who could not come, reached Karachi by April 27 to participate in the convention. A large number of Bahá'ís also came to witness this historical and glorious function. In those days the Bahá'í Hall and gardens were illuminated by colored electric bulbs in such a way that people passing at night were attracted by this beautiful scene. The atmosphere resounded with the cries of “Alláh-u'Abhá!”

Hand of Cause Present

The beloved Guardian sent the revered Hand of the Cause, Shu'á'u'lláh 'Aláí, as his representative at this occasion. Mr. Abbasally Butt, member of the Auxiliary Board to the Hands of the Cause in Asia, and Mr. Isfandiar Bakhtiari and Ghulam Hassan Ambreliwala, representatives of the National Spiritual Assembly of India and Burma, attended the meetings.

Mr. Bakhtiari, chairman of the sponsoring National Assembly, opened the convention. The revered Hand of the Cause of God distributed the perfume, sent through him as a gift from the beloved Guardian, to the delegates and visitors. The revered Hand of the Cause also delivered the message of the beloved Guardian and addressed the assemblage.

Translations of the messages of the beloved Guardian were read in the meetings, and the revered Hand of the Cause gave an address on the progress of the Cause of God.

The Rívdván Feast was celebrated in a spirit of jubilation, and in the evening a public reception was held in the garden of the Haqíratul-Quds, to which the cream of the society of Karachi was invited. This gathering was addressed by the revered Hand of the Cause.

On April 29 the National Spiritual Assembly came into being and was
organized. The following, and their offices, were elected: Mr. I. K. Bakhtiari, chairman; Choudhri Abdur Rehman, vice-chairman; Faridoon Yazameidi, secretary; Mr. A. C. Joshi, treasurer; and Mr. S. Mahfoozul Haq Ilmi, Mr. Memboob Ilahi Qureshi, Mr. S. Abul Abbas Rizvi, Mr. S. Mawazish Ali Shah, and Dr. M. A. Latif.

The delegates were distributed into six panels to discuss the various items of the agenda, and a common discussion was held on their reporting the result of their consultation.

Several functions, including one by the Bahá’í Youth Committee, Karachi, were held. Many friends spoke in these meetings and many read poems. Beginners also came, and had their problems solved by the teachers present at the functions.

The sacred impression of this auspicious occasion gave freshness and a new encouragement to the Bahá’ís. We trust that the friends will serve the Cause of God with daily increasing ardor and endeavor.

—Faridoon Yazameidi
Convention Reporter

New Zealand
FORM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
IN AUCKLAND

From April 26 to 28, 1957, at the Haziratu’l-Quds in Auckland, New Zealand Bahá’ís thrilled to the joys of their first convention, the two highlights of which were the beloved Guardian’s Convention Message, together with our objectives in the new Six-Year Plan, and the election of our own National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand.

Our beloved Hand of the Cause, Mrs. Clara Dunn, and Auxiliary Board members Miss Thelma Perks and Mr. Collis Featherstone, blessed and guided our fledgling steps during the proceedings.

Three-fifths of the total number of Bahá’ís in New Zealand were present, along with many Australian friends, to hear the Guardian’s review of events, the outline of future activities, and to share in the soul-warming joys of Bahá’í fellowship.

Our part in the Six-Year Plan is as follows: (1) Multiplication of centers and local Assemblies, (2) Incorporation of well-grounded Assemblies, (3) Inauguration of a National Fund, (4) Obtaining recognition of Bahá’í Holy Days and of the Bahá’í marriage certificate, (5) Conversion of Maoris and ensuring their participation in Bahá’í administrative institutions, (6) Extending the scope of teaching in the South Island, (7) Incorporation of the newly-formed National Spiritual Assembly, and (8) Selection and purchase of the site for the first Mashriqu’l-Adhkár in New Zealand.

—Percy G. Leadley
Convention Reporter

Race Amity Day meeting sponsored by the Hayward, Calif., Bahá’í group on June 9 at the Bahá’í Center.
There were 14 Baha’is and 13 non-Baha’is in attendance, comprising college students and teachers of the Negro and white races. The meeting was held in the O. Henry Hotel, where the Greensboro World Youth Day meeting in March attracted such favorable attention to the Faith.

Baha’is of the Miami, Fla., area also reported a large attendance at their public meeting in a Bahá’í home. Twelve non-Baha’is and 44 Bahá’is heard a talk by Dr. Charles Williams, principal of Booker T. Washington High School of Miami on “The Price We Pay,” explaining what it takes to be a good citizen.

As a result of newspaper publicity for the Miami meeting, the Rader Methodist Church of El Portal, a Miami suburb, asked for a Bahá’i speaker to explain the Faith to a church group studying the various religions.

Newton, Mass., Bahá’is held their first interracial public meeting in observance of Race Amity Day, with 17 present, including 8 non-Baha’is and 6 Negros. Mr. Beverly F. Booth of the University of Alabama was the non-Baha’i speaker.

Royal Oak, Mich., Bahá’is planned their Race Amity Day observance in the nature of a reception, with a short talk on the Faith followed by a general discussion. Twenty-five persons attended, including six non-Baha’is.

Battle Creek, Mich., invited a leader of the local Unitarian Church to share a platform with a Bahá’í speaker at their public meeting, the subject being “Brotherhood of Man.”

The San Francisco, Calif., public meeting included prayers and readings from the Bahá’í Writings, vocal selections by an Oriental artist; a brief Bahá’í talk on “The Oneness of God, the Oneness of the Prophets, and the Oneness of Mankind”; brief talks by a Negro representative of the Urban League, a young Filipino woman in national dress, who spoke of the contributions of America to the development of the Philippine Islands, a Japanese artist who demonstrated Japanese brush painting, and a fellow artist who displayed wax-dye on cotton.

These meetings demonstrate that there is a firm basis for the development of future Race Amity Day meetings to proclaim the distinguishing feature of the Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh, the Oneness of Mankind.

We estimated that there were about 600 in the audience when I spoke. The service was in the college auditorium, and there was a nicely lettered poster in the lobby advertising it.

The talk, which I read in order to obtain the maximum smoothness in phrasing, covered a great deal of ground, and did not pull any punches with respect to the necessity of overcoming the divisions between religions.

After the talk I was greeted in a very friendly manner by Dr. Jones, the President of the college, who is a friend of the Bahá’í, Mrs. Van Sombeek. Then we went to the lounge of the Meetinghouse, where a coffee hour was scheduled for those who cared to carry on a discussion with the speaker. We were told that the count was 51, which Dr. Trueblood considered an expression of considerable interest. The discussion was lively, largely along Christian lines, but quite intelligent and constructive.

The next afternoon we were invited to attend Prof. Hugh Barbour’s class in “Religions of the World.” It is a seminar class around a huge oval cherry wood table in the Meetinghouse. There were about 20 around the table, and another ten or so around the edges of the room.

When we came in we noticed the names of all the leading Bahá’í figures, as well as the ones we regard as major Prophets, written on the blackboard. At first we thought this was in preparation for this class,

Race Amity Day meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Van Sombeek in Durham, N.C., on June 9. The guests included Mr. A. T. Spaulding, United States delegate of the UNESCO conference in New Delhi, India.
but when Prof. Barbour erased them, it turned out they had been used for discussion in a morning class.

The whole class hour was devoted to questions on the Faith addressed to us. Again they were intelligent and penetrating, and we felt that a great deal of interest was generated.

The next day was the Yokefellow Conference. To my surprise, Dr. Trueblood asked me to contribute to the period of Common Prayer that opened the meeting. I read one of the short prayers by Baha'u'llah.

There were about 225 in attendance, some ministers, but more lay leaders in the churches. We were greatly impressed with the vitality of this movement, and particularly to the extent to which people who were at first sophisticated and worldly found that religion brought positive values to them when they applied it in their daily lives, and made them happier and better able to cope with modern problems.

Evaluation of Visit

The campus as a whole is now very much aware of the Faith. This experience convinced me even more that an opportunity to present the Faith in the classroom or auditorium under the official auspices of a college is infinitely more effective than a meeting sponsored by Baha'is, and if it reaches a large fraction of the campus at one time, the impact is that much more forceful. College students are open to this type of approach, and there is no telling what the ultimate effect might be.

—Arthur L. Danz

HOLD SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING
AT CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES

The seventh annual public meeting at Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge, N.H., was held on July 13, 1957. Harry S. Merson spoke on "World Unity and World Faith," and Mrs. Gladys Weeden gave readings and a prayer from the Baha'i Writings.

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET
Fifth Year: 1957-1958
Annual Budget ........... $425,000.00
Total Requirements:
May 1 to June 30 ....... 70,834.00
Total Contributions:
May 1 to June 30 ....... 40,000.00
—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

URGE PLANS FOR
UNITED NATIONS DAY

Local Assemblies or Baha'i groups wishing to join in the nation-wide observance of United Nations Day on October 24, 1957, are requested to appoint a member of the Assembly or community to serve as UN Day correspondent.

This will be of great assistance to your U. S. United Nations Committee, and will expedite your receipt of information and materials this committee wishes to send out.

Please send the name and address of the correspondent before August 20 to:
Miss Isabelle Silk
319 E. 50th Street
New York 17, N.Y.
—UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE

DAVISON SCHOOL PLANS

HOME COMING WEEKEND

Home coming weekend at the Davison Baha'i School, Davison, Mich., will be a three-day session under the sponsorship of the Africa Teaching Committee and handled by Albert James on August 31 through September 2, 1957.

The public meeting on September 1, at 3:00 p.m. will be addressed by Mrs. Ruth Moffett instead of Robert Gaines, as published in the school program.

The friends are urged to make advance reservations for this weekend with the Davison Baha'i School Registrar, Mr. Rason Dobbs, 3208 S. State Road, Davison, Mich.

The seventh annual Springs meeting was held at Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge, N.H., on August 3-5. Approximately 225 were in attendance, including some ministers, but more lay leaders in the churches. We were greatly impressed with the vitality of this movement, and particularly to the extent to which people who were at first sophisticated and worldly found that religion brought positive values to them when they applied it in their daily lives, and made them happier and better able to cope with modern problems.

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“Yet Another Outstanding Objective (of) Crusade”
Cable From the Guardian

Inform Hands, National Assemblies, transfer (of) remains (of) Mirzá Buzurg attainment yet another outstanding objective (of) Crusade. Advise avoid publicity.

—Shoghi

Cable received July 17, 1957

Beloved Friends:

The spiritual significance of this message from the beloved Guardian is revealed when we turn to page 94 of God Passes By: “He (Bahá’u’lláh) was moreover a descendant of Jesse, and belonged, through His father, Mirzá ‘Abbas’, better known as Mirzá Buzurg — a nobleman closely associated with the ministeral circles of the Court of Fath-Alí Sháh — to one of the most ancient and renowned families of Mázindarán.”

In the Guardian’s Ten Year International Bahá’í Teaching and Consolidation Plan 1953-1963, No. 15 in the list of “Objectives of the Ten Year Plan to be Conducted by Twelve Bahá’í National Assemblies 1953-1959” (page 51) is: “Identification of the resting-place of the Father of Bahá’u’lláh and of the Mother and of the Cousin of the Báb, and their reburial in the Bahá’í cemetery in the vicinity of the Most Great House.”

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Paramount Importance of Interracial Teaching

Beloved Friends:

A recent letter from Haifa calls upon the National Spiritual Assembly to concentrate upon teaching activities among the colored population of the Southern States, and the American National Teaching Committee, the Area Teaching Committees in the South, and the Interracial Teaching Committee have been requested to undertake this important mission.

Far more than a mere numerical addition to the Bahá’í community is involved. The relationship of the white and the Negro races in America is crucial in the national and indeed the international destiny. In His address at Howard University in 1912 ‘Abdu’l-Bahá described racial amity in America as the assurance of the world’s peace. Furthermore He stated to the believers that strife between these two races could afford the opportunity for America’s enemies to strike, with disastrous results to our Civilization. (Bahá’í News, June 1927, page 5.)

In the light of the current international situation, especially as depicted by the beloved Guardian in his 1954 message on America in Time of World Peril, the Master’s stern warning returns with redoubled force.

As long ago as April 12, 1927, the beloved Guardian wrote to the National Spiritual Assembly:

“As this problem, in the inevitable course of events, grows in acuteness and complexity, and as the numbers of the faithful from both races multiplies, it will become increasingly evident that the future growth and prestige of the Cause are bound to be influenced to a very considerable degree by the manner in which the adherents of the Bahá’í Faith carry out, first among themselves, and in their relations with their fellow-men, those high standards of interracial amity so fearlessly exemplified to the American people by our Master, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.

“I direct my appeal with all the earnestness and urgency that this pressing problem calls for to every conscientious upholder of the universal principles of Bahá’u’lláh to face this extremely delicate situation with the boldness, the decisiveness, and wisdom it demands. I cannot believe that those whose hearts have been touched by the regenerating influence of God’s creative Faith in this day will find it difficult to cleanse their souls from every lingering trace of racial animosity so subversive of the Faith they profess...”

“We can prove ourselves worthy of our Cause only if in our individual conduct and corporate life we sedulously imitate the example of our beloved Master, Whom the terrors of tyranny, the storms of incessant abuse, the oppressiveness of humiliation, never caused to deviate a hair’s breadth from the revealed law of Bahá’u’lláh.

“Such is the path of certitude, such is the way of holiness He chose to tread to the very end of His life. Nothing short of the strictest adherence to His glorious example can...
safely steer our course amid the pitfalls of this perilous age, and lead us on to fulfill our high destiny."

Thirty years—thirty fateful years—have intervened since the Guardian pointed out the path of our Bahá'í destiny. Every failure to tread that path—individual or collective failure—has augmented the obstacles and heightened the perils of true obedience while illuminating an issue which few of us could understand so long ago.

Prayer, meditation, and consecrated action in this field of interracial teaching are indeed required!

—National Spiritual Assembly

The Mission of Baha'u'llah

Presentation Pamphlet for a Bahá'í Special Event

The Mission of Baha'u'llah was compiled and published in commemoration of the Centenary of the Bahá'í Revelation, 1853-1953. This pamphlet has such value as an exposition of the Teachings that the National Spiritual Assembly requests the friends to give it special consideration.

Request Material for Biography of May Maxwell

The following request has been received from Rúhíyyih Khánum:

"I want to gather material for a biography of May Maxwell, my mother, and would deeply appreciate the cooperation of the friends; letters or copies of letters written by her (preferably the originals for accuracy's sake) and any memories they may have of events connected with her, public talks given by her, etc., would be deeply appreciated. As time passes it becomes increasingly difficult to collect accurate data, and I feel it my duty and privilege to begin this undertaking even though I may not be the person who completes it."

—Rúhíyyih Khánum Rabbani
P. O. Box 155
Haifa, Israel

In the first place, the Selections from the Writings of Baha'u'llah were carefully chosen in order to present the basic Message of the New Era: The Purpose of Creation, The Prophets of God, Progressive Revelation, The Day of Fulfilment, The Soul of Man, The Duty of Man, World-wide Regeneration, The Way to Unity, The Eternal Faith of God. The Introduction provides a brief background for the Bahá'í concept of the Manifestation and the World Mission of the Founder of our Faith.

In the second place, the typography, paper, and colored cover on the deluxe edition were designed with such excellence that this pamphlet received an award from the American Institute of Graphic Arts. Two editions were published: the deluxe at 90c, and copies on less expensive paper at 20c each.

In order to make effective use of the supply of both editions still available, the Bahá'í Publishing Trust has been authorized to sell the deluxe edition at 75c per copy, and the other edition at 10c each. These lower prices make the pamphlet readily available to the individual believer, the fireside, or community study groups and for free distribution by Assemblies and groups for publicized Bahá'í public events such as Bahá'í Proclamation Day, the Anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah, and World Religion Day.

The pamphlet, finally, is ideal for deepening classes and supplies the material for a wide range of public talks.

For ordering copies, consult the announcement of the Bahá'í Publishing Trust in this issue.

—National Spiritual Assembly
Portfolio of Temple Pictures

The National Spiritual Assembly calls attention to a very important contact and public relations instrument now ready for use by Assemblies and individual Baha'is.

This consists of a folder or portfolio containing ten different Temple views: exterior, interior and landscaped gardens. Measuring 8½ by 11 inches, the portfolio is entitled “Picture Series, Bahá’í House of Worship, Wilmette, Illinois.” The inside cover carries a brief statement explaining the architecture and purpose of our House of Worship, and reference to the guided tours.

The ten illustrations measure 8 by 10 inches, and are easily withdrawn from a protective inside flap. They are reproduced in black and white from photographs by a special printing process.

This portfolio can be put to excellent use by presenting copies to libraries, radio program directors, TV program directors, and photograph editors of the daily and weekly press. Either mounted separately or all together on a cardboard with appropriate lettering, these Temple pictures will create an excellent display.

Glossy prints can be ordered of any of the ten illustrations for use in magazines or the press.

The portfolios, including the special mailing envelope, are available at 50 cents each. On orders for 25 or more the price is 40 cents. The glossy prints are 50 cents each, or a set of thirteen at $4.50. Check or money order to cover must accompany the orders.

Both the portfolios and the glossy prints are to be ordered from the Bahá’í Sales Committee, Mr. Harry Walrath, chairman, 909 West Foster Street, Chicago 40, Ill.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

NSA CALLS 2nd SERIES OF REGIONAL CONFERENCES

In order to continue emphasis on the Guardian’s repeated appeals to the American Bahá’ís as summarized in the letter issued by the Hands of the Cause on June 20, the National Spiritual Assembly has called a second series of Conferences to be conducted in 15 different cities during September. The schedule includes:

Seattle, Wash.
Sept. 21 — Charles Wolcott

Portland, Ore.
Sept. 22 — Charles Wolcott
San Francisco, Calif.
Sept. 18 — Mrs. Jemima Herbert
Los Angeles, Calif.
Sept. 22 — Paul E. Haney
Houston, Texas
Sept. 14 — Charles Wolcott
Albuquerque, N. M.
Sept. 15 — Charles Wolcott
Wilmette, Ill.
Sept. 14 — Dr. Katherine True and
Miss Charlotte Linfoot
Boston, Mass.
Sept. 15 — Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin
Cleveland, Ohio
Sept. 14 — Miss Edna True
Detroit, Mich.
Sept. 15 — Miss Edna True
Nashville, Tenn.
Sept. 15 — Mrs. Margery McCormick
Minneapolis, Minn.
Sept. 22 — Miss Charlotte Linfoot
West Englewood, N. J.
Sept. 14 — H. Borrah Kavelin
Washington, D. C.
Sept. 15 — H. Borrah Kavelin
Kansas City, Mo.
Sept. 21 — Dr. Katherine True

Notices of the hour and place will be issued by each Area Teaching Committee, and the friends are urgently invited to attend. Each Conference will be conducted by a member or representative of the National Spiritual Assembly.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Africa

PIONEERS VISIT U.S., TELL TEACHING NEEDS

We’ve all had the bounty of receiving the challenging, soul-stirring letter from the American Hands of the Cause, and of meeting with them or their representatives to consider it carefully. The call for further consecration and deeper dedication has awakened in us a more determined effort to answer the plea of the beloved Guardian to each of us to arise and go. Immediate response is needed.

As the visiting pioneers from Africa have told us so eloquently, the work there is well begun, but it is only a beginning. Even by 1963 they consider the work will still be in its opening phase, so vast is the continent and so great the teaching opportunities it offers.
It is a privilege to hear, in person, the thrilling stories and heart-warming experiences from these pioneers. We know that you will wish to meet these people, presently in the United States, whenever possible.

On the West Coast there are the Collins and Valerie Wilson; in the Middle West Carol Hautz, the Jennes, and Vivian Wesson; and in the East there is the Hadden family and, soon, Elsie Austin, to name a few.

Africa is a land of opportunities, many and varied, both material and spiritual. Job opportunities for Americans have been limited, but new ones are opening, including some with our U.S. Government, which is now expanding its sphere of activities all over Africa.

May each one of us prayerfully consider the call of our beloved Guardian for more pioneers in Africa, so that his wish for "rapid multiplication of pioneers abroad" to reinforce the African campaign may be answered with a steady and ever-swelling flow of dedicated believers.

For information write to the U.S. Africa Teaching Committee, Mrs. Sylvia Parmelee, secretary, 4700 47th St. N.W., Washington 16, D.C.

—AFRICA TEACHING COMMITTEE

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

South East Asia
NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTED AT DJAKARTA

The following report of the South East Asia Convention held in Djakarta, Indonesia, April 30, May 1 and 2, 1957, has been gleaned from the Convention Secretary's minutes.

The Convention opened at 9:00 o'clock on the morning of April 30, with prayers in Persian, English, Malay, and the Mentawai languages, with 25 delegates present. Mr. A. A. Furutan, Hand of the Cause and representative of the Guardian, was present and anointed the delegates and friends with the attar of rose sent by the beloved Guardian for this occasion, and presented the gift of the Guardian to the new National Spiritual Assembly.

A committee appointed for the purpose drafted the following message, which was cabled to the Guardian:

"Friends assembled express deep gratitude blessings bestowed upon them in witnessing this memorable occasion. Highly indebted your soul-stirring message conveyed through Mr. Furutan. We supplicate enable us fulfill great tasks ahead."

The 7 salient points of the message from the Guardian outlining the Six-Year Plan were discussed at length, the delegates expressing their views on how the Plan can best be implemented. Among the suggestions offered were: each believer bring in one new believer each year; the believers to disperse; translation of Bahá'í texts into native languages; (the Message of Bahá'u'lláh has already been translated into Vietnamese); holding of more public meetings; living the life.

Committees were appointed, one from each country to formulate recommendations to the Convention.

Delegates Report Progress

During the evening session of the first day the discussion on the Six-Year Plan continued and one delegate from each country presented the report from each delegation.

The delegate from Singapore and Malaya reported that all local Spiritual Assemblies in Malaya are incorporated; the government has promised an acre of land in Singapore for a Bahá'í burial ground; (this will probably mean that the other Bahá'í centers in Malaya will be given free land); it is assumed that it will not be difficult for the Bahá'í marriage to be recognized in Malaya.

Because point 7 of the Six-Year Plan — the site for the first Bahá'í Temple in the region — was not clearly understood, Mr. Furutan, the Hand of the Cause, explained that each country is to buy a plot of land. From these the Guardian will choose one location. The remaining plots of land can then be sold or converted into local Ḥaṣíratu'l-Quds.

Sixteen new declarations were reported by a delegate from Vietnam, 13 of which were from the village of Trung Gian, where a new local Spiritual Assembly was established Ad̄van 1957, which has already applied for incorporation.

Many excellent recommendations were made by the delegates for contacting and winning followers for Bahá'u'lláh.

The delegate from Mentawai spoke about the tasks in Mentawai envisioned in the Six-Year Plan; ten new local Spiritual Assemblies will be established; three primary Bahá'í Schools now exist and two new ones are planned; one secondary school in Muarát Siberut, Mentawai; a summer school in December 1957; temple site being purchased in Muarát Siberut; Ḥaṣíratu'l-Quds under construction.

Miss Arden Thur, pioneer in Cambodia, reported four believers there, of whom three are pioneers, and...
urged the friends to visit Cambodia to stimulate the teaching work. Translation of a pamphlet into Cambodian is under way.

On May 1, 1957, the Hand of the Cause spoke to the friends about the nature of Bahá'í elections. He said there are three types of Assemblies: the local, which is chosen by direct election; the National, by a two-step election; and the International, by a three-step election. At present there is another type of Assembly, the Regional, which is temporary.

Mr. Furútán then pointed out that although the friends have known one another too short a time to be well acquainted, they will, if they turn their hearts to Bahá'u'lláh, be inspired to make the right choice in casting their ballots. The balloting then took place, and the later report of the tellers showed the following results: Mr. K. H. Payman, Mr. Jamshed Fozdar, Mr. A. Samimi, Mrs. Shirin Fozdar, Dr. E. Rasekh, Dr. K. M. Fozdar, Dr. R. Muhajer, Dr. F. Astani, and Mr. Kishin V. Khemani.

Further consultation on the points of the Six-Year Plan brought out that Bahá'í teaching in Malaya must be most circumspect because of the recent Independence movement which produced an upsurge of Muḥammadan propaganda there.

The Hand of the Cause, Mr. Furútán, spoke of the importance of women in the Faith, since they are the mothers who must teach the children. He also urged that in view of the Guardian's emphasis on the teaching work in Mentawai, more believers assist in that post.

It was estimated that a budget of Rp. 85,000 would be needed to finance the most necessary projects, which included three schools, three teachers, salaries and supplies, purchase of a temple site and burial grounds, and conducting the Summer School, which the Convention recommended be held in Mentawai.

Upon suggestion of the Hand of the Cause, Mr. Furútán, a Mentawai believer addressed the friends, stating that the Mentawai believers were illiterate; they know of Islam and Christianity, but have found their goal in the Bahá'í Faith.

Guardian's Message Read

On May 2, 1957, after reading of prayers in Persian, English, and Malay, the Convention Chairman read the long message from the Guardian, which the Hand of the Cause likened to a syllabus for the coming year of education. He pointed out that the goals of the Ten-Year Plan, which at first seemed so difficult of achievement, have now in large measure already been attained. He advised that these achievements be recalled if at any time the task seems difficult. Our goal, the oneness of mankind—the greatest goal of all time—will be achieved under the guidance of the Guardian.

The evening session of May 2 was opened with prayers in Persian, French, Arabic, and Malay, followed by reading of Ridván greetings from the Guardian.

The work done in Mentawai was praised by the Hand of the Cause, and the representative from Mentawai was given a flask of attar of rose with which to anoint the friends there.

Announcement was made of contributions of Rupiahs 5000 each from two of the friends, to the Temple Fund.

The names of the officers of the new National Spiritual Assembly were announced, as well as committees appointed and various actions taken by the Assembly.

The meeting adjourned following prayer offered by the Hand of the Cause.

After adjournment, slides of the Holy Places in Haifa and 'Akka, and the Temple in Wilmette, brought by the Hand of the Cause, were shown.

—JAMSHED FOZDAR
Convention Secretary

Mr. 'Ali-Akbar Furútán, Hand of the Cause, (right center, standing before the plaque of the Greatest Name), and Bahá'ís attending the first National Convention of the Bahá'ís of South-East Asia, held in Djakarta, Indonesia, April 30, May 1-2, 1957.
Central and East Africa

ACHIEVE TWO AFRICAN GOALS

Two more victories of the World Crusade have been announced by the National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa, the incorporation of the National Assembly, and the incorporation of the first local Spiritual Assembly in that area.

On December 8, 1956, the National Spiritual Assembly applied to His Excellency, the Governor of the Uganda Protectorate, for a Certificate of Registration. The application was signed by the members of the National Assembly.

Exactly six months later, on June 8, 1957, the Honorable Charles Herbert Hartwell, K.C.M.G., Deputy Governor, signed Certificate of Registration No. 253, and the National Spiritual Assembly became a recognized corporate body with the title "The National Spiritual Assembly (Registered Trustees) of the Baha'is of Central and East Africa."

Even before the National Assembly's certificate was signed, the Local Spiritual Assembly of Dar-es-Salaam obtained their registration with a Certificate of Registration according to the Trustee's Incorporation Ordinance of Tanganyika, signed by the Registrar-General on April 30, 1957.

Thus, the Assembly that was founded by the first pioneer to Central and East Africa, and which had the first African declaration, became the first local Spiritual Assembly to be incorporated in the region.

South and West Africa
FIRST BAHÁ'Í MEETING IN S. RHODESIA TOLD

An account by an African Bahá'í of the first Bahá'í meeting in South Rhodesia in August 1956 has been released by the National Spiritual Assembly of South and West Africa.

"I have the pleasure to submit to you the account of the first meeting of the two Bahá'ís in this part of the world.

"Yesterday, Sunday, August 5, a cloudy and windy day, after having received a letter from Nora on Friday evening, found me walking to (the appointed meeting place). I could feel a wave of eagerness in my heart as I at certain minutes increased my speed by running.

"At 9:15 a.m. I was already a few yards from the place only to recognize Nora's car speeding south. Standing under a muchakata tree I read the Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh interrupted only by long looks along the road. A few minutes later I got sight of a car coming at my side. 'Could it be?' I asked myself as I looked more keenly at it.

"A lapse of a few seconds found us amidst great excitement. It was a long shaking of hands that broke into smiling, a really-felt union after such a long separation. Having nowhere convenient enough to park, we drove the same road south. There was a cloud of dust as the car tore along this dusty road. We swung into a valley, rounded a turn, and turned off the road along a lawn that landed us near an old, broken, and unroofed building hidden from the road by wattle trees.

"Here we opened our meeting with a prayer specially selected for guidance in our effort to introduce the Faith in this part of the world. After this inspiring prayer we touched a number of points, sharing our difficulties in the introduction of the Faith.

"After minutes which I may say were of quietness though we were talking, we decided to have prayers,
(2) To form three new groups, one in each area: Barrow, Cordova, and Petersburg.

(3) To open nine virgin areas to the Faith, three in each area: Ft. Yukon, Kotzebue, Nenana, Homer, Kenai, Valdez, Metlakatla, Wrangell, and Douglas.

In addition to these goals, the publication of the Alaska Bahá'í News was inaugurated, and an Editorial Committee was appointed. Action was taken to publish an appeal to all believers for support of the National Fund.

It was reported that plans to incorporate the National Assembly are moving forward.

Attempts are to be made through area conferences for the consolidation of existing Assemblies in order that incorporation proceedings may be inaugurated as soon as they are firmly grounded.

A three acre Temple site has been offered as a gift by two Alaskan Bahá'ís, and a description of the site is being prepared to submit to the Guardian for approval.

Plans were initiated for the holding of summer schools in October in each of the three areas where Teaching Committees have been appointed.

Finally, it was announced that steps are being taken to obtain fuller recognition throughout the Territory of the Bahá'í Holy Days, and to legalize the Bahá'í marriage certificate.

—EVELYN HUFFMAN

Alaska

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SETS GOALS FOR YEAR

The newly formed National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska, in its first meetings, concentrated upon the objectives of the Six Year Plan outlined in the Guardian's message to the national convention, and stressed by the American Hands of the Cause.

Specific goals were set up for this year to increase the number of Bahá'ís, Assemblies, and groups, as follows:

(1) To increase by 50 per cent the number of local Spiritual Assemblies, one in each area to which an Area Teaching Committee has been assigned.

(2) To form three new groups, one in each area: Barrow, Cordova, and Petersburg.

(3) To open nine virgin areas to the Faith, three in each area: Ft. Yukon, Kotzebue, Nenana, Homer, Kenai, Valdez, Metlakatla, Wrangell, and Douglas.

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
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Australia

BEGIN CONSTRUCTION ON HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The construction of the Bahá'í House of Worship in Sydney is scheduled to begin during the present season, the Australian Bahá'í Bulletin reports.

At the time of the national convention the site had been cleared and pegged, and initial excavation for the foundation was commenced.

The Temple, designed by Hand of the Cause Mason Remey, in conjunction with Sydney architect John Brogan, will be approximately 126 feet high and 100 feet in diameter at the base. It will be built of steel reinforced concrete.

The type of facing proposed, never before used extensively in Australia, will be a white quartz aggregate. This will give a rough finish to the large surfaces, and should confer distinctive beauty to a Temple already distinguished in design.

The base will rise to two sets of nine steps. The dome will be tiled, and the interior finish will be a sprayed colored cement.

The main hall and galleries will seat 500 persons.

A Temple of such dimensions, limited to a cost of £150,000, will demand great economy in construction. The essential element will be that once the work is started it must be continued and completed without interruption.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

FORM FIRST ASSEMBLY

One of the highlights of the National Convention of Australia was the report of Alvin Blum, pioneer of Honiara in the Solomon Islands, where the first local Spiritual Assembly was formed on April 21, 1957.

Mr. Blum's remarks on his experiences at Honiara over a three year period, leading up to the formation of the first local Assembly, were reported in the Australia Bahá'í Bulletin.

A native school teacher was the first believer in the Solomon Islands. There are about 100,000 natives in this island group, and 300 Europeans. Competition between the missions
leaves the natives bewildered. It is often necessary to teach in Pidgin English, and fortunately the Solomon version is not unduly difficult.

Natives now come from distant islands asking for news of the Bahá’í Faith. The Bahá’ís of Honiara hold study classes every Sunday morning, and Wednesday night meetings are also held to study the Bahá’í Teachings. Mr. Blum found it necessary to purchase a bus to convey natives to these meetings.

The Honiara Bahá’ís have been able, despite great difficulties, to arrange for three Persian believers to enter the Solomon Islands.

**Central America and Mexico**

**TEACHING CONGRESS HELD IN PANAMA**

The National Teaching Committee of the Republic of Panama held its first Teaching Congress for the Bahá’í year 114 in Panama City on July 20-21, 1957. This Teaching Congress was only one of the many conferences held simultaneously in every country of Central America from Mexico to Panama, in coordination with plans of the National Teaching Committee of Central America and Mexico.

The two day session opened with excellent reports on Bahá’í marriage and Bahá’í burial, by Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Keith Jr.; the importance of contributing to the Bahá’í Fund by Miss Mable Sneider; and the necessity of individual teaching of the Faith by Mr. Fred Berest.

Reports, compiled after much research, on the Indians of the Republic of Panama regarding their receptivity of outsiders into their settlements, their mode of living, and the opportunities of earning a living in these locations were fully discussed, resulting in stimulating...
the pioneering spirit to answer our Beloved Guardian's plea to carry Bahá'u'lláh's Message to the Indians.

Most of the Indian settlements in Panama are located in very remote places and their living conditions are very primitive. Some are reported as being quite hostile toward an outsider invading their villages, making it necessary to send ahead for permission to enter. The only transportation into some of the settlements means traversing dangerously swift-flowing rivers with a competent guide and entering where malaria, typhoid, and yellow fever is prevalent. Nevertheless, inquiries and preparations are already being made by four of our selfless Bahá'ís for the purpose of making this sacrifice.

The Panama City community is conducting a home fireside on Saturday night, a fireside on Tuesday night and study class on Thursday at the Hazíratu'l-Quds each week.

The Canal Zone community has a home fireside each Monday night, and Sunday School classes for both adults and children are held in the Community Building in the Zone. The number of enthusiastic inquirers attending these meetings, and the request for Bahá'í books is increasing tremendously, resulting in the declaration of many new believers who are overflowing with the fire of spiritual love for Bahá'u'lláh and surging with the desire to promote His Blessed Cause.

—MARY ANN HOWARD

Italy, Switzerland

U. N. CONFERENCE HELD IN ROME

A United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Conference was held in Rome, Italy, on June 24-26, 1957.

The forenoon of June 24 was devoted to the registration of delegates and observers. Four hundred participants were present, representing 47 international and 106 national Non-Governmental Organizations; of the latter, 73 were Italian.

The official opening took place at 5:30 p.m. on that day with a speech by the Italian Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Folchi, followed by the Secretary General of the Foreign Affairs Office, and by the Under Secretary General of the United Nations, Prof. Bokhari.

After the opening and the election of the Conference officers, the Conference divided itself into three commissions: Teaching about the U.N., Information Activities of the U.N., and Economic and Social Activities of the U.N. I enrolled in the third, as one could only choose one commission.

On June 25 the work of the commissions got underway, and because of the limited facilities at the Foreign Affairs Office, all went very slowly. Addresses were made by representatives of the U.N.I.C.E.F. and of the Economic Commission for Europe. Many resolutions were adopted, mostly of the necessity of better and more often information about the D.P.I. to the N.G.O.'s.

On June 26 another plenary session, the final, took place, and all resolutions from the three commissions were adopted, totalling well over forty.

Nearly all resolutions dealt with the matter of exchange of informa-
First National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Iberian Peninsula, elected at Madrid, Spain, on April 22, 1957.

First National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Iberian Peninsula, elected at Madrid, Spain, on April 22, 1957.

A delegation, with special emphasis to the observance of the Declaration of Human Rights, so often violated. The Bureau tried its best to avoid any reference to many of the most flagrant violations of recent times. It was reminded that those N.G.O.'s who have consultative status can approach this subject in the proper manner.

A warm invitation was made to all the N.G.O.'s to celebrate in an appropriate manner the Tenth Anniversary of the Declaration in December 1958.

My personal impression is that, although they tried their best, the Conference did not run too well. However, there was a spirit of elation on the part of many participants who were attending the Conference for the first time, mostly Italians.

There were no background papers available, nor agendas for the commissions, no releases or addresses, or of the final resolutions.

—Ugo Giachery

Canada

FIRST NATIVE BAHÁ'Í ENROLLED IN ICELAND

The joyful news of the declaration of the first native believer in Iceland has been announced by the Canadian New Territories Committee.

A letter from Marguerite Allman, pioneer in Iceland, has been published in Canadian Bahá'í News, describing this event:

"We have good news for you. Our first Bahá'í of Iceland has brought us her letter with nine beautiful dark red roses, one being a small bud which she described as herself, a budding rose.

"We celebrated the occasion by reading prayers and talking of the Faith. We burned the Bahá'í candle given to Amy by our beloved Shoghi Effendi. We have given her the tangerine Bill Carr left here for the first Icelandic Bahá'í. He picked it from the Holy gardens."

VISITORS TO TEMPLE SET NEW RECORDS DURING SUMMER MONTHS

Although sight-seeing busses in Chicago are not making regular runs to Wilmette and the Bahá'í House of Worship this summer, the number of visitors to the Temple this season has been phenomenal.

During the period from July 1 to August 12, the average number of visitors on Sundays has been 1,258, with the largest number being on August 4 when 1,751 visitors were registered.

The daily average during the same period, exclusive of Sundays, has been 320, or a grand total of 20,350 visitors in 46 days.

A check of where the visitors have come from during this same period reveals that they registered from practically every state in the United

Delegates attending the first National Convention of the Bahá'ís of the Iberian Peninsula at Madrid, Spain, reported in Bahá'í News for June.
SEPTMBER 1957

States and from 32 other countries. These countries were: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Burma, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, England, Formosa, France, Germany, Hawaii, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, The Philippines, Puerto Rico, Scotland, Sweden, and Thailand. Many had heard of the Temple or had seen pictures of it in their own countries before coming to the United States.

During the summer months the Temple is open to all individuals or groups who wish to visit it, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. daily, and on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. continuously. The half hour program of public worship at 3:30 p.m. every Sunday in the year is also open to all.

The gardens with their nine fountains have been particularly beautiful this summer and have attracted thousands of camera hobbyists as well as professional photographers and artists anxious to catch the magnificent patterns and colors of the nine gardens, as well as the changing lights and shadows of the Temple itself.

NEW DIRECTORY REVEALS INCREASE IN ASSEMBLIES

The study of the new Baha'i directory reveals that there are now 196 local Spiritual Assemblies in Continental United States. This represents a gain of sixteen over the previous year. Had it been possible to maintain the Assembly status of the sixteen communities which reverted to groups on April 21 this year, we would now have 212 local Assemblies. The re-establishment of these Assemblies is one of the major goals of the American Baha'i community this year.

Another interesting fact revealed by the directory is that of Assemblies formed on April 21. Nineteen are new and twelve were restored after having reverted to group status one or more years ago.

The National Spiritual Assembly has reported that because nine of the local Spiritual Assemblies did not return their annual report forms, it has been unable to compile complete statistics, but the following facts reflected in the reports that have been received indicate where emphasis must be laid in the home front teaching campaign:

Of the present 196 Baha'i communities in the United States, 36 or nearly one-fifth have only nine members. With no "margin of safety" these Assemblies present potential danger of reverting to group status. Since "the spiritual prizes" must be held at all costs, these are among the goals which members of the larger communities should consider when making plans to disperse, and they should also receive assistance from the larger neighboring communities.

The National Spiritual Assembly further reports that there are approximately ninety Baha'i groups having a membership of five or more. If these can be brought to Assembly status this year, together with the restoration of the disbanded Assemblies, the goal of 300 Assemblies in the United States will be easily achieved.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Santa Ana, Calif., formed on April 21, 1957.

Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Springfield, Mo., formed on April 21, 1957.
The report of the National Spiritual Assembly indicates a considerable increase in the number of communities now holding regular firesides; the number holding one or more institutes last year was twice the previous year, and 159 held regular study classes for inquirers, for beginning students, or for the deepening of the believers.

Finally, the report of the National Spiritual Assembly shows that there are 42 communities in the United States having a membership of more than twenty, and of these nine have a membership of more than fifty. These are the reservoirs for the "increased flow of pioneers" called for by the Guardian.

URGE FOLLOW-UP OF RACE AMITY DAY

Reports have been received by the Bahá'í Interracial Teaching Committee from twenty-five localities that observed the first Race Amity Day. The reports indicate that the Faith was successfully carried to many minority groups, representative of both Asia and Europe.

The committee wishes to stress the importance of follow-up with these new contacts and the necessity of initiating plans now for wider observance of this event next year.

If any communities have not yet reported their Race Amity Day program to the committee, please do so promptly.

—BAHÁ'Í INTERRACIAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

SOUTH CENTRAL STATES TEACHING WORKSHOP SETS INDIVIDUAL GOALS

An Area Teaching Conference for the South Central States held in St. Louis, Missouri, June 30, took the form of a four-part workshop devoted to consultation on four subjects: Personal Preparation and Deepening, How to Make Contacts, Fireside Teaching and The Study Class. Each subject was considered in the light of the Area's goal "Each One Confirm One — in 1957." The following brief excerpts have been gleaned from the synopsis of the consultation:

The general formula for individual regeneration is: prayer, study, and teaching, and teaching is the goal of all our prayers and our study, and the fulfillment of our purpose. "Of all the gifts of God the greatest is the gift of teaching. It draweth unto us the Grace of God, and is our first obligation." (Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.)

The greatest asset in attracting and making contacts is "living the life" of a happy, active Bahá'í. We reflect what we are, and what we believe. This is the true "audio-visual aid" in teaching the Faith. The radius of our contacts expands as we increase our interest and activity in business, social, recreational and educational fields.

Fireside teaching is intimate and personal. The purpose in fireside teaching is to prepare the seeker for the study class, and beyond that confirmation in the Faith. As fireside "teachers" we are primarily guides. We must pray that we will be good "guides."

The goal for the study class is confirmation: preparing the seeker to become an active believer, actively engaged in continual personal deepening in the Cause, making contacts, holding regular firesides, and preparing students for confirmation and enrollment.

A follow-up conference is planned for September 22 in Kansas City, Missouri, when the effectiveness of the application of these teaching goals during the preceding three months will be evaluated.
STUDY WORLD RELIGIONS
AT CHARLOTTESVILLE

Over 40 non-Bahá'ís attended the first of a series of talks on the "Great Religions of the World" at Charlottesville, Va., last April. The meetings were conceived by Mr. and Mrs. Challoner Chute as a means of attracting people to the Bahá'í Faith.

The first program was opened with an account of Israel illustrated with colored slides of the Holy Land, shown by Miss Mary Emerson, Head Librarian of the Institute of Textile Technology. Some of the slides showed views of the Shrine of the Báb, with its golden dome towering against the landscape of Mt. Carmel.

This was followed by a talk by Mr. Israel Posner, a native Israeli, who gave a vivid account of the Holy Land today. A lively discussion followed, and a number of those present asked to know more about the Bahá'í Faith. The realization of the Bible prophecy of the returning of the Jews to their homeland was forcibly illustrated.

The second meeting of this series was held on May 25, with a study of the Hindu Faith. Prof. Sunderam, Embassy, gave a fascinating account of the Hindu philosophy of the Vedas, the Bhagavad Gita, and the Hindu temple.

Further meetings in this series are planned for the Fall, with the Buddhist Faith scheduled as the next world religion to be studied.

The first two meetings attracted audiences that included natives of the United States, Israel, and the United Kingdom. The first two meetings attracted an average of 50 non-Bahá'í voices. Among the talks heard were: "The Jew and His Religion," by Mr. and Mrs. Challoner Chute; "The Buddhist Faith," by Dr. J. W. Posner, a native Israeli; "The Hindu Faith," by Prof. Sunderam, Embassy; and "The Jewish Faith," by a member of the Jewish community.

BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS

A Preliminary Program issued by the Society for the Study of Social Problems, meeting jointly with the American Sociological Society August 28-30, 1957, at Stoneham Hotel, Washington, D.C., is accompanied by a Report for Committee on War and Peace with a list of references "which will be utilized as soon as possible."

Among the books or articles listed, we find A Pattern for Future Society, by Shoghi Effendi, Bahá'í Declaration of Human Rights and Obligations, and The Secret of Divine Civilization by 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

The May 1957 issue of The New Outlook for the Blind contains a book notice of Marcus Bach's The Circle of Faith, reviewed by Dwight C. Smith, Ph.D. This review mentions the chapter devoted by Dr. Bach to Shoghi Effendi.

In Manhattan Beach, Calif., 11 business firms jointly paid for a series of large advertisements, each featuring "The Church of the Week." The Bahá'í notice, Sunday May 19, 1957, presents a large illustration of the Temple, a brief statement about it, the main caption being "This Earth Is But One Country and Mankind Its Citizens," below which is a list of "Truths For A New Day." The local Assembly's title and telephone number are given.

University College, The University of Chicago, has published a brochure of the summer courses illustrated with scenes of local interest. One of these is a view of Wilmette Harbor showing the boats, with the House of Worship in the background.

Wooster College Alumni Bulletin, March 1957, refers to a member of the class of 1939 as follows: "On February 10 William Alred and family saw the first public performance of a new song cycle "Nine Songs from Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh," composed by Lee Tichnor and sung by his wife Elizabeth (Panetta, '37), mezzo-soprano. It was at the Ethical Society in Philadelphia in a Bahá'í celebration of Negro History Week."

A beautifully illustrated brochure has been published by the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry entitled Chicagoan. The Bahá'í House of Worship is shown on page 31, along with several churches and cathedrals.

The Festival of Faith, "An Adventure in Peace Making," is the title of a pamphlet written for the San Francisco and Pomona Valley Festival of Faith Committee. The Bahá'í participation in both festivals is noted.

Human Relations Review for June 1957, issued by the Palo Alto Inter-group Council on Human Relations, includes the Bahá'í Spiritual Assem-
The Daily Oklahoman for May 10 announced a meeting sponsored by the Oklahoma City Baha'i community, the speaker to be Mrs. Ludmila van Sombeck, "an international religious leader and social worker from Vienna, Austria." The announcement was also carried by several other papers.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer has been publishing a series of articles under the general title "My Faith." Doris Dahl contributed an article on the Baha'i Faith in the issue of June 8, 1957.

From La Paz, Bolivia, has come a copy of the daily El Diario dated May 23, 1957, containing a three-column illustration of the House of Worship and a feature article entitled "The Baha'i's Celebrate Today the Revelation of a New Faith." It appeared during the UN Conference held in La Paz and led to a number of inquiries.

Yakima Herald, Sunday, June 23, 1957, published a feature story by Velma Baylor on the artistic career of Mrs. Victor de Araujo, with a photo of the artist seated at her easel. "Both Mr. and Mrs. de Araujo are active in the Baha'i Faith and take part in study classes and firesides."

"Elijah's Mountain Today" is the title of an article on Mount Carmel by Paula Arnold published in The Evening Sun, Baltimore, Md., on May 30, 1957. "Easily the most spectacular building on Mount Carmel, however, is not any of the churches mentioned, but the Baha'i Temple (i.e., Shrine of the Bab) with its golden cupola, standing halfway up the Mount, above landscaped gardens, visible from every point of the town."

Mercer Crose, Minneapolis Tribune staff writer, devoted considerable space to an article on the Faith in the Morning Tribune of May 27, 1957, under the title "Baha'i's Stress Unity." "The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens." So reads the message over one of the entrances to the beautiful ornate temple of Wilmette, Illinois. "It is the basic message of the Baha'i world faith, a little-understood re-

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**WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET**

Fifth Year — 1957-1958

Annual Budget ............. $425,000.00

Total Requirements:

May 1 to July 31 ......... 106,250.00

Total Contributions:

May 1 to July 31 ........ 80,000.00

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

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**NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**

An Iowa Teaching Insititute was held at Pine Lake Park, Eldora, Iowa, on July 19-21, 1957, on the theme "Adjusting to Life in Two Worlds." Attendance totalled over 90 persons.

The Los Angeles, Calif., Youth and Young Adult Committee sent traveling panels to speak in Fresno and Riverside, Calif., and Las Vegas, Nev., during June.

Esperantists of the United States held their annual Congress at the Baha'i Center, New York City, on July 4-5, 1957. A public meeting was held on the second day of the Congress.

The Naw-Ruz Feast of the Oklahoma City, Okla., Baha'is was televised over KQW-TV on March 20, 1957. About four minutes of filmed excerpts of the Feast were shown during the nightly news summary program. The announcer told of the founding of the Faith in Iran, its expansion to all parts of the world, and described the model of the Baha'i Temple. The Oklahoma City Community was photographed in the living room of the Baha'i home during the spiritual part of the Feast, and also during the material Feast held later.

Rex and Mary Collison were interviewed on television station KOVR, Stockton, Calif., on June 7, preceding their public meeting at the Clark Hotel. Questions asked during the interview concerned their visit to Africa, and the reasons for their trip, which provided the opportunity to speak of the principles and objectives of the Faith.

A talk on the Baha'i Faith was presented to the Methodist and Federated Church Youth Group in Lafayette, Ind., by two local Baha'is.

Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township, Mich., Baha'is have placed a copy of The Baha'i World, Vol. XII, at the Ypsilanti State Teachers College, and six copies of Race and Man in various community libraries.

A Baha'i college student attending school in Missoula, Mont., was invited to speak on the Faith before the local Baptist Youth Group. The group included the Baptist minister, who is President of the Missoula Youth group of East Providence, R.I.
Council of Churches.
A Bi-Area Teaching Conference held at Green Acre, Eliot, Maine, on July 27-28, featured talks by Paul E. Heney, Hand of the Cause, speaking on our responsibilities and tasks as Baha'i; Mary Magdelene Wilkin, recounting her pilgrimage to Haifa; and Winston Evans, who suggested a simple plan for every Baha'i to contribute to the Home Front teaching effort.

Proposals for Charter Revision

Baha'i House of Worship Visiting Hours
Weekdays
10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (Entire building)
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays
10:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Entire building)
5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Service of Worship
Sundays
3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.

BAHA'I DIRECTORY CHANGES

ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES
Northern California
Stockton: Mrs. Jeanne Gray, 1649 Julian St.
Southern California
Twentynine Palms J.D.: Mrs. Velee J. Macklin, 6857 Split Rock Ave.
West Hollywood: Miss Kay Motley, 1022 N. Sweetzer, z. 46
Northern Illinois
Evanston: Miss Sophie Loeding, Acting Secy., 1414 Central St.
Texas
Houston: Mr. W. D. Powell Sr., 3616 Bastrop St.

ADDITIONS TO COMMITTEES
Mrs. Jean Rankin

Central States Area Teaching Committee
Miss Barbara Nelson (omitted in error)

RESIGNATIONS FROM COMMITTEES
National Baha'i Youth
Miss Aida Rendina
Miss Betty DeNoma

BAHA'I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Baha'i World Community.
Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHA'I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1957-58: Mrs. Eunice Braun, chairman; Miss Charlotte Linfoot, secretary; Mr. Richard C. Thomas.
Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Change of address should be reported directly to National Baha'i Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
"The Triumphant Baha'í Community"

Message From the Guardian

Announce (to) Hands (and) all National Assemblies (that) following (the) loss (of the) appeal (to the) Supreme Court, (the) Government expropriation order (has been) implemented, resulting (in the) complete evacuation (of the) remnant (of) Covenant-breakers (and the) transfer of all (their) belongings (from the) precincts (of the) Most Holy Shrine, (and the) purification, after six long decades, (of the) Haram-i-Aqdas (from) every trace (of their) contamination. Measures under way (to) effect transfer (of) title deeds (of the) evacuated property (to the) triumphant Baha'í community.

Received September 6, 1957

Dear Baha'i Friends:

The epoch-making victory won over the Covenant-breakers, thankfully announced by the beloved Guardian in his cable of June 3, has now been completely assured. Since the appeal submitted to the Supreme Court of Israel by the Covenant-breakers in the hope of frustrating the Government's order expropriating the property in the precincts of the Most Holy Shrine was denied, the Government order has been carried out and the “remnant of Covenant-breakers” evacuated. The Haram-i-Aqdas is now forever secure, and the titles to the evacuated property are being transferred to Baha'i ownership.

The epochal importance of this event was clearly unfolded by the beloved Guardian in his June message:

“The implementation of this order will, at long last, cleanse the Outer Sanctuary of the Qiblih of the Baha'i world of the pollution staining the fair name of the Faith and pave the way for the adoption and execution of preliminary measures designed to herald the construction in future decades of the stately, befitting Mausoleum designed to enshrine the holiest dust the earth ever received into its bosom.”

The present cable has been shared with all Hands of the Cause and all National Assemblies.

—SHOGHI

The Measure of Our Spiritual Success During The Current Year

Beloved Friends:

Since June 19, 1957, the date of the letter issued by the Hands of the Cause in America to all American Baha'is, the National Spiritual Assembly has called two different series of conferences in population centers throughout the country. Their purpose has been to arouse the greatest possible response to the Guardian's repeated appeals emphasized by the Hands.

All the believers are well aware both of the crucial character of Shoghi Effendi's appeals and the definite actions challenging our Baha'i community.

1. To pioneer abroad—in Europe, Latin America, Africa, or Asia.

2. To pioneer on the home front—to strengthen a weak community, to bring a group to Assembly status, or to establish a new isolated center.

3. To teach in one's own community.

4. To contribute devotedly to the National Fund.

How can we measure our collective success in responding to the first of these four forms of action? By counting the number of American pioneers in those areas abroad as of May 1, 1957, and noting the exact numbers of new pioneers from time to time who enter one of these fields. For example:

May 1, 1957—141 pioneers (including four youth) in Western Hemisphere goals—15 more pioneers by September 1. In Africa, 69 American pioneers (plus 18 children) as of May 1—one new pioneer by September 1. In Europe, 39 American pioneers as of May 1—six added up to September 1. In Asia, 39 American pioneers as of May 1—nine added by September 1.

To summarize: As of May 1, 1957, there were 286 American pioneers established in our various goals, and during May, June, July, and August 31 additional pioneers set forth from our country.

As for the measure of home front
pioneers, we cannot start with a base figure as of May 1 for the simple reason that home front pioneering has been carried on since the first Seven-Year Plan which began in 1937, and moreover many believers have moved to a new address without reporting any pioneer intention.

Each non-pioneering Bahá'í must apply his own self-measurement to No. 3. Our own spiritual awareness will register success or failure, each for himself.

The Treasurer's simple and dignified monthly reports on contributions to the National Fund is our measure of collective success (or failure) in relation to No. 4.

These basic matters are essential points for discussion at Nineteen Day Feasts, as well as at regional and national conferences. The National Spiritual Assembly cannot relax in its responsibility for assuring in every possible manner the unqualified success of this supreme mission.

—National Spiritual Assembly

NSA Urges Mail Campaign Using Two Bahá'í Pamphlets

The National Spiritual Assembly is very pleased with the excellent response already made to the article in the June issue of Bahá'í News, "A Teaching Campaign to Revitalize the Home Community," urging wide distribution of the reprint of The Christian Century article by Marcus Bach, "Bahá'í: A Second Look," and the Bahá'í pamphlet, The Lord of the New Age, among friends, acquaintances, and contacts. However, a much wider distribution must be made if we are to carry out the beloved Guardian's instructions about bringing the Faith to the attention of the Christians.

Therefore, the National Spiritual Assembly is calling upon the friends to engage in an intensive widespread mail campaign by local Spiritual Assemblies and Bahá'í groups. In order to make this possible a special price is being offered by the Bahá'í Publishing Trust on these two items, the Marcus Bach article and The Lord of the New Age, if ordered in lots of 50 of each title. This price, which will be available only for the limited period from October 15, 1957, to January 31, 1958, will be $3.00 post-paid per kit of 50 of both publications, sent to one address. It is hoped that the members of communities and Bahá'í groups will combine their orders for kits to help lighten the burden and cost that this special offer imposes upon the Bahá'í Publishing Trust.

The local Spiritual Assemblies and Bahá'í groups are to organize the community campaign to insure maximum local distribution and yet avoid duplication of mailing so far as possible. It is left to the discretion of the Assemblies and groups to determine the method of building up the mailing list. However, this list must not be limited to personal contacts or current mailing lists. The use of telephone directories and similar lists should be considered.

In order that this campaign may be effective in producing new contacts and local response, the envelope in which the two items are mailed, or the pamphlet The Lord of the New Age, should carry a local address or telephone number where further information can be secured.

Local Spiritual Assemblies and the Bahá'í groups are requested to report to the National Spiritual Assembly by the end of January what distribution they have made of this material.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Clarity Distribution of "Christ and Bahá'u'lláh"

In order to clarify the matter of the distribution of Christ and Bahá'u'lláh by George Townshend, as announced in the June issue of Bahá'í News, the National Spiritual Assembly wishes to make the following explanation:

The distribution of Christ and Bahá'u'lláh to leading clergy is being handled by the National Spiritual Assembly at the instruction of the Guardian. It is not anticipated that all clergymen whose names are submitted by the friends will be recipients of gift copies. Already more names have been received than the National Spiritual Assembly can supply by the number of free copies available. Since the distribution is aimed first at leading clergymen, sufficient facts should accompany each name recommended, to enable the National Spiritual Assembly to determine whether it should be included in the free distribution list.

Apart from this special project the friends are encouraged to make as wide local distribution as possible of Christ and Bahá'u'lláh, in addition to studying the book themselves. Gift copies should be placed in local public libraries and in the libraries of local divinity schools or colleges having departments of religious education or classes in comparative religions.

It friendly contacts have been established with local clergymen or leading laymen, gift copies may be presented to these individuals by the local Spiritual Assembly or Bahá'í group.

Copies may also be presented to any other friends or acquaintances of Christian background, particularly if they are known to be receptive to the Teachings of the Bahá'í Faith.

Only the distribution to clergymen of national and regional prominence is being done by the National Spiritual Assembly. If in doubt as to whether a particular individual may be on this list, the friends should inquire of the National Spiritual Assembly.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Legal Obstacles Cleared. Bahá'í Home Plans Proceed

The National Spiritual Assembly is happy to report to the friends that the legal case which has prevented the construction of the Bahá'í Home for the Aged, the first Dependency of the Bahá'í Temple in Wilmette, has now been settled, and architect's plans and other initial steps toward actual construction are being completed with all possible speed.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Baha'i State Conventions
Sunday, December 8, 1957
Baha'i Marriages Legalized
In Two More States

On May 21, 1957, the Governor of Texas approved an amendment to Article 4602 of the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas enlarging the list of those "authorized to celebrate the rite of matrimony" to include "officers of religious organizations, which officers are duly authorized by the organization to perform marriage ceremonies." This amendment was the direct result of the application of the Bahá'ís of Texas for the right to perform legal marriages.

On July 17, 1957, the Assistant Attorney General for the State of Tennessee rendered the decision that, since the Constitution of Tennessee prohibits the State government from showing any preference to any religious establishment or mode of worship, "marriages performed by the chairman of the local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís would be held to be valid marriages."

Thus 27 states and the District of Columbia in the continental United States have given legal recognition to marriages performed by the local Spiritual Assemblies.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Two More School Systems
Recognize Baha'i Holy Days

Upon the request of the Bahá'í group in Pendleton, Ore., some time ago, the Superintendent of the Pendleton Schools granted permission for Bahá'í children to remain away from classes on Bahá'í Holy Days, stating that this was in line with the policy of the school system with respect to "religious training."

Also, the Superintendent of Schools in Yakima, Wash., has informed the Local Spiritual Assembly of Yakima that "it is perfectly in order" for Bahá'í parents to request that their children be excused from classes on the days designated, but that it is understood that all pupils excused for any purpose whatever are always obliged to make up the work they have missed during their absence.

This now brings to 39 the number of school systems in 20 states of the United States, plus the entire state of Rhode Island, that recognize Bahá'í Holy Days.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Western Hemisphere
LIST JOB OPENINGS
FOR PROSPECTIVE PIONEERS

With the latest renewed effort on the part of our National Assembly to urge dispersal from the larger centers to pioneering posts where the services of the friends are so urgently needed, the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee wishes to be of all possible assistance to all of you who wish to become pioneers in the near future: first, in suggesting definite places for you to consider; and second, in expediting your decision and plans for getting you to your post with all possible speed. For application blanks, write to our Secretary at the address shown below.

We have just received from the National Assembly of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela useful information on conditions in the goal cities in those countries which is valuable to a prospective pioneer, and can be obtained by writing to this Committee. Copies of this material have also been sent to the secretaries of the local assemblies of New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit, Milwaukee, Washington, and Cleveland.

In reference to Ecuador, we quote from that National Assembly's accompanying letter to us: "... It is the country where pioneers are most desperately needed now. Mrs. Woolson has just visited Guayaquil and feels that they must have pioneers there to help them with the teaching work or they will be in real danger of losing that Assembly... We shall be very, very grateful to you if you will concentrate on getting pioneers for Ecuador, and especially for Guayaquil at the moment, as Mrs. Woolson is the only pioneer in the country and we need help there more than in any other country (of the five northern countries of South America)."

Work opportunities in Guayaquil include the following: Opticians and optometrists, mechanics in general, electrical engineers, agronomists, textile technicians, naval engineers, fishermen, canning specialists, candy factory workers, English teachers, school teachers for the American School.

Of the five southern countries in South America, one of the neediest is Paraguay. Recently we have received from the National Assembly of Paraguay a report on a new industrial development which has the cooperation of the Paraguayan Government and the American Point Four Program. This development is planning a city, and there will be future opportunities for dentists, doctors, mechanics, small businesses, machine shops, grocery stores, etc. Job opportunities now are with the Cafe Company.

It is already becoming an international colony as there are seven or eight nationalities already repre-
sented, including Persians and Japanese. Many Indians live in the area (the Guardian stresses teaching the Indians of Paraguay). Educated people can find work with the Company in responsible positions. Cost of living is very little for a family, as meat and fruits are cheap and plentiful, and a vegetable garden can be grown. For fuller details, write us for a copy of the complete report sent by the Regional Teaching Committee of Paraguay.

More information has been received concerning opportunities for employment in Alaska. The National Teaching Committee of Alaska informs us that individuals wishing employment in Alaska can write for a job list to: The Alaska Territorial Employment Service, Box 1598, Fairbanks, Alaska.

More specific information has been received from the lone pioneer at Nome. Not only are opportunities plentiful, but Nome has been selected as a goal city for this coming year. If you are interested in pioneering in Nome, here is a list of openings immediately available: beauty shop owner; department store clerks; waitresses (summer); nurses; doctor; laboratory technician; x-ray technician; bush pilot; radio operator, electronics technician, or general mechanic, for Civil Aeronautics Administration; Grade and High School Teachers.

For further information regarding any of the above, please write to Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, secretary, 73 College Road West, Princeton, N.J.

—Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Alaska Assembly Announces First Endowment, Teaching Activities

The National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska, through its new publication Alaska Bahá'í News, gives details of the purchase of the first local endowment, and news of some of the teaching activities under their jurisdiction in the September issue.

On May 2, 1957, Wilma and Arthur Gregory presented the gift of a ten acre tract of land to the Anchorage Recording District Local Spiritual Assembly, thereby fulfilling the Guardian's request to initiate local Bahá'í endowments.

The endowment site is located about one-half mile from the National Endowment on high, nearly level but well-drained ground. It is accessible on two sides by gravel roads. With careful clearing, a sweeping view of the Chugach Mountains can be developed.

In a letter through his secretary, written on July 12, the Guardian expressed his gratitude, saying, "This will give the Faith a greater prestige and standing there. The spiritual vitality shown by the friends in Alaska pleases him greatly. He assures you of his prayers for you all, and for the rapid progress of the work in that region, and throughout Alaska."

Teaching Activities

The Native People's Teaching Committee reports that Mrs. Kathy Rodgers has been invited by the Alaska Health, Education, and Welfare Council Executive Committee to be a member of the Council. They stated that since she is very interested in the native people and their problems, she would be a great asset to their organization. The Council is primarily interested in getting to the root of the problem concerning natives in outlying areas.

Teaching activities are increasing in Juneau since the formation of the Local Assembly there. Firesides are being held by individual believers, and a deepening class in God Passes By is proving very inspiring for the Bahá'ís. A series of newspaper articles on the history and basic teachings of the Faith is being run in the weekly newspaper, and there has been favorable comment from local residents.

Miss Margaret Pirkey, one of the first pioneers to come to Ketchikan during the World Crusade, has accepted a teaching post at Barrow with the Alaska Native Service.

At Ketchikan, Rex King conducted a series of six public meetings on Comparative Religion at the Pioneer Hall.

Anchorage Bahá'ís conducted public firesides at the Hazratu'll-Quds during the summer months, in addition to the regular firesides in the homes of believers.

Correction

Bahá'í News for June 1957, page 13, column 2, line 21, refers to Jennie Anderson as the first pioneer to Sweden. Mrs. Alice Dudley was the first pioneer, having preceded Mrs. Anderson by approximately two weeks.

—National Spiritual Assembly
by many persons, particularly fellow students, among them many Muslims who were greatly impressed at hearing a German woman say 'Ya-Bahá'u'lláh' and an American and a German repeat prayers of Bahá'u'lláh. "They had previously been of the opinion that the Bahá'í Faith was only a small sect in Iran, and that the Bahá'ís did not believe in God. "The Reyhanis, Bahá'ís living in Graz, invited many interested persons, with whom there were long discussions about the Faith. The beautiful color photographs of Haifa were a great experience for those present, and led to much discussion. "I came away with the impression that Graz is very open to the Faith, and that we need only find, very soon, a German friend for Graz who can follow up the many contacts."

Australia

TEACHING CONFERENCES HELD IN TASMANIA AND QUEENSLAND

Two Regional Teaching Conferences were held during June, in Hobart, Tasmania, and Brisbane in Queensland, Australian Bahá'í News reports.

At the Tasmanian Conference in Hobart on June 1, representatives from Hobart, Launceston, Clarence, and Glenorchy attended. Also present were Greta Lamprell and Glad Parke, who were waiting to return to Tahiti.

The entire convention time was spent in studying the Guardian's message to the Australian Convention.

Brisbane Meeting

Nine believers attended the Queensland Conference in Brisbane on June 2. The morning session was devoted to reading the Guardian's Convention message, and in the afternoon there was a detailed study and discussion of the message, with particular reference to the instructions for the work to be done in the year ahead.

A considerable amount of discussion took place on the Guardian's repeated appeal for the re-dedication of each individual believer, and of ways in which the friends could assist each other in deepening their knowledge and understanding of the Bahá'í Teachings.

Germany, Austria

TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES OPEN IN GRAZ

Bahá'í-Nachrichten, publication of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, has reported Mrs. Hermi Muhlschlegel's recent trip to Graz, Austria.

"On the train going to Graz there were many opportunities to tell fellow travelers about the Bahá'í Faith and to distribute literature," Mrs. Muhlschlegel wrote.

The funeral of a young Persian Bahá'í medical student took place during her visit. "It was attended by many persons, particularly fellow students, among them many Muslims who were greatly impressed at hearing a German woman say 'Ya-Bahá'u'lláh' and an American and a German repeat prayers of Bahá'u'lláh.

"They had previously been of the opinion that the Bahá'í Faith was only a small sect in Iran, and that the Bahá'ís did not believe in God.

"The Reyhanis, Bahá'ís living in Graz, invited many interested persons, with whom there were long discussions about the Faith. The beautiful color photographs of Haifa were a great experience for those present, and led to much discussion.

"I came away with the impression that Graz is very open to the Faith, and that we need only find, very soon, a German friend for Graz who can follow up the many contacts."

Canada

HAND OF CAUSE VISITS ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

Zikru'lláh Khádem, Hand of the Cause from Iran, spent several weeks during the summer visiting various Ontario and Quebec communities with his family.

Canadian Bahá'í News, at the time of publication of their August issue, listed Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal as some of the places Mr. Khádem visited. His deep understanding of the Guardian, and his inspiring account of the great pioneering work were greatly appreciated.
Closing of Geneva International Bureau
Recalls Devoted Efforts of Secretary

It was during the summer of 1928 that Mrs. Anne Lynch first joined the staff of the International Baha'i Bureau in Geneva, during Miss Julia Culver's time, when she worked faithfully until May 1957—30 years of faithful, efficient, and devoted service.

After the departure of Miss Margaret Lenz in 1939, Mrs. Lynch alone was responsible for the Bureau, and was the only believer in Geneva at that time.

The outbreak of the war isolated Switzerland from most parts of the world, though it was possible throughout the duration to correspond with the beloved Guardian, and, with great care, also with the believers in Germany.

It was a period when the Guardian's messages of comfort and hope encouraged Mrs. Lynch through eight years of loneliness and trials, and enabled her to bring about a closer relationship between the few scattered believers in Switzerland: Zurich and the northeastern cantons. This was done by periodic visits, intensive correspondence, and a monthly bulletin in German, especially issued for this purpose.

Some of the specific tasks accomplished during Mrs. Lynch's service at the Bureau were:

In 1933: Translation of The Hidden Words into Russian. This work was published by instructions from the Guardian, who provided the costs of publication.

Between 1939 and 1946: Printing of the revised edition of Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era in German. The old edition and the completed type of its revised version were both destroyed in Germany, together with most Baha'i literature, by order of the government. The type script of the revised edition was preserved, and brought over the border by Mrs. Vautier of Zurich, with great personal danger to herself. The new edition was printed in Geneva.

Printing of Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era in Polish. This translation, made by Lidia Zamenhof, daughter of the late Dr. Zamenhof, founder of Esperanto, has been available for some time. Following instructions from the Guardian, an appeal for funds was made by Mrs. Lynch from the Geneva Bureau, and contributions were sent from the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada, and individual believers. The edition was printed in France, proofs being corrected in a Swiss internment camp for Polish officers, by Mrs. Lynch's nephew, born in Poland.

Paris Talks of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in French. A translation of this book by a Paris believer was made available. With the approval of the Guardian, and with financial assistance by Mrs. Dreyfus-Barney, Mrs. Lynch stencilled and mimeographed 250 copies of this book for teaching work in the French-speaking countries.

Swiss Bulletin in German. In order to cement the unity of the Swiss believers and stimulate their study of the revealed Word in this period of isolation, a monthly bulletin in German was started in 1938, and kept up for eight years. This was approved by the Guardian, who instructed Mrs. Lynch to include in it material of "doctrinal, devotional, and administrative nature." Accordingly, passages were selected and these formed the contents of the Bulletin. Nothing was included other than the words of Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the Guardian. One of these bulletins carried the complete text of the Master's Tablet to Dr. Forel.

The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh in German. The translation of this work was sent by the German believers, and stencilled and mimeographed by Mrs. Lynch in 1939.

Swiss Summer School. A gathering was arranged with the approval of the Guardian, who sent a precious message of encouragement, at which five believers, together with Mrs.

Attendants at Green Acre Bahá'í School, Eliot, Maine, August 25, 1957, following the morning meeting when Zikrul'lah Khadem, Hand of the Cause (center), gave a message from the Guardian.
Lynch, studied several important points of the Teachings, at Mrs. Gladys Vaulier's country home near Zurich.

Bulletin in Esperanto. In 1945 a bulletin in Esperanto was started and carried for three years, with the help of Vuk Echter of Prague and Mrs. Etty Graeffe, first representative of the American European Teaching Committee in Geneva. This Bulletin contained not only the revealed word, but short articles and spotlight news of the progress of the Faith, suitable for non-Baha'is. This teaching medium had great success among European Esperantists, and the highest tribute it received came from a non-Baha'í Esperanto magazine in Germany, stating that "... of all the Esperanto papers and magazines we receive, yours is of the highest quality, loftiest ideals, and impeccable presentation." This Bulletin was suspended as the world tasks of the Baha'i community were becoming centered on more definite goals, but meantime and in connection with it, the following were stencilled and mimeographed by Mrs. Lynch in Esperanto, as further means of teaching for countries where no Baha'i literature existed, mainly those of Eastern Europe:

Goal of a New World Order by Shoghi Effendi, Unfoldment of World Civilization by Shoghi Effendi, and Some Answered Questions by 'Abdu'l-Bahá (Twenty Questions). All three of these were translated by Lida Zamenhof.

Almost all of the Baha'ís of Poland (then in seven localities) were attracted and confirmed in the Faith through the means of these teaching efforts in Esperanto.

In the year 1945, when communications opened again with the Western Hemisphere, many letters were received asking for Baha'i news. It was then that Mrs. Lynch started a general letter in English.

Bulletin in English. This bulletin was first entitled Glimpses from Europe, and started with an issue of two pages. Gradually the bulletin widened in scope and became a summary of all Baha'i news. It was then called the News Exchange. The beloved Guardian more than once expressed his approval and satisfaction with this work. He also mentioned it in his message The Challenging Requirements of the Present Hour.

The main idea of the enlarged bulletin was suggested to Mrs. Lynch by the contents of the General Letter from Haifa, which ceased with the outbreak of the war. That letter always gave some news of the Faith in Eastern countries, yet its circulation did not extend to the individual believer.

At the commencement of the Second Seven Year Plan in 1946, a section of the Geneva News Exchange faithfully recorded the progress of the pioneer work then being done in the ten goal countries of Europe, under the direction of the European Teaching Committee of the National Assembly of the United States.

Gradually news other than European was included in the bulletin, and the Guardian's general messages were added, making a bulletin reaching from 20 to 25 pages.

The year 1957 brought the inevitable change which comes from growth. The formation of the new National Spiritual Assembly naturally absorbed this work of the International Baha'i Bureau and its news letter, and its publication was discontinued.

We miss the International Baha'i Bureau and its news letter, but we rejoice exceedingly over the new step forward in the progress of our beloved Faith.

Mrs. Lynch is preparing to continue her loyal and valuable work in other fields of service, and we pray that continuing confirmations will bless her steadfast efforts wherever she may go.

—Honor Kempton
Seriousness of purpose, an attitude of dedication and earnestness on the part of students and faculty alike characterized the Geyserville Baha'i Summer School this year more than ever before.

A talk by Hand of the Cause Zikru'lllah Khadem was the high point of the school sessions. Everyone felt exhilaration during his visit. He gave such a profound and intimate glimpse of the Guardian, his consecration, his self-sacrifice, and his desires for the progress of the Faith. Mr. Khadem's own example of untiring service was an inspiration to those who heard him.

There was also a stream of other individuals who gave outstanding service to the Faith; as one left another would be arriving—an Auxiliary Board member, visiting pioneers, and returned pilgrims.

Auxiliary Board member Mrs. Florence Mayberry brought a soul-stirring message from the Guardian, and another from the American Hands of the Cause; and she gave such a graphic word-picture of her visit to Haifa that she made her listeners feel they had been there.

There was information about Africa from pioneers Rex and Mary Collison, on a visit from Uganda; Valerie Wilson from Liberia; and Glen and Lois Lissner from Nigeria. There was knowledge of American Indians from Nancy Phillips of the Indian Service Committee; Grace Dean, who had taught on the Apache Indian Reservation; Eugene and Melba King of the Alaskan Indians and Eskimos; and Nelson Greene of the Makah Indians.

Louise Groger, visiting from Chiloe, Chili, made the needs of South America seem very real. Dwight Allen, who taught in Athens, Greece, emphasized the present most urgent goals in Europe. Mamie Seto from Hong Kong arrived in time to impart the feel of the Orient.

Attendance for the six weeks compared favorably with all previous years, with a total of 512 registrants, including children who attended regularly at least one session. In addition there were frequent day or weekend visitors who did not live on the campus. At the Unity Feast between four and five hundred were present.

A succession of experts in the sciences, the arts, and other fields of knowledge, including faculty members from Yale and from Stanford, donated their services to instruct the classes, each approaching the subject from a different viewpoint, so that one could benefit by repeating for several sessions.

The courses were well-balanced to avoid duplication and yet include essentials. A brief description of these courses follows:

"The Word—Sacred Writings of Bahá'u'lláh" was presented sometimes as a survey and sometimes as an intensive study of a small section. The creative word, it was emphasized, should change the reader; something new and different should
NEGRO SPIRITUALS FEATURED AT BAHÁ’I PUBLIC MEETING

An interracial public meeting titled “The Singing Word” was presented by the Bahá’ís of Independence, Mo., at the Watson Memorial Methodist Church on July 25.

Featured was the Independence Male Chorus, a group of 15 Negro singers from the Independence churches, with narration by Mrs. William Alexander, a Bahá’í of St. Joseph, Mo. The program was modelled after one written by Ellsworth Blackwell, titled “The Relation of the Negro Spiritual to the Bahá’í Faith.”

Many of the spirituals were written over 100 years ago, and the audience of over 50 people, mostly non-Bahá’ís, were pleased to have the opportunity of hearing these old songs.

Before the choral presentation began, Mrs. Alexander spoke briefly on the Bahá’í Faith. Bahá’í prayers, recited by local Bahá’í children, opened and closed the program.

Each member of the choral group was given a copy of the manuscript used, not only to acquaint them with the order of presentation of the spirituals, but that they might have information about the Faith. Bahá’í literature was also distributed at the meeting.

The response to this program indicates its value for establishing contact with Negro groups by Bahá’í communities that do not as yet have Negro representation.

ANNOUNCE “NEW ERA” EDITION IN BRAILLE

Bahá’u’lláh and the New Era is now available in Braille, Grade Two, the Bahá’í Service for the Blind has announced. Each copy comprises three volumes.

The Bahá’í Service for the Blind has been able to fulfill a long-standing dream in producing this important work, though it is in a very limited printing. Some of the available copies will go immediately to libraries whose requests we have been unable to honor for a long time.

This edition is impressive for your book displays, and of outstanding...
value in the teaching work of both sighted and blind Baha’is. Orders will be filled in the order of receipt until the edition is exhausted. The price is $12.95, which includes postage and insurance.

Communities or individuals should send orders with a check for the above amount to Mrs. Amadee Gibson, chairman; Baha’i Service for the Blind; 842 N. Hayworth Ave.; Los Angeles 46, Calif.

REFERENCE LIBRARY COMMITTEE SEEKS HELP ON INDEX PROJECT

The National Reference Library Committee needs help on the Master Index Project in listing Verities and Summaries that are to be indexed. Full instructions (simple ones, this time) and an assignment will be sent on request. This is an excellent deepening technique and the work can be done at odd moments with no time limit for completing assignments. Write Mrs. Marian C. Lippitt, secretary; 1587 Virginia Street East; Charleston 1, W. Va.

The following mimeographed articles and compilations by Mrs. Gene Crist are still available at 20c each or in sets of four at 75c a set: God’s Everlasting Covenant, Prophecy, Progressive Revelation, and The Return of Christ. This material is intended for the use of the Baha’is and not for general distribution. Their purpose is to help the believers in their teaching efforts to establish a “bridge” from Christianity to the Baha’i Faith. One compilation on Teaching the Baha’i Faith, costs 15¢ when ordered with the above. Order from the National Reference Library Committee Secretary.

EVERETT, WASH., TELLS OF GROWTH TO ASSEMBLY STATUS

One of the new local Spiritual Assemblies formed on April 21, 1957, was that of Everett, Wash. The story of its growth from several pioneers in a goal city to Assembly status is an inspiration to all.

When settlers Theodore and Pauline Thorson left Denver, Colo., they were intent on a foreign goal. Everett, Wash., was selected as a temporary goal while seeking an overseas job. Two and one-half years later that job still eluded them but an Assembly on the home front had been born!

Shortly after their arrival in Everett, the Thorsons learned through the Area Teaching Committee that two Baha’is lived in this goal city, but by some strange coincidence had never met. This mystery was cleared up when it became known that Harry Matlock, a new enrollee in the Merchant Marine, had never experienced Baha’i group activity, having been enrolled by Dr. John Fozdar in a hospital overseas.

The other Baha’i, Mrs. Betty Eastman, was a young working mother who also had never participated in Baha’i group efforts.

A meeting of this group was speedily accomplished. A correspondent and recording secretary were elected; before the evening was over plans had been made for a weekly deepening class to evolve, as contacts were made, into a fireside, for two public meetings monthly, accompanied by publicity, and for a weekly business meeting for consultation and evaluation on what was to be accomplished in this goal.

With strict observance of all Feasts and Anniversaries an indispensable part of the plan, it can be seen that such a complete schedule of activity would call for mutual effort, cooperation, and consecration on the part of each member. A constant workshop atmosphere and the keeping of complete secretarial records brought deepening in the techniques and methods of Baha’i community living to the group.

It soon became apparent that a new officer was needed: a treasurer to handle contributions to the Local and National Baha’i Funds. Appointments of a librarian and an archivist committee were also made as the need arose.

Throughout the first six months the public meetings met with excellent success. Out-of-town speakers were invited to participate, and contacts through newspaper publicity alone averaged six to twelve for each meeting.

The twice-monthly meetings were reduced to one each month, and fireside activity was increased.

The first enrollee, Rowland Strandell, came in through newspaper publicity and an invitation to participate in a weekly fireside.

Transfers into Everett included Mrs. Jessie Wood, who had been an isolated believer outside Everett for some time, and the Wesley Bakers of Bellingham, Wash., enabling Mr. Baker to take a teaching position in nearby Lynnwood.

The first loss in membership came with the transfer of Mrs. Betty Eastman to Richmond Highlands, but shortly before Ridvan 1957 Sylvia Strandell announced her desire to enroll and help form a new Assembly, which now began to appear a reality.

The climax came when Mr. and
Foster Mudd of Neah Bay, compelled by reasons of health and employment to seek another goal, chose Everett, bringing into being the new Assembly.

During this time, as the activities in Everett increased, the activities of the isolated believers in the nearby towns of Marysville, Monroe, and Lake Stevens also increased. These friends began to attend the various meetings and to bring contacts in support of the Everett public meetings. Several fine joint efforts were held. As Everett's numbers increased, likewise did her sister communities.

The truly great lesson we have learned is the strength of the isolated believers is firmly functioning and can stand alone. A part of the total growth in this area can be attributed to the very active participation in conferences and conventions, cooperation and close contact with the Area Teaching Committee, and contact with the national committees who can so well exchange ideas and stimulate.

Since the formation of the Everett Local Spiritual Assembly there has been one transfer out of the community, but a new enrollment has replaced the loss, so we are still ten in number and hopeful of fruit from our current firesides.

—Pauline Thorson

NEW MAILING PIECE READY FOR USE

Prompted by the unusual success of last year's "Campaign Ensemble," the National Committee on Bahá'í Questionnaires has developed a new unit with a broader application which they have titled "The Crusader.

This new questionnaire has been designed to lend itself to the special requirements of this phase of the World Crusade. It is a three-fold mailing piece printed in two colors. An illustration of the Bahá'í House of Worship occupies the center page of the folder, with facts about the Temple, its purpose and spiritual significance.

On the inside of the cover page is a quotation of Baha'u'llah under the title "Actions of the Righteous." The questions on the opposite side of the large business reply card are new ones answerable by the new pamphlet Bahá'í Answers.

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET
Fifth Year—1957-1958
Annual Budget .......... $435,000.00
Total Requirements:
May 1 to Aug. 31 ....... 141,668.00
Total Contributions:
May 1 to Aug. 31 ....... 103,696.00
—National Spiritual Assembly

Some of the uses that can be made of the new "Crusader" unit are: To be carried in pocket or handbag and presented to new acquaintances; to be given out at county or state fairs, home shows, etc.; to place in free literature boxes; for distribution at public meetings; to be mailed to receptive lists, or to be used at fireside classes.

The price of the new "Crusader" unit is $5.45 per hundred, shipping charges prepaid.

A sample package of five "Crusaders" may be had by sending 35c in stamps. Orders for 100 or more can be shipped and billed, payable in 30 days from date of shipment.

Send orders to Questionnaires Service, P.O. Box 545, Green Bay, Wisc.

DAVISON BAHÁ'Í SCHOOL PLANS WINTER SESSION

A Winter Session on the theme "The Power of the Creative Word" has been announced by Davison Bahá'í School, Davison, Mich., with classes scheduled for December 26 through January 1. In addition there will be a public meeting on Sunday, December 29, at 3:00 p.m.

New facilities make it possible to accommodate 70 people in heated quarters. Students may arrive for the Winter Session on December 25 for 6:00 p.m. dinner.

Reservations should be sent to the Registrar, Davison Bahá'í School; 3208 S. State Road; Davison, Mich.

Baha'is attending the Ezeiza, Argentina, Summer School, held in January 1957.

Mailing Campaign Kits

In this issue the National Assembly has specified two pamphlets to be used together for an extensive mailing campaign: The Christian Century Reprint entitled "Bahá': A Second Look," and the pamphlet Lord of the New Age. To receive the special price, orders received must specify one, or more, complete kits consisting of 50 of each title. Orders for these items for less than 50 each will be billed at the regular prices as well as orders for a single one of the titles. Order in units of "kits." For example, if 500 of each title are required, order 10 kits.

Prices on kits will go into effect on October 15 and will be effective un-
Baha'i News is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Baha'i World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

Baha'i News is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1957-58: Mrs. Eunice Braun, chairman; Miss Charlotte Linfoot, secretary; Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Baha'i Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Baha'i Directory Changes

Additions to Committees
National Baha'i Youth
Miss Judy Bernstein
Mrs. Helen H. Hauck, Secy., 716 S. Fifth Ave., St. Charles, Ill.

Resignations from Committees
Child Education Committee
Miss Marjorie Lighthall

Temple Public Meetings Committee
Mrs. Marion Oas

Committee Secretaries
Child Education Committee
Mrs. Elizabeth Whitney, Secy., 524 N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago 40

Temple Public Meetings Committee
Miss Lauretta E. Voets, Secy., 419 Linden Ave., Wilmette, Ill.

Out of Stock
The General Edition of Baha'i Prayers will be temporarily unavailable. This is the Old Ivory Cordoba (simulated Spanish leather) edition containing all of the prayers of the Combined Edition, with the exception of Obligatory prayers, and other special prayers that have meaning only for Baha'is. Orders will be recorded for future shipment until the new edition is ready.

Out of Print
Race and Man. Compilation by Maye Harvey Gift and Alice Simmons Cox. A new printing is not contemplated. The pamphlet, Man One Family, recently revised with new material added, and redesigned, contains excerpts from this book.

Minimum Mail Order, $1.00
Available from
Baha'i Publishing Trust
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

Calender of Events

Feasts
October 16—Ilm (Knowledge)
November 4—Qudrat (Power)

Holy Day
October 20—Birth of the Bab

United Nations Day
October 24—To proclaim the spiritual basis on which the nations can unite for lasting peace.

National Spiritual Assembly Meetings
October 18, 19, and 20

Baha'i House of Worship
Visiting Hours
Weekdays
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Entire building)

Service of Worship
Sundays
3:30 p.m., lasting until 4:15.

Change of Address
Assembly Secretaries
Colorado
Denver: Miss Anita Grasselly, 1405 Delaware St., Apt. 15, Z 2

Connecticut
New Haven: Miss Clara Monson, 1205 Boulevard (Correct "Mrs." to "Miss")

Southern Illinois
Champaign: Mrs. Edith P. Osborn, 31 East John

Nevada
Reno: Mrs. Donna Jeanne Smith, 2747 Wondel Way

South Carolina
Greenville: Miss Martha Fettig, 127 N. Academy St.

Washington
Yakima: Mrs. Betty deAraujo, 714 S. 26th Ave.

Wyoming
Laramie: Miss Patricia Morton, 265 N. 4th
Guardian announces Series of Five Intercontinental Conferences and Appointment of Eight Additional Hands of the Cause

With this issue of Baha'i News each believer will receive a copy of an epochal document from the beloved Guardian bearing the foregoing title and addressed to the Hands of the Cause of God and to the National Spiritual Assemblies throughout the world.

The announcement of five Intercontinental Conferences to be held during 1958 in five continents of East and West marks another great historic turning-point in the annals of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, summoning the entire Bahá'í World to a new and higher spiritual potency. The Guardian's enumeration of the tasks performed discloses the vast realm of victorious achievement that the believers have already attained since the inception of the Ten-Year Plan. His appointment of eight new Hands of the Cause effectively strengthens this institution created by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in His Will and Testament.

The conduct of an Intercontinental Conference in Chicago calls for the formulation of plans which the National Spiritual Assembly will announce to the believers at the earliest possible date.

It is for us now, and continuously, to enter into the Guardian's creative, triumphant vision and prepare ourselves spiritually and mentally for the conquests required for the consummation of the next phase of the World Crusade, conquests calling for the aid of an infinitely larger number of believers than presently comprise the community of the Greatest Name.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Second Series of Regional Conferences Attended by Over 2000 Bahá'ís

The second series of 15 conferences called by the National Spiritual Assembly and held during the third and fourth weekends of September, drew a remarkable attendance of believers numbering more than 2,000.

The purpose of this series was: (1) to discuss the forms of service defined in the letter written by the Hands of the Cause on June 19 to every American believer, (2) to bring to fulfillment the responsibility of the individual American Bahá'í presented in that letter, and (3) to discuss the role of the various institutions of the Faith concerned with pioneer settlement and teaching work under the Ten-Year Plan. The agenda consisted of five topics: This Critical Period in Bahá'í History; Four Forms of Service: The Supreme Goal; Pioneering Opportunities, and What Can I Do?

Consciously in the minds of all believers present was this sentence in the letter from the Hands of the Cause: "The most important moment in our entire life is surely that in which, at last realizing the real measure and purpose of the Guardian's successive messages, each American Bahá'í, acting for himself in love of Bahá'u'lláh, makes his final decision to consecrate himself in service to a God-given Faith."

Pioneer pledges were distributed to all present at the conference who could immediately set in motion plans to pioneer either abroad or at home. While not many pledges have yet been returned to the National Spiritual Assembly, a number of assemblies have reported that there is a decided acceleration among the members of their communities in planning toward dispersal.

More than 150 Bahá'í communities were represented at the 15 conferences, as well as several hundred groups and isolated centers. Thirteen of the conferences were conducted by members of the National Spiritual Assembly, and two by well-qualified representatives, Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin and Mrs. Jesma Herbert.

An important by-product of these gatherings was the gratification and benefit derived by the believers as well as by the members of the National Spiritual Assembly themselves from the frank, heart-to-heart consultation on the major tasks and problems facing the American Bahá'í community and its National Assembly.

—National Spiritual Assembly
World Religion Day
A National Bahá'í Event

World Religion Day was instituted by the National Bahá'í Assembly in 1950. Its celebration on January 19, 1958, marks the ninth annual observance of this significant public event.

The purpose of World Religion Day is to elevate the minds of sincere seekers above the confusion and conflict of historic creeds, and inspire them with the vision of the oneness of all revealed faiths proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh, Founder of the Bahá'í World Religion a hundred years ago.

That the teachings of all the Prophetic Founders of religion emanate from the same God, exalt the same ideals and principles, and are nothing else than successive expressions of the same sublime truths — this is the great Message which World Religion Day proclaims. Apart from spiritual unity in worship of the one God, humanity can find no justice nor peace, Bahá'ís affirm.

Since 1950, local Assemblies and groups have publicized World Religion Day so successfully that this public event is now listed in the Calendar of Special Months and Days sponsored by the United States Chamber of Commerce.

For 1958 a threefold service is available to Bahá'ís: a press release and suggested newspaper advertisement, distributed by Bahá'í Press Service to all local press representatives; a very attractive World Religion Day display poster; and a World Religion Day 8 1/2 x 11 sheet for free local distribution, setting forth the purposes of the event and quoting relevant passages from public addresses made by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in America.

The poster, a photograph of which appears on this page, measures 14x17 inches and comes in two tones of blue. It is printed on paper only and can be obtained at 25 cents each or five for $1.00, mailed in a tube by third class mail. The place and time of the local meeting and the name of the local Spiritual Assembly or Bahá'í group can be lettered in the space below the sketch provided for the purpose. A hard-backed poster can be made by mounting it on cardboard with rubber cement and an easel can be attached for a stand-up poster.

The single sheet statement, entitled, "World Religion Day" can be ordered in lots of 50 for $1.00 post paid.

Orders for the poster and for the statement are to be sent with accompanying remittance to: Bahá'í Press Service, 434 Thomas Avenue, Rochester 17, New York. Orders sent to any other office will delay delivery.

—National Spiritual Assembly

ARThUR L. DAHL ELECTED TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Robert W. McLaughlin has resigned from the National Spiritual Assembly because repeated absences from the country would make it impossible for him to perform his duties as a member this year.

This action necessitated a by-election by the delegates to the last National Convention to fill the vacancy.

The voting, held on September 28, resulted in the election of Arthur L. Dahl of Pebble Beach, Calif., to replace Mr. McLaughlin.

—National Spiritual Assembly

AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED

The Hands of the Cause in Europe announce that Dr. Aziz Navidi of Monte Carlo, Monaco, has been appointed a member of the Auxiliary Board in Europe. He replaces Mrs. Tove Deleuran, who has moved to Pákistán.
Two Chicago Newspapers Publish Photographs of Baha'i House of Worship

This aerial view of the Baha'i House of Worship and landscaped gardens in Wilmette, at the right, was taken by the Metro News Photos Company, Chicago, and appeared in the Chicago American on August 12, 1957, along with an article about a visit to the Temple written by Mervin Block.

The photograph below, taken by a Chicago Tribune photographer and published in that newspaper on August 6, 1957, looks northward along the shore of Lake Michigan. The Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette, 14 miles away, can be seen on the horizon to the left of center.
Central and East Africa

GUARDIAN HERALDS
OPENING OF NEW PHASE OF RICH PROMISE

A message from the Guardian, added to a letter from his Secretary to the National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa in reply to its communications, contains passages of interest to all Bahá'ís. Baha'i News has extracted these paragraphs for reprint.

"The year that has just elapsed, marking the opening phase in the progressive unfoldment of the destiny of the Bahá'í communities, labouring singly and collectively for the expansion and consolidation of the institutions of the embryonic World Order of Bahá'u'lláh in both Central and East Africa, has witnessed a series of achievements, in both the teaching and administrative fields, that are truly heartening, and may well be regarded as worthy of emulation by their sister communities, now embarked on similar enterprises in the Northern, the Western, and Southern territories of the far-flung African continent.

"Particularly in Uganda and Kenya—among the first of the Negro-inhabited territories to be warmed and illuminated by the rays of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh—now leading the field numerically, and exhibiting a vitality and a spiritual receptivity second to none among the communities spread over that continent, has this progress been noticeable. In the steady increase in the number of believers—though not as spectacular as in the early days when the Faith was introduced in these territories—in the multiplication of centres, testifying to the widespread diffusion of the light of this Revelation over such extensive areas within their confines; in the diligence, the loyalty, the courage, and dogged perseverance displayed consistently by the elected representatives responsible for the conduct of Bahá'í affairs in these areas; in the enthusiasm and organizing ability which these representatives, aided by the rank and file of the faithful, so whole-heartedly collaborating with them in the pursuit of a common and glorious task, have demonstrated since the announcement of the project of the construction of the Mother Temple of Africa; in their recent success in incorporating the first of the three newly emerged Regional African Assemblies,—in these, as well as in less conspicuous fields, the standard-bearers of an all-conquering Faith, in these highly promising contiguous territories, a number of whom have distinguished themselves through their superb exploits far away from their homes, have set an example which posterity will not fail to extol, and which the organized followers of the Faith, not only in Africa but in other continents of the globe, will do well to follow.

"... A new phase, pregnant with rich promise and undreamt-of possibilities, is undoubtedly opening with the founding and rise of the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkar in the African continent, following upon the three successive milestones of the Faith in that area on the eve of the launching of the Ten-Year Plan, by the inception of the World Spiritual Crusade and, more recently, by the emergence of the Bahá'í Regional Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa.

"This latest stage in the unfoldment of the Mission entrusted to the stalwart promoters of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in so promising and privileged an area, must be distinguished, and exceed the previous period during which it was born, and the machinery of its Administrative Order set up, by acts so brilliant as to throw into shadow the magnificent feats they have already achieved in its service. . . ."

North East Africa

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INCORPORATED

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of North East Africa was granted official incorporation under its present title on April 10, 1957, by the Egyptian government.

The original incorporation was effected on December 26, 1934, under the name of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Egypt. Subsequently the document was amended to include the Sudan on November 17, 1949, and in April 1956 the National Assembly jurisdiction was enlarged to include North East Africa.

MOGADISCIO LSA REPORTS

TEACHING IN SOMALIA

Teaching activities in Mogadiscio, Somalia, since Ridván 1957 have included two new translations, two teaching conferences, many firesides, and extension teaching work, the Mogadiscio Local Spiritual Assembly has reported.

The translations of a pamphlet into Somali and Bravanese were completed in time for Ridván. Two cables and a letter from the Guardian were received, expressing appreciation for this accomplishment.

The Teaching Committee arranged two inspiring Teaching Conferences the first two weekends of June. The program was varied and lively, and included a survey of the Guardian's Ridván message, talks on the responsibility of the individual to
Queensland was one of the Baha'i Faith's state assemblies. Each year, a fireside was held every Friday evening, and many firesides are held each week. From Ridván to the middle of August, 142 fireside meetings have been held. Extension teaching is carried on in Hafun and Afgoi by Mohamed Musa and Mohamed Saleh. Cyrus Samandari has made a number of teaching trips, sometimes accompanied by one of the Somali friends, and considerable teaching work has been done.

Alaska

CONFERENCE STRESSES TEACHING METHODS

A Baha'i Summer Teaching Conference emphasizing methods of presenting the Baha'i teachings on God's Eternal Covenant, Progressive Revelation, Prophecy, and the Return of Christ was held at Fairbanks, Alaska, on August 10-11, 1957. Each subject was given a half-day's time on the program, and each was presented jointly by two Baha'is.

In addition to the daytime conference, a fireside was held each of the two evenings, to which contacts were invited.

Australia

QUEENSLAND SCHOOLS RECOGNIZE HOLY DAYS

A further step in the recognition of the Baha'i Faith in the state of Queensland was achieved in July, when the Department of Public Instruction granted official recognition of the Baha'i Holy Days, the Australian Baha'i Bulletin reports. All schools and educational institutes have been instructed in the Queensland Educational Gazette that children of Baha'i parents are to be considered absent with adequate reason on these days, and that teachers who are members of the Baha'i Faith are to be granted unpaid leave on request.

FIRST WOMAN BELIEVER IN SOLOMONS ENROLLED

Four more believers, including the first woman Solomon Islander to embrace the Baha'i Faith, have been enrolled by the Local Spiritual Assembly of Honiara, the Koala News, newsletter of the Australian Asia Teaching Committee, has announced.

Translation in Bogotu

Also reported in Koala News is another translation of *Basic Facts of the Baha'i Faith* into the Bogotu language. This language is in addition to the assigned World Crusade goals.

Canada

GRAND MANAN ISLAND ENROLLS FIRST BELIEVER

The enrollment of the first native believer on Grand Manan Island, a goal of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly, has been reported by the Canadian New Territories Committee Bulletin.

Doris Richardson, the Baha'i pioneer on Grand Manan Island, wrote: "How wonderful to be able to share with you my supreme joy! After four years... to have someone say they wanted to be a Baha'i, and begin to read and search is perhaps an experience that is indescribable. It has been my feeling for some time that Edward Somers was a believer, and recognized Baha'u'llah; nevertheless he had not really done any studying for himself until this summer.

"Then, when Amo Chesley was here recently on her vacation, he declared his belief in the Baha'i Faith to her... Bless him, for he little realizes what it means to be the first believer on Grand Manan."

NEW BAHAI GROUP FORMED IN SAMOAN ISLANDS

The Canadian New Territories Committee Bulletin has published the news of the formation of a new Baha'i group in Pago Pago, Samoan Islands. This brings the total in the Samoan Islands to one Assembly and five groups.

Greater Antilles

JAMAICA RECOGNIZES BAHAI MARRIAGES

Jamaica has extended legal recognition to Baha'i marriages, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Greater Antilles has reported.

This is the first country under the jurisdiction of the Greater Antilles National Assembly to take this step, marking another achievement of the Ten-Year World Crusade.

New Zealand

BEGIN SEARCH FOR TEMPLE SITE

A Temple Site Committee has been appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand to acquire a suitable location for the Mother Temple of New Zealand.

Instructions from Haifa have been received by the National Assembly that the site is to be located on the outskirts of Auckland, easy of access, and of three or four acres in extent, the New Zealand Baha'i Newsletter states. No publicity is to be given to any site under consideration.
**NINETEEN CITIES REPRESENTED AT JAPAN'S FIRST SUMMER SCHOOL**

Another of the goals of the Six-Year Plan was achieved on August 24, when a Hand of the Cause, a member of the Auxiliary Board, and friends from 19 cities in Japan gathered in Takarazuka to inaugurate Japan's First Summer School.

In response to a message sent on August 25 by the Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly, the beloved Guardian cabled: "Congratulations attendants historic summer school fervently praying expansion vailed activities. Love. Soon.”

The Takarazuka Hotel was an ideal selection by the committee for its convenience to a majority of the Bahá’í communities in the Kansai area.

The program prepared by the Committee ordinarily would have required a week to complete, especially as all talks had to be translated into two other languages; the official languages being Japanese, Persian and English. However, with an able chairman and translators, speakers and attendants all entered with enthusiasm into the program and realized its fulfillment in three days, with no time for recreational activities.

Thirteen topics were presented, dealing with the history, teachings, and administration of the Faith. There was a public lecture in the evening of August 24, with two talks, "Need for World Religion," and "Bahá’í World Faith."

A feature of the final day's session was a Panel Discussion on "Goals of the Six-Year Plan," with a chairman and six participants.

Each morning, afternoon, and evening session was preceded by devotions in the three languages. At the opening session Mr. M. Zenimoto, on behalf of the School Committee, welcomed the friends and outlined the purposes of the School.

The attendance statistics were: 75 Bahá’í adults, 7 non-Bahá’í adults, 3 non-Bahá’í youth, 1 Bahá’í youth, 23 Bahá’í children, and 2 non-Bahá’í children, a total of 111.

A 'spur of the moment' suggestion for a special Children's Class at the School was put into action and 19 participated. The teachers were Miss Y. Inatsuka, Miss M. Morita and Miss M. Naderi. This class gave great joy to all present.

Mention should also be made of a surprise feature at the public lecture meeting on August 24, when Miss Yoshiko Morita of Kyoto sang Mr. Wolcott's composition of Bahá'u'lláh's prayer "From the Sweet Scented Streams," accompanied on the piano by Mr. Koji Akizawa of Yokohama.

Mr. M. Odani of Kyoto, who completed a tour in August to western Honshu and Kyushu, attended the closing day of the Summer School on August 26. Mr. Odani spoke with such fervor and inspiration as to captivate the hearts of all present. His eloquent testimony to the power of the spirit when one arises in the name of Bahá'u'lláh to bring to fulfillment any goal or wish expressed by our beloved Guardian.

They left Osaka on the evening of June 8, arrived in Aomori the following night, and crossed by ferry to Hakodate, the southern port of Hokkaido, where they arrived on the morning of June 10.

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**HOKKAIDO ISLAND OPENED TO FAITH**

The Bahá'í Bulletin of North East Asia has published an account of the opening to the Bahá'í Faith of Hokkaido Island, Japan, as follows:

The report furnished by Mr. Rouhollah Momtazi of the teaching trip to Hokkaido Island by him and Mr. Gekie Nakajima is still another evidence of the power of the spirit when one arises in the name of Bahá'u'lláh to bring to fulfillment any goal or wish expressed by our beloved Guardian.

They left Osaka on the evening of June 8, arrived in Aomori the following night, and crossed by ferry to Hakodate, the southern port of Hokkaido, where they arrived on the morning of June 10.
As Mr. Nakajima's friend, Mr. Muneto, is a former mayor of Hakodate, this afforded an introduction to the people of that city. He arranged for a newspaper interview and a public meeting through the Chamber of Commerce.

Another public meeting in the city library was arranged by Mr. T. Seki, Chief of the General Affairs Department. Over 30 persons heard the message in that meeting, including the Chief of Education and the Chief Librarian. Several hours of private discussions were spent with these men later.

On June 11 a visit was made to the city of Otaru, where another friend of Mr. Nakajima, Mr. Yamazaki, arranged for a meeting there on June 14. Mr. Yamazaki also went with them to Sapporo, the capital city of Hokkaido, where he introduced them to the Chairman of the Foreign Trade Association, Mr. Koshiyama, on June 12.

In Sapporo they called on the Chamber of Commerce and the Industry Club, and a joint meeting was arranged for June 17. Through an introduction from a business friend in Osaka, a television coverage was arranged with the Hokkaido Broadcasting Center for the luncheon meeting on June 17. After discussing the business and economic conditions in Japan, a brief history of the Faith was given, followed by many questions. The telecast was given the same evening.

On June 16 a visit was made to Shiroi with the Moritake family of the Ainu tribe. The Faith was explained during their one and one-half hour visit.

On June 19 at the Rotary Club in Sapporo an opportunity was afforded to speak of the Faith to 200 members. A regular weekly fireside meeting was definitely arranged in the home of Mr. Giro Sasaki, who was given the Greatest Name, and pictures of the Shrine of the Bab, the International Archives, and the Bahá’í Temple for display in his home for these fireside meetings. A quantity of literature was also left with him.

They returned to Osaka on June 21, confident that real results were achieved.

Trip to Inland Sea

A second report from Mr. Momtazi tells of a two week trip in July to Takamatsu on Shikoku Island, and nearby Shodo Island in the Inland Sea. Many new contacts were made, literature was distributed, and a fireside group started.

Teaching on Awaji

Extension teaching has been progressing for the past few months on the inland of Awaji, under the guidance of Mr. A. Katriai. A regular fireside group meets weekly, and several students are studying with the full intention of becoming enrolled believers.

Awaji Island is located between the main island of Honshu and Shikoku Island, at the entrance to the Inland Sea.

Mr. Katriai recently entertained as guests in his home several university students from Takamatsu on Shikoku Island. They remained a full week, studying the Faith during three sessions each day.

Pákistán

NSA Publishes

Souvenir Booklet

A souvenir booklet, giving a brief history of the development of the Bahá’í Faith in Pákistán, has been published by the National Spiritual Assembly of Pákistán.

Attractively printed and bound, the booklet encompasses 48 pages, and is divided into three sections, including a statement on the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh by Shoghi Effendi, a Short History of the Bahá’í Faith in Pákistán, and an account of the first National Convention and the formation of the first National Spiritual Assembly there.

There are 38 photographs illustrating the growth of the Faith, with pictures of some of the early believers, ceremonies connected with the dedication of the Hazíratul-Quds, various Bahá’í properties in Pákistán, conventions, teaching conferences, local Spiritual Assemblies, and the first National Spiritual Assembly.

Of special interest are pictures of Miss Martha Root with members of the Karâchí Spiritual Assembly, and of Mrs. Dorothy Baker addressing a meeting in Karâchí during the Intercontinental Conference in 1953.

Scandinavia, Finland

Tour Seeks Contact

With Lapps in Sweden

Among the special teaching plans reported by the National Spiritual Assembly of Scandinavia and Finland for this fall is a tour by the Hand of the Cause in Europe, Dr. Muhlschlegel, and a small group of Scandinavian Bahá’ís into the Lapp country of North Central Sweden in an effort to make contacts with the
Lapps, conduct firesides, seek receptive souls, distribute literature, and pave the way for additional teaching and a possible Lapp summer school next summer."

Commemoration of United Nations Day is one of the special public teaching events to be observed throughout Scandinavia and Finland. An attractive pamphlet for the event has been prepared to explain the relationship of the Bahá’í Faith to the United Nations, and giving the principles of the Faith. It is to be printed in all four languages spoken in these countries.

Central America and Mexico
NICARAGUA BAHÁ’IS HOLD FIRST SUMMER SCHOOL

The first annual Bahá’í Summer School of Nicaragua opened a three-day session in Nandaime on September 14, 1957.

Two visiting teachers, Margo Miersler and Allen Pringle of Honduras, assisted Donald Witzel and Pablo Perez of Managua with the teaching activities, which covered 20 subjects under two main themes, “The Individual and Collective Aspects of Bahá’í Life,” and “The Administrative Order.”

Special programs were given each evening after the classes. The agenda for September 14 was “The Life of Bahá’u’lláh” by Margo Miersler, “General Highlights of the Bahá’í Faith” by Allen Pringle, and 50 pages of stories translated from Portals to Freedom of “The Life Picture of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá” by Pablo Perez. Following these topics, slides of the Holy Land were shown.

On September 15 the subject was “The Presentation of the Bahá’í Cause” by the Bahá’ís of Nandaime.

Mrs. Mignon Witzel was responsible for the planning and practical aspects of this new institution in Nicaragua. It was a great success and, needless to say, we can hardly wait for the next one.

—MARY ANN HOWARD

NATIONAL NEWS

11,617 VISIT TEMPLE DURING SEPTEMBER

September visitors to the Bahá’í House of Worship in Wilmette totaled 11,617 persons, bringing the number of registered visitors since the first of the year to 74,590.

Countries represented among the September visitors included: Austria, Brazil, Canada, Canal Zone, Cuba, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Malaya, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Turkey, and Venezuela.
Gathering gave the Unity Feast high. The love has been great; the August 24 to 28, 1957. Assembly, was again held at the Blue Ridge Pine Islands making a tour of the Scouts from Korea and the International Parliament and representatives of the House of Councillors of Japan. Most recently ten members of visitors from a-broad, such as Boy Scouts from Korea and the United States after attending the International Scout Jamboree, and most recently ten members of Parliament and representatives of the House of Councillors of Japan.

LOVE, UNITY KEYNOTE
BLUE RIDGE CONFERENCE

The fourth Blue Ridge Conference was again held at the Blue Ridge Assembly, in North Carolina, from August 24 to 28, 1957.

As one of the teachers commented, "The spirit at Blue Ridge has run high. The love has been great; the unity evident." Each of us left with a renewed sense of dedication, a clarity of purpose, our lives once again re-channelled and re-directed. From the talks came inspiration; from the reports and discussions, practical techniques by which that inspiration can be put into effect. One hundred and thirty-seven people came; one hundred stayed for the whole conference.

We have been, each year, especially blessed by the presence of Paul E. Haney, Hand of the Cause; by the active participation of both the youth and the children; by the bounty of loving fellowship, growing out of worshipping, studying and living together. Next year, the first Southern Summer School will be held—one to be at Blue Ridge, to last at least five days, and longer if we are able to obtain the Blue Ridge facilities for a longer period.

The over-all theme of the conference was "The Road to Mount Carmel," and among the friends present were several who have made their pilgrimage. They evoked much of that spirit which has been brought back to us from the World Center of the Faith with ever-increasing intensity.

For the first time at Blue Ridge a seminar was held, in which everyone took an active part, based on the compilation of excerpts on The Covenant and Administration. For this study, the friends were divided into nine groups, each studying its own set of four questions each day, with references from the compilation to guide the discussion. At the end, the secretary from each group presented his group's answers in a three-minute résumé. We were all thrilled with the wealth of ideas coming out of the consultation, and amazed at the amount of information that can be packed into a three-minute résumé.

Through the discussion on the work of the Area Teaching Committees, much practical information was brought out, on how the isolated Baha'i or a group can get more assistance, and just what the Area Teaching Committees' work should be.

The non-Baha'i youth had two special discussion sessions with an adult Baha'i, covering everything from stories of the experiences of outstanding Baha'i teachers, to many phases of the Administrative Order, and how to answer questions they are often asked by their friends.

In the report from the National Baha'i Youth Committee, it was stressed that every community should have a Youth Committee, even if they have no youth, which could provide a speaker or activities for other youth organizations.

It is also important that children in Baha'i families be prepared for enrollment. The youth must catch the vision of what we are building. The talk on how youth are travelling the road to Mount Carmel was based on the "Tablet to the True
Believer." We should study this Tablet, use it, and become magnets to attract pure souls.

The Interracial Teaching Committee report showed us what they are trying to do, and how they are going about it. In addition to their primary goal, on which the Guardian is currently placing such great emphasis, we should devote more time to all minority groups; show hospitality, for instance, to foreign students, who may go back to other places on the earth, and be of inestimable help to the newly born communities.

Here are some notes, taken from the talks and discussions:

For 7000 years, mankind has been travelling toward the day when God's promises would be fulfilled. Where we stand today depends greatly on the vision and actions of individuals in the past who, through their vision and efforts, have made the path a little broader and more apparent for us today. What we do today will make it easier for the people tomorrow. We must cleanse our spiritual veins, so that the bounties may flow through us. We will come to that place where neither praise nor condemnation can touch us. This is the spiritual road to Mount Carmel.

We are building the Kingdom of God on earth. These institutions could not be created until this Day. The Kingdom of God has come, and to it we must adjust. It is the fulfillment of the promise of all ages.

Why the Ten-Year Plan? These years before 1963 are crucial. We could not have conceived this Crusade; only the Guardian could do so. He plans and directs the successive stages of the Divine Plan, channeling to us the Divine guidance. Bahá'u'lláh "put into our hands the lamp of His teachings. By its light the world will be illumined," said 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

The Guardian is dispersing the assets of the Faith (the Bahá'ís). Dispersal is not new. Dispersal among the people of God has been going on since the beginning of time. Whenever we arise to do something which the Guardian wants done, it must be with purity of heart, and a sense of sacrifice. If we do it for personal reasons, the spiritual potency of our action is jeopardized, if not doomed. If we act with courage and pure hearts, the confirmations will flow. Teach the pure souls, wherever you find them. The more you teach, the more avenues will open.

We must study the Faith for knowledge. Through the Teachings, we can become truly educated. Pray for assistance and guidance daily; listen for an answer. Martha Root once said, "Every breath, almost, is a prayer to be a channel . . . be ready when opportunity comes . . . When I do not pray, in two or three days I see the effect. The work is not so good." We cannot be lukewarm. We must be enwrapped with the love of God. "Wear the mantle of Bahá'u'lláh proudly!"

Travelling the road to Mount Carmel will demand a great deal of spirituality. God gave us the maps, through Bahá'u'lláh, and the Guardian directs us. We have the Administrative Order, and outside the Faith there will be a federated world. When these two things come together, the Golden Age will come. Out of world order, will be born spiritual salvation.

—Louise B. Matthias

MISSOULA, CASPER HOLD THREE-DAY SEMINARS

Mrs. Florence V. Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause, conducted three-day seminars on the Bahá'í Faith in Missoula, Mont., and Casper, Wyo., during September.

Her visit in both cities was well publicized in the press and on radio and television, contributing to the success of the meetings. Attendance in both cities exceeded 60 persons.

In Missoula a one-half hour interview was broadcast over KBTM, with the Station Manager, William Strothman, leading an extended discussion with Mrs. Mayberry on many facets of the Faith. There were two other radio interviews on KGVO, and announcements of the seminar on KXLL and KMSP-T.

The two radio stations and the television station in Casper also allotted time for interviews with her, and she was allowed to speak freely about the Faith.

Subjects discussed in the seminars were "Progressive Revelation," "Herald and Author of the New Era," and "Regeneration of Mankind."

AMERICAN INDIAN FILMS AVAILABLE ON LOAN

Educational films on the American Indians are now available from the American Indian Service Committee. Most of the films are devoted to the tribal life of the western Indians, including the Apache, Papago, Hopi, Navajo, Blackfeet, Pima, Supai, and Pueblos. One film describes life on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

These films are suitable for adults and senior high school age students, although in some cases junior high school and elementary age students are included. Most of the films are in color and sound, and they vary in length from 10 to 25 minutes.

Further information may be obtained from the Librarian of the American Indian Service Committee: Mrs. Janet N. Ward, 14 Palmcroft Drive, Tempe, Ariz.
POSITIONS OPEN NEAR INDIAN RESERVATIONS

The American Indian Service Committee announces that there are now a few positions open on or near several Indian reservations requiring little specialized training or experience.

Bahá'ís are seriously interested in such important pioneering opportunities and are urged to write to Mrs. Nancy Phillips, secretary: 736 Encanto Drive, S.E., Phoenix, Ariz.

NEW COLOR SLIDES, PHOTOS OF ARCHIVES BUILDING READY

The Audio-Visual Education Committee has announced new sets of color slides and color photographs of the Bahá'í International Archives Building and the Shrine of the Báb available for distribution.

The set of slides includes six different views, and costs $2.00. Color photographs come in two sizes, 5 x 7 inches, for $1.50; and 8 x 10 inches, for $3.00.

There is also a new set of 12 color slides of the Bahá'í House of Worship, showing landscaping details, the floral beds and fountains, selling for $3.00.

Orders and requests for information on other audio-visual aids should be addressed to the Audio-Visual Education Committee, 126 Evergreen Place, West Englewood, N.J.

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

Fifth Year — 1957-1958

Annual Budget ....... $425,000.00

Total Requirements: May 1 to September 30 .... 177,100.00

Total Contributions: May 1 to September 30 .... 126,600.00

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS

Believers resident in Eureka Springs, Ark., paid for a large advertisement in Eureka Springs Times-Echo, October 3, 1957, reprinting the National Spiritual Assembly statement on "The Oneness of Mankind." This type of publicity, in view of the race integration problem in Little Rock, has great importance in expressing the Bahá'í position through non-political means.

The Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal, September 13, 1957, reported a talk given to the local Bahá'í community by Dr. Ekanem A. Udoh of Nigeria, who taught two years at Moyne College. "He said the Bahá'í Faith may become the major religion of Africa. He said the aims of Bahá'ís have strong appeal to Africans." The same newspaper on September 22 published a brief notice of Christ and Bahá'u'lláh, by George Townshend, in its review column.

An impressive full page devoted to the Faith appeared in the Charleston Gazette on July 20. Featuring a very large photo of the Bahá'í House of Worship, the statement represented one in a series of local church histories sponsored by leading business firms "who realize the importance of the church in this community." The text was supplied by the Local Assembly.

The Sarasota (Fla.) News of August 3, 1957, and the Sarasota Herald Tribune of the same date, both featured a Coast Guard honor paid to Charles R. Gilman (Bahá'í), member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, for using his motor yacht for outstanding emergency missions and also his radio transmitter for the same purpose.

A greeting card designed for use on the Jewish New Year carries a color photo of the Bay of Haifa showing the Shrine of the Báb, and also a color photo of Haifa Town Hall.

The Milwaukee Sentinel, September 7, 1957, carried a three-column photo of Mrs. Bertha Piepenburg showing Mrs. Anna Hanel some souvenirs brought back from South Africa, illustrating a feature story about Mrs. Piepenburg's visit to her Bahá'í daughter and son-in-law in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. This human-interest story was written by James M. Johnston, staff reporter, as a personal interview.

The Sarasota (Fla.) Herald-Tribune, September 1, 1957, presented a three-column story by Stan Windham, staff writer, on "Another Faith Explained," a summary of the history, teachings, and administrative order of the Faith. The text was based upon Bahá'í literature presented by the local Bahá'ís, and also a brief oral exposition made by one of the believers.

The Christian Century, July 24, 1957, reported that in Germany a call had been issued to Christian churches to ward off the "offensive" launched in Germany by non-Christian religions. Reference was made to plans for a Bahá'í Temple as one of the "non-Christian" invasions of the Christian claim to Germany.

Baha'is attending the Regional Conference sponsored by the National Spiritual Assembly in Houston, Texas, on September 14. Charles Wolcott, vice-chairman of the National Assembly, center, conducted this meeting.
BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

New Items

Blessed is the Spot; O Thou by Whose Name. Two prayers of Bahá'u'lláh with music by Charles Wolcott, published as one edition of sheet music for solo voice with piano accompaniment. The cover is beautifully illustrated with a drawing of the Shrine of the Báb, Haifa, the harbor, 'Akká, and the hills of Lebanon, viewed from the slopes of Mt. Carmel, printed in Cedar green.

Per copy .................................................. $ .75
10 copies .................................................. $6.00

A Pattern for Future Society. By Shoghi Effendi. This statement of the Guardian's, taken from The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, now carries an appropriate introductory statement and has been produced in the Frenchfold format similar to One Universal Faith for easy carrying or mailing. Printed in dark green on white with east and west hemisphere motif on cover. Priced for mass distribution.

20 copies .................................................. $ .50
100 copies .................................................. $2.00
1000 copies ............................................. $12.50

Going Out of Print

The following titles are low in stock and will not appear in new catalog now in preparation. If copies are desired they should be ordered quickly.

Bahá'í Writings. Prayers and excerpts from Bahá'í writings. Red paper cover stamped in gold, attractively printed.

Per copy .................................................. $ .50
5 copies .................................................. $2.00

Faith In Action. Compilation for group study on Bahá'í approach to human relations. 8½x11.

Per copy .................................................. $ .60
10 copies .................................................. $5.00

Out of Print

Bahá': The Coming of World Religion. 8½x11 book with spiral binding and envelope. (Not to be reprinted.)

The Drama of Salvation. Compilation for group study. 8½x11. (Not to be reprinted.)

Minimum Mail Order, $1.00

Available from

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

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Eastern New York
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Western New York
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BAHÁ'Í NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1957-58: Mrs. Eunice Braun, chairman; Miss Charlotte Linfoot, secretary; Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá'í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Beloved Friends:

With noble utterance Ruhiyyih Khánum conveyed to the Bahá'í world the tragic, unexpected and afflictive news of the Guardian's passing. His physical departure from this world marks the ending of an era in the history of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

"SHOGHI EFFENDI BELOVED OF ALL HEARTS SACRED TRUST GIVEN BELIEVERS BY MASTER PASSED AWAY SUDDENLY HEART ATTACK IN SLEEP FOLLOWING ASIATIC FLU. URGE BELIEVERS REMAIN STEADFAST, CLING INSTITUTION HANDS LOVINGLY REARED, RECENTLY REINFORCED, EMPHASIZED BY BELOVED GUARDIAN. ONLY ONENESS OF HEART ONENESS OF PURPOSE CAN BEFITTINGLY TESTIFY LOYALTY ALL NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES AND BELIEVERS TO DEPARTED GUARDIAN WHO SACRIFICED SELF UTTERLY FOR SERVICE FAITH."

—Ruhiyyih Khánum

In a second message cabled the same day (November 5, 1957) Ruhiyyih Khánum added: "Appeal (to) Hands, National Assemblies (and) Auxiliary Boards to shelter (the) believers (and) assist them (to) meet (this) heart-rending, supreme test. Funeral (of) our beloved (will be held) Saturday (November) Ninth (in) London. Hands, Assembly (and) Board members invited attend ... Urge hold memorial meetings Saturday."

An appropriate press announcement, prepared under Ruhiyyih Khánum's direction, was released to Reuters in London and to the wire services in Chicago. A copy of this same release was sent to all local Bahá'í press representatives by the National Bahá'í Press Service. The National Assembly, as directed, dispatched two telegrams to all local Assemblies; one requesting the friends to pray for the protection of the Faith because it had been learned that the beloved Guardian was desperately ill; the second reported his passing and requested that local meetings be held on Saturday, November 9.

On Sunday, November 10, the National and Regional Spiritual Assemblies received this message from Ruhiyyih Khánum written after the funeral had been held in London:

"BELOVED GUARDIAN LAID (TO) REST (IN) LONDON ACCORDING (TO) LAWS (OF) AQDAS (IN) BEAUTIFUL BEFITTING SPOT AFTER IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY HELD (IN) PRESENCE (OF) MULTITUDE (OF) BELIEVERS REPRESENTING OVER TWENTY COUNTRIES (OF) EAST (AND) WEST STOP DOCTORS ASSURE SUDDEN PASSING INVOLVED NO SUFFERING. (HIS) BLESSED COUNTEANCE BORE EXPRESSION (OF) INFINITE BEAUTY, PEACE (AND) MAJESTY STOP EIGHTEEN HANDS ASSEMBLED (FOR) THE FUNERAL URGE NATIONAL BODIES REQUEST ALL BELIEVERS HOLD MEMORIAL MEETINGS EIGHTEENTH NOVEMBER COMMEMORATING DAYSPRING (OF) DIVINE GUIDANCE WHO HAS LEFT US AFTER THIRTY-SIX YEARS (OF) UTTER SELF-SACRIFICE, CEASELESS LABORS (AND) CONSTANT VIGILANCE."

This message was sent to all Assemblies and Area Teaching Committees in the United States on Monday, November 11, with a covering letter.

On the following day, November 12, this further cablegram was received from Ruhiyyih Khánum:
"ASSURE FRIENDS BELOVED, SACRED GUARDIAN BEFITTINGLY LAID (TO) REST SURROUNDED BY LARGE, REPRESENTATIVE GATHERING (OF) BELIEVERS (FROM) EAST (AND) WEST. (THE) LIGHT (OF) OUR LIVES DEPARTED, WE MUST NOW STAND FIRM, REMEMBERING (THE) PEERLESS EXAMPLE (OF) HIS DEDICATION (TO) THE WORK (OF) THE BLESSED PERFECTION, (THE) GLORIOUS VICTORIES HE WON, (AND THE) PLANS HE LONGED (TO) SEE COMPLETED. ONLY REDIDEDICATION, GREATER UNITY, STEADFAST SERVICE CAN BEFITTINGLY SHOW OUR GRIEF (AND) MAKE US ACCEPTABLE (AT THE) HOLY THRESHOLD."

—Rúhíyyíh

These are the successive stages through which the heart-rending announcement of the Guardian's passing have been reported to the date of this writing.

What can we say about the Guardian's consummation of his unique mission?

Turning again to Rúhíyyíh Khánum, we quote these passages from her great tribute to the Guardian as written in Twenty-Five Years of the Guardianship dated November 1946.

"Twenty-five years ago the Bahaí world was shaken by a great earthquake. 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Center of the Covenant, had suddenly passed away, with no premonitory illness to prepare His friends and followers for this tragic shock. Stunned, the Baha'ís of East and West tried to rally their faculties. We knew great tasks lay ahead of us; we believed in this new Faith and in its Manifestation and in the World Order that He had come to establish, but we felt terribly alone and the responsibility for the future lay heavily upon us. Where was the shepherd? The familiar voice, that had spoken with an authority vested in it by the Prophet of God Himself, was stilled. We had the teachings; like a wonderful laboratory, equipped for every purpose, they were there — our priceless treasure. But where was the chemist who transmuted base metals into gold? Where was the listener who answered our questions and guided us in the use of all that great laboratory possessed?

"Then came the reading of the Master's Will, and with an infinite sense of relief we realized that, though the sense of tribulation and separation had risen about us, 'Abdu'l-Bahá had not left us alone. He had given us the mighty Ark of His own Covenant which we could enter into in peace secure. With what grateful hearts we turned to the youthful figure that had suddenly been revealed to us in that Will as our priceless legacy, described by 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the fruit of the Twin Lote Trees, the pearl of the Twin Surging Seas, this new creation, vested with a unique function, the hereditary office of Interpreter and Protector of the Faith and life-head of the International House of Justice.

First Guardian of the Cause of God

"Let us go back for a moment and recall what we were and what Shoghi Effendi was when he first assumed his function as Guardian. Those who remember the passing of the Master and the terrible blow it was to them, the intense unbearable grief it caused them, can best grasp what his feelings were. At that time he was twenty-four years of age, studying at Oxford University in England in order to better prepare himself to serve 'Abdu'l-Bahá as an interpreter, and to translate some of the Baha'i literature into English, when news of the ascension reached him. Broken-hearted, so weak from suffering he had to be practically lifted from the train, he returned to Haifa. Then the second blow, as unexpected and in many ways more cruel than the first, fell upon him. The Will and Testament of his Grandfather was read to him and for the first time in his life he became apprized of the Master's great and well-guarded secret: that he, Shoghi Effendi, the beloved, eldest grandson, was His successor and First Guardian of the Cause of God. Saddled with this great weight, crushed by this great blow, he turned his eyes to the Baha'i world. He beheld a widely diversified, loosely organized community, scattered in various parts of the globe, and with members in about twenty countries. These people, loyal, devoted and sincere though they were, were still, to a great extent, living in their parent religion's house, so to speak; there were Christian Baha'is, Jewish Baha'is, Muhammadan Baha'is and so on. They believed in the Baha'i Faith but were intimately connected with their former churches. Like fruit on a tree, they were a new crop but still stuck to the old branch. This was true East and West alike. That was the point to which the Faith had evolved at the time of the Master's ascension.

"We, on our part, beheld a young man of only twenty-four, standing at the helm of the Cause and some of the friends felt impelled to advise him about what it would be wise for him to do next. . . . We quickly came to realize that he was not only divinely guided but had been endowed by God with just those characteristics needed to build up the Administrative Order, unite the believers in common endeavor, and coordinate their world-wide activities. The wheels of the Cause which had momentarily stood still at the Master's passing, began to revolve again and at a higher tempo than ever before. Our Father, so patient, so constantly forgiving, whom we had tired and perhaps worried far more than we dreamed of, was gone, and in His stead stood our "true brother," young, determined to see we at last got down to accomplishing the tasks set us by Bahá'u'lláh and the Master, and not willing to lose any time at all.

"With the reading of the Will and the establishment of the Guardianship, came quite naturally and organically a new phase in the development of the Faith . . . "

A Great Joint Effort

"For sixteen years Shoghi Effendi never ceased to broaden our horizon and train us in Baha'i Administration, whether local or National. After that, he suddenly opened a new door. He told us, so to speak, that we were now trained enough to use our laboriously erected Administrative System for a great joint effort, an effort to carry into effect the first stages of the Divine Plan . . .

"No appraisal of the wonderful work achieved by the Baha'is the world over during this period would be complete without mention of what the Guardian himself, singlehanded, has done at the world center of the Faith in Palestine (now Israel). Aside from his constant and very heavy correspondence, with not only national and local Assemblies but with groups and individuals as well, aside from his cables and directives addressed to the Baha'is in different parts of the world, aside from his books he writes and the Baha'i literature he translates so painstakingly and beautifully, he has aided the believers financially in all of their major undertakings, in the East or the West . . . In Haifa and 'Akka, he has not only succeeded in having all the Baha'i Shrines, Pilgrim Houses and lands pertaining to them exempted from both
government and municipal taxes, but has also vastly increased the area of these endowments... The purchase of Bahá'u'lláh's mansion at Bahji, the defeat of the constant machinations of the Covenant-breakers, are but the highlights of his accomplishments at this world center of our Faith, to which flow the pilgrims and guests from every land.

"As we look back over these twenty-five years, it is with feelings of profound contentment. We Bahá'ís have matured greatly... We have stood close to that tree which shadowed all mankind, and come to realize how live and great it is, how dense its foliage, how heavy its yield of fruits — the tree of our first Guardian, our Shoghi Effendi... whose sure and patient hand is guiding it on to the great victories promised by Bahá'u'lláh for His Faith in this Century."

"In gratitude for both this mighty institution of Guardianship in which mankind has found a safe refuge in this new age, and in gratitude for this particular first Guardian, this Shoghi Effendi, let us resolve to rise to a truly higher plane of endeavor, and above a higher plane of spiritual awareness, during these coming years. We must always remember that the only real limitations we suffer are those within ourselves. Rallied closely about the center of the Cause, loving him and, in him, each other, we can, during the next quarter of a century, double our record of achievement."

Shoghi Effendi's Titanic Achievements

Looking back from the present hour we can perhaps summarize our awareness of Shoghi Effendi's titanic achievements in these terms:

1. His resistance to and victory over the cruel onslaughts of Covenant-breakers both within and outside the Holy Family itself.
2. Construction of the Shrine of the Báb, the International Archives Building, and of the gardens surrounding the Tomb of Bahá'u'lláh and adjacent to the Shrine of the Báb.
3. Training and developing the local and national Assemblies, the number of the latter having increased from two to twenty-six.
4. Defining the world-wide Ten Year Plan including the assignment of responsibility for achievement of its several tasks.
5. Appointment of members to the International Bahá'í Council.
7. Incomparable translation of Tablets and Prayers and Meditations of Bahá'u'lláh; the writing of successive letters and works illumining the meaning and scope of the Faith and its history from 1844 to 1944.

Now let us turn to those earliest, precious letters through which the beloved Guardian gave advice, encouragement and direction to the Bahá'ís of North America.

"At this early hour when the morning light is just breaking upon the Holy Land, whilst the gloom of the dear Master's bereavement is still hanging thick upon the hearts, I feel as if my soul turns in yearning love and full of hope to that great company of His loved ones across the seas, who now share with us all the agonies of His separation..."

"True, the shock has been too terrible and sudden for us all to recover from in so short a time, but whenever we recall His Sayings and read His Writings, hope springs in our hearts and gives us the peace that no other material comfort can give.

"How well I remember when, more than two years ago, the Beloved Master, turning to a distinguished visitor of His, who was seated by Him in His garden, suddenly broke the silence and said: 'My work is now done upon this plane; it is time for me to pass on to the other world.' Did He not on more than one occasion state clearly and emphatically: 'Were ye to know what will come to pass after Me, surely would ye pray that my end be hastened?' In a Tablet sent to Persia when the storm raised years ago by that Committee of Investigation was fiercely raging around Him, when the days of His incarceration were at their blackest, He revealed the following: 'Now the foundation of this all-highest Bounty and this wondrous Gift. Gradually whatsoever is latent in the innermost of this Holy Cycle shall appear and be manifest, for now is but the beginning of its growth and the dawning of the revelation of its Signs. Eee the close of this century and of this Age, it shall be made clear and manifest how wondrous was that Springtime and how heavenly was that Gift!"

"With such assuring Utterances and the unmistakable evidences of His sure and clear knowledge that His end was nigh, is there any reason why the followers of His Faith, the world over, should be perturbed? Are not the prayers He reveals for us sufficient source of inspiration to every worker in His Cause? Have not His instructions paved before us the broad and straight Path of Teaching? Will not His now doubly effective power of Grace sustain us, strengthen us and confirm us in our work for Him? Ours is the duty to strive by day and night to fulfill our own obligation and then trust in His Guidance and never failing Grace. Unity amongst the friends, selflessness in our labors in His Path, detachment from all worldly things, the greatest prudence and caution in every step we take, earnest endeavor to carry out only what is His Holy Will and Pleasure, the constant awareness of His Presence and of the example of His Life, the absolute shunning of whatsoever we feel to be an enemy of the Cause... these, and foremost among them is the need for unity, appear to me as our vital service. Should we in this spirit arise to serve Him, what sure and greater promise have we than the one His Glorious Father, Bahá'u'lláh, gives us in His Most Holy Book: 'Verily, We beheld you from Our realm of effulgent Glory, and shall graciously aid whosoever arises for the triumph of Our Cause with the hosts of the Celestial Concourse and a company of Our chosen angels.'" (January 21, 1922.)

Beloved friends! Such was the clarion call sounded by the beloved Guardian to comfort and reassure the hearts grief-stricken by the loss of the Master thirty-six years ago.

That consolation and inspiration has eternal validity, and moreover to it is added the example of Shoghi Effendi's own sacrifice and unique achievement. Honorable is the sorrow caused by the passing of a loved one, when that sorrow purifies the heart and confirms within it the supreme love — the love of God, and the resolute will to serve Him.

In our meetings with another, let us be tender and considerate; in our contacts with non-believers let us be steadfast as the rock in conviction of the victory of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh! For that Sun has arisen which shall never be followed by night.

Concerning the future guidance of our world community, information will come to us through the proper channels in due time.

—National Spiritual Assembly

November 12, 1957
Western Hemisphere Intercontinental Conference

First Announcement

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Since receiving the beloved Guardian's announcement of the series of five intercontinental conferences to be held during 1958, the National Assembly has given Shoghi Effendi's approval of dates and general arrangements.

The Chicago Conference will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 2, 3, and 4, immediately following a three-day National Convention to be held April 29, 30, and May 1.

These dates make it possible for American delegates and believers to attend both events.

The Guardian has also approved the holding of a devotional gathering in the auditorium of the House of Worship, where the precious photographs of Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb can most fittingly be exhibited by the Guardian's representative, Hand of the Cause Dr. Ugo Giachery.

The final arrangement approved by Shoghi Effendi is the holding of a public congress which undoubtedly will be scheduled for Sunday evening, May 4, as the final session of the Intercontinental Conference.

The beloved Guardian's own words impress us with the importance of this historic occasion, convened for the "five-fold purpose of offering humble thanksgiving to the Divine Author of our Faith... of reviewing and celebrating the series of signal victories... of deliberating on ways and means that will insure its triumphant consummation; and of lending simultaneously a powerful impetus... to the vital process of individual conversion... and to the construction and completion of these Mother Temples to be built in the European, the African, and Australian continents."

The Conference, while convened and held by the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, will receive the Guardian's message to the Western Hemisphere as delivered by Dr. Giachery, and will provide reports by, and consultation among, the National and Regional National Spiritual Assemblies of that same area.

The purpose of this first announcement is to make it possible for all Bahá'ís to make arrangements to attend. Travel and hotel or other arrangements are to be made by the individual believer for himself.

Guests of the National Assembly will be provided with hotel accommodations on arrival.

Those who attended the historic Jubilee Celebrations in 1953 will recall not merely the vivid episodes of the extensive program, including dedication of the House of Worship on behalf of the Guardian by Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum, but above all the power of the spirit engendered which enabled us to transcend local and national Bahá'í areas of interest and activity, and attain a realization of the universal, the global significance of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

"The holding of this second series of Intercontinental Conferences... signals the opening of the fourth phase of the Ten-Year Plan." What higher privilege is offered a human being today?

—as National Spiritual Assembly

Give Address Change to NSA Promptly to Receive Bahá'í Mail

The volume of work at the National Bahá'í Administrative Headquarters now makes it impossible for the administrative staff to assume the responsibility of following up any returned issues of Bahá'í News in an effort to ascertain the new address of any believer who has moved and left no forwarding address, or who has made no arrangements for having his News held or forwarded during a temporary absence.

Hereafter, when a Bahá'í News is returned, the address will be withdrawn from the mailing list until such time as the believer himself furnishes the new address and ten cents to cover the cost of re-mailing each issue that was returned.

In other words, we must now depend upon the believers themselves to assume responsibility for keeping the National Spiritual Assembly informed of all permanent or temporary changes of address that may affect the receipt of their Bahá'í mail and their proper listing on the State Convention voting lists.

—as National Spiritual Assembly

Texas Parochial School Recognizes Bahá'í Holy Days

The All Saints Teller School, All Saints Episcopal Church, Fort Worth, Texas, has given permission to Bahá'í children to be absent on Bahá'í Holy Days.

—as National Spiritual Assembly
Two members of the Temple Committee, with the architect and the levelling contractor, standing in the position of the center of the Temple and facing the Qiblih.

Musa Banani, Hand of the Cause, and Ali Nakhjavani, Auxiliary Board member and Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa, standing on the site of the Temple.

The Temple site levelled in preparation for the commencement of the foundations contract.

Prepare Land at Kampala for Construction of Mother Temple of Africa

Men and machinery prepare the access road to the Temple site.
Europe

SUMMER SCHOOL PREPARES FRANCE FOR FORMATION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Sanary-Sur-Mer, a picturesque port nestled along the curving shoreline of the Mediterranean Sea, was the scene of the historic gathering of France’s third Bahá’í Summer School, held from September 1 to 6, 1957.

Sunny skies and tropical surroundings added their charm to this region, one of the most beautiful in southern France.

The friends were housed in the Hotel du Parc, where all sessions of the conference and school also met.

The first two days of the school were devoted to a teaching conference on the theme, “France and the World Crusade.” At the opening session we listened to Dr. Hermann Grossmann, Hand of the Cause, read a prayer. The bounty of his presence gave this conference special significance and an atmosphere of rare spirituality.

Joel Marangella, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause, acting as Chairman, then greeted the assembled believers on behalf of the Summer School Committee, and asked for a roll call. This roll call revealed that there were 39 adults, 2 youth, and 3 children present, representing the cities of Lyon, Chateauroux, Chatellerault, Orleans, Paris, Strasbourg, Nice, and Marseille in France; and believers from Germany, Belgium, Austria, Holland, the United States, Kenya, Belgian Congo, and Madagascar.

Much love was evident in the hearts and on the faces of those from each center as they arose to give their names. A further blessing was the fact that among them there were many new French believers who were attending their first summer school.

Dr. Grossmann, speaking in English, gave some inspirational opening words. He remarked on the great change which had taken place in France since his visit of two years ago. He compared the cold winter of that time to the growth of the teaching work, and pointed out how it had developed into the warm springtime of spiritual blossoming.
and development. He hoped that this great surge of spiritual enthusiasm would soon bring forth the summer with all its fruits.

He pointed out that France would have a special opportunity with the new National Spiritual Assembly which is to be formed during Ridván 1958, and that this achievement would require much effort, as only a few months remain.

In closing, Dr. Grossmann said he hoped that this conference would strengthen us for the time ahead, and help us to enter next year with strong communities, as well as a strong National Assembly.

Reports on Goals

Later in the conference reports were called for from representatives of Assemblies and groups on "The Goals in France and the Actual Progress."

"The Goals in France" provided a theme for much consideration. Mr. Marangella reminded us that our beloved Guardian had announced at the Stockholm conference the goals for Europe. We were told at that time that our assemblies must be quadrupled during the Crusade, meaning that eight would be needed by 1963. Also, that our other goals were the establishment of the National Spiritual Assembly, the acquisition of the Haziratu'l-Quds and the National Endowment, and the achievement of National Incorporation.

In conclusion Mr. Marangella pointed out that we have already achieved two of these goals, namely the Haziratu'l-Quds in Paris which will become national when the National Assembly is formed, and the National Endowment.

Shoghi Effendi has specified that France will form its National Spiritual Assembly during the mid-point of the Crusade, and has designated certain cities in France as goal cities. These are Orleans, Marseilles, Bordeaux, Strasbourg, Metz, Dijon, Nancy, Poitiers, and Lille. With the recent settlement of Miss Honor Kempton in Nancy, Mrs. Amelia Bowman in Strasbourg, and Mr. Charles Somers in Metz, all goals have been opened except Dijon.

At the Sunday evening session on September 1, Dr. Grossmann was most informative in discussing questions put to us during our teaching efforts. He answered such questions as: What is the difference between good and evil? Does God answer every prayer? What is soul and spirit? Why should we pray? What is obedience?

He pointed out that when a soul becomes a Bahá'í it is changed, and it will attract everything in a different way.

The Monday morning session was given over to Louis Henuzet, member of the Auxiliary Board, who gave an illuminating and comprehensive presentation on the Administrative Order.

That afternoon 35 of us travelled by chartered bus to the nearby city of Marseilles for a public meeting at the Foyer-Theatre Massalia. Mr. Henuzet gave a brilliant talk on "Which to Choose: Science or Religion?" Seventy-two persons attended this meeting.

In recalling the spirit of the entire week, these words came to mind: "Know thou of a certainty that Love is the secret of God's holy Dispensation, the manifestation of the All-Merciful, the fountain of spiritual outpourings. Love is heaven's kindly light, the Holy Spirit's eternal breath that vivifies the human soul." (The Divine Art of Living, page 108.)

We had, one and all, been refreshed at the fountain of that love, and our souls were truly vivified and illumined. As we journeyed homeward, we were resolved that we would accomplish more than ever this year.

—AYNED McCOMB

Correction

The United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Conference in Rome, Italy, reported in Bahá'í News for September on page 10, was held at the Food and Agriculture Administration headquarters instead of Foreign Affairs Office. The error was due to a misinterpretation of abbreviations used by Dr. Ugo Giachery in his report.
HAIL NEWSLETTERS FROM LAND OF FAITH'S BIRTH

Plans for a regular newsletter from Iran have been received with joy and thanksgiving by National Assemblies in many lands, and many of their national news publications have been reprinting information from the first two issues of this newsletter received to date.

Written over the signature of A. Furutan, secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Iran, the newsletter conveys heart-warming assurances of the steady spread of the Faith in the land of its birth despite the recent persecutions by the Iranian government.

Following are excerpts from these first two issues of the Iranian Baha'i News:

Baha'is are at present serving the Cause of God in more than 1000 centers throughout Iran. In 1955, when the persecutions began, there were 100 centers throughout Iran. Considering the difficult circumstances under which the friends were working, this is a tremendous achievement, even to a degree that the beloved Guardian has congratulated them.

The restrictions and persecutions of the friends that started in Iran in 1955 are gradually subsiding. The government agreed to return all the Baha'i Hazratu'l-Quds, even the National Hajiratu'l-Quds in Tehran, but no meetings are yet held in these buildings.

The news of the activities and victorious accomplishments of the friends in other parts of the world are regularly translated and sent out to all the Baha'i communities in Iran, so that they may rejoice in the success of their spiritual brethren.

In Touch With World Center

One fortunate circumstance that compensates for all the persecutions of the friends in Iran is the constant communication with the World Center of the Cause of God and the beloved Guardian.

Cables from the Guardian, messages from the revered Hands of the Cause residing in the Holy Land, communications of the International Baha'i Council, and letters of the Eastern Secretary of that Council, conveying the instructions of the Guardian, have been regularly received.

Each year a great number of the friends from Iran, and particularly from Tehran, go on holy pilgrimage, and on their return bring messages, instructions, and glad-tidings from the beloved Guardian. Since the friends in Iran very eagerly meet with these pilgrims, the glad-tidings from the Holy Land are conveyed to a great number of friends.

During the past year 64 persons from Iran have gone on holy pilgrimage and returned to gladden the hearts of the friends with their messages and news from the Holy Land.

In the same period 32 pilgrims from Iraq made the pilgrimage under a schedule of the Iranian National Spiritual Assembly, which is responsible for the administration of the Faith in Iraq.

Letters From Pioneers

Many letters from Persian pioneers throughout the world have been received by the National Assembly. Here is a sample of such letters. Dr. Rahmat Mahajir is one of the Baha'i pioneers who is also the spiritual conqueror of Mentawai Islands. The names of this beloved friend and his dear wife are registered on the Roll of Honor.

He writes: "In Sipapajet, one of the Mentawai villages, a Baha'i School has been established and named 'Tarbiyyat' after the Baha'i School of Tehran which was closed by the Government in 1933. Mr. Samurry, one of the native Baha'is who is a very learned person, has resigned his position as a teacher in the government schools, and is teaching the native Baha'is in the Baha'i School.

"The children and the villagers are all very happy. So is he of this achievement of his. Baha'is of other villages complain that Mr. Samurry has not been given to them. These same natives, who value education so much, compete in persuading a teacher to go to their village, whereas before embracing the Faith did not want schools and said, 'God has given us capra and chickens, what do we want with education? Our children eat these and grow up.' Now these same people build a house for the teacher.

"We are trying to establish Baha'i schools in every village, even though they may only have one or two grades.

"Mr. Jamshid Ma'ani, one of the Persian pioneers in Indonesia, has volunteered, with the approval of the National Spiritual Assembly of South East Asia, to come to Mentawai and spend two years in these islands serving the Cause and educating Baha'i children. He is very successful in the service of God, and will soon bear the responsibility for one of the Baha'i villages all by himself.

"Mr. Rustam Payman is another Persian pioneer who is serving these islands with utmost sincerity, and the natives almost worship him. One of the villages has been named 'Rustamabad' after him. He is going to assume total responsibility for one of the villages."
Mr. Ventura Rodriuez then read the following tenderly stirring message of the Guardian, written to the Iberian believers in his own hand, on July 2, 1957, but indeed a galvanizing stimulus to all who labor for the Faith wherever they might be:

"The recent achievements of my dearly loved friends, labouring so devotedly in the Iberian Peninsula, has filled my heart with feelings of joyous admiration and profound thankfulness. I cannot but marvel at their consecration, their fidelity, their perseverance and untiring endeavours for the furtherance of so glorious a Cause.

"The Plan, with which their spiritual destiny is so closely bound up, must be prosecuted with inflexible resolve and utter dedication to its aims and purposes. They must not rest for a second, and, with hearts afire with the love of God and fixed on the ideals of His infinitely precious Faith, must labour systematically and unitedly until all the objectives of the Plan they now prosecute with such noble determination are achieved.

"Upon the discharge of their present responsibilities must depend to a large extent the enlargement of the scope of their glorious mission, and the initiation of a still more momentous stage in the evolution of their institutions within the orbit of our glorious Faith.

"Thiers is a mighty and sacred responsibility which they must not, under any circumstance, abandon or neglect. Thiers is a priceless opportunity which they must seize with promptitude and eagerness, and utilize to the utmost until that responsibility is fully and befittingly discharged.

"The Concourse on High watches over them, ready to vouchsafe its aid and confer its blessing on their valiant and concerted endeavours. The Author of the Divine Plan will, as promised by Him in His epoch-making Tablets, assist them to surmount whatever obstacles they may encounter in their path, and crown their historic enterprise with a resounding victory. The Founder of the Faith, Himself, will not fail to reward them, in His Own Kingdom, and in accordance with His wisdom and bounty, for their share in the furtherance of the interests of His world encompassing Order, and to exalt them amidst the company of..."
His immortal saints and heroes dwelling in the Abhá Kingdom.

"That they may prove themselves worthy of their high calling, that they may excite, by the quality and range of their achievements, the admiration of their brothers in all the continents of the globe, that they may hasten, by the very nature of their exertions, the advent of the day when they will have entered upon a still more exalted stage in their collective advancement on the high road of their destiny—is a prayer that I will continue to offer with all the fervour of my soul, at the Threshold of His Most Holy Shrine." - Virginia Orbison

A signed message from the Hands of the Cause in America, Mrs. Corinne True, Mr. Horace Holley, and Mr. Paul Haney, was read, followed by messages from the National Spiritual Assemblies of the U.S., and Iberia, as well as the various local spiritual assemblies. Loving gifts were acknowledged, among these being a large framed portrait of the Master, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, from the Azores Group; a beautiful photograph album with historic pictures from the Oporto friends; a precious framed Greatest Name given by an Oporto friend; a beautiful leather-worked Greatest Name brought by Joel Marangella.

Carlos Salomão, vice chairman of the Lisbon Spiritual Assembly, raised a prayer that the Faith in Portugal would grow fast and strong, and as straight as the little green cypress about to be planted in the nine-sided pool. With the triumphant "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the friends filed outside to the garden to plant the tree, to take photographs, and then to partake of material food to balance the abundant spiritual feast.

The first part of the afternoon was devoted to the celebration of the Anniversary of the birth of the Bab, with prayers and a short talk by José Serra. At four o'clock on this joyous day a first Summer School under National auspices was held as a result of the Guardian's recent instructions to hold more such reunions even though very small. Virginia Orbison, member of the National Teaching Committee, presided, and short but instructive discourses were given by Angelo Carneiro, who gave a masterly introduction to the Faith with logical and persuasive argument; Joaquim Cunha, who read a paper on the 12 principles; Joel Marangella, who spoke on the importance of the Summer Schools and teaching; and Carlos Salomão, who spoke movingly on the spiritual aspects of the Bahá'í Faith.

After tea and a social time, the friends took leave of each other with glowing faces reflecting new and promise-laden resolves for the fulfilling of all of the goals of the Ten-Year Plan and the triumph of Bahá'u'lláh's Faith in Portugal. A cable was sent to the beloved Guardian assuring him of the love of the friends and of their renewed impulse to go forward on this day of the Dedication of the Ḥazíratu'l-Quds of Lisbon, the Anniversary of the Bab, October 20, 1857-144.

—Virginia Orbison

Germany, Austria

DIFFICULTIES CONTINUE ON TEMPLE SITE

The negotiations for the Temple site at Diederben/Thunus have been continued with the Government of Hesse, the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria reports.

Unfortunately another difficulty has arisen which seems insurmountable. The projected building would be standing too close to a beacon, which will be enlarged, for directing the airplanes so that the authorities of the airport had to refuse their approval, for strictly technical reasons.

A definite answer, however, has not yet been received as it is channelled through the Government. In all probability the fact must be faced that another location has to be found.

The Temple design was further developed in order to meet with the requests of the Guardian and reconcile the desired building with the restrictions put up by the authorities. The present plans seem to meet with these two requirements.

North East Asia

FIRST SUMMER SCHOOL HELD IN KOREA

Anticipated by three preceding winter and summer conferences in that same city, the first Bahá'í Summer School of Korea took place in Kwangju, Korea, September 28, 29, and 30, having been called into being by the beloved Guardian in his message to the first Bahá'í Convention of North East Asia as one of the goals of the Six-Year Plan for that area.
Exceeding both in the depth of the teaching offered and in the maturity of the believers attending any previous gathering of Baha'is in Korea, the session began on a serious note when early the first day Hand of the Cause of God Agnes Alexander slipped and fell on the stone steps of the meeting place, spraining her ankle. But the prayers of the following morning brought unity as well as healing, and the school continued with an ever-deepening tone.

The talk by William Maxwell on the successive purifications of the Water of Life; the reading and explanation of the "Tablet of Carmel" by Noureddin Momtazi and his recounting of his experiences in meeting both 'Abdu'l-Baha and the Guardian in different times, places, and conditions; the reading and elucidation of portions of the "Will and Testament" of 'Abdu'l-Baha and the explanation of the Guardianship by Hand of the Cause Miss Alexander, as well as her very presence itself—a blessing to this opening school unequalled in the history of any of the previous conferences—these stand out as the most memorable aspects of an entirely successful and unforgettable "summer" school. And the following cablegram from the beloved Guardian revealed the reason for its success: "Delighted. Assure attendants fervent prayers extension activities consolidation newly born institution. Deepest love."

—WILLIAM H. MAXWELL

Central and East Africa

SIGN CONTRACT FOR FOUNDATION OF AFRICA TEMPLE

On October 22, 1957, the contract for the building of the foundations of the Mother Temple of Africa was signed. This initial contract will cover the building of the Temple to the floor level, including the exterior steps. There have been a number of unfortunate delays which now seem to be behind us, and the building will go ahead with all speed.

During the three months estimated for this preliminary foundations work, all drawings for the main contract will have been completed and submitted to those Government authorities directly concerned with such work, and whose approval must be granted; bills of quantity will have been finalized; the main contractor chosen, and contracts signed.

On the site of the Temple there is no water, so after considering all aspects, it was decided to make arrangements for the sinking of a bore-hole. Drilling for this has already commenced, and when water is struck a considerable saving in the cost of the Temple is envisaged. Kampala is greatly honored, for before the foundations work is completed, during the African Intercontinental Conference in January 1958, Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum will place in the foundations a portion of the precious earth from the inmost Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh. Also in the foundations will be placed, by the revered Hand of the Cause Musa Banání, a casket containing a small quantity of the plaster from the ceiling of the room in the fortress of Mák-Kú, where the Báb was imprisoned.

Shortly after this great occasion, work on the main building is scheduled to commence, and it is hoped that the Temple will be completed by March 1959.

—PHILIP HAINSWORTH

South East Asia

PUBLICATIONS IN FIVE LANGUAGES COMPLETED

Five languages are represented in new publications announced by the National Spiritual Assembly of South East Asia. They include:

Message of Bahá'u'lláh or Adajaran Bahá'u'lláh published in the Indonesian language; Bahá'í Faith—A Faith for Unity in the Tolaraja language; Bahá'í Teachings for a World Faith published in the Batak and Javi languages; and Buddha and Amitabha in Chinese.

In addition, the work of reviewing the translation of Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era into the Indonesian language is nearing completion, and it is hoped that the printing will be completed in the near future.
Australia

ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED TO CONSTRUCT SCHOOL

The pioneer in New Hebrides, Mrs. Bertha Dobbins, has conducted a school in her home at Port Vila which has been recognized by the Guardian as one of three Baha’i schools in the Pacific area. She recently has received notice to vacate her residence there.

To insure the continuance of this school, the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia has established a “New Hebrides Endowment.” At least £2500 is required in order to purchase land and construct a building suitable for use as a residence and school for Mrs. Dobbins for the preservation of this historic enterprise.

North East Africa

TRANSLATE “25 YEARS OF GUARDIANSHIP” INTO ARABIC

The National Translation and Reviewing Committee of the North East Africa National Spiritual Assembly has published the translation of “Twenty-Five Years of the Guardianship” by Ruḥiyih Khánum into the Arabic language.

Wide distribution has been undertaken, the National Assembly reports, to enable the friends to understand more fully the institution of the Guardianship, leading to a better understanding of the Faith and greater loyalty to the Sign of God on Earth.

EGYPT, SUDAN BAHÁ’IS INSPIRED BY VISIT OF HAND OF CAUSE

During the month of October the friends of Egypt and of the Sudan had the privilege of a visit from the Hand of the Cause in Africa, Mr. Musa Banání, Mrs. Banání, and Auxiliary Board Member Aziz Yazdí. On the instructions of the beloved Guardian, Mr. Banání cheered the friends with the glad tidings of the progress of the Cause in the African Continent as well as in the Pacific Ocean areas.

The news of the initiative steps to construct the Bahá’í Temple in Kampala, heart of the African Continent, was a source of greater momentum to the desire of the friends to keep pace with the march of the World Crusade, filling them with renewed energy to serve faithfully toward the great Jubilee of 1963.

Mr. Banání met with the National Spiritual Assembly as well as the Local Spiritual Assemblies of Cairo, Port-Said, and Alexandria. As a result of these meetings many of the friends took immediate steps to pioneer.

BADI BUSHRUI

Northwest Africa

CONTACT KABYL BERBERS, MUSLIMS OF M’ZAB

Northwest Africa Bahá’í News has published an account of the visit of Mr. Attar, the Regional Teaching Committee secretary, of Algiers, to Bone, where during four days he contacted some Kabyl Berbers, who showed interest in the Faith.

The highlight of this teaching trip by Mr. Attar was his visit to M’zab, 600 kilometers south of Algiers, where no previous Bahá’í had set foot. Some of the Algiers contacts were in M’zab. Mr. Attar taught the Faith to many people, among whom was the chief religious man, who is the head of the progressive Muslims of M’zab. Two hours were spent in talking with him, and Mr. Attar left copies of the Kitáb-i-Íqán and A Traveller’s Narrative.

Mr. Attar wrote: “And in this way I taught the Faith discreetly or plainly, and gave proofs of the authenticity of the Blessed Perfection in their meetings or Feasts either individually or collectively. In all, the Faith was taught to more than 200 persons, but the number with whom I had direct contact and to whom I had spoken a few times is 27.”

One contact embraced the Faith and said he would come to declare in Algiers, while six others are very near declaration.

Alaska

FIVE NSA MEMBERS TO PIONEER

Five members of the National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska, newly formed last April, have made decisions to pioneer.

Robert Moul and his family will move to Nome in southeastern Alaska; Warren and Kathy Rodgers will move to Nome; and Verne and Janet Stout will move to the goal area of Malanusa Valley, 50 miles northwest of Anchorage.

Nome is a goal for the formation of a local assembly by next April, and at present has only one pioneer; the goals to be filled by these friends are virgin areas.

National Assembly Incorporated

A further goal of the World Crusade was attained on September 25, 1957, with the signing of the legal papers for the incorporation of the National Spiritual Assembly by the office of the Attorney General in Juneau.

Temple Site Land Approved

The National Assembly also reports that the Guardian has approved the three-acre gift tract of land for a Temple site, reported in Bahá’í News for September.
"Not By The Force of Numbers..."

Not by the force of numbers, not by the mere exposition of a set of new and noble principles, not by an organized campaign of teaching — no matter how widespread and elaborate in its character — not even by the staunchness of our faith or the exaltation of our enthusiasm, can we ultimately hope to vindicate in the eyes of a critical and sceptical age the supreme claim of the Bahá’í Revelation. One thing and only one thing will unfailingly and alone secure the undoubted triumph of this sacred Cause, namely, the extent to which our own inner life and private character mirror forth in their manifold aspects the splendor of those eternal principles proclaimed by Bahá’u’lláh.

—SHOGHI EFFENDI, Bahá’í Administration, p. 66

This is the story of Jay, through whose example and devotion a capable, dedicated soul has been won for service to Bahá’u’lláh and His Cause in another land.

Jay is almost 80 years of age. For many months he was in the county hospital recovering from broken bones and severe bruises after having been struck by a motorist. He lives alone, in one small room, and he does his own shopping.

One day a passerby, a business visitor from a South American country, saw Jay struggling on his way home with a bag of groceries, with a cane to help support his still-weak leg. He assisted Jay to his room, and after they had visited a few minutes Jay asked his visitor “the question.” The stranger was at once so interested that he stayed for almost an hour asking questions, and departed with a few Bahá’í pamphlets.

A few days later the young man returned, asked more questions, and again left with literature. The next week Jay invited him to go to the fireside of another believer, and here his eager interest became an inspiration to the group of Bahá’ís and non-Bahá’ís studying the teachings together. Within a few weeks he was completely convinced of the validity, the aims, and the purposes of the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh and applied to the local spiritual assembly for enrollment, that he might return to his home fully prepared to play his part in the consolidation of this new Faith in his own city and country.

A war refugee from Central Europe to South America, and sent to the United States by his business firm for specialized training, this young man found through this “chance” acquaintance the real purpose of life shining through the broken pattern of his past, and it is Jay, whom he loves as a father, who gave him the key.

This is a glowing example of the truth that everywhere there are ready souls waiting to receive the Message and that no Bahá’í is ever too old, too feeble, too poor, to attract and win for Bahá’u’lláh new “recruits” with the fire and capacity to spread the Light of His Cause in places and lands far beyond the reach of him who mentions the blessed Name of His Lord.


TWO EDITIONS OF CATALOG AVAILABLE FROM BAHÁ’Í PUBLISHING TRUST

The new general catalog is now available from the Bahá’í Publishing Trust, and is being sent to all local librarians, national committees, and isolated Bahá’ís who have accounts with the Publishing Trust. Extra copies will be included in next ship­ments of book orders for local libra­rians to furnish to their local commit­tees. This general edition of the cata­log includes everything available at time of its publication. It is not inten­ted for distribution to contacts, bookstores, or anyone except Bahá’ís who order literature, as it contains many Teaching and Administrative aids of no interest to non-Bahá’ís.

All new publishing items, or items going out of print, as well as any price changes, are listed regularly in BAHÁ’Í NEWS and catalogs should be kept current from this source of in­formation which is readily accessible to everyone.

Special Edition Prepared for Bookstores and Contacts

A special, briefer edition of the Bahá’í Literature Catalog has now been made available for furnishing to the book trade (bookstores, dealers, etc.), and also for giving to contacts who are seriously interested in ordering Bahá’í books.

The Publishing Trust receives many requests from communities and individuals concerning information on handling of Bahá’í books by a local bookstore. There is no reason why a local assembly should not encourage the handling of Bahá’í books by a local bookstore, or suggest titles most likely to be in de­mand from the public. From this point on, however, the bookstore should deal directly with the Publishing Trust. The local assembly

should in no way act as a supplier or dealer, since it is a non-profit or­ganization stocking literature solely for its own religious purposes. Either the book dealer can write direct to the Publishing Trust in Wilmette for information, or the local as­sembly can furnish the Trust with the name and address of the book dealer. In either case the necessary information, together with the special catalog, will be sent to the book dealer direct.

Most bookstores are aware of the source for ordering Bahá’í books through ads and listings of titles in The Trade List Annual, Books In Print, The Pu.blisher’s Weekly, and other trade reference sources.

Bahá’ís desiring copies of this special edition of the catalog for inter­ested contacts may order them through their local librarians at cost price of $.10 per copy. (See Publishing Trust section).

LIST COLLEGES NEEDING STUDENT PIONEERS

The College Bureau now has a list of colleges where Bahá’í students are needed. It would be appreciated if all students interested in going to col·lege next fall or transferring at the end of the semester would contact the College Bureau, P. O. Box 856, Stanford, Calif. This is a chance for students who want to pioneer at home while still in school.

This Committee still has not heard from all students enrolled in univer­sities and colleges. It would be ap­preciated if every student would write immediately.
SUNDAY MORNING LSA MEETINGS SUGGESTED

An unusual solution to the problem of finding enough time for local spiritual assembly and committee meetings without detracting from teaching activities has been suggested by the Birmingham, Ala., Local Spiritual Assembly.

"In our efforts to give adequate time to local spiritual assembly meetings and other planning work, and still not detract from the time and effort we wish to give to actual teaching, we feel that we have struck on an excellent compromise.

"We hold one major assembly meeting at 9:30 a.m. the first Sunday of every month. We feel that in this way we come to our consultation fresh and unhurried. In addition to this, the assembly members meet for a brief (one-half hour) meeting preceding each Nineteen Day Feast.

"In this way we can keep our work up-to-date, take care of any urgent things that may come up, and still not take away an evening or other time which could otherwise be given to other activities."

BAHA'I IN THE NEWS

Yakima Herald, Sunday, June 23, 1957, published a feature story by Velma Baylor on the artistic career of Mrs. Victor de Araujo, with a photo of the artist seated at her easel. "Both Mr. and Mrs. de Araujo are active in the Bahá’í Faith and take part in study classes and firesides."

"Elijah’s Mountain Today" is the title of an article on Mount Carmel by Paula Arnold published in The Evening Sun, Baltimore, Md., on May 30, 1957. "Easily the most spectacular building on Mount Carmel, however, is not any of the churches mentioned, but the Bahá’í Temple (i.e., Shrine of the Bab) with its golden cupola, standing halfway up the Mount, above landscaped gardens, visible from every point of the town."

Mercer Cross, Minneapolis Tribune staff writer, devoted considerable space to an article on the Faith in the Morning Tribune of May 27, 1957, under the title "Bahá’ís Stress Unity." "The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens." So reads the message over one of the entrances to the beautiful ornate temple of Wilmette, Illinois. It is the basic message of the Bahá’í world faith, a little-understood religion that believes in the eventual coming together of all races, nations, classes and creeds."

Under the caption "World Melting Pot of Faiths" the Chicago American on October 24, 1957, published an article from Jerusalem which stated that "Haifa is world headquarters for the Bahá’í Faith, whose American Temple is located in Wilmette."

The Delta Trading Co., Inc., of Tel-Aviv, Israel, has produced a beautifully illustrated Jewish calendar with an illustration facing each month. For December 1957 the illustration is a large photograph of the Bahá’í International Archives building overlooking the Bay of Haifa.

The Publishers’ Auxiliary for October 19, 1957, lists the special events for 1958, January through June, taken from the list compiled by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. World Religion Day appears as of January 19.


On October 12, 1957, the Bahá’ís of Little Rock, Ark., published the statement on "The Oneness of Mankind" as a paid advertisement. This message appeared in the very center of the agitation against race integration. Already requests for literature have been received in Wilmette from seekers in Arkansas.

Los Gatos Times—Saratoga Observer, August 23, 1957, announced that Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Lissner, recently returned from Nigeria, would present a program at the home of Mrs. Hansen, Kings Acres. The Lissners were described as members of the Bahá’í World Faith.

Paris (France) Presse l’intransigeant, March 21, 1957, reproduced from the Frankfurter Rundschau an article reporting that the German Bahá’ís, after purchasing a Temple site near Frankfurt, would be obliged to await a permit by decision of the regional court.
On November 3, 1957, the Chicago Sunday Tribune published an article reporting the decision of the court approving the construction of the Bahá’í Home in Wilmette and announcing plans for an early beginning of construction. The Cook County Circuit Court upheld the permit given to the Bahá’í Temple Trustees by the Village Board after approving a variation in the zoning.

What We Believe

If we are not sure what we believe, then the fault is our own. The responsibility rests with each one of us to acquire a sound basic knowledge of Bahá’í teachings and Bahá’í history so that we may have in our minds the complete picture ready for presentation to anyone who is interested. It must be an accurate picture and it can be an accurate picture if we are willing to make the effort.

—Australian Bahá’í Bulletin

1958 Bahá’í Calendar. Our 1958 calendar carries the four-color reproduction of the Shrine of the Báb which was originally selected as the frontispiece in Bahá’í World Vol. XII by the beloved Guardian.

Due to increase in production costs on this limited item, we are forced to raise the price slightly above that appearing in our current catalog.

Per copy ................. $ .30 Net
Ten copies ............... $2.50 Net
(Please note the net price, which means no discount)

Sample Pamphlet Kit. Here is a kit made up of one copy each of our most useful teaching pamphlets. This will enable every Bahá’í who is ready and willing to teach the Cause, to be completely aware of and acquainted with the many splendid pamphlets and brochures with their variety of approaches to the Teachings, suitable for every contact, fireside, or public meeting. (This kit supersedes the smaller sized kit of recent years made up of only 10 titles).

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<td>Bahá’í Handbooks</td>
<td>4 copies</td>
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<td>Baha'i Answers</td>
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Reduced Price

Bahá’í Answers. Due to the excellent response to this most useful item and a cost reduction on a large lot printing just made, a new lower price is offered. The larger lot prices listed on this and other pamphlets should also be available to individuals in the local community through their local book distribution service. The small unit price on ten copies remains the same.

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Going out of Print

The following titles are low in stock and do not appear in new catalog. If copies are desired they should be ordered quickly.

The Lesser and the Most Great Peace. By George Latimer. The evolution of world peace as outlined in the Bahá’í teachings.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEASTS
December 12—Masá’il (Questions)
December 31—Sharaf (Honor)

STATE CONVENTIONS
December 8

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
December 10—To proclaim the Bahá’í principles of justice for all mankind.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
January 3, 4, 5

Bahá’í House of Worship

Visiting Hours

Weekdays
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Entire building)

Service of Worship

Sundays
3:00 p.m., lasting until 4:15.

BAHA’I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHA’I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1957-58: Mrs. Eunice Braun, chairman; Miss Charlotte Linfoot, secretary; Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Proclamation by the Hands of the Cause
to the Baha’is of East and West

Beloved Friends:

Nine days had not yet elapsed after the interment of the sacred remains of our beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, in London, when the Hands of the Cause, to the number of twenty-six, assembled at the World Center of the Faith, in our capacity as “Chief Stewards of the Embryonic World Commonwealth of Bahá’u’lláh,” to consult together on the most tragic situation facing the Baha’is since the Ascension of ‘Abdu’l-Baha, and to take all necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard the highest interests of our Faith.

On November 18th the Hands conducted a Memorial Meeting at Bahji, in the Haram-i-Aqdas surrounding the most sacred Shrine in the Bahá’í world, afterward entering the Holy Tomb itself and prostrating ourselves in utter humility at the Sacred Threshold.

On the following morning, November 19th, nine Hands of the Cause, selected from the Holy Land and the several continents of East and West, with ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Ruhiyyih Khánum, broke the seals placed upon the beloved Guardian’s safe and desk and made careful examination of their precious contents. These same Hands, rejoining the other Hands assembled in the Mansion of Bahá’u’lláh at Bahji, certified that Shoghi Effendi had left no Will and Testament. It was likewise certified that the beloved Guardian had left no heir. The Aghsán (branches) one and all are either dead or have been declared violators of the Covenant by the Guardian for their faithlessness to the Master’s Will and Testament and their hostility to him named first Guardian in that sacred document.

The first effect of the realization that no successor to Shoghi Effendi could have been appointed by him was to plunge the Hands of the Cause into the very abyss of despair. What must happen to the world community of his devoted followers if the Leader, the Inspirer; the Planner of all Bahá’í activities in all countries and islands of the seas could no longer fulfill his unique mission?

Guardian’s Life of Complete Sacrifice

From this dark abyss, however, contemplation of the Guardian’s own life of complete sacrifice and his peerless services gradually redeemed our anguished hearts. Shoghi Effendi himself, we know, would have been the first to remind the Hands and the widespread body of the believers, that the Dispensation of Bahá’u’lláh has quickened those powers and resources of faith within mankind which will achieve the unity of the peoples and the triumph of His World Order. In this new light of understanding the company of the Hands could perceive with heightened gratitude the existence of those innumerable blessings which Shoghi Effendi had created and left as his true legacy to all Bahá’ís.

Has not the World Center, with its sacred Shrines and institutions, been firmly established? Has not the Message been established in 254 countries and dependencies? Have not the National and Regional Spiritual Assemblies, forerunners of the Universal House of Justice, been implanted in twenty-six great areas of all continents? Has not the Guardian left us not only his incomparable translations, for English-reading Bahá’ís, of the Bahá’í Sacred Literature but also his own master works of interpretation which disclose to us the unshatterable edifice of evolving Bahá’í Order and world community? Has not the Guardian, building upon the enduring foundation of the Master’s Tablets
of the Divine Plan, created the World Crusade to guide our work until 1963?

Has not the Guardian, moreover, in his mysterious insight into the present and future needs of the Bahá'í Community, called into being the International Bahá'í Council and the company of twenty-seven Hands with their Auxiliary Boards, whom in his final communication to the Bahá'ís, he designated “Chief Stewards of the Embryonic World Commonwealth of Bahá'u'lláh”?

Foundations of World Order Strongly Laid

Such reflections could but, in such a world-shattering experience as all Bahá'ís have this month endured, reveal to us how strongly Shoghi Effendi has laid the foundations of the world order of Bahá'u'lláh through the appointments of Hands of the Cause and likewise the appointment of the International Bahá'í Council, the institution destined to evolve into the Universal House of Justice.

In our capacity of Chief Stewards of the Embryonic World Commonwealth of Bahá'u'lláh, we Hands of the Cause have constituted a body of nine Hands to serve at the Bahá'í World Center. This body of nine Hands will energetically deal with the protection of the Faith whenever attacks, whether from within or outside the Bahá'í community, are reported by Hands from their areas or by National or Regional Assemblies, or whether they arise within the Holy Land. Correspondence will likewise be maintained with the Hands of the Cause working in the several continents. This same body will correspond with National Assemblies on matters connected with the prosecution of the objectives of the Ten Year Plan. On matters involving administrative questions this same body will assist National Assemblies by citing those passages of the Bahá'í Sacred Literature which direct the Assemblies to a sound solution.

As to the International Bahá'í Council, appointed by the Guardian and heralded in his communications to the Bahá'í world, that body will in the course of time finally fulfill its purpose through the formation of the Universal House of Justice, that supreme body upon which infallibility, as the Master's Testament assures us, is divinely conferred: “The source of all good and freed from all error.” The main work of the Council has been to act as the Guardian's representative in matters involving the Israeli government and its courts of law.

Our Most Precious Legacy

Beloved friends! Is not the most precious legacy bequeathed to us all by Shoghi Effendi the privilege of constancy in the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh and devotion in teaching His Message? This is the heartfelt plea we direct to every Bahá'í: The hour has come, as it came with the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, when true Bahá'ís will be distinguished by their firmness in the Covenant and their spiritual radiance while pressing forward the mighty work committed to every area of the world community,—to every individual Bahá'í! For now our implacable opponents may, and probably will, unleash attacks, assuming in their ignorance that the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh is weakened and defenceless. By consecration of spirit we are armed against all manner of assault and we hold the weapon of faith with which the triumph of the Guardian's aims and purposes is assured.

The Hands of the Cause, determined to carry out every aspect of the Guardian's expressed wishes and hopes, call upon the National Assemblies to proceed with the holding of the Intercontinental Conferences which Shoghi Effendi has planned for 1958, and make each of them a great rallying-point of determination to achieve the tasks of the next phase of the World Crusade. We are, moreover, to keep ever before us the other tasks fixed in the Ten Year Plan as objectives to be won by 1963.

Evolution of International Bahá'í Council

Meanwhile the entire body of the Hands assembled by the nine Hands of the World Center will decide when and how the International Bahá'í Council is to evolve through the successive stages outlined by the Guardian, culminating in the call to election of the Universal House of Justice by the membership of all National Spiritual Assemblies.

When that divinely ordained body comes into existence, all the conditions of the Faith can be examined anew and the measures necessary for its future operation determined on consultation with the Hands of the Cause.

"O God, my God! Shield Thy trusted servants from the evils of self and passion, protect them with the watchful eye of Thy loving kindness from all rancor, hate, and envy, shelter them in the impregnable stronghold of Thy Cause and, safe from the darts of doubtfulness, make them the manifestations of Thy glorious Signs, illumine their faces with the effulgent rays shed from the Dayspring of Thy Divine Unity, gladden their hearts with the verses revealed from Thy Holy Kingdom, strengthen their loins by Thy all-swaying power that cometh from Thy Realm of Glory. Thou art the All-Bountiful, the Protectoy, the Almighty, the Gracious!"

"O ye that stand fast in the Covenant; When the hour cometh that this wronged and broken-winged bird will have taken its flight unto the celestial Concours, when it will have hastened to the Realm of the Unseen and its mortal frame will have been either lost or hiddenneath the dust, it is incumbent upon the Afnán, that are steadfast in the Covenant of God, and have branched from the Tree of Holiness; the Hands, (pillars) of the Cause of God, (the glory of the Lord rest
Assembly Gives Grateful Affirmation and Pledges of Unqualified Support

Beloved Bahá’í Friends:

The foregoing message of transcendent importance prepared by the twenty-six Hands of the Cause recently assembled at the World Center of our Faith was transmitted on November 30 to every American Bahá’í. This Proclamation to the Bahá’í world assures all believers that, following our tragic loss of the beloved Guardian, the World Faith established by Bahá’u’lláh will have continuity and direction.

On behalf of the entire American Bahá’í community, the actions taken by the body of the Hands appointed by the Guardian have received the grateful affirmation of your National Assembly and our whole-hearted pledge of unqualified support.

We unitedly join their heartfelt appeal for renewed dedication to the Faith and for energetic action in spreading the Message and completing the objectives of the Guardian’s World Crusade.

The maturity of the Bahá’í world community now begins as we collectively press forward to carry out the beloved Guardian’s expressed wishes and plans. Indeed, in this thirty-six year mission as Guardian, Shoghi Effendi has perfected the expression of the Divine Guidance we need for years to come, until the Universal House of Justice shall have been elected and the Master’s Will and Testament thereby executed. Moreover, the Tablets of the Divine Plan, which the Guardian’s successive Seven-Year Plans and the present World Crusade brought into the field of action, continue to have spiritual vitality until the world of humanity is united in one Faith and one Order under the All-Powerful Will of God brought to our age by the Bab and Bahá’u’lláh.


Committees and Assemblies Called Upon

The National Committees and the local Assemblies, these important organs of our Bahá’í Community, are likewise called upon by our body to function in unity and dedication so that the American Bahá’ís may maintain their primacy in devoted service to the Faith.

Let us cherish in our hearts the conviction that the Guardianship remains with us in Shoghi Effendi’s elucidation of the administrative order, his interpretation of the Bahá’í Sacred Writings, and his example of supreme sacrifice to the Call of God addressed to this crucial age.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
"Consummation of Victory Announced in Guardian's Message of September 5"

Cable from Hands of Holy Land

Please announce (to) Hands (of) five continents (and to) all National Assemblies (of) five continents (and to) all National Assemblies (the) heartwarming news (of) the consummation (of the) victory, announced (in) Guardian's message (of) September 5, by transfer (of) title deeds (to) all properties within (the) Haram-i-Aqdas to name (of) Israel Branch (of) United States National Assembly, thus completing purification (of the) area surrounding Most Holy Spot (in the) Bahá'í world.

—HANDS (OF THE) HOLY LAND

Beloved Friends:

The foregoing announcement transmitted from the Hands in the Holy Land through our National Spiritual Assembly to all Hands and National Assemblies, provides an occasion for grateful recognition of the providential forces guiding and protecting the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

For now the title deeds to all properties within the Haram-i-Aqdas have been transferred to the Israel Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, in conformity with the Guardian's intention.

The area surrounding the Most Holy Spot within the Bahá'í World is now completely purified—a symbol of the Guardian's consummation of his peerless services, as well as a most significant victory for the Bahá'í Faith.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Message From The Hands of the Cause in America to the 1957 State Conventions

Dear Friends:

By now all American believers have received and read with rapt attention the Proclamation issued by the company of Hands convened in the Mansion of Bahá'u'lláh, outside 'Akka, soon after the interment of the sacred remains of our beloved Shoghi Effendi in the London cemetery.

That document builds a bridge for the world Bahá'í Community from the passing of the Guardian to the completion of the Ten-Year Plan and the eventual formation of the Universal House of Justice. It assures the progressive unfoldment of the Bahá'í Administrative Order, the continuous operation of our local and National Assemblies, and the uninterrupted teaching of the Message of Bahá'u'lláh. It provides, likewise, for the protection of the Faith from slaughters wherever and however directed against the Faith of God.

What is the firm foundation on which the company of Hands based their decisive action in such an unexpected, such a crucial hour for all Bahá'ís?

It would be well to review together on this impressive occasion the successive pronouncements made by the Guardian in creating the function and mission of the Institution of the Hands, established by Bahá'u'lláh and maintained in this era of the Faith by provisions in the Master's Will and testament.

On December 24, 1951, the Guardian cabled: "Hour now ripe (to) take long, inevitably deferred step (in) conformity (with) provisions (of) 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Testament ... through appointment first contingent (of) Hands (of the) Cause of God ... Initial step now taken, regard (as) preparatory (to) full development (of) institution provided in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Will, paralleled (with) preliminary measures formation (of) International Council destined (to) culminate (in) emergence (of) Universal House of Justice."

In the second telegram dated February 29, 1952, the Guardian used these words: "Members (of) august body invested (in) conformity (with) 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Testament, two-fold sacred function, propagation (and) preservation (of) the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, (are) destined (to) assume individually (in the) course (of) time (the) direction (of) institutions paralleling those revolving around (the) Universal House of Justice, supreme legislative body (of) the Bahá'í World. . . ."

Next, on October 8 of that same year, the Guardian cabled: "Call upon fifteen Hands (of) five continents, by virtue of their supreme function as chosen instruments (for) the propagation (of) the Faith, (to) inaugurate historic mission through appointment ... (of) five Auxiliary Boards, (one) each continent, nine members each, who will as their adjuncts, or deputies, and working (in) conjunction (with) (the) various National Assemblies ... assist, through periodic, systematic visits (to) Bahá'í centers, (in the) efficient, prompt execution (of) the twelve projected National Plans."

On April 6, 1954, we received the following: "Urge initiation (of) five Continental Bahá'í Funds, which as they develop, will increasingly facilitate (the) discharge (of) the functions assigned (to the) Boards."

"Fervently supplicating (at the) Holy Threshold (for an) unprecedented measure (of) blessings (on this) vital, indispensable organ (of) the embryonic, steadily unfolding Bahá'í Administrative Order, presaging (the) emergence (of) the World Order (of) Bahá'u'lláh which must pave (the) way (for) the establishment (of) the World Civilization destined (to) attain maturity (in the) course of successive Dispensations (in the) five thousand year Bahá'í cycle."

During the course of the present year the Guardian made profound and significant references to the station and function of the Hands.

On June 4, 1957, he cabled: "Divinely appointed institution (of the) Hands (of the) Cause of God, invested (by) virtue (of) the authority conferred (by the) Testament (of the) Center (of) the Covenant (with the) twin functions of protecting (and) propa­gating (the) Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, now entering new phase (in the) process (of) the unfoldment (of) its
Guardian Announces Series of Five Intercontinental Conferences and Appointment of Eight Additional Hands of the Cause

With this issue of Baha'i News each believer will receive a copy of an epochal document from the beloved Guardian bearing the foregoing title and addressed to the Hands of the Cause of God and to the National Spiritual Assemblies throughout the world.

The announcement of five Intercontinental Conferences to be held during 1958 in five continents of East and West marks another historic turning-point in the annals of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, summoning the entire Bahá'í World to a new and higher spiritual potency. The Guardian's enumeration of the tasks performed discloses the vast realm of victorious achievement that the believers have already attained since the inception of the Ten-Year Plan. His appointment of eight new Hands of the Cause effectively strengthens this institution created by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in His Will and Testament.

The conduct of an Intercontinental Conference in Chicago calls for the formulation of plans which the National Spiritual Assembly will announce to the believers at the earliest possible date.

It is for us now, and continuously, to enter into the Guardian's creative, triumphant vision and prepare ourselves spiritually and mentally for the conquests required for the consummation of the next phase of the World Crusade, conquests calling for an aid of an infinitely larger number of believers than presently comprise the community of the Greatest Name.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Second Series of Regional Conferences Attended by Over 2000 Bahá'ís

The second series of 15 conferences called by the National Spiritual Assembly and held during the third and fourth weekends of September, drew a remarkable attendance of believers numbering more than 2,000.

The purpose of this series was: (1) to discuss the forms of service defined in the letter written by the Hands of the Cause on June 19 to every American believer, (2) to bring to fulfillment the responsibility of the individual American Bahá'í presented in that letter, and (3) to discuss the role of the various institutions of the Faith concerned with pioneer settlement and teaching work under the Ten-Year Plan. The agenda consisted of five topics: This Critical Period in Bahá'í History; Four Forms of Service; The Supreme Goal; Pioneering Opportunities, and What Can I Do?

Consciously in the minds of all believers present was this sentence in the letter from the Hands of the Cause: “The most important moment in our entire life is surely that in which, at last realizing the real measure and purpose of the Guardian's successive messages, each American Bahá'í, acting for himself in love of Bahá'u'lláh, makes his final decision to consecrate himself in service to a God-given Faith.”

Pioneer pledges were distributed to all present at the conference who could immediately set in motion plans to pioneer either abroad or at home. While not many pledges have yet been returned to the National Spiritual Assembly, a number of assemblies have reported that there is a decided acceleration among the members of their communities in planning toward dispersal.

More than 150 Bahá'í communities were represented at the 15 conferences, as well as several hundred groups and isolated centers. Thirteen of the conferences were conducted by members of the National Spiritual Assembly, and two by well-qualified representatives, Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin and Mrs. Jesma Herbert.

An important by-product of these gatherings was the gratification and benefit derived by the believers as well as by the members of the National Spiritual Assembly themselves from the frank, heart-to-heart consultation on the major tasks and problems facing the American Bahá'í community and its National Assembly.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
World Religion Day
A National Bahá'í Event

World Religion Day was instituted by the National Bahá'í Assembly in 1950. Its celebration on January 19, 1958, marks the ninth annual observance of this significant public event.

The purpose of World Religion Day is to elevate the minds of sincere seekers above the confusion and conflict of historic creeds, and inspire them with the vision of the oneness of all revealed faiths proclaimed by Báb, Founder of the Bahá'í World Religion a hundred years ago.

That the teachings of all the Prophetic Founders of religion emanate from the same God, exalt the same ideals and principles, and are nothing else than successive expressions of the same sublime truths — this is the great Message which World Religion Day proclaims. Apart from spiritual unity in worship of the one God, humanity can find no justice nor peace, Bahá'ís affirm.

Since 1950, local Assemblies and groups have publicized World Religion Day so successfully that this public event is now listed in the Calendar of Special Months and Days sponsored by the United States Chamber of Commerce.

For 1958 a threefold service is available to Bahá'ís: a press release and suggested newspaper advertisement, distributed by Bahá'í Press Service to all local press representatives; a very attractive World Religion Day display poster; and a World Religion Day 8½ x 11 sheet for free local distribution, setting forth the purposes of the event and quoting relevant passages from public addresses made by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in America.

The poster, a photograph of which appears on this page, measures 14x17 inches and comes in two tones of blue. It is printed on paper only and can be obtained at 25 cents each or five for $1.00, mailed in a tube by third class mail. The place and time of the local meeting and the name of the local Spiritual Assembly or Bahá'í group can be lettered in the space below the sketch provided for the purpose. A hard-backed poster can be made by mounting it on cardboard with rubber cement and an easel can be attached for a stand-up poster.

The single sheet statement entitled, “World Religion Day” can be ordered in lots of 50 for $1.00 post paid.

Orders for the poster and for the statement are to be sent with accompanying remittance to: Bahá'í Press Service, 434 Thomas Avenue, Rochester 17, New York. Orders sent to any other office will delay delivery.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

ARTHUR L. DAHL ELECTED TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Robert W. McLaughlin has resigned from the National Spiritual Assembly because repeated absences from the country would make it impossible for him to perform his duties as a member this year.

This action necessitated a by-election by the delegates to the last National Convention to fill the vacancy.

The voting, held on September 28, resulted in the election of Arthur L. Dahl of Pebble Beach, Calif., to replace Mr. McLaughlin.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

AUXILIARY BOARD

MEMBER APPOINTED

The Hands of the Cause in Europe announce that Dr. Aziz Navidi of Monte Carlo, Monaco, has been appointed a member of the Auxiliary Board in Europe. He replaces Mrs. Tove Deleuran, who has moved to Pakistan.
Two Chicago Newspapers Publish Photographs of Baha’i House of Worship

This aerial view of the Baha’i House of Worship and landscaped gardens in Wilmette, at the right, was taken by the Metro News Photos Company, Chicago, and appeared in the Chicago American on August 12, 1957, along with an article about a visit to the Temple written by Mervin Block.

The photograph below, taken by a Chicago Tribune photographer and published in that newspaper on August 6, 1957, looks northward along the shore of Lake Michigan. The Baha’i House of Worship in Wilmette, 14 miles away, can be seen on the horizon to the left of center.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Central and East Africa
GUARDIAN HERALDS
OPENING OF NEW PHASE OF RICH PROMISE

A message from the Guardian, added to a letter from his Secretary to the National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa in reply to its communications, contains passages of interest to all Bahá'ís. Baha'i News has extracted these paragraphs for reprint.

"The year that has just elapsed, marking the opening phase in the progressive unfoldment of the destiny of the Bahá'í communities, labouring singly and collectively for the expansion and consolidation of the institutions of the embryonic World Order of Bahá'u'lláh in both Central and East Africa, has witnessed a series of achievements, in both the teaching and administrative fields, that are truly heartening, and may well be regarded as worthy of emulation by their sister communities, now embarked on similar enterprises in the Northern, the Western, and Southern territories of the far-flung African continent.

"Particularly in Uganda and Kenya—among the first of the Negro-inhabited territories to be warmed and illuminated by the rays of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh—now leading the field numerically, and exhibiting a vitality and a spiritual receptivity second to none among the communities spread over that continent, has this progress been noticeable. In the steady increase in the number of believers—though not as spectacular as in the early days when the Faith was introduced in these territories—in the multiplication of centres, testifying to the widespread diffusion of the light of this Revelation over such extensive areas within their confines; in the diligence, the loyalty, the courage, and dogged perseverance displayed consistently by the elected representatives responsible for the conduct of Bahá'í affairs in these areas; in the enthusiasm and organizing ability which these representatives, aided by the rank and file of the faithful, so wholeheartedly collaborating with them in the pursuit of a common and glorious task, have demonstrated since the announcement of the project of the construction of the Mother Temple of Africa; in their recent success in incorporating the first of the three newly emerged Regional African Assemblies,—in these, as well as in less conspicuous fields, the standard-bearers of an all-conquering Faith, in these highly promising contiguous territories, a number of whom have distinguished themselves through their superb exploits far away from their homes, have set an example which posterity will not fail to extol, and which the organized followers of the Faith, not only in Africa but in other continents of the globe, would do well to follow.

"... A new phase, pregnant with rich promise and undreamt-of possibilities, is undoubtedly opening with the founding and rise of the first Maghribí-Adhkar in the African continent, following upon the three successive milestones of the Faith in that area on the eve of the launching of the Ten-Year Plan, by the inception of the World Spiritual Crusade and, more recently, by the emergence of the Bahá'í Regional Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa.

"This latest stage in the unfoldment of the Mission entrusted to the stalwart promoters of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in so promising and privileged an area, must be distinguished, and excel the previous period during which it was born, and the machinery of its Administrative Order set up, by acts so brilliant as to throw into shadow the magnificent feats they have already achieved in its service. . . ."

North East Africa
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INCORPORATED

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of North East Africa was granted official incorporation under its present title on April 19, 1957, by the Egyptian government.

The original incorporation was effected on December 28, 1934, under the name of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Egypt. Subsequently the document was amended to include the Sudan on November 17, 1949, and in April 1956 the National Assembly jurisdiction was enlarged to include North East Africa.

MOGADISCIO LSA REPORTS
TEACHING IN SOMALIA

Teaching activities in Mogadiscio, Somalia, since Riḍván 1957 have included two new translations, two teaching conferences, many firesides, and extension teaching work, the Mogadiscio Local Spiritual Assembly has reported.

The translations of a pamphlet into Somali and Bravanese were completed in time for Riḍván. Two cables and a letter from the Guardian were received, expressing appreciation for this accomplishment.

The Teaching Committee arranged two inspiring Teaching Conferences the first two weekends of June. The program was varied and lively, and included a survey of the Guardian's Riḍván message, talks on the responsibility of the individual to..."
teach, and a spirited consultation by all.

Regular teaching meetings for the friends and their contacts are held every Friday evening, and many firesides are held each week. From Riónván to the middle of August, 142 fireside meetings have been held.

Extension teaching is carried on in Hafun and Afgoi by Mohamed Musa and Mohamed Saleh. Cyrus Samandari has made a number of teaching trips, sometimes accompanied by one of the Somali friends, and considerable teaching work has been done.

Alaska
CONFERENCE STRESSES TEACHING METHODS

A Bahá'í Summer Teaching Conference emphasizing methods of presenting the Bahá'í teachings on God's Eternal Covenant, Progressive Revelation, Prophecy, and the Return of Christ was held at Fairbanks, Alaska, on August 10-11, 1957.

Each subject was given a half-day's time on the program, and each was presented jointly by two Bahá'ís. In addition to the daytime conference, a fireside was held each of the two evenings, to which contacts were invited.

Australia
QUEENSLAND SCHOOLS RECOGNIZE HOLY DAYS

A further step in the recognition of the Bahá'í Faith in the state of Queensland was achieved in July, when the Department of Public Instruction granted official recognition of the Bahá'í Holy Days, the Australian Bahá'í Bulletin reports.

All schools and educational institutes have been instructed in the Queensland Educational Gazette that children of Bahá'í parents are to be considered absent with adequate reason on these days, and that teachers who are members of the Bahá'í Faith are to be granted unpaid leave on request.

FIRST WOMAN BELIEVER IN SOLOMONS ENROLLED

Four more believers, including the first woman Solomon Islander to embrace the Bahá'í Faith, have been enrolled by the Local Spiritual Assembly of Honiara, the Koala News, newsletter of the Australian Asia Teaching Committee, has announced.

Translation in Bogotá

Also reported in Koala News is another translation of Basic Facts of the Bahá'í Faith into the Bogotá language. This language is in addition to the assigned World Crusade goals.

Canada
GRAND MANAN ISLAND ENROLLS FIRST BELIEVER

The enrollment of the first native believer on Grand Manan Island, a goal of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly, has been reported by the Canadian New Territories Committee Bulletin.

Doris Richardson, the Bahá'í pioneer on Grand Manan Island, wrote: "How wonderful to be able to share with you my supreme joy! After four years ... to have someone say they wanted to be a Bahá'í, and begin to read and search is perhaps an experience that is indescribable. It has been my feeling for some time that Edward Somers was a believer, and recognized Bahá'u'lláh; nevertheless he had not really done any studying for himself until this summer. "Then, when Amo Chesley was here recently on her vacation, he declared his belief in the Bahá'í Faith to her. . . Bless him, for he little realizes what it means to be the first believer on Grand Manan."

NEW BAHÁ'Í GROUP FORMED IN SAMOAN ISLANDS

The Canadian New Territories Committee Bulletin has published the news of the formation of a new Bahá'í group in Pago Pago, Samoan Islands. This brings the total in the Samoan Islands to one Assembly and five groups.

Greater Antilles
JAMAICA RECOGNIZES BAHÁ'Í MARRIAGES

Jamaica has extended legal recognition to Bahá'í marriages, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Greater Antilles has reported.

This is the first country under the jurisdiction of the Greater Antilles National Assembly to take this step, marking another achievement of the Ten-Year World Crusade.

New Zealand
BEGIN SEARCH FOR TEMPLE SITE

A Temple Site Committee has been appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand to acquire a suitable location for the Mother Temple of New Zealand.

Instructions from Haifa have been received by the National Assembly that the site is to be located on the outskirts of Auckland, easy of access, and of three or four acres in extent, the New Zealand Bahá'í Newsletter states. No publicity is to be given to any site under consideration.
North East Asia

NINETEEN CITIES REPRESENTED AT JAPAN'S FIRST SUMMER SCHOOL

Another of the goals of the Six-Year Plan was achieved on August 24, when a Hand of the Cause, a member of the Auxiliary Board, and friends from 19 cities in Japan gathered in Takarazuka to inaugurate Japan's First Summer School.

In response to a message sent on August 25 by the Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly, the beloved Guardian cabled: "Congratulate attendants historic summer school fervently praying expansion vaunted activities. Love, Soon."

The Takarazuka Hotel was an ideal selection by the committee for its convenience to a majority of the Baha'i communities in the Kansai area.

The program prepared by the Committee ordinarily would have required a week to complete, especially as all talks had to be translated into two other languages; the official languages being Japanese, Iranian and English. However, with an able chairman and translators, speakers and attendants all entered with enthusiasm into the program and realized its fulfillment in three days, with no time for recreational activities.

Thirteen topics were presented, dealing with the history, teachings, and administration of the Faith. There was a public lecture in the evening of August 24, with two talks, "Need for World Religion," and "Baha'i World Faith."

A feature of the final day's session was a Panel Discussion on "Goals of the Six-Year Plan," with a chairman and six participants. Each morning, afternoon, and evening session was preceded by devotions in the three languages. At the opening session Mr. M. Zenimoto, on behalf of the School Committee, welcomed the friends and outlined the purposes of the School.

The attendance statistics were: 75 Baha'i adults, 7 non-Baha'i adults, 3 non-Baha'i youth, 1 Baha'i youth, 23 Baha'i children, and 2 non-Baha'i children, a total of 111.

A 'spur of the moment' suggestion for a special Children's Class at the School was put into action and 19 participated. The teachers were Miss Y. Inatsuka, Miss M. Morita and Miss M. Naderi. This class gave great joy to all present.

Mention should also be made of a surprise feature at the public lecture meeting on August 24, when Miss Yoshiko Morita of Kyoto sang Mr. Wolcott's composition of Baha'u'llah's prayer "From the Sweet Scented Streams," accompanied on the piano by Mr. Koji Akizawa of Yokohama.

Mr. M. Odani of Kyoto, who completed a tour in August to western Honshu and Kyushu, attended the closing day of the Summer School on August 26. Mr. Odani spoke with such fervor and inspiration as to captivate the hearts of all present. His eloquent testimony to the power of the spirit and the invisible assistance when one arises to teach, will be long remembered as the most outstanding contribution at this Summer School. Mr. Odani is the first Japanese believer to arise under the Six-Year Plan and make a teaching tour unaccompanied by any other believer.

The spirit of fellowship which prevailed, no less than the instruction given, was of lasting value to all who participated in this first Summer School. The Committee deserves sincere congratulations for a task so well performed on such short notice from the National Spiritual Assembly. As indicated by the Guardian's cable this school was 'historic' in the annals of the Faith in Japan.

—Philip A. Marangella

HOKKAIDO ISLAND OPENED TO FAITH

The Baha’i Bulletin of North East Asia has published an account of the opening to the Baha’i Faith of Hokkaido Island, Japan, as follows:

The report furnished by Mr. Rouhollah Montazi of the teaching trip to Hokkaido Island by him and Mr. Gektie Nakajima is still another evidence of the power of the spirit when one arises in the name of Baha'u'llah to bring to fulfillment any goal or wish expressed by our beloved Guardian.

They left Osaka on the evening of June 8, arrived in Aomori the following night, and crossed by ferry to Hakodate, the southern port of Hokkaido, where they arrived on the morning of June 10.
A family of the Ainu tribe of native peoples of Hokkaido Island, Japan, who are being informed of the Baha'i Faith by the two pioneers there, shown at the left.

As Mr. Nakajima's friend, Mr. Muneto, is a former mayor of Hakodate, this afforded an introduction to the people of that city. He arranged for a newspaper interview and a public meeting through the Chamber of Commerce.

Another public meeting in the city library was arranged by Mr. T. Seki, Chief of the General Affairs Department. Over 30 persons heard the message in that meeting, including the Chief of Education and the Chief Librarian. Several hours of private discussions were spent with these men later.

On June 11 a visit was made to the city of Otaru, where another friend of Mr. Nakajima, Mr. Yamazaki, arranged for a meeting there on June 14. Mr. Yamazaki also went with them to Sapporo, the capital city of Hokkaido, where he introduced them to the Chairman of the Foreign Trade Association, Mr. Koshiyama, on June 12.

In Sapporo they called on the Chamber of Commerce and the Industry Club, and a joint meeting was arranged for June 17. Through an introduction from a business friend in Osaka, a television coverage was arranged with the Hokkaido Broadcasting Center for the luncheon meeting on June 17. After discussing the business and economic conditions in Japan, a brief history of the Faith was given, followed by many questions. The telecast was given the same evening.

On June 16 a visit was made to Shiroi with the Moritake family of the Ainu tribe. The Faith was explained during their one and one-half hour visit.

On June 19 at the Rotary Club in Sapporo an opportunity was afforded to speak of the Faith to 200 members. A regular weekly fireside meeting was definitely arranged in the home of Mr. Giro Sasaki, who was given the Greatest Name, and pictures of the Shrine of the Bab, the International Archives, and the Baha'i Temple for display in his home for these fireside meetings. A quantity of literature was also left with him.

They returned to Osaka on June 21, confident that real results were achieved.

Trip to Inland Sea

A second report from Mr. Momtazi tells of a two week trip in July to Takamatsu on Shikoku Island, and to nearby Shodo Island in the Inland Sea. Many new contacts were made, literature was distributed, and a fireside group started.

Teaching on Awaji

Extension teaching has been progressing for the past few months on the inland of Awaji, under the guidance of Mr. A. Katirai. A regular fireside group meets weekly, and several students are studying with the full intention of becoming enrolled believers.

Awaji Island is located between the main island of Honshu and Shikoku Island, at the entrance to the Inland Sea.

Mr. Katirai recently entertained as guests in his home several university students from Takamatsu on Shikoku Island. They remained a full week, studying the Faith during three sessions each day.

Pakistán

NSA-publishes Souvenir Booklet

A souvenir booklet, giving a brief history of the development of the Baha'i Faith in Pakistán, has been published by the National Spiritual Assembly of Pakistán.

Attractively printed and bound, the booklet encompasses 48 pages, and is divided into three sections, including a statement on the Faith of Baha'u'llah by Shoghi Effendi, a Short History of the Baha'i Faith in Pakistán, and an account of the first National Convention and the formation of the first National Spiritual Assembly there.

There are 38 photographs illustrating the growth of the Faith, with pictures of some of the early believers, ceremonies connected with the dedication of the Hazrat-ul-Quds, various Baha'i properties in Pakistán, conventions, teaching conferences, local Spiritual Assemblies, and the first National Spiritual Assembly.

Of especial interest are pictures of Miss Martha Root with members of the Karachi Spiritual Assembly, and of Mrs. Dorothy Baker addressing a meeting in Karachi during the Intercontinental Conference in 1953.

Scandinavia, Finland

Tour Seeks Contact with Lapps in Sweden

Among the special teaching plans reported by the National Spiritual Assembly of Scandinavia and Finland for this fall is a tour by the Hand of the Cause in Europe, Dr. Muhlschlegel, and a small group of Scandinavian Baha'is into the Lapp country of North Central Sweden in an effort to make contacts with the
Lapps, conduct firesides, seek receptive souls, distribute literature, and pave the way for additional teaching and a possible Lapp summer school next summer."

Commemoration of United Nations Day is one of the special public teaching events to be observed throughout Scandanavia and Finland. An attractive pamphlet for the event has been prepared to explain the relationship of the Bahá’í Faith to the United Nations, and giving the principles of the Faith. It is to be printed in all four languages spoken in these countries.

**Central America and Mexico**

**NICARAGUA BAHÁ’IS HOLD FIRST SUMMER SCHOOL**

The first annual Bahá’í Summer School of Nicaragua opened a three-day session in Nandaime on September 14, 1957.

Two visiting teachers, Margo Miesler and Allen Pringle of Honduras, assisted Donald Witzel and Pablo Perez of Managua with the teaching activities, which covered 20 subjects under two main themes, "The Individual and Collective Aspects of Bahá’í Life," and "The Administrative Order."

Special programs were given each evening after the classes. The agenda for September 14 was "The Life of Bahá’u’lláh" by Margo Miesler, "General Highlights of the Bahá’í Faith" by Allen Pringle, and 50 pages of stories translated from Portals to Freedom of "The Life Picture of ‘Abdu’l-Baha" by Pablo Perez. Following these topics, slides of the Holy Land were shown.

On September 15 the subject was "The Presentation of the Bahá’í Cause" by the Bahá’ís of Nandaime.

Mrs. Mignon Witzel was responsible for the planning and practical aspects of this new institution in Nicaragua. It was a great success and, needless to say, we can hardly wait for the next one.

—MARY ANN HOWARD

**11,617 VISIT TEMPLE DURING SEPTEMBER**

September visitors to the Bahá’í House of Worship in Wilmette totaled 11,617 persons, bringing the number of registered visitors since the first of the year to 74,590.

Countries represented among the September visitors included: Austria, Brazil, Canada, Canal Zone, Cuba, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Malaya, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Turkey, and Venezuela.
In addition to the thousands of individual visitors, 77 groups from various parts of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin made special tours. These groups included church groups of various denominations, groups from national conventions meeting in the Chicago area, women’s clubs, teacher groups, university and college groups, commercial groups, foreign students, garden clubs, home demonstration and homemakers clubs, business groups, representatives of the Portland Cement Company, one hundred members of the “Friends of American Writers,” and youth and children’s groups.

Included also have been groups of visitors from abroad, such as Boy Scouts from Korea and the Philippine Islands making a tour of the United States after attending the International Scout Jamboree, and most recently ten members of Parliament and representatives of the House of Councillors of Japan.

LOVE, UNITY KEYNOTE
BLUE RIDGE CONFERENCE

The fourth Blue Ridge Conference was again held at the Blue Ridge Assembly, in North Carolina, from August 24 to 28, 1957.

As one of the teachers commented, “The spirit at Blue Ridge has run high. The love has been great; the unity evident.” Each of us left with a renewed sense of dedication, a clarity of purpose, our lives once again re-channeled and re-directed. From the talks came inspiration; from the reports and discussions, practical techniques by which that inspiration can be put into effect. One hundred and thirty-seven people came; one hundred stayed for the whole conference.

We have been, each year, especially blessed by the presence of Paul E. Haney, Hand of the Cause; by the active participation of both the youth and the children; by the bounty of loving fellowship, growing out of worshipping, studying and living together. Next year, the first Southern Summer School will be held—one to be at Blue Ridge, to last at least five days, and longer if we are able to obtain the Blue Ridge facilities for a longer period.

The over-all theme of the conference was “The Road to Mount Carmel,” and among the friends present were several who have made their pilgrimage. They evoked much of that spirit which has been brought back to us from the World Center of the Faith with ever-increasing intensity.

For the first time at Blue Ridge a seminar was held, in which everyone took an active part, based on the compilation of excerpts on The Covenant and Administration. For this study, the friends were divided into nine groups, each studying its own set of four questions each day, with references from the compilation to guide the discussion. At the end, the secretary from each group presented his group’s answers in a three-minute resume. We were all thrilled with the wealth of ideas coming out of the consultation, and amazed at the amount of information that can be packed into a three-minute resume.

Through the discussion on the work of the Area Teaching Committees, much practical information was brought out, on how the isolated Bahá’í or a group can get more assistance, and just what the Area Teaching Committees’ work should be.

The non-Bahá’í youth had two special discussion sessions with an adult Bahá’í, covering everything from stories of the experiences of outstanding Bahá’í teachers, to many phases of the Administrative Order, and how to answer questions they are often asked by their friends.

In the report from the National Bahá’í Youth Committee, it was stressed that every community should have a Youth Committee, even if they have no youth, which could provide a speaker or activities for other youth organizations.

It is also most important that children in Bahá’í families be prepared for enrollment. The youth must catch the vision of what we are building. The talk on how youth are travelling the road to Mount Carmel was based on the “Tablet to the True

Gathering of Bahá’í friends on the grounds at 126 Evergreen Place, West Englewood, N. J. where ‘Abdu’l-Bahá gave the Unity Feast to the friends in 1912. This occasion, September 8, 1957, was to hear Zikru’l-láh Khadem, Hand of the Cause, center, speaking on the station of the Guardian, and on the Covenant.
Believer." We should study this Tablet, use it, and become magnets to attract pure souls.

The Interracial Teaching Committee report showed us what they are trying to do, and how they are going about it. In addition to their primary goal, on which the Guardian is currently placing such great emphasis, we should devote more time to all minority groups; show hospitality, for instance, to foreign students, who may go back to other places on the earth, and be of inestimable help to the newly born communities.

Here are some notes, taken from the talks and discussions:

For 7000 years, mankind has been travelling toward the day when God's promises would be fulfilled. Where we stand today depends greatly on the vision and actions of individuals in the past who, through their vision and efforts, have made the path a little broader and more apparent for us today. What we do today will make it easier for the people tomorrow. We must cleanse our spiritual veins, so that the bounties may flow through us. We will come to that place where neither praise nor condemnation can touch us. This is the spiritual road to Mount Carmel.

We are building the Kingdom of God on earth. These institutions could not be created until this Day. The Kingdom of God has come, and to it we must adjust. It is the fulfillment of the promise of all ages.

Why the Ten-Year Plan? These years before 1963 are crucial. We could not have conceived this Crusade; only the Guardian could do so. He plans and directs the successive stages of the Divine Plan, channeling us to the Divine guidance. Baha'u'llah "put into our hands the lamp of His teachings. By its light the world will be illumined," said 'Abdu'l-Baha.

The Guardian is dispersing the assets of the Faith (the Baha'is). Dispersal is not new. Dispersal among the people of God has been going on since the beginning of time. Whenever we arise to do something which the Guardian wants done, it must be with purity of heart, and a sense of sacrifice. If we do it for personal reasons, the spiritual potency of our action is jeopardized, if not doomed. If we act with courage and pure hearts, the confirmations will flow. Teach the pure souls, wherever you find them. The more you teach, the more avenues will open.

We must study the Faith for knowledge. Through the Teachings, we can become truly educated. Pray for assistance and guidance daily; listen for an answer. Martha Root once said, "Every breath, almost, is a prayer to be a channel... be ready when opportunity comes... When I do not pray, in two or three days I see the effect. The work is not so good." We cannot be lukewarm. We must be enwrapped with the love of God. "Wear the mantle of Baha'u'llah proudly!"

Travelling the road to Mount Carmel will demand a great deal of spirituality. God gave us the maps, through Baha'u'llah, and the Guardian directs us. We have the Administrative Order, and outside the Faith there will be a federated world. When these two things come together, the Golden Age will come. Out of world order, will be born spiritual salvation.

—LOUISE B. MATTHIAS

MISSOULA, CASPER HOLD THREE-DAY SEMINARS

Mrs. Florence V. Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause, conducted three-day seminars on the Baha'i Faith in Missoula, Mont., and Casper, Wyo., during September.

Her visit in both cities was well publicized in the press and on radio and television, contributing to the success of the meetings. Attendance in both cities exceeded 60 persons.

In Missoula a one-half hour interview was broadcast over KBTK, with the Station Manager, William Strother, leading an extended discussion with Mrs. Mayberry on many facets of the Faith. There were two other radio interviews on KGVO, and announcements of the seminar on KXLL and KMSS-AM.

The two radio stations and the television station in Casper also allotted time for interviews with her, and she was allowed to speak freely about the Faith.

Subjects discussed in the seminars were "Progressive Revelation," "Herald and Author of the New Era," and "Regeneration of Man-kind."

AMERICAN INDIAN FILMS AVAILABLE ON LOAN

Educational films on the American Indians are now available from the American Indian Service Committee. Most of the films are devoted to the tribal life of the western Indians, including the Apache, Papago, Hopi, Navajo, Blackfeet, Pima, Supai, and Pueblos. One film describes life on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

These films are suitable for adults and senior high school age students, although in some cases junior high school and elementary age students are included. Most of the films are in color and sound, and they vary in length from 10 to 25 minutes.

Further information may be obtained from the Librarian of the American Indian Service Committee: Mrs. Janet N. Ward, 14 Palmcroft Drive, Tempe, Ariz.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Auburn Judicial District, Calif., formed on April 21, 1957.
POSITIONS OPEN NEAR INDIAN RESERVATIONS

The American Indian Service Committee announces that there are now a few positions open on or near several Indian reservations requiring little specialized training or experience.

Baha’is seriously interested in such important pioneering opportunities are urged to write to Mrs. Nancy Phillips, secretary, 736 Encanto Drive, S.E., Phoenix, Ariz.

NEW COLOR SLIDES, PHOTOS OF ARCHIVES BUILDING READY

The Audio-Visual Education Committee has announced new sets of color slides and color photographs of the Baha’i International Archives Building and the Shrine of the Bab available for distribution.

The set of slides includes six different views, and costs $2.00. Color photographs come in two sizes, 5 x 7 inches, for $1.50; and 8 x 10 inches, for $3.60.

There is also a new set of 12 color slides of the Baha’i House of Worship, showing landscaping details, the floral beds and fountains, selling for $3.60.

Orders and requests for information on other audio-visual aids should be addressed to the Audio-Visual Education Committee, 126 Evergreen Place, West Englewood, N.J.

WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET

Fifth Year — 1957-1958

Annual Budget ........ $425,000.00
Total Requirements: May 1 to September 30 177,100.00
Total Contributions: May 1 to September 30 129,600.00
—NATIONAL, SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

BAHA’I IN THE NEWS

Believers resident in Eureka Springs, Ark., paid for a large advertisement in Eureka Springs Times-Echo, October 3, 1957, reprinting the National Spiritual Assembly statement on “The Oneness of Mankind.” This type of publicity, in view of the race integration problem in Little Rock, has great importance in expressing the Baha’i position through non-political means.

The Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal, September 15, 1957, reported a talk given to the local Baha’i community by Dr. Ekanem A. Udoh of Nigeria, who taught two years at LeMoyne College. “He said the Baha’i Faith may become the major religion of Africa. He said the aims of Baha’i have strong appeal to Africans.”

The text was supplied by the Local Assembly.

An impressive full page devoted to the Faith appeared in the Charleston Gazette on July 20. Featuring a very large photo of the Baha’i House of Worship, the statement represented one in a series of local church histories sponsored by leading business firms “who realize the importance of the church in this community.”

The text was supplied by the Local Assembly.

The Sarasota (Fla.) News of August 3, 1957, and the Sarasota Herald-Tribune of the same date, both featured a Coast Guard honor paid to Charles R. Gilman (Baha’i), member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, for using his motor yacht for outstanding emergency missions and also his radio transmitter for the same purpose.

A greeting card designed for use on the Jewish New Year carries a color photo of the Bay of Haifa showing the Shrine of the Bab, and also a color photo of Haifa Town Hall.

The Milwaukee Sentinel, September 7, 1957, carried a three-column photo of Mrs. Bertha Piepenburg showing Mrs. Anna Hanel some souvenirs brought back from South Africa, illustrating a feature story about Mrs. Piepenburg’s visit to her Baha’i daughter and son-in-law in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. This human-interest story was written by James M. Johnston, staff reporter, as a personal interview.

The Sarasota (Fla.) Herald-Tribune, September 1, 1957, presented a three-column story by Stan Windham, staff writer, on “Another Faith Explained,” a summary of the history, teachings, and administrative order of the Faith. The text was based upon Baha’i literature presented by the local Baha’is, and also a brief oral exposition made by one of the believers.

The Christian Century, July 24, 1957, reported that in Germany a call had been issued to Christian churches to ward off the “offensive” launched in Germany by non-Christian religions. Reference was made to plans for a Baha’i Temple as one of the “non-Christian” invasions of the Christian claim to Germany.
Blessed is the Spot; O Thou by Whose Name. Two prayers of Baha'u'llah with music by Charles Wolcott, published as one edition of sheet music for solo voice with piano accompaniment. The cover is beautifully illustrated with a drawing of the Shrine of the Báb, Haifa, the harbor, 'Akka, and the hills of Lebanon, viewed from the slopes of Mt. Carmel, printed in Cedar green.

Per copy $ .75
10 copies $6.00

A Pattern for Future Society. By Shoghi Effendi. This statement of the Guardian's, taken from The World Order of Baha'u'llah, now carries an appropriate introductory statement and has been produced in the Frenchfold format similar to One Universal Faith for easy carrying or mailing. Printed in dark green on white with east and west hemisphere motif on cover. Priced for mass distribution.

20 copies $ .50
100 copies $ 2.00
1000 copies $12.50

Going Out of Print
The following titles are low in stock and will not appear in new catalog now in preparation. If copies are desired they should be ordered quickly.

Baha'i Writings. Prayers and excerpts from Baha'i writings. Red paper cover stamped in gold, attractively printed.
Per copy $ .50
5 copies $2.00

Faith In Action. Compilation for group study on Baha'i approach to human relations. 8½x11.
Per copy $ .60
10 copies $5.00

Out of Print
Baha'i: The Coming of World Religion. 8½x11 book with spiral binding and envelope. (Not to be reprinted.)

The Drama of Salvation. Compilation for group study. 8½x11. (Not to be reprinted.)

Minimum Mail Order, $1.00
Available from
BAHA'I PUBLISHING TRUST
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

BAHA'I DIRECTORY CHANGES

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BAHA'I News is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States as a news organ reporting the current activities of the Baha'i World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHA'I News is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1957-58: Mrs. Eunice Braun, chairman; Miss Charlotte Linfoot, secretary; Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Baha'i Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Beloved Friends:

With noble utterance Rúhíyyih Khánum conveyed to the Bahá’í world the tragic, unexpected and afflictive news of the Guardian’s passing. His physical departure from this world marks the ending of an era in the history of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh.

“SHOGHI EFFENDI BELOVED OF ALL HEARTS SACRED TRUST GIVEN BELIEVERS BY MASTER PASSED AWAY SUDDENLY FROM SUDDEN HEART ATTACK IN SLEEP FOLLOWING ASIATIC FLU. URGE BELIEVERS REMAIN STEADFAST, CLING INSTITUTION HANDS LOVINGLY REARED, RECENTLY REINFORCED, EMPHASIZED BY BELOVED GUARDIAN. ONLY ONENESS OF HEART ONENESS OF PURPOSE CAN BEFITTINGLY TESTIFY LOYALTY ALL NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES AND BELIEVERS TO DEPARTED GUARDIAN WHO SACRIFICED SELF UTTERLY FOR SERVICE FAITH.”

—Rúhíyyih Khánum

In a second message cabled the same day (November 5, 1957) Rúhíyyih Khánum added: “Appeal (to) Hands, National Assemblies (and) Auxiliary Boards to shelter (the) believers (and) assist them (to) meet (this) heart-rending, supreme test. Funeral (of) our beloved (will be held) Saturday (November) Ninth (in) London. Hands, Assembly (and) Board members invited attend ... Urge hold memorial meetings Saturday.”

An appropriate press announcement, prepared under Rúhíyyih Khánum’s direction, was released to Reuters in London and to the wire services in Chicago. A copy of this same release was sent to all local Bahá’í press representatives by the National Bahá’í Press Service. The National Assembly, as directed, dispatched two telegrams to all local Assemblies; one requesting the friends to pray for the protection of the Faith because it had been learned that the beloved Guardian was desperately ill; the second reported his passing and requested that local meetings be held on Saturday, November 9.

On Sunday, November 10, the National and Regional Spiritual Assemblies received this message from Rúhíyyih Khánum written after the funeral had been held in London:

“BELOVED GUARDIAN LAID (TO) REST (IN) LONDON ACCORDING (TO) LAWS (OF) AQDAS (IN) BEAUTIFUL Befitting SPOT AFTER IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY HELD (IN) PRESENCE (OF) MULTITUDE (OF) BELIEVERS REPRESENTING OVER TWENTY COUNTRIES (OF) EAST (AND) WEST STOP DOCTORS ASSURE SUDDEN PASSING INVOLVED NO SUFFERING. (HIS) BLESSED COUTENANCE BORE EXPRESSION (OF) INFINITE BEAUTY, PEACE (AND) MAJESTY STOP EIGHTEEN HANDS ASSEMBLED (FOR THE) FUNERAL URGE NATIONAL BODIES REQUEST ALL BELIEVERS HOLD MEMORIAL MEETINGS EIGHTEENTH NOVEMBER COMMEMORATING DAYSPRING (OF) DIVINE GUIDANCE WHO HAS LEFT US AFTER THIRTY-SIX YEARS (OF) UTTER SELF-SACRIFICE, CEASELESS LABORS (AND) CONSTANT VIGILANCE.”

This message was sent to all Assemblies and Area Teaching Committees in the United States on Monday, November 11, with a covering letter.

On the following day, November 12, this further cablegram was received from Rúhíyyih Khánum:
"ASSURE FRIENDS BELOVED, SACRED GUARDIAN BEFITTINGLY LAID (TO) REST SURROUNDING BY LARGE, REPRESENTATIVE GATHERING (OF) BELIEVERS (FROM) EAST (AND) WEST. (THE) LIGHT (OF) OUR LIVES DEPARTED, WE MUST NOW STAND FIRM. REMEMBERING (THE) PEERLESS EXAMPLE (OF) HIS DEDICATION (TO) THE WORK (OF) THE BLESSED PERFECTION, (THE) GLORIOUS VICTORIES HE WON, (AND) THE PLANS HE LONGED (TO) SEE COMPLETED, ONLY REDEDICTION, GREATER UNITY, STEADFAST SERVICE CAN BEFITTINGLY SHOW OUR GRIEF (AND) MAKE US ACCEPTABLE (AT) THE HOLY THRESHOLD."

—Rúhíyyih

These are the successive stages through which the heart-rendering announcement of the Guardian's passing have been reported to the date of this writing.

What can we say about the Guardian's consummation of his unique mission?

Turning again to Rúhíyyih Khánum, we quote these passages from her great tribute to the Guardian as written in Twenty-Five Years of the Guardianship dated November 1946.

"Twenty-five years ago the Baha'i world was shaken by a great earthquake. 'Abdu'l-Baha, the Center of the Covenant, had suddenly passed away, with no premonitory illness to prepare His friends and followers for this tragic shock. Stunned, the Baha'is of East and West tried to rally their faculties. We knew great tasks lay ahead of us; we believed in this new Faith and in its Manifestation and in the World Order that He had come to establish, but we felt terribly alone and the responsibility for the future lay heavily upon our already grief-filled hearts. Where was the shepherd? The familiar voice, that had spoken with an authority vested in it by the Prophet of God Himself, was stilled. We had the teachings; like a wonderful laboratory, equipped for every purpose, they were there — our priceless treasure. But where was the alchemist who transmuted base metals into gold? Where was the listener who answered our questions and guided us in the use of all that great laboratory possessed?

"Then came the reading of the Master's Will, and with an infinite sense of relief we realized that, though the seas of tribulation and separation had risen about us, 'Abdu'l-Baha had not left us alone. He had given us the mighty Ark of His own Covenant which we could enter into in peace secure. With what grateful hearts we turned to the youthful figure that had suddenly been revealed to us in that Will as our priceless legacy, described by 'Abdu'l-Baha as the fruit of the Twin Lote Trees, the pearl of the Twin Surging Seas, this new creation, vested with a unique function, the hereditary office of Interpreter and Protector of the Faith and life-head of the International House of Justice.

First Guardian of the Cause of God

"Let us go back a moment and recall what we were and what Shoghi Effendi was when he first assumed his function as Guardian. Those who remember the passing of the Master and the terrible blow it was to them, the intense unbearable grief it caused them, can best grasp what his feelings were. At that time he was twenty-four years of age, studying at Oxford University in England in order to better prepare himself to serve 'Abdu'l-Baha as an interpreter, and to translate some of the Baha'i literature into English, when news of the ascension reached him. Broken-hearted, so weak from suffering he had to be practically lifted from the train, he returned to Haifa. Then the second blow, the unexpected and in many ways more cruel than the first, fell upon him. The Will and Testament of his Grandfather was read to him and for the first time in his life he became apprized of the Master's great and well-earned secret: that he, Shoghi Effendi, the beloved, eldest grandson, was His successor and First Guardian of the Cause of God. Saddled with this great weight, crushed by this great blow, he turned his eyes to the Baha'i world. He beheld a widely diversified, loosely organized community, scattered in various parts of the globe, and with members in about twenty countries. These people, loyal, devoted and sincere though they were, were still, to a great extent, living in their parent religion's house, so to speak; there were Christian Baha'is, Jewish Baha'is, Muhammadan Baha'is and so on. They believed in the Baha'i Faith but were intimately connected with their former churches. Like fruit on a tree, they were a new crop but still stuck to the old branch. This was true East and West alike. That was the point to which the Faith had evolved at the time of the Master's ascension.

"We, on our part, beheld a young man of only twenty-four standing at the helm of the Cause and the friends felt impelled to advise him about what it would be wise for him to do next... We quickly came to realize that he was not only divinely guided but had been endowed by God with just those characteristics needed to build up the Administrative Order, unite the believers in common endeavor, and coordinate their world-wide activities... The wheels of the Cause which had momentarily stood still at the Master's passing, began to revolve again and at a higher tempo than ever before. Our Father, so patient, so constantly forgiving, whom we had tired and perhaps worried far more than we dreamed of, was gone, and in His stead stood our "true brother," young, determined to see we at last got down to accomplishing the tasks set us by Bahá'u'lláh and the Master, and not willing to lose any time at all.

"With the reading of the Will and the establishment of the Guardianship, came quite naturally and organically a new phase in the development of the Faith..."

A Great Joint Effort

"For sixteen years Shoghi Effendi never ceased to broaden our horizon and train us in Baha'i Administration, whether local or National. After that, he suddenly opened a new door. He told us, so to speak, that we were now trained enough to use our laboriously erected Administrative System for a great joint effort, an effort to carry into effect the first stages of the Divine Plan..."

"No appraisal of the wonderful work achieved by the Baha'is the world over during this period would be complete without mention of what the Guardian himself, singlehanded, has done at the world center of the Faith in Palestine (now Israel). Aside from his constant and very heavy correspondence, with not only national and local Assemblies but with groups and individuals as well, aside from his cables and directives addressed to the Baha'is in different parts of the world, aside from the books he writes and the Baha'i literature he translates so painstakingly and beautifully, he has aided the believers financially in all of their major undertakings, in the East or the West... In Haifa and ' Akká, he has not only succeeded in having all the Baha'í Shrines, Pilgrim Houses and lands pertaining to them exempted from both..."
government and municipal taxes, but has also vastly increased the area of these endowments. The purchase of Bahá'u'lláh's mansion at Bahji, the defeat of the constant machinations of the Covenant-breakers, are but the highlights of his accomplishments at this world center of our Faith, to which flow the pilgrims and guests from every land.

"As we look back over these twenty-five years, it is with feelings of profound contentment. We Bahá'ís have matured greatly. We have stood close to that tree which overshadowed all mankind, and come to realize how live and great it is, how dense its foliage, how heavy its yield of fruits — the tree of our first Guardian, our Shoghi Effendi... whose sure and patient hand is guiding it on to the great victories promised by Bahá'u'lláh for His Faith in this Century."

"In gratitude for both this mighty institution of Guardianship in which mankind has found a sure refuge in this new age, and in gratitude for this particular first Guardian, this Shoghi Effendi, let us resolve to rise to a truly higher plane of endeavor, and above a higher plane of spiritual awareness, during these coming years. We must always remember that the only real limitations we suffer are those within ourselves. Rallied closely about the center of the Cause, loving him and, in him, each other, we can, during the next quarter of a century, double our record of achievement."

**Shoghi Effendi's Titanic Achievements**

Looking back from the present hour we can perhaps summarize our awareness of Shoghi Effendi's titanic achievements in these terms:

1. His resistance to and victory over the cruel onslaughts of Covenant-breakers both within and outside the Holy Family itself.
2. Construction of the Shrine of the Bab, the International Archives Building, and of the gardens surrounding the Tomb of Bahá'u'lláh and adjacent to the Shrine of the Bab.
3. Training and developing the local and national Assemblies, the number of the latter having increased from two to twenty-six.
4. Defining the world-wide Ten Year Plan including the assignment of responsibility for achievement of its several tasks.
5. Appointment of members to the International Bahá'í Council.
7. Incomparable translation of Tablets and Prayers and Meditations of Bahá'u'lláh; the writing of successive letters and works illuminating the meaning and scope of the Faith and its history from 1844 to 1944.

Now let us turn to these earliest, precious letters through which the beloved Guardian gave advice, encouragement and direction to the Bahá'ís of North America.

"At this early hour when the morning light is just breaking upon the Holy Land, whilst the groom of the dear Master's bereavement is still hanging thick upon the hearts, I feel as if my soul turned in yearning love and full of hope to that great company of His loved ones across the seas, who now share with us all the agonies of His separation..."

"True, the shock has been too terrible and sudden for us all to recover from in so short a time, but whenever we recall His Sayings and read His Writings, hope springs in our hearts and gives us the peace that no other material comfort can give."

"How well I remember when, more than two years ago, the Beloved Master, turning to a distinguished visitor of His, who was seated by Him in His garden, suddenly broke the silence and said: 'My work is now done upon this plane; it is time for me to pass on to the other world.' Did He not on more than one occasion state clearly and emphatically: 'Were ye to know what will come to pass after Me, surely would ye pray that my end be hastened?' In a Tablet sent to Persia when the storm raised years ago by that Committee of Investigation was fiercely raging around Him, when the days of His incarceration were at their blackest, He revealed the following: 'Now the foundation of this all-highest Bounty and this wondrous Gift. Gradually whatsoever is latent in the innermost of this Holy Cycle shall appear and be manifest, for now is but the beginning of its growth and the dayspring of the revelation of its Signs. Ere the close of this century and of this Age, it shall be made clear and manifest how wondrous was that Springtide and how heavenly was that Gift!"

"With such assuring Utterances and the unmistakable evidences of His sure and clear knowledge that His end was nigh, is there any reason why the followers of His Faith, the world over, should be perturbed? Are not the prayers He revealed for us sufficient source of inspiration to every worker in His Cause? Have not His instructions paved before us the broad and straight Path of Teaching? Will not His now doubly effective power of Grace sustain us, strengthen us and confirm us in our work for Him? Ours is the duty to strive by day and night to fulfill our own obligation and then trust in His Guidance and never failing Grace. Unity amongst the friends, selflessness in our labors in His Path, detachment from all worldly things, the greatest prudence and caution in every step we take, earnest endeavor to carry out only what is His Holy Will and Pleasure, the constant awareness of His Presence and of the example of His Life, the absolute shunning of whatsoever we feel to be an enemy of the Cause... these, and foremost among them is the need for unity, appear to me as our vital service. Should we in this spirit arise to serve Him, what surer and greater promise have we than the one His Glorious Father, Bahá'u'lláh, gives us in His Most Holy Book: 'Verily, We beheld you from Our realm of effulgent Glory, and shall graciously aid whosoever ariseth for the triumph of Our Cause with the hosts of the Celestial Concourse and a company of Our chosen angels.' (January 21, 1922).

Beloved friends! Such was the clarion call sounded by the beloved Guardian to comfort and reassure the hearts grieved-stricken by the loss of the Master thirty-six years ago.

That consolation and inspiration has eternal validity, and moreover to it is added the example of Shoghi Effendi's own sacrifice and unique achievement. Honorable is the sorrow caused by the passing of a loved one, when that sorrow purifies the heart and confirms within it the supreme love — the love of God, and the resolute will to serve Him.

In our meetings with another, let us be tender and considerate; in our contacts with non-believers let us be steadfast as the rock in conviction of the victory of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh! For that Sun has arisen which shall never be followed by night.

Concerning the future guidance of our world community, information will come to us through the proper channels in due time.

—National Spiritual Assembly

November 12, 1957
Western Hemisphere Intercontinental Conference

First Announcement

Dear Bahá’í Friends:

Since receiving the beloved Guardian’s announcement of the series of five intercontinental conferences to be held during 1958, the National Assembly has been given Shoghi Effendi’s approval of dates and general arrangements.

The Chicago Conference will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 2, 3, and 4, immediately following a three-day National Convention to be held April 29, 30, and May 1.

These dates make it possible for American delegates and believers to attend both events.

The Guardian has also approved the holding of a devotional gathering in the auditorium of the House of Worship, where the precious photographs of Bahá’u’lláh and the Báb can most fittingly be exhibited by the Guardian’s representative, Hand of the Cause Dr. Ugo Giachery.

The final arrangement approved by Shoghi Effendi is the holding of a public congress which undoubtedly will be scheduled for Sunday evening, May 4, as the final session of the Intercontinental Conference.

The beloved Guardian’s own words impress us with the importance of this historic occasion, convened for the “five-fold purpose of offering humble thanksgiving to the Divine Author of our Faith ... of reviewing and celebrating the series of signal victories ... of deliberating on ways and means that will insure its triumphant consummation; and of lending simultaneously a powerful impetus ... to the vital process of individual conversion ... and to the construction and completion of these Mother Temples to be built in the European, the African, and Australian continents.”

The Conference, while convened and held by the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, will receive the Guardian’s message to the Western Hemisphere as delivered by Dr. Giachery, and will provide reports by, and consultation among, the National and Regional National Spiritual Assemblies of that same area.

Give Address Change to NSA Promptly to Receive Bahá’í Mail!

The purpose of this first announcement is to make it possible for all Bahá’ís to make arrangements to attend. Travel and hotel or other arrangements are to be made by the individual believer for himself. Guests of the National Assembly will be provided with hotel accommodations on arrival.

Those who attended the historic Jubilee Celebrations in 1953 will recall not merely the vivid episodes of the extensive program, including dedication of the House of Worship on behalf of the Guardian by Amatu’l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum, but above all the power of the spirit engendered which enabled us to transcend local and national Bahá’í areas of interest and activity, and attain a realization of the universal, the global significance of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh.

“The holding of this second series of Intercontinental Conferences ... signalizes the opening of the fourth phase of the Ten-Year Plan.” What higher privilege is offered a human being today?

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

TEXAS PAROCHIAL SCHOOL RECOGNIZES BAHÁ’I HOLY DAYS

The All Saints Teller School, All Saints Episcopal Church, Fort Worth, Texas, has given permission to Bahá’í children to be absent on Bahá’í Holy Days.

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
Prepare Land at Kampala for Construction of Mother Temple of Africa

Two members of the Temple Committee, with the architect and the levelling contractor, standing in the position of the center of the Temple and facing the Qiblah.

Musa Baruini, Hand of the Cause, and Ali Nakhjavani, Auxiliary Board member and Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa, standing on the site of the Temple.

The Temple site levelled in preparation for the commencement of the foundations contract.

Men and machinery prepare the access road to the Temple site.
Europe

SUMMER SCHOOL PREPARES FRANCE FOR FORMATION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Sanary-Sur-Mer, a picturesque port nestled along the curving shoreline of the Mediterranean Sea, was the scene of the historic gathering of France's third Bahá'í Summer School, held from September 1 to 6, 1957.

Sunny skies and tropical surroundings added their charm to this region, one of the most beautiful in southern France.

The friends were housed in the Hotel du Parc, where all sessions of the conference and school also met.

The first two days of the school were devoted to a teaching conference on the theme, "France and the World Crusade." At the opening session we listened to Dr. Hermann Grossmann, Hand of the Cause, read a prayer. The bounty of his presence gave this conference special significance and an atmosphere of rare spirituality.

Joel Marangella, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause, acting as Chairman, then greeted the assembled believers on behalf of the Summer School Committee, and asked for a roll call. This roll call revealed that there were 39 adults, 2 youth, and 3 children present, representing the cities of Lyon, Chateauroux, Chatellerault, Orleans, Paris, Strasbourg, Nice, and Marseille in France; and believers from Germany, Belgium, Austria, Holland, the United States, Kenya, Belgian Congo, and Madagascar.

Much love was evident in the hearts and on the faces of those from each center as they arose to give their names. A further blessing was the fact that among them there were many new French believers who were attending their first summer school.

Dr. Grossmann, speaking in English, gave some inspirational opening words. He remarked on the great change which had taken place in France since his visit of two years ago. He compared the cold winter of that time to the growth of the teaching work, and pointed out how it had developed into the warm springtime of spiritual blossoming...
and development. He hoped that this great surge of spiritual enthusiasm would soon bring forth the summer with all its fruits.

He pointed out that France would have a special opportunity with the new National Spiritual Assembly which is to be formed during Ridván 1958, and that this achievement would require much effort, as only a few months remain.

In closing, Dr. Grossmann said he hoped that this conference would strengthen us for the time ahead, and help us to enter next year with strong communities, as well as a strong National Assembly.

Reports on Goals

Later in the conference reports were called for from representatives of Assemblies and groups on "The Goals in France and the Actual Progress."

"The Goals in France" provided a theme for much consideration. Mr. Marangella reminded us that our beloved Guardian had announced at the Stockholm conference the goals for Europe. We were told at that time that our assemblies must be quadrupled during the Crusade, meaning that eight would be needed by 1963. Also, that our other goals were the establishment of the National Spiritual Assembly, the acquisition of the Hazíratú'l-Quds and the National Endowment, and the achievement of National Incorporation.

In conclusion Mr. Marangella pointed out that we have already achieved two of these goals, namely the Hazíratú'l-Quds in Paris which will become national when the National Assembly is formed, and the National Endowment.

Shoghi Effendi has specified that France will form its National Spiritual Assembly during the mid-point of the Crusade, and has designated certain cities in France as goal cities. These are Orleans, Marseilles, Bordeaux, Strasbourg, Metz, Dijon, Nancy, Pottiens, and Lille. With the recent settlement of Miss Honor Kempton in Nancy, Mrs. Amelia Bowman in Strasbourg, and Mr. Charles Somers in Metz, all goals have been opened except Dijon.

At the Sunday evening session on September 1, Dr. Grossmann was most informative in discussing questions put to us during our teaching efforts. He answered such questions as: What is the difference between good and evil? Does God answer every prayer? What is soul and spirit? Why should we pray? What is obedience? He pointed out that when a soul becomes a Bahá'í it is changed, and it will attract everything in a different way.

The Monday morning session was given over to Louis Henuzet, member of the Auxiliary Board, who gave an illuminating and comprehensive presentation on the Administrative Order.

That afternoon 35 of us travelled by chartered bus to the nearby city of Marseilles for a public meeting at the Foyer-Theatre Massalia. Mr. Henuzet gave a brilliant talk on "Which to Choose: Science or Religion?" Seventy-two persons attended this meeting.

In recalling the spirit of the entire week, these words came to mind: "Know thou of a certainty that Love is the secret of God's holy Dispensation, the manifestation of the All-Merciful, the fountain of spiritual outpourings. Love is heaven's kindly light, the Holy Spirit's eternal breath that vivifies the human soul." (The Divine Art of Living, page 108.)

We had, one and all, been refreshed at the fountain of that love, and our souls were truly vivified and illumined. As we journeyed homeward, we were resolved that we would accomplish more than ever this year.

—AYNED McCOMB

Correction

The United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Conference in Rome, Italy, reported in Baha'i News for September on page 10, was held at the Food and Agriculture Administration headquarters instead of Foreign Affairs Office. The error was due to a misinterpretation of abbreviations used by Dr. Ugo Giachery in his report.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

IRÁN
HAIL NEWSLETTERS FROM LAND OF FAITH’S BIRTH

Plans for a regular newsletter from Irán have been received with joy and thanksgiving by National Assemblies in many lands, and many of their national news publications have been reprinting information from the first two issues of this newsletter received to date.

Written over the signature of A. Furútan, secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Irán, the newsletter conveys heartwarming assurances of the steady spread of the Faith in the land of its birth despite the recent persecutions by the Iranian government.

Following are excerpts from these first two issues of the Iranian Bahá’í News:

**Bahá’ís** are at present serving the Cause of God in more than a thousand centers throughout Irán. In 1955, when the persecutions began, there were 160 centers throughout Irán. Considering the difficult circumstances under which the friends were working, this is a tremendous achievement, even to a degree that the beloved Guardian has congratulated them.

The restrictions and persecutions of the friends that started in Irán in 1955 are gradually subsiding. The government agreed to return all the Bahá’í Haqíratul-Quds, even the National Haqíratul-Quds in Tihrán, but no meetings are yet held in these buildings.

The news of the activities and victorious accomplishments of the friends in other parts of the world are regularly translated and sent out to all the Bahá’í communities in Irán, so that they may rejoice in the success of their spiritual brethren.

**In Touch With World Center**

One fortunate circumstance that compensates for all the persecutions of the friends in Irán is the constant communication with the World Center of the Cause of God and the beloved Guardian.

Cables from the Guardian, messages from the revered Hands of the Cause residing in the Holy Land, communications of the International Bahá’í Council, and letters of the Eastern Secretary of that Council, conveying the instructions of the Guardian, have been regularly received.

Each year a great number of the friends from Irán, particularly from Tihrán, go on holy pilgrimage, and on their return bring messages, instructions, and glad tidings from the beloved Guardian. Since the friends in Irán very eagerly meet with these pilgrims, the glad tidings from the Holy Land are conveyed to a great number of friends.

During the past year 64 persons from Irán have gone on holy pilgrimage and returned to gladden the hearts of the friends with their messages and news from the Holy Land. In the same period 32 pilgrims from Iraq made the pilgrimage under a schedule of the Iranian National Spiritual Assembly, which is responsible for the administration of the Faith in Iraq.

**Letters From Pioneers**

Many letters from Persian pioneers throughout the world have been received by the National Assembly. Here is a sample of such letters.

Dr. Rahmat Mahajir is one of the Bahá’í pioneers who is also the spiritual conqueror of Mentawai Islands. The names of this beloved friend and his dear wife are registered on the Roll of Honor.

He writes: “In Sipapajet, one of the Mentawai villages, a Bahá’í School has been established and named Tarbiyyat after the Bahá’í School in Tihrán which was closed by the Government in 1933. Mr. Samsury, one of the native Bahá’ís who is a very learned person, has resigned his position as a teacher in the government schools, and is teaching the native Bahá’ís in the Bahá’í School.

“The children and the villagers are all very happy. So it is of this achievement of his. Bahá’ís of other villages complain that Mr. Samsury has not been given to them. These same natives, who value education so much, compete in persuading a teacher to go to their village, whereas before embracing the Faith did not want schools and said, ‘God has given us copra and chickens, what do we want with education? Our children eat these and grow up.’ Now these same people build a house for the teacher.

“We are trying to establish Bahá’í schools in every village, even though they may only have one or two grades.

“Mr. Jamshid Ma’ani, one of the Persian pioneers in Indonesia, has volunteered, with the approval of the National Spiritual Assembly of South East Asia, to come to Mentawai and spend two years in these islands serving the Cause and educating Bahá’í children. He is very successful in the service of God, and will soon bear the responsibility for one of the Bahá’í villages all by himself.

“Mr. Rustam Payman is another Persian pioneer who is serving these islands with utmost sincerity, and the natives almost worship him. One of the villages has been named Rustamabad after him. He is going to assume total responsibility for one of the villages.
"I am writing this letter from the Sipora Island, one of the Mentawai Islands. The people of this island are, for the most part, Christian, but there are also a few Muslim villages. I believe it will be very easy to teach the Faith in this island, and in the future these people will embrace the Faith in groups, because they are ready for the message of God.

"The site of the Mashriqu’l-Adhkar in Mentawai has also been purchased. Mrs. Mahájír was instrumental in accomplishing this goal."

Iberian Peninsula

HAZIRATUL-QUDS DEDICATED AT LISBON ON BÁB’S BIRTHDAY

The day of the dedication of the Hazíratul-Quds, October 20, the Anniversary of the birth of the glorious Báb, was a splendidly brilliant one in Lisbon. Since June 21, 1957, date of the acquisition, things had been stirring this new Bahá’í Center in the Garden Quarter, District of Luminar (light). Richard Nolen had come from his pioneer post in the Azores Islands to help with moving, and Carlos Salomão of Portugal had put the place in bright condition for its new function.

The beloved Guardian had written to the Iberian friends on October 21, 1956, saying that "to establish these essential institutions of the Faith at this time is of great importance, and the believers will find, when they have their own center, how it will become a focal point for their activities and how it will attract to the Faith souls with capacity, who, when they understand the Teachings, will be eager to join the ranks of the Bahá’ís and reinforce their efforts." Believers and their friends came from Oporto, Lisbon, and Portimão, making about 23 in all. On Sunday morning they gathered in the large, light, upstairs room with its large porch overlooking the campus of the University of Lisbon, now under construction but still mostly farmland.

Mr. José Serra, chairman of the Lisbon Spiritual Assembly, welcomed the guests and presented Mr. Angelo Carneiro, member of the Iberian Regional National Spiritual Assembly, who presided thereafter. Since Dr. Ugo Giachery, Hand of the Cause, was not able to attend, Mr. Joel Marangella of Orleans, France, an Auxiliary Board member, came in his stead.

After music and prayers Mr. Marangella gave a short discourse, mentioning the pioneers who had worked to build the Bahá’í community of Portugal. He then explained the importance of the institution of the Hazíratul-Quds, as well as the urgency of teaching and spreading the Message of Bahá’u’lláh. In the name of the Guardian, the Hazíratul-Quds of Lisbon was declared officially dedicated to the service of the Faith.

Mr. Ventura Rodríguez then read the following tenderly stirring message of the Guardian, written to the Iberian believers in his own hand, on July 2, 1957, but indeed a galvanizing stimulus to all who labor for the Faith wherever they might be:

"The recent achievements of my dearly loved friends, labouring so devotedly in the Iberian Peninsula, has filled my heart with feelings of joyous admiration and profound thankfulness. I cannot but marvel at their consecration, their fidelity, their perseverance and untiring endeavours for the furtherance of so glorious a Cause.

"The Plan, with which their spiritual destiny is so closely bound up, must be prosecuted with inflexible resolve and utter dedication to its aims and purposes. They must not rest for a second, and, with hearts afire with the love of God and fixed on the ideals of his infinitely precious Faith, must labour systematically and unitedly until all the objectives of the Plan they now prosecute with such noble determination are achieved.

"Upon the discharge of their present responsibilities must depend to a large extent the enlargement of the scope of their glorious mission, and the initiation of a still more momentous stage in the evolution of their institutions within the orbit of our glorious Faith.

"Theirs is a mighty and sacred responsibility which they must not, under any circumstance, abandon or neglect. Theirs is a priceless opportunity which they must seize with promptitude and eagerness, and utilize to the utmost until that responsibility is fully and befittingly discharged.

"The Concours on High watches over them, ready to vouchsafe its aid and confer its blessing on their valiant and concerted endeavours. The Author of the Divine Plan will, as promised by Him in His epoch-making Tablets, assist them to surmount whatever obstacles they may encounter in their path, and crown their historic enterprise with a resounding victory. The Founder of the Faith, Himself, will not fail to reward them, in His Own Kingdom, and in accordance with His wisdom and bounty, for their share in the furtherance of the interests of His world encompassing Order, and to exalt them amidst the company of..."
His immortal saints and heroes dwelling in the Abhá Kingdom.

"That they may prove themselves worthy of their high calling, that they may excite, by the quality and range of their achievements, the admiration of their brothers in all the continents of the globe, that they may hasten, by the very nature of their exertions, the advent of the day when they will have entered upon a still more exalted stage in their collective advancement on the high road of their destiny—is a prayer that I will continue to offer with all the fervour of my soul, at the Threshold of His Most Holy Shrine."—Snow.

A signed message from the Hands of the Cause in America, Mrs. Corinne True, Mr. Horace Holley, and Mr. Paul Haney, was read, followed by messages from the National Spiritual Assemblies of the U.S., and Iberia, as well as the various local spiritual assemblies. Loving gifts were acknowledged, among these being a large framed portrait of the Master, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, from the Azores Group; two hand-wrought iron wall lamps made by two of the Lisbon friends; a beautiful photograph album with historic pictures from the Oporto friends; a precious framed Greatest Name given by an Oporto friend; a beautiful leather-worked Greatest Name brought by Joel Marangella.

Carlos Salomão, vice chairman of the Lisbon Spiritual Assembly, raised a prayer that the Faith in Portugal would grow fast and strong, and as straight as the little green cypress about to be planted in the nine-sided pool. With the triumphant "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the friends filed outside the garden to plant the tree, to take photographs, and then to partake of material food to balance the abundant spiritual feast.

The first part of the afternoon was devoted to the celebration of the Anniversary of the birth of the Báb, with prayers and a short talk by José Serra. At four o'clock on this joyous day a first Summer School session under National auspices was held as a result of the Guardian's recent instructions to hold more such reunions even though very small. Virginia Orbison, member of the National Teaching Committee, presided, and short but instructive discourses were given by Angelo Carneiro, who gave a masterly introduction to the Faith with logical and persuasive argument; Joaquim Cunha, who read a paper on the 12 principles; Joel Marangella, who spoke on the importance of the Summer Schools and teaching; and Carlos Salomão, who spoke movingly on the spiritual aspects of the Bahá'í Faith.

After tea and a social time, the friends took leave of each other with glowing faces reflecting new and promise-laden resolves for the fulfilling of all of the goals of the Ten-Year Plan and the triumph of Bahá'u'lláh's Faith in Portugal. A cable was sent to the beloved Guardian assuring him of the love of the friends and of their renewed impulse to go forward on this day of the Dedication of the Hazíratul-Áqds of Lisbon, the Anniversary of the Báb, October 20, 1957-144.

—Virginia Orbison

**Germany, Austria**

**DIFFICULTIES CONTINUE ON TEMPLE SITE**

The negotiations for the Temple site at Diedenbergen-Taunus have been continued with the Government of Hesse, the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria reports.

Unfortunately another difficulty has arisen which seems insurmountable. The projected building would be standing too close to a beacon, which will be enlarged, for directing the airplanes so that the authorities of the airport had to refuse their approval, for strictly technical reasons. A definite answer, however, has not yet been received as it is channelled through the Government. In all probability the fact must be faced that another location has to be found.

The Temple design was further developed in order to meet with the requests of the Guardian and reconcile the desired building with the restrictions put up by the authorities. The present plans seem to meet with these two requirements.

**North East Asia**

**FIRST SUMMER SCHOOL HELD IN KOREA**

Anticipated by three preceding winter and summer conferences in that same city, the first Bahá'í Summer School of Korea took place in Kwangju, Korea, September 28, 29, and 30, having been called into being by the beloved Guardian in his message to the first Bahá'í Convention of North East Asia as one of the goals of the Six-Year Plan for that area.
Exceeding both in the depth of the teaching offered and in the maturity of the believers attending any previous gathering of Bahá'ís in Korea, the session began on a serious note when early the first day Hand of the Cause of God Agnes Alexander slipped and fell on the stone steps of the meeting place, spraining her ankle. But the prayers of the following morning brought unity as well as healing, and the school continued with an ever-deepening tone.

The talk by William Maxwell on the successive purifications of the Water of Life; the reading and explanation of the "Tablet of Carmel" by Noureddin Montazi and his recounting of his experiences in meeting both 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the Guardian in different times, places, and conditions; the reading and elucidation of portions of the "Will and Testament" of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the explanation of the Guardianship by Hand of the Cause Miss Alexander, as well as her very presence itself—a blessing to this opening school unequalled in the history of any of the previous conferences—these stand out as the most memorable aspects of an entirely successful and unforgettable "summer" school. And the following cablegram from the beloved Guardian revealed the reason for its success: "Delighted. Assure attendants fervent prayers extension activities consolidation newly born institution. Deepest love."

—William H. Maxwell

Central and East Africa
SIGN CONTRACT FOR FOUNDATION OF AFRICA TEMPLE

On October 22, 1957, the contract for the building of the foundations of the Mother Temple of Africa was signed. This initial contract will cover the building of the Temple to the floor level, including the exterior steps.

There have been a number of unfortunate delays which now seem to be behind us, and the building will go ahead with all speed.

During the three months estimated for this preliminary foundations work, all drawings for the main contract will have been completed and submitted to those Government authorities directly concerned with such work, and whose approval must be granted; bills of quantity will have been finalized; the main contractor chosen, and contracts signed.

On the site of the Temple there is no water, so after considering all aspects, it was decided to make arrangements for the sinking of a borehole. Drilling for this has already commenced, and when water is struck a considerable saving in the cost of the Temple is envisaged.

Kampala is greatly honored, for before the foundations work is completed, during the African Intercontinental Conference in January 1958, Amatu'l-Bahá Ruhiyyih Khánum will place in the foundations a portion of the precious earth from the innermost Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh. Also in the foundations will be placed, by the revered Hand of the Cause Musa Banání, a casket containing a small quantity of the plaster from the ceiling of the room in the fortress of Mah-Ku, where the Báb was imprisoned.

Shortly after this great occasion, work on the main building is scheduled to commence, and it is hoped that the Temple will be completed by March 1959.

—Philip Hainsworth

South East Asia
PUBLICATIONS IN FIVE LANGUAGES COMPLETED

Five languages are represented in new publications announced by the National Spiritual Assembly of South East Asia. They include: Message of Bahá'u'lláh or Adajaran Bahá'u'lláh published in the Indonesian language; Bahá'í Faith—A Faith for Unity in the Toaradja language; Bahá'í Teachings for a World Faith published in the Batak and Javi languages; and Buddha and Amitabha in Chinese.

In addition, the work of reviewing the translation of Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era into the Indonesian language is nearing completion, and it is hoped that the printing will be completed in the near future.
Australia
ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED TO CONSTRUCT SCHOOL

The pioneer in New Hebrides, Mrs. Bertha Dobbins, has conducted a school in her home at Port Vila which has been recognized by the Guardian as one of three Bahá’í schools in the Pacific area. She recently has received notice to vacate her residence there.

To insure the continuance of this school, the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia has established a “New Hebrides Endowment.” At least £2500 is required in order to purchase land and construct a building suitable for use as a residence and school for Mrs. Dobbins for the preservation of this historic enterprise.

North East Africa
TRANSLATE "25 YEARS OF GUARDIANSHIP" INTO ARABIC

The National Translation and Reviewing Committee of the North East Africa National Spiritual Assembly has published the translation of “Twenty-Five Years of the Guardianship” by Rúhíyyih Khánum into the Arabic language.

Wide distribution has been undertaken, the National Assembly reports, to enable the friends to understand more fully the institution of the Guardianship, leading to a better understanding of the Faith and greater loyalty to the Sign of God on Earth.

EGYPT, SUDAN BAHÁ’ÍS INSPIRED BY VISIT OF HAND OF CAUSE

During the month of October the friends of Egypt and of the Sudan had the privilege of a visit from the Hand of the Cause in Africa, Mr. Musa Banání, Mrs. Banání, and Auxiliary Board Member Aziz Yazdi. On the instructions of the beloved Guardian, Mr. Banání cheered the friends with the glad tidings of the progress of the Cause in the African Continent as well as in the Pacific Ocean areas.

The news of the initiative steps to construct the Bahá’í Temple in Kampala, heart of the African Continent, was a source of greater momentum to the desire of the friends to keep pace with the march of the World Crusade, filling them with renewed energy to serve faithfully toward the great Jubilee of 1963.

Mr. Banání met with the National Spiritual Assembly as well as the Local Spiritual Assemblies of Cairo, Port-Said, and Alexandria. As a result of these meetings many of the friends took immediate steps to pioneer.

—BAHÁ’U’LLÁH

Northwest Africa
CONTACT KABYL BERBERS, MUSLIMS OF M’ZAB

Northwest Africa Bahá’í News has published an account of the visit of Mr. Attar, the Regional Teaching Committee secretary, of Algiers, to Bone, where during four days he contacted some Kabyl Berbers, who showed interest in the Faith.

The highlight of this teaching trip by Mr. Attar was his visit to M’zab, 600 kilometers south of Algiers, where no previous Bahá’í had set foot. Some of the Algiers contacts were in M’zab. Mr. Attar taught the Faith to many people, among whom was the chief religious man, who is the head of the progressive Muslims of M’zab. Two hours were spent in talking with him, and Mr. Attar left copies of the Kitáb-i-Áqán and A Traveler’s Narrative.

Mr. Attar wrote: “And in this way I taught the Faith discreetly or plainly, and gave proofs of the authenticity of the Blessed Perfection in their meetings or Feasts either individually or collectively. In all, the Faith was taught to more than 200 persons, but the number with whom I had direct contact and to whom I had spoken a few times is 27.”

One contact embraced the Faith and said he would come to declare in Algiers, while six others are very near declaration.

Alaska
FIVE NSA MEMBERS TO PIONEER

Five members of the National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska, newly formed last April, have made decisions to pioneer.

Robert Moul and his family will move to a goal in southeastern Alaska; Warren and Kathy Rodgers will move to Nome; and Verne and Janet Stout will move to the goal area of Matanuska Valley, 50 miles northwest of Anchorage.

Nome is a goal for the formation of a local assembly by next April, and at present has only one pioneer; the goals to be filled by these friends are virgin areas.

National Assembly Incorporated
A further goal of the World Crusade was attained on September 25, 1957, with the signing of the legal papers for the incorporation of the National Spiritual Assembly by the office of the Attorney General in Juneau.

Temple Site Land Approved
The National Assembly also reports that the Guardian has approved the three-acre gift tract of land for a Temple site, reported in Bahá’í News for September.

Bulletin Available

The committee’s bulletin, being mailed to local spiritual assemblies and available to isolated believers on request, describes the Bahá’í role in each of these three endeavors, with major emphasis on Part I — the year-round, continuing, two-fold responsibility of the American Bahá’í community, namely to attract and win more Negroes in the south as recruits for Bahá’u’lláh and to fearlessly demonstrate everywhere, including the south, the oneness of mankind. Teaching aids and other suggestions are offered, including ways and means of checking the reasons why the Negro contact or seeker does not go all the way and become a Bahá’í.

Negro History Week

While the assemblies and Bahá’í groups are not expected to sponsor Negro History Week this year to the extent this was done last year, the excellent ground work that was laid and the fine relationships and contacts established with Negro leaders and local organizations interested in interracial work must not be allowed to wither.

Active participation in local Negro History Week observances should be offered, and this as soon as possible so as to be in on the planning stage. Again, the Interracial Teaching Committee’s bulletin suggests how this might be done.

Race Amity Day

In line with the Guardian’s hope that the Bahá’í-sponsored Race Amity Day may achieve the same national recognition that is accorded World Religion Day, all Bahá’í communities and groups are urged to cooperate in making the observance of this event a full-scale undertaking this year. The Committee outlines how this can be done and suggests a wide variety of local programs that can be undertaken “to celebrate the Bahá’í teaching of the Oneness of Mankind, the distinguishing feature of the Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh.”

In planning and carrying out any and all of these three aspects of interracial teaching work, the interest, talents, and vitality of Bahá’í youth should not be overlooked. Youth members might well be added to the planning and contact committees, and the panel of speakers or for group discussion should, if at all possible, include a Bahá’í youth.

The Committee welcomes requests for suggestions and help in making interracial teaching an outstanding and significant aspect of local teaching effort this year.

—BAHá’I INTERRACIAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

"Not By The Force of Numbers…"

Not by the force of numbers, not by the mere exposition of a set of new and noble principles, not by an organized campaign of teaching — no matter how worldwide and elaborate in its character — not even by the staunchness of our faith or the exaltation of our enthusiasm, can we ultimately hope to vindicate in the eyes of a critical and sceptical age the supreme claim of the Abhá Revelation. One thing and only one thing will unfailingly and alone secure the undoubted triumph of this sacred Cause, namely, the extent to which our own inner life and private character mirror forth in their manifold aspects the splendor of those eternal principles proclaimed by Bahá’u’lláh.

—SHOGHI EFFENDI, Bahá’í Administration, p. 66

This is the story of Jay, through whose example and devotion a capable, dedicated soul has been won for service to Bahá’u’lláh and His Cause in another land.

Jay is almost 80 years of age. For many months he was in the county hospital recovering from broken bones and severe bruises after having been struck by a motorist. He lives alone, in one small room, and he does his own shopping.

One day a passerby, a business visitor from a South American country, saw Jay struggling on his way home with a bag of groceries, with a cane to help support his still-weak leg. He assisted Jay to his room, and after they had visited a few minutes Jay asked his visitor “the question.” The stranger was at once so interested that he stayed for almost an hour asking questions, and departed with a few Bahá’í pamphlets.

A few days later the young man returned, asked more questions, and again left with literature. The next week Jay invited him to go to the fireside of another believer, and here his eager interest became an inspiration to the group of Bahá’í’s and non-Bahá’í’s studying the teachings together. Within a few weeks he was completely convinced of the validity, the aims, and the purposes of the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh and applied to the local spiritual assembly for enrollment, that he might return to his home fully prepared to play his part in the consolidation of this new Faith in his own city and country.

A war refugee from Central Europe to South America, and sent to the United States by his business firm for specialized training, this young man found through this “chance” acquaintance the real purpose of life shining through the broken pattern of his past, and it is Jay, whom he loves as a father, who gave him the key.

This is a glowing example of the truth that everywhere there are ready souls waiting to receive the Message and that no Bahá’í is ever too old, too feeble, too poor, to attract and win for Bahá’u’lláh new “recruits” with the fire and capacity to spread the light of His Cause in places and lands far beyond the reach of him who mentions the blessed Name of his Lord.
TWO EDITIONS OF CATALOG AVAILABLE FROM BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

The new general catalog is now available from the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, and is being sent to all local librarians, national committees, and isolated Bahá'ís who have accounts with the Publishing Trust. Extra copies will be included in next shipments of book orders for local librarians to furnish to their local committees. This general edition of the catalog includes everything available at time of its publication. It is not intended for distribution to contacts, bookstores, or anyone except Bahá'ís who order literature, as it contains many Teaching and Administrative aids of no interest to non-Bahá'ís.

All new publishing items, or items going out of print, as well as any price changes, are listed regularly in Bahá'í News and catalogs should be kept current from this source of information which is readily accessible to everyone.

Special Edition Prepared for Bookstores and Contacts

A special, briefer edition of the Bahá'í Literature Catalog has now been made available for furnishing to the book trade (bookstores, dealers, etc.), and also for giving to contacts who are seriously interested in ordering Bahá'í books.

The Publishing Trust receives many requests from communities and individuals concerning information on handling of Bahá'í books by a local bookstore. There is no reason why a local assembly should not encourage the handling of Bahá'í books by a local bookstore, or suggest titles most likely to be in demand from the public. From this point on, however, the bookstore should deal directly with the Publishing Trust. The local assembly should in no way act as a supplier or dealer, since it is a non-profit organization stocking literature solely for its own religious purposes. Either the book dealer can write direct to the Publishing Trust in Wilmette for information, or the local assembly can furnish the Trust with the name and address of the book dealer. In either case the necessary information, together with the special catalog, will be sent to the book dealer direct.

Most bookstores are aware of the source for ordering Bahá'í books through ads and listings of titles in The Trade List Annual, Books In Print, The Publisher's Weekly, and other trade reference sources.

Bahá'ís desiring copies of this special edition of the catalog for interested contacts may order them through their local librarians at cost price of $.10 per copy. (See Publishing Trust section).

LIST COLLEGES NEEDING STUDENT PIONEERS

The College Bureau now has a list of colleges where Bahá'í students are needed. It would be appreciated if all students interested in going to college next fall or transferring at the end of the semester would contact the College Bureau, P. O. Box 666, Stanford, Calif. This is a chance for students who want to pioneer at home while still in school.

This Committee still has not heard from all students enrolled in universities and colleges. It would be appreciated if every student would write immediately.
WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET
Fifth Year: 1957-1958
Annual Budget ...........$425,000.00
Total Requirements:
May 1 to October 31 ... 212,500.00
Total Contributions:
May 1 to October 31 ... 154,000.00
—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Baha'i in the News

Yakima Herald, Sunday, June 23, 1957, published a feature story by Velma Baylor on the artistic career of Mrs. Victor de Araujo, with a photo of the artist seated at her easel. "Both Mr. and Mrs. de Araujo are active in the Baha'i Faith and take part in study classes and firesides."

"Elijah's Mountain Today" is the title of an article on Mount Carmel by Paula Arnold published in The Evening Sun, Baltimore, Md., on May 30, 1957. "Easily the most spectacular building on Mount Carmel, however, is not any of the churches mentioned, but the Baha'i Temple (i.e., Shrine of the Bab) with its golden cupola, standing halfway up the Mount, above landscaped gardens, visible from every point of the town."

Mercer Crose, Minneapolis Tribune staff writer, devoted considerable space to an article on the Faith in the Morning Tribune of May 27, 1957, under the title "Baha'i's Stress Unity." "The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens." So reads the message over one of the entrances to the beautiful ornate temple of Wilmette, Illinois. It is the basic message of the Baha'i world faith, a little-understood religion that believes in the eventual coming together of all races, nations, classes, and creeds."

Under the caption "World Melting Pot of Faiths" the Chicago American on October 24, 1957, published an article from Jerusalem which stated that "Haifa is world headquarters for the Baha'i Faith, whose American Temple is located in Wilmette."

The Delta Trading Co., Inc., of Tel-Aviv, Israel, has produced a beautifully illustrated Jewish calendar with an illustration facing each month. For December 1957 the illustration is a large photograph of the Baha'i International Archives building overlooking the Bay of Haifa.

The Publishers' Auxiliary for October 19, 1957, lists the special events for 1958, January through June, taken from the list compiled by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. World Religion Day appears as of January 19.


On October 12, 1957, the Baha'is of Little Rock, Ark., published the statement on "The Oneness of Mankind" as a paid advertisement. This message appeared in the very center of the agitation against race integration. Already requests for literature have been received in Wilmette from seekers in Arkansas.

Los Gatos Times—Saratoga Observer, August 23, 1957, announced that Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Lissner, recently returned from Nigeria, would present a program at the home of Mrs. Hansen, Kings Acres. The Lissners were described as members of the Baha'i World Faith.

Paris (France) Presse l'intransigent, March 21, 1957, reproduced from the Frankfurter Rundschau an article reporting that the German Bahai's, after purchasing a Temple site near Frankfurt, would be obliged to await a permit by decision of the regional court.
On November 3, 1957, the Chicago Sunday Tribune published an article reporting the decision of the court approving the construction of the Bahá’í Home in Wilmette and announcing plans for an early beginning of construction. The Cook County Circuit Court upheld the permit given to the Bahá’í Temple Trustees by the Village Board after approving a variation in the zoning.

What We Believe

If we are not sure what we believe, then the fault is ours. The responsibility rests with each one of us to acquire a sound basic knowledge of Bahá’í teachings and Bahá’í history so that we may have in our minds the complete picture ready for presentation to anyone who is interested. It must be an accurate picture and it can be an accurate picture if we are willing to make the effort.

—Australian Bahá’í Bulletin

1958 Bahá’í Calendar. Our 1958 calendar carries the four-color reproduction of the Shrine of the Báb which was originally selected as the frontispiece in Bahá’í World Vol. XII by the beloved Guardian.

Due to increase in production costs on this limited item we are forced to raise the price slightly above that appearing in our current catalog.

Per copy .............. $ .30 Net
Ten copies .............. $ 2.50 Net

(Please note the net price, which means no discount)

Sample Pamphlet Kit. Here is a kit made up of one copy each of our most useful teaching pamphlets. This will enable every Bahá’í who is ready and willing to teach the Cause, to be completely aware of and acquainted with the many splendid pamphlets and brochures with their variety of approaches to the Teachings, suitable for every contact, fireside, or public meeting. (This kit supersedes the smaller sized kit of recent years made up of only 10 titles).

30 individual titles ................ $2.50

Bahá’í Literature Catalog. Special Edition. A briefer edition of the Bahá’í Literature Catalog, omitting many items of interest only to Bahá’ís, has been prepared. This may be ordered for giving to Bahá’í contacts who are seriously interested in purchasing Bahá’í books. It is available at cost. Please read article on page 14 for further details.

Per copy .............. $ .10

Reduced Price

Bahá’í Answers. Due to the excellent response to this most useful item and a cost reduction on a large lot printing just made, a new lower price is offered. The larger lot prices listed on this and other pamphlets should also be available to individuals in the local community through their local book distribution service. The small unit price on ten copies remains the same.

10 copies .................. $ .75
100 copies ................ $ 5.00
500 copies .............. $22.50

Going out of Print

The following titles are low in stock and do not appear in new catalog. If copies are desired they should be ordered quickly.

The Lesser and the Most Great Peace. By George Latimer. The evolution of world peace as outlined in the Bahá’í teachings.

8 copies .................. $ .25
100 copies ................ $1.00

Teaching Handbook. Prepared as the Two-Year Program of Preparation some years ago, this looseleaf book with sections on public meetings, publicity, firesides, etc., contains practical suggestions useful in all phases of local teaching work.

Per copy .................. $ .75

Minimum Mail Order, $1.00

Available from

BAHÁ’I PUBLISHING TRUST
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEASTS
December 12—Masá’il (Questions)
December 31—Sharaf (Honor)

STATE CONVENTIONS
December 8

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
December 10—To proclaim the Bahá’í principles of justice for all mankind.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
January 3, 4, 5

Bahá’í House of Worship Visiting Hours

Weekdays
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Entire building)

Service of Worship
Sundays
3:30 p.m., lasting until 4:15.
Proclamation by the Hands of the Cause to the Baha’is of East and West

Beloved Friends:

Nine days had not yet elapsed after the interment of the sacred remains of our beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, in London, when the Hands of the Cause, to the number of twenty-six, assembled at the World Center of the Faith, in our capacity as “Chief Stewards of the Embryonic World Commonwealth of Bahá’u’lláh,” to consult together on the most tragic situation facing the Bahá’ís since the Ascension of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, and to take all necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard the highest interests of our Faith.

On November 18th the Hands conducted a Memorial Meeting at Bahji, in the Haram-i-Aqdas surrounding the most sacred Shrine in the Bahá’í world, afterward entering the Holy Tomb itself and prostrating ourselves in utter humility at the Sacred Threshold.

On the following morning, November 19th, nine Hands of the Cause, selected from the Holy Land and the several continents of East and West, with ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum, broke the seals placed upon the beloved Guardian’s safe and desk and made careful examination of their precious contents. These same Hands, rejoining the other Hands assembled in the Mansion of Bahá’u’lláh at Bahji, certified that Shoghi Effendi had left no Will and Testament. It was likewise certified that the beloved Guardian had left no heir. The Agás (branches) one and all are either dead or have been declared violators of the Covenant by the Guardian for their faithlessness to the Master’s Will and Testament and their hostility to him named first Guardian in that sacred document.

The first effect of the realization that no successor to Shoghi Effendi could have been appointed by him was to plunge the Hands of the Cause into the very abyss of despair. What must happen to the world community of his devoted followers if the Leader, the Inspirer, the Planner of all Bahá’í activities in all countries and islands of the seas could no longer fulfill his unique mission?

Guardian’s Life of Complete Sacrifice

From this dark abyss, however, contemplation of the Guardian’s own life of complete sacrifice and his peerless services gradually redeemed our anguished hearts. Shoghi Effendi himself, we know, would have been the first to remind the Hands and the widespread body of the believers, that the Dispensation of Bahá’u’lláh has quickened those powers and resources of faith within mankind which will achieve the unity of the peoples and the triumph of His World Order. In this new light of understanding the company of the Hands could perceive with heightened gratitude the existence of those innumerable blessings which Shoghi Effendi had created and left as his true legacy to all Bahá’ís.

Has not the World Center, with its sacred Shrines and institutions, been firmly established? Has not the Message been established in 254 countries and dependencies? Have not the National and Regional Spiritual Assemblies, forerunners of the Universal House of Justice, been implanted in twenty-six great areas of all continents? Has not the Guardian left us not only his incomparable translations, for English-reading Bahá’ís, of the Bahá’í Sacred Literature but also his own master works of interpretation which disclose to us the unshatterable edifice of evolving Bahá’í Order and world community? Has not the Guardian, building upon the enduring foundation of the Master’s Tablets


of the Divine Plan, created the World Crusade to guide our work until 1963?

Has not the Guardian, moreover, in his mysterious insight into the present and future needs of the Bahá'í Community, called into being the International Bahá'í Council and the company of twenty-seven Hands with their Auxiliary Boards, whom in his final communication to the Bahá'ís, he designated “Chief Stewards of the Embryonic World Commonwealth of Bahá'u'lláh”?

Foundations of World Order Strongly Laid

Such reflections could but, in such a world-shattering experience as all Bahá'ís have this month endured, reveal to us how strongly Shoghi Effendi has laid the foundations of the world order of Bahá'u'lláh through the appointments of Hands of the Cause and likewise the appointment of the International Bahá'í Council, the institution destined to evolve into the Universal House of Justice.

In our capacity of Chief Stewards of the Embryonic World Commonwealth of Bahá'u'lláh, we Hands of the Cause have constituted a body of nine Hands to serve at the Bahá'í World Center. This body of nine Hands will energetically deal with the protection of the Faith whenever attacks, whether from within or outside the Bahá'í community, are reported by Hands from their areas or by National or Regional Assemblies, or whether they arise within the Holy Land. Correspondence will likewise be maintained with the Hands of the Cause working in the several continents. This same body will correspond with National Assemblies on matters connected with the prosecution of the objectives of the Ten Year Plan. On matters involving administrative questions this same body will assist National Assemblies by citing those passages of the Bahá'í Sacred Literature which direct the Assemblies to a sound solution.

As to the International Bahá'í Council, appointed by the Guardian and heralded in his communications to the Bahá'í world, that body will in the course of time finally fulfill its purpose through the formation of the Universal House of Justice, that supreme body upon which infallibility, as the Master's Testament assures us, is divinely conferred: “The source of all good and freed from all error.” The main work of the Council has been to act as the Guardian's representative in matters involving the Israeli government and its courts of law.

Our Most Precious Legacy

Beloved friends! Is not the most precious legacy bequeathed to us all by Shoghi Effendi the privilege of constancy in the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh and devotion in teaching His Message? This is the heartfelt plea we direct to every Bahá'í: The hour has come, as it came with the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, when true Bahá'ís will be distinguished by their firmness in the Covenant and their spiritual radiance while pressing forward the mighty work committed to every area of the world community,—to every individual Bahá'í! For now our implacable opponents may, and probably will, unleash attacks, assuming in their ignorance that the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh is weakened and defenceless. By consecration of spirit we are armed against all manner of assault and we hold the weapon of faith with which the triumph of the Guardian's aims and purposes is assured.

The Hands of the Cause, determined to carry out every aspect of the Guardian's expressed wishes and hopes, call upon the National Assemblies to proceed with the holding of the Intercontinental Conferences which Shoghi Effendi has planned for 1958, and make each of them a great rallying-point of determination to achieve the tasks of the next phase of the World Crusade. We are, moreover, to keep ever before us the other tasks fixed in the Ten Year Plan as objectives to be won by 1963.

Evolution of International Bahá'í Council

Meanwhile the entire body of the Hands assembled by the nine Hands of the World Center will decide when and how the International Bahá'í Council is to evolve through the successive stages outlined by the Guardian, culminating in the call to election of the Universal House of Justice by the membership of all National Spiritual Assemblies.

When that divinely ordained body comes into existence, all the conditions of the Faith can be examined anew and the measures necessary for its future operation determined on consultation with the Hands of the Cause.

"O God, my God! Shield Thy trusted servants from the evils of self and passion, protect them with the watchful eye of Thy kinder blessing from all rancor, hate, and envy, shelter them in the impregnable stronghold of Thy Cause and, safe from the darts of doubtfulness, make them the manifestations of Thy glorious Signs, illumine their faces with the effulgent rays shed from the Dayspring of Thy Divine Unity, gladden their hearts with the verses revealed from Thy Holy Kingdom, strengthen their loins by Thy all-swaying power that cometh from Thy Realm of Glory. Thou art the All-Bountiful, the Protector, the Almighty, the Gracious!"

"O ye that stand fast in the Covenant; When the hour cometh that this wronged and broken-winged bird will have taken its flight unto the celestial Concourse, when it will have hastened to the Realm of the Unseen and its mortal frame will have been either lost or hidden near the dust, it is incumbent upon the Afnán, that are steadfast in the Covenant of God, and have branched from the Tree of Holiness; the Hands, (pillars) of the Cause of God, (the glory of the Lord rest..."
Assembly Gives Grateful Affirmation and Pledges of Unqualified Support

Beloved Bahá’í Friends:

The foregoing message of transcendent importance prepared by the twenty-six Hands of the Cause recently assembled at the World Center of our Faith was transmitted on November 30 to every American Bahá’í. This Proclamation to the Bahá’í world assures all believers that, following our tragic loss of the beloved Guardian, the World Faith established by Bahá’u’lláh will have continuity and direction.

On behalf of the entire American Bahá’í community, the actions taken by the body of the Hands appointed by the Guardian have received the grateful affirmation of your National Assembly and our whole-hearted pledge of unqualified support.

We unitedly join their heartfelt appeal for renewed dedication to the Faith and for energetic action in spreading the Message and completing the objectives of the Guardian’s World Crusade.

The maturity of the Bahá’í world community now begins as we collectively press forward to carry out the beloved Guardian’s expressed wishes and plans. Indeed, in this thirty-six year mission as Guardian, Shoghi Effendi has perfected the expression of the Divine Guidance we need for years to come, until the Universal House of Justice shall have been elected and the Master’s Will and Testament thereby executed. Moreover, the Tablets of the Divine Plan, which the Guardian’s successive Seven-Year Plan and the present World Crusade brought into the field of action, continue to have spiritual vitality until the world of humanity is united in one Faith and one Order under the All-Powerful Will of God brought to our age by the Báb and Bahá’u’lláh.


Committees and Assemblies Called Upon

The National Committees and the local Assemblies, those important organs of our Bahá’í Community, are likewise called upon by our body to function in unity and dedication so that the American Bahá’ís may maintain their primacy in devoted service to the Faith.

Let us cherish in our hearts the conviction that the Guardianship remains with us in Shoghi Effendi’s elucidation of the administrative order, his interpretation of the Bahá’í Sacred Writings, and his example of supreme sacrifice to the Call of God addressed to this crucial age.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Devotedly, in service to the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh,

‘Amatu’l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum
Charles Mason Remey
Amelia E. Collins
Leroy Ioas
‘Ali Muhammad Varqá Tarápu’lláh Samandarí
‘Ali-Akbar Furútan
Dhikru’lláh Khádem
Shu’á’u’lláh ‘Alá’í
Jalál Kházeh
Horace Holley
Corinne True
Paul E. Haney

Mansion of Bahá’u’lláh
Bahjí, ‘Akka, Israel,
November 25, 1957.

upon them), and all the friends and loved ones, one and all to bestir themselves and arise with heart and soul in one accord, to diffuse the sweet savors of God, to teach His Cause and to promote His Faith. It behooveth them not to rest for a moment, neither to seek repose. They must disperse themselves in every land, pass by every clime and travel throughout all regions. Bestirred, without rest and steadfast to the end they must raise in every land the triumphal cry ‘O Thou Glory of Glories!’ (Yá Bahá’u’lláh), must achieve renown in the world wherever they go, must burn brightly even as a candle in every meeting and must kindle the flame of Divine love in every assembly; that the light of truth may rise resplendent in the midstmost heart of the world, that throughout the East and throughout the West a vast concourse may gather under the shadow of the Word of God, that the sweet savors of holiness may be diffused, that faces may shine radiantly, hearts be filled with the Divine spirit and souls be made heavenly.”

“In these days, the most important of all things is the guidance of the nations and peoples of the world. Teaching the Cause is of utmost importance for it is the head cornerstone of the foundation itself. This wronged servant has spent his days and nights in promoting the Cause and urging the peoples to service. He rested not a moment, till the fame of the Cause of God was noise abroad in the world and the celestial strains from the Abhá Kingdom roused the East and the West. The beloved of God must also follow the same example. This is the secret of faithfulness, this is the requirement of servitude to the Threshold of Bahá’í!”

Herman Grossmann
Adelbert Mühlschlegel
Ugo Giachery
Musa Banádí
Clara Dunn
Agnes Alexander
William B. Sears
Enoch Olinga
John Robarts
Hasan Balyuzi
John Ferraby
H. Collis Featherstone
Rahmatu’lláh Muhájir
‘Abú’l-Qásim Faízí

———
"Consummation of Victory Announced
in Guardian's Message of September 5"

Cable from Hands of Holy Land

Please announce (to) Hands (of) five continents (and to) all National Assemblies (the) heartwarming news (of) the consummation (of) the victory, announced (in) Guardian's message (of) September 5, by transfer (of) title deeds (to) all properties within (the) Haram-i-Aqdas to name (of) Israel Branch (of) United States National Assembly, thus completing purification (of) the area surrounding Most Holy Spot (in the) Bahá’í world.

—HANDS (OF THE) HOLY LAND

Cable received December 5, 1957

Beloved Friends:

The foregoing announcement transmitted from the Hands in the Holy Land through our National Spiritual Assembly to all Hands and National Assemblies, provides an occasion for grateful recognition of the providential forces guiding and protecting the Faith of Bahá’ú’lláh.

For now the title deeds to all properties within the Haram-i-Aqdas have been transferred to the Israel Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, in conformity with the Guardian's intention.

The area surrounding the Most Holy Spot within the Bahá’í World is now completely purified—a symbol of the Guardian's consummation of his peerless services, as well as a most significant victory for the Bahá’í Faith.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Message From The Hands of the Cause in America to the 1957 State Conventions

Dear Friends:

By now all American believers have received and read with rapt attention the Proclamation issued by the company of Hands convened in the Mansion of Bahá’ú’lláh, outside 'Akká, soon after the interment of the sacred remains of our beloved Shoghi Effendi in the London cemetery.

That document builds a bridge for the world Bahá’í Community from the passing of the Guardian to the completion of the Ten-Year Plan and the eventual formation of the Universal House of Justice. It assures the progressive unfoldment of the Bahá’í Administrative Order, the continuous operation of our local and National Assemblies, and the uninterrupted teaching of the Message of Bahá’ú’lláh. It provides, likewise, for the protection of the Faith from onslaughts wherever and whenever directed against the Faith of God.

What is the firm foundation on which the company of Hands based their decisive action in such an unexpected, such a crucial hour for all Bahá’ís?

It would be well to review together on this impressive occasion the successive pronouncements made by the Guardian in creating the function and mission of the Institution of the Hands, established by Bahá’ú’lláh and maintained in this era of the Faith by provisions in the Master's Will and Testament.

On December 24, 1951, the Guardian cabled: "Hour now ripe (to) take long, inevitably deferred step (in) conformity (with) provisions (of) 'Abdu'l-Bahá’s Testament ... through appointment first contingent (of) Hands (of the) Cause of God ... Initial step now taken, regard (as) preparatory (to) full development (of) institution provided in 'Abdu'l-Bahá’s Will, paralleled (with) preliminary measures formation (of) International Council destined (to) culminate (in) emergence (of) Universal House of Justice."

In the second cablegram dated February 29, 1952, the Guardian used these words: "Members (of) august body invested (in) conformity (with) 'Abdu'l-Bahá’s Testament, two-fold sacred function, propagation (and) preservation (of) the Faith of Bahá’ú’lláh, (are) destined (to) assume individually (in the) course (of) time (the) direction (of) institutions paralleling those revolving around (the) Universal House of Justice, supreme legislative body (of) the Bahá’í World ... "

Next, on October 8 of that same year the Guardian cabled: "Call upon fifteen Hands (of) five continents, by virtue of their supreme function as chosen instruments (for) the propagation (of) the Faith, (to) inaugurate historic mission through appointment ... (of) five Auxiliary Boards, (one) each continent, nine members each, who will as their adjuncts, or deputies, and working (in) conjunction (with) the various National Assemblies ... assist, through periodic, systematic visits (to) Bahá’í centers, (in) the efficient, prompt execution (of) the twelve projected National Plans."

On April 5, 1954, we received the following: "Urge initiation (of) five Continental Bahá’í Funds, which as they develop, will increasingly facilitate (the) discharge (of) the functions assigned (to the) Boards."

"Fervently supplicating (at the) Holy Threshold (for an) unprecedented measure (of) blessings (on this) vital, indispensable organ (of the) embryonic, steadily unfolding Bahá’í Administrative Order, presaging (the) emergence (of) the World Order (of) Bahá’ú’lláh which must pave (the) way (for the) establishment (of) the World Civilization destined (to) attain maturity (in the) course of successive Dispensations (in the) five thousand year Bahá’í cycle."

During the course of the present year the Guardian made profound and significant references to the station and function of the Hands.

On June 4, 1957, he cabled: "Divinely appointed institution (of) the Hands (of the) Cause, invested (by) virtue (of the) authority conferred (by) the) Testament (of the) Center (of the) Covenant (with the) twin functions of protecting (and) propagating (the) Faith of Bahá’ú’lláh, now entering new phase (in the) process (of the) unfoldment (of its
sacred mission. To its newly assumed responsibility (to) assist National Spiritual Assemblies of the Bahá‘í world (in the) specific purpose (of) effectively prosecuting (the) World Spiritual Crusade, (the) primary obligation (to) watch over (and) insure protection (to) the Bahá‘í world community, in close collaboration (with) these same National Assemblies, (is) now added."

Special attention is called to the Guardian’s statement in his letter of October 1957: "So marvellous a progress, embracing so vast a field, achieved in so short a time, by so small a band of heroic souls, well deserves, at this juncture in the evolution of a decade-long Crusade, to be signalized by, and indeed necessitates, the announcement of yet another step in the progressive unfoldment of one of the cardinal and pivotal institutions ordained by Bahá‘u’lláh, and confirmed in the Will and Testament of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, involving the designation of yet another contingent of the Hands of the Cause of God . . . the Chief Stewards of Bahá‘u’lláh’s embryonic World Commonwealth, who have been invested by the unerring Pen of the Center of His Covenant with the dual function of guarding over the security, and of insuring the propagation, of His Father’s Faith."

"This latest addition to the band of the high-ranking officers of a fast-evolving World Administrative Order . . . calls for . . . the appointment by these same Hands, in each continent separately, of an additional Auxiliary Board, equal in membership to the existing one, and charged with the specific duty of watching over the security of the Faith, thereby complementing the function of the original Board whose duty will henceforth be exclusively concerned with assisting the prosecution of the Ten-Year Plan."

In these successive passages, dear friends, the Guardian clearly established an international body of twenty-seven Hands of the Cause endowed with authority to consult and take appropriate measures to meet the crisis which, with the Guardian’s passing, overtook and indeed overwhelmed the world community of Bahá‘ís. Of this vitally important fact we may have full assurance.

The Proclamation issued by the Hands convened at the World Center sets forth all the questions involved and presents their solution. The body of the nine Hands elected to serve at the World Center is further qualified, both morally and legally, to carry forward Shoghi Effendi’s plans and to serve as trustees of the Holy Shrines, properties and gardens which the Guardian so marvellously developed in Haifa and ‘Akka.

Let there be no confusion regarding the operation of the Hands of the Cause and the elected body of nine. They are preserving and sustaining the Faith as expressed in the Will and Testament of the Master and in the body of Shoghi Effendi’s peerless writings. They coordinate both the teaching work and protection of the Faith as proceeding under the direction of the National Assemblies, the Hands and their Auxiliary Boards. They assist National Assemblies to make correct solution of administrative problems by reference to those passages which illumine the nature of the problem and how it is to be met.

The American Hands, therefore, stand unitedly with the National Spiritual Assemblies in urging the friends to demonstrate, by their unity and their zeal, the devotion to the Faith of Bahá‘u’lláh which has been engendered within each of us, that the meaning of the primacy conferred upon America may be fully realized both by the followers of Bahá‘u’lláh and the general public.

Bahá‘u’lláh, the Author of this Revelation, tries the hearts of His servants that we may be purified and disciplined to rise and proclaim His Message to a darkened world!

Sincerely,
CORinne TRUE
Horace Holley
PAUL E. HANEY
Wilmette, Illinois
December 4, 1957.

Mail Campaign to be Intensified

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to thank the many friends who sent in copies of the September issue of the magazine Awake!, which carried an article entitled "What is the Bahá‘í Cause?"

Although we wish the article had not contained so many inaccuracies, nevertheless it has been the means of arousing the interest of a great many people who, attracted partic-
ularly to the principles of the Faith as stated in the article, have written, requests for Bahá'í literature are arriving in great numbers in response to an article in the December issue of the Journal of Lifetime Living listing the Bahá'í Faith as one of the sources for literature for “Building a Library of Faith.”

Mention is made of these two items of unsolicited publicity about the Faith simply to indicate that all over the land there are seekers who have not yet heard the word “Bahá'í,” and in whom it arouses an instant interest and desire to know what we have to offer in the way of hope for both the individual and for the troubled world. Therefore, the widespread mail campaign announced in the October issue of Bahá'í News (page 2) is extremely important.

No opportunity must be neglected or lost at this crucial stage in the progress of the World Crusade to find and attract among the millions of Americans, and particularly in every locality where Bahá'ís reside, those who have the readiness and capacity to become part of “the continual flow” of new members “so essential for the safeguarding of the prizes won in the course of the several campaigns of a world-girdling Crusade,” and who will help to furnish the “spiritual reinvigoration, administrative expansion, and material replenishment constituting the triple facets of a task that can brook no further delay,” as emphasized “more fervently than ever before” in the beloved Guardian's clarion and final call to the American Bahá'í community.

The National Spiritual Assembly urges the friends to continue and to intensify the mail campaign until there has been maximum distribution of The Christian Century article by Marcus Bach, “Bahá'í: A Second Look,” and the Bahá'í pamphlet, The Lord of the New Age.

Many communities have found that these two pieces can be mailed without envelopes and inexpensively by placing the pamphlet inside the folded reprint, stapling them together and by writing the address on a slip of paper pasted above the words “Christian Century.” In this manner, both pieces can be mailed for one two-cent stamp.

Furthermore, believers who are distributing the new Bahá’í Questionnaire mailing piece can fold these two items inside without involving any increase in the cost of mailing the questionnaire material.

The National Spiritual Assembly again requests the local Assemblies and Bahá'í groups to report by the end of January what distribution they have made of the material and what plans they have for continuing it.

The Guardian's Latest Directive Concerning Non-Bahá'í Persians

Among the last few letters from our beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, was one through his Assistant Secretary mailed November 7, 1957, to an American believer from which we quote the following paragraph:

"In response to your question 'should Bahá'ís invite non-Bahá'í Persians to meetings or to Bahá'í schools,' the Guardian feels it is very unwise for non-Bahá'í Persians to be invited to Bahá'í meetings or to Bahá'í schools. In fact, he instructs that non-Bahá'í Persians should not be invited under any circumstances to any Bahá'í public gatherings or schools or Bahá'í meetings. He has repeatedly informed the American Bahá'ís that Persians must become Bahá'ís in Persia and therefore the believers in America must concentrate all of their efforts on teaching the Americans and not the Persians."

A copy of the letter from which this paragraph is quoted was sent to the National Spiritual Assembly with the instruction to see "that this important injunction of the Guardian is carefully followed out." Therefore, local Assemblies, Area Teaching Committees, Bahá'í groups and Summer School Committees are to report promptly to the National Assembly all instances where believers invite or bring non-Bahá'í Persians to Bahá'í schools or any Bahá'í gatherings.

—National Spiritual Assembly
Features of Baha'i Home for the Aged Revealed with Completion of Construction Plans

A description of the Baha'i Home for the Aged, the first dependency of the Mashriqu’l-Adhkār in Wilmette, has been released by the National Spiritual Assembly, as plans have been completed for an early beginning of the actual construction.

The architect, Wm. Campbell Wright of Wilmette, has prepared this account of the features to be found in the Home.

The building will be contemporary in design, primarily of brick, with stone and wood trim. It is designed to provide living quarters for 20 residents, and an administrative staff of three persons.

It will be essentially U-shaped, surrounding a private garden area open to the south, which will contain a number of large oak trees in addition to plenty of space for formal landscaping and flower or vegetable gardening. The building will be well set back from surrounding lot lines, and the adjoining areas will have many trees, mostly oak, with a few hickory trees and more gardening space.

Ingress and egress will be extremely simple, through numerous widely-separated doorways, all at grade level. Ample off-street parking space will be provided for visitors, easily accessible from Fourth street, and with direct entrance into the building. An existing three-car garage, at the alley, will remain for use of the staff.

All habitable rooms will be on one floor, just slightly above sidewalk level. There will be no stairs for the residents to climb. Radiant heating will be provided by means of coil-panels in the floor.

Sleeping rooms are so arranged that they will accommodate sixteen individuals and two couples. Each pair of individual rooms will share a connecting toilet room, and will have a lavatory in each room. The rooms for couples will each have a private half-bath containing toilet and lavatory. Shower and tub facilities will be provided for both men and women in bath rooms off the main corridor.

There will be a large common room or living-dining room with large glass areas facing south on the garden side. This room will have a high-beamed ceiling and a large fireplace. Off the common room will be a parlor which will double as a library and a room for private meetings of residents and their guests.

An adequate and well-equipped kitchen is provided, with plenty of food storage area. The kitchen will adjoin the administrative offices, which will also face the entrance foyer.

The administrator will have a suite of two offices, and a two-room living suite with private bath. Two rooms with connecting bath will be provided, to house a cook and one resident maid.

In the same general area there will be an infirmary, with a bath containing a small laboratory counter and case. The infirmary will provide space for not more than two people, for short periods of time, but is not intended to provide actual hospitalization facilities.

Other interesting features will include a large hobby room and an open porch opening only off the resident's private corridor.

Instructions for Temple Visitors

In order to prevent disappointment on the part of the Baha'is who visit the Baha'i House of Worship at times other than the National Convention, the National Spiritual Assembly finds it necessary to explain the situation which exists in Wilmette, and which it is hoped traveling Baha'is will take into account when planning to come to the Temple area, particularly in the winter and early spring months.

In the first place, the Baha'i House of Worship is open only from one to four o'clock on weekday afternoons, and from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays during the period from October first to May first. Only one guide is on duty during the weekdays, stationed at the entrance to the auditorium. This makes it impossible for the guide to devote any length of time to any single person, whether Baha'i or non-Baha'i, and he or she cannot leave the post to sell books, Baha'i ring stones, or kodachrome slides which are available only at the...
Book Sales counter in Foundation Hall.

Even during the summer months, the guides are unable to spend time with Bahá'ís, for, in addition to receiving visitors who often number several hundred a day, the guides have various other duties to perform in and about Foundation Hall.

The National Spiritual Assembly and the Temple guides, as well as the local Bahá'ís in Wilmette, wish very much that they could provide hospitality for the out-of-town believers who come to the Temple, particularly for the first time, but the number of Bahá'ís in the area surrounding the Temple is too small. Most of them have full-time employment, many have families, and the time of the few who are available for guiding must be carefully scheduled so that the Temple can be kept open during the hours announced to the public.

Another problem that must be considered is that there are no hotels in Wilmette and no Bahá'í homes that can offer overnight hospitality. During the Annual Convention a housing committee which functions only for that period is able to find accommodations for delegates and visitors in the homes of a limited number of Wilmette residents, but these homes are not open for such purposes the year round. Therefore, if Bahá'ís arrive at the Temple expecting to remain in Wilmette overnight, it becomes necessary for the staff to get in touch with some one who served on the housing committee the previous Convention period who, in turn, must try to find a place for them to stay. If the visitors have no transportation of their own, the problem is increased.

Sunday Visit Suggested

The foregoing explanation has become necessary because the Temple guides are greatly concerned lest any Bahá'í who comes to the Temple in eager anticipation of the spiritual experience of praying and meditating in the House of Worship and of discussing the Faith with believers at the national center of the Faith, should go away with a heart made heavy from disappointment. The National Spiritual Assembly hopes that, so far as possible, traveling Bahá'ís will plan their visit to the Temple on Sundays when Bahá'ís from all the surrounding area gather in Foundation Hall to meet and visit with each other before and following the service of public worship in the afternoon.

Traveling Bahá'ís are again reminded of the importance of carrying their identification cards with them when visiting the Temple area as well as other communities where they are not already known.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Bahá'í Holy Days Recognized by Two Additional Schools

The Bahá'í Group of Monona Village, Wis., has reported that in 1956 permission was received from the school authorities for Bahá'í children to be excused from classes in both the elementary and high school on Bahá'í Holy Days.

Also, the All Saints' Episcopal Church School in Fort Worth, Texas, has informed a local Bahá'í that "your child will be allowed to miss school on religious holidays recognized by your Church," but that this permission "is not to be construed as recognition on the part of the Episcopal Church of the claims of your particular religion but a recognition of the right of your child to observe the religious holidays set forth in the religion."

—National Spiritual Assembly

Voting Rights Restored

The American Bahá'í community is hereby notified that the voting rights and membership privileges of Calvin C. Steimetz have now been restored.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Kampala, Uganda for 1957-1958, incorporated on August 22, 1957.

Western Hemisphere
NATIVE SON OPENS BARBADOS TO FAITH

The Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee has received news of the opening to the Faith of Barbados by a native son, Charles Winfield Small, the first Bahá'í enrolled in the Bahamas. Although he did not at that time intend to return to Barbados, the Guardian wrote through Rúhíyyih Khánum that "he is hoping this young man will be instrumental in guiding many of his fellow-countrymen to the Cause." Now that circumstances have taken him back to Barbados, the good wishes of all Bahá'ís will follow him for his success in establishing the Cause on that island.

Hawaiian Bahá'ís Pioneer

We are also happy to report that the Hawaiian Bahá'ís themselves have now taken up the pioneer challenge in that Territory. Until now most of the believers have been concentrated in Honolulu. Recently, however, three members of the Honolulu Community arose to pioneer on the island of Hawaii, one of the several islands of the Territory. We hope that others will follow their example until all the islands in the Territory have become firmly established in the Faith, fulfilling the hope expressed by Shoghi Effendi that this Paradise of the Pacific will become its spirit-
The Committee is grateful to the many new volunteers who have responded to our pioneer appeals during the last few months, and is doing all in its power to expedite these as quickly as possible—mainly to Latin American goals. Because our greatest emphasis at the present time is on Latin America, where twenty National Spiritual Assemblies must be established by 1963, we would like to suggest that the friends who are even remotely considering pioneering begin now to study Spanish.

Two Challenging Goals

Two particularly difficult and challenging goals are temporarily unfilled because the pioneers there have had to leave, due to circumstances beyond their control. Both are on the coast of South America, one on the Atlantic and the other on the Pacific. Both have disagreeable environments, physically, socially, and spiritually. Although the light has reached these virgin territories, through the services of self-sacrificing pioneers, new settlers must be found so that the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh may be firmly established. Single men are to be preferred due to the unsuitable conditions, and they must be hardy souls. Anyone interested in meeting such a challenge may write to this Committee for details and the names of these two places.

Secretary of the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee is Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, 73 College Road West, Princeton, N. J.

KAMPALA, SYDNEY
CONFERENCE DATES LISTED

The first of the 1958 Intercontinental Conferences will be held in Kampala, Uganda, on January 23-28 inclusive, at the Haírátu'l-Quds, 4 Kagera Road. Reservations should be sent immediately to Philip Hainsworth, P.O. Box 2662, Kampala, Uganda.

The second Intercontinental Conference takes place in Sydney, Australia from March 20 to 24, 1958. The Conference will open with a Naw Rúz banquet on the evening of March 20.

Advance hotel reservations are essential, and can be arranged through the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia, 2 Lang Road, Paddington, Sydney, N. S. W., Australia.

Central and East Africa
FOUR HANDS OF CAUSE FOR AFRICA MEET IN KAMPALA

Immediately after receiving the news of the appointment of the three new Hands of the Cause for Africa, the revered Hands Enoch Olinga, William Sears, and John Robarts met with Hand of the Cause Musa Bahá'í in his home in Kampala.

When it was learned that this historic gathering had been convened,

the National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa, then in session, made arrangements to go to the airport to welcome William Sears and John Robarts upon their arrival from South Africa.

Towards the end of the consultations, many Kampala believers and visitors were privileged to join the Hands of the Cause at a feast provided by Mr. Banání.

TWO MORE CRUSADE GOALS ACHIEVED IN AFRICA

Purchase of the Haírátu'l-Quds for the Seychelles Islands, and the incorporation of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Kampala, Uganda, both achievements of goals of the Ten-Year World Crusade, has been announced by the National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa.

The Seychelles Haírátu'l-Quds is located in Port Victoria, and was purchased for about £1,000 through the contribution of Mr. Munir Wakil and his family.

Incorporation of the Kampala Local Spiritual Assembly was granted on August 22, 1957, with Certificate of Registration No. 258, under the Trustees Incorporation Ordinance.

Action for the incorporation of the Port Victoria, Seychelles, Local Spiritual Assembly was instituted recently with a bill before the Legislative Council. This move has caused a heightened interest in the Faith in the Seychelles Islands.

Australia
HANDS APPOINT BOARD MEMBERS

In accordance with the directions recently received in the Guardian's World Message of October 1957, the Hands of the Cause of God in the Pacific area have appointed the following additional members to the Auxiliary Board, "charged with the specific duty of watching over the security of the Faith, thereby complementing the function of the original Board, whose duty will henceforth be exclusively concerned with assisting the prosecution of the Ten-Year Plan," as proclaimed in that Message: Mr. Hugh Blundell, Auckland, New Zealand; Miss Margaret Rowling, Suva, Fiji.

Bahá'í Summer School for Tunisia, held at the Haírátu'l-Quds in Tunis on July 28 to August 10, 1957.
Pioneers Active in Island Goals

From a partial report of Auxiliary Board member Thelma Perks, published in the Bahá'í Bulletin of Australia, we glean the following comments concerning the sustained and valiant efforts of the pioneers in the Solomon Islands, Gertrude and Alvin Blum, and the new believers.

"I was impressed by the way these believers are being trained to teach the Faith. Many enrollments could be made, but the pioneers are carefully deepening the students before they allow them to become Bahá’ís. There is great activity here: the pioneers lead a full and very busy life providing essential services, which entails long working hours. Nevertheless, six meetings are held per week, excluding Feasts, Holy Days, and local assembly meetings. Despite trying climatic conditions, these friends work at terrific pressure, never sparing themselves."

From the same report we learn of the work of the pioneer settler, Rodney Hancock, in the islands of New Britain and New Ireland (in the Bismarck Arch): "Rodney is doing good work with some natives here (Ribaul, New Britain) but his great work lies on the island of New Ireland. The native believer, Mazakmat, who learned the Faith in Manus Island, is now teaching in a school in New Ireland, is also actively teaching the Faith there, and is president of the island local council this year. Rodney periodically goes by air to this island and, aided by Mazakmat, has made wonderful contacts and friendships. The natives are a very good type, courteous and dignified and unspoiled by not having had too much contact with Europeans. Rodney has won their hearts because he shares their homes and their ‘kai.’"

Mazakmat, together with the pioneer and visiting Auxiliary Board member, flew to another island, Kavieng, where talks were given in six villages to several hundred people in one weekend. Mazakmat gave the opening talk, and then translated the other talks into the native tongue. In two villages a very good contact, a school teacher, translated into a tongue that Mazakmat did not know. The report states: "We were always heard with great interest and attention. These people are longing for the Faith and the oneness of the human race. They have the Methodist, Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, and Lutheran missions on the island and they realize the lack of unity between them all. I was impressed by the gentleness and superioriy of these people, their gardens and their clean and tidy villages by the sea. In fact, I can never forget the beauty of this island and its charming inhabitants."

Violet Hoehnke, pioneer to Manus Island, is now matron of the European Hospital at Samarai. "She has won great respect for the standard of her work and for her good relations with everyone on the island," writes Miss Perks. "All know that Violet is a Bahá’í. Former contacts from Manus Island have come to live in Samarai and Violet is winning them to the Faith. We spent a wonderful evening with these friends. Her great devotion and desire to teach is opening the way for the spread of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh."

Bahá’í Holy Days Recognized

Port Adelaide, Australia, has obtained permission from a Primary School and a High School for Bahá’í children to observe their Holy Days.

First Major Article in Leading Journal

The Sydney Morning Herald has published its first major article on the Bahá’í Faith on its feature page, written by a staff correspondent. The article is sympathetic to the Faith and will attract the attention of hundreds of thousands who read this journal.

TEACHING IN MALAITA HIGHLIGHTS ACTIVITIES IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Local Spiritual Assembly of Honiara, first Assembly formed in the Solomon Islands, reports teaching activities in many fields during the past months.

Latest news includes a trip to the island of Malaita, the largest populated island of the Solomons and where the greatest interest has been evinced, by three Bahá’ís, John Mills, Shebuel, and Orbet. It appears that doors are opening for the spiritual conquest of Malaita.

Teaching work is continuing, a feature of which is the Bahá’í Sunday School, which is well attended by enthusiastic children. At the Anniversary of the Birth of the Báb the children sang songs from the Bahá’í Children’s Song Book, recited prayers, and gave a play called "Trees That Bear No Fruit."

On our teaching evenings, held Wednesday and Sunday, we study Some Answered Questions, Christ and Bahá’u’lláh, and Bahá’u’lláh and the New Era. Everyone who can read takes a lesson.

Our committees are functioning well. They are: Teaching, Children’s, Book, Translation, Feast, and Development.

—Gertrude Blum
Sikkim, in the high Himalayas near Mt. Everest, is a wondrous, beautiful country, famed for folk songs, stories, and simple hardy people. It is an independent State, protected by India and bordering on Tibet—a rugged land of deep impassable gorges and roaring torrents very difficult of access. Its people are mostly of the Buddhist and Hindu religion, with some Christians, and they speak various languages—Tibetan, Lepcha, Nepali, and Hindustani (or Hindi), the first two being goal languages of the World Crusade.

Early in 1953 when the Bahá’í world was just awakening to the mighty challenge of a global spiritual crusade, there were many, perhaps, who did not know where this region lay. At that time our beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, prepared a World Crusade Map, listing Sikkim as a virgin goal assigned to the Bahá’ís of India, Pakistan and Burma.

One of the Earliest Goals Reached

Sikkim was among the first of the virgin goals of the World Crusade to be reached. Pioneer Mr. Udai Narayan Singh arrived before August 15, 1953, this victory being joyfully announced by the Guardian in his cable of September 20, 1953.

What has happened to Sikkim since that memorable day when the banner of God’s new Revelation was first planted on its soil by the valiant pioneer?

Today there are Bahá’í centers in the capital city of Gangtok, and in Pakyong, where friends reach out in Bahá’í fellowship to the believers around the world, and the pioneer settler, Shri Bajjnath Singh, is continuing the efforts begun by Udai Singh. Now, in the October 1957 issue of the Bahá’í News Letter of India and Burma, we learn of a journey taken by a Bahá’í teacher of Calcutta, Mr. S. Chatterjee, who traveled to Sikkim to visit the friends there and to assist them in their difficult but joyous task of spreading the Teachings of Bahá’u’lláh. It was not an easy journey—first several hours by train, then by river steamer up the Ganges, the river considered to be sacred by the Hindus, then by train again. After this it was necessary to engage a ride with a driver of a cement truck, or lorry. Here, as the wheels of the lorry rolled along the steep, winding roads of the Himalayas, Mr. Chatterjee was able to present the Teachings to two fellow-passengers—one a government engineer and a businessman, who were deeply impressed and happy to accept books to take with them.

Leaving the hanging bridge at Rangpo, the Bahá’í traveller entered Sikkim state, only to learn that landslides had closed the roads to Gangtok. After hours of waiting news came that the road was passable and he was able to hire a jeep whose driver was willing to risk the roads impaired by continuous rains and landslides. After a total of two days and a night of varied and continuous travel, Mr. Chatterjee arrived the night of October 7 in Gangtok, greeted by the pioneer, Shri Singh. By morning news of his arrival had spread through the town and Bahá’ís and non-Bahá’ís thronged to see him. Many excellent contacts were strengthened by his visit, including that of a Government College professor who promised to arrange future Bahá’í lectures in the college. The next day an interview was held with the press, and with students, businessmen, a magistrate, and with the Education Director of the government of Sikkim, all of whom were eager to discuss the Faith and to accept literature.

Journey to Pakyong

Early on October 10, after two days in Gangtok, Mr. Chatterjee and Shri Singh hired a jeep and after many delays due to rock blasting and the work of bulldozers on the road, reached Pakyong in mid-afternoon where the Bahá’í friends had assembled to greet them. Mr. Chatterjee spoke to them about pioneering, local and national funds, and some difficulties with local authorities were also clarified, giving encouragement to the Bahá’ís who had been confronted with certain problems. A proposal was made for a joint meeting of all the Bahá’ís in Gangtok the next day in spite of many problems of transportation to be resolved. Returning to Gangtok that evening, Shri Singh and the visiting Bahá’í, Mr. Chatterjee, were invited for a second time to tea at the home of Mr. D. K. Das, manager of the Sikkim Darbar Press. Of that interview Mr. Chatterjee writes: “A spirit of unity prevailed. He questioned me intelligently about the
Singh

Dumber and nothing can stop us now. We all promise we will be double in Sikkim next, and suggested a public meeting."

Joint Meeting in Gangtok

The joint meeting at the Gangtok Bahá’í Center brought earnest discussion of pioneering, consolidation, self-reliance in teaching, administrative duties of assembly members and officers, how to conduct meetings, and above all the importance of obedience to Bahá’í institutions.

Mr. Chatterjee writes: “This meeting had a very warming effect on the friends and all of a sudden they all got up and promised to work more for the Cause... their exciting and confident words are still ringing in my ears... ’Please give us some more time... in one year we all promise we will be double in number and nothing can stop us now. Then we will be able to relieve Mr. Singh to go elsewhere.’”

After the meeting the Officer-in-Charge of the Gangtok police approached and asked, “Are you the Bahá’í from Calcutta?” He had heard the news of the arrival of the Bahá’í teacher and asked to take tea with him and discuss the Cause of God.

Teachings Show Fruits

Of Sikkim itself Mr. Chatterjee writes: “Sikkim itself... Sikkim is a place with practically no industry, used by businessmen dealing with Tibet for the transport of goods from Gangtok into Tibet. Cost of living is very high—many of the inhabitants are illiterate. At such a place the Bahá’í teachings are beginning to show fruits of the tree whose first seeds were planted by our pioneer Mr. Udai Singh and since then nurtured by pioneer Mr. Baijnath Singh. I can say with pride that Sikkim has reached the true teachings of the knowledge of God. Friends there are firm, simple and sincere, though they are not well educated and they need frequent warming up. Most of them speak Nepali and books in Nepali are needed most.”

Translation Goals

There have been translations in both Nepali and Hindustani previous to the World Crusade. Lepcha and Tibetan, the two goal languages, have had some translations made, but Lepcha remains to be printed. The National Assembly of India states that there is only one press in India able to print in Lepcha, the Baptist Mission Press of Calcutta, and it refuses to handle the work of the Bahá’ís up to this time.

Sikkim, once a small region in the remote Himalayas, enclosed by Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet, is no longer either small or remote. It is mighty in the plan of Bahá’u’lláh and near to the hearts of all Bahá’ís whose efforts for victory in His World Crusade encircle the globe.

India, Burma

CONFERENCES SCHEDULED TO STIMULATE TEACHING

The National Spiritual Assembly of India and Burma has been sponsoring a series of teaching conferences and school sessions that began in August 1957, and will continue through February 1958, to stimulate new teaching efforts and a corresponding increase in new assemblies and groups.

In India teaching conferences were held in Belgaum and Rampur last October, and a second conference is scheduled for February in both cities. A Summer School was held at Gwalior in October, and a Winter School was again held at Poona in December.

A Burma Teaching Conference last August and a school session in November took place at Rangoon. Colombo, Ceylon, was the location of a Teaching Conference in December.

The central theme of all the sessions was to find ways of fulfilling the remaining goals of the Ten Year Crusade, and to arouse new pioneering responses. The conferences employed that technique of a general opening discussion, with smaller panels meeting separately for consultation, followed by a final general consultation of the entire conference.

Bahá’í youth took an active part in the school sessions, with delegates representing both youth committees and Bahá’í communities.

UN DAY RESULTS IN PROCLAMATION VICTORIES

A number of public meetings were held throughout India and Burma to commemorate United Nations Day on October 24. Bombay reported a large
audience was deeply impressed by the two talks given there. Sholapur, Poona, Eranakulam, Cochin, and Ahmedabad all received good press reports. In Karikal, one of the original virgin goals of the World Crusade, the Local Bahá'í Assembly conducted a most successful meeting, resulting in good press coverage.

From Moulmein, near Rangoon in Burma, the American pioneer, Keith de FoIje, reported a meeting programmed by representatives of many religions, including Bahá'í, that was attended by over 500 people, all of whom heard the Bahá'í prayer, "Prayer for all Nations." There were many requests for literature and information on the Teachings.

Attendance at Public Meetings

The Bahá'ís of India have been having other unique successes in recent weeks in proclaiming the Faith to large audiences. In Devlali a visiting Bahá'í, Dr. Munje, and his son, gave two lectures, one at the Devlali High School and the other at the Rotary Club. The latter talk resulted in an invitation by the president of the Rotary Club and the president of the Literary Society to give a Bahá'í lecture to the Literary Society, composed of military officers and their wives. Two other high schools, with audiences of 500 and 1000, also heard Dr. Munje speak on the Bahá'í Faith with several fireside discussions following.

Government Honors Bahá'í

In Bangalore the president of the Local Bahá'í Assembly was awarded a gold medal by the Government of Mysore for distinguished services in the cause of social upliftment of Harijans. On this occasion leaders of the Hindu, Muslim, and Christian religions were present, partaking food together. It was a unique occasion rarely occurring in India, in which Brahmins, high-caste Hindus, Harijans, and persons of many religious communities met and dined together at one table. Mr. D. N. Krishna Setty, the Bahá'í receiving the award, is well known throughout the state of Mysore, and he used the occasion to tell the assembled guests of the long and careful investigation of truth that led him to the conclusion that the Bahá'í Faith was the panacea for removing disunity from among the people of the world.

Greater Antilles
UN OBSERVANCE IN HAITI WARMLY RECEIVED

The United States National Spiritual Assembly received the following enthusiastic letter concerning the celebration of United Nations Day in Port-au-Prince, Haiti:

"We are happy to inform you that the visit of Auxiliary Board Member William deForge is bringing a great spiritual impetus to the territory, and this was especially noticeable on the United Nations observance held in the Hazíratu'll-Quds in Port-au-Prince, October 24, 1957, under the auspices of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Port-au-Prince. United Nations Day is recognized in Haiti as a national public holiday, and all stores are closed. About 80 persons attended, of whom 70 were non-Bahá'í invited guests interested in the Faith.

Parallel Aims of Faith and UN

"The United Nations representative in Port-au-Prince (also a warm friend of the Faith) was the first speaker. It had been decided by the Bahá'ís that Mr. deForge would mention the Faith only indirectly, but to the joy of the believers, at the close of his talk, Mr. Victor spoke about five minutes very glowingly of the parallel aims of the Faith and the United Nations.

"The talk which followed, given by Mr. deForge, was very movingly presented; as agreed, the Faith was mentioned only indirectly. It was very evident that the Bahá'ís were sincerely engaged in celebrating United Nations Day, not only here, but in their centers throughout the world.

Strong Interest Manifested

"However, this evidently was not the plan of Bábá'u'lláh, for a very interested non-Bahá'í guest wanted to know who exactly was Bábá'u'lláh. The alert interest manifested immediately, which increased strongly, brought other vitally important questions, and the atmosphere was very challenging. The deeply serious, sincerely searching attitude of the guests, and the great stimulation of being enfolded in the Bahá'í love being manifested, welded a force which will not be soon forgotten by any participant. It was a great night for Port-au-Prince, Bahá'í-wise, the contrast being all the more sharp because of its recent and long-standing problems. There was constant linking of the mutual interests of the United Nations' objectives and those of the Bahá'í Faith: that the Bahá'ís are trying to accomplish spiritually what the UN is trying to accomplish politically."

Bahá'ís present at the inauguration of the Hazíratu'll-Quds of Rabat, Morocco.
In the spring of 1947 the National Spiritual Assembly of United States and Canada was accredited to United Nations as a national non-governmental organization qualified to be represented at United Nations Conferences through an observer. Shortly after this, on May 9, 1947, Shoghi Effendi wrote to explain why he was encouraging Bahá’í association with United Nations:

“He feels that the friends should bear in mind that the primary reason that he is encouraging Bahá’í association with the United Nations is to give the Cause due publicity as an agency working for, and firmly believing in, the unification of the human family and permanent peace, and not because he feels that we are at present in a position to shape or influence directly the course of human affairs! Also, he believes this association will afford the believers an opportunity of contacting prominent and progressive-minded people from different countries and calling the Faith and its principles to their attention.”

A year later the eight existing National Assemblies were recognized collectively as an international non-governmental organization under the title of “The Bahá’í International Community,” with the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States designated as the representative in relation to United Nations—this recognition noted by Shoghi Effendi in a cable of April 26, 1948, as an achievement of the American Bahá’í Community.

Since this recognition was given to the Bahá’í International Community, the local Bahá’í communities throughout the U.S. and in many other countries have, through their cooperation and leadership in their local communities, added immeasurably to the respect and understanding of the principles of the Bahá’í Faith in relation to world peace and the unity of mankind.

The following report, sent by the U.S. United Nations Committee, though not a complete account of all Bahá’í celebrations, exemplifies the methods and approaches being successfully employed this year.

**College Participation**

A highlight of Bahá’í UN participation a year ago was the work done by the seven Missoula, Mont., Bahá’ís in securing the cooperation of the local university in launching a full-scale community-wide observance of United Nations Day. What could afford a better opportunity for contacts? College students are usually eager for such participation, particularly now that so many universities gather a part of their student body from distant countries. This year several communities have reported UN programs geared to the interest of college students.

The Bahá’í group of Casper, Wyo., sponsored a United Nations Day observance in the Casper College gymnasium. They report very fine cooperation shown by the college at every level, from granting use of the gymnasium, arranging chairs, microphones, panel tables, and flags, to selecting students for the panel discussion, and displaying posters and other material on bulletin boards and in the library.

The main feature of the program was a panel discussion on the effectiveness of the United Nations. Eleven students participated, and were excellent. The affair was opened by the Mayor of Casper, who read President Eisenhower’s Proclamation. This was followed by a brief history of the United Nations given by the Bahá’í chairman.

Following the panel discussion Casper residents originally from China, Japan, the Philippines, North Africa, Mexico, Poland, France, and Germany joined in “The Circle of Nations,” each giving a salutation in his native language. Then representatives of six Casper churches, led by a Bahá’í, participated in “The Circle of Faiths,” successively offering a prayer for unity. Recordings of music from many lands were played for half an hour while the audience of 100, mostly students, assembled.

The effectiveness of this undertaking was greatly enhanced by excellent publicity: three advance notices in the newspaper, spot announcements during the whole of United Nations Week on two radio stations, and presentation of the

**United Nations Day display of Bahá’í books at the Young Women’s Christian Association Phyllis Wheatley Branch for Colored Girls in St. Louis, Mo.**
panel part of the observance on television. One of the radio stations also gave a 15 minute interview with the Bahá’í chairman, who spoke broadly of the Bahá’í principles. The other station recorded the entire program and broadcast it the next evening.

The Bahá’í Club of Arizona State College at Tempe, and the Bahá’í communities of Tempe, Phoenix, and North Phoenix observed United Nations Day with a variety show of cosmopolitan flavor called “Around the World in 80 Minutes.” American Indians, Jamaica, Germany, England, Hungary, Spain, Turkey, Siam, Korea, and Australia were all represented in a variety of entertainment forms. The show closed with readings from the Bahá’í Writings and the “Prayer for All Mankind.”

The audience of more than 200 was then invited to view the exhibits of artifacts from many countries, and a collection of dolls from 20 countries.

Publicity to promote this endeavor included two exhibits, one in a prominent store window, the other in a display window of the Student Union building. There were radio announcements, one from the college radio station, one on the Spanish language station, and over seven others in the Phoenix area. There were also three television interviews, in each of which one Bahá’í and several of the entertainers took part.

Evanston, Ill., Bahá’ís participated for the second consecutive year in a joint program with the local UN chapter and other civic organizations. Written invitations were sent to all foreign students on four Evanston campuses, including Northwestern University, and to Evanston residents recently arrived from other countries. Over 200 guests attended the meeting, planned as a welcoming reception to those newly arrived neighbors from other lands. Widespread publicity was given by the radio stations and the Evanston Review, and a report was published in the Chicago Tribune.

An informal buffet dinner was the feature of the Missoula, Mont., Bahá’í observance this year, with guests including students from Montana State University in Missoula. These students represented the countries of Honduras, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Crete, Greece, Sweden, France, and Switzerland. Copies of the Bahá’í prayer issued by the United Nations Committee, and a large, colorful UN brochure were given to each guest.

Three local newspapers publicized this banquet, each with a long story in a prominent position in the paper. There was much favorable comment on the program from the guests and others who had learned of the observance through the publicity.

In Logan, Utah, a small Bahá’í group, together with the Bahá’í Club of Utah State University at Logan held an Open House for the international students attending the university, representing 30 countries. The affair was a great success, and it is hoped that a study class can be formed as a result of this meeting.

Films Attract Audiences

The Hackensack, N. J., group held a public meeting at which the film “Three of Our Children” was shown. Among the 37 guests was a native of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, who also attended a fireside and showed great interest in the Bahá’í teachings.

Hackensack Bahá’ís also gave three intimate dinners, with a total of 15 participating. To advertise the public meeting and UN Week, 20 posters were distributed and shown in public buildings. Two newspaper stories and one advertisement provided publicity.

A public meeting sponsored by the Flint, Mich., Local Spiritual Assembly featured the showing of two UN films, a speaker, and vocal music. This affair was publicized with a paid advertisement, seven newspaper stories, fifty spot announcements on several radio stations, and one television spot announcement.

The United Nations Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States presented a United Nations "Bookshelf" of 25 books and pamphlets to the Countee Cullen Branch of the New York Public Library on November 22, as a feature of the Bahá'í observance of United Nations Human Rights Day on December 10.

Mrs. Dorothy Homer (left), Branch Librarian, accepted the presentation from Mrs. Walter A. Blackwell, chairman of the Committee and National Bahá'í Observer to the United Nations. H. Borrah Kavelin represented the National Spiritual Assembly with a brief talk on the Bahá'í principle of the oneness of mankind. To his left are Frank B. Sawyer and Isabelle Silk, members of the Bahá'í UN Committee.
Two Speakers Share Programs

The Manhattan Beach, Calif., Local Spiritual Assembly joined with the local chapter of the American Association for the United Nations in presenting a public meeting at a Bahá'í home. A speaker representing each organization talked on the subject "The United Nations and a Maturing World." Fifty-seven persons attended. Publicity for this observance included displays in three libraries, two of them in adjoining towns, in a restaurant, a bank, and at nearby El Camino College. As a result of the poster in the college, members of the school's International Club attended the meeting.

To close the observance of UN Week, a local Bahá'í gave a party for 32 children, who came dressed in costumes of nations belonging to the UN. Five newspaper stories extended the influence of these Manhattan Beach activities.

Two isolated believers of Waterloo, Iowa, assisted by a third in nearby Castle Hill, conducted a well-attended public meeting in a local school gymnasium, featuring a male Negro choir in addition to two speakers. Printed programs were widely distributed. Posters were placed in many business locations, and a UN-Bahá'í display was arranged in a bank window. UN literature was placed in 12 places, seven of which also took Bahá'í pamphlets and expressed willingness to distribute Bahá'í literature in the future.

Bahá'ís of Healdsburg, Calif., assisted by the Sonoma County Bahá'ís, organized a public meeting with two speakers in a hotel at Santa Rosa. Attendance totaled 47 persons.

The Berkeley, Calif., Local Spiritual Assembly held a well-attended public meeting presenting two speakers, one for the United Nations, the other for the Bahá'í Faith. Much interest was shown, and good contacts were made. Five exhibits were set up: two in stores and three in public buildings. There was an advance notice in the newspaper.

Both a fireside and a public meeting observing UN Week were given by the Marysville, Mich., group. The public meeting was the only UN celebration in town. They were given two spot announcements on the radio, and two newspaper notices.

A public meeting at the Common Room, Dwight Hall, Yale University in New Haven, Conn., was given by the Bahá'í community there. Prof. Williams of Dublin, Ireland, and Dr. Samuel McClellan, Bahá'í, were the speakers. The New Haven Register published both a publicity story and an advertisement of this event, and four radio stations carried announcements. Five hundred invitations were mailed.

Participation With YWCA

The local assemblies of El Paso County and Colorado Springs, Colo., participated in the United Nations Day program given by the International Club of the YWCA in Colorado Springs. The attendance was over 200. Although this was primarily a YWCA activity, the Bahá'ís were given credit for assistance in the newspaper account. An occasion was also provided for setting up a display of UN and Bahá'í books in a local bookstore.

Nine Communities Give Program Tea

A "Program Tea" in a private home was given by the Manhasset, N.Y., group, assisted by Bahá'ís of eight nearby Long Island communities. Attendance totaled 80, with Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh speaking for the United Nations, and H. Borrah Kavelin speaking for the Bahá'í Faith.

Participate in Two Meetings

The Bahá'í group of Provo, Utah, in addition to holding their own public meeting, participated in making the plans for the Utah County UN Committee banquet at Brigham Young University that was attended by 500 people. The program opened with the Bahá'í "Prayer for All Nations."

In addition, the Secretary of the Provo Bahá'ís sent a "Letter to the Editor" in behalf of the United Nations and world justice, and the Bahá'í press representative induced the pastors of four churches to join with the Bahá'ís in statements endorsing the work of the United Nations. These were printed as an article in the local newspaper.

Newton Center, Mass., Bahá'ís also held a fireside and a public meeting in observance of UN Week, and cooperated with several other organizations in a city-wide celebration that drew an attendance of over 300.

Hamburg, N.Y., Bahá'ís held a public meeting with a Bahá'í speaker. Apparently because of newspaper publicity, 45 high school students were required to attend as a class assignment, and made a welcome addition to a good-sized audience. There was one advertisement and two publicity stories in the local newspaper.

Model Presented to School

A model of the United Nations building, and flags of all nations were presented to a grammar school in Three Rivers, Mass., by the Bahá'ís there.

University Vice-President Speaks

The Bahá'í Assembly of Miami, Fla., was fortunate to secure as speaker for their public meeting, Dr. H. Franklin Williams, vice-president of the University of Miami. Dr. Williams, who is a celebrity locally because of his humanitarian work as well as his scholastic abilities, gave a vivid picture of the UN, its fine objectives, and its achievements. Among the guests was Mike Oceola, a Seminole Indian of national fame.

City's Only Observance

The Bahá'í Assembly of Fresno, Calif., arranged the only publicized public meeting held in that city to observe United Nations Week. With two advertisements, newspaper stories before and after the event, and radio and television announcements, the publicity was ample. Three exhibits were set up in strategic locations, and 1000 copies of the pamphlet UN Day 1957 were distributed in the public and college libraries, appropriate college classes, and at the meeting.
City-Wide Celebration

Juneau, Alaska, with the help of several other organizations, arranged a city-wide celebration of UN Week. Three exhibits were displayed, in the library, the high school, and a leading hotel. A panel of five persons spoke for 15 minutes on the radio, and two films were shown on television, making a 30 minute program. Several spot announcements were also broadcast.

Exhibit at University

In Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, it was possible for the Bahá'ís to secure the “Salón de Exhibiciones” at the University of Puerto Rico for a week starting the Sunday before UN Day. The exhibit was composed largely of posters, photographs, and charts furnished by the Department of Public Information of the UN. One of the several bulletin boards had a photograph of the Bahá'í House of Worship, a copy of the National Spiritual Assembly proposals of UN Charter revisions, and a quotation from the Bahá'í Writings.

In a small rack below this board were exhibited copies of Gleanings, and other examples of Sacred Writings from member-countries of the UN.

Summary of Observances

The Bahá'í United Nations Committee has the responsibility of reporting each year to the UN Headquarters the work of Bahá'ís in this field. The committee states: “To date (November 27) we have received reports from 68 communities that engaged in some activity to mark the twelfth anniversary of the United Nations. We are confident our report to UN Headquarters will be accorded high commendation.” Each community making efforts this year in the work of friendly cooperation in local UN work has also helped in the “reinforcement of ties binding the Bahá'í World Community to the United Nations”—listed by Shoghi Effendi in 1953 as one of the objectives of the Ten Year Plan at the World Center of the Faith.

Bahá'ís should be fully informed on the Bahá'í relationship to the United Nations and the progress made in this respect since that memorable spring of 1947. An excellent source of information is The Bahá'í World, Vol. XII, pages 597-615.

SUGGEST USES OF RADIO IN HOME FRONT TEACHING

The following ideas, submitted by a Bahá'í who is experienced in the field of radio, are offered for the benefit of the small communities and Bahá'í groups who would like to secure radio time for Bahá'í events, but who have found that time for religious programs is controlled by the Council of Churches, the local Ministerial Association, or the principle of “free time apportioned according to the number of local members of the religion.”

This believer’s advice, in such situations, is to give up trying to obtain public service time on the station for the time being and to try to do the following instead:

“Make yourself known to an on-the-air personality of the station. This could be anyone who uses interviews or who comments on ‘Things going on around town,’ etc. The first step would be to listen carefully to the station for a week or so and determine what personality could best use the Bahá'í material.”

“As an example, here we have three stations. One station has a regular current events program, and they will announce any meetings we have. Another has a women’s editor who announces our meetings and our holy day celebrations when we ask her to do so. Also she will interview Bahá’ís from time to time. To date, she has had four such interviews.

“This is how to handle a possible interview: Inform the personality that you are going to have a speaker who, you believe, she would find interesting to have as a guest on her (or his) show. Give her pertinent facts about the speaker and let her decide if she can use such an interview.”

SUGGESTIONS PUBLISHED FOR TEACHING ON CAMPUS

The Bahá’í College Bureau has prepared an article containing helpful suggestions for teaching on college campuses. It is being distributed to all Bahá’í college students by the National Bahá’í Youth Committee and it will be sent, on request to the Bahá’í College Bureau, to youth anticipating attending college, to Bahá’ís living adjacent to colleges, and to others interested in this subject.

The Bahá’í College Bureau has also prepared a model constitution for a Bahá’í College Club and suggestions for starting such an organization. This is also available upon request.

Please address inquiries to Miss Barbara Roberts, secretary, Bahá’í College Bureau, P.O. Box 556, Stanford, Calif.

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

The Bahá’í Club at Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich., was asked to participate on September 13 in a welcoming party for the International Club. Some 125 students and faculty members attended this meeting, held in a church rectory. After the short talks given by representatives of the faculty, the Student Union, and the Christian groups on campus, Frank Meese presented the Bahá’í Faith.

One of the interesting sidelights of this gathering was that a student from Thailand had been studying the Faith in his country for three months from a Bahá’í pioneer from California. This student indicated that he plans to continue studying the Faith with the Wayne Bahá’í Club.
Davison Bahá’í Summer School Sessions
Emphasize Teaching and Deepening of Youth

The report received from the Program Committee for the Davison Bahá’í School for the 1957 session indicates that much emphasis was placed on the teaching, training, and deepening of Bahá’í youth. The school opened with a two-week session for junior youth from 10 to 15 years of age, with emphasis upon the things that would carry over into their daily lives after they left the school, such as the habit of daily devotions, and the ability to explain and teach the Faith to other young people.

Two weeks near the end of the session were planned for youth between the ages of 15 and 21. Two of the teachers for this program were individuals just over 21 years of age themselves.

Five weeks of the school were devoted to general sessions and during that time classes for children were also conducted.

Four courses were given each week. One stressed study of the Creative Word; another was on the World Crusade; the third was devoted to study of the Covenant and Administration, and the fourth area consisted of courses of the work-shop type on such subjects as “Prayer and Meditation,” “The Guardianship,” and “A Bahá’í Philosophy of Education.”

The weekend programs were planned in a manner to present subjects quite completely for those who were unable to attend the school for a full period. These included programs planned by the American Indian Service Committee, a work-shop on community teaching, and other subjects presented by well qualified Bahá’í teachers.

The homecoming weekend drew attendance of more than 100. The major part of the program for those days was devoted to a study of Africa and its teaching opportunity, planned by the Africa Teaching Committee.

The Davison Bahá’í School was particularly blessed this year by the attendance of the Hand of the Cause of God, Mr. Díkru’lláh Khádem, and his family. Other visitors were returned pioneers from Africa, and Bahá’ís who had recently made the pilgrimage to the World Center.

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The national assembly referred the matter to the Urbana Local Spiritual Assembly, which in turn delegated Dr. Garreta Busey to attend the conference.

The program called for seminars to be given at 4 o’clock every afternoon by the representatives of various religious bodies. These speakers were asked, as well, to meet any classes which might invite them to attend.

Miss Busey was asked to meet a freshman rhetoric class at 10 a.m. and a sociology class at 11. Her subjects were “Poetry and Religion” and “The Great Family of Religions.” Many questions were asked, and the sociology students, who were upperclassmen and very intelligent, seemed especially interested. After class they swooped down, like a cloud of locusts, on the pamphlets spread out on the desk.

Dr. Busey had been doubtful about the attendance at the 4 o’clock seminar, the subject of which had been announced as “What is the Bahá’í Faith?” Nine other seminars were being given at the same time, one of them on marriage and dating, an overwhelmingly popular subject. She had heard that the attendance at these seminars the day before had ranged from 30 to 1. She writes:

“I expected three or four, but 35 to 40 people turned up, most of them students, some of them older people. They were alert, and asked many questions.

“A Bahá’í freshman who was present took part in the discussion, thereby making it known that she is a Bahá’í, and she talked with some

Homecoming Weekend at Davison Bahá’í School, Davison, Mich., on August 31 to September 2, 1957.
of the students afterwards. I had some Bahá’í books on display; they were not advertised for sale, but one woman asked if she could buy The Divine Art of Living. The pamphlets almost all disappeared. Some students asked for Communion with God.

"One of the most fruitful aspects of the visit was the bringing together of four of the Bahá’ís of Bloomington and Normal. One of them, recently returned from France, who has this fall become a member of the Physical Education staff at the university, made herself known to me. She knew of no other Bahá’ís in the vicinity.

"Tuesday evening my hostess, a non-Bahá’í, kindly allowed me to invite her to the house, along with three other Bahá’ís, and these four were happy to find each other immediately began to plan firesides and a discussion group.

"The whole affair seemed to me to be very encouraging. A state university has asked to have the Baha’i of the locality found each other and began to plan follow-up teaching.”

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WORLD CRUSADE BUDGET
Fifth Year: 1957-1958

Annual Budget ................ $425,000.00
Total Requirements:
    May 1-November 30 ... 247,900.00
Total Contributions:
    May 1-November 30 ... 175,000.00

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1958 Bahá’í Calendar. Our 1958 calendar carries the four-color reproduction of the Shrine of the Báb which was originally selected as the frontispiece in Bahá’í World Vol. XII by the beloved Guardian.

Due to increase in production costs on this limited item we are forced to raise the price slightly above that appearing in our current catalog.

Per copy ...................
Net Ten copies ...................

(Please note the net price, which means no discount)

Sample Pamphlet Kit. Here is a kit made up of one copy each of our most useful teaching pamphlets. This will enable every Bahá’í who is ready and willing to teach the Cause, to be completely aware of and acquainted with the many splendid pamphlets and brochures with their variety of approaches to the Teachings, suitable for every contact, fireside, or public meeting. (This kit supersedes the smaller sized kit of recent years made up of only 10 titles).

30 individual titles ............... $2.50

Bahá’í Literature Catalog. Special Edition. A briefer edition of the Bahá’í Literature Catalog, omitting many items of interest only to Bahá’ís, has been prepared. This may be ordered for giving to Bahá’í contacts who are seriously interested in purchasing Bahá’í books. It is available at cost.

Per copy ...................

Minimum Mail Order, $1.00
Available from
 Bahá’í Publishing Trust
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEASTS
January 19—Súlúhán (Sovereignty)
February 7—Mulk (Dominion)

WORLD RELIGION DAY
January 19, 1958—To proclaim the fundamental oneness of religion.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
February 14, 15, 16

Baha’i House of Worship
Visiting Hours
Weekdays
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(Auditorium only)
Sundays and Holidays
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Entire building)

Service of Worship
Sundays
3:30 p.m., lasting until 4:15.

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National Bahá’í Addresses
NATIONAL BAHÁ’Í ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS:
536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois.

NATIONAL TREASURER:
112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

Make Checks Payable to:
National Bahá’í Fund

BAHÁ’Í PUBLISHING TRUST:
110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

BAHÁ’Í NEWS:
Editorial Office:
110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois

Subscription and change of address:
112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois

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BAHÁ’I DIRECTORY CHANGES

ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES

Northern California
Oakland: (new secretary to be reported)

Southern California
National City: Mrs. Marie Ray, 317 E. 5th St.

Western New York
Syracuse: Dr. Hamilton Niss, P. O. Box 976, Z. 1.

Ohio
Dayton: (new secretary to be reported)

Washington
South King County: Mrs. Opal L. Conner, 11705 15th Ave., S., Seattle 88

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Southern California
Beverly Hills: Miss Maryellen Reese, 1301 Sherman, #233, Z. 3.

Connecticut
New Haven: Mrs. Clara M. Stone, 294 Lombard St.

Montana
Helena: Mrs. Jeanine Saunders, 524 Hauser

Puerto Rico
San Juan: Mr. Francisco Pérez, Centro Bahá’í, Calle Mayol, No. 604 Int. Pda. 25½, Santurce

South Dakota
Sioux Falls: Mrs. Vera Esinhart, 425½ W. 10th St.

ADDITIONS TO COMMITTEES

Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee
Mr. Sam Kraus

Hawaii Teaching Committee
Mrs. Lillian Chou
Mrs. Beatrice Stone, Scty., c/o Maj. C. M. Stone, 14710A 152nd Maint. Gp., (Box 99), AP 953, c/o PM, San Francisco

American Indian Service Committee
Mr. Cal E. Rollins

Area Teaching Committee—Central Atlantic States
Mrs. Elsie Lesti
Mr. Earl Pickens (Youth Representative)

East Central States Area Youth Committee
Miss Kathleen Gaines
Mr. Alan Higgins
Mrs. June Meese
Miss Pauline Rushing

RESIGNATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

American Indian Service Committee
Mr. Alan Ward

Hawaii Teaching Committee
Miss Catherine E. Nourse
Miss Gertrude Garner

BAHÁ’I SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Geyersville School Program Committee
Mr. Raymond Dones, chairman
Mrs. Margaret Bustard, secretary, 36 Arreba St., Martinez, Calif.

Mr. Dwight Allen
Mr. John Hustard
Mrs. Alla Dakserhof
Mrs. Inez Dones
Mrs. Frances Fletcher
Mrs. Clara Irwin
Mr. Harry Irwin
Mr. Alfred Zahn

Davison School Program Committee
Mr. Stanley Brogan, chairman
Mrs. Lois Nochman, secretary, 532 Western, Inkster, Michigan
Mr. Wallace Baldwin
Mrs. Betty Weston
Miss Phyllis Hall
Miss Violet Wuerfel
Mr. Lester Long

Green Acre Institute Program Committee
(Officers to be announced)
Mr. Kenneth Kalantar
Mrs. Martha Kavelin
Dr. Iruz Kazemzadeh
Mr. R. Y. Mottahedeh

Southwestern Summer Committee
(Officers to be announced)
Mrs. Thelma Gorham
Mr. E. D. Gray
Mrs. Robert Hopkins
Miss D. Thelma Jackson

Blue Ridge Summer School Committee
Mr. Jack Davis, chairman
Mrs. Corinne Bowman, secretary, 4612 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, Md.

Mr. Gerald Curwin
Mrs. Vivian Curwin
Mrs. Margaret Gawen

BAHÁ’I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BAHÁ’I NEWS is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1957-58: Mrs. Eunice Braun, chairman; Miss Charlotte Linfoot, secretary; Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá’í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Call Upon Bereaved Believers

With hearts still torn (by) sorrow (for) irreparable loss (of) sacred Primal Branch whose mighty spirit guarded, inspired, (and) comforted (the) members (of the) world Bahá'í community (for) thirty-six years; whose all-encompassing vision (and) inflexible determination established (the) Administrative Order; by (the) light (of) whose divine guidance (the) Cause (of) God spread uninterruptedly over (the) entire planet; whose blessed shade (the) Master states "shadoweth all mankind"; (the) Hands (of the) Holy Land call upon bereaved believers suitably (to) express (the) longing (and) grief (in) their hearts by refraining (from) all manner (of) religious festivity (for) period (of) nine months from day (of) his ascension. Share message (with) all Hands (and) all national bodies.

Haifa, Israel
Cable received
January 2, 1958
Beloved Friends:
The Hands of the Holy Land call upon the members of the Bahá'í world community to unite in a reverent and befitting observance of the passing of the beloved Guardian. Their call is for a sincere expression of our grief and longing to relieve our hearts and raise a spiritual monument that will abide in the history of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.
By "all manner of religious festivity" the National Spiritual Assembly understands that we are to obey the instruction given us by the Guardian as published in Bahá'í News, October 1932, when he called for a period of mourning following the passing of the Greatest Holy Leaf: Festive Anniversaries should be suspended. Administrative gatherings, including Nineteen Day Feasts, should be held with utmost simplicity."

The nine month period began November 4, 1957, and ends August 4, 1958. The "festive anniversaries" falling within this period are the Intercalary Days, Naw-Rúz, the Feast of Ridván, and the Declaration of the Báb. It would be appropriate, however, for the friends to assemble on these anniversaries for prayer and the reading of selections from the Sacred Writings.

-National Spiritual Assembly

Mysterious Divine Forces Animating Dearly-Loved Faith

Critical juncture deep mourning supreme challenge Hands (of) Holy Land call upon fellow believers, particularly Hands, (and) National Assemblies (of) all continents, exert utmost effort insure success five Intercontinental Conferences announced (in) Beloved Guardian's last momentous message (to) Bahá'í world. Conferences provide unexampled opportunity (to) demonstrate (the) mysterious Divine Forces animating (our) dearly-loved Faith, vitality (of) institutions (of the) embryonic world order nourished (by) the) lifeblood (of Beloved Guardian, determination (of) Bahá'í community (to) diffuse uninterruptedly fragrance (of) Bahá'u'lláh's mighty Revelation to fear-laden humanity, deprived (of) power (to) recognize Divine Light unaided. Urge greatest attendance (of) believers possible these historic gatherings designed (to) generate upsurge (of) enthusiasm (and) consecration unprecedented (in) annals (of) Faith, usher in fourth phase (of) Crusade destined (to) witness victories at which future generations (of) Bahá'ís will marvel, culminating world triumph Faith (at) centenary (of) Declaration (of) Blessed Beauty. Share message (with) all Hands (and) National Assemblies.

Haifa, Israel
Cable received
December 13, 1957
Beloved Bahá'í Friends:
The message cabled on December 13 by the nine Hands of the Holy Land challenges the Bahá'í world community to demonstrate the "myst-
sionous divine forces animating our dearly loved Faith,” and the “vitality of institutions of the embryonic world order,” and calls upon the Hands of the Cause and the National Assemblies, as well as the body of believers, to evince “determination to diffuse uninterruptedly the fragrance of Bahá’u’lláh’s mighty Revelation to fear-laden humanity, deprived of power to recognize Divine Light unaided.”

The Custodians concentrate upon the realization and fulfillment of the beloved Guardian’s essential purpose in announcing, through his last message, the convening of the International Conferences during 1958.

Thus any idle questioning of the direction of Bahá’í affairs proclaimed by the Hands assembled in the Mansion of Bahá’u’lláh is swept away in this fervent, eloquent appeal to respond to the Guardian’s expressed intention and hope. Those at the helm possess experience, the skill, and the devotion to steer the ship through whatever stormy seas arise until the world triumph of the Faith is demonstrated in 1963, the Centenary of Bahá’u’lláh’s Declaration.

The time is brief, the end is supremely glorious for every faithful Bahá’í.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Ruhíyyih Khánum’s Account of the Passing of the Beloved Guardian

The believers are informed that Ruhíyyih Khánum has written an account of the passing of Shoghi Effendi which will be published as a pamphlet. No article on that sacred subject is to be published in Baha’i News. When copies of the pamphlet are available the friends will be informed.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Memorial Meetings Affirm Rededication and Devotion

“Request all believers hold memorial meetings eighteenth November commemorating Dayspring (of) Divine Guidance who has left us after thirty-six years (of) utter self-sacrifice, ceaseless labors (and) constant vigilance.”

This request, included in the message from Ruhíyyih Khánum sent to the national and regional spiritual assemblies following the funeral for Shoghi Effendi in London, November 9, 1957, was immediately transmitted by these bodies to the members of their respective Bahá’í communities. Perhaps it will never be known in how many of the 4,500 Bahá’í centers throughout the world, the believers numbering from one lonely pioneer or isolated individual to possibly hundreds, united with their fellow believers around the world in a short, sacred period of prayers, readings, and chanting to assuage their grief over the loss of the “light of their lives” and to re-dedicate themselves to greater unity and steadfast devotion to the plans he longed to see completed for the establishment of the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh.

All national and regional spiritual assemblies must have received innumerable letters and cables from local assemblies, Bahá’í groups, and individuals reporting the sacred spirit and nature of these gatherings, together with expressions of steadfastness and devotion.

Those received from centers throughout the United States, numbering approximately 200, were forwarded to Ruhíyyih Khánum as evidence of the grief, the love, and re-dedication of the believers, as well as their sympathy and their deep appreciation of her own words of comfort to them.

International Archives Building at the Bahá’í World Center in Haifa, Israel.
Typical of these messages are the following sentences gleaned from letters and cablegrams received by the Regional Spiritual Assembly of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela: "Sacrifice will be more intensive. "We'll have to work harder than ever." "In this joint sorrow over the loss of Shoghi Effendi on this plane of existence, we will all be bound closer together." There seems to be already a spiritual maturing ... a courageous unity to face whatsoever the future presents."

There were also many declarations of loyalty to all the institutions of the Faith and to the tasks of the World Crusade, as well as expressions of confidence that the beloved Guardian "will guide our steps from the Abba' Kingdom."

The national and regional spiritual assemblies commenting on the spirit of these memorial gatherings, as well as on the response generated in the hearts of the believers, have expressed assurances similar to that of the Regional Spiritual Assembly of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela that "such dedication will bear fruit and the completion of our goals be fully realized."

Urge Early Reservations for Convention Accommodations

Delegates and visitors wishing accommodations for the Fiftieth Annual National Convention, April 29, 30, and May 1, 1958, in private homes should send their request for reservations to: Mrs. Priscilla Hassan, 1244 Maple Avenue, Wilmette, Ill., chairman of the Housing Committee, or to the Co-Chairman, Mrs. Edna Coleman, 1227 Leon Place, Evanston, Ill.

A list of nearby hotels, together with rates, will be published in the next issue of Baha'i News. The friends wishing this latter type of reservations must make their own reservations directly with the hotel of their choice.

All delegates and visitors are requested to bring their Bahá'í identification cards, which must be presented when registering at the Convention. They will be needed also for registering for the Intercontinental Conference as announced in the bulletin sent to all the believers as an insert in the January Baha'i News.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

NSA Calls 38 Conferences Throughout Nation in February

In consultation with the American Hands of the Cause, the National Spiritual Assembly has issued a call for a nation-wide series of conferences to be held in 38 centers of Bahá'í population during February 1958, each conference to be conducted by a Hand of the Cause, a member of the Auxiliary Boards, or a member of the National Assembly.

This is the third series of conferences to be conducted on a nationwide scale in the current Bahá'í year, representing the effort of the National Spiritual Assembly to reinvigorate the American Bahá'í community and to produce a maximum response to the beloved Guardian's appeal for pioneer settlement and the multiplication of the number of Bahá'ís in the United States.

The February conferences, however, have special importance in that they are planned also as opportunities for individual Bahá'ís to consult on the new and unprecedented situation created by the passing of the beloved Guardian. Each conference leader will present a statement prepared by the National Spiritual Assembly which deals with this situation and enables the believers to attain the complete understanding they need in order to meet this spiritual challenge with conviction, courage, and action to assure the "triumphant termination of the initial epoch in the unfoldment of the Divine Plan" called for in the Guardian's letter to the Bahá'ís of the United States of September 21, 1957, and to "rise to heights never before attained in the course of ... American Bahá'í history."

In calling these conferences, the National Spiritual Assembly has requested everyone to bring with him the last two letters from the Guardian entitled: "Heights Never Before Attained" (September 21, 1957), and "The Guardian Announces Series of Five Intercontinental Conferences and Appointment of Eight Additional Hands of the Cause" (October, 1957), both of which were distributed with the November 1957 Bahá'í News.

Following is the list of places where the conferences are to be held, together with the date and the conference leader for each one. Details as to meeting places and exact hours are being announced by the various area teaching committees.

Western States

Seattle, Wash.,
Feb. 15 — Florence V. Mayberry
Spokane, Wash.,
Feb. 16 — Florence V. Mayberry
Helena, Montana,
Feb. 19 — Florence V. Mayberry
Boise, Idaho,
Feb. 20 — Florence V. Mayberry
Portland, Ore.,
Feb. 21 — Arthur L. Dahi

American Hands Announce Appointment of Auxiliary Board for Protection

In accordance with directives issued to the Hands of the Cause by the beloved Guardian, the American Hands have appointed an Auxiliary Board of nine members to be concerned with the protection of the Faith from Covenant-breakers. Two members of the original Auxiliary Board for Teaching have been transferred to the new Board.

The membership of the two Boards is as follows:


The membership is thus representative of the Western Hemisphere, the area assigned to the American Hands.

National committees and local assemblies are requested to extend all possible cooperation to Board Members in their valued services to the Hands and to the National Assembly.

—Dynamic True
Paul E. Haney
Horace Holley
San Francisco, Calif.,  
Feb. 9 — Arthur L. Dahl  
Riverside, Calif.,  
Feb. 8 — Charles Wolcott  
Los Angeles, Calif.,  
Feb. 9 — Charles Wolcott  
Pomona, Calif.,  
Feb. 8 — Jesma Herbert  
Sacramento, Calif.,  
Feb. 9 — Jesma Herbert  
Albuquerque, N.M.,  
Feb. 9 — Paul E. Haney  
Denver, Colorado,  
Feb. 18 — Jesma Herbert  
Phoenix, Arizona.  
Feb. 9 — Dr. Katherine K. True

Central States  
Cincinnati, Ohio,  
Feb. 8 — Margery McCormick  
Urbana, Illinois,  
Feb. 22 — Margery McCormick  
Wilton, Illinois,  
Feb. 15 — Paul E. Haney  
Milwaukee, Wis.,  
Feb. 9 — Horace Holley  
Ann Arbor, Mich.,  
Feb. 9 — Dr. Hushang Javid  
Kansas City, Mo.,  
Feb. 8 — Velma Sherrill  
St. Louis, Mo.,  
Feb. 9 — Velma Sherrill  
Des Moines, Iowa,  
Feb. 9 — Charlotte Linfoot  
Minneapolis, Minn.,  
Feb. 9 — Edna M. True

Northeastern States  
Boston, Mass.,  
Feb. 8 — H. Borrah Kavelin  
Stamford, Conn.,  
Feb. 9 — H. Borrah Kavelin  
West Englewood, N.J.,  
Feb. 9 — Paul E. Haney  
Philadelphia, Pa.,  
Feb. 9 — Curtis D. Kelsey  
Rochester, N.Y.,  
Feb. 8 — William deForge  
Pittsburg, Pa.,  
Feb. 9 — William deForge

Southern States  
Washington, D.C.,  
Feb. 8 — Curtis D. Kelsey  
Charlotte, N.C.,  
Feb. 9 — Katherine McLaughlin  
Atlanta, Ga.,  
Feb. 9 — Katherine McLaughlin  
New Orleans, La.,  
Feb. 12 — Katherine McLaughlin  
St. Petersburg, Fla.,  
Feb. 15 — Katherine McLaughlin  
Miami Beach, Fla.,  
Feb. 16 — Katherine McLaughlin  
Nashville, Tenn.,  
Feb. 9 — Dr. Sarah Periera  
Tulsa, Okla.,  
Feb. 15 — Velma Sherrill  
Dallas, Texas,  
Feb. 26 — Velma Sherrill  
Jacksonville, Fla.,  
Feb. 16 — William deForge

Pledges of Loyalty and Devotion  
Appreciated by National Assembly

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to express its deep appreciation of the messages received from a number of the state conventions conveying pledges of loyalty, steadfastness, devotion, and renewed dedication to the promotion of the Divine Plan of 'Abdu'l-Baha and to the specific tasks of the World Crusade bequeathed to the Baha'i World Community by Shoghi Effendi, Guardian of the Baha'i Faith.

May the current year witness unsurpassed victories by the Baha'i Community of the United States.

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Reply to Editorial in "Time" Magazine

Many believers have noted the editorial reference to the Faith published in the December 9 issue of Time Magazine, entitled "In the Hands of the Hands."

A reply has been sent to the editor of Time by the American Hands who attended the conference held by the 26 Hands of the Cause in the Mansion of Baha'u'llah. As participants they were qualified to assert that the statement concerning a contest for the Guardianship was wholly incorrect.

It is not known at this date whether the letter written by the American Hands has been or will be scheduled for publication in Time Magazine.

Northbrook, Ill., Schools  
Recognize Baha'i Holy Days

The Baha'i children in Northbrook, Ill., now have permission to remain away from school on Baha'i Holy Days. The superintendent of the elementary schools of that community, as well as the superintendent of the Glenbrook High School, have informed the parents that it is their policy to excuse pupils from classes on holy days, regardless of the Faith or denomination of the children, provided the parents request such absence in writing in advance.

-NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
ANOTHER "precursor of a future world civilization," symbolizing the age of the unity of mankind, will soon be erected near Sydney, Australia. This new Maghrijí'-Adhkár will rise 700 feet above sea level about 19 miles from the heart of Sydney. It commands an extensive view of the coastline from Palm Beach to Sydney Harbour Heads, and across the wooded hills of Kuring-gai Chase National Reserve. The area is seven acres, 5½ perches, and was purchased at a cost of £5,500.

To Be Faced With White Quartz

It is to be built of steel-reinforced concrete with a special facing of white opaque quartz aggregate of approximately one-half to three-fourths inches on the major portions of the building. The castings for the doors and windows will be made up of a smaller aggregate and white cement. A nine-pointed star will be incorporated into the grillwork of the windows, this to be the only ornamentation used. It is anticipated that the floor of the Temple will be a cement resembling Terazzo, but at only one quarter of the cost.

The ribs of the dome, of pre-stressed concrete, will be cast on the ground and lifted into place, as will the major portions of the dome. It is proposed to use a fine aggregate for the interior to be shot onto the wall with a cement gun. The building will have nine sides and will be approached by two sets of nine steps. The main hall and gallery, seating 500, will each be surrounded by an ambulatory section, and five staircases to connect the basement, hall, and gallery will be situated in the turrets at the angles of the sides.

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bábís of Australia states that the cost of the building is to be not more than £120,000 Sterling (£150,000 Australian). The overall dimensions of the Temple are a 100 foot width at the base, rising to a height of 126 feet.

Baha'i Temple Design for Sydney, Australia
Dates Set For European Intercontinental Conference

The National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria has announced that the Intercontinental Conference for Europe will be held in Frankfurt, Germany, on July 25-28, 1958. Further information as to the exact meeting place and other details will be reported in Baha'i News as soon as it is received.

Monument Erected In Sofia to Immortal Baha'i Heroine

A monument has been erected at the grave of Marion Jack by the Baha'is of Canada and the United States, at the Guardian's request, in memory of this courageous pioneer. Loved by 'Abdu'l-Baha, Marion Jack won also the deep gratitude and admiration of the beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, for her steadfastness at her goal in Sofia, Bulgaria, where she now lies buried.

During World War II, in her elderly years, she suffered great privation. She was without heat, lacked clothing, food, and adequate shelter. She was bombed, lost all of her possessions, and was evacuated to the country, later returning, still valiant and on foot, to carry on her teaching work in Sofia.

The Guardian himself urged Marion Jack to go to Switzerland at the time war first threatened to cut her off in Bulgaria. She begged him to permit her to remain with her spiritual children, which she did with the Guardian's consent, until her death on March 25, 1954. How deeply her heroic action must have stirred the heart of Shoghi Effendi is evident in his statement that "every Baha'i, and most particularly those who have left their homes and gone to serve in foreign fields, should know of, and turn their gaze to, Marion Jack."

"Young or old could never find a more inspiring pioneer in whose footsteps to walk, than this wonderful soul," he also wrote on May 24, 1954, in a letter to the European Teaching Committee, and stated that her tomb would become a national shrine, immensely revered, as the Faith rises in stature in Bulgaria.

Her monument itself is inscribed with words of Shoghi Effendi from his cable of March 29, 1954, shared with all national spiritual assemblies at the time of her passing: "Im mortal heroine . . . greatly loved and deeply admired by 'Abdu'l-Baha, a shining example to pioneers . . . Her unremitting, high meritorious activities . . . shed imperishable luster on contemporary Baha'i history."

Monument erected at the grave of Marion Jack in the British Cemetery in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Each step forward in accomplishing the goals of the World Crusade brings the faithful followers of Baha'u'llah nearer to their hearts' desire—complete victory in all that their beloved Guardian so clearly outlined and delineated for them. In God Passes By Shoghi Effendi refers to the construction of the Baha'i Temple in America as the combined effort of the believers of Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Zoroastrian, Hindu, and Buddhist backgrounds. Here is another opportunity unfolded for Baha'is of East and West to join hands and hearts, and materially and spiritually demonstrate to the world the unity of purpose that underlies all of their endeavors no matter where that endeavor may be revealed in the world. Consecrated to the worship of the one God, open to all humanity of every religion or race, the building of this "Dawning Place of the Remembrances of God" will be a visible sign to throngs of people that the Kingdom of God has come, however little they may yet realize it.

'Abdu'l-Baha, speaking of the Divine Edifice to be constructed in America said: "Out of this Mashriqu'l-Adhkâr, without doubt, thousands of Mashriqu'l-Adhkârs will be born." Thus does one victory in the Cause of God give birth to another.

Again the Master stated: "The Mashriqu'l-Adhkâr is the most important matter and the greatest divine institute. Consider how the first institute of His Holiness Moses, after His exodus from Egypt, was the 'Tent of Martyrdom' which He raised and which was the traveling Temple. "Likewise, after His Holiness Christ—the first institute by the disciples was a Temple. They planned a church in every country. Consider the Gospel and the importance of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkâr will become evident."

Monument erected at the grave of Marion Jack in the British Cemetery in Sofia, Bulgaria.
More Pacific Islands
Opened to Faith

December 8, 1957, was an historical day for the Bahá'ís of Macau, for this was the occasion of the first public proclamation of the Faith in that city. Although the attendance consisted of only fifteen non-Bahá'ís and seven Bahá'ís, this was a remarkable achievement, especially in view of the fact that the required government permission to hold such a meeting had been cancelled twice, the second time on the very day before the event was to take place.

Quick work on the part of the Bahá'ís in explaining the nature of the meeting to government authorities, and to the officials of the school where the meeting finally was held, and in obtaining last minute publicity, aided by the prayers of the Bahá'í group, brought the Faith to the attention of a number of important individuals besides those who comprised the audience.

The speaker was Carl A. Scherer, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause in Asia; his subject was "Progressive Revelation."

The First Korean Pioneer

To Kim Chang Zin of Seoul, Korea, goes the honor of being the first Korean to arise as a Bahá'í pioneer. He has settled in the virgin island of Chaeju, in the Yellow Sea south of the Korean peninsula.

Mr. Kim first heard of the Faith many years ago. The limited knowledge he was able to acquire before Korea was cut off from the rest of the world came largely through correspondence with Esperantist Bahá'ís in the United States. Hearing of it again when the United States Army Occupation took Bahá'ís into South Korea, Mr. Kim was immediately awakened, although none of the Americans in Korea at the time were able to converse with him in a language he could understand.

He attended the Bahá'í National Convention in Tokyo last April, an experience which itself was a victory over great political obstacles; here he became imbued with the determination to teach. This determination has now expressed itself in his response to the Guardian's message to the first Convention of the Bahá'ís of North East Asia, calling for the planting of the banner of Bahá'u'lláh in new island areas.

In other parts of Korea the Faith continues to expand and to require almost superhuman effort on the part of the American pioneers and native Bahá'ís alike. For example, John McHenry III travels three hours by bus and train weekly to conduct firesides and study classes in Mokpo, in addition to carrying on at least three classes in Kwangju where he teaches in Chosen University.

There is at present only one Bahá'í in Mokpo, but 20 other persons who are vitally interested have formed committees to see that publicity and other local arrangements are made in order to insure maximum use of the time Mr. McHenry can give to that city.

With the help of an interested professor at the college, plans are under way to open the virgin city of Chunju to the Faith this year.

Penghu Island Opened by Tainan Bahá'ís

The Bahá'ís of Taiwan, also, are extending their teaching work to surrounding islands. Following the first Bahá'í summer school (see page 8), Mrs. Ruthy Tu of Tainan and Mr. Philip Marangella, chairman of the National Teaching Committee for North East Asia, visited Mahkong on Penghu, one of the Pescadores Islands in the China Sea, 70 miles off the coast of Formosa, where they were able to introduce the Faith to the principal of the government school.

New Islands of Japan Opened

The opening of several of the hundreds of islands comprising Japan is receiving the special attention of the Regional Spiritual Assembly of North East Asia. Until a few months ago, the Bahá'ís in Japan were concentrated on the main island of Honshu. A year ago the beloved Guardian called for the opening of "the northern island of Hokkaido," and in his message to the first Annual Convention of the Bahá'ís in North East Asia last April, he called also for the propagation of the Faith "throughout the smaller islands of Japan."

Since Hokkaido was especially singled out by the Guardian for attention, the settlement of that area was an item of special consultation at the Convention, with the result that a month later Mr. G. Nakajima and Mr. R. Momtazi undertook the first teaching trip to Hokkaido. (See pp. 6 and 7 Bahá'í News, November 1957.) The two residents of the major city of Sapporo who accepted the Faith immediately have now been joined by Quarat'lulláh Vahid Tibráni, a pioneer to Japan from Iran, and together they will follow up the contacts made by Mr. Nakajima and Mr. Momtazi with members of the Ainu tribe.

Mr. H. Labib, also a pioneer to Japan from Iran, is now settled in...
Nagasaki on the large island of Kyushu. Takumatsu, a city on Shikoku, the fourth and last of the "main islands," has been opened by the believers of Kobe. This same Bahá’í community has been doing teaching work also on the small island of Awaji as part of the extension work in the city of Akashi, south of Kobe, and in Himeji, north of Kobe, as well as on Shodo Shima Island.

Nagoya, the only Bahá’í community in Japan composed entirely of Japanese believers, is carrying on a very active teaching program with only occasional assistance from the outside. Its extension assignment consists of opening the nearby cities of Hamamatsu and Toyoyashi.

A special tribute should be paid to Mr. M. Odani, who is the first Japanese Bahá’í to undertake a teaching circuit alone. His first circuit included visits to Kyushu and Shikoku Islands, and making approximately 50 new contacts for the Faith.

The early purchase of a Temple site and of property for burial grounds is a goal of the Six-Year Plan on which the Regional Spiritual Assembly is concentrating special attention in addition to the attainment of its incorporation, all of which the Assembly aims to complete before the end of the current Bahá’í year.

These are but a few of the achievements of the first year of "the second chapter in the history of the evolution of His Faith in the North Pacific area," the Six-Year Plan for North East Asia, the opening of which began with the beloved Guardian’s message to the first Convention in Tokyo in April 1957.

-ASIA TEACHING COMMITTEE

First Bahá’í Summer School Publicizes Faith in Taiwan

The first Bahá’í Summer School to be held in Taiwan was conducted from September 28-30, 1957, at the Eastern Garden Hotel in Tainan. In view of the fact that an official government permit was required to hold such a gathering, the procedure for securing such permission was itself a means of introducing the Faith to the officials of a number of city government sections both in Tainan and Taichung.

The event received additional publicity in the daily newspapers in the cities where Bahá’ís reside, namely, Taipei, Tainan, Chia-Yi and Tsoting.

The presence of two distinguished overseas Bahá’ís—Mr. Philip Marangella, representing the Regional Spiritual Assembly of North East Asia, and Mr. Carl Scherer, the esteemed member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause in Asia,—was a great inspiration to all.


Panel discussions during the daytime session discussed methods of introducing the Bahá’í Faith and the Bahá’í pattern for future society, while the evening sessions were open to the general public. Each session opened with prayers in the three languages represented at the school—Chinese, English, and Persian.

The tone of the school was struck at the opening session when the chairman of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Tainan, Jerome Chu, explained the purpose of Bahá’í summer schools and introduced the two visitors, Mr. Scherer and Mr. Marangella.

Mr. Marangella explained in detail the importance of Bahá’í summer schools that "bid fair to evolve into the Bahá’í universities of the future." He related how his own guidance into the Cause began with his attendance at a Bahá’í school in the United States 36 years ago.

Mr. Scherer conveyed Bahá’í greetings from different Pacific regions which he visits as a member of the Auxiliary Board. He referred to the progress of the Faith during the Crusade years of the beloved Guardian’s Ten-Year Plan, especially in the African continent and the whole Pacific region.

The importance of this first Taiwan Bahá’í Summer School will be known in the future as assured by the beloved Guardian who, in response to a cablegram from the 25 attendants at the school, replied that he was offering "fer­vent prayers (for) success (in their) deliberations."

—HO CHENG-TAU

First Bahá’í Summer School of Taiwan, held in Tainan on September 28-30, 1957. Mrs. S. A. Suleimani, holding the Greatest Name, a Persian pioneer there; Philip Marangella of Tokyo, to her left, representative of the National Spiritual Assembly of North East Asia; Carl Scherer, in front of Mr. Marangella, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause of Asia; and pioneer S. A. Suleimani, extreme right, were among those present.
Canton Huanuni Indian Assembly Formed in Bolivia

**THIS** is the story of the formation of the first all-Indian Local Spiritual Assembly in the village of Vilacollo, Bolivia, April 21, 1957. It was at the memorable National Convention held in Buenos Aires that the Bahá'ís first heard the mountain-clear voice and sensed the deep devotion and humility of Andrés Jachacollo, chairman of that Local Assembly. They saw the true nobility of the Indian. How had the way been paved for Andrés and his family to enter into the Faith?

Let us try to visualize that bleak forbidding region of Vilacollo, situated on the arid Altiplano, the western tableland, of Bolivia, high above La Paz at 12,000 feet above sea-level. As far as the eye can see there is no green relief, only clumps of a straw-like forage called Paja Brava, to nurture the hardy llamas, small flocks of sheep, a very few cattle, and the ever present burro used for transportation.

The only wild creatures are occasional jackrabbits or fox-like animals which have little or no utility. There seems to be little or nothing to offer for survival. The climate is chilly, ranging from zero to 12 degrees centigrade. With virtually no rainfall, nothing will grow except a wild grain plant which is toasted and ground to give slight nourishment to the ever-hungry Indians.

From La Paz, one travels 260 kms.; from Oruro, 60 kms.; from Huanuni, 20 kms. by foot to the village of Vilacollo to find an Indian population all descended from the family Jachacollo. This is the family chosen by Bahá'u'lláh to spread the Glad Tidings. These are the "Red Mountain" people living on the red-ridged slopes of a sierra which has given the village its name.

"Since 1950," said Andrés, "all our customs have changed because of the constant fees demanded by the church for baptisms, marriages, and even funerals, and we asked if God gave nothing gratis. But our prayerbooks inspired us on to higher thoughts and we tried to live a life in accordance with God's commandments."

With a longing for a spiritual life ever within him, Andrés Jachacollo often visited a wise old man around a hundred years old who belonged to a very ancient race of men called the Urus, who lived on the shores of Lake Popoo. It was he, Toribio Miranda, whom the Indians revered and considered as their spiritual father, who counselled them on their daily living habits, to be pure and clean, and to give up drinking, smoking, and the chewing of the narcotic coca leaves which seemed to give them a temporary sense of well-being and caused them to forget their constant hunger.

Through him they organized their communities, choosing zealous spiritual men to act as their Mayors in guiding them to obey God's purpose for them. This authority was exercised through signed and sealed papers given each Mayor by Sr. Miranda.

In the village of Vilacollo, Andrés Jachacollo was elected the Mayor and he took the responsibility seriously both in the material and spiritual sense. He always felt a sense of spiritual destiny while searching for a better way of life for his people.

It was in April 1956 that Andrés visited La Paz, and while wandering about happened to read the poster outside the Bahá'í Center which told about Universal Teachings for this Day. He thought it over, and returned with his brother, Carmelo, so they could study these Teachings which gave such assurance of "The Oneness of Humanity." He had to make sure that he had really found his goal. After several intensive months of study and questions Andrés and his brother Carmelo accepted Bahá'u'lláh unreservedly, and became the first two members of their race to be believers in Bolivia. (Sept. 8, 1956)

They invited their friends, Elton Smith and Estanislao Alvarez, members of the Regional Teaching Committee, to go back to their little village to talk to the entire Jachacollo settlement. By April 1957 ten members had accepted the Faith whole-heartedly, and held their first local spiritual assembly election. The members elected were Andrés, Carmelo, Nasario, Martin, Julian, Juan, Pedro, Seferino, and Isidro, all with the surname of Jachacollo. Urbano Limachi was the tenth member.

In their village of Vilacollo the Children's Schoolhouse serves as the Bahá'í Center, where the Teachings

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*Mrs. Margery McCormick, representing the U. S. National Spiritual Assembly, and Dr. 'Ali Muhammad Varqa, Head of the Cause (right), pictured with Andrés Jachacollo, chairman of the first all-Indian Local Spiritual Assembly of Vilacollo, Bolivia, at the first National Convention of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay during Ridvan 1957.*
They feel that they owe a great debt to the one who prepared them spiritually to recognize Bahá'u'lláh. In the memory of Toribio Miranda they hope to reach all the Indians who were his spiritual family and were imbued with his high ideals. Undoubtedly, we shall learn before long that the first Bahá'ís will have entered the Faith on the shores of Lake Popóo.

Shoghi Effendi sent word to the National Spiritual Assembly of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay on August 28, 1957, that he felt particularly happy to see that some Indian believers had attended the Convention in Buenos Aires and that he conceded the greatest importance to the teaching of the Faith to the aborigines of the Americas; that 'Abdu'l-Bahá Himself had spoken of their great potentialities and it was their right to receive the Message of God for this Day that they should receive special attention, love, and consideration to compensate them for what others considered an inferior position. Finally, the Guardian gave these instructions: “One of the most meritorious objectives of your Assembly should be the establishment of All-Indian Spiritual Assemblies.”

Prominent Lecturer Reviews Bahá'í Book

Acting on the request of the Guardian to give wide-spread publicity to Dr. George Townshend’s book, Christ and Bahá'u'lláh, the West Hollywood, Calif., Local Spiritual Assembly arranged with Mrs. J'Nevely Terrill, a prominent club woman and lecturer, to include a public review of this book in the list of books and authors she planned to present during the fall months in her very popular program called “The Mental Shop.” Accordingly, Mrs. Terrill’s brochure, mailed to more than 14,000 people, announced Christ and Bahá'u'lláh as her choice for the month of September as the most outstanding book along religious lines.

Since it is customary for Mrs. Terrill to present the author who gives the review of his book to the audience, and since Dr. Townshend had passed away, she invited Charles Wolcott, member of the National Spiritual Assembly, to be the guest speaker on this occasion. As a feature of the program a well-known Los Angeles tenor sang the prayer by Bahá'u'lláh, “O Thou By Whose Name,” which Mr. Wolcott had set to music.

At this meeting, held on September 21, Mrs. Terrill spoke about the book, Christ and Bahá'u'lláh, and about Dr. Townshend, and then announced that she had invited a member of the Bahá’í Faith to explain the Bahá’í Faith and the relation of this book to it, which was done briefly by Mr. Wolcott.

Following the meeting all available copies of Christ and Bahá'u'lláh were sold and a vast amount of free Bahá’í literature was picked up, including copies of The Christian Cen­tery reprint of Marcus Bach’s article, “The Bahá’í Faith: a Second Look,” and the pamphlet, Lord of the New Age.

It is estimated that 1,100 were present at this meeting, most of whom heard of the Faith for the first time. Thousands who could not be present, but who are interested in Mrs. Terrill’s lecture program, undoubtedly were impressed by the fact that she included in her list of 18 books to be reviewed during the Fall this particular book as “J'Nevelyn's choice for the most interesting book,” in the religious field.

Correction

The story on the first Summer School in Korea, published in Bahá’í News for December 1957, was written by William W. Smits.
Baha'is of Four Nations Attend Dedication of Luxembourg Center

The dedication of the Luxembourg Baha'u'llah Quds, located at 8 rue Maréchal Foch, took place on November 1, 1957. As it was followed by a Benelux Conference, many Baha'is from Belgium, Holland, France, and Germany joined in the joyous celebration.

After beautiful prayers and readings in French, Dutch, and English the Chairman of the Luxembourg Local Spiritual Assembly expressed heartfelt thanks to the beloved Guardian, to Mrs. Amelia Collins, and to the whole body of the American friends who through their generous gifts enabled the acquisition of this lovely Baha'i home.

For many years the Luxembourg friends tried to find a suitable house, but only at the very last moment did they succeed. On April 30, 1957, the contract for the apartment was signed, which however could not be occupied until October 1st.

Mr. Levy took us all, sitting comfortably in the sunny and cheerful room, back to that bleak and cold January evening in 1947 when the first pioneer, Miss Honor Kempton, arrived in Luxembourg. Who could have dreamt that ten years later over 40 Baha'is would witness the dedication of such a beautiful Baha'u'llah Quds! He reminded us of the deep gratitude we owe her, the other pioneers, and the traveling teachers for their contributions to the growth of the Faith in Luxembourg.

To our great joy Honor Kempton, now pioneering in nearby Nancy, took part in the dedication. Only as a "pioneer," she stressed, but to us she always remains the representative of the European Teaching Committee for whose loving guidance and assistance we will be for ever deeply grateful.

Dr. Hermann Grossmann, Hand of the Cause, spoke of his first visit to Luxembourg in 1952, on which he found the friends painting the furniture and arranging their first Center in the house of the regretted late Lily Kraus. Now the friends have not a rented room but their own beautiful Baha'i home. Dr. Grossmann wished them further victories, trusting that they could keep in mind the words of 'Abdu'l-Baha which they had chosen for the dedication: "The best way to thank God is to love one another".

Dhikru'lllah Khamem, Hand of the Cause, expressed his happiness and gratitude to be able to witness this historic occasion. He only regretted that not all the Persian friends could be here and to see with their own eyes what the beloved Guardian had written to them: that instead of their

window display in Punta Arenas, Chile, arranged by believers in this southernmost Baha'i community in the world.

one Baha'u'llah Quds taken by the enemies, there were now 48!" Mr. Khamem explained how the Temple was an institution of Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha, but that the Baha'u'llah Quds was a creation of our beloved Guardian. He urged the friends "to pray and see what victories will follow."

Then the congratulatory messages were read: from Dr. Adelbert Muhlschlegel: from the American, the Benelux, the Italo-Swiss the German, and the Scandinavian National Spiritual Assemblies; and various local spiritual assemblies and friends in far-off countries. This made us realize with joy, as so often before at such gatherings, that we were a link in the chain of Baha'i love and unity encircling the world.

Finally, as the tangible expression of this love and unity some lovely gifts — a book to keep treasured, the Greatest Name in gold on brown leather, a beautiful Delft table coverings and beautiful vases with flowers — were received.

—Rita Van Sombeek

"New Era" Edition in Braille Widely Distributed to Libraries

The revised Braille edition of Baha'u'llah and the New Era, Grade Two, has been distributed to 22 libraries in the United States, the Baha'i Service to the Blind Committee has reported.

Baha'is may direct their contacts to the Library of Congress, Division for the Blind, Washington, D.C., and to the following of its distributing libraries which now possess copies of this new edition:

- Albany and New York City, N.Y.;
- Atlanta, Ga.;
- Austin, Texas;
- Chicago and Jacksonville, Ill.;
- Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio;
- Denver, Colo.;
- Detroit and Saginaw, Mich.;
- Honolulu, T.H.;
- Indianapolis, Ind.;
- Watertown, Mass.;
- Los Angeles and Sacramento, Calif.;
- New Orleans, La.;
- Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Pa.;
- Seattle, Wash.;
- and St. Louis, Mo.

This important Baha'i text has also been placed in the national libraries for the blind in many foreign countries. The Committee has received many warm expressions of appreciation, and assurances of the need for this authoritative work in its corrected form.

—Rita Van Sombeek
Encourage Participation in UNESCO Activities

This issue of Baha'i News (page 13) carries a brief report of the participation of official delegates of the American Baha'i community in the recent Sixth Annual Conference of the United States Commission for UNESCO.

While representation at such events must be left to the decision and discretion of the National Spiritual Assembly, the participation of members of the Baha'i community in local activities of UNESCO need not be limited to national delegates. Indeed, the believers are encouraged to take part in local workshops which follow the annual conferences. These group workshops or "Citizen Consultations" are generally sponsored by universities and colleges, but include representatives from local organizations, agencies, and institutions interested in educational and cultural activities related to the question of international understanding and cooperation.

One such workshop was sponsored last year in Sacramento, Calif., by the Sacramento State College. Among the 56 persons who participated were members of the local Baha'i Community who did so as part of the community's UN activities. The particular topic chosen for this workshop, which met five times between mid-October and mid-November, was: "The American as International Traveler and Host."

While the report gives no details as to direct Baha'i contributions to the consultation, it is interesting to note that a number of the recommendations are completely in line with the approach and aims of the Baha'i Faith in finding points of contact with people among whom the Baha'is live and work, whether at home or in foreign lands. For example, the report emphasized that: "The American abroad should learn to work with the villager, find out what he needs and help him to a solution of his own problems... train the native teacher."

In contacts with the student and visitor from abroad, "Americans must prepare themselves to provide meaningful experience for him while he is here as well as a satisfactory memory of his stay afterward... They must listen and make the most of the opportunity to see ourselves through the eyes of the visitor... The responsibility of the American host does not terminate with a single gesture of hospitality... One-time meeting or entertainment is not enough."

In the opinion of the Sacramento group, preparation for becoming a good traveler is a long-range matter. "The child should be prepared all along the way for his role as an understanding person who accepts people for what they are, rather than to evaluate them in terms of a parochial nationalism." And among the positive proposals for improving the effect that the American community can have upon other peoples, it was recommended that "our citizens may feel compelled to re-acquaint themselves with their own American heritage of cultural progress, with less emphasis on material things, so that foreign visitors or temporary residents... will feel a greater warmth of friendship when they return to their native lands."

As we read the conclusions of this and the six other workshops, some of which were also held in localities where there are Baha'i communities, we call to mind the letter of the Guardian dated July 19, 1956, quoted in the November 1956 Baha'i News (page 2), in which he stated that "a great impetus could be lent to the work (Baha'i) in the European countries, and certain far-eastern areas, and in Latin America, if the Baha'is residing in the big cities and university towns would make a determined and sufficient effort to extend friendship and hospitality to students and nationals from countries where the Baha'is are struggling so hard to establish the Faith."

In this same letter he urged the National Spiritual Assembly to survey the possibilities of this work, "then instruct the local assemblies accordingly, and in the meantime encourage the Baha'is to be active in this field, which is open to everybody, as the minorities are invariably lonely and often respond to kindness much more quickly than the well-established majority of the population."

Suggestions as to how to carry out this instruction from Shoghi Effendi, growing out of a careful survey by a special committee appointed for the purpose, were published in the June 1957 Baha'i News under the title, "Contacts with Visitors from Other Countries." Baha'i communities and groups who are engaged in the suggested activities should be alert to opportunities to participate in such conferences as the one reported in this article, and through such participation let other organizations and agencies in the community know that the Baha'i Faith is a faith of action and that to the Baha'is the world is indeed one fatherland.

—National Spiritual Assembly

Bahais attending the Second Regional Teaching Conference in Asunción, Paraguay, on October 10, 1957.
UNESCO Conference Stresses
Asian-American Understanding

On invitation from the United States Commission for UNESCO, the National Spiritual Assembly appointed Mrs. Mamie Seto, temporarily in San Francisco, and Mr. Dwight W. Allen of Menlo Park, Calif., to serve as its representatives in the Sixth National Conference of this Commission in San Francisco, November 6-9, 1957.

This particular conference was called "to stimulate additional American interest in the peoples of Asia and in their cultural values and achievement; to consider the extensive American efforts relating to Asia which are now in progress; and to discuss ways in which Americans can contribute to better Asian-American understanding and cooperation."

The theme as announced in the invitations was: "Asia and the United States: What the American Citizen Can Do to Promote Mutual Understanding and Cooperation."

The report from our two representatives indicated that more than 1,500 delegates attended. Besides the presence of peoples from many countries, a colorful atmosphere was created by exhibits of art from the different countries in Asia, Indonesian and Japanese music by the orchestra of the University of California in Los Angeles, and films showing the religions of Asia; the latter was produced by Lew Ayres, screen actor and member of the United States National Committee for UNESCO.

The four plenary sessions and the section meetings were addressed by foreign and American leaders and scholars. Three luncheon meetings were addressed by Walter P. Reuther, president of the United Automobile, Aircraft, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America; U. Thant, representative to the UN from Burma; and Dr. Ismail bin Dato Abdul Rahman, ambassador from Malaya.

A call for American leadership was the theme of many of the prominent speakers and recurred throughout all the session. Mrs. Seto stated that the first who dealt with this subject was the Honorable Ahmed Bokhari, Under-Secretary and Director of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, who said: "If the American nation cannot take the challenge of the hour, what nation can? It is America's destiny to come forward now."

"The whole Asia continent is thirsting for a religious renaissance, the rebirth of cultural values, and the improvement of moral standards. America can certainly help fill the need."

Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit of India stated: "The question of racial prejudice undoubtedly remains one of the chief barriers between our world and yours. For this reason the smallest item of news from America or Africa which relates to discrimination often makes a disproportionate impact on the Asian mind. Nevertheless, the separation of East and West is ending. The history of the new world, the One World, has begun."

Mr. Reuther in his address said: "The H-bomb has reduced all of mankind to the simple common denominator of human survival. Until we understand that basic historic fact and begin to act in the knowledge of that understanding, the world, you and I, and the human family, are in great peril. We (in America) must begin to work more effectively to provide leadership, economic, political and, perhaps most of all in terms of importance, we need to provide greater moral leadership in this struggle."

"We need to learn that peace, freedom, and social justice are inseparably bound together and that neither can be made secure until all are made universal. We need to work together as a free people to demonstrate that the small minority who are symbolized by the problems in Little Rock do not represent the overwhelming point of view of the American people, and that we are going to not only fight against the master race theory with courage and
conviction in Berlin, but to meet that problem at home with the same sense of courage and dedication, and until we do our symbols will be lost to the world...

"I happen to believe it is about time the free world begins to shape its basic policies in the image of its hopes and aspiration, its common faith and the common dreams of a better tomorrow."

For attendance at section meetings, Mrs. Seto chose the one devoted to "The Mind and Spirit of Asia; Achieving Understanding through Philosophies and Religions," while Mr. Allen chose the one on "Educational Problems of Asia, and the Study of Asia in American Education." In all section meetings there were long presentations by panel members with little opportunity for genuine interchange of ideas during the brief discussion periods which followed. In this respect, the delegates felt that the conference fell short of its avowed purpose "to achieve greater understanding."

There was no opportunity to speak of the Faith in the section which Mrs. Seto attended, but in the section on education Mr. Allen, who identified himself to those in his group as a Bahá'í, was able to speak several times and to propose a resolution (which was adopted by the group but omitted by the section rapporteur) calling for an emphasis on the similarities of ideals, beliefs, and spiritual values in constructing a curriculum of study on Asia in the American schools.

Both of the Bahá'í delegates were able to speak of the Faith to several new contacts, but whether or not there will be tangible results is unknown. Nevertheless both felt that it was valuable to have Bahá'í representatives at such conferences if for no other reason than to have the Faith represented on the rolls, to keep the American Bahá'í community informed of what the molders of opinion throughout the world are thinking, and to take advantage of whatever chance opportunities might arise to speak of the Faith to some other delegates in an informal manner.

**Temple Site for South East Asia Purchased Near Djakarta**

Purchase of a site for the Masjidi-I-Adkhár of South East Asia has been joyfully announced by the South East Asia Regional Spiritual Assembly. The land is located near Djakarta, Indonesia, and is over 14 acres in area.

This acquisition, carried out at the wish and instruction of the beloved Guardian, was concluded despite financial difficulties.

**Burial Ground Acquired**

In other news from this area, the Regional Assembly reports it has acquired a plot of land about 900 square meters in area within the city of Djakarta for a Bahá'í Burial Ground. The land was transferred to the Bahá'ís from government ownership without charge.

**Hazíratu'l-Quds Established**

A piece of land in the village of Trung Giang, Vietnam, has been offered by one of the local Bahá'ís to the Local Spiritual Assembly, and it is planned to erect a small building on the property that will serve as a Bahá'í Center.

In Saigon, the capital of Vietnam, a house suitable for a Hazíratu'l-Quds will soon be purchased with the savings of the friends there.

**Hold First Regional Meeting in S. Bavaria**

The first regional teaching conference of southern Bavaria was held in Munich on the weekend of November 16-17, 1957. Through the efforts of the National Teaching Committee, many of the isolated believers of the area were able to be present, in addition to Bahá'ís from the various communities.

On the evening of November 16 Dr. Schmidt of Stuttgart spoke on the subject "Is Humanity Going Into Uncertainty?" at the German Museum hall before an audience of about 80 friends and visitors. The strongly-stressed theme of the need for the unity of all mankind under the banner of one religion embracing all previous revelations made a deep impression on the listeners. Several interested persons left their addresses for information about future meetings, and purchased Bahá'í literature.

On the following day the friends met in the Munich Center for study purposes. Dr. Doktoroglu, a visitor from 'Iraq, received special thanks for the warm message he brought, and for his report from London.

*Bahá'í group of Belize, British Honduras, and friends assembled to celebrate the Birthday of the Bab on October 20, 1957. The group includes Mrs. Shirley Warde and Miss Cora Oliver (front row center); two part-Mayan Indian guests; and several friends who are studying to make their declaration of membership in the Bahá'í Faith.*
Legal Recognition Given
Faith in Canal Zone

The first Baha’i Local Spiritual Assembly of the Canal Zone, formed in April 1957 with 11 members of the community, has announced with great joy the recognition of the Baha’i Faith on July 15 as a registered religious organization by the Government and Civil Authorities of the Canal Zone. Registering with the Executive Secretary of the Canal Zone is equivalent to incorporation since incorporation is impossible in the Zone.

On July 24 the Canal Zone Government recognized the right of authorized persons of the Baha’i Faith to perform marriages, which we expect to put into action in the near future.

On September 3 the Superintendent of Schools assured the recognition of the Baha’i Holy Days. Also the United States Army of the Canal Zone now recognizes the Baha’i Holy Days, through the efforts of Gene Crans, serving in the Armed Forces, who is a member of the Baha’i community.

In August an open-arm welcome was extended to two spiritually radiant young pioneers, the Misses Alda Rendina and Betty De Noma from Chicago, who immediately opened their homes every evening after work to any and all who are interested in Baha’u’llah’s Message, and there is seldom an evening without at least one inquirer. From the very moment of the ascension of our dearly beloved Guardian the true spirit of Baha’ has become greatly pronounced throughout this entire area, and many people are voluntarily seeking information and greater understanding of the Baha’i Faith.

—MARY ANN HOWARD

Southern Rhodesian Conference Plans
"Most Historic Year of Teaching"

From a special letter and report by the Hand of the Cause in Africa, Musa Banani, dated September 1957, we learn of an August 1957 meeting held in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, to consult on the new phase of collaboration between the Hands of the Cause and the national spiritual assemblies, as outlined in the Guardian’s June 4, 1957, cable. Six Auxiliary Board members were in attendance. The purpose was three-fold: (1) To make this the most historic year of teaching since the beginning of the Formative Age in 1921; (2) To concentrate upon completion of the unfinished main goals of the Ten-Year Crusade, as well as the supplementary goals; (3) To formulate methods of closer collaboration between the Hand of the Cause and the national spiritual assemblies so that actions of the enemies of the Faith on the Continent of Africa could be effectively anticipated and counteracted.

The two local communities of the Salisbury area participated indirectly in the week-long sessions by holding three large fireside meetings, with an average attendance of 50, mostly African contacts. When the deliberations of the Hand of the Cause, National Assembly, and the Auxiliary Board would end each night, they would join the teaching meetings. At one meeting the Revered Hand of the Cause, Musa Banani, members of the Auxiliary Board, and National Assembly members were introduced and spoke words of loving greeting.

In response to a message sent to the Guardian at the close of the conference, the beloved Guardian cabled his deepest, loving appreciation.

In summarizing the event, the report reads:

"Those who departed and those who remained were deeply conscious that next Ridvan must be a shining star of triumph, marking the halfway point in this Ten-Year Crusade, the like of which the history of religion had never before witnessed. It was the spiritual conquest of the entire planet. We were entering the battle arena for the crucial clash. Our Priceless Master, 'Abdu'l-Baha, had given us His 'Divine Plan' of victory. Our Beloved Guardian has marshalled our resources and directed our steps. Now it was up to us. However limited our resources, however inadequate our budding knowledge, however surrounded by difficulties, however suppressed, opposed, persecuted, we must press on either to win the victory or lay down our lives in the battle. We had the words of 'Abdu'l-Baha, Himself, to guide us. When He was asked if His life-long labors and sacrifice had
Church Groups, Civic Organizations

Show Growing Interest in Faith

Reports from various communities show a growing interest on the part of church groups, Sunday schools, civic organizations, and clubs to present a Baha'i program to their members. Some welcome a direct talk on the Baha'i Faith with an outline of its historical background and principles, while others not willing to utilize a Baha'i speaker are glad to present a showing of colored slides on the Holy Land that includes the Baha'i Shrines and Holy Places, or on the Baha'i Temple in Wilmette.

Even one or two Baha'is, not gifted as public speakers, can, with a little effort, acquire and prepare an adequate program of this type that will enable them to tell the Baha'i story to large numbers of people in their community. Not only does this help to give a better and broader understanding of the Baha'i Faith to the general public, but often individuals are contacted who desire to investigate the Teachings personally.

Just being alert to community events opened a door to Baha'i proclamation for Baha'is in Tanana Valley, Alaska. During a showing of Look Magazine slides on various religions at the Fairbanks Unitarian Fellowship, an attending Baha'i, Mable Amidon, made a comment during the discussion period that caused the chairman to say: “You sound as if you were a Baha’i!”

As a result she was asked to present a program at the end of the current series. The program included passages from the scriptures of seven faiths and a talk on the basic fundamentals of the Baha'i Faith. The discussion period which followed was so lively and lengthy that the speaker had no time to show the Baha'i slides, originally planned for the program. Forty persons attending the meeting took generously from the free literature on the Baha'i Faith available to them.

During the past year Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Barham of Silver Spring, Maryland, were able to present 21 showings of colored slides entitled “Palestine, the Holy Land of Many Faiths,” including Jewish students of comparative religion, Negro students of the Bible, neighbors, relatives, and friends at firesides and public gatherings. Recently on January 5 they were presented to an all Negro Sunday School at the Meridian Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., to over 100 children and youth and twenty adult teachers and parents.

Dallas News, Radio Editors Attend Baha'i Press Conference

The Dallas and University Park, Texas, Baha'i communities carried out an unusual and promising event in proclaiming the Faith by reaching the news agencies in the form of a Press Conference.

Representatives of the local newspapers, radio, and television stations were invited to a luncheon and a presentation on “The New Revelation and the Need for It Today” by a Baha'i speaker. This was followed by an explanatory talk by the Chairman of the Dallas Local Spiritual Assembly, giving the reasons for the Conference and reviewing recent press coverage of the Faith.

Each guest was presented with a kit of reading material on the Faith which included a copy of Christ and Baha'u'llah. There was also a discussion period when questions on the Faith were answered.

This Conference was followed within a week with a public meeting, held on the anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah. Colored slides were shown on “Haifa, A Name to Remember.”

Calendar of Events

FEASTS
February 7 — Mulk (Dominion)
March 2 — 'Ala' (Loftiness)

INTERCALARY DAYS
Ayyam-i-Ha, February 26 to March 1

DAYS OF FASTING
March 2-21

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
February 14-16

Baha'i House of Worship

Visiting Hours
Weekdays
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Entire building)

Service of Worship
Sundays
3:30 p.m., lasting until 4:15.

BAHA'I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Baha'i World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

Baha'i News is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1957-58: Mrs. Eunice Braun, chairman; Mrs. Charlotte Linford, secretary; Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Baha'i Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Beloved Friends:

In the shadow of the unexpected and soul-shattering sorrow which has so recently stricken the followers of Bahá'u'lláh through the passing of our much-loved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, comes the opening of the first of the momentous Conferences planned by him to take place in the five continents of the globe.

With what joy our hearts looked forward to this day when we should be gathered together to render thanks to Bahá'u'lláh for His blessings during the last five years—which have witnessed the most phenomenal progress in the expansion of His Faith since the Declaration of the Báb, to exalt His station, and to praise the manifold evidences of His mysterious power. How our hearts hastened ahead of us to this spot where we knew the first of these mighty conferences would be convened and with what anticipation we looked forward to receiving the message which we knew our beloved Guardian would send to us on this occasion.

It is with sadness and deep humility that the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land address to you these words. The ways of God have never been the ways of men. One thing we know, however, with profound assurance, and that is that no calamity has ever befallen this Faith that has not presaged a mighty victory. They martyred the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh was raised up. They persecuted and exiled Bahá'u'lláh. 'Abdu'l-Bahá carried the banner of His Faith to the very heart of the western world, to which He journeyed in His old age, and to which He gave some of the fairest fruits of His mind. After the ascension of the beloved Master, the believers, bereft of their Father and their Refuge, found in Shoghi Effendi a mighty tree beneath whose boughs they took refuge, and which protected them for thirty-six years.

The Signal of a Far Greater Expansion

At this turning-point in history, which the beloved Guardian repeatedly pointed out to us would be fraught with calamity, we have received a blow the nature of which we never anticipated. We have every right to believe, however, that even such a blow as this will be the signal for a far greater expansion of our glorious Faith, and that the sacrifice of his precious life has endowed the Cause of God with a new strength to face the future, to surmount all tests, to lay more quickly and firmly than ever before the foundations of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, that Kingdom prophesied since the days of Adam, and promised to men by their Heavenly Father.

Who can doubt that Shoghi Effendi will be viewed by posterity as the true conqueror of Africa? Whoever arose to serve that continent, whatever sign of action he beheld on the part of individual, assembly, or community, attracted his glance and received a burning intensity of interest, an outpouring of encouragement and assistance characteristic of the brilliant mind and wonderful nature with which Bahá'u'lláh had endowed him. With what intense pride he viewed the achievements of the last seven years, beginning with the African work inaugurated by the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles—and continued in collaboration with the American, Persian, Indian, and Iráqi National Assemblies, who were allotted specific tasks in this vast continent and who worked for its spiritual conquest in cooperation with the National Spiritual Assembly of Egypt and Sudan, the first National body established on this continent in 1924 and representing territories opened to the Faith during the lifetime of Bahá'u'lláh Himself. With what love he watched over its spiritual progress, blessing it even before the inception of the World Crusade through the appointment of a Hand of the Cause, an institution he recently reinstalled and of whom has the distinction of being the second Negro Hand in Bahá'í history. With what eagerness he followed the movement of the devoted and self-sacrificing pioneers, whether of African, American, Asian, or European origin, as they spread out—torchbearers of the New Day—into every territory of a continent so long stigmatized as the "dark continent," and brought the illumination of this glorious Faith to its peoples. With what joy he announced to the Bahá'í world on various occasions the progress on the African front, the formation of four new regional national assemblies, one of which was the successor to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Egypt and the Sudan, and of no less than one hundred and fifty
spiritual assemblies; the introduction of the Faith into more than two hundred tribes, the translation of its literature into more than seventy languages, the purchase of numerous Hazíratul-Quds and endowments both national and local; the swelling of the number of believers to over four thousand, three-fourths of whom are Africans; and the increase in the number of localities where Bahá'ís reside to over six hundred.

Fourth Phase of the World Crusade

The holding of this historic Conference signalizes the opening of the fourth phase of the World Crusade, a phase which the beloved Guardian himself stated must be characterized by an unprecedented expansion in the vital process of individual conversion and by the construction of three Mother Temples, one in Africa, one in Europe, and one in Australia. From the beginning of the Ten-Year Crusade—indeed it would be more correct to say from the very beginning of his ministry—the Guardian repeatedly emphasized to the believers of east and west the paramount importance of the teaching work, and pointed out to us that the purpose for which we have so laboriously erected our administrative institutions was primarily to enable us to carry the Message of Bahá'u'lláh to the peoples of the world and redeem their hearts through His grace.

In Shoghi Effendi's own messages written last year to the African regional assemblies he strongly emphasized that their primary function and duty was to enroll in ever greater numbers the African peoples under the Banner of Bahá'u'lláh. Such was the importance he attached to the teaching work that in his last Message to the Bahá'í world he stated, that, although the additional auxiliary boards' specific duty was to watch over the security of the Faith, the old auxiliary boards must be exclusively concerned in assisting in the prosecution of the Ten-Year Plan. He urged the regional assemblies in Africa to economize in matters concerning the Administration, in order that their limited resources, as much as possible, could be expended on ways and means of converting the African peoples, so dear to his heart, to the Faith. He pointed out to them that once they had made sure the individual had accepted the station of Bahá'u'lláh as that of the Manifestation of God for this Day, with the implications that this implies, petty obstacles should not be placed in his path or details insisted upon, but rather through a process of loving education after acceptance the new believer should be deepened in his knowledge and understanding of the Teachings. It was his dearest hope that through the concerted efforts of the Hands of the Faith, the regional assemblies, the auxiliary boards, the pioneers, and all the Bahá'ís, an immense flow of new recruits would swell the ranks of the believers and, rising like a torrent, pour itself out in the channels of new Assemblies and communities throughout the territories of this vast continent.

Urged to Surpass Tasks of Ten-Year Plan

So encouraged was the beloved Guardian by the spectacular victories won in so short a time and the evidences of the indomitable enthusiasm of the believers laboring in this field, that he urged them to surpass the specific tasks of the Ten-Year Plan by adding supplementary ones, such as local Hazíratul-Quds and endowments, other languages spoken on this continent, and further undertakings which would redound to the glory of the Faith. He was also anxious that the prizes won at the cost of so much effort should be maintained, and laid particular emphasis on the need for strengthening the work in the newly formed State of Ghana and of consolidating the work in Liberia, the Belgian Congo, Ruanda Urundi, French Equatorial Africa, and Comoro; he strongly emphasized the necessity of reopening Rio d'Oro and the Spanish Sahara; he made strong appeals for more African teachers to circulate amongst the various nations of Africa and carry the Message to their own people, and repeatedly called attention to the need for pioneers to go out into new districts within the territories already opened to the Faith.

Mansion of Bahá'u'lláh at Bahji, ʻAkká, Israel, where the Hands of the Cause of God issued their proclamation to the Bahá'í world community on November 25, 1957, following the passing of Shoghi Effendi, beloved Guardian of the Faith.
Bahá'u'lláh and a fragment of plaster from the room of the Báb in the fortress of Mákú where He was imprisoned. He repeatedly emphasized the tremendous spiritual importance of this Temple, which will be a mighty, silent teacher of the Faith and a haven of refuge spiritually to the believers. To the friends attending this Conference the Guardian has given in his last message the privilege of not only lending a powerful impetus to the completion of this glorious enterprise but also to that of the Mother Temples to be built in the European and Australian continents.

To these many soul-stirring bounties must be added that of viewing the portrait of Bahá'u'lláh and a lock of His precious hair sent at the express wish of our beloved Guardian to grace this Conference, both of which will be entrusted for safekeeping to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central and East Africa.

A Great Outpouring of Spirit

Now is the time for the believers to demonstrate the firmness of their faith and the ardor that will carry them through every test to the victories beyond. A great outpouring of spirit has been foreshadowed in the beloved Guardian's Message calling these Conferences, and it is for each and every one of us to receive from that outpouring his own allotted portion. Should we all arise with selfless, united, and consecrated effort, should we fix our gaze unwaveringly on the goals the Guardian set us, and resolve to demonstrate the quality of our faith in heroic acts comparable to those of the Dawn-breakers, the unfailing mercy of the Blessed Beauty will undoubtedly sustain and support us and enable us to perform such deeds as will cause all men to wonder and bow down in awe and admiration before the Name of Bahá'u'lláh. Then will the friends in Africa be enabled to attain the bounties promised to them and contribute their share to the erection of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh about which the Guardian wrote in one of his last messages to an African National Assembly:

“Whatever may tend to accelerate the onward march, the expansion and consolidation of the institutions of this Order, must be eagerly seized upon, and utilized to the utmost, for the attainment of this noble purpose. Whether or not constituting a specific objective of the Ten-Year or Seven-Year Plan, any measure or enterprise designed to reinforce the foundations of these institutions or to noise abroad their fame, or to extend the sphere of their beneficent influence, must be adopted and fearlessly embarked upon, however great the material sacrifices involved, however prolonged and arduous the effort required.

“The splendid exertions of the past must, in the face of the challenge now confronting these communities, be redoubled. The self-same consecration distinguishing the rank and file of the believers, as well as those so ably representing them—nay a still nobler standard of wholehearted dedication to the pressing and manifold requirements of God's infant Faith, now struggling to emerge from obscurity and vindicate its purpose—must be evinced, if the tasks ahead are to be adequately fulfilled. All must participate in this meritorious and collective endeavor, whatever there age, of either sex, and however difficult the circumstances with which they are surrounded.

“They cannot but feel confident, that, if they persevere along the path they have chosen to tread, the Author of the Divine Plan, Whose Mandate they are executing, will guide and succor them in their historic enterprise, and the Concourse on high will acclaim their victories and sustain their labors, and the Founder of the Faith Himself will graciously assist them and abundantly reward them both in this world and in the next.”

—The Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land
The Prayers of Bahá'u'lláh

by Ruhiyyih Khanum

A study of the Creative Word which revives the soul of a withered world

NOT THE least of the treasures which Bahá'u'lláh has given to the world is the wealth of His prayers and meditations. He not only revealed them for specific purposes, such as the Daily Prayers, the prayers for Healing, for the Fast, for the Dead, and so on, but in them He revealed a great deal of Himself to us. At moments it is as if, in some verse or line, we are admitted into His Own heart, with all its turbulent emotions, or catch a glimpse of the workings of a mind as great and deep as an ocean, which we can never fathom, but which never ceases to enrapture and astonish us.

If one could be so presumptuous as to try and comment on a subject so vast and which, ultimately, is far beyond the capacity of any merely mortal mind to analyse or classify, one might say that one of His masterpieces is the long prayer for the Nineteen Day Fast. I do not know if He revealed it at dawn, but He had, evidently, a deep association with that hour of the day when the life of the world is re-poured into it. How could He not have? Was He not the Hermit of Sar-Galu, where he spent many months in a lonely stone hut perched on a hilltop; the sunrise must have often found Him waiting and watching for its coming, His voice rising and falling in the melodious chants of His supplications and compositions. At how many dawns He must have heard the birds of the wilderness wake and cry out when the first rays of the sun flowed over the horizon and witnessed in all its splendor the coming alive of creation after the night.

In this prayer it is as if the worshipper approaches the sun while the sun is approaching its daybreak. When one remembers that the sun, the lifegiver of the earth, has ever been associated with the God-Power, and that Bahá'u'lláh has always used it in His metaphors to symbolize the Prophet, the prayer takes on a mystical significance that delights and inspires the soul. Turning to the budding day He opens His supplications-

"I beseech Thee, O my God, by Thy mighty Sign (the Prophet), and by the revelation of Thy grace amongst men, to cast me not away from the gate of the city of Thy presence, and to disappoint not the hopes I have set on the manifestations of Thy grace amidst Thy creatures." Who has not, in order to better visualize himself in relation to the Kingdom of God, seen his own soul as a wanderer, weary and hopeful, standing at the Gates of the Heavenly City and longing for admittance? The worshipper gazes at the brightening sky in the east and waits, expectant of the mercy of God. He hears the "most sweet Voice" and supposes that by the "most exalted Word" he may draw ever nearer the threshold of God's door and enter under the shadow of the canopy of His bounty—a canopy which is already spreading itself, in mighty symbolic form, over the world in crimson, gold and gray clouds.

The day waxes; the oncoming sun, in the prayer of Bahá'u'lláh, becomes the face of God Himself to which He turns, addressing words of infinite sweetness and yearning: "I beseech Thee, O my God, by the splendor of Thy luminous brow and the brightness of the light of Thy countenance, which shineth from the all-highest horizon, to attract me by the fragrance of Thy rainbow, and make me drink of the choice wine of Thine utterance."

The soft winds of dawn, which must have often played over His face and stirred His black locks against His cheek, may have given rise to this beautiful phrase in His prayer: "I beseech Thee, O my God, by Thy hair which moveth across Thy face, even as Thy most exalted pen moveth across the pages of Thy Tablets, shedding the musk of hidden meanings over the kingdom of Thy creation, so to raise me up to serve Thee Cause that I shall not fall back, nor be hindered by the suggestions of them who have cavilled at Thy signs and turned away from Thy face." How deep, how poetical, how sincere are His words! The playing of the strands of hair recalls to Him the fine tracing of the Persian script, revealing words from God that shed a divine fragrance in the lives of men. But that is not all. In His communion all the love and loyalty of His heart is roused, He supplicates to be made of the faithful, whom naught shall turn aside from the Path that leads them to their Lord.

The sun has risen, as if in answer to the cry of the worshipper to "enable me to gaze on the Day-Star of Thy Beauty..." And as he continues his prayer it seems as if all nature were moving in harmony with it: "I beseech Thee, O my God, by the Tabernacle of Thy majesty on the loftiest summits, and the Canopy of Thy Revelation on the highest hills, to graciously aid me.
to do what Thy will hath desired and Thy purpose hath manifested.” North and south the glory spreads, a faint echo of that celestial beauty visible to the eye of Bahá'u'lláh and which He says: “shineth forth above the horizon of eternity.” So deeply does it penetrate the heart that it evokes the desire to “die to all that I possess and live to whatsoever be­longeth unto Thee.” The soul is moved; all earthly things pale before the vision which, as symbolized in the sunrise, it beholds in the inner world; God, the “Well-Beloved” seems to have drawn very near.

The winds flit over the land; some tree calls to the Prophet’s mind, as it shivers and stirs, the Tree of Himself that over-shadows all mankind: “I beseech Thee, O my God, by the rustling of the Divine Lote-Tree and the murmur of the breezes of Thine utterance in the kingdom of Thy names, to remove me far from whatsoever Thy will hath desired me: I possess and live to whatso­ever be­longeth unto Thee.” The soul is moved; all earthly things pale before the vision which, as symbolized in the sunrise, it beholds in the inner world; God, the “Well-Beloved” seems to have drawn very near.

This majestic prayer is composed of fourteen verses, each opening with the words “I beseech Thee . . .” and closing with the same refrain: “Thou seest me, O my God, holding to Thy Name, the Most Holy, the Most Luminous, the Most Mighty, the Most Great, the Most exalted, the Most Glorious, and clinging to the hem of the robe to which have clung all in this world and in the world to come.” The rhythmic em­phasis on the thoughts contained in these words is not only very power­ful but very artistic—if one may borrow the term for lack of a better one—and the sense that all creatures living, and those gone before into the invisible realms of God, are clinging to the skirt of His mercy, dependent on Him and Him alone, exerts a pro­found influence on one’s mind, par­ticularly so when taken in conjunc­tion with what one beholds at this hour of the day: The sky kindling with light, the brush of the wind gently over the face of nature; the whole world waking to the tasks of living on all sides; all things depend­ent on God; they always have and they always will be. This is a little of what this long prayer conveys to those who partake of it.

Unique Prayer for Dead

Another unique prayer of Bahá'u'lláh’s is His congregational prayer for the Dead. His Revelation throughout has aimed at doing away with every form of ritual; He has abol­ished priesthood; forbidden cer­emonials, in the sense of church services with a set form; reduced the conduct of marriages to a naked sim­plicity, with a minimum uniform rite required of those concerned. The one exception to this general policy is the Prayer for the Dead, portions of which are repeated while all present are standing. Prayers such as this and the one for the Fast, can never be properly appreciated by merely reading them. They are liv­ing experiences. The difference is as great as that between looking at a brook when you are not thirsty, and drinking from it when you are. If you lose some one you love and then read aloud these glorious words, you come to know what “living waters” are:

“This is Thy servant . . . who hath believed in Thee . . . deal with him,
O Thou Who forgivest the sins of men and concealst their faults, as besemeth the heaven of Thy bounty and the ocean of Thy grace. Grant him admission within the precincts of Thy transcendent mercy that was before the foundation of earth and heaven...” Simple words, words which follow our loved one out into the spaces where we may not follow. But the profound experience of this prayer is in the refrain, each sentence of which is repeated 19 times. “We all, verily, worship God. We all, verily, bow down before God. We all, verily, are devoted unto God. We all, verily, give praise unto God. We all, verily, yield thanks unto God. We all, verily, are patient in God.”

The very strength of the prayer is in the repetition. It is so easy to say just once, “We... bow down before God” or “We yield thanks unto God” or “We are patient in God”; the words slip off our minds swiftly and leave them much as before. But when we say these things over and over, they sink very deep, they go down into the puzzled, the rebellious, the grief-stricken or rebellious, the grief-stricken or...
Thou Who art my Origin and my Highest Wish, and unto the essence of the fragrance of Thy beauty, which Thou wilt manifest, cause me to return, O Thou Who art my God!

"Potent art Thou to do what pleaseth Thee. Thou art, verily, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious, the All-Highest."

At times Bahá'u'lláh puts words into the mouth of the worshipper according to his need: He writes a supplication for a child, for one who is ill, one who is sad, one who is pregnant, one who is a sinner, one who pours forth his heart to God—capturing the whole gamut of human emotions in His various communions. But at times it is obvious the prayer is His own. We read too, but we cannot be the speaker, our mortal feet cannot tread the path that lay between His soul—the soul of the Prophet Himself—and the God Who sent Him here among men to labor and suffer for them. "I know not," He declares, "what the water is with which Thou hast created me, or what the fire Thou hast kindled within me, or the clay wherewith Thou hast kneaded me. The restlessness of every ocean hath been stillled, but not the restlessness of this Ocean which moveth at the bidding of the words of Thy will. The flame of every fire hath been extinguished, except the Flame which the hands of Thine omnipotence have kindled, and whose radiance Thou hast, by the power of Thy name, shed abroad before all that are in Thy heaven and that are on Thy earth. As the tribulations deepen, it waxeth hotter and hotter." The Holy fire that burned within His being is not for us, frail creatures that we are, to comprehend. We can only gaze into its heart and marvel at its shifting hues and beauty, much as we marvel at the flames that leap and dance on our own hearth fires, though we may not approach or touch them.

Bahá'u'lláh exalts the being and nature of God, in His addresses to Him, as no other Prophet ever has. He defines His relation to Him; He gives us glimpses of the forces surging within His soul; He lays bare the emotions that stir within His turbulent breast. In words of honey He cries out: "Thou holdest, O My God, how every bone in my body soundeth like a pipe with the music of Thine inspiration ..." A love far beyond our ken burns in His heart for the One God who sent Him down amongst men: "Thou seest, O Thou Who art my All-Glorious beloved, the restless waves that surge within the ocean of my heart in my love for Thee ..." "Thou art, verily, the Lord of Bahá and the Beloved of his heart, and the Object of His desire, and the Inspire of His tongue, and the Source of His Soul." "Lauded by Thy name, O Thou Who art my God and throbrest within my heart!" "O would that they who serve Thee could taste what I have tasted of the sweetness of Thy love!" How keenly His soul thrilled with appreciation for the aid that poured into His inmost being from the Invisible Source: "Were I to render thanks unto Thee for the whole continuance of Thy kingdom and the duration of the heaven of Thine omnipotence, I would still have failed to repay Thy manifold bestowals." How ardent is His gratitude to His Lord for raising Him up to serve His fellowmen: "How can I thank Thee for having singled me out and chosen me above all Thy servants to reveal Thee, at a time when all have turned away from Thy beauty!

His Readiness for Trials

Ever and again He confesses His readiness, nay, His eagerness, to bear every trial and hardship for the sake of shedding the light of God upon this darkened world, and in order to demonstrate the greatness of the love He feels for His Creator: "I yield Thee thanks for that Thou hast made me the target of diverse trials and manifold trials in order that Thy servants may be en­due with new life and all Thy crea­tures may be quickened." "I yield Thee thanks, O my God, for that Thou hast offered me up as a sacri­fice in Thy path ... and singled me out for all manner of tribulation for the regeneration of Thy people." "I swear by Thy glory! I have accepted to be tried by manifold adversities for no purpose except to regenerate all that are in Thy heaven and on Thy earth." "How sweet is the thought of Thee in times of adversity and trial, and how delightful to glorify Thee when compassed about by the fierce winds of Thy decree."

Every hair of my head proclaims: "But for the adversities that befall me in Thy path how could I ever taste the divine sweetness of Thy tenderness and love?"

With what passion and majesty He testifies to the unquenchable power and purpose of His Lord—the Lord Whom He called His "Fire" and His "Light"—Which burned within His breast: "Were all that are in the heavens and all that are on the earth to unite and seek to hinder me from remembering Thee and from celebrating Thy praise, they would assuredly ... fall ... And were all the infidels to slay me, my blood would ... lift up its voice and proclaim: 'There is no God but Thee, O Thou Who art all my heart's desire!' And were I to be cast into fire, my ashes would—I swear by Thy glory—declare: 'The Youth hath, verily, attained that for which he had besought His Lord, the All-Glorious, the Omniscient.'"

Reading such testimonials that spring—in moments of who knows what exaltation—from the heart of the Prophet, we cannot but marvel at the mighty and strange bond that binds such a Being to the Source of all power. It is as if an invisible umbilical cord tied Him to His Crea­tor, all His life, His motivations, His inspiration, His very words, flowed down this divine channel, as all the life, blood, and food of the babe flows in through that one bond it has with its mother. He throbbed in this mor­tal vibrations of a celestial world, He set all things pulsating with Him, whether they knew it or not, and drew them up and closer to the throne of God. One of His most mov­ing and sublime rhapsodies is in­cluded in a meditation in which He testifies to the power of the praise which He pours out to God, to transform and influence the hearts of others: "I yield Thee such thanks," He declares, "as can direct the steps of the wayward towards the splen­dors of the morning light of Thy guidance ... I yield Thee such thanks as can cause the sick to draw nigh unto the waters of Thy healing, and can help those who are far from Thee to approach the living fountain of Thy presence ... I yield Thee such thanks as can stir all things to exult Thee ... and can unloose the tongues of all beings to ... magnify
Thy beauty . . . I yield Thee such thanks as can make the corrupt tree to bring forth good fruit . . . and revive the bodies of all beings with the gentle winds of Thy transcendent grace . . . I yield Thee such thanks as can cause Thee to forgive all sins and trespasses, and to fulfill the needs of the peoples of all religions, and to waft the fragrances of pardon over the entire creation . . . I yield Thee such thanks as can satisfy the wants of all such as seek Thee, and realize the aims of them that have recognized Thee. I yield Thee such thanks as can blot out from the hearts of men all suggestions of limitations . . .

Poetic and stirring as these words are, we need not assume them to be merely the effusions of an exalted and over-filled heart. Bahá’u’lláh was never idle in His words. If He tells us that enshrined in the thanks He poured forth to His God is a power that can blot out every limitation from the hearts of men, it is so. The trouble is with us. How many Seers and Prophets, how many scientists and pioneers, have brought men tidings of truths and powers they knew not of and offered them to their generation, only to be spat upon, laughed to scorn, killed or ignored? And in the end a more enlightened people would take the key and open the door and find the wonders that the incredulous disbelieved, to be all true, ready at hand, waiting to be used for their good. The Prophets of God are intent on giving us both the good of this world and the one awaiting us after death, but most of the time we will not have it. We blind and perverse, prefer our own ways! Did not Christ say: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, . . . how often would I have gathered Thy children together, even as a hen gathered her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” It is not a new story. Every Divine Manifestation has placed jewels in the hand of man, only to see them flung aside for some foolish toy of his choosing. Yet each Prophet has assured us that God’s pity knows no bounds. “Thou art, in truth,” states Bahá’u’lláh in one of His prayers, “He Whose mercy hath encompassed all the worlds, and Whose grace hath embraced all who dwell on earth and in heaven. Who is there who hath cried after Thee, and whose prayer hath remained unanswered?

Where is he to be found who hath reached forth towards Thee, and whom Thou hast failed to approach? Who is he who can claim to have fixed his gaze upon Thee, and toward whom the eye of Thy loving-kindness hath not been directed? I hear witness that Thou hadst turned toward Thy servants ere they had turned toward Thee, and hadst remembered them ere they had remembered Thee.”

—Reprinted from WORLD ORDER MAGAZINE, November 1943

(new in continuation)

New Zealand Enlarges Scope of Maori Teaching Work

“The emergence of this independent Bahá’í community . . . must be regarded as a highly significant development in the rise and establishment of the Bahá’í Faith in the Pacific area . . . It should lend an unprecedented impetus to the conversion of the Maoris, and insure their active participation in the conduct of the Bahá’í administrative institutions.”

These were the words of Shoghi Effendi in his message to the National Convention in Auckland, New Zealand, 1957, on the occasion of the formation of the New Zealand National Spiritual Assembly. They present one more affirmation of that central core of the Bahá’í Faith—the oneness of mankind. Close to the heart of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, and therefore to the desire of the beloved Guardian in his charting of the World Crusade, are the aboriginal people of every land.

In accordance with the Guardian’s wishes, the Maori Teaching Committee of New Zealand has been actively engaged in making friends among the Maoris and in preparing literature, tapes, and recordings on the Bahá’í teachings in their language. Recently Mrs. Shirley Charters, of the Committee, gave the Bahá’í message at Manukorihi Pa, Waitara, to an important gathering of Maori elders, many of whom had come from as far as Te Kuiti, a hundred miles away. She also spoke to the Maoris at Parahaka Pa, Waitara, where Te Whiti, the great Maori leader, lived. Mrs. Brightwell, secretary of the Committee, and Bill Washington have done teaching work in the district also. The New Zealand Bahá’í Summer School held in December and January in New Plymouth was addressed by a charming Maori lady of high birth, Mrs. Marjorie Pepe Rau, on the subject of Te Whiti and his teachings.

The Maoris have a word in their own language which means unity. It is kohakahitanga. It is a remnant of the teachings of Te Whiti, the great leader who lived from 1817 to 1907, whose life is still remembered and revered by many Maori people. He taught simple basic truths based on fundamentals, which he gleaned largely from Christian teachings, in such a way that it may be said he prepared the way for the Bahá’í Faith. Living in peace with all men was one of his strong principles and so keenly believed that even during the period of strife between the Maoris and Europeans over the question of land, he would not permit his people to fight, but only to maintain passive resistance.

Once the Maoris lived only in their “Pas.” Originally a “Pa” was a fortress, now used as a community village, where all important functions take place at a meeting house. Today many Maoris live in the cities and are educated in the ways of Western culture. And kotahitanga, or unity, is perhaps remembered only as a longing in the heart from out of the past.

Visit of Keith Ransom-Kehler

Over twenty years ago Keith Ransom-Kehler, first American martyr and named by Shoghi Effendi as a Hand of the Cause, made a visit to the Maoris of New Zealand on one of her world teaching tours. She was received graciously by the chief of the Arawa tribe of Maoris, and permitted to give the Bahá’í message to his people. Later she was invited to attend a Maori banquet. Her interesting description of these experiences can be read in The Bahá’í World, Vol. V.

No one in the family of man is forgotten in Bahá’u’lláh’s Divine Plan. Bá’há’í of the world may look forward soon to the time when increasing numbers of the Maori people will enter into their worldwide fellowship, and to the “active participation” in Bahá’í institutions the beloved Guardian longed to see. (See photograph on page 11)
At the International Conference held in Kampala in 1953 it was announced that the Guardian required land to be bought for the eventual building of a Temple in Africa. He gave no indication at that time when this might be built. In April 1954, he sent a gift of a thousand pounds for the purchase of land, and six acres were bought on Kibuliriza Hill.

As a result of the persecution of the Persian Bahá’ís in 1955, when it became apparent that it would be unwise, if not impossible, for them to embark upon the building of their Temple, he announced that plans for the construction of the Mother Temple of Africa should be initiated, thus offsetting the setbacks suffered by the friends in the Cradle of the Faith and consoling their hearts. The National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles, under whose jurisdiction this territory came at that time, was instructed by the beloved Guardian to arrange for the preparation of plans for the Kampala Temple, which were submitted for his approval towards the end of 1955. These were rejected.

In early 1956, a gift of $1,000 was received from Hand of the Cause Mrs. Amelia Collins for the purchase of Endowment Land. With this money thirteen acres of land were bought on a hill about three miles outside Kampala—Kikaya Hill. This land was not on the crest of the hill, but was considered a better site than the land on Kibuliriza, which had no access road. Later it was learned that intensive development was scheduled for the Kibuliriza area. On the other hand, Kikaya Hill lies well outside the town and is surrounded, at the moment, by undeveloped land. Thus, the Guardian’s approval for the building of the Temple on Kikaya Hill and not Kibuliriza Hill was sought and obtained.

It was thought by the National Assembly that the Kikaya site would be considerably improved by the purchase of more land nearer the crest of the hill. The owner was found, who exchanged five acres for three acres of the land on Kibuliriza, and sold a half an acre for cash. This transaction was completed in September 1956.

In the meantime, the beloved Guardian had sent to Kampala a design for the Temple by Hand of the Cause Charles Mason Remey. This was placed in the hands of the architect chosen by the newly appointed National Assembly of Central and East Africa. On looking further at the plan of the site, it was found that a triangular plot jutted into the center of the Bahá’í land. Negotiations were initiated for the purchase of one acre of this plot to eliminate the angle of the triangle immediately adjoining our land in order to safeguard the precincts of the Temple if development in the area commenced. Agreement was finally reached and the impor-
Call Upon Believers to Insure Success of Intercontinental Conferences

"I call upon the entire body of the believers . . . to bestir themselves . . . to meet the challenge, and seize the opportunities, of this auspicious hour, and insure, through a dazzling display of the qualities which must distinguish a worthy stewardship of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, the total resounding success of these Conferences, dedicated to the glorification of His Name, and expressly convened for the purpose of accelerating the march of the institutions of His world-redeeming Order, and of hastening the establishment of His kingdom in the hearts of men."

This is the last sentence of the last communication addressed by our beloved Guardian to the Bahá'ís of the world less than one month prior to his ascension.

The first of these historic gatherings called for by Shoghi Effendi in his last message has already taken place. While the official report is not yet available, it has been learned that approximately 900 believers were present from 38 countries, and that half of them were Africans representing 26 different tribes—a record that must have brought joy to our departed Guardian! Surely the believers in all the other continents will attend in equally great numbers the four remaining Conferences to be held respectively in Sydney, Chicago, Frankfort, and Djakarta.

The five-fold purposes of these Conferences, as defined by Shoghi Effendi, are:
1. To offer humble Thanksgiving to the Divine Author of our Faith who has graciously enabled His followers to prosecute uninteruptedly the Ten-Year Plan;
2. To review and celebrate the signal victories won so rapidly in the course of the world-encircling Crusade;
3. To deliberate on ways and means that will insure its triumphant consummation;
4. To lend a powerful impetus the world over to the vital process of individual conversion;
5. To hasten the construction and completion of the three Mother Temples in Europe, Africa, and Australia.

Among the sacred privileges and blessings to be bestowed upon the believers attending the Intercontinental Conference in Chicago will be the viewing of the portraits of Bahá'u'lláh and of the Báb, which will be exhibited by Dr. Ugo Giachery, Hand of the Cause of God, attending the Conference as the Guardian’s appointed representative. This particular sacred occasion will be part of the special program of devotion and thanksgiving in the Auditorium of the Bahá'í House of Worship on the first afternoon of the Conference, Friday, May 2.

The remaining seven sessions will be held in Chicago, as announced in the January Bahá'í News.

The message from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land to the Chicago Conference will be presented by Dr. Giachery. Other Hands of the Cause who will be present will also speak from time to time.

Official representatives of the na-
tional and regional spiritual assemblies in the Western Hemisphere will review the "signal victories" won in their areas since the opening of the World Crusade, and there will be consultation on pioneer needs, how to accelerate individual conversion, and on ways and means for early and complete achievement of the remaining goals, including the construction of the three Mother Temples.

Further details of the program will be announced in the April issue of Bahá'í News. It is hoped that every Bahá'í in the Western Hemisphere will make a supreme effort to attend the Chicago Conference and to join with his fellow-believers from all parts of the world in "offering humble thanksgiving to the Divine Author of our Faith" and to our departed Guardian for the victories achieved under his guidance "for the execution of the Grand Design conceived by Abdu'l-Bahá" for the salvation of mankind.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

U. S. National Convention Housing Arrangements Listed

The usual services for delegates and visitors to the Annual Bahá'í National Convention will again be offered by the Convention Arrangements Committee and others who have volunteered to assist.

Adequate supervision has been arranged for those children who are old enough to take care of themselves, but the Committee cannot assume any responsibility for children in arms or those requiring individual attention.

Luncheons and dinners will be available in Foundation Hall at reasonable prices, as in the past.

It seems necessary to again point out that the Wilmette and Evanston homes offering rooms for visiting Bahá'ís do so only as a courtesy to the Bahá'ís. Therefore, each Bahá'í making a reservation in a private home must see that any agreement as to time of arrival, the number in the party, and the price must be fully carried out.

Any last-minute necessary changes must be discussed with the Housing Committee, which can usually work them out satisfactorily.

The friends who have made their own arrangements directly with Wilmette and Evanston residents are requested to report them to the Housing Committee so that there will be no overlapping or duplica-

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Conference Reservations Must Be Made Separately

It should be noted that the Convention Housing Committee will handle reservations for the Convention period only. All reservations for the Intercontinental Conference to be held in Chicago must be made by the individual believer. It may help to know that only one afternoon session of the Intercontinental Conference will be held in the Temple.

—CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Convention Identification

All Bahá'ís planning to attend the National Convention, either as delegates or visitors, are requested to present their identification cards on registration.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
The Oneness of Religion Is Proclaimed Internationally
With Many Public Observances of World Religion Day

Growing international recognition of World Religion Day, instituted by the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly in 1950 to proclaim the fundamental oneness of religion, was a feature of this year's observance held on January 19, 1958.

Monrovia, Liberia; Belfast, North Ireland; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Nassua, Bahamas; as well as Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Canada signified their intention of holding public observances by ordering material from the U.S. Baha'i Press Service that included the 14 by 17-inch World Religion Day poster, and a printed statement setting forth the purposes of this event and relevant passages from the public addresses of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in America.

In Belgium, the Brussels community was host to a successful World Religion Day celebration at the Haziratu'l-Quds. About 40 persons attended, including friends from Charleroi, Liège, and Ostend. Louis Henuzet, member of the European Auxiliary Board for Teaching, gave a stimulating talk on "To Build a Better World Through Spiritual Unity." A lively question period followed, with inquiries on the proofs of the Prophets and the goal of human existence.

A Triumph of Racial Unity at Little Rock
To the world in general Little Rock, Ark., has come to represent the epitome of racial prejudice; yet in the heart of this city Bahá'ís have made an outstanding achievement that the world will also one day come to recognize. Here, on World Religion Day, an audience of almost one hundred persons, half white and half Negro, gathered to attend a panel discussion on "Which to Choose—Religion or Science, Peace or Sputnik?"

Rev. Charles Ford, Hot Springs, Ark., Presbyterian minister, was the moderator. Panelists included Elder Roy B. Thurmon of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Dr. Paul W. Reagan of the Society of Friends, and Eldon Dennis, representing the Bahá'í Faith. The meeting was held in the B'nai Israel Educational Building in Little Rock.

In the audience was Rev. and Mrs. Dunbar H. Ogden, Jr. Rev. Ogden is pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church, and President of the Interracial Ministerial Alliance, and he was called upon to give the closing prayer. Music for the observance was presented by the A. M. and N. College Choir of Pine Bluff, a Negro college.

Porto Alegre's New Assembly Attracts 250
Porto Alegre, Brazil, is a young, rather small community, having incorporated their first local assembly this year. But this did not deter them from making wide proclamation of the Faith through World Religion Day publicity. They report: "For this World Religion Day Bahá'u'lláh gave us a very special impulse and we reached the ears and eyes of the public in every possible way. Besides the show window which attracted a constant crowd in this metropolis in the south of Brazil, placed in the best spot on the most important street, the most read newspapers published nice articles ... We got an invitation to speak during fifteen minutes at the local broadcast, and finally delivered a public conference attended by about 250 persons ... It should be difficult to find an educated person who never saw or heard the name Bahá'í in this city." All of this was generated through the efforts of eleven adult believers.

Variety of Programs Given in U.S.
Committees in the United States reporting their pro-

World Religion Day display in the window of the Lancaster, Pa., Free Public Library. It was scheduled for one week preceding World Religion Day, but was held over for a second week because of the interest shown.
grams for World Religion Day favored the presentation of a single speaker, either Bahá'í or non-Bahá'í, on the general theme of the oneness of religion. However, some communities planned panel discussions with participants representing various religious faiths, graphic demonstrations of Progressive Revelation, amity dinners, or the more informal fireside type of gathering.

Giving a demonstration of Progressive Revelation through speakers of other religions proved to be an excellent means of conveying the meaning of World Religion Day. In St. Louis, Mo., the Hindu, Moslem, Buddhist, Judaic, Christian, and Bahá'í Faiths were represented. Kansas City, Mo., held their meeting in Fellowship House, and attracted 55 people, resulting in excellent publicity in four newspapers. The Bahá'í message was given by the children's Sunday School class, with quotations from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh.

Rochester, New York, attracted 76 to their meeting, more than two-thirds of which were non-Bahá'ís. This program also featured speakers from various world religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, and the Bahá'í Faith.

A chart illustrating Progressive Revelation was used by the Sioux Falls, S. Dak., community to explain this subject. It was supplemented by further explanations and blackboard drawings. The Sioux Falls Local Spiritual Assembly termed this meeting one of their best in recent years.

Impressive Interracial Meeting of Greensboro

"To find a Southern fundamentalist Christian who really understands the Bible and its symbolism is as rare as finding a diamond in a coal mine," wrote F. Kimball Kinney of the Greensboro, N. Car., Local Spiritual Assembly. This man, a fine fundamentalist minister who professed a profound sympathy for the Bahá'í Faith, and who realizes the sad plight of Christianity, was the lone non-Bahá'í white attendant at the Greensboro World Religion Day observance, whose audience numbered 22 non-Bahá'ís and 9 Bahá'ís.

The fact that all the others except this man were Negroes delighted the Greensboro community, since the goal of their teaching work, one of the last expressed wishes of the Guardian, is to confirm the Negro of the Southland.

The Greensboro Assembly ascribes this most successful World Religion Day observance to excellent publicity. Eye-catching posters were displayed in key areas throughout the city. The local television station transmitted six announcements, with a picture of the Bahá'í House of Worship as the video picture. All four radio stations cooperated throughout the week preceding the meeting, and all three newspapers also were cooperative. The Greensboro Record gave front page space to the World Religion Day publicity the day before the meeting, with top billing in the Religion Editor's column.

Lancaster's First Public Meeting

The first public Bahá'í meeting ever to be held in Lancaster, Pa., was in observance of World Religion Day. Hormoz Sabet spoke to an audience of about 40 persons on "The Oneness of Religion." The response of the audience following the talk, and the unusual silence that prevailed during its delivery, indicated a receptiveness that was very encouraging to the Lancaster Bahá'ís.

Six Lancaster newspapers publicized the meeting, and one published a photograph of the Bahá'í House of Worship. One hundred printed invitations were mailed, and a large poster announcing the meeting was placed in the Department of Religion section of Franklin and Marshall College, and in the lobby of the Y.W.C.A. In addition, the window display at the Lancaster Free Public Library, pictured is this issue of Bahá'í News, proved its drawing power.

Amity Dinner at Madison

One hundred-twenty-five people, 55 of them non-Bahá'ís, representing many countries and religions, dined together at a World Religion Day Amity Dinner, an event that the Madison Assembly terms one of their most successful public meetings. Guests included Rabbi Manfred Swarsensky of Beth El Temple, Rev. George W. Vann of St. Paul's African Methodist Church, and Prof. Menahem Mansoor, associate professor of Hebrew Studies at the University of Wisconsin.

Prof. Mansoor, a world-renowned authority on the Dead Sea Scrolls, spoke on this subject, using slides for illustration. He closed his talk with remarks on the Bahá'í Faith as he has observed it in the Holy Land.

Stephen Follett, member of the Madison Local Spiritual Assembly, followed Prof. Mansoor with a talk on the theme of the Scrolls, emphasizing that the authors expected two Messiahs: one to end the existing world order and the other to usher in a completely new world order. He also explained other prophecies of the great world religions to show
they agree that this is the Promised Day.

Library Exhibit of Sacred Literature

The Baha'is of Nashua, N.H., obtained the cooperation of Rabbi Bela Fish of Beth Abraham Synagogue and the administrators of the Nashua Public Library in arranging a display of sacred literature representing the world's great religions at the library. The display illustrated the bonds that unite these religions in a common cause, and emphasized the progressive nature of revelation.

Widespread Publicity in Flint

Residents of Flint, Mich., and surrounding villages were made well aware of the World Religion Day observance there. Through the initiative of the local believers, 20 posters were placed in strategic places, 500 invitations for cards were mailed, 12 radio and television announcements were broadcast, and eight newspapers published news of this event. Mrs. Ona Koppe of Mt. Clemens, Mich., was the speaker, illustrating her talk with colored slides of temples, shrines, and churches throughout the world. Thirty-three persons attended this meeting.

Other Meetings Reported

Other communities reporting their World Religion Day meetings include Baltimore, Md., which presented three speakers representing the Jewish, Christian, and Baha'i faiths on the topic "The Future We Face"; Duluth, Minn.; Hackensack, N.J.; Kansas City, Kan.; Boston, Mass., with two speakers, a rabbi and a Baha'i, presented to an audience of fifty; Reno, Nev., with a roster of three non-Baha'i speakers; San Francisco, Calif., featuring a 15-minute radio broadcast; and Twentynine Palms, Calif.

The three adult Baha'is in the goal city of Pocatello, Idaho, sponsored their first World Religion Day program this year, after two years of making contacts in the city and on the Bannock-Shoshone Indian reservation nearby. A slide-talk on the Baha'i World Center was given by Mrs. Mildred Cossey of Boise, followed by an hour of discussion. As a result of this meeting the Idaho State Journal requested information about the Faith and is now listing it in the weekly religious page. During their brief period of time there the Pocatello Baha'is have placed books in the Idaho State College, listed the Faith with the Chamber of Commerce, and have contacted and given the Baha'i message to several Bannock-Shoshone Indians.

World Youth Day

The observance of Baha'i World Youth Day on March 25, which originated in the United States, is an annual event that affords an opportunity for the youth to present their Faith to the public. This year it will be celebrated in the United States with public meetings, talks, panel discussions, forums, symposiums, and other ways that Baha'i youth can bring this Glorious Faith to the insight and understanding of youth throughout the world.

"Society, Destiny, and You"

The theme for this year, "Society, Destiny, and You," is one with many possibilities. Through the use of this theme, the National Baha'i Youth Day programs will be able to see and feel that what society must and will have is God's plan for the world, and taught else but His plan can solve the affairs perturbing men's hearts in this auspicious hour; that the materialism and racialism afflicting the world can only be extinguished through turning to God's plan for our unique age, and that no answer for the problems that face man can be found except the answer brought by the Divine Manifestation of this era, Baha'u'llah.

Among the activities planned by the National Baha'i Youth Committee is a World Youth Day Program in Foundation Hall at the Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette, Ill., on Sunday, March 23, at 4:15 p.m.
First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Seremban, Malacca, Malaya, formed on April 21, 1957.

"Magnify My Cause"

Repeatedly, each time more urgently, since the beginning of the World Crusade, the Guardian has called upon the individual Baha'i to arise to the challenge, to rally to the Divine standard, and to play his part during these fleeting years of the World Crusade, which he has likened, in its own particular significance, to the days of the martyrs.

"It is upon the individual believer, constituting the fundamental unit in the structure of the Homefront, that the revitalization, the expansion, and the enrichment of the Homefront must ultimately depend." Thus has Shoghi Effendi in his last, eloquent message to the American Baha'is, of September 21, 1957, placed once more the mantle of responsibility on the shoulders of every single Baha'i, even more firmly than before.

What can an individual do? What can one or two, or a very few alone Baha'is in a community, do to unfurl the standard of the Teachings of Baha'u'llah before the people among whom he lives and associates in his home town? Ways do unfold victoriously for those who, with courtesy and kindness as well as eagerness and audacity, stand ready and alert to avail themselves of opportunities, or to create opportunities. Here are just a few examples from a number of stories Baha'i News receives that bring a heartwarming encouragement to all who labor on the Home Front.

In Burlington, Vt., under Baha'i auspices, a panel discussion was held at the University of Vermont on the subject, "How Can Religion Counteract Conditions of a Failing World?" Participants included a Catholic priest, a Protestant minister, a rabbi, and a Baha'i. One point brought out in the discussion, before the audience of about 30 alert and interested people, was that Baha'is believe in religious unity, in contrast to the other viewpoints which clearly held with the preservation of the particular identity of their own religious group. The point was later published in the local newspaper as the essence of the meeting—which indicates the clarity with which the Baha'i viewpoint was expressed. Another result of the meeting was an invitation presented to Paul Meade, the participating Baha'i, to serve on a city-wide Committee on Community Relations, designed to act against prejudice through education.

Women's Club Uses Baha'i Prayer
In Lancaster, Pa., another city opened about a year ago, a single Baha'i, Mrs. Grace Behrens, was able to have the Baha'i "Prayer for America" used at the November meeting of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

University Group Learns of Baha'u'llah
From Peoria, Ill., comes a thrilling account of a Baha'i student from Iran on the campus of Bradley University. Once a year the "Town and Gown Club" of Peoria, composed of professional people in the field of education, law, medicine, and business, calls upon Professor Lew, counselor for foreign students at Bradley University, to present a foreign student program. This year Professor Lew called upon Khalil Khavari, Baha'i from Teheran. Khalil expressed a desire to speak on "Baha'u'llah and Iran." Professor Lew, who has been frequently befriended by the Baha'is of Peoria, readily accepted Khalil's request to speak on the Faith.

Khalil was fourth on the program. His talk was simple, since he is not yet fluent in the English language. With a truly grateful heart he thanked Dr. Lew, a Buddhist and former Dean of the University of Manking, for the opportunity and privilege of telling the members of the club about Baha'u'llah, what he had done for Iran where, at the time of His coming, there was so much hatred between peoples of varying religious backgrounds. He asked those present to pray that this love and unity which Baha'u'llah had welded from discordant groups might be expressed among all peoples of the world. His talk was so sincere, so filled with love of the Cause he espoused, that it seemed every heart was touched.

Toward the close of the meeting, a young South American student on the program passed out an illustrated pamphlet on Columbia coffee. This act prompted Khalil to arise and distribute the pamphlet One Universal Faith, done with such courtesy and friendliness that no one could help but accept it in the spirit in which it was given. Many people studied it with interest. Such remarks as "I can accept all of this!" were heard.

Another result of the talk—one member asked to bring her club group of about 300 to the Baha'i Center for a luncheon meeting to hear Khalil give this same talk.

Let every American Baha'i read again, and pray and ponder over the Beloved Guardian's last message: "Once again—and this time more fervently than ever before—I direct my plea to every single member of this strenuously laboring, clear-eyed, stout-hearted, spiritually endowed community, every man and woman . . . not to allow, through apathy, timidity or complacency, this one remaining opportunity to be irrevocably lost."
Crusade Goals, Many Others Achieved in Africa Since Opening of Ten-Year Crusade in 1953

The objectives of the Ten-Year Crusade in Africa for which the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States was responsible were set forth by the beloved Guardian as follows:

11 Virgin areas to be opened:
- Canary Islands
- Cape Verde Islands
- French Somaliland
- French Togoland
- Mauritius Island
- Northern Territories of the Gold Coast
- Portuguese Guinea
- Réunion Island
- St. Helena Island
- St. Thomas Island
- Spanish Guinea

2 areas already opened to be consolidated:
- Liberia
- South Africa

Purchase of land for National Endowments—South Africa

Purchase of land for one Mashriqi’l-Adhkár—South Africa

Establishment of a Regional National Spiritual Assembly—South Africa

These goals, with the exception of the establishment of the Regional National Spiritual Assembly, were all accomplished by the end of 1954. All of the 11 virgin areas had been filled by July of the same year. In 1953 there was one local spiritual assembly (Monrovia, Liberia) in one of the two areas designated for consolidation. By April 1954 each of these areas had a local spiritual assembly. Two pieces of land, one for a Mashriqui’l-Adhkár and one for a National Endowment nearby were purchased late in 1954. The last goal, formation of a Regional National Spiritual Assembly, was accomplished in August 1956.

Between the end of 1954 and December 1957 the achievements have been supplementary to the original goals, named above, with the following results:

### Virgin Areas
- Canary Islands: 2 Assemblies
- Cape Verde Islands: 1 Assembly
- French Somaliland: 1 Assembly
- French Togoland: 2 Assemblies
- Mauritius Island: 3 Assemblies
- Northern Territories of the Gold Coast: 1 Assembly
- Réunion Island: 1 Assembly & 1 Group

### Areas For Consolidation
- Liberia: 2 Assemblies
- French Somaliland: 2 Groups
- Mauritius Island: 2 Isolated centers

### Incorporations:
- 2 Assemblies

### Purchase of Land:
- 5 acres purchased from Tribal Chief Union of South Africa:

There were seven American pioneers in Africa by April 1953. During the following year 51 more Americans went pioneering to Africa. In the succeeding years the work has been supported by a total of approximately 70 American believers.

When the institution of the Hands of the Cause was augmented in 1954 with the first Auxiliary Board of Africa, four of these American pioneers were appointed as members.

Every one of the pioneers has served tirelessly with dedication and sacrifice. It has been the example of their lives, fully as much as their tongues, which has won new recruits to the ever-growing ranks of Bahá’í. When we consider the handicaps of health, lack of money, and opposition which these valiant souls have faced, the accomplishments are indeed miracles.

Inevitably some of these virgin goals, filled at the beginning of the Crusade, have been vacated from time to time during the years. The need now is for strengthening and consolidation. There is much to be done in all areas. As one pioneer has put it: “By 1955 we will have only just begun.”

—U. S. Africa Teaching Committee

### Over 100 Share Studies, Fellowship at Yerrinbool Summer School

The twenty-second annual Bahá’í Summer School held at “Bolton Place,” Yerrinbool, N.S.W., from December 28, 1957, to January 8, 1958, was overshadowed by the ascension of our beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi. Each year has seen an increase in participants and this year 103 believers and friends came together, drawn by the common bond of Bahá’í love and fellowship in their bereavement.

The friends were delighted to have with them, for the duration of the School, Hands of the Cause Clara Dunn and Collis Featherstone, Members of the Auxiliary Board, Thelma Perks and Eric Bowes, were also in attendance, as well as believers from as far away as Samoa, Fiji, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria. Increase in the number of youth over previous years was very evident, and at one stage there were over 20 children under the age of 14 present. Each day the older youth conducted a class for these children.

The gathered friends were saddened that for the first time in the history of the School no cable of greetings could be sent to our beloved Guardian, and with the knowledge that a new era has dawned a loving cable was dispatched to the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land.

A high standard of lectures was maintained throughout, covering Administration (six sessions), Christ and Bahá’u’lláh (five sessions), and, such diverse subjects as the Ministries of Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Social and Ethical Teachings, and the Unity of Religions. Although afternoon sessions were left open on the program, by the end of the School only one or two were free! The attendants, eager to gain as much knowledge as they could, asked for special sessions, such as Impressions of the Holy Land, Work among the Aborigines, and Life in the Fiji Islands.

It was pleasing to see so many of the youth taking part in the talks and chairing meetings. Israeli Raculi, the first Fijian to attend an Australian Summer School, brought us closer to our brothers and sisters in the Pacific, and with his rendition of “Isa Lei” (the Fijian Farewell Song), won the hearts of all the friends. A picture evening, which many of the local residents attended, was also thoroughly enjoyed.

The real meaning of Bahá’í fellowship and unity became more and more apparent as the School progressed, and the renewed seriousness with which the friends studied bore testimony to their awareness of the burden which now rests more firmly than ever upon the shoulders of each one of them.

—KOMA NEWS
"Winter Weekend" in Las Vegas
Stresses Deepening in Faith

Taking advantage of the scheduled visit of Mrs. Florence V. Mayberry, a member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause, the Bahá'í's of Las Vegas, Nev., who elected their first Local Spiritual Assembly last Ridván (1957), planned a three-day "Winter Weekend" for December 21-23, 1957, for intensive study and public teaching effort. The 19 who attended included a few souls from California and Utah as well as Nevada believers.

The weekend opened with a social gathering Friday evening arranged by the Bahá'í youth, and closed Monday evening with a public meeting at which a youth panel presented a discussion on "Rewards of Living a Bahá'í Life." One youth member, Carol Sherman, spoke from the standpoint of an enrolled Bahá'í youth; another, Fenton Kay, gave his views on a youth preparing to enter the Faith. During this discussion many questions in the minds of youth who had shown only passive interest were brought out, discussed, and answered from the writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Mrs. Florence V. Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause, present at the conference, was the featured speaker at a public meeting Saturday evening when she gave an illustrated lecture on "A Pilgrimage to Haifa." The following evening she held a meeting for Bahá'ís only, at which she spoke more intimately of her pilgrimage and of affairs concerning the Bahá'í world.

Other public events consisted of a public meeting on Sunday afternoon at which Nazrullah Rassekh of Palo Alto, Calif., spoke on "Christ, Muhammad and Bahá'u'lláh." He spoke from the standpoint of one having been reared in the Islamic nation of Iran, and his treatment of the subject was informative to the Bahá'ís as well as to the seekers. On Monday afternoon Mr. Rassekh gave an eight-minute interview on the local TV station. This interview so aroused the interest of the cameraman, who asked many questions after the program, that he is now attending study classes.

The classes during the weekend planned by the Teaching Committee of the Las Vegas Bahá'í community were equally inspiring. The first one on Saturday afternoon was entitled, "Fulfilling America's Spiritual Mission," with the subject matter from The Advent of Divine Justice, supplemented by other references carefully gathered by Walter Wooten. Emphasis was placed upon the necessity of Bahá'ís freeing themselves from the decadence and materialism of the present day and distinguishing themselves by those standards of conduct and deeds called for in the Sacred Writings; until this is done our words and teaching efforts will have no effect.

The Sunday and Monday classes were devoted to "The Seven Qualifications of an Enlightened Soul," based on references from the Bahá'í Writings compiled by members of the Las Vegas community. Following each reading Mrs. Mayberry directed lively discussion into orderly and constructive channels.

The report by the teaching committee comments: "These classes were invaluable from the standpoint of increasing our capacity and understanding, gaining a larger overall knowledge of the Faith, and deepening our reverence, humility, and love for this great Cause of God and each other. . . . The unity, love, and teaching impetus engendered by the "Winter Weekend" created an overwhelming enthusiasm for making this a yearly event."

Indian Service Committee Offers
Heart-Warming Pioneer Experience

To Bahá'ís in the teaching profession who are about to sign or renew contracts for next year, the American Indian Service Committee is ready to recommend localities where teaching positions may be applied for and where rich opportunities for Indian contacts exist. A list of such localities will be furnished on request. Preference for location on a reservation or town may be indicated.

At this time the American Indian Service Committee would like to reassure every sincere Bahá'í who feels somewhat awed by the prospect of Indian teaching. Letters from pioneers constantly affirm the fact that living among the original Americans is a heart-warming experience, and offers an opportunity to shed those superficialities which so often complicate our lives today. Teaching is first and foremost "living the life," simply and lovingly, and moving in the assurance that "every soul which ariseth today to guide others to the path of safety and infusion in them the Spirit or Life, the Holy Spirit will inspire . . . with evidences, proofs and facts and the lights will shine upon it from the Kingdom of God."

Write to Nancy Phillips, secretary; 736 Encanto Drive, S.E.; Phoenix, Ariz.
—AMERICAN INDIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE
**First Winter School in Saigon**

**Attracts Baha’is of Five Nations**

Eight days of classes and evening discussions, from December 25, 1957, to January 1, 1958, the Feast of Honor, a public meeting, a tea, and a picnic comprised the program for the first Baha’i Winter School in Saigon, Vietnam, for believers from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Macau, and Vietnam.

Every Baha’i from Central Vietnam was able to attend all sessions, while others could come only on those days when their offices and businesses were closed. The daily attendance varied from 17 to 39 at the Feast of Honor, December 30—not counting the children.

There were several highlights throughout the week, but the most joyous occasion was the Feast at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Due, close relatives of the believers as they had been wanting to gather informally at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jamshed Fozdar to further discuss ways and means of spreading the Faith, and sometimes non-Baha’is joined them to hear the Teachings and to see the slides and films shown by Miss Arden Thur. During these night sessions, and also during class periods, Dr. H. Ta’eed, Baha’i pioneer in Laos, frequently related incidents in the life of ‘Abdu’l-Baha’ and of early Baha’i history, thus giving everyone a feeling of personal connection with the early days of the Cause and creating an even stronger bond of unity among all.

Thirty-seven persons attended the public meeting on Sunday evening at which the two speakers, Ho Cau and Nguyen van Tri, discussed the subjects “The Oneness of Religion” and “The Pattern for World Unity.”

Articles on the school appeared in two prominent Vietnamese newspapers, in one of them on the front page.

On the opening day a cablegram of greeting was sent from the school to the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land, to which this reply came the following day: “Delighted evidences progress area so dear beloved Guardian’s heart. Assure prayers Shrine success.”

The successes already achieved even before the school in South East Asia fired the friends with further determination to go out and complete the spiritual conquest of those areas and the immediate accomplishments of the goals of their Six-Year Plan.

—PARVATI FOZDAR

**Northern Alaskan Outpost Aflame**

**Through Love of Devoted Pioneers**

On the northernmost tip of Alaska a point of land juts out into the Arctic Ocean. This is Point Barrow, where the Eskimo settlement of Barrow is located. It is to this remote and icy outpost, touched by few hours of daylight, that the pioneer, Frances Wells, hastened in August of 1955 to fulfill the Guardian’s plea to spread the teachings far and wide among the Eskimo people.

The National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska reports that Mrs. Wells has now turned over her four room home in Barrow to the National Assembly, which she states is “a gift and token of my love and appreciation for the many believers who have helped me establish residence here. It is my heartfelt wish and desire that this humble home may be used as the Baha’i Center, as well as a residence for those who will come after me dedicated to the Faith and service of spreading the Baha’i Teachings among the Eskimo people here.”

The House of Power and Light

How do the Eskimos feel about the Baha’is who have come to live among them? They have given the Barrow house an Eskimo name—Kounmatikvik, which means “the house from which comes the power or the light.”
Mable Amidon, Barrow Group Secretary, sends in the story: A young Eskimo man in the office where Frances Wells works had just delivered a sign for the office, and Frances expressed a desire to have one for her house.

"I'll be glad to make the sign," he said, "what do you wish to call it?" She had no name in mind. The young man then conferred with other Eskimos in the office and after some discussion they arrived at a name: Koumatikavik; and a sign was made and placed beneath the light at the door.

Crowds Throng to Hear Visiting Bahá’í

During her recent visit to Barrow, Florence Mayberry, Auxiliary Board Member, showed her slides on the Holy Land to a mothers’ club, to the grade school children, and in the evening to an overflowing crowd of 325 at the local theater which the pioneers had rented for this purpose.

The group secretary sums up this history-making visit as follows: "We feel that the Barrow people as a whole were very happy over everything. Many hundreds of them now know that there is a Bahá’í Faith—even those who attend nothing know, because something new sweeps over the entire village very fast."

The Eskimos recently gave a token of their esteem to Frances Wells while she was attending a village election for members of the Council as an observer only. Members of the Council must be Eskimos. Mrs. Wells was asked to vote in the election, and since this privilege was unusual, she asked for the approval of the presiding Council, who granted it.

Bahá’ís throughout the world may gratefully offer their prayers for the continuing strength and perseverance of the pioneers who are devoting themselves at a difficult post with such singleness of purpose for the Cause of God among a people whom the beloved Guardian longed to see become an integral part of the Bahá’í World Community.

18th New Zealand School Offers Unusual Teaching Opportunity

The New Zealand Bahá’í Summer School was held December 27, 1957—January 9, 1958, at New Plymouth. It was the eighteenth summer school, but it was historic in that it was held under the auspices of the newly formed National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand.

In addition to the regular courses, a class was held each morning for inquirers by Mrs. Brightwell, with assistants, on such topics as "Prophecy, Science, and Religion," and "Investigation of Truth," and evening lectures were given.

The site of the Summer School was "Old House," on the slopes of Mount Egmont, commanding a magnificent panorama, and offering the joys of physical relaxation and communion with nature along with spiritual refreshment. This was the first Bahá’í school session held outside of Auckland.

Mayor Gives Official Welcome

An unusual honor was granted the School in the official welcome given by the Mayor of New Plymouth, who was most sympathetic and understanding in his approach to the Faith and to those attending the School. He stated that he realized the Bahá’ís had the welfare of mankind at heart.

There was ample opportunity for teaching work because of the number of sight-seers who come to the mountain and who were entertained in the hostel by the Bahá’ís. Bus drivers told their passengers that the Bahá’ís would provide tea at "Old House," and as a result of this many were given the Bahá’í message. Even the weather cooperated by being cold and rainy part of the time so that the Bahá’í "fireside" became very much appreciated by the visitors. Members of the School were also interviewed at a Fair being held in the city before a large appreciative audience.

A Kotahiitanga, or Unity Day, was held as an invitation to all nationalities to be guests of the school, and that evening Marjory Pepe Rau, a Maori, addressed the audience.
Alaskan National Assembly Appoints UN Observer

The National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska has announced the appointment of Verne L. Stout as observer to the United Nations. Since the Alaska National Assembly has been registered with the UN Information Office, it can participate in the non-governmental activities of this body. Also announced is the appointment of Robert E. Moul as the Alaskan representative to the Intercontinental Conference to be held in Chicago, May 2-4.

98 British Baha'is Attend National Teaching Conference

The National Teaching Conference of the Baha'is of the British Isles was held on January 11-12, 1958, at Leeds. Ninety-eight people attended from all over Britain.

Among the numerous interesting sessions were those devoted to the increasing importance of the regional teaching committees, the work in the Islands under the jurisdiction of the European and Asian Teaching Committees, and the work on the home front. From these sessions two pioneer offers resulted, one for the Islands, and one for the home front.

The highlight of the Conference was the session given over to the Hand of the Cause, Hasan Balyuzi, and the Auxiliary Board members. Mr. Balyuzi spoke of the recent development at the World Center of the Faith.

All present were deeply moved by the showing of the film of 'Abdu'l-Baha, and the reading of the talk given by the Master at this time.

The next morning was given over to the National Spiritual Assembly, during which the Charter for the next five years, given us by the beloved Guardian, was reviewed. The Conference then sent a cable to the Hands of the Cause in Haifa, assuring them of our loving support.

The Conference ended with talks on the early history of the Faith, the Six-Year Plan in Britain, and the needs for today. We went away with a renewed sense of dedication.

—FAY SINCLAIR

Two Summer School Sessions Held in Central America

Two Summer School sessions have recently been held in Central America with encouraging success. One from December 27 to 30, at Karbila, Honduras was at the beautiful ranch of Marcia Steward dedicated to the beloved Guardian, now being used as a Summer School for all of Central America.

Attendants included native believers from Honduras and El Salvador, and pioneers Ruth Yancey, Margaret Miessler, Alan Pringle, George Haley and family, and Marcia Steward.

An innovation was a course on the History and Development of the Roman Catholic Church, a subject of great usefulness for Baha'is in this part of the world, where this religion has always been and still is a strong factor in the life of the people. Those attending this School came away highly inspired to carry on the work of the Baha'i World Crusade.

The second Summer School was a weekend session held in "El Refugio," El Salvador, in a lovely and picturesque camp of the Government high in the pines near the Honduran border.

Attendants included native believers and contacts from El Salvador, and pioneers Marjorie Stee Wadell, Jeanne Welsh Farrand, and Artimus Lamb. For most this was their first experience at a Baha'i Summer School, and all are now demanding more and longer sessions as the best way of understanding the Teachings and entering the warm and loving shelter of the Baha'i world family.

Baha'i Holy Days Recognized By Paramus, N. J., Schools

The Baha'i Group of Paramus, N.J., has sent a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Board of Education for Paramus which states: "The Board of Education adopted a resolution granting excused absences to children of the Baha'i World Faith on their religious holidays." The four specified dates falling on school days were listed in the letter.

This now brings to 46 the number of school systems recognizing the Baha'i Holy Days.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Calendar of Events

FEASTS
March 21—Bahá (Splendor)
April 9—Ja'el (Glory)

DAYS OF FASTING
March 2-21

HOLY DAY
Naw-Rúz (Baha'i New Year),
March 21

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
March 21, 22, 23

Baha'i House of Worship
Visiting Hours
Weekdays
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)
Sundays and Holidays
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Entire building)

Service of Worship
Sundays
3:30 p.m., lasting until 4:15.

Baha'i News is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Baha'i World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

Baha'i News is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1957-58: Mrs. Eunice Braun, chairman; Miss Charlotte Linfoot, secretary; Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Baha'i Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Dearly beloved Friends and Co-workers:

This letter from the Custodians is long overdue; our thoughts have been with all the Assembly members constantly during this great period of trial and sorrow, and we have realized how heavy were your loads and how great the responsibility resting on you at this time. Our own problems, however, and the crushing sense of obligation to our beloved Guardian to carry on his work, have made it impossible to send a more detailed and intimate communication to you before this.

Three months have passed since our best beloved Guardian so suddenly left us — months of longing and heartbreak for all Baha’is! After the meeting of the Hands of the Faith in Bahji, a period of suffering and heart-searching so intense that not one of them could ever endure to pass through it again, the work we had agreed to shoulder began. In our sorrow, our humility before the greatness of our task, we began to see the repeated evidences of the mercy of Baha’u’llah; in a truly miraculous way the endowments, properties, and funds registered in the name of our beloved Guardian have been protected and safely transferred to either the Custodians or other Baha’i bodies.

Kampala Conference a Great Success

The first of the mighty Intercontinental Conferences, planned by the beloved Guardian himself, was held in Kampala with great success; over 900 believers were present, well over half being African Baha’is; the sum of a hundred thousand pounds was raised for the purpose specified by the Guardian himself, thus insuring a far swifter advance in the work throughout the African continent; a most wonderful spirit of determination, rededication, consecration, and zeal was generated and spread to all the friends — whether African, Asian, European, or American. We cannot but marvel at the forethought of the Guardian in calling for these five great Conferences to be held in the months after his passing. What a stimulation they will provide to the work and what consolidation and inspiration to the believers everywhere! The sense of nearness to him, to his wishes and his work was very strong at Kampala, and we feel sure will be as strong or even stronger at the other Conferences.

It is a great pity that the immense distances separating the Hands here at the World Center and the heavy expense of travel prevent us from meeting with the various national assemblies or members of them; the Hands of the Faith themselves, as you know, were only able to foresee, for the time being, an annual meeting of all of them. Of course should an emergency arise they would gather at once, but barring this they felt the teaching work and other aspects of the World Crusade should take precedence over everything else in order to carry out the expressed wishes of our beloved Guardian and hasten the day when the work all over the world will have been so firmly laid that the supreme administrative body, the infinite blessing of Baha’u’llah, the Supreme House of Justice, can be erected.

In view of this, we particularly wish to call to your attention certain things that are, we feel, of supreme importance; our beloved Guardian gave 36 years of his life to the work of erecting Baha’u’llah’s World Administrative Order; had he not felt such an urgency in carrying out this work he might be alive now; he alone saw the entire Plan, the world plan of the work as a mighty unit; how often he pointed out to us that the “heart” and “nerve center” of the Faith was Haifa; that Baha’u’llah Himself had made it clear that here in the Holy Land would forever be united the Spiritual and the Administrative World Center; he guarded this Center (as had ‘Abdu’l-Bahá before him) with the greatest care, well knowing that a blow to the heart is felt in the remotest part of the body and that good circulation from the heart will keep the smallest
member of the body vital and in good health. We, daily occupied with the cares and worries of this World Center, are now greatly concerned lest any inadvertent act on our part or on the part of the present national and regional assemblies which form the bedrock of the future International House of Justice, should interrupt this smooth flow of spiritual circulation built up so wisely and painstakingly by our beloved Shoghi Effendi.

The Uncertainty of the Future
We do not know what the future holds in store; by this we mean that the world situation is so precarious that, as the Guardian so repeatedly pointed out, wars and disturbances of an unforeseen nature may break out and perhaps cut the World Center off from all or a part of the other Baha'i Centers temporarily; meantime we have this mighty Plan, the last five years of it to vigorously prosecute; it can only be coordinated and directed from the World Center. To the degree to which we receive news and reports, minutes of your meetings, suggestions, etc., from all of you, as well as from other sources in the Bahá’í world, to just that same degree will we be able to protect and promote the work of the Plan and safeguard the World Center. The blood must go on pumping in and out of this heart of our Faith.

Responsibility to Hands of the Cause
Your responsibility is therefore very great at this time, not only towards the believers whom you represent, but towards us who are seeking to firmly grasp and protect the world affairs of the Faith which are one of the most unique creations of the Guardian. It was his hand at the helm that preserved uniformity in essentials whilst encouraging diversity in non-essentials. This is perhaps the greatest work that must now be carried on by us from the World Center.

With strength and courage at our World Center, the local communities and individual believers may press forward now in Bahá’í service as they did while the Guardian held aloft the beacon light illuminating the Bahá’í world.

—National Spiritual Assembly

2500 Bahá’ís Attend Conferences in 41 U. S. Cities in February

More than 2,500 believers attended the conferences called by the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly in 41 centers throughout the United States during the period between February 15 and 23, and this in spite of the fact that unusually stormy winter weather prevailed in a number of places.

The primary purpose of these conferences, conducted by the Hands of the Cause, members of the Auxiliary Boards, and members of the National Spiritual Assembly, was to reinvigorate the American Bahá’í community as a whole and to produce maximum response to the Guardian’s appeal for pioneer settlement, the establishment of new centers and the multiplication of the number of Bahá’ís in the United States. In addition they aimed to strengthen the

Commentary by U. S. National Spiritual Assembly

Beloved Friends:
The letter addressed to all national assemblies by the Bahá’í Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land renews our understanding of the vital importance of Haifa as the heart of the Bahá’í community — its spiritual and administrative world center.

“He (the Guardian) guarded the Center, (as had ‘Abdu’l-Bahá before him) with the greatest care, well knowing that a blow to the heart is felt in the remotest part of the body and that good circulation from the heart will keep the smallest member of the body vital and in good health.”

The nine Hands as Custodians likewise in this communication established their relationship more intimately and firmly with the various national bodies. “Your responsibility is therefore very great at this time not only toward the believers whom you represent, but toward us who are seeking to firmly grasp and protect the world affairs of the Faith which are one of the most unique creations of the Guardian. It was his hand at the helm that preserved uniformity in essentials whilst encouraging diversity in non-essentials. This is perhaps the greatest work that must now be carried on by us from the World Center.”

With strength and courage at our World Center, the local communities and individual believers may press forward now in Bahá’í service as they did while the Guardian held aloft the beacon light illuminating the Bahá’í world.

—National Spiritual Assembly
Begin Construction of Baha'i Temple in Australia

Above is a view of the site of the Maghriqu'l-Adhkár near Sydney, Australia, before the clearing of the land.

To the right is shown the progress in the excavation for the foundation as it appeared on February 15, 1958.

spirit of assurance, confidence, unity, dedication, and understanding so necessary to orient ourselves to the new era in the Cause resulting from the sudden passing of the “Sign of God on earth.”

Not only the conference leaders, but a number of assemblies and individual Baha’is have expressed their gratitude and satisfaction with these meetings because of the clearer understanding acquired concerning the continuing guidance of the Faith, their greater awareness of the immediate needs of the World Crusade, and their resolve to meet them.

One believer stated that he could not recall any other occasion when the believers left a conference so spirited, completely assured, and confident that the challenges confronting the Baha’is will be met with success, which will aid in hastening the establishment of the Universal House of Justice.

The chief objective of the American Hands of the Cause and the National Spiritual Assembly in holding the total number of 70 conferences during the current Baha’i year has been to rally all the friends to a true sense of dedication and determination to insure the resounding success of the tasks allocated by the beloved Guardian to the American believers in the World Crusade, at home and abroad. The number and magnitude of our achievements in the years immediately ahead will be the measure of our gratitude to Bahá’u’lláh for the unerring guidance of Shoghi Effendi, who sacrificed his all that we, the believers, might taste the spiritual victories of the Divine Plan.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

U. S. Convention, Conference Final Reminder

Baha’is who plan to attend the Fiftieth Annual Baha’i Convention in Wilmette, Illinois, and the Intercontinental Baha’i Conference in Chicago, are reminded once more to bring their current Baha’i identification cards with them and to present them when registering.

Members of communities having spiritual assemblies should ask their secretaries for their cards, while members of Baha’i groups and isolated believers should write to the National Baha’i Administrative Headquarters for their cards. No Baha’i should invite any non-Baha’i to either event. Both are for enrolled believers only.

The dates of the two events are:

The Convention — April 29, 30, and May 1

The Conference — May 2, 3, and 4

Foundation Hall of the Baha’i House of Worship will be open Monday evening, April 28, for registration and for meeting other friends.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Contributions to the Holy Land

The U. S. National Spiritual Assembly informs the friends that any believer who desires to contribute directly to Haifa for the international work of the Faith should make the check or postal order payable to “The Baha’i Custodians’ Fund.” The address is P. O. Box 155, Haifa, Israel.
The Prayers of Baha’u’llah
by Ruhíyyih Khanum

Part 2

It is an education in divinity to read Baha’u’llah’s prayers. He maintains the unique nature of God, the utter impossibility of any creature approaching or comprehending Him, in a clear and graphic manner. The unseen God of Moses; the “Father” of Christ, Whom none cometh to but through the Son; the One of Whom Muhammad so beautifully said: “Eyes see Him not but He sees the eyes,” is exalted, one might say, to unimaginable heights by Him. “Thou art He Whom all things worship and Who worshipeth no one, Who is the Lord of all things and the vassal of none, Who knoweth all things and is known of none.” “From everlasting Thou hast existed alone with no one else beside Thee, and wilt, to everlasting, continue to remain the same, in the sublimity of Thine essence and the inaccessible heights of Thy glory,” He declares. In a short and wonderful prayer He solemnly sets forth the fundamental doctrine of the nature of God with a lucidity and power that would, in any past dispensation, have gained it first place in the dogmas of the church:

“God testifieth to the unity of His Godhead and to the singleness of His own Being. On the throne of eternity, from the inaccessible heights of His station, His tongue proclaims that there is none other God but Him. He Himself, independently of all else, hath ever been a witness unto His own oneness, the revealer of His own nature, the glorifier of His own essence. He, verily, is the All-Powerful, the Almighty, the Beauteous.

“He is supreme over His servants, and standeth over His creatures. In His hand is the source of authority and truth. He maketh men alive by His signs, and causeth them to die through His wrath. He shall not be asked of His doings and His might is equal unto all things. He is the Potent, the All-Subduing. He holdeth within His grasp the empire of all things, and on His right hand is fixed the Kingdom of His Revelation. His power, verily, embraceth the whole of creation. Victory and overlordship are His; all might and dominion are His; all glory and greatness are His. He, of a truth, is the All-Glorious, the Most Powerful, the Unconditioned.”

Attributes of Godhead

The “Unconditioned.” That one word provides ample food for thought. Some of the adjectives Baha’u’llah uses for the Godhead are most striking and seem to plow up our minds and prepare them for an infinitely deeper and richer concept of the One on Whom we depend for everything we have, be it physical or spiritual. For instance: “O God Who art the Author of all Manifestations... the Fountain-Head of all Revelations, and the Well-Spring of all Lights.” As words are the tools of men’s thoughts, they are tremendously important. The “Well-Spring of all Lights,” though by another way of saying, that all the Prophets are generated by God, presents a tremendous mental picture to a man who has studied something of modern astronomy, of a universe which is light upon light, of matter which itself is the stuff of which light is made. Compare the mental picture this phrase conjures up with that of an anthropomorphic God, bearded, stern and much like a human grandfather, who created the world in six days and took a rest on the seventh! Though no doubt when that metaphor was propounded it opened up men’s minds to a new and wider concept of the Divinity. A being Who could do all that in six days was worthy of worship and to be strictly obeyed!

Baha’u’llah calls God “The Pityer of thralls,” “The Pityer of the downtrodden,” “The Help in peril,” “the Great Giver,” “The Restorer”—words which sink into our hearts these dark days with an added comfort as we see so many of our fellow-men downtrodden, in deadly danger, despooled and broken. He tells us that this “King of Kings,” this “Quickener of every moulderine bone,” this “Enlightener of all creation” Who is the “Lord of all mankind” and the “Lord of the Judgment Day” is the One “Whom nothing whatsoever can frustrate.” Such a God will right all wrongs and rule the world for the good of man! Grievous, on the other hand, as are our sins, as testified by these words: “Wert Thou to regard Thy servants according to their deserts... they would assuredly merit naught except Thy chastisement...” He yet assures us, in the words He addresses to God, that: “All the atoms of the earth testify that Thou art the Ever-Forgiving, the Benevolent, the Great Giver...” and that “the whole universe testifieth to Thy generosity.” Even though He be the Lord “Whose strength is immense, Whose decree
is terrible," yet we can confidently turn to Him, and, in Bahá'u'lláh's words declare: "A drop out of the ocean of Thy mercy sufficeth to quench the flames of hell, and a spark of fire of Thy love is enough to set ablaze a whole world."

Our world is steadily sinking into ruin. We have waxed proud and forgotten our God—many a people has believed to A God's words made known, and turned away from Him, disbelieved in Him, followed proudly our own fancies and desires. No Being that was not such a Being as Bahá'u'lláh depicts would still hold open His door to us! And yet in how many passages such as these the way back, the way we once trod but have now, for the most part, forgotten, is pointed out to us and words placed in our mouths that are food for our sick hearts and souls: "Cleanse me with the waters of Thy Mercy, O my Lord, and make me wholly Thine..." "I am all wretchedness, O my Lord, and Thou art the Most Powerful, the Almighty!" "Thy Might, in truth, is equal to all things!" Whosoever has recognized Thee will turn to none save Thee and will seek for naught else except Thyself." "Help me to guard the pearl of Thy love, which by Thy decree, Thou hast enshrined in my heart." "Many a chilled heart, O my God, hath been set ablaze with the fire of Thy Cause, and many a slumberer hath been awakened by the sweetness of Thy voice." "O God, my God! Be Thou not far from me, for tribulation upon tribulation hath gathered about me. O God, my God! Leave me not to myself, for the extremity of adversity hath come upon me. Out of the pure milk drawn from the breasts of Thy loving-kindness, give me to drink, for my thirst hath utterly consumed me. Beneath the shadow of the wings of Thy mercy shelter me, for all mine adversaries with one consent have fallen upon me. Keep me near to the throne of Thy majesty, face to face with the revelations of the signs of Thy glory, for wretchedness hath grievously touched me. With the fruits of the tree of Thine Eternity nourish me, for uttermost weakness hath overtaken me. From the cups of joy, proffered by the hands of Thy tender mercies, feed me, for manifold sorrows have laid mighty hold upon me. With the broidered robe of Thine omnipotent sovereignty attire me, for poverty hath altogether defeated me. Lulled by the cooing of the Dove of Thine Eternity, suffer me to sleep, for woes at their blackest have befallen me. Before the throne of Thy oneness, amid the blaze of the beauty of Thy countenance, cause me to abide, for fear and trembling have violently crushed me. Beneath the ocean of Thy forgiveness, faced with restlessness of the leviathan of glory, immerse me, for my sins have utterly doomed me."

Obligatory Prayers

Of such stuff as these is the treasury of prayers which Bahá'u'lláh has left us. They are suited to the child before he goes to sleep at night, to the mystic, to the busy man of practical outlook, to the devout. An instance of the comprehension and tolerance with which He viewed human nature is the fact that He revealed a choice of three daily, and obligatory, prayers. While imposing on men the obligation of turning to their Creator once, at least, during every day, He provided a means of doing so suited to widely different natures. One takes about thirty seconds to recite and is to be said at the hour of noon; one is longer and is to be used three times during the day; and the third is very long and profound, accompanied by many genuflexions, and may be used any time during the twenty-four hours of the day. The Divine Physician provided us with what we might call a spiritual polish with which to brighten our hearts. We need this renewal which comes through turning to the Sun of Eternal Truth—as every bird and beast, be it ever so humble, responds to the light of the physical sun at dawn—but He gave latitude to the individual state of development and temperament.

Some Westerners have found the long Daily Prayer very strange; no doubt this is because the present generation has ceased to feel intimate with its God. For a man to stand alone in his room and stretch his arms out to nothingness, or kneel down before a blank wall, in the midst of familiar objects, seems to him unnatural and even foolish. This is because he has lost the sense of the "living God". God, far from being to him, as the Qur'án says, "nearer than his life's vein", has become more of an X in some vast equation. And yet men that we honor and men that we long to emulate have not felt shy before their God. Many a burly crusader knelt on the stones of Jerusalem where he felt His Lord's feet might have trod, and the Pilgrim Fathers did not feel self-conscious on their knees when turning to the God who had led them to a new and freer homeland. The prayers of Bahá'u'lláh will help lead us back to that warm sense of the reality and nearness of God, through use. He makes no compulsion, He takes our hand and guides us into the safe road trodden by our forefathers.

The Extreme of Adversity

No survey, however cursory and inadequate, of His Prayers would be complete without quoting one of the most passionate and moving of them all, one associated with probably the saddest hours of His whole life. After His banishment from Persia to Tráq the initial signs of envy and hatred began to be apparent from His younger brother, Mirzá Yahyá. In order to avoid open rupture and the consequent humiliation of the Faith in the eyes of the non-believers, Bahá'u'lláh retired for two years to the wilderness of Kurdistan and lived, unknown, as a dervish amongst its people. During His absence the situation, far from improving, now that the field was left open and uncontested to Mirzá Yahyá, steadily deteriorated. Shameful acts took place and conditions became so acute that the believers sent a messenger in search of Bahá'u'lláh to report to Him and beseech His return. Reluctantly He turned His face towards Bagdad. He was going back to mount the helm; storms lay ahead of Him of a severity and bitterness no other Prophet had ever known; behind Him, once and for all, He left a measure of peace and submission. For two years He had communed with His own soul. He had written wonderful poems and revealed beautiful prayers and treatises. Now He headed back into the inky blackness of an implacable hatred and jealousy, where attempts against His very life were to be plotted and even prove partially successful. As He tramped along through the wilderness, beautiful in its dress of spring, the messenger that had gone to fetch Him back testified that He chanted over and over again this prayer. It rolled forth like thunder from His agonized heart:

"O God, my God! Be Thou not far from me, for tribulation upon tribulation hath gathered about me. O God, my God! Leave me not to myself, for the extremity of adversity hath come upon me. Out of the pure milk drawn from the breasts of Thy loving-kindness, give me to drink, for my thirst hath utterly consumed me. Beneath the shadow of the wings of Thy mercy shelter me, for all mine adversaries with one consent have fallen upon me. Keep me near to the throne of Thy majesty, face to face with the revelations of the signs of Thy glory, for wretchedness hath grievously touched me. With the fruits of the tree of Thine Eternity nourish me, for uttermost weakness hath overtaken me. From the cups of joy, proffered by the hands of Thy tender mercies, feed me, for manifold sorrows have laid mighty hold upon me. With the broidered robe of Thine omnipotent sovereignty attire me, for poverty hath altogether defeated me. Lulled by the cooing of the Dove of Thine Eternity, suffer me to sleep, for woes at their blackest have befallen me. Before the throne of Thy oneness, amid the blaze of the beauty of Thy countenance, cause me to abide, for fear and trembling have violently crushed me. Beneath the ocean of Thy forgiveness, faced with restlessness of the leviathan of glory, immerse me, for my sins have utterly doomed me."

—Reprinted from The World Order Magazine, November 1943
"The spirit that sent forth, not so long ago...so many pioneers to such remote areas of the globe, must at all costs be recaptured, for the twofold purpose of swelling the number and of insuring the continual flow, of pioneers, so essential for the safeguarding of the prizes won in the course of the several campaigns of a world-girdling Crusade. . . ."

(Message from the Guardian to the American Bahá'ís, September 21, 1957.)

In the October issue of Bahá'í News, the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States reported the number of American pioneers serving abroad as of September 1, 1957 — a total of 317 — representing an increase of 31 in the preceding four months. What has been the response to the beloved Guardian’s last appeal since that time?

Twenty-three pioneers joined the ranks between September 1 and January 1, 1958, distributed as follows: Africa—3; Asia—2 and 1 youth; Europe—7; Latin America—10.

Subtracting those who have been obliged to leave their posts for various reasons, there were on January 1, 1958, a total of 314 United States pioneers abroad in the various World Crusade areas: Africa—68; Asia—49, including one youth; Europe—48; Latin America—149, including 4 youth. These figures have changed only slightly since January, hence "the continual flow" has not yet sufficiently increased. The need is urgent. Several virgin goals are now without American pioneers—a few without any pioneers or enrolled Bahá'ís—and these must be filled with maximum speed.

The various intercontinental teaching committees are waiting and eager to assist any who can free themselves to undertake the most meritorious of all services to the World Crusade.

Homefront Gains Disappointing

What about the homefront? There has been a great surge of movement by the believers within the United States, but what are the results in terms of new centers opened?

Between August 1 and January 31, Bahá'ís moved into 176 new localities where there were no resident believers at the time, but during the same period 164 centers were lost by reason of the only resident Bahá'ís leaving, some after remaining only a few weeks, resulting in a net gain of only 12 new centers to January 31. In many cases the move was necessary for business or employment reasons, and in some cases the believers who moved from these isolated areas re-settled in localities where there were already very small groups or communities, thus adding strength to the established centers, but far too many simply moved to another isolated area without consideration of the homefront goals.

The National Spiritual Assembly again appeals to the believers who can disperse to consider first the small communities needing one or two settlers to enable them to hold, restore, or establish their assembly status. The Guide for Dispersal distributed with the October 1957 Bahá'í News lists most of the localities where help is needed, but there are others. Most of the area teaching committees have compiled valuable data about these communities, including employment possibilities, schools, climate, etc., and this is available to any prospective pioneer or settler.

The Bahá'í communities having 15 or more members are still the main reservoir for all Crusade objectives at home and abroad, particularly for pioneers. When will the veritable exodus called for by the beloved Guardian since 1954 truly begin?

—National Spiritual Assembly

Announce Dates of Frankfurt Intercontinental Conference

The fourth Intercontinental Conference is scheduled to be held at Frankfurt/Main, Germany, at the Gesellschaftshaus am Zoo, from July 25 to July 29, 1958. It is with great and joyful anticipation that the National Assembly looks forward to meeting as many as possible of the friends from all over the world.

This will be the height of the tourist season in Europe, a season which will be doubly active because of the World Fair at Bruxelles, Belgium, and an Esperanto Congress in the Frankfurt area a few days after the close of our Conference.

There is no doubt that these events will offer unforeseen opportunities for proclaiming the Cause. At the same time, however, this activity calls for a greater measure of advance planning and scheduling if the

View southward from the Alaska Temple site, located on De Armound Road, about eight miles south of Anchorage.
Conference is to be held in that atmosphere of dignity, high resolve, and accomplishment so vital to the prestige and the fair name of our beloved Faith.

The National Assembly of Germany and Austria has asked each national assembly to extend assistance to the Frankfurt Conference Committee in estimating the number of friends who plan to attend.

Arrangements are being made by the Conference Committee with the Frankfurt tourist traffic authorities at Frankfurt/M. Hauptbahnhof (Main Station) for a central clearing and reception point, through which all incoming friends will be immediately assigned to their hotels and private rooms.

The various national assemblies will be informed regularly about the progress of Conference registrations, program points, and other organizational news which may be of value to friends who plan to participate.

All Bahá’ís coming to the Frankfurt Conference must carry proper national assembly credentials. These are an absolute prerequisite for Conference attendance.

San Marino Recognizes A Baha’i Marriage

Bahá’ís of San Marino have been successful in obtaining legal recognition of a Bahá’í marriage performed there on December 28, 1957, at the home of the resident pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Shorab Payman.

Until two days before the ceremony the difficulties toward obtaining legal recognition seemed insurmountable. Although the families of the bride and groom had arrived, it seemed inevitable that the marriage must be postponed. Then, after an evening of prayer by the assembled friends, the obstacles vanished and the necessary approval was given.

This does not mean that the Bahá’í Faith is recognized in San Marino, but the government has accepted the Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assembly as “competent authority,” and its Vice-Chairman, Fritz Semle of Wolfhalden, Switzerland, as having the faculty to perform the marriage. The Ufficiale dello Stato Civile (Civil Officer), one of the heads of the government, attended the wedding ceremony as representative of the government; also the Capo della Gendarmeria (Head of Police) was present.

San Marino, the oldest and one of the smallest republics, situated in the heart of Italy, is a World Crusade goal of the Italo-Swiss National Assembly. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Banáni, for whom the marriage was performed, made the occasion of their wedding an opportunity to inform those in the Catholic Christian Democratic government of San Marino of the Bahá’í Faith. The non-Bahá’ís present at this occasion spoke of the beauty of the prayers, the evident spiritual atmosphere, and the warm, loving hospitality offered them.

Canada Secures Temple Site

The National Spiritual Assembly of Canada has announced the purchase of the ground on which will be erected the Mother Temple of Canada, a clear title having been obtained on January 16, 1958. The site comprises a parcel of four acres of land, ideally located at Bayview Avenue on Cummer Avenue. Bayview is a through-traffic artery, north of Toronto, and the Assembly feels sure that it complies with Shoghi Effendi’s directives and desire regarding this project.

The Assembly states: “It is our regret that so much time has gone by since our beloved Guardian gave us this objective and assignment. For so long, various adverse and uncontrollable circumstances developed to delay the conclusion of our negotiations.”

Central America Convention To Be Held in Guatemala

The Annual Convention of the Bahá’ís of Central America and Mexico will be held in the city of Guatemala, Guatemala, from April 24 to 27, 1958, thus allowing time to attend the U. S. Convention and the Intercontinental Conference in Chicago.

The Central America Convention will stress the Indian work, so emphasized by the Guardian in the months before his passing. The usual public meeting will be dedicated to the Indians, and Indian leaders are being invited to take part in the program.

One evening will be set aside in memory of the beloved Guardian.

On the day following the Convention, all those who are able will go to Chichicastenango to inaugurate the new Bahá’í Indian Institute there.

It is hoped that many visitors from other countries will attend this unique Convention held in the lovely and picturesque setting of Guatemala.

Hands of Cause in Asia Appoint New Auxiliary Board Members

The Hands of the Cause of God in Asia have announced the appointment of two new members to their Auxiliary Board: Mrs. Mamie Seto of Hongkong, and William Maxwell of Korea.
Five More Countries Report Bahá’í Schools
Held in December-January Period

With the variations in seasons around the globe, Bahá’í Summer Schools are in session in some part of the world almost the year around. In the Northern Hemisphere Winter Schools are also frequently held for youth during their winter vacation period.

Several years ago the beloved Guardian commented on Bahá’í Schools in the May 1941 issue of BAHÁ’Í NEWS: "It is very interesting to follow up the development these institutions make from year to year and the way they attract attention more and more. Before long . . . they will become powerful and well-established organizations that will train innumerable young men and women to go out into the world and spread the message of Bahá’u’lláh."

Today many pioneer teachers in the World Crusade are among the spiritual fruits of these schools. Since the opening of the Ten-Year Plan the number of Bahá’í Schools held has been considerably increased, foreshadowing a rich harvest of Bahá’í scholars and teachers for the future. In March, BAHÁ’Í NEWS reported Schools held during the December-January period in Vietnam, New Zealand, Honduras, Australia, and El Salvador. Since then many new reports have come to amplify the world-wide picture of these beginning Bahá’í educational institutions.

Italo-Swiss School Attracts Youth From Six Countries

For the 35 students coming from six European countries to the Winter School in "Les Diablerets," (Vaud), Switzerland, during the winter holidays of December 26 to January 5, it was a warmly inspiring ten days. Daytime sessions were based upon The Dispensation of Bahá’u’lláh, with eager participation from everyone present through the guidance of the teacher, Mr. Joel Marangella, Auxiliary Board member for Europe. The evening sessions were largely devoted to the Guardian’s works, and to his last message, which was carefully reviewed.

Caterina Bosio, who sent the report, comments: "Attending this school was a joyful experience. The beautiful, sunny days spent skiing, skating, and in long walks will live brightly in memory; and the evenings passed in a wonderful atmosphere of togetherness that will long warm the hearts of those participating in this third Italo-Swiss Bahá’í Youth Winter School."

Greater Antilles Holds First International Bahá’í School

The Bahá’í School of the Greater Antilles, held in the National Haşi-
ratu’l-Quds in Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, at the end of December, chose the Covenant as a theme for their study. Students came from Jamaica, Haiti, Virgin Islands, along with the Dominican Republic and two visitors from Madrid, Spain. A second International Bahá’í School session is planned to follow the forthcoming National Convention in April. Students have been invited from the home island countries of Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, and Dominican Republic, as well as from the virgin and consolidation island areas under the care of the Greater Antilles National Assembly: Martinique, Bermuda, Virgin Islands, Windward and Leeward Islands, Bahama Islands, and the Dutch East Indies. Four major languages and numerous local dialects are spoken in this territory.

German Winter School
**Held in Black Forest**
The German Winter School for youth was held on beautiful, snowy Mount Schauinsland in the southern Black Forest from December 26, 1957, to January 4, 1958, with about 90 attendants, 30 of whom were non-Bahá’ís, representing Arabia, Persia, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, England, and Germany. The two teachers were Dr. Hermann Grossmann, Hand of the Cause, and Martin Aiff; the general theme was “Religion and Man in the Machine Age.”

Hand of Cause Presides
**Over South East Asia School**
Dr. R. Muhijir, Hand of the Cause, presided over the first Summer School for South East Asia held in Malacca, Malaya, December 27 to 29. In addition to several pioneer teachers who were present, the Local Assemblies of Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Seremban, and Malacca participated. The sessions were devoted especially to consulting on ways of achieving the various goals for this area, including the purchase of suitable pieces of land in Singapore, in Malacca, and also land for Bahá’í Burial Grounds; permission from Boards of Education for exemption of Bahá’í children on their Holy Days; opening of 12 new centers in Malaya, with special attention to native tribes of the Federation; and teaching programs for the educating of children, youth, and the deepening of all Bahá’ís toward their development as Bahá’í teachers.
First Mexico Teaching Congress Pledges
Obedience and Loyalty to Hands of Faith

The first Teaching Congress of the Bahá’ís of Mexico, scheduled for December 7 and 8, 1957, and dedicated to the goals of the Six-Year Plan given to Latin America by the Guardian, took place when the “supreme test” of the loss of our beloved Guardian was being most acutely felt.

The gathering of the friends from Puebla, Monterrey, Guadalajara, Culiacán, and the Federal District of Mexico in the Hazíratu’l-Quds of Mexico City the first evening was, for many, the first opportunity to meet.

The National Teaching Committee of Mexico states: “In the short time which had elapsed since the passing of the Guardian, we had been shaken by inexpressible grief. Our coming together was our joy. It was felt that by complete unity and dedication we could not only go on, but surpass our previous efforts to labor for the fulfillment of the ‘goals so dear to his heart.’”

The early darkness of a December evening had fallen when the friends gathered in the Hazíratu’l-Quds. The Congress opened with 19 Bahá’ís present, a number which grew to 24.

Mrs. Olympia Murray, chairman of the National Teaching Committee, gave a heart-warming welcome to the assembled friends, followed by the reading of the opening prayer by Harold Murray, chairman of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Mexico City.

Etsaban Canales, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause and chairman of the conference, then read the Tablet of Carmel in honor of the beloved Guardian, saying that the Guardian had greatly desired that all should study continuously the significance of this sacred Tablet of Bahá’u’lláh.

New Believers Welcomed

Two new believers were then presented to the group and given a warm and loving welcome. Following this, the friends had a chance to chat during the supper prepared by the Mexican friends.

Mr. Canales opened the evening session by saying that before the presentation of the goals of the Six-Year Plan he wished to speak of the beloved Guardian, and of the arduous and ceaseless labor for the Faith for which he gave his life.

In reference to the goal to stimulate the increase in the number of colored and Indian Bahá’ís, it was emphasized that this delicate work must be done with the utmost tact, taking into account their psychology and offering them real love, and above all, courtesy.

Sunday morning was bright and crisp, crowned with a deep blue sky. The friends gathered, waiting for the first session, when the bell at the street gate of the patio was heard to ring. When the ivy-covered entrance gate was opened, a group of Indian contacts were found gathered outside. It was the first visit of these new friends to the Hazíratu’l-Quds, the center of the Bahá’í community life and to be strong supporters of the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh and firm in the Covenant.

He spoke of the National Office in Panama, and of the long hours, many times until early morning, which had been spent in translating the messages of Shoghi Effendi so that all the Bahá’ís might read them in the Bahá’í News. He related that in his visits to different communities he at times found those same messages, which contained such wisdom and teaching, had not been read.

Mr. Canales appealed to the hearts of the friends to reflect on, and be conscious of, the importance of the mission which had been entrusted to them, recommending that they read many times the messages in which the Guardian outlined the path necessary to achieve the new order on earth, and a new civilization.

Six-Year Plan Goals

The goals of the Six-Year Plan were then presented by Mr. Canales. The Guardian, he said, in the formation of the Plans, gave especial attention to teaching, which is the basis of all the activity of the Faith, and the most urgent task before the Bahá’ís in this critical period.

Referring to the words of Shoghi Effendi regarding the importance of the individual arising to proclaim the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh as never before, Mr. Canales cited the Guardian’s instructions that the most effective way to teach the Cause was for the individual to make contacts and choose a few of these friends whom he believed could become Bahá’ís from among them, gain their confidence, and finally select those who have responded to the Teachings and teach them until they are well prepared to take their part in the Bahá’í community life and to be strong supporters of the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh and firm in the Covenant.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Honiara, Solomon Islands, formed on April 21, 1957. The original pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Blum, are in the center.
and the Bahá'ís gathered around them with such friendliness and cordiality that the invitation to return and join the gathering in the evening was accepted.

Everyone felt as if a wonderful event had taken place, and thoughts turned to Shoghi Effendi and how dear this goal was to him. Through friendship with these dear people perhaps an all-Indian assembly can, through the assistance of Bahá'u'lláh, be established in the pueblo where they were born.

Message From the Hands Read

After prayers, the morning session was opened by Mr. Canales reading the message from the Hands of the Cause regarding the succession of the Guardianship. The faith of all these new Bahá'ís was unwavering, and as he closed, Mr. Canales urged the friends to continue to be united in love and service that thus, as he closed, Mr. Canales urged the friends to continue to be united in love and service to the Guardian. The faith of all these new Bahá'ís was unwavering, and as he closed, Mr. Canales urged the friends to continue to be united in love and service to the Guardian. The faith of all these new Bahá'ís was unwavering, and as he closed, Mr. Canales urged the friends to continue to be united in love and service to the Guardian.

A summary and discussion of the last, transcendental message of the Guardian followed, in which the purposes of the coming five Intercontinental Conferences were stressed.

In the afternoon Dr. Edris Rice-Wray opened with a talk on "The Application of the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh to the Personal and Communal Life."

Afterward, the session was devoted to consultation on goals and plans. Many inspired suggestions were made for the attracting of people where fanaticism urges caution and wisdom. There followed suggestions regarding programs in the Bahá'í Centers on cultural subjects, such as are now being done in Mexico City, on the history of the Indian in Mexico. A request for a tri-monthly news bulletin especially for Mexico was made, and there was a discussion of the proposed plan to open up the border towns on the Mexican and American frontier.

Indian Goals Stressed

Discussion of the Indian goals brought out many interesting highlights. It was suggested that the manner in which the Indian visitors were received in the evening could lay the foundation for teaching them later. The great success of the work in Africa was referred to, as also the confirmation of the natives of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

The Mexican Indian Committee announced that a pamphlet had been translated into the Nahuatl dialect. Miss Lecile Webster, chairman of this Committee, requested that each community appoint one of its members to maintain contact with the Indian Committee of Mexico, and to make reports of the progress of this goal in their area.

Cable to Holy Land

The following cable, in an effort to express the spirit of complete dedication that had pervaded the sessions, was sent by the Congress to Rúhíyyih Khánum in Haifa: "Pledge unqualified obedience, loyalty blessed institution Hands. Bahá'í Teaching Congress, Mexico."

—The National Teaching Committee of Mexico

Three More Countries Report

World Religion Day Meetings

The spread to other countries of public observances of World Religion Day, an annual event instituted by the U. S. National Spiritual Assembly in 1950 to proclaim the fundamental oneness of religion, was reported in Bahá'í News for March.

Since the publication of that issue, reports have been received from three additional countries where World Religion Day was publicly recognized: Laos, the British Isles, and Austria.

Four Faiths Join in Observance of World Religion Day in Laos

With the approval of the Minister of Religion for the country, the Bahá'ís of Vientiane, Laos, were able to join the rest of the Bahá'í world in the observance of World Religion Day this year. He also contributed greatly to the success of the program by sending the Director of Religion and four Buddhist monks to participate.

Miss Banu Hassan, American Bahá'í pioneer in Laos, reporting the meeting, wrote:

"The Director of Religion spoke in Laoatian about World Religion Day, and the monks chanted with such reverence that they brought tears to our eyes. A Sikh followed and translated his Hindu chant into English, also telling the gathering of the happiness he felt in being part of such a program.

World Religion Day in Vientiane, Laos. In the left-hand photograph, the Laos government Director of Religion (far right), and the Director of Foreign Affairs (seated, wearing bow tie), with the two Laoatian Bahá'ís to his left, are pictured. In the right-hand photograph, four Buddhist monks chant a prayer.
First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Webster Groves, Mo., formed on April 21, 1957.

"Others who participated were a Protestant who read a prayer in English, a Muslim who chanted a Muslim prayer, and a Laoatian school teacher who read the Bahá’í Prayer for all Mankind. Following a few closing remarks and the Bahá’í Prayer for Unity, all were invited to remain for tea. "Our little Bahá’í Center was overflowing with people of all colors and religions. Many questions were asked. Our first Laoatian Bahá’í had prepared a beautifully lettered poster for the room with the quotation: 'The world is but one country and mankind its citizens.' The second Laoatian believer provided a huge cake for the occasion with the words 'World Religion Day' frosted across the top. It was a beautiful day!"

With the subsequent enrollment of a Buddhist monk as a believer, the achievement of assembly status in Vientiane is assured this year.

First World Religion Day Observed in British Isles at Many Centers

World Religion Day was observed in the British Isles for the first time this year, and meetings were held throughout the country.

In Reading 70 people attended, in Bournemouth 56, in Bristol 40, and in London the Hazíratu’l-Quds was filled to capacity.

The Manchester meeting was held in the Town Hall, with the Lord Mayor presiding. Here, and also in Eccles, Reading, Cardiff, and other centers, the platform was shared by leaders in many faiths.

Birmingham, Leicester, Northampton, Oxford, and Edinburgh also reported meetings.

At the Hazíratu’l-Quds in London a reception was held on the Wednesday previous to World Religion Day, to which many prominent people were invited.

World Religion Day Observance Marks Spiritual Rebirth of Vienna

After 20 years of suffering caused by the Anschluss and World War II, the flame of the Holy Spirit is burning stronger in Vienna, Austria, a city blessed by 'Abdu’l-Bahá’s footsteps in 1913.

To celebrate World Religion Day this year, the Local Spiritual Assembly of Vienna succeeded in renting one of the newest and most modern auditoriums, with a capacity of 500 persons.

Six hundred-forty posters were displayed in 22 districts, and 150 invitations were sent to the closer contacts. With Bahá’u’lláh’s confirmations and the sacred words of our well-beloved Guardian, who always encouraged the friends in Vienna to search for the ready souls, 250 persons participated.

Six religions were represented: Jewish, Buddhist, Protestant (Lutheran), Liberal Catholic, Old Catholic, and Bahá’í. Dr. Walter Ott from Switzerland, who was the Bahá’í speaker, mentioned in his speech the tolerance of the Israeli government toward the Bahá’í Faith. Music of Bach completed the program.

Throughout the meeting one could feel, through the power of Bahá’u’lláh’s Word, the spirit of harmony and unity. People left the hall with uplifted hearts, great interest, and a new outlook on world unity and world peace.

20 National Assemblies Needed in Latin America By 1963

The biggest task in the Western Hemisphere remaining in the five years before 1963 is the formation of 20 new national spiritual assemblies in Latin America— one for each republic. The number of enrolled believers, including the North American pioneers already at their posts in these countries, is not sufficient to accomplish this task, and there must be more pioneers in almost every country.

Nicaragua, Venezuela, Paraguay, and Uruguay each have but one local assembly. Many more will have to be established before a national spiritual assembly can be elected. Other republics, having two or three assemblies, are equally in need of assistance in establishing additional assemblies.

Two Neediest Countries

Two of the neediest countries, in addition to those mentioned above, are El Salvador and Ecuador. The latter has only one pioneer for the whole country. Some assemblies need assistance in order to become responsible and self-reliant.

Please write to the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee if you are considering pioneering, as we may be able to make specific suggestions based upon individual considerations and problems. The time is getting short, and there is nothing more important to any believer than fulfilling his part in helping to achieve the goals of the Ten-Year World Crusade.

—WESTERN HEMISPHERE TEACHING COMMITTEE
Opening of Leicester Center
Followed By Weekend School

Bahá'ís of Leicester, England, who formed their first assembly last Ridván, opened their new Bahá'í Center on February 15. Hasan Balyuzi, Hand of the Cause, conducted the dedication. Sixty people attended the opening from all over the British Isles, and the Center was filled to capacity.

The opening of the Bahá'í Center was combined with a Weekend School, attended by over 40 persons.

The two local newspapers sent reporters to the opening, and these newspapers printed a photograph and an account of the occasion.

After the tea break following the official opening of the Center, Ian Semple, a member of the Auxiliary Board, spoke on “The World Order of Bahá’u’lláh.” Later, Mrs. Dorothy Ferraby, also a member of the Auxiliary Board, reported on the Intercontinental Conference at Kampala, from which she had just returned.

The photograph above shows the first Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Leicester, England, formed on April 21, 1957. To the left is a photograph of the dedication ceremonies at the opening of the Leicester, England, Hażíratu'l-Quds on February 15, 1958.

New Local Spiritual Assembly
Formed in S. King County, Wash.

An interesting account of the events leading up to the formation of the first Local Spiritual Assembly of South King County Commissioner’s District, Wash., on April 21, 1957, accompanied the photograph of this Assembly published in this issue of Baha’i News.

The beginning was the formation of the first Baha’i group of six believers on January 12, 1956, who immediately fixed their eyes on achieving assembly status by April of the next year. All Nineteen-Day Feasts were held regularly, an informal study class was conducted on alternate Sundays for the deepening of the members of the group, and firesides were conducted frequently, with the place and subject arranged to meet the individual needs.

The high point of the year was the Naw-Ruz Feast, which brought together the new contacts who were soon to become members of the group.

During the summer four of the members were obliged to move to another state, but another believer and her husband who was already an enthusiastic student of the Faith moved in. Then for a few months a Baha’i from Alaska contributed greatly to the strength of the group and the believers. Nearby believers helped with firesides, and in February 1957 the first new Baha’i was enrolled, followed by another within a month.

Then in quick succession two more Baha’i couples established their homes in South King County, thus assuring the formation of the first Local Spiritual Assembly in that particular area. Four more believers, two of them from Alaska, joined them, bringing the community membership to thirteen. A few days before Ridván one other new believer was enrolled, and thus was able to take part in the election of this important institution of the Faith.

In writing of the experiences of this rapid succession of events the Local Spiritual Assembly says: “This short story cannot recount the joy, excitement, love, and fellowship found by the members in one year, and no words can express the wonderment felt in each heart by seeing, first hand, God’s Plan in action.”

Paul E. Haney to Serve in Haifa

The friends are informed that Paul E. Haney, Hand of the Cause and Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly, has left the United States to assume his position as one of the nine Hands elected to serve in the Holy Land. He has won, by his years of admirable service as one of the American Hands and as Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly, the high regard and grateful esteem of his fellow-Baha’is throughout the Western Hemisphere as well as in the United States.

—NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Baha’is Play Active Role in Honolulu’s Brotherhood Week

In the brochure Success in Teaching, Ruhijiyih Khanum discusses some of the reasons why Baha’is reach only a limited number of people in their communities. She suggests crossing over into other “pockets” of community activity—that is, mingling with various social groups and cooperating with organizations who have kindred interests and thus gradually reaching a majority of the receptive people in a locality. The Baha’is of Honolulu demonstrated the results of such activity on their part during their city’s February observance of Brotherhood Week. The Hawaii Chapter of the World Brotherhood activities for Honolulu chose two Baha’is for their Planning Committee, Major Salvatore Pelle and Lee Chang, the former acting as committee chairman. Other Baha’is in the community came forward to help staff a “brotherhood booth” installed outside the Bank of Hawaii building, along with UNICEF and We The Women, and also assisted in the hospitality tour held at the consulates of the Philippines, Japan, Korea and China. Major Pelle acted as master of ceremonies for the annual banquet held at the Hawaiian Village Longhouse, with an attendance of 300.

During the week, on February 20, the Baha’is sponsored their own public meeting and were rewarded with an audience that filled the Honolulu center to capacity.

In Kailua, Lanakai, Hawaii, Mrs. Dorothy Beers, a Baha’i, was in charge of Brotherhood Week activities.

For inspiration and ideas leading to such successes many Baha’i communities would find that some group study and consultation on Ruhijiyih Khanum’s excellent article mentioned above could pay rich dividends. It is an item frequently recommended for individual and community study by the National Spiritual Assembly.
Australian Youth Prepare to Meet Critical Thought of Modern World

The Bahá’í Youth Letter, issued by the Australian Youth Committee, has opened a new department called “Thought and Thinkers.” It will present brief excerpts from the works of some of the world’s leaders, expressing the views of large sections of humanity. The article states: “Only by an understanding of the problems of man, of his ideas, beliefs, and creeds, can we adequately present our own view, our belief in God’s plan for the world. Read these extracts critically, find their weaknesses, if any, and give the Bahá’í answer to the writers’ problems.”

In this way the youth of Australia are preparing themselves to more adequately meet and cope with the intellectual and critical thought of our day, in the light of the Bahá’í teachings. They have emphasized an important aspect of Bahá’í living in today’s world—the need to know and to understand philosophic trends and beliefs—in order to make an increasingly intelligent application of the Teachings, and to illuminate the minds and hearts with God’s Revelation for this day.

Australian Newspaper Publishes “Christ and Baha’u’llah”

The Northern Argus, a South Australian newspaper, is publishing the whole of George Townshend’s book Christ and Baha’u’llah in weekly installments over a 16 week period.

Arrangements for this publication were made by Mrs. Rose Hawthorne, who estimates that the Northern Argus has about 12,000 readers.

Western Canada Summer Conference Planned At Banff in August

The annual Western Canada Bahá’í Summer Conference will again be held at the Banff School of Fine Arts, Banff, Alberta. The dates this year will be August 24-31, 1958.

Further information may be had by writing to Mrs. Edna J. Montfort, secretary; 3119 Barnard Ave.; Vernon, B. C.

BAHÁ’I IN THE NEWS

Wilmette Life, December 5, 1957, used in full the release prepared to announce the election by the Hands of the Cause of the nine members “to conduct and protect the affairs of the Faith from its world center.”

Congress Weekly, a review of Jewish interests, published on January 6 an article by Herbert Freedon of Jerusalem on “Israel’s Youngest Religion.” Following a reference to the recent death of Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, which the author states “has focused attention upon the Faith,” Mr. Freedon reports the information received from a believer at the Bahá’í Temple and proceeds to summarize very sympathetically the Bahá’í teachings and history.

Three pamphlets published for distribution to Israel Government tourist offices contain reference to the Faith: Israel: Treasury of Legend, a beautifully illustrated brochure, concludes its statement on “Legends of Safed and Carmel” with the statement: “But for legends of recent times, and especially of the future, one has only to stand on the hill’s summit at night and glance downwards. The golden dome of the Bahá’í shrine gleams in the moonlight ...”

First Bahá’í group of Guadalajara, Mexico, with Alfonso Jimenez de Leon, the first Latin believer of that city (seated at right), when he was received into the Faith. A month later two more Mexican believers declared themselves.

A Tourist’s Companion to Israel provides suggested itineraries, including one to Haifa— “Country’s main port on the slopes of Mt. Carmel, Carmelite Monastery and Bahá’í Shrine.” Visitor’s Guide to Israel, under “Haifa” lists the main points of interest, including “Bahá’í Temple and Gardens.”

“Roman City Found by Archeologists,” an article in New York Herald Tribune, Sunday, December 1, 1957, contains this passage: “A major tourist attraction in Haifa is the Bahá’í Temple, headquarters for a religion founded by a Persian that has three million adherents throughout the world ... The Bahá’ís have an even more spectacular temple in Wilmette, Illinois.”

Nurses Alumni Bulletin, November, 1957, published by the University of Wisconsin, reprinted the addresses delivered at the 1957 Field Day. Our Bahá’í friend, Manucher J. Javid, M.D., spoke on “Nursing Prescription,” summarizing the history of the nursing profession and introducing the concept, “The Problems Confronting Humanity are due to Lack of Love for God.” On this basis, Dr. Javid cited passages from Bahá’í writings to point to the Source of love in our era.

Journal of Lifetime Living, December 1957, listed the free literature distributed by various religions including the Bahá’í Faith. Hundreds of requests have been received at
month

Change of address should be reported directly to National Editorial Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest current activities of the Baha'i NEWS. Miss Charlotte Linfoot, secretary; Mr. Richard C. Thomas, Wilmette, Chicago.

ber 3, 1957, reporting the court Trustees to construct the Home. The article describes the ar-
may be a portent of the in the in the in from all existing religions ... At the light of history expect to see mankind converted to a believer to purchase the book, and he to Dr. Toynbee impelled a local believer to purchase the book, and he has quoted this passage from it: "In the light of history I should not expect to see mankind converted to a 'syncretic' religion, constructed artificially out of elements taken from all existing religions ... At the same time, when I find myself in Chicago and when, traveling northwards out of the city, I pass the Bahá'í Temple there, I feel that in some sense this beautiful building may be a portent of the future."

"Temple Plans Home for Old in Wilmette" is the title of an article in Chicago Sunday Tribune for November 3, 1957, reporting the court decision permitting the Temple Trustees to construct the Bahá'í Home. The article describes the ar-

The exterior design of the Bahá'í Home illustrated an article in Wilmette Life for December 5, 1957 which described the building in detail.

The Michigan Alumnus, published by the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, presented in its issue of November 16, 1957, a biographical sketch of Charles Wolcott, at that time Associate Musical Director of MGM. His career is depicted from his graduation from the University in 1927 to 1957, and three photographs of Mr. Wolcott illustrate the sketch. "Every member of the family is a devoted member of the Bahá'í Faith . . ."


Published in Mexico City, the Mexican Review runs a "Man of the Month" column. In the May 1957 number this column features Harold B. Murray. "Aside from his many-faceted business career, Harold Murray devotes a great deal of his time to civic affairs and is an active member of the Asociacion Nacional de la Publicidad, the Sales Executive Club, The Cornell Club, The Lions Club, The Board of Managers of the American Chamber of Commerce, the Old Timers (of which he is president) and the Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í World Faith, of which he is chairman."

Haiti Recognizes Bahá'í Marriages

Haiti has extended legal recognition to Bahá'í marriages, according to information just received. This was incorrectly reported by the Na-

National Spiritual Assembly of the Greater Antilles in the November issue of Bahá'í News, page 5, as Jamaica. This means that Haiti, not Jamaica, is actually the first country under the jurisdiction of the Greater Antilles National Spiritual Assembly to receive this important recognition.

Calendar of Events

FEASTS
April 9—Jalál (Glory)
April 28—Jamál (Beauty)

HOLY DAYS
April 21-May 2—Feast of Riḍván (Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh)
April 21—First Day of Riḍván (About 3:00 p.m.)
April 29—Ninth Day of Riḍván
May 2—Twelfth Day of Riḍván

NATIONAL CONVENTION
April 29, 30, May 1
Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette
Riḍván Feast—April 25 at 8:00 p.m. Temple Auditorium

INTERCONTINENTAL CONFERENCE
May 3, 4
Eighth Street Theater, Chicago

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
April 28

Baha'i House of Worship Visiting Hours

Weekdays
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)
Sundays and Holidays
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ( Entire building)

Service of Worship
Sundays
3:30 p.m., lasting until 4:15.

Baha'i News is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá'í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

Baha'i News is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1957-58: Mrs. Eunice Braun, chairman; Miss Charlotte Linfoot, secretary; Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

Editorial Office: 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Baha'i Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
The Faith of Baha’u’llah

The tribulations attending the progressive unfoldment of the Faith of Baha’u’llah have indeed been such as to exceed in gravity those from which the religions of the past have suffered. Unlike those religions, however, these tribulations have failed utterly to impair its unity, or to create, even temporarily, a breach in the ranks of its adherents. It has not only survived these ordeals, but has emerged, purified and inviolate, endowed with greater capacity to face and surmount any crisis which its resistless march may engender in the future.

Whatever may befall this infant Faith of God in future decades or in succeeding centuries, whatever the sorrows, dangers and tribulations which the next stage of its world-wide development may engender, from whatever quarter the assaults to be launched by its present or future adversaries may be unleashed against it, however great the reverses and setbacks it may suffer, we, who have been privileged to apprehend, to the degree our finite minds can fathom, the significance of these marvelous phenomena associated with its rise and establishment, can harbor no doubt that what it has already achieved in the first hundred years of its life provides sufficient guarantee that it will continue to forge ahead, capturing loftier heights, tearing down every obstacle, opening up new horizons and winning still mightier victories until its glorious mission, stretching into the dim ranges of time that lie ahead, is totally fulfilled.

—Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By, pp. 410, 412
The friends of God bid farewell to the mortal remains of "the most wondrous,

The chapel in the Great Northern Cemetery at New Southgate, London, where funeral services were held for Shoghi Effendi, November 9, 1957.

A few of the several hundred Bahá'ís at the grave of the beloved Guardian.

The casket holding the sacred remains of Shoghi Effendi being carried from the chapel, to be transported to the grave.
The grave of the Guardian after interment of his remains, surrounded by floral tributes. Across the foot lies the sheaf of red roses, white gardenias, and lilies-of-the-valley, given by Ruhiyyih Khánúm on behalf of the Bahá’ís of the world, and scattered over the vault are flowers from the Bahá’í Shrines and gardens in the Holy Land, placed there by Hands of the Cause, Auxiliary Board members, and members of several National Spiritual Assemblies.
Tribute to Shoghi Effendi
by Ruhiyyih Khanum

At the Kampala Intercontinental Conference
January 26, 1958

Everybody who had the great privilege of knowing the Guardian recognized in him tremendous power; he not only had great spiritual and mental power which radiated from him, he had an electric something in his nature which was like being in the presence of a very powerful dynamo. I have been in electric plants where dynamos have generated electrical power for a whole city; the whole building shook and vibrated with the force that was being created in those generators. I have witnessed, myself, for twenty years, the strange force which emanated from Shoghi Effendi. This emanation from the Guardian was so strong that when he was not in the house, I felt less of it; when he was up on the mountain in the gardens of the Shrine, I would feel the force of it diminish; when he was in Bahji, I would feel still less of it; and if we were not in the same city, I would not feel it. It was a very extraordinary thing, and it was not my imagination.

Another thing about the Guardian, which I have sometimes wondered if those who were not closely associated with him ever realized, is that Shoghi Effendi was a very sensitive person. He was sensitive as a child. He was one of those children that, I believe in my long observation, should have always received encouragement. You know, there are children who don't need it; they are tough little plants. But there are other children who need to be told for everything they do, "My dear, you were sweet to think of it," "You are a wonderful person," "That was a wonderful idea," "How well you did it." The Guardian was like that—he needed, not to mention what he deserved, to always be encouraged.

I would not have you think that the Guardian was a sad being; he had a peculiarly joyous and luminous heart. The one characteristic of that heart was the most extraordinary and true humility I have ever seen. He had, of course, like any other human being, self-respect. But he had no pride whatsoever—no pride in his own person, no pride in his station; but when it came to this religion, then he had a fiery pride. He would never tolerate any insult or any slight that reflected on him as Guardian, nor on the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. But in his own nature he was the quintessence of humility.

Shoghi Effendi's Transition to Guardianship

I have heard many times from the Guardian that he never dreamed that he would be made Guardian. He had no idea that there would be an Institution of the Guardianship and that he would be chosen to become the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. He said that his hope and ambition was to return to serve the Master, translate the Teachings into English, and that he thought that perhaps when 'Abdu'l-Bahá ascended, as he was the eldest grandson, it might fall to his lot to be requested by the Master, posthumously naturally, to open any documents of instruction and communicate them to the Bahá'ís.

So, you see that this man, who was twenty-four years old and who had what I would call such an easier heart, so full of purity, enthusiasm, innocence, humility, and love for 'Abdu'l-Bahá, this pure heart of the Guardian received the first and most terrible blow through hearing of the ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. He was anxious for news of the Master and went to Mr. Tudor Pole's office in London from Oxford. Tudor Pole had received a cable saying that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had ascended. Shoghi Effendi was left by the secretary of Tudor Pole in his private office for a moment, and without meaning to, his eyes fell on this cablegram, laid open on the corner of the table, saying that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had ascended. A few moments later, when Tudor Pole came into the room, he found Shoghi Effendi crumpled in a heap on the floor.

They brought the Guardian back to Haifa, practically ill; and when he arrived there, he received a second most terrible shock of his life because the Will and Testament was read to him, and he found that the burden which had rested first on the Báb, then on Bahá'u'lláh, and then on his beloved grandfather, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, had fallen with all its weight on his shoulders. He told me once, "The day they read me the Will and Testament I ceased to be a normal human being."

We take too much for granted in this world, all of us. I took the Guardian for granted before I went to live in Haifa. I don't know what I thought, I must have thought that he just sat there and all the time heard 'Abdu'l-Bahá speaking into his ears, and that it was a lovely, peaceful experience. My observations, naturally, are those of an ant looking at the sun. But nevertheless I did observe certain things, and I believe that the nature of divine inspiration is not like something that is written up that these great souls read constantly before their eyes. It is rather in the nature of intermittent pulsations—flashes of lightning.

The Guardian was always guided and always protected, but that doesn't change the fact that he had agonizing moments of anxiety, of sorrow, of despair perhaps, over certain situations, and that he suffered terribly. Then came these tremendous impulses. He always said the right thing; he always did the right thing. God never abandoned him for a second. But it was not a constant process—it was flashes, and in
between those flashes, there was room for infinite suffering.

Acute Sufferings of the Beloved Guardian

I am not going to give a discourse on the subject of Covenant-Breaking, but everybody knows that in this world, where there is light, there is shadow, and the closer you are to the light itself, the darker is the shadow at the foot of the lantern. In the sky, where the sun shines, there is no shadow—that is the world of God. But in this world, wherever there is brilliant light, at the foot of it is blackest shadow. The Guardian had a heart which was exactly like a source, a spring. It bubbled. Left alone, he had the happiest and most radiant heart of any being I have ever seen, and up until the very end of his life, in spite of the troubles and sorrows that had come to him one could see, sometimes, that heart bubble. Now, no doubt it is bubbling freely on high. But in those early years he suffered so terribly, it left its imprint on him for life.

When my mother and I were in Haifa in 1922 or 1923 (I was a child) the Guardian was going away and he called us to his bedroom. He looked so absolutely haggard, with great circles under his eyes. He said “Mrs. Maxwell, I cannot stand it, I am going away.” But of course, he came back in the Autumn and went on with his work.

He was so conscientious, so conscious of the burden that had been placed upon him, that in the early years almost to the end of his life he denied himself practically everything. Although there were very few things that Shoghi Effendi liked or wanted (he had extremely simple tastes in food, in dress, in everything), he had a very beautiful characteristic—what he liked, he liked all through and for ever.

I don’t think that the friends know, and especially up until perhaps ten years ago, how hard on himself he was—in the sense of depriving himself, of living very simply. He ate once every twenty-four hours. This had nothing either to do with economy or asceticism, he just did not feel hungry more often than that, and from his early childhood he did not seem to be able to eat more than once or twice a day. This was a life-long habit, to eat one meal a day. It worried me terribly, and I used to speak to the doctors about it. They said, “Don’t worry, as long as he is healthy and does not feel that he wants to eat more than once a day, don’t insist, leave him alone.” At length I got used to it.

I think that it encourages the friends to know, especially the poorer friends who have sacrificed so much to this Faith, that the Guardian, although he was so very careful of everything to do with his honor as Guardian, as a man and as an individual where he was not known, lived with the utmost simplicity. For many, many years, when he went away in the summer to rest, and I assure you friends, that the Guardian wouldn’t have lasted for thirty-six years if he had not had a little rest in the summer, he lived very, very modestly. He had a room for about two and a half shillings, and it was so small that when one of his relatives came to see him in it, he could not stand up straight because his head banged on the slanting ceiling.

Fearless Defense of the Cause of God

The Guardian was absolutely fearless when it came to defending the Cause of God. He was like a lion. One of his strongest characteristics was an absolutely inflexible sense about compromise. Shoghi Effendi never compromised a hair’s breadth. I could give you a hundred examples of this in his nature, but I will give you a few, because I think this is very, very important for all of us. It is important for every Baha’i, but it is particularly important for the teachers of the Faith, the pioneers and the national assembly members. I don’t have to tell this to the Hands.

How many mosquitoes does it take to give you malaria or yellow fever? When we compromise our Faith, it is like taking a glass of pure water, and putting one drop of ink in it—it does not become a glass of ink, but the purity of the water is gone. We all know that there is no compromise with people who were Covenant-Breakers, if they had not changed in their hearts, because the heart is the measure. When they were repentant in their hearts, Shoghi Effendi forgave them, and there are many people who were out of the Faith and are in it again because the Guardian inhaled one breath of sincerity from their hearts and accepted them.

You see, the Guardian had so many sides to his nature, and you have seen how strong he was when it came to defending the Faith. He never compromised on principle. Now, I would like to show you another aspect of his nature. He had a tremendous capacity for love and for loyalty for those whom he loved, but when they became Covenant-Breakers it evaporated, they ceased to exist and the bounties ceased to flow. I remember when Dr. Zia Baghdadi died and the news reached him. I don’t know exactly when it was, but it was a very, very short time after my marriage with the Guardian. Perhaps in the first month, or maybe even less time than that. News came saying that Zia Baghdadi had died and the Guardian cried
for almost an hour that night.

The Guardian was not emotional, he was absolutely impervious to influence. I think that the friends don't realize that the Central Figures of our Faith had an unimpeachable, steady quality in their nature that was never influenced by their emotions and that whatever they considered right they did in spite of everything.

I don't think the friends realize what went behind those cables putting the different members of the Master's family out of the Cause. Years of suffering, years of crushing his heart, years of hurt and insult—he kept silent and bore and bore and bore and bore, until it reached the point where it was bad for the Cause—then he took action. But what they did to him personally he always endured. He used to suffer very much from two things, and one of them was, of course, the actions of people who were either Covenant-Breakers or in process of becoming Covenant-Breakers, and the other was from the suffering of the Bahá'ís.

Method of Meeting Obstacles

There are three other qualities in the Guardian's nature which I think the friends would like to hear about, and which are very important ones for us to remember now as we go forward into the next five years of the Plan. The first of these is audacity; the second is ingenuity, and the third is economy. The Guardian had all these qualities to a pronounced degree. The Guardian was never prevented from accomplishing anything because there were obstacles in the way. He charged them full on, he never tried to avoid them or go around them—he flew at them. His ingenuity in accomplishing the work in Haifa particularly, was phenomenal. He devised ways of doing things which he himself had never seen done, and had never heard of being done.

For instance, he used to build terraces and gardens. People would come to him and they would say "A tree can't grow in one meter of soil—a tree can't grow on top of a roof of a cistern—you cannot plant a tree in the ground and pile up earth all around up to its crown, it will die," and so on. He did all of those things, he planted trees on tops of cisterns and nothing happened to them, he covered trees up to the crown and it looked as if three beautiful trees would grow out of the soil instead of one. He was not intimidated by the opinions of other people.

The Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith watched the expenditure of every penny that he was responsible for in the Holy Land, and indeed all over the world, to a degree which I think the Bahá'ís have no idea about whatsoever. I have no time to go into details, but I can assure you that there was never any work carried out in Haifa that was not greatly economized by the Guardian—in the building of the Shrine, the building of the gardens, the development of the entrances, the gates, the paths, the pedestals supporting the ornaments—the Guardian made very sure that he was doing the thing in the most economical manner. No matter what the thing was, if he considered that the price was exorbitant, he would not pay it, whether it was required, or very important, or needed for part of a scheme: if the price was exorbitant he just would not pay that price. The basis of this religion is sacrifice, conscientious, tireless, wholehearted, end-less sacrifice—that is what we saw in our Guardian for 36 years.

His Life a Total Sacrifice

The degree to which Shoghi Effendi sacrificed himself in every human sense is unbelievable—he had no life of his own, no time of his own, practically no joys of his own, very little happiness in all of his life. He hurried all the time, he had a sense of haste and pressure, and I think all those who worked with him in Haifa and the friends all over the world, when receiving his messages, and when they felt the vibrations of this power within him, realized this sense of urgency—hurry, hurry, hurry, all the time, to get it done quickly before something happened.

The Guardian said to some of the pilgrims, during the last year and a half or two years, something very strange. He said there are two Plans. The long-term eternal Plan of Almighty God for mankind on this planet; that is the Plan that has the Prophets of God, the Adamic Cycle and all the Great Manifestations of God, like Christ and Mohammed, Buddha, Zoroaster, and Moses and so on, bringing us to this day with the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. This is the Mighty Plan of God, educating humanity and bringing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth on this planet. He said this is the plan of God, it goes forward in mysterious ways, we do not always understand its workings.

Then, he said, we have the Divine Plan, which is being carried forward by the Bahá'ís in the form as we know it, first, the two Seven-Year Plans, and then this Ten-Year Plan—the World Crusade which we are now engaged upon and part of which has passed.

The Guardian said, who knows, maybe this great Plan of God will interfere in the other Plan. We always thought, at least I always thought, that this meant the war which we have reason to believe we may not be able to avert, was probably the thing. I could never dream that this trial that could cut across the Plan, the Ten-Year Plan that we are working on now, would be the ascension of our Guardian.

The beloved Guardian sacrificed himself for this Cause as completely as anyone who was ever martyred in the physical sense. He burned away until there was nothing left, and suddenly God took his spirit in the twinkling of an eye because he had evidently finished his task in this world. The Guardian was in better health this summer than he had been for years. His own physician said so; he had good doctors when he had the Asiatic flu in London, and he was examined thoroughly and there was nothing in the world for anyone to believe that he could possibly pass away.

We can only bow our heads before the Will of God, believing and knowing that Bahá'u'lláh has His Own Plan, that He will guard and protect this Faith and that nothing can thwart His Will. But He did not leave us empty-handed, we have His work to carry on and the greatest monument that we can build in our love and our sorrow for Shoghi Effendi is the monument of our work in this world-encircling Plan. There are some words of Abdu'l-Bahá which I should like to quote: He said "As you have faith, so shall your powers and blessings be, this is the balance, this is the balance, this is the balance."

So, in the name of Shoghi Effendi, I appeal to you all to carry on his work as one soul in many bodies.
Soul-Stirring Visit of Ruhiyyih Khanum Inspires Kampala Conference to Heights of Devotion to Faith

NEVER has the language of silence spoken so eloquently messages of the heart as for the first time she passed up the center aisle of the auditorium, crowded beyond capacity with believers gathered here in the heart of Africa from thirty-eight countries of the world, almost half of whom were from among the African believers of the continent; beloved, revered 'Aramatul-Bahá Ruhiyyih Khánum was embraced by waves of sympathy, and love poured out to her by over 950 believers standing in reverent silence, whose tear-flooded eyes were but a mirror of her own. When she was able, these were the first of the many heart-soothing and inspiring words she addressed to us during this Intercontinental Conference for Africa—January 1958.

"I don't know with what voice to address the friends—it is so hard to speak to them now—it seems too unbelievable that I should ever have to stand here and the Guardian not be in Haifa.

"I want to read you some words which have been a big comfort to me at this time. Perhaps they will comfort all of you. I will read it first in very bad Arabic and then in English. 'He doeth what He willeth, and ordaineth what He pleaseth. None hath the right to ask why or wherefore, and he that doeth so hath indeed turned aside from God, the Lord of all the worlds.'

"Why God should have taken our Guardian away from us, I don't know, but that nothing in the world can ever happen to even the humblest servant of God without its being the Will of God, we know from all the Holy Books of the world. And how much more true this is of such a being as Shoghi Effendi. If he was taken from us, then it was because at last Bahá'u'lláh had mercy on him and ended his burden and his sorrows.

"We know that nothing can deflect the development of the mighty river of God. This Faith will go on. It will illumine all the peoples of the world. The civilization of Bahá'u'lláh will be established, and His promises will come true. But before this great mystery, all of us are broken-hearted, and all of us bow our heads.

"We now must ask ourselves what we must do. If we had performed our duties better during the last thirty-six years as Bahá'ís, I think we would have prolonged the life of the Guardian. But we didn't. He had too many blows, too many sorrows; he was too tender, too sensitive. He threw himself into the fire of service to this Cause, and like a moth in the flame, he was burned up and consumed by it.

"He has performed miracles in five years—now it is our turn. We must perform miracles in the next five years, and this is the only way that we can show that we are his true servants and his true lovers. So I urge you all to devote your minds and your hearts to absorbing as much as you can from this great gathering—not only giving out, but taking in as much as you can of the spirit that is going to be inevitably engendered from this Conference and carry back with you a torch to set the Bahá'í world on fire, because we are not going to have another opportunity. The people are all alone now, and this is their last opportunity. If we have failed in the past we cannot fail now, neither the Guardian, nor the Cause of God, nor humanity. I hope that each one of you will go back from this Conference, whether it's to your homes in the villages of Africa, whether it's to Persia, the Cradle of the Faith, or to America, to Europe, Asia, wherever it may be, just like a blazing fire, and set the Bahá'í world aflame and create a worthy memorial to our beloved Guardian."

Our beloved Guardian had, in his last message to the Bahá'í world in October, announced these five Intercontinental Conferences to mark and celebrate the mid-
way point of the Ten-Year Spiritual Crusade, and had
dedicated them to "The glorification of His Name." Here in
Africa, we had rejoiced much that he had
chosen this continent for the honour of receiving be­
loved ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum as his personal
representative.

Hand of the Cause William Sears greeting some of the
African Bahá’ís at the Kampala railroad station upon
their arrival at the Conference.

Conference Overwhelmingly Successful

Kampala is, by the standards of the world, a small
and quiet town, situated high on a cool, green plateau
on the shores of azure Lake Victoria, in the heart of
Uganda and Africa. If one could turn back the pages of
its history, it is doubtful if one could discover records of
any comparable period of furious preparation for
coming events.

It was at first visualized that approximately 400 peo­
ple would attend the Conference; about half of whom
would be from among the African believers. Then the
 Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land acted—first, to
invite as their guests an African attendance of at least
400, and then to urge as many as possible of the Persian
friends to come. Successive stages of frantic planning
and re-planning brought us to within two weeks of the
convening of the Conference, when it was learned that
five chartered aircraft would bring 315 believers from
Persia alone. All our plans were now totally inadequate.
Every hotel in town was solidly booked with Bahá’ís.
There wasn’t another bed to be had. The auditorium
in which it had been planned to hold the Conference
would seat at most six hundred. We had to begin all
over again.

The first gathering of the friends was at the Unity
Feast on the afternoon prior to the official opening of
the Conference. The seven bus-loads of African be­
lievers from Uganda were yet to arrive, but already a
wonderful spirit of unity and purpose could be felt as
the friends listened to the opening greetings of Hands of
the Cause Tarázu’lláh Samandari, Enoch Olinga, and
William Sears.

Immediately after the Feast, a small group of the
Hands of the Cause, Auxiliary Board, National As­
sembly, and Conference Committee members went to
the airport to greet ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum,
accompanied by Dr. Lotfollah Hakim, member of the
International Bahá’í Council, and by Mr. and Mrs. Chal­
loner Chute, ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum’s cousin
and her husband. From the moment she stepped off the
plane, dressed in beautiful white, she was, as the Chair­
man expressed it so well on the closing afternoon of
the Conference—"the heart, the light, the life, every­
thing about this Conference."

Deeply tired, grief-stricken—she nonetheless gave of
herself utterly, without regard for health or rest, stand­
ing at times for many hours, despite their ardent
protests, to meet and greet the believers who now
turned to her for love and comfort in their deprivation.
Her beauty of spirit and face, her simplicity and in­
formality, her deep understanding of our needs, her
gentle love and comforting touch, and most of all her
depth, deep love of our Guardian and her determination
that his plans shall be fulfilled, eased our aching
hearts, and turned our thoughts and energies to considera­
tion of the vital work ahead.

Ultimately, six Hands of the Cause, a member of the
International Bahá’í Council, sixteen Auxiliary Board
members, and representatives from eleven national
spiritual assemblies (including those from the four Afri­
can regional assemblies, those from the other national
assemblies which had participated in the African cam­
paign—Britain, India, Iraq, Persia, and the United
States, and those from Arabia and Japan), 450 of the
devoted African believers, and other friends from
Africa and the rest of the world to a total of 850 were
present at the formal convening of the Conference the
following morning.

A magnet to the sorrowing Bahá’í world, the Confer­
eence had drawn believers from its remotest precincts.
Two Knights of Bahá’u’lláh had winged their way to
Africa from far-off island outposts, one from palm­clad
Truk in the Caroline Islands of the mid-Pacific Ocean,
and the other from Lofoten Island, deep within the ice­
bound reaches of the Arctic Circle. On that opening
morning, we heard greetings from the revered Hand of
the Cause, Musa Banání, and had our first opportunity

Those who could not journey to Kampala nonetheless
came in spirit. Cablegrams and letters of greeting
poured in from the far corners of the world. Hands of
the Cause and national assemblies, innumerable com­
munities and individuals throughout the globe sent mes­
 sage to the beloved—England, Ireland, France, Ger­
 many, Switzerland, Portugal, Italy, Turkey, Lebanon,
Iraq, Persia, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Australia,
Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, the United States,
and Alaska—and from South Africa, Southern Rhodesia,
Nyasaland, Italian Somaliland, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt,
Tunisia, Morocco, French West Africa, Madeira Island,
Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, and Angola.

Portrait of Bahá’u’lláh Reverently Shown

On the afternoon of the first day when the doors
were opened, there was a loud scuffling of running feet, the
sounds of many voices, much pushing and peering—
something was about to happen. Now had come that one sacred moment when they were to be
allowed to gaze on His countenance. They rushed to the scene of their joy, eager, excited. As the prayers were read and chanted, as the friends sat facing the banks of many-hued tropical flowers, in the bosom of which, arranged on a cloth of rich green velvet and surrounded by deep red roses and carnations, were the four precious relics sent to the Conference by our beloved Guardian, a deep silence fell over the room.

As they passed slowly, reverently before 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum to be annointed with the attar of roses found in our beloved Guardian's suitcase at the time of his passing, as they paused on bended knee before the framed lock of Bahá'u'lláh's precious hair, the exquisitely ornamented, round silver box containing a small bag of the blessed earth from the Inmost Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, the beautifully framed reproduction of His portrait, and, resting in a wooden mosaic box, the piece of the plaster from the Báb's cell in the Prison Fortress of Mah-ku, one could not but note the solemnity and awe with which they went. From 3:30 until 7:15 p.m., row after row moved slowly forward.

All of this time 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum stood—annointing all, embracing most of the women, chatting briefly with many, a smile touching her lips as she recognized some eager African friend come twice to see his Lord.

**Guardian's Map Displayed**

The following morning our hearts were again stirred when we heard 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum explain the beautiful map, especially prepared and sent by our beloved Guardian, showing the progress of the Ten-Year Spiritual Crusade at its midway point, and about the manner of his work for this Cause.

"Friends, it is a very happy and unhappy moment in our lives to see this precious last gift of the Guardian. Happy because it shows the triumphs we owe to him, and unhappy because it is the last thing of that kind we will ever have from his blessed hands.

"I would like to tell you that this map—not this one but the original of which this is a copy—was entirely drawn up by the Guardian himself. He had the most extraordinary genius for so many things, and one of them was making these maps. Nobody every taught him how to make them, and I don't think he ever saw anyone make a map in all of his life. He would go and do it with swiftness that was unbelievable. To copy this map took a professional two weeks in Haifa, and I think that the Guardian must have drawn most of it the first day that he worked on it, and I don't think that it took him a total of more than three days working time to make the entire map. The whole plan in its symmetry and beauty is that of the Guardian.

"We are too near to our work to realize what we have accomplished: and above all, we are too close to the Guardian to realize what he has accomplished. Many of the people in Israel who had a sort of esteem and admiration for the Faith, after the passing of the Guardian realized with a shock that they had lost something very great, and even ordinary people—people who had contact with us as laborers, as workers at Haifa, were very, very grieved by his passing, because suddenly the body of the man had disappeared and the greatness of the man, like the shadow on the wall, began to appear before their eyes. We don't know what we are commemorating in this meeting, but future generations will realize.

"Everything he accomplished, he didn't accomplish because he was lost in prayer and meditation. He accomplished it because he worked often sixteen hours a day until his heart stopped. I wanted to say that we have everything. Of course, we haven't got what we want, which is our Guardian, but he has left us with such a heritage of plans and instructions and example, apart from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, that we can safely say that we have everything to go forward with the work of his Faith.

"If the friends, and by that I mean all of them from

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The convention hall at the Kampala Intercontinental Conference.
The highest to the lowest, and the most active to the most inactive, would pause before they take action, and just consider the Guardian's words and example, they will find that they know what is the right thing to do for the Cause.

"The Guardian, having the whole Bahá'í world in his hand, keeping all the reins in his hands, was able to accomplish so much, of course, because he was the Sign of God on earth also, but the means by which he did it was the close contact he had with all the national assemblies and many of the local assemblies, and, of course, the Hands all over the world. This was how he kept the reins in his hand and so was able to create this map. If he had not had this close contact, he would not have been able to do the map.

"Now you must all remember that although the Guardian has ascended to the Abhá Kingdom and is freed from the torture and slavery of his life in this world, we must go on and carry out his plans, and carry forward our faith.

"The World Center of the Faith is the Qiblih of the Bahá'í world, where the body of the supreme Manifestation of God is laid to rest. It is also the seat of the future International House of Justice. The friends must go on turning to that Center, strengthening it with their love and prayers and sending in their reports, so that the Hands, who are broken-hearted and crushed with the burden of responsibility that has fallen upon them, can continue this work of the Guardian until such date as the administration of the Faith can be handed over to the International House of Justice.

"Haifa is the administrative and spiritual center of our Faith, established by the Manifestation of God, Bahá'u'lláh. All the friends must constantly turn in their hearts to that center—strengthen it and draw strength from it, and pour in information of what they are doing so that we can know where we stand, and in 1963, God willing, we will be able to have accomplished all the plans of our beloved Guardian.'

On the afternoon of the second day, 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum read to us the moving and beautiful message which had been sent to the Conference by the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land. (Editor's Note: This message appears in March Bahá'í News)

The consultations on this and other messages brought forth that afternoon a most remarkable display by the Persian friends of their willing self-sacrifice, devotion, loyalty, and love for our Faith and for 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum and the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land at this time of supreme crisis. In a spontaneous burst of generosity, which many of them could ill afford from the worldly viewpoint, the Persian friends, and a small group of the other friends present, contributed a total of £100,000 ($200,000), ear-marked variously for the Temple, the teaching work, pioneering, literature, the Continental Fund, the erection and perpetuation of a Bahá'í School, and other important needs of the Faith in Africa.

Of this wonderful response to the needs of the Cause, 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum said:

"The Persian Bahá'ís are our ancestors. They are the ones who had the inestimable bounty of having the Manifestation of God for this age appear in their country. They are the ones who first accepted Him, and twenty thousand of them laid down their lives in His path. Because of the handicaps in the country in which they live, they are neither able to go out and serve as freely as their offspring, nor have they the same vigor always. And so, like good parents, they yearn over their children; they bless their children; they take care of their children; and, in this case, it looks as if they are going to finance their children.

On Friday evening, 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum showed us first the exquisite colored films she had brought of the Shrines and gardens in 'Akka and Haifa, explaining first in Persian and then in English.
(with Ateso translations following) all that we saw, telling us the stories of how our beloved Guardian had created this magic world of beauty out of the rocky, forbidding mountainside and plain.

Then, in the darkness and silence, our eyes gazed through a veil of tears upon that wintry London scene, where our hearts lay buried beneath the sweet-scented mounds of fresh-cut flowers which bore the inscription, "From Ruhiyyih and all your loved ones and lovers all over the world whose hearts are broken."

The following morning, the Conference cabled a request to the British National Assembly that a large bouquet of roses, gardenias, and lilies so loved by the Guardian, be placed upon his grave on behalf of the Conference. The roses and carnations which had lain on the table with the holy relics on the opening day had been lovingly gathered by 'Amalu'l-Bahá Ruhiyyih Khánúm and given to the British representative, also to be placed on the grave of the Guardian. On the final afternoon, at a time when the platform was filled to capacity with the pioneers to and in Africa, and at that moment when it had been cabled, Hand of the Cause Hasan Balyuzí would be placing our flowers on the beloved Guardian's final resting place, we paused in the utter silence of our deepest feelings to join him there at the graveside.

**Laying Foundation Stone of Temple**

On the afternoon of the fourth day, a long line of private cars and taxis, followed by fourteen huge buses, wound their way into the lush green countryside surrounding Kampala and up the lower slopes of "our hill," Kikaya Hill, where our Mashriqu'l-Adhkár is being constructed, and where we witnessed, under the heat of a blazing sun, the laying of the foundation stone, beneath which 'Amatu'l-Bahá Ruhiyyih Khánúm and Hand of the Cause Musa Banáni lovingly placed the silver box containing the sacred earth from the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, and the wooden box containing a piece of the plaster from the Prison Fortress of Mah-kú, where the Blessed Báb had been incarcerated. The foundation stone, shielding its precious treasures, will ultimately lie under the wall on that side of the Temple facing out across a grassy valley towards the Qiblah of the Bahá'í world—Akká.

Thus, this Africa of ours and its Mother Temple are forever spiritually linked to the World Center and the Cradle of our Faith. In the morning, we had heard the story of the purchase of the land, the design and construction of the Mother Temple, and the appeals for its successful completion. In the afternoon, at the Temple ceremony, 'Amatu'l-Bahá Ruhiyyih Khánúm told us how she had found a number of small, hand-sewn silk bags made by the Greatest Holy Leaf herself, and how the beloved Guardian had been pleased and had instructed that the sacred earth for our Temple should be placed in one such bag. The Hand of the Cause, Musa Banáni, explained that this plaster was from the ceiling of the cell in which the Holy Báb had revealed His Book of the Covenant and His Laws.

Visitors assembling at the Temple site prior to the ceremony to place the caskets containing the earth from the Inmost Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh and the fragment of plaster from the cell of the Báb in Mah-kú prison.
Each of these treasured dusts was carefully protected from the ravages of time. The earth in its small bag was placed first in a glass container, then in its silver box. The plaster, in its wooden box, was sealed in an outer container of metal. The vault itself was lined with two hand-woven Persian silk scarves.

The Hour of Consultation and Response

Following the stirring tribute to Shoghi Effendi by Ruhíyyih Khánum (see page 4 of this issue of Bahá’í News), there came the hour of consultation—the hour of response. Now the African friends rose to open their hearts, to reveal their deepest feelings, to voice their love, to pledge their strength.

Of all the many who spoke, Max Kanyerezi, a member of Central and East African National Assembly, seemed to epitomize their sentiments: “In the first place, after the passing away of our beloved, there came the letter from the National Assembly telling us that we have everything. I did not realize that we have everything until we came to this Conference. We, particularly Africans, we have everything; really, everything is love of our beloved Guardian. We have seen, and we have been assured by ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Ruhíyyih Khánum, how great the love of our beloved Guardian was towards us.

“Now what are we going to do? Are we going to go back with this love and sit down in our cottages and be sure that the Guardian loved us? Are we going to be proud that we were brave to have been among the Bahá’ís today, and rest assured that we have everything because the Guardian loved us and we are Bahá’ís? I just must remind you about a few words of Jesus Christ—to whom is given much, he will be asked much. Do you realize the great responsibility that our beloved Guardian has laid on our heads? It is tremendous, and we don’t know how to fulfill it. We cannot repay what we have been given—the only way that we can show that we realize how great was the love of our beloved for us is to dedicate ourselves to the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh. Let everyone of us be content in his mind that he can say that we shall set on fire the whole of this continent... I think you will (turning to ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Ruhíyyih Khánum) when you go back to Haifa, please, give the account to the Hands that Africans have now determined to do everything, and will leave nothing until everything be brought to completion.”

Ruhíyyih Khánum’s Journey to Teso

The joy and anticipation of the African believers when they first heard that a Conference was to be held in Kampala, and that ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Ruhíyyih Khánum would attend, sowed also the seeds of longing in their hearts—longing that ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Ruhíyyih Khánum might come to visit them in their own homes.

Loving requests were received inviting her to come to Teso, the heart of the Faith in Uganda, 200 miles from Kampala, where over 1400 Bahá’ís live, and where there are forty-two spiritual assemblies. The longing wishes of the friends were conveyed to her and to everyone’s great joy, she decided to make a brief visit to Teso.

There, for twenty-four of what she described as some of the happiest hours of her visit to Uganda, ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Ruhíyyih Khánum shared the life of Africa—eating curried turkey and soup, millet, rice, and matoke (cooked, green bananas), drinking what became her favorite African beverage “smoked water,” and sitting on handwoven grass mats to watch the evening program of traditional dancing and singing.

From all over Teso had come the outstanding teachers of the Faith to hear more about the Guardian’s love for them, and to be encouraged and inspired by her loving words. The meetings were held on the site of the former Tilling Bahá’í Center, originally constructed of mud and wattle, with grass for the roof. When she heard that their center, despite repeated efforts to save it had ultimately been consumed by white ant invasions, ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Ruhíyyih Khánum generously contributed for the erection of the new and permanent center for which they have yearned so long.
A local chief came to pay his respects to 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum, and she asked him to be one of her translators. She visited an African junior secondary school, where a Teso Bahá'í is headmaster, and where she spoke to the entire student body.

The Teso friends will never forget her loving informality, her wonderful sense of humor, her deep love for them, and her admiration of their work for our beloved Faith. The women, in particular, flowered under her spontaneous interest in their lives, especially their kitchens! The love of the believers was expressed in beautiful gifts of hand-carved ebony and ivory one of which, a beautiful walking stick, had been bought some time ago to be sent through her to the beloved Guardian, and which 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum promised would now be placed in his room in the Mansion of Bahá'.

In Teso, now, and wherever there are African believers who attended the Conference, the friends proudly wear a small black and gold nine-pointed star pinned to their lapels—the black of the background, a symbol of the black races of the world; and the gold of the Greatest Name, a symbol of the yellow races. Five hundred of these pins, inscribed on the back, "Bahá'í love from Bahá'ís of Japan" were sent as a special gift from the Bahá'ís of Japan to the African believers attending the Conference.

Farewell to Rúhiyyih Khánum

The final morning had dawned. Beloved and revered Hands of the Cause William Sears, Enoch Olinga, Taráz'u'lláh Samandari, John Robarts, and Musa Banání were on the platform with 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum—there to send us back from paradise into the world, to place our feet firmly on God's earth and to speed us along His ordained path.

At lunch on that final day of her visit to Africa 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum drew from her handbag an article wrapped in a white silk handkerchief. To the friends gathered about her she said, "I cannot do more for you than to show you this—our beloved Guardian's notebook, which he kept always in his pocket." With that she unfolded the handkerchief and revealed a small but thick red leather loose-leaf notebook.

Opening it, she showed us the pages upon pages of lists of statistics of the Faith and other notes, all meticulously entered in the beloved Guardian's own handwriting. Where goals had been accomplished, they had been crossed off. One page had all but one item crossed off in heavy ink. The pages of the notebook had been endlessly thumbed, and 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum told us that the beloved Guardian thus carried the Bahá'í world in his pocket, using this small book incessantly.

As we drove those twenty sad miles to bid her farewell at the airport, our minds dwelt upon the scenes of the Conference and all that it had meant to us—and especially upon what 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum's presence had brought of love and comfort, of inspiration and renewed dedication. Particularly, we thank her in our hearts for that one sublime day when she had spoken many hours to us of our beloved Guardian, and had, all evening, selflessly stood to be introduced and to chat to every believer who had come to the Conference. Indeed she had been "the heart, the light, the life—everything about this Conference."

As the silver wings of the plane carrying our beloved and revered 'Amatu'l-Bahá into the cloudless African skies and back to the Holy Land flew low over our heads and then up to disappear in the blue horizons, these beautiful and stirring words of Bahá'u'lláh and the Master, quoted by Hand of the Cause William Sears at the close of the Conference, echoed and re-echoed in our memories and seemed to bring together in one small breath, all that we had been trying so inadequately to say during these many days.

"I say unto you that any one who will rise up in the Cause of God at this time shall be filled with the spirit of God, and that He will send His hosts from heaven to help you, and that nothing shall be impossible to you if you have faith. And now I give a commandment which shall be for a covenant between you and Me—that ye have faith; that your faith be steadfast as a rock that no storms can move, that nothing can disturb, and that it endure through all things even to the end; even should you hear that your Lord has been crucified, be not shaken in your faith; for I am with you always whether living or dead, I am with you to the end. As ye have faith, so shall your powers and blessings be. This is the balance—this is the balance... Ye are... the breeze that stirreth at the break of day, the soft-flowing waters upon which must depend the very life of all men,.... Neither sun nor moon hath witnessed a day such as this Day.... This is the day in which to speak... Appreciate the value of the hours that are still yours, for they shall come to you no more and you will never have a like opportunity. For even as the swiftness of lightning your body shall be laid to rest beneath a canopy of dust. What can ye then achieve? How can ye then arise from your past failures? Arise in My Name, upon you be the glory of all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth."

—National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa
Legal Recognition, Increase in Centers Reported in Morocco

The last weeks preceding Ridvan found the Regional Teaching Committee of Morocco workingconcertedly with the friends to form as many new local spiritual assemblies as possible from their collective numbers.

The history of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh in Morocco is a unique one that begins, upon the announcement of the Ten-Year Plan, with the discovery that a Bahá’í was already resident in the country. This was followed, less than four years later, by the supplementary plan that included acquisition of a Hazír'tul-Quds. The friends in Morocco replied, almost by return mail, that this goal, too, was achieved twice over, in Rabat and in Larache, and that the site for a third had been acquired in Tangier.

These past five years have been marked by the increase by more than a hundredfold of that first lone banner of Bahá'u'lláh: local spiritual assemblies number six; the formation of at least two new ones is assured this Ridvan (Meknez and Port Lyautey); the number of centers equals no less than fifteen; the Faith has been officially registered with the government, and the resulting recognition is expected to bring with it an official request by the government to incorporate a permanent national body; if so, the Moroccan National Spiritual Assembly may be elected during Ridvan 116.

The friends, both indigenous and pioneers, are most eager to accomplish whatsoever is advantageous to the Cause they love so dearly; so much so that when it became known that Meknez and Port Lyautey had insufficient numbers to assure formation of the new local assemblies, more than enough persons from other communities took up residence in these cities, the trend went too far, and a previously established community found itself lacking.

This is one of the problems with which the Regional Teaching Committee struggles, but to the friends in Morocco it is just another manifestation of that wonderfully dedicated spirit through which the Bahá'ís, worldwide, achieve the goals that each year become more startling than the year before.

—ROBERT L. HAFER

Photostats of deed of sale, transferring thirteen titles to the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, to the Mansion of Bahá'u'lláh, and all the properties at Bahji from the State of Israel to the Israel Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America.
Cornerstone Containing Baha’i Documents and Relics Laid in Ceremony at Baha’i Home in Wilmette

The cornerstone of the Bahá’í Home for the Aged in Wilmette, containing many Bahá’í documents and relics, was laid in a formal ceremony on April 5, 1958.

Horace Holley, Hand of the Cause and Secretary of the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly, representing the Bahá’í Temple Trustees, addressed the gathering of over sixty persons that included John C. Sanderson, president of the Wilmette Village Board; William Campbell Wright, architect of the Bahá’í Home; representatives of the contractor and construction firms; Wilmette residents, and Bahá’ís from the Chicagoland area.

“Our architect, William Campbell Wright, has designed a structure which admirable provides for guests and management personnel, and in addition has produced a building in keeping with the neighborhood,” Mr. Holley stated in his address. “The Bahá’ís are proud indeed to add this second national Bahá’í institution to the resources of Wilmette Village. Our investment in the village exceeds three million dollars, and the House of Worship and its landscaped gardens have attracted some nine hundred thousand visitors from countries throughout the world.”

Explaining the significance of the Bahá’í Home, Mr. Holley said: “The Bahá’í Home has this relationship to the Bahá’í Temple: it fulfills the meaning and power of divine worship in service to our fellow men; for this institution is not restricted to members of our Faith, but opens its doors to persons without any religious discrimination.”

Words of appreciation to the Village authorities were followed by the announcement that the Bahá’í Temple Trustees have submitted an offer to the Wilmette Village Board to select a Wilmette resident as a non-paying guest in the Bahá’í Home:

“On behalf of the Bahá’í Trustees I wish to express our grateful appreciation to the Village authorities for their kind cooperation over the period of nearly fifty years since the first piece of land was purchased for the future Temple.

“In token of this appreciation, the Trustees have submitted an offer to the Village Board to receive as a non-paying guest any Wilmette resident the Board chooses to designate.”

After describing the contents of the copper box that was later placed within the concrete cornerstone inscribed with the figure “1958,” Mr. Holley closed his talk with “May I now, in conclusion, express the confident hope that the Bahá’í Home will prove to be a credit to this Village and deserve the goodwill of its citizens.”

The documents and materials to be preserved within the cornerstone include:

Members of the National Spiritual Assembly 1957-58
Names of Architect and Contractors

Messages from the Guardian:
Launching the World Embracing Spiritual Crusade, October 8, 1952
To the Forty-ninth Annual Convention of the American Bahá'ís, April 1957
The Bahá'í Faith—Ten Year Bahá'í Teaching Plan by Shoghi Effendi
Bahá'í House of Worship
World Map showing where Bahá'ís reside, April 1957
Bahá'í World Faith (marked copy)
Photographs:
Shrine of the Bab in the Holy Land
Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette, Illinois
Sand from the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh
Quartz used in building Bahá'í House of Worship
Orange from tree in the courtyard of the House of the Bab in Shiraz, Persia
City of Acre—Israeli Tourist Pamphlet
Chicago Tribune article, March 3, 1957
Chicago Daily News article, March 13, 1958
Wilmette Life article, December 5, 1957
Copy of letter to President of Village of Wilmette, April 1, 1958

Bahá'ís of Northeast Africa
Share Inspiration and Deepening

A Bahá'í Youth Committee of Asmara, Eritrea (Ethiopia), appointed by the Local Spiritual Assembly of Asmara a year ago, has made excellent progress in teaching as well as in deepening their own knowledge of the Faith. Through their efforts they have not only increased their numbers considerably in a year, but have rendered a great service to the entire community, the Local Assembly states.

One of their first steps was to organize Youth Conferences, held every other week, with lecturers and discussion on various Bahá'í topics. They also took responsibility in conducting courses at the First Asmara Summer School and in bringing friends to the sessions. Other services rendered by the youth have been translation work, and assisting the Teaching Committee during the months of their school vacation.

Visitors Bring Stimulus to Bahá'ís of Somalia

Colored films of the Asmara Summer School were taken by Auxiliary Board member Mr. Shayani on a visit to the Bahá'ís of Mogadiscio in Somalia in January just prior to the Africa Conference in Kampala. Shortly after the Conference the revered Hand of the Cause, Mr. Samandari, accompanied by Habibullah Manavi of Turkey, visited the Mogadisco community and met with many of their friends. The Assembly reports: "He was always ready to receive and serve visitors and his wonderful spirit was an inspiration and example for all." Jeanne Mesbah, returning to Asmara from the Conference, also met with these friends, "bringing her radiance and enthusiasm to encourage a small community."

"A New Day Comes" Published in Oneida for Indian Teaching

A New Day Comes, selections from Bahá'í Writings in Oneida and English, is just off the press. Oneida is a dialect of the Iroquois Indian group. Friends who can use this booklet in their teaching work among the Indians are invited to request free copies from the American Indian Service Committee; Mrs. Nancy Phillips, secretary; 736 Encanto Drive, S.E.; Phoenix, Ariz.
Los Angeles Bahá'ís Assist Indians in Adjustment to City Life

Mrs. Stevie Standingbear (left) and Mrs. Piquali Rifle (right), directors of the Los Angeles Indian Center, with Mrs. Nancy Phillips of the Bahá'í Indian Service Committee, at the Los Angeles Indian Center on February 22. The friendly welcome the Bahá'ís received seems to be reflected in the faces of Mrs. Standingbear and Mrs. Rifle.

The Los Angeles Bahá'í Community has initiated a program, under the guidance of the American Indian Service Committee, of assisting American Indians in their city who are undergoing the difficult problem of relocation and adjustment to city life. It began with an all-day Indian Teaching Conference on February 22, with thirty-eight Bahá'ís present in the morning to hear Francis Johnson and Mrs. Nancy Phillips from the Indian Service Committee, and David Villasenor of Pasadena speak on the Indian's background, his spiritual depth, and his special problems.

In the afternoon twenty-eight Bahá'ís went to the Indian Center in Los Angeles and held frank consultation concerning the needs of the Indians, after which they were escorted to residential areas where the Indian relocatees live. In the evening the Bahá'ís again met to discuss ways in which they might be of service to the Indians. They were advised by Mr. Johnson, chairman of the Indian Service Committee, to be sincere in their efforts and above all not to make any promises to the Indians that they could not fulfill.

Concerning these initial efforts the Los Angeles Bahá'í Journal states: "Each Bahá'í who attended felt the historic importance of this reaching out by the Bahá'í community to assist the Indians... Positive plans for a continuing action program will now be centered on one facet of America's Spiritual Mission—that of teaching the Indian through service."

Abdül-Bahá said, "You must give great importance to teaching the Indians, that is, the aborigines of America." Shoghi Effendi has continually emphasized the importance of this teaching work.

In addition to the urgent pioneering needs on the reservations, opportunities are now being presented to Bahá'ís in major cities of the United States to engage in service to their brothers, the first Americans. The United States Government Bureau of Indian Affairs has a program of relocating Indians to five major cities—Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Chicago, and St. Louis.
Many New Book Titles Announced at U.S. National Convention

An unusual number of new titles has been announced this year by the U.S. Bahá’í Publishing Trust, their publication dates coinciding with the 1958 National Convention and the Western Hemisphere Conference. The majority of these works have been planned specifically to fill the most urgent needs in relation to the teaching work that remains to be accomplished during this last half of the Ten-Year Plan.

Tribute to Shoghi Effendi

Through arrangements with the publisher of Circle of Faith by Marcus Bach, a book has been published that includes only the section on Shoghi Effendi, along with an introduction by Hand of the Cause Horace Holley, and including a tribute given to the beloved Guardian by Marcus Bach at the time of his passing in London.

An Appeal to Christians by Auxiliary Board Member

Great Themes of Life by Eric Bowes consists of lectures originally given in a Congregational church in Australia with simple, direct logic, clearly understandable to the average Christian church member. This is an excellent follow-up to the teaching campaign inaugurated so vigorously last year with The Christian Century Reprint, Christ and Bahá’u’lláh, and The Lord of the New Age.

Flexible-Covered Prayer Books Now Available

Because of many requests from the friends for a soft-covered prayer book printed on thin India paper, an edition has been published. This is the Combined Edition, containing both the General and Occasional Prayers. A flexible-covered General Prayers has also been produced and printed on the same antique paper as before.

New Children’s Book in Color

A new children’s book that delightfully illustrates the invocation Blessed Is the Spot, has been published, with drawings prepared by Anna Stevenson.

Other new titles include God, His Mediator and Man, a book on comparative religion by Pritam Singh and Doris McKay; The Destiny of America, a new pamphlet by Stanwood Cobb that covers the inception of the Faith in America, the Divine Plan, the present World Crusade, and the future of the American nation, all in a manner to gain the respectful attention of the public for the meaning and purpose of the Bahá’í Faith; and a 1958-59 Pocket Calendar.

Centralized Literature Service Organized in Morocco

The Regional Teaching Committee for Morocco announces that it has organized a central literature distribution service for all the communities and friends in Morocco. Literature will be stocked in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. The purchase of literature with different currencies will be facilitated by locating the distribution center in the free exchange city of Tangier.

In the past, difficulties incurred in obtaining literature on the part of individuals and by several communities have resulted in much duplicated effort and a sporadic supply. The teaching efforts here have definitely been hampered by a lack of literature and it is believed that the new central distribution service will eliminate these problems.

Hand of Cause, Auxiliary Board Member on Teaching Tours in Canada

John A. Robarts, Hand of the Cause from Africa, and former Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of Canada, is at present on a cross-Canada speaking tour. While he was in the Maritimes, several believers in the New Territories goals gathered for the conference held in Moncton. Bruce Matthews arrived from Newfoundland, Mrs. Doris Richardson from Grand Manan, Mrs. Ola Pawlowska from St. Pierre and Miquelon, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Irving Geary from Cape Breton, and Larry Rowdon from the Magdalen Islands.

Mrs. Peggy Ross of Scarborough, Ontario, a member of the Auxiliary Board for Teaching for North America, recently visited western Ontario, where it is reported there is very active teaching work progressing. It is hoped that two new local assemblies will be formed, and another assembly restored.

Announce Dates For Djakarta Conference

The fifth and final Intercontinental Conference for 1958 will be held at Djakarta, Indonesia, on September 22 to 27.

Further details will be published in an early issue of Bahá’í News.
The Teaching Challenge to Negro Baha'is

Ever since the passing of our beloved Guardian, the American Baha'i community has been endeavoring as never before to assess their total responsibility in the global Crusade. Perhaps nowhere else can they find a clearer statement of the specific objectives for this closely-knit family than in Shoghi Effendi's matchless document, "Heights Never Before Attained." Not the least of his strong admonitions and pleas is the urgent necessity to remove the stain of racial prejudice from the mantle of the true believers and thereby attract with hearts of pure gold and actions of stainless sincerity the colored people while there is yet time in which to demonstrate the vitality and meaning of their Faith.

In The Advent of Divine Justice the beloved Guardian's acute and peerless knowledge was forevisioned for us over twenty years ago, when he emphasized the critical necessity for the American friends to rid themselves, once and for all, of any taints or hints of this pernicious defilement. The hour has now come when the Negro, enticed and sought after by an ever-increasing number of missionary bands, have become deeply suspicious and highly sensitive. This suspicion, the Guardian said, was the Negro's protection against the perfidy of the white man's word and intention. Had they not been "a sound, talented and sensitive" people, he explained, they would have been relegated to the same conditions as the Indian minority.

No individual, regardless of position or experience, could ever grasp the intensity and seriousness of this situation better than the Guardian. This was all the more evident in the force and power of his words, the sincerity and empathy of his feelings, the fearlessness and audacity of his attitude. At one point in our meeting with the beloved Guardian, his disapprobation of the depth and degree of this malignant tumor in the fabric of American society caused us to suffer, with the white friends present, the depression induced by his words.

Can such intense concern ever be considered lightly or easily dismissed? Dare we, as the products of that very society, lose sight of this cancerous growth that has eaten away the heart and soul of those who harbor it? Cannot the submerged turbulence of this whole crisis be seen almost daily, a vindication of the Guardian's dire prediction?

A Staggering Test of Faith

Indeed, the friends of this country are faced with a difficult and staggering test of their faith. The chosen of God are bound to be a severely tested and tried people. The beloved Guardian explained that the Faith has not grown in America because there have as yet been no tests, no persecutions, no crises. Their glory and blessings are held back until they have sacrificed everything solely for love of God and obedience to His commands.
The true Baha'i can expect to draw at first the recriminations and attacks of the misguided through his efforts to reflect the light and spirit of his Faith. Every day finds a fresh opportunity for the believer to show forth the attributes and qualities of the new race of mankind, inspired by the Báb, established by Bahá'u'lláh, exemplified by Abdu'l-Bahá, and guided by Shoghi Effendi.

The Guardian said that crises have a two-fold effect. On the one hand, they purge the Faith, and on the other, they cause the Faith to grow and progress. He emphasized that the friends should be audacious in their devotion to the Cause and fearless in their undying zeal to serve Bahá'u'lláh. As an example of the purity of heart and soul, the deep sincerity and patient determination of the true believer, he pointed to the outstanding victories of the pioneers in Africa and the South Pacific.

Opportunity Extended Again

What a golden opportunity for the colored friends to arise and answer the call to extend the loving arm of the Faith they espouse to their brothers in the south as well as in the rest of the country! The beloved Guardian offered this precious privilege once before to the colored believers when the Africa campaign was opened. Only a few responded. Now the gift of leading the ranks and laying a firm foundation has been proffered to them again. As the Guardian said when he spoke of the American believers as a whole regarding the triumphs of the African and South Pacific campaigns compared to the gains on the home front, "It remains to be seen what will be done!"

Who else but our beloved Guardian could perceive the signs of the times and delineate our role so clearly and unmistakably? Let us with firm resolve and prayerful but instantaneous action meet this challenging responsibility with undiminished vigor and win for the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh those "inestimable prizes within our reach."

—WILLIAM W. ALLISON
THELMA ALLISON

Spirit of Rededication Emerges From South American Schools

Many new summer schools were inaugurated in South America this year in accordance with the Guardian's instructions to establish schools in each country. From all over the continent have come acclamations of a new spirit of rededication and a determination to accomplish all of the appointed tasks of the World Crusade. Although land has been acquired for these schools, complete facilities for functioning are not yet available everywhere, so that temporary arrangements had to be made in many places; but the new spirit of unity and enthusiasm that prevailed was not dimmed by any lack of facilities.

Special School for Huanuni Indian Pioneers

Bolivia held its first summer school December 20 to 30 in Cochabamba, with the all-Indian Bahá'í
Five Baha'is Participate
In New York UN NGO Conference
Among the 500 participants from 150 organizations attending the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations on United Nations Information, held February 26 and 27 at UN Headquarters in New York, were five Baha'is representing the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly and the Baha'i International Community.

The major theme was the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is being observed during 1958. Stressed was the key importance of non-governmental organizations helping to make this observance worthy and fruitful.

For two and a half of the four sessions the Conference met in plenary session; during the remaining time attendants separated into two working groups, one devoting itself to plans for the observance, the other studying problems of the dissemination of information on the progress of the work on two draft Covenants of Human Rights previous to February 20, 1957, when they were approved by the Economic and Social Council, but action has not yet been taken by the General Assembly.

Whereas the Declaration of Human Rights establishes general principles and ideals, but is not compulsory, the Covenants, when adopted, will have the force of international law.

The Conference as a whole was ad-

Three Declarations Result from Loncoche School
"So intense was the spirit of confirmation that three enrollments resulted..." states a report from the Loncoche, Chile, Baha'i School, at their meeting from January 17 to 25.

Because of distances involved and difficulties of travel, the National Spiritual Assembly of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela proposed that each Baha'i community have its own Summer School this year. The sessions in Arequipa, Peru, on February 9 and February 17 took the form of a workshop, with each Baha'i given an opportunity to demonstrate how to teach some aspect of the Faith. Their fellowship was highlighted by a picnic in a nearby country village for about thirty Baha'is and their families.

Colombia held a combination Summer School and their annual Regional Congress in Medelin from January 4 to 6, with study classes focused on the best ways to teach the Faith in their country.

Baha'i Summer School and Congress held in Medelin, Colombia, on January 4-8, 1958.

Baha'i Youth Group of Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, who have organized a study club for young people interested in steps to unite the human race around the world.
addressed during the earlier part of the first morning session by Ahmed S. Bokhari, UN Under-Secretary for the Department of Public Information; and Benjamin Cohen, Under-Secretary for the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Mr. Bokhari declared that in the future, when contemporary events are viewed in proper perspective, the adoption of the Declaration ten years ago might be judged the most important action taken by the United Nations, of greater long-term importance than current political issues. The remarkable fact of the Universal Declaration is that its principles have been found acceptable to all the diverse peoples of the United Nations.

Mr. Cohen declared that implementation of the right of self-determination has been progressing quietly through UN activities. One-quarter of the world’s population has acquired self-rule since 1945, and more than a score of nations have been brought into the councils of the UN. The aim of leading peoples toward independence or self-government, set down in the UN Charter as a principle of Trusteeship, is in fact being carried out.

In answer to questions, delegates were informed that both UN Day on October 24, and Human Rights Day on December 10 will be observed in 1958, despite the fact they are so near together. Though the celebrations will be entirely separate, the theme for UN Day this year will emphasize Human Rights. Whereas UN Day is a celebration, Human Rights Day is more properly an observance, since the Declaration is an instrument for facing the facts and promoting future amelioration.

All conferences to date have been sponsored by the Department of Public Information, which has felt duty bound to adhere to its function of giving information about the United Nations. There has been a demand through the years for more participation by the non-governmental organizations and for a wider choice of subject. DPI officers stated that they would welcome conferences so planned, but felt that they must be sponsored in that case by the NGO’s, though with full cooperation on the part of the DPI.

Accordingly, a resolution was adopted instructing the Executive Committee to study the problem of running a Conference under the sponsorship of the NGO’s, and to bring in a recommendation to the next conference. The two Bahá’í delegates voted for this resolution.

It was a fine conference. To Bahá’ís it clearly revealed the fact that principles of the Bahá’í Faith are being put into force by well-meaning peoples covering many walks of life. To other attending delegates and observers, the conference demonstrated the tremendous strides that have been made in the field of human rights, and pointed out the responsibility of the NGO’s to publicize the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration, as well as to awaken new interest and understanding of them.

—Mary L. C. Burnett
Lee Blackwell

List Bahá’í Addresses

For Visitors to Brussels

Presuming a considerable number of Bahá’ís who will tour Europe this summer will include a visit to the World’s Fair in Brussels, the Local Spiritual Assembly of Brussels wishes them to have addresses where Bahá’ís can be reached. The address of the Hazíratu’l-Quds of Belgium is 54 rue Stanley, Brussels, but as no one lives there, it is essential to telephone any of the following members on the reception committee before going to the Center:

47.03.29—Mr. and Mrs. Nys (in French and English)
47.68.92—Mrs. DeKeninck (in French only)
47.63.77—Mr. and Mrs. Samii (Persian, French, English)

All Bahá’ís going abroad with the intention of meeting believers anywhere are instructed to carry current identification cards signed by the Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly.

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Benelux Countries will welcome Bahá’í teachers who can undertake teaching visits to Holland and Luxembourg in addition to cities of Belgium.

BAHÁ’Í IN THE NEWS

A work by Charles S. Braden entitled “Jesus Compared” contains this reference to the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh: “On the basis of numbers, the Bahá’í Faith . . . might . . . be considered one of the great religions . . .”

The Chicago American Pictorial Living for November 24, 1957, carried a photograph of the Bahá’í Temple entitled “Picture of the Week” with an award to the photographer.

The Jacksonville (Florida) Journal, November 11, 1957, ran a feature story entitled “Some Information on Bahá’í Faith,” a very fair presenta
Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, incorporated on September 21, 1937, with the articles of incorporation amended on February 24, 1938.

tion of Bahá’í history and teachings.

Congressional Record, January 21, published remarks by Hon. Abraham J. Muller, Representative of New York, on "Israel's Youngest Religion," which quotes the article by Herbert Freeden, Jerusalem, already noted in this column.

The Sarasota (Florida) Herald Tribune on February 17, reporting the all-Florida sculpture exhibit, reproduced a photograph of the sculpture winning the first prize. This piece was designed and constructed by Vernon Voelz, member of the local Bahá’í community.

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, March 2, is publishing a series of articles by foreign consuls. The final article by Nahum Astor, Counsel of Israel, stressed the freedom of religion accorded by the Israeli government, mentioning the fact that the "country is the world center of the Bahá’í Faith and the spiritual leader of the Faith resides in Israel."

Pittsburgh Courier Sunday Magazine section, March 1, featured a story on the Faith under the caption "Followers of World's Youngest Religion Spread the Message." Written by Julius W. Holder, the article speaks of local Bahá’í interracial groups who are spreading the Message throughout the United States. Illustrations include the House of Worship, the Shrine of the Báb, and a photograph of two Bahá’í teachers, Mrs. Joseph W. McCormack and Eulalia Barrow, sister of Joe Louis.

On March 13, an article by John Drury was devoted to Wilmette in a Chicago Daily News series dealing with towns and villages adjacent to Chicago. "A world-renowned sight in the Village today is the Bahá’í Temple...." Photographs of the House of Worship and the old Grosse Point Lighthouse illustrate the text.

Three poems by Mrs. Belle Tatum, Bahá’í of Muskegon, Mich., have been published in the Muskegon Chronicle. One is entitled "Our Guardian" and another "The Temple."

L’Afrique et le Monde, a weekly journal published in Brussels, Belgium, announced in its February 6 issue that an intercontinental Bahá’í conference was being held in Kampala, and described the Faith as a Moslem religious sect originating in Persia. Immediate action was taken by the Regional Assembly of the Benelux Countries to correct this error and a later issue published a letter prepared by the Assembly.

Le Petit Journal, a Quebec Province newspaper published in French ran a feature article on March 2 entitled "The Followers of the Great Bahá’u'lláh—there are 100 Bahá’is in Montreal." An illustration of the Wilmette Temple referred to its French-Canadian architect, Louis Bourgeois. The author, Roland Côté, evidently studied the basic literature and also the three-fold character of the Nineteen-Day Feast.

A reprint has been made of an article written by Marie Kershaw Frain, M. D., Bahá’í of Jackson, La., from the Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease, Vol. 124, No. 4.

A German illustrated magazine, Pfingst und Gartenschau, for June 1956, published a beautiful photograph of the Shrine of the Báb, and photographs of the Bahá’í Gardens, the Mansion of Bahá’u’lláh, and a view of the Bay of Haifa from Mt. Carmel.

Baha’i Publishing Trust

Shoghi Effendi: An Appreciation. By Marcus Bach. Introduction by Horace Holley. A tribute to Shoghi Effendi made at the time of his passing and the special section of Circle of Faith related to the Guardian. (Hawthorn Books)

Hardbound ..................... $2.00

Great Themes of Life. By Eric Bowes. Relates the most familiar and beloved Bible themes to their fulfillment today in the Bahá’í Faith. This direct challenge to Christians is given with understanding and sympathy as lectures originally given in the author’s childhood church in Australia. The author, member of the Auxiliary Teaching Board, once studied for the ministry.

Bound in yellow cloth
(with jacket) .................$1.50

Blessed Is The Spot. Invocation of Bahá’u’lláh. Illustrated by Anna Stevenson. Each portion of the beautiful text, such as "the mountain," "the valley," etc., has been charmingly illustrated with a double-page spread. The artist has drawn inspiration from many children of the world occupied with imaginative things that engage hearts and minds of children everywhere. An appealing book for children up to eight or ten years of age (and their parents and teachers). A book that can be freely given as a gift to all children of any religion, as the theme is universal.

Hardbound
(illustrated cover) ................$1.50

God, His Mediator and Man. A Study in Comparative Religion. The opening essay by Pritam Singh of India, summarizing briefly the revealed religions of the world, is followed by an exposition on the theme, "The Oneness of Mankind" by Doris McKay. The work of these two Bahá’í authors of widely separated cultural and religious backgrounds was prepared originally for World Order magazine.
The major portion of the book, by Doris McKay, compares the way in which the Word of God has been given to each Revelator — and their lives and teachings — in a progressive way that evolves into the one Book of God for this day. The work is useful for discussion groups and all teaching and contact work, as well as being highly educational for Bahá’ís themselves. 40 pp., 9 x 6, designed by Conrad Heleniak.

Bound in stiff paper ............ $ .60
20 copies ...................... $ 5.00

The Destiny of America. By Stanwood Cobb. A completely new work on America’s spiritual role in the world today, written to gain respect and attention of the public. It is suitable for every type of distribution—personal contacts, mailing lists, public meetings, literature racks, and for prestige presentations. The size, 3 1/4 x 7, is available in standard No. 8 business envelopes, and in some smaller stationery envelopes. Cover designed by Wm. Musler.

10 copies ...................... $ 1.00
25 copies ...................... $ 2.00
100 copies ..................... $ 7.00
500 copies ..................... $30.00

Pocket Calendar, 1958-59. This small billfold or pocket-sized calendar indicates all Feast and Holy Days. The back of the card has inspirational reminders of “Ten Ways I Can Resolve to Serve the Faith of God.” Calendar begins with May 1, 1958, and runs until May 1, 1959.

10 copies ...................... $ .50
25 copies ...................... $ 1.00

New Flexible-cover Prayer Books Now Available

Bahá’í Prayers. Combined Edition. The text of this book is identical to the 1954 Combined Edition, containing special prayers for Bahá’ís under Bahá’í Occasional Prayers in the back, separated by tinted divider for easy reference. It is printed on Thin-text (India paper), with soft, fully flexible covers, round corners, and will easily fit vest pocket or purse. (Please specify blue, flexible cover, Combined Edition; otherwise regular hardbound edition will be sent).

Bound in royal blue simulated Moroccan leather, stamped in gold leaf ........ $1.60

Bahá’í Prayers. General Edition. Same as 1954 General Edition, with exception of fully flexible, round-cornered binding. This is a beautiful book and is especially appropriate as a gift since it does not contain the prayers that have meaning only for Bahá’ís.

Bound in old ivory
Spanish leatherette
(no increase in price) ....... $1.25

NOTE: Copies of the green hard-bound Combined Edition of Bahá’í Prayers will continue to be available for a limited period of time at regular price of $1.50.

Atomic Mandate. By Marzieh Gail. There is a way of living in the world today that can make the bomb harmless. The author of this brief pamphlet tells how, and in doing so gives the Bahá’í message in a way that is understandable to everyone.

10 copies ...................... $ .50
100 copies ..................... $4.50

Minimum Mail Order, $1.00
Available from:
BAHA’I PUBLISHING TRUST
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

Correction
The photograph of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Seremban, Malaya, in the March 1958 issue of Bahá’í News, was incorrectly reported as the first Local Assembly, formed on April 21, 1957. Actually the first Local Spiritual Assembly of Seremban was formed at Ríván 1955.

Calender of Events

FEASTS
May 17 — ’Azamat (Grandeur)
June 5 — Nur (Light)

HOLY DAYS
May 23 — Declaration of the Báb
May 29 — Ascension of Bahá’u’lláh

Bahá’í House of Worship
Visiting Hours
Weekdays
10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (Entire building)
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays
10:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Entire building)
5:00 P.M. to 9 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Service of Worship
Sundays
3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.
Hands of Cause Inaugurate Memorial Fund for Erection of Monument for Guardian’s Resting Place in London

The following cablegram was received on April 20, 1958, from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land:

Eve Blessed Ridvan Invite Believers Contribute Special Memorial Fund Beloved Guardian Purpose Erection Monument His Sacred Though We Trust Not Ultimate Resting-Place Stop All Surplus Funds Contributed Will Be Expended Aid Completion Three Mother Temples in Fulfilment His Own Pledge Contribute One Third Total Amount Also Attainment Other Objectives Crusade So Dear His Heart For Which He Utterly Sacrificed Time Strength Life.

(Signed) Hands of Faith.

Commentary on Cable Dated April 19 Concerning the Special Memorial Fund

Beloved Friends:
The cable received from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land offers every Bahá’í a sacred privilege to contribute to the cost of a befitting monument for the resting place of the beloved Guardian in London. By contributing we express our reverence and abiding gratitude to the noble leader through whose sacrifice the Bahá’í community has been transformed since the passing of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and many of the goals established in the Tablets of the Divine Plan have been achieved.

The National Spiritual Assembly shares this message with the American Bahá’ís in perfect confidence that they will be grateful for this unique opportunity to cooperate with the Bahá’ís of all countries in manifesting their devotion to the Faith and exalting the memory of the revered Guardian in the eyes of the public.

Contributions made to the Memorial Fund are to be over and above all customary contributions to local and national funds. The National Treasurer will transmit to Haifa all sums earmarked for the Memorial Fund.

—U.S. National Spiritual Assembly

Message From the Custodians of the Faith in the Holy Land to the Intercontinental Conference in Sydney

Although but five months have elapsed since the passing of our beloved Guardian shook the Bahá’í world and caused turmoil in the hearts of the followers of Bahá’u’lláh, the power of this supreme Faith to survive so grievous a blow is now clearly manifest. A new spirit of determination, dedication, and resolve can be seen throughout the entire World Bahá’í Community. Deprived of him who was our Guardian, our guide, and our true brother, we nevertheless feel his presence constantly in the smooth workings of the mighty Order he erected, according to the designs of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, and in the writings, messages, and letters he left us, and above all, in the unfolding of the Ten-Year Crusade he so carefully planned, so untringly promulgated, and so energetically prosecuted through the intermediary of not only the Hands of the Cause and the regional and national assemblies, as well as the auxiliary boards and local assemblies, but above all, through the vast and consecrated army of believers the world over. Our grief at the passing of the beloved Guardian remains fresh in our hearts, but with it is mixed a joy for his sake that he no longer has to
He also strongly emphasized the need to concentrate on teaching the Maoris, to whom he attached great importance, and to increase the centers in the South Island. To the Australian National Spiritual Assembly he particularly recommended the needs of the far-flung teaching work in the Islands. He was immensely pleased and proud of the work accomplished and being carried on by the pioneers, and urged that at all costs their labours be fully supported and reinforced, that more literature in island tongues be added to the translations already so successfully undertaken, that the native believers be strengthened and increased, and that particular attention be given to the Bahá’í School in the New Hebrides, a school of which he was immensely proud and to which he attached great importance.

There can be no doubt that the Australian and New Zealand friends gathered here, as well as those who have come in from the islands for this historic occasion, see before them a glowing vista of future achievements painted in the words of our beloved Guardian. They must, however, bear in mind that the road will not be a smooth one. How repeatedly he warned us all that before the first mighty fruits of the World Order of Bahá’ulláh would appear must come a period of unparalleled trial and struggle for mankind; that tests and dangers would beset the believers from both within and without. We see now the heaviest blow, his own passing, having already struck us, how difficult may be our path, how heavy our burdens. In his Convention Message last April he wrote: “Parallel with this process of progressive deterioration in human affairs, now visibly gathering momentum outside the pale of the Faith of Bahá’ulláh, and recalling the convulsions which, on a far more restricted scale, seized a declining empire in the opening centuries of the Christian era, far less spectacular in its manifestation, has been the process of integration, as demonstrated by the increasing cohesion, the multiplication, and the reinforcement of the foundations, of the institutions of the embryonic Bahá’í World Order, which now, under the impact of the forces released by a World Spiritual Crusade, deriving its authority from the Will and Testament of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, and launched for the express purpose of executing the Divine Plan bequeathed by Him to His followers in the evening of His life, is contributing, unnoticed by a generation forgetful of its God, and already in the shadow of His Visitation, to the building up, slowly but irresistibly, of that Ark of human salvation, ordained as the ultimate haven of a society destined, for the most part, to be submerged by the tidal wave of the abuses and evils which its own perversity has engendered.”

Whatever may befall us, before this Ark of human salvation is safely launched as the only refuge mankind can know, we are assured that the ultimate victory will be ours, ours the glory of having served and sacrificed for this Most Holy Faith, ours the crown of having remained steadfast in the path laid down for us by our well-beloved Guardian, ours the reward of his radiant smile when we meet him face to face in a better world, ours the joy of hearing him say: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Signed:
KUNÍYIH
AMELIA COLLINS
SH. ‘ALÁ’Í
A. Q. FAZÍ

A. FURTUN
JALÀL KHÁZEH
UGO GIACHEREY
PAUL HANEY

Five Hands of the Cause, Representatives of 19 Countries Attend Intercontinental Conference in Sydney, Australia

In accordance with the Beloved Guardian’s instructions in his cable of October 1957, the second of the 1958 series of Intercontinental Conferences was convened in Sydney, Australia, from March 2 to 24 by the Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Australia, Hand of the Cause Collis Featherstone.

One hundred and ninety-two believers registered at the Conference.

It was fitting that on the eve of this historic conference, the first of its kind ever held in Australasia, the representatives of nineteen countries should assemble to observe the Feast of Splendour, the first observance of the New Year. This was indeed a blessed occasion for no less than five Hands of the Cause of God were present: Mrs. Clara Dunn, pioneer of the Australasian continent; Miss Agnes Alexander, pioneer of North East Asia; Mr. Charles Mason Remey, representing the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land; Mr. Dhikru’lláh Khádem from Iran; and Mr. Collis Featherstone. Also present were five Auxiliary Board members.

The Conference proper opened at 9 a.m. on Friday March 21 when, following Devotions, Mr. Featherstone welcomed on behalf of the Australian National Assembly all those who had travelled from far and near to be present. In particular, he expressed the great joy of the Australian believers in having among them for the first time, Hand of the Cause Charles Mason Remey, the Beloved Guardian’s appointed representative to the Conference. After outlining the purposes and plans of the Conference, Mr. Featherstone called on the representatives from outside Australia to present their greetings:

Iran, Pakistan, Korea, Japan, South East Asia, Tonga, New Guinea, Papua, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Formosa, and the United States.

Suggesting that he might be called the Bahá’í “Sputnik,” Mr. Sabet brought greetings from America, where he had been spending a few days on his way to the Conference.

Finally the Chairman called upon Hand of the Cause Mason Remey, who after expressing his personal de-
light in attending the historic Antipodean Conference, presented the stirring and heart-warming Message addressed to those attending the Conference from the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land. This message emphasized the “vast panorama of future developments in the entire Pacific Area” for which “tremendous responsibility inevitably rested on the two oldest and strongest communities, represented by the Australian National Spiritual Assembly and the National Spiritual Assembly of North East Asia.”

Recalling the beloved Guardian’s repeated warnings of the tests and dangers which would beset the believers ere “this Ark of human salvation is safely launched,” and reviewing the tremendous tasks which lay ahead of the Australian and New Zealand communities, the Custodians of the Faith concluded their message in these words: “We are assured that the ultimate victory will be ours, ours the glory of having served and sacrificed for this Most Holy Faith, ours the crown of having remained steadfast in the path laid down for us by our well-beloved Guardian, ours the reward of his radiant smile when we meet him face to face in a better world, ours the joy of hearing him say: ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant’.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE: This message is printed in its entirety in this issue of BAHÁ’I NEWS on page 1.)

On Friday afternoon devotions were shaped to meet the first of the five purposes of the Conference. The Conference then despatched the following cable to the Hands in the Holy Land: “BELIEVERS REPRESENTING SEVENTEEN COUNTRIES ASSEMBLED OPENING HISTORIC CONFERENCE SEND LOVING GREETINGS. DEEPLY APPRECIATE PRESENCE BELOVED GUARDIAN’S REPRESENTATIVE. HEARTS STIRRED LOVING MESSAGE. FRIENDS DETERMINED CONSUMMATE CAMPAIGN. IMPOLE SUPPLICATION HOLY SHRINES ALL DELIBERATIONS.”

To Review and Celebrate the Series of Signal Victories

This session of the Conference was led by Mrs. Madge Featherstone, a member of the Australian Asia Teaching Committee, who reviewed the victories achieved so far in the Ten-Year Crusade with particular reference to the Pacific goals. Mrs. Featherstone also spoke briefly of the goals to be re-established, Cocos, Admiralty, and Loyalty Islands. A number of the Pacific pioneers present spoke of their work in the islands and the believers were particularly pleased to hear from Mrs. Bertha Dobbins, pioneer to the New Hebrides, whose school there had won the approval of the Guardian.

The Guardian’s Gifts

On Friday evening at the Australian Ḥażíratu’l-Ḳuds, a profoundly moving scene was witnessed when Hand of the Cause Mason Remey presented to the Conference the Guardian’s gifts: a portion of earth from the inmost Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh, a lock of His Precious Hair, and a reproduction of His portrait. Mr. Remey annointed each of the believers with attar of roses as they approached the precious gifts.

“The Construction and Completion of the Three Mother Temples”

On Saturday morning after devotions, the Conference was addressed by Hand of the Cause Clara Dunn, so dear to all the believers and known affectionately as “Mother” Dunn, who recalled some of the memories of “Father” Dunn and herself as pioneers of a Continent.

Mr. S. W. Bolton, on behalf of the Temple Construction Committee, then spoke of the long search for a suitable site for the Temple and the drawing-up of the plans from Mr. Remey’s original design.

Mr. Habib Sabet then led an appeal for funds for the Temple, which in little more than an hour resulted in cash and pledges totalling a little more than £30,000.

Before lunch all assembled on the spacious lawns in front of the Ḥażíratu’l-Ḳuds for the official photographs.

At the outset of the Conference Mr. Habib Sabet, with the concurrence of the National Spiritual Assembly, had obtained the services of a professional cameraman to record the proceedings of the Conference in a movie film which will in time be circulated throughout the Bahá’í World.

Temple Foundation Ceremony

At 1:00 o’clock, in three omnibuses and a fleet of cars, the believers set out for the Temple site at Mona Vale, some twenty-two miles from the city. Here on a hilltop 700 feet high, from which can be seen the city and its surroundings for some thirty miles in all directions, in an indescribable atmosphere of love and amity, more than 250 people including many members of the general public, watched the Foundation Ceremony.

With prayers of gratitude for the great blessing of having this Mother Temple of the Pacific constructed here in Australia, Mr. Mason Remey placed in a specially prepared position, the small silver casket containing a portion of the earth from the Most Holy Shrine, and dear Mother Dunn placed with it a similar casket containing a piece of plaster from the Báb’s cell.
in the fortress of Mah-kú. These were then sealed in with concrete and thus, in a position which will be directly under the center of the dome, the Australian House of Worship will forever contain these precious links with the two foremost Figures of the Faith.

On Saturday evening, the mid-way point of the Conference, the friends gathered in a more relaxed and informal session and were addressed by Hand of the Cause Mason Remey under the title “Armchair Chat—News of the World Center.”

Following the screening of two films of the Shrines and the Holy Places, Mr. Mason Remey told the Conference of the tremendous work of the Beloved Guardian in connection with the beautification of the Bahá’í properties at Haifa and ‘Akká, and of the sadness which still pervades as a result of his passing. Nevertheless, Mr. Remey said the Hands were profoundly grateful that they had been enabled to complete much of the Guardian’s planning. He spoke of the initial difficulties of the World Center in its relations with the Israeli Government and of how with love and care these had been overcome, even to the point where the President of the country called on our beloved Guardian.

On Sunday morning the review of the Ten-Year Crusade victories was continued, discussion being led by Mr. Eric Bowes. Under this heading more of the Pacific pioneers and a number of the overseas visitors spoke of the ways in which the Faith is being spread. At 2:00 p.m. the Conference paused for a period of solemn devotion to the memory of our late beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi. Following this, the believers listened attentively to an address by Hand of the Cause Dhikru’lláh Khádem, on the achievements of our late Guardian in his thirty-six years of Guardianship.

To Deliberate on Ways and Means

Introducing this subject, which was to occupy the greater part of the Conference’s last day, Hand of the Cause Collis Featherstone spoke of “The Road Ahead.” Under no less than twenty-five distinct headings, Mr. Featherstone surveyed the tremendous tasks which must be completed in the next five years if the Ten-Year Crusade is to achieve the glorious purpose of which the beloved Guardian spoke.

“Above all,” said Mr. Featherstone, “is the need for individual deepening of the spiritual life. Regular reading of the sacred scripture, attendance at Feasts and Anniversaries, sustained regular support of the Funds, and a consciousness that whatever else befalls, the Faith must be and remain the prime purpose and object of our life.”

A public meeting in the city on Sunday evening was attended by almost fifty members of the general public who listened attentively to three speakers who outlined the Christian and Muslim approach to their logical fulfillment in the Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh.

Following devotions on Monday morning, Mr. Peter Bird, chairman of the Australian Bahá’í Public Relations Committee, spoke to the conference on “Reaching the Masses.” Recalling the Guardian’s last Convention message in which he stated that “teaching the Faith to the multitudes . . . must in this year be accorded priority over every other Bahá’í activity,” the speaker outlined the methods of publicity and public relations which are available and which must be understood and used with wisdom to the fullest extent if this purpose is to be achieved.

Auxiliary Board Member Miss Margaret Rowling then spoke of “Guiding the Seeker.” Reviewing briefly the methods of individual teaching, Miss Rowling emphasized the need to understand the individual seeker, his needs, and his desires—and to be able to present to him the answer to his personal problems as but part of the wider picture of world peace and unity which our Faith offers.

Finally, in the morning session the important task of “Nurturing the New Believer” was outlined by Mr. Hugh Blundell, Auxiliary Board member and member of the New Zealand National Spiritual Assembly, who spoke of the vital need to assist the new believer to identify himself with the Bahá’í community, and to deepen his knowledge and understanding of the many facets of the Faith.

In the course of an Open Forum on Monday afternoon, many ideas and suggestions for use, both on the homefront and in the Pacific goals, were brought forward by the friends, methods of using publicity and of establishing public relations, the need to establish contact with governments, and the importance of becoming known among social and ethical movements in one’s civic community.

As this session drew to a close, the friends thrilled to some words from Mr. Qudratulláh Huseyn, likening the Guardian to the candle which burns itself out in order to give light to the world. Mr. Huseyn proposed that had there been more to say, the Guardian would not have been taken from us. “Remember the sacrifices and the martyrdom of the early believers,” he concluded. “Let us have no more talk; let us have action.”

Mr. Mason Remey then outlined “The Guardian’s Plans for Action.” The Faith is now established over the faces of the earth, except in countries behind the Iron Curtain. Soon our pioneers will reach there too, and can expect great harvest. Bahá’ís are the only people who understand the religions of the past and we must go forth and explain these religions to their followers for their meaning has been lost. The Guardian has laid the plans for the Crusade and has shown the ways in which individually and collectively we can play...
Beloved Friends:

For years the believers have anticipated the beloved Guardian’s annual Convention Message, setting forth the year’s achievements on Crusade tasks and stressing those to be carried out in the next phase of the Ten-Year Plan.

The message transmitted to this year’s Conventions held throughout the Bahá’í world was prepared by the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land as an expression of the Guardian’s intention and using data particular, initial plans had been formulated with the North East Asian Assembly for the close cooperation between these two poles of the Pacific spiritual axis for which the Guardian had called.

These were the outward and visible results of the Conference, but the unseen effects were perhaps the more important, the power of love and faith generated in the hearts of each and every one, power to be put into service by each attendant as he returned to his home. In a virgin goal or in our own street or suburb, God has endowed each and every one of us with the power to live and teach His Faith, and whatever our circumstances He can use each one.

Mr. Featherstone closed the Conference with the Báb’s prayer for assistance:

“In the Name of God, the Victor of the most victorious proclaim: God will assist all those who arise to serve Him. No one is able to deprive Him of His majesty, His dominion, His sovereignty, for in the heaven and the earth and in all the realms of God, He is the Victorious and the Conqueror.”

—National Spiritual Assembly of Australia

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

In the few weeks prior to the Conference four full-length articles concerning the Australian House of Worship appeared in leading Australian newspapers. Two of these included references to the Conference. Short paragraphs announcing the Conference appeared in three papers during the week immediately preceding the Conference.

A press reception on Thursday was attended by reporters and photographers from the two Sydney morning papers, both of which carried excellent reports on Friday morning.

Large advertisements carrying pictures of the Temple and notices of the public meeting appeared in the two major Sydney papers on Saturday morning, and smaller ones carrying the Temple picture only appeared in the major newspaper of each other capital city.

Press representatives covered both the Temple Foundation Ceremony and the Public Meeting, but regrettably no further articles were published.

A number of specially printed envelopes and envelope seals carrying the Temple illustration were issued to all those attending the Conference. Used in the mails, these will spread considerable incidental publicity.

U. S. National Assembly Commentary on Convention Message

Shoghi Effendi had assembled before his passing. In addition we find their heartfelt sorrow at the loss of our peerless leader and a feeling that perhaps that tragic event represented the intervention of the Plan of God in the events of the Divine Plan revealed by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. “Every single believer must, during the past six months, have been aware of how mighty is the stronghold of the Faith, how impregnable the walls our Guardian raised about it...”

Ours is now the unique and blessed opportunity to
concentrate attention on the objectives of the Ten-Year Plan in our own area and to contemplate the goals still unfulfilled.

As the Custodians point out, the Guardian in his last message left an instrument and gave instructions by which his work could be carried on, "The Crusade safely prosecuted to the end, the Cause of God protected and the design of Bahá'u'lláh, as embodied in His Most Holy Book, executed."

The Hands recount their grief and sudden feeling of "immense moral responsibility" and what a burden rests upon the nine Hands serving at the World Center, and rejoice at the "clear evidences of the unfailing protection of Bahá'u'lláh vouchsafed to His broken-hearted servants."

The State of Israel poured forth its sympathy. The necessary legal documents were approved by which the interests of the Faith are protected.

Among the great achievements of the World Crusade at the Bahá'i World Center are the purging of the Háram-i-Aqdas of the remnant of the Covenant-breakers, the razing of their properties, the Gardens extended, and the completion of the interior of the International Archives building.

Throughout the continents, the achievements include the holding of two of the five Intercontinental Conferences, the formation of the first National Spiritual Assembly of France, the increase in the number of territories within the Bahá'i community to 254. With the settlement of the Chagos Archipelago and Nicobar Island only twelve territories remain unopened of the 131 new territories listed in the Ten-Year Plan, and of these eleven lie within the Soviet orbit. The number of local centers has been raised to over 4500, an increase of 1300 in the last 3 years.

The message also lists the number of local spiritual assemblies, the translation and publication of Bahá'i literature, the Hazíratu'l-Quds and Endowments purchased, the recognition of Bahá'i Holy Days, the right to conduct legal Bahá'i marriage, and the acquisition of Temple sites.

Statistics for Africa, the Pacific area, and the Western Hemisphere are dramatically presented, and the numerous teaching conferences and congresses reported.

We now enter the fourth phase of the Ten-Year Plan which, as the Guardian stated in October 1957, "must be immortalized by an unprecedented increase in the number of believers, of local centers and by swift progress in erection of the Temples in Africa and Australia and the construction of the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkár of Europe."

Four new national assemblies are to be established in 1959: Burma, Turkey, Austria, and the South Pacific.

The message concludes with the "solemn charge laid upon us by our beloved when he was preparing us to shoulder the tasks of the Holy Crusade: 'I adjure them, by the precious blood that flowed in such great profusion . . . to resolve never to flinch, never to hesitate, never to relax, until each and every obligation . . . has been fully consummated.'"

The National Assembly appeals in all love to the American believers to extend every possible assistance throughout the fourth phase of the World Crusade, by contributing to the National Fund, by pioneering abroad or on the homefront, or by consecrated teaching work in their own communities.

—U.S. National Spiritual Assembly
First Reports of the 1958 National Conventions Reveal Bahá'ís, Newly Aware of Spiritual Forces Released by Guardian’s Ascension, Resolve to Meet Challenges With Maturity, Audacity, and Dedication

**Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela**

This year the hearts of the Bahá’ís of the five countries in the northern zone of South America were turned toward Guayaquil, Ecuador, because there, in that fast-growing, commercial coastal city was held the annual convention of the Bahá’ís of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

The friends arrived several days before the convention to attend the two-day school which has grown out of a need to have more time to get better acquainted. This year our study classes covered parts of the book *Christ and Bahá’u’lláh*. Our Persian friends lent much to the study of the contributions of Muhammad. There were two other classes on Teaching Needs, and Loyalty and Protection of the Cause.

On April 22, the morning of the opening of the convention, we received the letter from the Hands in the Holy Land which both comforted and assured our hearts that although “…the Design has altered the design…the pattern remains in its strength and glory.” Our convention continued in a spirit of seriousness of purpose with always the forward look toward a possibility that one of the five countries in our territory may soon be granted the great honor of having its own National Spiritual Assembly, and others following in the coming years.

From our secretary’s report we realized that we had made strides, not only in numbers but in contributions to our National Fund.

Let the delegates and visitors themselves speak of their impressions of the convention:

"It was the intense longing and need on the part of the delegates and visitors to be here that impressed me," said one friend, referring to the long distances that had been covered by plane, bus, and boat, which involved days and nights of tiring travel.

Another said, "It was the continued feeling of remembrance of our Guardian and our indebtedness to him, and," she added, "the calm assurance of continued guidance."

Another spoke of the growing sense of maturity in consultation.

Several commented on the contributions made by the young people to the spirit of the convention. One said, "It is in them that we have hope for the future."

Others spoke of sacrifice. A young man had saved a thousand dollars in order to visit Haifa when the crushing news came of the passing of our Beloved, preventing him from realizing his dream. He offered this amount, in the name of himself and his wife, toward a goal that is in urgent need of being fulfilled. The following day a young doctor gave 500 soles for the same purpose. All at the convention were given an opportunity to share in contributions for the erecting of a memorial for our Guardian.

One delegate commented on the diversity of languages and accents. There was a continuous flow of Portuguese and Spanish with an intermingling of Portuguese with Persian accent, and Spanish with North-American accent.

The following persons were elected to serve on the National Spiritual Assembly: Margot Worley, Dorothy Campbell, Djalal Eghrari, Edmund Miessler, Cyrus Monadjem, Mercedes Sanchez, Rangvald Taetz, Eve Nicklin, Gayle Woolson. Five of the members live in Brazil, four in Peru and one in Ecuador.

Then came the last day on April 25 when members of the National Spiritual Assembly, delegates, and visitors had to say goodbye to Guayaquil and the friends there that had so lovingly given of their time and their love to make everyone happy and comfortable in their city.

—EVE NICKLIN
Convention Reporter

**Central America, Mexico, and Panama**

The city of Guatemala has been the scene for what surely will be written in future years as a moment of first importance in the awakening of Middle America to the dawn of the New Age.

The Convention of the Bahá’ís of Central America, Mexico, and Panama, coming only six months after the earthquake of our beloved...
Guardian's passing, witnessed to a truly stirring degree those qualities which all the believers in their grief knew must be evidenced at such a crucial time.

It took place in an atmosphere of dedication, determination, and unwavering loyalty to the Covenant and to its custodians, the Hands of the Cause of God. Its deliberations showed a degree of concentration and maturity unknown in the seven previous conventions of the territory. As for unity, one believer remarked that the unity and happiness among the friends is of a completely new quality, and another said on parting, "I have left this convention with nothing but love for everyone I encountered."

It was truly as if the Convention were dedicated not only officially, but in the deeds and resolves of each individual heart present, to Shoghi Effendi. Indeed, this, plus the glorious assurance of Bahá'u'lláh's protection so evident in that vivifying letter from the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land, plus the prayers of all, plus seven years of experience, plus the work of those responsible for the various activities of the Convention, gave to all the sessions this very evident sense of maturity and unity.

Approximately 50 delegates and believers from Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and the Canal Zone began the three-day session with a cordial and animated reception in the Continental Hotel. From this evening event it was evident that there was to be no reserve in the friendliness of believer to believer.

After the election of Artemus Lamb as Chairman and Louis Bouche as Secretary of the Convention and the other preliminaries, came that stirring and strengthening message of the Hands of God in the Holy Land. It was read in Spanish and in English, Spanish being the language of the Convention proceedings. This reading was followed by a cable which tried to carry so much of the love and gratitude of those present:

**BELOVED HANDS,**

**HEARTS UPLIFTED GLORIOUS MESSAGE HOPES RAISED FRIENDS ASSURED FAITH STRENGTHENED MEMORIAL MONUMENT FUND ESTABLISHED.**

It was obvious from the annual reports of the outgoing National Assembly and the various committees that much ground has been gained in the past year, but that much more could have been gained with more funds and more pioneers. Among the most notable advances are: The stepped-up Indian work, including the formation of a new Indian assembly in Sacapulas, Guatemala, in the days immediately preceding the Convention. Also, very encouraging contacts have been made with Indian groups in Mexico and El Salvador; the outstanding progress of the Faith in Guanacaste, Costa Rica; the new and dynamic spirit of the Faith in Mexico, and the formation of a new assembly in Guadalajara; the great increase in summer school sessions, notably in Karbila, Honduras, in Panama, and in El Salvador; the increasing activity of the Latin believers in the teaching and administrative work; the steady addition to the number of assemblies with incorporation; the presentation of portfolios containing the Tablet of Bahá'u'lláh to the leaders of the American Republics to local spiritual assemblies of each capital city; and the arrival of more pioneers to the territory, and numerous others. The strengthening of the Faith in Mexico and Panama, planned with the possible addition of Costa Rica...
to be the earliest of these republics to form their own National Spiritual Assemblies, was one of the most encouraging signs that this Six-Year Plan will, with much prayer and effort, stay on schedule.

The newly elected National Spiritual Assembly for the territory, consisting of James Facey, Artemus Lamb, Esteban Canales, Louis Bouche, Elai Kalantar, Amy McAllister, Alfred Osborn, Dr. Edris Rice Wray, and Valeria Nichols, met immediately to begin their year of work.

Three memorable events were realized in the evenings during the Convention. The first of these, and in many ways the heart of the convention, was an inspiring memorial to Shoghi Effendi held at the Hażratu'l-Quds of Guatemala, and included a musical recording of the "Sweet-Scented Streams," a touching devotional period, followed by the telling of stories and experiences of those present who have made pilgrimages and have seen that blessed face. Then came a well-prepared talk on the Guardian and the Institution of the Hands of the Cause of God.

Saturday evening was dedicated to the Indian work. It was a public meeting with two non-Baha'i speakers, one affiliated with UNESCO and the other with the Government and the University of San Carlos, a trusted friend of the Indians and a scholar of their ways. Both paid high tribute to the ideals and the deeds of the Baha'is. Artemis Lamb then gave a very uplifting and challenging talk, boldly proclaiming that the goal of Baha'u'llah's Faith was to unite organically and spiritually the entire human race, and that these neglected races will, by divine promise, arise to a great and surprising destiny when they understand that Baha'u'llah is the Manifestation of God for them. The evening was then concluded with a delightful presentation by the Quiche Indians from the Baha'i Indian Institute at Chichicastenango with their director, Jennie Taylor.

On Sunday evening the friends gathered again at the Hażratu'l-Quds for the Ridge Feast, a high spiritual experience, fitting perfectly as the climax of this very encouraging and fruitful Convention. As the friends parted or made plans to visit the Institute in Chichicastenango after the Convention, there were unmistakable signs, even without words, that they were resolved to attach themselves to the completing of the goals that this convention so clearly engraved in their minds.

—QUENTIN FARRAND
Convention Reporter

United States

Convening on April 29 for the fiftieth time, at the mid-point of the World Crusade, Baha'i's of the United States declared with 'Abdu'l-Baha, "Now is the time for very great things!" as they set their sights on the theme, "A New Baha'i Era."

In Foundation Hall of "the holiest House of Worship in the world"—from whence would "go forth influence"—delegates of the American Baha'i community gave forth and received a current of searching thoughts and ideas focused on the work already laid out for the next five years by the beloved Guardian, he who had said, "If they would only follow my instructions, be my agents, be reeds through which the spirit could flow to the people of the world, they would be amazed at the victories I would win..."—he who had warned "not to allow... this one remaining opportunity to be irretrievably lost!"

They reminded themselves, and were admonished by their distinguished speakers, that "with his spirit watching over the world now" they truly must "become the reed through which his spirit can flow, the media for the source of salvation to a dying society"; that this very day is "fraught with spiritual power because of the passing of Shoghi Effendi to the Abba Kingdom"; that he had begged "this community—the spiritual descendants of the Dawn-Breakers... champion-builders...standard-bearers...torch-bearers of a future divinely inspired world civilization—(to) arise...to secure the lion's share in the prosecution of a Global Crusade designed to diffuse the Light of God's Revelation over the surface of the entire planet."

They remembered that in 1923 this beloved person had written to the Persians a message of consolation: "The passing of 'Abdu'l-Baha has spread affliction, but His sacred spirit at last has attained the joy of freedom in Paradise. From that lofty peak, He watches and addresses us: 'O ye, my beloved ones, grieve not nor be hopeless and confused. I am with you. Every moment I aid you with renewed confirmation. Sacrifice your lives! Be not deserted, rise in union and harmony! If ye were to fail, ye will never see me, nor meet in the Kingdom. Arise with fortitude!' They were also told that he said to Enoch Olinga, called by him the Father of Victories, when asked what to teach, "Teach them to be saints! We have enough administrators."
First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Salem, Ore., a goal city, formed on April 21, 1958.

Of the rare and beautiful memories of the busy Convention were the silences before prayer, into which was poured the haunting music of the chanting of our beloved Persian friends. It was a wonderful privilege and memorial, to listen to the prayers given to them by Shoghi Effendi himself, and not yet translated into any other language. The collection of chants were like pages of beautiful Persian script translated into music. One also was given in Arabic by a friend from the Baghidad community—and the lovely sounds differed even as do the Persian and Arabic characters delicately penned on the page.

Highlighting the opening of the convention was the message from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land to all of the Annual Conventions of the Bahá’í World read by Horace Holley, revered Hand of the Cause and Secretary of the Convention. He counseled that although now we have no Guardian in the flesh, that although, as written by the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land, the Plan of God has crossed the Divine Plan, seeming to divert it, in the long run it will reinforce it, in a mystery that cannot be explained.

He said that appraising what Shoghi Effendi has given us in world order, interpretation of the messages of Bahá’u’lláh, work so meticulously planned for five more years, we realize that the Guardian is still our guidance and our blessing. "In the formative years of the Faith of God on earth, we had an incomparable Guardian. The victory he won for Bahá’u’lláh will go down through the Bahá’í Era. There is divine guidance for the future House of Justice. We cannot fill all the gaps. Perhaps we will see the pattern more clearly, but we have enough now. A faithful Bahá’í in action has all the insight he needs from day to day to accomplish his mission. The words of Shoghi Effendi are treasured ones. A gardener must protect a young tree, but when the tree becomes mature, it can take care of itself. We are the tree, roots deeply emplanted, branches encircling the world."

These words of Rúhíyyih Khánum were quoted to inspire: "We thought war might interrupt the Divine Plan. We never dreamed the interruption would be the ascension of the Guardian. Our monument to him must be the carrying out of his plans. In the memory of Shoghi Effendi, I implore you to carry on his work as one soul in many bodies!"

Again, from his own last message: "I would . . . entreat every one of them to immortalize this approaching, fateful hour . . . by a fresh consecration . . . instantaneous plan of action . . . dynamic and decisive."

"They cannot be the chosen people of God and do nothing about it." To do the Guardian's bidding will be a true memorial to our beloved Shoghi Effendi.

And so the delegates acknowledged their shortcomings. They said, "Let us go back to significant passages, not to read them once or twice, but go back to them until they become a part of us, until we reflect intensity of spirit, resignation to the Will of God, utmost humility." "We must create a climate for maturity, in order to realize it. Take advantage of the divine art of consultation with prayer and meditation, then seek answers together." They were reminded that when the Blessed Báb declared His Mission, there was only one true believer in the world! All he had was intense joy, passion to share.

"Why is Africa blessed with so many new assemblies in one year? Those who served arose in a spirit of great sacrifice! The poverty of the Africans is overwhelming. Yet at a Feast, they serve bread and water, in order to send ten shillings to Shoghi Effendi to help those less fortunate! We have been given the spiritual primacy, and we must find out how to capture the spirit of dedication that has brought such tremendous victories in other parts of the world, so that the work will go forward, here on the Homefront!"

Home Front Teaching

Attention turned to the Homefront, which must gain 125 new local assemblies before 1963, remembering with our revered Hand, Leroy Ios, that even in the exciting days when the pioneers were going out, Shoghi Effendi continued to talk about the Homefront. Convention Chairman and National Spiritual Assembly member Charles Wolcott warned that the discussion must be creative and constructive. "We are blessed with the principle of community action, and we must use it well. The hardest objectives are yet ahead, and invigoration of the Homefront must be the basis of our approach."

They counseled one another that if from this Temple "would go forth influence," it is effort that releases influence, that the Guardian had said, "Disperse, disperse, disperse!"

From Alaska came the challenge, "Don't say I'll go pioneering when the door opens—kick the door open!" The last pilgrim to Africa to visit the Guardian told of his admonition: "The fire must be fanned and flamed—go back to God! Passes By, re-read Chapter VI, page 98, 'He Who in such dramatic circumstances . . . ' to the bottom of pages 96, 'When the earth shall shine with the light of her Lord . . .' Some-
thing will happen when you stand in your room and read who He is! The world is dying for leadership—here is the Leader!"

**Administration**

On the subject of strengthening administrative institutions of the Faith, Horace Holley warned, "A group of eight evolves. The whole mystery of Bahá'u'lláh's Order is contained in that group. If we do not employ rightly that interval of time before becoming nine, we are not qualified to grow into an assembly and exercise authority. How does it come into authority? It is a divine creation. That which is a blessing to pure souls, becomes a torment to persons of divided minds. The spiritual world is here—not at some mysterious distant place. The dominant must learn their lesson—the clinging must learn to walk alone. The institution of the local spiritual assembly is given us by Bahá'u'lláh to establish justice and peace upon the earth—not to split hairs over the problems of an enrolled but not confirmed community."  

Borrah Kavelin, who was later to become Chairman of the newly elected National Spiritual Assembly advised: "The administrative order is the channel for the release of the spirit. Keep everybody busy! The local assembly has authority, but must be the servant, not the dictator."

**Financial**

The National Assembly Treasurer for the past year, Borrah Kavelin, prefaced his report of and appeal for the National Fund—"the life blood of all Bahá'í institutions," by reminding the delegates that they are heirs to great responsibility, that at the base of all victories won during the last five years is sacrifice made by each, according to his own measure and understanding.

"How much more precious and meaningful now, are the words of Shoghi Effendi. Let us bring joy to him in the Abba Kingdom by fulfilling our responsibilities." He said that the Convention might view with pride the thirty-five Haziratu'l-Quds opened around the world at a total expenditure of about a quarter million dollars. Only one is yet to be opened, in Caracas, Venezuela, to fulfill the Crusade goal. Inflation has set a high price, but $15,000 is at present set aside toward the total.

American Bahá'ís are investing $15,000 in the Temple site in Stock­holm, and this, together with the $12,000 raised in Stockholm itself, resulted in the acquisition, while the Convention was yet in progress, of the land on which another stately Mashriqu'l-Adhkár will rise.

Mr. Kavelin reported excellent progress on the first dependency, the Home for the Aged, to house twenty guests, being erected in the environs of the House of Worship in Wilmette. At a total investment of about one-fourth million dollars, it should be complete in September of this year.

But lest the American Bahá'ís become complacent, they were reminded of no small current budgetary problems: that the National office is growing, that in the Guardian's last message he made five specific references to finances and insisted that the Homefront be "spiritually invigorated, administratively expanded, and materially replenished," that material resources must not be neglected nor underestimated in a growing Bahá'í order. All were urged to participate in the effort to erect a noble memorial to the beloved Guardian in London.

**Intercontinental Goals**

All hearts were warmed by the report by National Assembly member Edna True of the formation of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of France, the flowering of the seed planted by the Master Himself. This... the first independent National Spiritual Assembly on the continent of Europe, numbers the twenty-seventh pillar of the House of Justice, and has been attained in the year designated by our Beloved Guardian.

The European Teaching Committee stated that there must be seven more national spiritual assemblies in Europe by 1963, besides those in Austria and Turkey, by Ridván 1959,—that there is an imperative need for sustained pioneers in all these twelve countries.

The Africa Teaching Committee asked, "Have we rested on our cars?" There are now only sixty-eight pioneers in Africa against seventy last year, and the sixty-eight are not distributed according to need. Three countries, Portuguese Guinea, Spanish Guinea, and St. Thomas, must have pioneers. It must be remembered, too, that newly won goals can be lost by pioneers abandoning them too soon.

The Secretary of the Asia Teaching Committee appealed, "Do read the Annual Report." This Committee was delighted to report new native Bahá'ís going out from newly won goals to pioneer in other areas—settled so far with forty-nine American Bahá'ís. Prayers are requested for the non-American who is working on the difficult resettlement of Tibet. He has re-entered with determination, and is enduring great hardships.

The need in the Caroline Islands is hampered by the government code which prevents its employees supporting any particular religion. Yet the natives say, "When will you send us pioneers?" Single male pioneers should go there and live among the natives in patience. Guam is the center of education for natives in the entire area. If taught there, they will return to their homes with the Message. A regional national spiritual assembly is to be formed next Ridván.
in Suva in the Fiji Islands to serve all the South Pacific islands.

The Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee came before the delegates with the affirmation, “The harvest is ripe...'Now is the time for very great things.'” Latin America must have twenty national assemblies in the next five years—one in every republic. The 170 pioneers scattered throughout are far short of the need. Brazil is as large a country as the United States with another Texas thrown in! The necessity is for immediate settlement by three times that number. The native believers are wonderful but lack the self-reliance to build institutions. Mostly they are from the underprivileged, so that they cannot move about.

A native Indian Bahá'í Community in Bolivia is pleading for a teacher to instruct their wives and their hundred children in the Faith, and in Spanish reading and writing. This Committee says “Learn Spanish!”

**Special Tasks**

For those who cannot go into the foreign fields, the American Indian Service Committee holds out a rich and rewarding work for those who would dedicate themselves to our own aborigines, these oppressed natives of North America. There are thirty large tribal groupings from which thirty-two leading members in sixteen tribes have become Bahá'ís. There are twenty-one pioneers in the field. The Omaha Reservation on the Great Plains, one of the most culturally disintegrated and socially ill, characterized only by its will to survive, has few believers—but if one dedicated pioneer had not gone there last fall, there may have been none.

The needs are always for doctors, dentists, nurses, social workers, teachers, and a variety of possibilities of employment in towns near the Reservations.

There was further discussion of the relocation program by the government, resettling Indians from the overcrowded reservations into certain large cities, where they are lost and lonely, urging that we turn them and simply be neighborly at first.

In Los Angeles alone, there are 10,000 American Indians—and there are relocation centers in 12 other cities in the U.S. If they return home to the reservation because the world outside is too unfriendly, it is to return to abject poverty without government help.

Are these neglected souls, our own aborigines, these beloved of ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, the very impetus needed to revitalize the Homefront? Only the pure of heart will be able to reach these simple souls, who will sense his sincerity.

The Interracial Teaching Committee will send on request the script for a Pageant to be used on Race Amity Day, but which is suitable for any time. The Committee says to be on the watch for opportunities to demonstrate Bahá'í unity: attend concerts open to the public, Negro affairs, church dinners, tea at the YWCA, make friends, give book reviews, show colored slides. If we look, there will be many open doors.

The Committee described as of very special merit a film on housing, “All the Way Home,” available through social agencies, public libraries, etc., and “Boundary Lines,” a beautifully done film with “unbeatable impact” by B'na B'rith. Most film libraries will have it. A delegate from Mississippi described how Bahá'ís there are called on the carpet to defend the Faith... their answer: “We are an organization to change hearts, not to change lives.” They are critically watched there in the deep south, and must demonstrate the teachings in their own lives. Negroes are urgently needed to teach their own; those oppressed for decades will not readily accept the Faith from white people.

**College, Youth, and Child Education**

These Committees demonstrated amazing vitality and fire and left with the delegates a whole new realm of fresh ideas, many applicable to the adult teaching areas. “The colleges are great untapped fields. We shall reach the faculty members so that they may include the Faith in and relate it to their overall teaching pictures.” Students are witnessing the fulfillment of the prophecy of God, the disintegration of the old order. When a student asks what happens next, he is spiritually hooked!” “It is most vital that an effort be made to preserve the continuity of the campus clubs—in the face of constant turnover.”
With the College Bureau functioning separately, the Youth Committee was able to apply itself to the increase of its local committees from 15 last year to 100 at present! They reminded the American community that a youth committee is often made up to begin with, of no youth at all, only adults who will work to reach the youth, and that the Guardian had said, “Concentrate on youth of great capacity—one soul can set the continent ablaze!”

They said, “Students are idealistic, are looking for a cause in which they can lose themselves—but we must let them know that this is a real Crusade!” “Be enthusiastic, not fanatical, audacious, not aggressive!”

The Committee on Child Education appealed for hundreds of subscriptions to Child’s Way, or it may have to suspend publication. This is not a bulletin for children to read, but a guide for Bahá’í teachers. They cited the growing registration of error. They cannot find investigation of truth, it is investigation.

They said, “Students are idealistic, are looking for a cause in which they can lose themselves—but we must let them know that this is a real Crusade!” “Be enthusiastic, not fanatical, audacious, not aggressive!”

The following cable was composed and sent to the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land:

FIFTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION SENDS WARMEST APPRECIATION MESSAGE REVERED HANDS HOLY LAND. RECOGNIZING OVERWHELMING BURDEN RESPONSIBILITY NOW BORNE BY BELOVED CUSTODIANS, DELEGATES, NEWLY AWARE OF FORCES RELEASED ASCENSION BELOVED GUARDIAN, ARE ENGAGED SERIOUS SELF-SCRUTINY, SEEKING UNDERSTANDING PAST FAILURES, HOW MEET FOREMOST CHALLENGE REVITALIZATION AMERICAN BAHÁ’I COMMUNITY, ACHIEVE MATURITY, ASSUME PROPER SHARE PROSECUTION REMAINING TASKS TEN-YEAR CRUSADE. DEEPEST LOVE.

After three intensive days the Fiftieth Annual Convention of the Bahá’ís of the U.S. adjourned, with a total registration of 1,102 Bahá’ís, including perhaps fifty visitors from other countries, and having received and sent loving messages from and to the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land, the beloved Amatullá-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum, the National Assemblies of Canada, of Pakistan, the Regional Assemblies of South America, and the American Hands of the Cause.

The bright carnation lei from friends in Hawaii was faded, but the hardy antherium they brought was still perfectly fresh and beautiful—a symbol of the fresh start taken for the remaining five years of the Crusade—“the time for very great things.”

Honored Guests

Our revered Hand of the Cause Corinne True shared the rostrum for a brief period, and dear little Jessie Revell, whom Shoghi Effendi sent for to be his helper and who is now Treasurer of the International Bahá’í Council, brought deep love from Rúhíyyih Khánum and the Hands at Haifa. Her mother had been at the Temple site when the land was blessed. Only ten days before his passing the Guardian said she and her sister should each attend an Intercontinental Conference since they had not attended any in 1953.

A great bounty of the Convention was the loving message of Adelaide Sharp, representative of the National Spiritual Assembly of Iran, in charge of Bahá’í schools in Tihrân. Her message to the American community was: “Take advantage of the freedom you have—freedom of speech, freedom from fear!”

The lovely gift of a precious box containing dust from every room in the Adrianople home of Bahá’u’lláh was brought from the friends in Turkey and presented to the American archives by Torab-Menevi, a Persian pioneer in Istanbul, grand-daughter of Hand of the Cause Taráqí’lláh Samandari.

National Spiritual Assembly, 1958-59

Out of 171 delegates, 166 ballots were cast (six of these being void) for the new National Spiritual Assembly, who met shortly thereafter to elect their officers. The results were as follows: Chairman, Borrah Kavelin; Vice-Chairman, Charles Wolcott; Secretary, Horace Holley; Assistant Secretary, Charlotte Linfoot; Recording Secretary, Edna True; Treasurer, Arthur Duhl; and Katherine True, Margery McCormick, and Ellsworth Blackwell.

Message to Hands of Holy Land

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—ELEANOR K. METZ
Convention Reporter
The Indian Agency at Window Rock, Ariz., with the "window rock" formation in the mountain visible in the background.

Red rock country interspersed with the twists of snow-capped juniper on the Navajo Reservation in northern Arizona was the inspirational setting of a two-day Baha'i Conference, April 12 and 13, under the famous Window Rock.

Rays of understanding emanated from the discussion of "Reaching Minority Groups" and from the weekend fellowship which drew members of various Indian tribes and their Baha'i friends. The Conference, inspired and planned by the Window Rock Group, began Saturday noon as participants arrived from the four corners—as far south as Phoenix, as far north as Farmington, as far west as Tuba City, and as far east as Albuquerque.

Evening dinner, preceded by a delightful afternoon of mountain climbing, sightseeing, and forming new friendships, was served in the Ginnett's small apartment, which must have had elastic walls as everyone was so comfortable among the large numbers present; however, perhaps this was due to our realization that the gathering was enhanced by the presence of twelve Indians representing Navajo, Delaware, Cochiti, Pueblo, Sioux, Chippewa, and Hopi tribes.

The next morning the group gathered for prayers, followed by a breakfast of bacon and eggs served in the Window Rock Lodge, which is a Navajo tribe enterprise. The Conference convened in the library of the Administration building with an opening of three prayers in various tongues—Hopi, Delaware, and English—and the reading of "The Source of Unity" from Baha'i World Faith pp. 257 to 258.

The ensuing discussion covered two aspects of Indian teaching: (1) how to overcome a barrier such as language, and (2) the need for understanding. Such thoughts as these were expressed:

"To overcome any barrier one must first drop everything and seek to reach others. We can sit on the floor and eat with our fingers with them; we can simplify our lives." This will enable us to demonstrate genuine interest and prove the purity of our motives.

"We must understand what communication is; language is only one form. We must not rely on the crutch of language; we must learn to use other forms of communication which are intangible; it can be only realized, not taught."

"Build up your friendships as this may be the only language you and your Indian friend can speak with understanding."

"In greeting others take time to first greet the heart; this is done only through silence."

"Love your native friend because he is an individual and not just because he is Navajo, Hopi, etc."

"In trying to understand the Indian it is not enough to read books about them; we must read their hearts as well."

Views on life after death and evil forces were shared by Hopi, Delaware, and Navajo Indians with a result that their expressed views were quite similar. It was with this realization of the many similarities among the thoughts of the various Indian backgrounds that the Conference closed with a Navajo chanting his prayer; however, the doors of our hearts opened to receive the spirit of this significant conference.

—Marlyn Heaton

Baha'i's Sponsor Conference at Navajo Reservation

Discussion group at the two-day conference in Window Rock, Ariz. This meeting was held in the library of the Navajo Agency office, which was made available to the Baha'is.
Dedicate Canadian Temple Site
At North York, Ontario

John Robarts, Hand of the Cause, in the presence of Canadian Bahá'ís from coast to coast, dedicated the site of the second MASHRÍQú'IL-ÁDHYÁR in the North American continent.

The time of this historic event was four o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, April 26, 1958. There were more than seventy Bahá'ís and their friends present.

The short, impressive ceremony was opened with a welcome to the Bahá'ís by Claus Liedtke of North York, on behalf of the Bahá'ís of that community where the temple land is located. He then repeated Bahá'u'lláh's blessing: "Blessed is the spot . . ." He was followed by Lloyd Gardner of Oshawa, chairman of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly, reading 'Abdu'l-Bahá's prayer for a House of Worship: "O Lord, make these holy souls, who have arisen to build this temple . . ."

Mr. Robarts, during a short talk, briefly reviewed the history of the various MASHRÍQú'IL-ÁDHYÁR in the world, and of the acquisition of this site in northern Toronto. He also told how funds willed to the Canadian Bahá'í community by the late Hand of the Cause Siegfried Schopflocher had paid for the site.

He was followed with the reading, by National Spiritual Assembly member Allan F. Raynor, of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's prayer for Canada: "Praise be to Thee, O God! Verily, these are Thy servants . . ."

The dedication was made even more historic by the presence of several pioneer teachers from Canada and from Africa.

Court Rules Maxwell Home
Entitled to Tax Exemption

On February 24, 1958, another important victory for the Faith in Canada was achieved, when judgment was rendered by the Superior Court in Montreal in favour of the National Spiritual Assembly against the City of Montreal. This was the result of an action commenced in 1955, to require the City of Montreal to recognize the Bahá'í Faith as an independent religious body and grant exemption to it from municipal taxes for the Bahá'í Shrine, as a place primarily devoted to religious worship and therefore eligible under the city's own charter and by-laws.

This house was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland Maxwell and their daughter, Rúhíyyih Khánum, and was given to the National Spiritual Assembly in 1954. 'Abdu'l-Bahá was a visitor to this home when he came to America and Canada in 1912.

Baha'i Teaching on Abstinence
From Alcoholic Beverages Restated

The Guardian's instructions to assemblies on the matter of Bahá'ís who use alcoholic beverages were published in the Canadian Bahá'í News for February 1958, and are reprinted below:

Mr. Allen Raynor reported to the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly that during his pilgrimage the Guardian had told him that in connection with the Bahá'ís who use alcoholic beverages, the assemblies, although acting in a patient, kindly and loving manner toward such persons, could not tolerate a continued disregard of this law of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas.

The Guardian then outlined the procedure indicated below, to be followed by the Assemblies in this connection:

First—Inform such persons of the law.

Second—Exhort them to follow it.

Third—Warn them of the consequences of disobedience.

Fourth—Remove their voting rights if they continue to disobey.

Since this information did not come directly from the Guardian but rather in the form of a pilgrim's note, the National Spiritual Assembly asked the Guardian for confirmation. The Guardian replied through his secretary:

"As regards the question of alcohol, the Guardian explained this to Mr. Raynor, and he feels that his understanding of it is quite correct. The assemblies must be wise and gentle in dealing with such cases, but at the same time must not tolerate a prolonged and flagrant disregard of the Bahá'í Teachings as regards alcohol."

Deprived of Voting Rights

The believers are informed that Norman Powers has been deprived of his voting rights by action of the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly and his name has been removed from the membership list.

Mr. Powers, whether or not he carries an identification card, is no longer to be accepted as a member of the Bahá'í community.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
Our Summer Schools

QUEEN MARIE of Rumania described the Bahá'í Faith as "a wide embrace." Perhaps nowhere else is this as true as in the Bahá'í summer schools. While providing ample time for pleasure and genuine recreation, the main object of the Bahá'í summer schools is serious—to afford an opportunity to draw near to God through study and through association with others, in an atmosphere of devotion.

There is much to study. The Bahá'í Writings are voluminous. Bahá'u'lláh has said that the purpose of religion in general and of His own revelation in particular is "the establishment of order in the world and of tranquillity amongst its peoples." The Bahá'í Writings show us the means to the attainment of such order and tranquillity, today so vital to our very existence. To promote serious study is one of the primary functions of the schools.

Another function, contingent upon this but no less important, is the creation of an environment in which one can live as fully as possible the life, a place where one can find relief from the tensions and world afflicts us. Here we can be trained in the practice of those virtues needed for a civilization where all men can live harmoniously together and each individual can develop his highest spiritual powers.

A World-Embracing Vision

What are these virtues and how can they be demonstrated at the summer schools? The first is a world-embracing vision, in which all prejudices, be they those of color, of nationality, or of religious background, will disappear. Students at a Bahá'í school will notice such differences in their companions only because they lend interest and variety to the whole.

A world-embracing vision is not conducive to the formation of cliques and small exclusive groups. Naturally we all make friends according to our individual tastes and we like to be with them as much as possible, but let us devote part of our time at the schools to discovering the special qualities of those whom we do not know so well and to making all our fellow guests feel that they too are included in this wide embrace.

The Bahá'í Faith also demands in us certain other standards of individual conduct. It forbids the use of alcoholic beverages and stresses moderation, modesty, and propriety in our daily lives. The reaction in this country against a rigid and bigoted puritanism, which seemed to frown on all pleasures, brought with it an inordinate emphasis on freedom. Since the first world war, modesty in behavior and dress has been, decade by decade, redefined until it has almost been cast aside entirely as prudish and old-fashioned. But there are many people in the United States who have a feeling for modesty and good taste, and in numerous other countries some of our American customs are offensive. The Bahá'í Faith is for all the world, and in the summer schools visitors from foreign countries are frequent. They should not go away with a false idea of Bahá'í standards of conduct.

The Guardian's Standards

These standards have been clearly defined by Shoghi Effendi in The Advent of Divine Justice and are familiar to all of us. While the "chaste and holy life" we are called upon to live "can tolerate no compromise with the theories, the standards, the habits, and the excesses of a decadent age," this does not mean that we should not have fun. Perhaps no people are gayer than a group of Bahá'ís gathered together. It means that our pleasures should have a different basis. "It must be remembered," the Guardian says, "that the maintenance of such a high standard of moral conduct is not to be associated or confused with any form of asceticism, or of excessive and bigoted puritanism. The standard inculcated by Bahá'u'lláh seeks, under no circumstances, to deny anyone of the legitimate right and privilege to derive the fullest advantage and benefit from the manifold joys, beauties, and pleasures with which the world has been so plentifully enriched by an All-Loving Creator."

This New Faith

This is a new faith, and some people may even suspect us of practicing nudism and free love. To protect the Faith from misrepresentation and to enable the schools to run smoothly and to a well-defined object, certain rules have been set up. These are not arbitrary nor unreasonable. They are aids in establishing order in the school so that the Bahá'í ideals can be put into practice.

We look forward to a new world civilization, based on a world order. Order presupposes law and the willingness of the people to obey it. Obedience to law for love of Him was the first lesson Bahá'u'lláh taught to the people when He began His mission.

Some of the participants at the El Salvador Summer School at Apaneca in April 1958.
The rules of the summer schools have been made as few as possible. They derive their authority from the National Spiritual Assembly and compliance with them by Bahá'ís is a duty as well as an act of courtesy.

Here we are offered opportunity to attain, in an approximation of the ideal Bahá'í environment, that learning which illuminates all learning. "The Word which is uttered by God," says Bahá'u'lláh, "shineth and flasheth as the sun amidst the books of men." As Bahá'ís, we have the privilege of helping to create that environment and on each of us rests the responsibility of representing our faith before the world, for are we not each one of "the bearers of the name of God in this Day?"

Pioneer Devotes Self-Sacrificing Service to Costa Rica Farmers

Guanacaste is a very primitive region in the heart of the cattle country of Costa Rica. Most of the people who live here are farmers with little plots of land or who work as farmhands on the fincas (ranches). They are sincere and simple people, but extremely poor. Nevertheless, through the deep love and great self-sacrifice on the part of a Bahá'í, many of these people are turning toward the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh and are trying to adjust their lives to Bahá'í concepts.

Mrs. Esmarilda Thompson de Vega, former member of the Port Lima Bahá'í Assembly, went to Guanacaste because she wished to work among people unspoiled by civilization. Here in the town of Cañas she began her work, winning friendship of many people including an elderly man who became the first believer of that community. Then, because of some opposition from the clergy which prevented her from teaching as actively as she wished, she went out into the farm district.

It was necessary for her to walk many miles over hills, mountains, and across rivers, but through her kindness and friendliness she won the affection and active support of about thirty-six Bahá'ís, adults, and children. She has taught the children to read and write, and is presently trying to promote the establishment of a school.

Her work has been accomplished only through self-sacrifice. It is often hard and unpleasant. Sometimes her path among the distant farms is beset with venomous serpents, but she treads it fearlessly. Her reward has been the trusting response on the part of the people. This has made her heart happy, her task bearable.

Esmarilda is a member of the Negro race, and her warmhearted kindness and hospitality have attracted all people to her. She inspires confidence in them. In addition to the many practical things she has taught them, she has gladdened their hearts by singing for them and teaching them to sing English songs. Bahá'í teachers who have helped her in her work are Mr. Dikrullah Khádem, revered Hand of the Cause; William de Forge, Auxiliary Board Member; Salomón Escalante, Jose Basquero, and Rosy Vodanovic, Chilean pioneer.

The Costa Rican Teaching Committee writes: "Would to God that more people like this pioneer would be found to carry on with devotion the banner of Bahá'u'lláh to these thirsty and spiritually needy people."

The Teaching Committee is working to instruct these new friends in the Bahá'í way of life and in Administration. One local spiritual assembly is being formed this Ridván, although it will be very difficult for the various members to meet regularly, as many are hard-working people and there is no means of communication or transportation between the farms.

In the heart of this pioneer there must echo these words of the Master: "Oh, how long that it could be made possible for me to travel through these parts, even if necessary on foot, and with the utmost poverty, and while passing through the cities, villages, mountains, deserts and oceans, cry at the top of my voice 'Ya-Bahá'u'lláh' and promote the divine teachings. But now this is not feasible for me; . . . per-chance, God willing, ye may become assisted therein."

Baha'i Youth Activities Attract Students in Three Cities

Baha'i youth in Nashville, Tenn.; Phoenix, Ariz.; and Albuquerque, N. Mex., have interested university students in these cities in the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith through public meetings and campus activities in recent months. Reports on their activities follow.

Tennessee Valley Area Baha'i Youth Conference

The first Tennessee Valley Area Bahá'í Youth conference was held on March 8 and 9, 1958, in Nashville, Tenn., and was convened by the Nashville Bahá'í Youth Committee.

When the National Bahá'í Youth Committee first suggested this youth conference there was much uncertainty on the part of the local committee as to the feasibility and desirability of such a conference. There were few youth in the area, and there was no clear idea as to what should be the subjects of consultation or how the various aspects of the planning should be carried out, but once the decision was made to hold it, the plans began to crystallize.

The National Bahá'í Youth Committee furnished the local committee with a list of names and addresses of all youth in the area. They also furnished the Nashville committee with an agenda complete enough to serve as a definite basis for the conference and flexible enough to allow for creativity on the part of the local committee. It became the working basis for the local plans.

Through the efforts of the local committee, Dr. Lambert C. Case of St. Louis, Mo., an outstanding Bahá'í teacher, was secured as a speaker for a fireside to be held Saturday night, March 8, as part of the conference. Dr. Case agreed also to deliver a public lecture on "World Faith" on March 9, at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Arrange-
As the conference was held during the period of the Fast, the time normally taken for lunch was spent in a "guided" tour of the Nashville area.

In connection with the discussion of teaching work, two non-Bahá'í books, especially valuable for teaching work, were reviewed for those present at the conference. Bill Hatcher reviewed Arnold Toynbee's Christianity Among the Religions of the World and Tom Thompson reviewed Nels Ferre's The Sun and the Umbrella. These reviews stressed both the utility and the shortcomings of these books.

The high point of the conference was the fireside meeting on Saturday evening attended by about twenty youth contacts, Negro and white. The total number present was about forty-five, and this was the first contact with the Faith for many of them. The value of having a group of Bahá'í youth to teach a gathering of non-Bahá'ís was fully demonstrated, and the spirit which pervaded the meeting was one of unity and love.

The public lecture by Dr. Case the following morning attracted about seventy-five people, mostly youth. So far as could be determined, it is the first interracial meeting ever held on the Vanderbilt University campus.

The Sunday afternoon session of the conference was highlighted by a report on teaching activities in the Cape Verde Islands by Bahá'í pioneer Howard Menking.

The Nashville community, as well as the youth who attended, are still reaping spiritual benefits from the conference. The joy of Bahá'í fellowship, which cannot fail to awaken new levels of experience in the individual soul, the illumination of the mind through consultation and study, and the invaluable witness to contacts of the spirit of the Bahá'í youth—all of these things make a Bahá'í youth conference a unique joy whose deeper meaning can be understood only as the glorious foreshadowing of that Golden Age of Bahá'u'lláh which the fruits of our labors must inevitably bring.

Arizona State University Conference

The Bahá'í Faith was represented by several participants at a recent Youth Conference on Human Relations held on the campus of Arizona State University. Alton Thomas and Mrs. Nancy Phillips of Phoenix served as resource persons for discussion groups and Mr. Thomas was keynote speaker for the conference which attracted 250 students from nineteen Arizona high schools. Bob Phillips and Donna Baumann, Phoenix Bahá'í youth, served as chairmen for two planning committees. The day-long conference under the sponsorship of the National Conference of Christians and Jews was opened with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's "Prayer for All Nations" read by Donna.

Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Phillips will serve as advisors at "Anytown, U.S.A.," a week-long human relations workshop for youth to be held in a mountain camp near Prescott, Ariz., in early June. Donna Baumann and Bob Phillips were among the young people selected to attend last year. Donna will attend this year as a counselor. "Anytown" is sponsored by the YMCA, YWCA, Phoenix Urban League, National Conference of Christians and Jews, and other civic organizations. It strives to provide an ideal setting for youth selected for their leadership qualities to develop greater understanding of family, religious, and racial relationships.

Student Bahá'í Association at University of New Mexico

At the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, the University Student Bahá'í Association has been established and in operation since the beginning of the present semester. For some time it had been unable to be established due to the lack of any student on the campus; however, this year several new enrollments
in the Faith of university level students have made the association possible. One interesting fact is that of the club's approximate membership of twelve or thirteen, more than half are non-Baha'is; the Baha'i group being made up of three students and three non-students. Since its inception it has been quite active, meeting every Friday evening and attracting non-Baha'i members with practically every meeting.

As far as activities are concerned, several specific things have been carried out or are in the process of being carried out. Besides the regular meetings and discussions, a program was voted into being in which the Methodist students are non-Baha'i members with practically every meeting.

Frank Evans, a newly enrolled Baha'i, gave a very fine talk at the Methodist College group in answer to an invitation of theirs to speak on the Faith. The Methodist students became so interested in the discussion of the Faith that they remained long after the meeting was scheduled to end and invited Frank to return another night the same week. Again he spoke on the Faith and again they were enthusiastic.

Another activity, the Student Association sponsored the Winston Evans public meeting held on the campus. With the growing enrollment, a non-Baha'i member was elected to represent the Baha'i Student Association on the Student Senate.

Also, in spite of some social pressure which forced one member to resign, and such acts as the defacing and removing of the Baha'i posters, a liaison was appointed to accept the invitation to participate in the Student Religious Association's activities. All in all, the work has proceeded with unusual success and a promise of better things to come.

**Ontario Summer Conference To Be Held in August**

An Ontario Bahai Summer Conference will be held from August 2-9, 1958, at the Geneva Park YMCA Camp on Lake Couchiching. Courses will include "The Ten-Year Crusade," "Baha'i in a Christian World," and "Sources of Hidden Power."

For reservations and further information please write to: Miss Jean Smith, 213 Geneva Street, St. Catherine, Ontario, Canada.

**Study Guide for Membership Prepared by Youth Committee**

The National Bahai Youth Committee has prepared a study guide for youth or adults wishing to have a firm basis of study in preparation for membership in the Baha'i Community. The youth study guide covers all of the essential aspects of the Faith, and will also be of great assistance for declared believers, youth or adult, who wish to deepen their understanding of the Teachings and Administrative Order. It can guide the serious student to proper references to understand his responsibilities to the Faith.

The outline consists of four pages divided into five main topics: I. History of the Faith. II. Stations of the Three Key Figures in the Faith. III. Baha'i Administration. IV. Basic Teachings. V. Obligations and Privileges of Baha'i Membership. The Baha'i Youth Study Guide is available on request from the secretary of the National Baha'i Youth Committee, Mrs. Helen Hauck, 716 S. 5th Avenue, St. Charles, Illinois. Please send your requests to the National Baha'i Youth Committee only.

**Calendar of Events**

**FEASTS**

June 5 — Nur (Light)
June 24 — Bahman (Mercy)

**HOLY DAY**

July 9 — Martyrdom of the Bab

**NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**

June 13, 14, 15

**Baha'i House of Worship**

**Visiting Hours**

Weekdays
10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. ( Entire building)
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays
10:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. ( Entire building)
5:00 P.M. to 9 P.M. (Auditorium only)

**Service of Worship**

Sundays
3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.

Baha'i News is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Baha'i World Community. Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

Baha'i News is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1957-58: Mrs. Eunice Braun, chairman; Miss Charlotte Linfoot, secretary; Mr. Richard C. Thomas. Editorial Office: 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Baha'i Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Upon the occasion of the convening of this second Intercontinental Conference in Chicago, our hearts and our thoughts inevitably go back to the first great conference which was held here in 1953 during the opening of the World Crusade under the direct aegis of our beloved Guardian. His Messages, his cables, his words of loving reassurance, the news he sent us from Haifa at that time, the sense of his overpowering presence—all are fresh today in our memories, and our hearts overflow with love for him and with longing for his physical presence in this world. None of us, however, can doubt that during the six months since his sudden passing the evidences of the Divine protection promised to this Holy Faith of God have been overpowering. The structure Shoghi Effendi built, on the firm foundations laid in the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, has withstood the earthquake of his passing and its attendant circumstances; the seamless robe of this greatest of all Revelations has not been torn; the administrative institutions so carefully reared by him, nascent though they still are, have rallied to the support of the World Center, the heart and hub of the Faith, and have demonstrated, not only to the believers but to the observant and curious public, as well as to our enemies, that this Cause is firmly knit together, universal in its operations, united in one purpose and one great loyalty which nothing can destroy. We see in all this the living, breathing spirit of Shoghi Effendi, his protection and his love, which will never leave us.

The five mighty Intercontinental Conferences announced in the last message to the Bahá’í world from our beloved Guardian, we see now as providential rallying-points during this difficult year of sorrow and separation. The midway point of this mighty Crusade the Guardian conceived and set in motion has been characterized not only by extraordinary victories won, but by the falling of a wholly unexpected blow, brought about through the mysterious operations of the Divine Will, which no man dare question and no human mind can comprehend, a blow which may well prove to be the signal for the beginning of that period of turmoil and suffering Shoghi Effendi so often told us the world must pass through before its parts are forged into a single whole, ready for, and capable of putting into operation, the Plan of God for this Day.

Guardian’s Call for World Crusade Reviewed

Let us, at this solemn moment in our destinies, turn back to the words of our Guardian when he sounded the call for this greatest of all enterprises ever undertaken by the followers of any Faith since the dawn of history.

“Let there be no mistake. The avowed, the primary aim of this Spiritual Crusade is none other than the conquest of the citadels of men’s hearts. The theater of its operations is the entire planet. Its duration a whole decade. Its commencement synchronizes with the Centenary of the birth of Bahá’u’lláh’s Mission. Its culmination will coincide with the Centenary of the Declaration of that same Mission. The agencies assisting in its conduct are the nascent administrative institutions of a steadily-evolving, divinely appointed Order. Its driving force is the energizing influence generated by the Revelation heralded by the Bab and proclaimed by Bahá’u’lláh. Its Marshal is none other than the Author of the Divine Plan. Its standard-bearers are the Hands of the Cause of God appointed in every continent of the globe. Its generals are the twelve national spiritual assemblies participating in the execution of its design. Its vanguard is the chief executors of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Master Plan, their allies and associates. Its legions are the rank and file of believers standing behind these same twelve national assemblies and sharing in the global task embracing the American, the European, the African, the Asiatic, and Australian fronts. The charter directing its course is the immortal Tablets that have flowed from the Pen of the Center of the Covenant Himself. The armor with which its onrushing hosts have been invested is the glad tidings of God’s own Message in this Day, the principles underlying the Order proclaimed by His Messenger, and the laws and ordinances governing His Dispensation. The battle cry animating its heroes and heroines is the cry of Yá-Bahá’u’l-Abhá, Yá-‘Alíyyu’l-’A’là.

“So vast, so momentous and challenging a crusade that will, God willing, illuminate the annals of the
second epoch of the Formative Age of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, and immortalize the second decade of the second Bahá'í century, and the termination of which will mark the closing of the first epoch in the evolution of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan, will, in itself, pave the way for, and constitute the prelude to, the initiation of the laborious and tremendously long process of establishing in the course of subsequent crusades in all the newly opened sovereign states, dependencies, and islands of the planet, as well as in all the remaining territories of the globe, the framework of the Administrative Order of the Faith, with all its attendant agencies, and of eventually erecting in these territories still more pillars to share in sustaining the weight, and in broadening the foundation, of the Universal House of Justice."

Victories of Crusade Recounted

Before we turn our thoughts to the purpose of this Conference as it affects the Bahá'ís of the Western Hemisphere, let us recall the stages through which this globe-encircling Crusade have already passed: Much to the joy and comfort of our overworked and most beloved Guardian, who had already sacrificed over thirty years of his life to the unremitting service of the Cause of God, the first phase of the Ten-Year Plan, which lasted from 1953 to 1954, witnessed the planting of the Banner of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation in no less than one hundred additional countries, territories, and islands of the globe, raising thereby the total number at that time to two hundred and twenty-eight; the distinguishing feature of the second phase of this Plan, which lasted from 1954 to 1956, was the extraordinary multiplication of National Haqíratu'l-Quds and Endowments, the purchase of the majority of which was to all intents and purposes completed during this period, involving an outpouring of funds which many of the friends had believed could not possibly take place in so short a time; the third phase, which comprised the period from 1956 to 1958, was distinguished by a marked multiplication not only of Bahá'í centers all over the world, but by the establishment in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, of no less than thirteen regional and four national administrative bodies. The phenomena of the progress made and the extraordinary victories won during the last five years, have demonstrated to us all, not only the immense power of the Cause of God—a power which the Master said was mysterious and far above the understanding of men and of angels—but have shown us that through the channelization of this force by the Guardian into the mighty blue print of the Divine Plan conceived by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, an immensely potent instrument has been devised in the form of this World Crusade which constitutes a step in the spiritual conquest of the entire planet. The pattern has been clearly defined, the design of God we see distinctly emerging before our eyes. Every act of obedience to the instructions of the Guardian, every fulfillment of a goal set by him, every execution of a phase of his plan, brings victory, breeds strength, creates new spiritual life. He himself was immensely heartened and pleased over the victories won during the first half of this Holy Crusade, and characterized this five-year period as one of marvelous progress achieved in so vast a field in so short a time by a small band of heroic souls.

We know that the Western world, the Western Hemisphere, particularly the “Great Republic of the West,” have been singled out by the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá as regions of the globe whose peoples are endowed with special capacities in this Day with which to serve the Cause of God and through it their fellowmen. The attendants at this particular conference must feel the weight of a very great responsibility resting on them at this midway point of the World Crusade, not only because of the mission conferred upon them by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, but because of the greatness of this affliction which has filled all hearts with grief and longing at this time, and in spite of which—nay, perhaps because of which—they must now arise, wiser, more mature, more consecrated than ever before, to carry out their preponderating share in the prosecution of the remainder of the Ten-Year Plan.

No Escape From Duty

There can be no escape from duty for any believer, least of all an American believer, at this critical juncture in the fortunes of our beloved Faith. We recall to your minds the stirring words of Shoghi Effendi addressed to the Annual Convention of the United States which preceded the first Intercontinental Conference held in 1953:

"May this Community—the spiritual descendants of the Dawn-Breakers of the Heroic Age of the Bahá’í Faith, the chief repository of the immortal Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá’s Divine Plan, the foremost executors of the Mandate issued by the Center of Bahá’u’lláh’s Covenant, the champion-builders of a divinely conceived Administrative Order, the standard-bearers of the all-conquering army of the Lord of Hosts, the torch-bearers of a future divinely inspired world civilization—arise, in the course of the momentous decade separating the Great from the Most Great Jubilee, to secure, as befits its rank, the lion’s share in the prosecution of a global crusade designed to diffuse the light of God’s Revelation over the surface of the entire Planet."

As the friends gathered at this supremely important Conference consider their future work and discuss ways and means of accomplishing it, the believers of the United States should, in particular, ponder the very critical position of the Homefront in their country and, in the Guardian’s own words, “maintain their enviable position, as the vanguard of the army of Bahá’u’lláh’s Crusaders, in rescuing, while there is yet time, their Homefront from the precarious position in which it now finds itself.”

Let them remember that as he himself so clearly stated: “It is primarily a task that concerns the individual believer, wherever he may be, and whatever his calling, his resources, his race, or his age. Neither the local or national representatives of the Community, no matter how elaborate their plans, or persistent their appeals, or sagacious their councils, nor even the Guardian himself, however he may yearn for this accomplishment, can decide where the duty of the individual lies, or supplant him in the discharge of that task. The individual alone must assess its character, consult his conscience, prayerfully consider all its aspects, manfully struggle against the natural inertia that weighs him down in his effort to arise, shed heroically and irrevocably, the trivial and superfluous attach-
The Shrine of the Báb stands on the slopes of Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land as a resplendent memorial to the Martyrdom of the Báb at Tabriz, Persia, on July 9, 1850.

The weight resting on each one of us today is truly crushing and inescapable, the reward which each one of us can win for himself is equally great and of an everlasting nature. In the words of the Qur'án: “Whoso maketh efforts for the Faith, maketh them for his own good only. Verily God is rich enough to dispense with all creatures.”

Guardian's Last Appeal to NSA

In his last letter to the American National Spiritual Assembly the Guardian made an appeal, couched in more poignant terms than any he had ever used previously in addressing the members of that privileged Community who are the “Champion-builders of the World Order of Báb‘u’lláh”:

“Once again—and this time more fervently than ever before—I direct my plea to every single member of this strenuously-laboring, clear-visioned, stout-hearted, spiritually endowed community, every man and woman, on whose individual effort, resolution, self-sacrifice, and perseverance the immediate destinies of the Faith of God, now traversing so crucial a stage in its rise and establishment, primarily depends, not to allow, through apathy, timidity, or complacency, this one remaining opportunity to be irretrievably lost. I would rather entreat each and every one of them to immortalize this approaching, fateful hour in the evolution of a World Spiritual Crusade, by a fresh consecration to their God-given Mission, coupled with an instantaneous plan of action, at once so dynamic and decisive, as to wipe out, . . . with one stroke, the deficiencies which have to no small extent, bogged down the operations of the Crusade on the Homefront.”

Before turning to the global objectives still remaining, and which must be accomplished during the fourth phase of the Ten-Year Plan, let us review the specific tasks given by our Guardian to the American Bahá‘í Community, her chief ally, and her daughter communities in the Western Hemisphere:

The opening of Spitzbergen, the one remaining virgin territory other than those within the Soviet orbit, and the resettlement or consolidation of those goals now vacant or in need of supporting efforts by pioneers and visiting teachers; the speedy attainment of the objectives of the subsidiary Six-Year Plans given by our Guardian to the new national and regional assemblies formed during the Ridván period of 1957 under the sponsorship of the National Assembly of the United States, the fulfillment of which is an indispensable prerequisite to the formation, on a firm footing, of the future pillars of the Universal House of Justice which are to be established in each and every Republic of Latin America and in each goal country of Europe by 1963 — victories which can be assured only by a continuous flow of pioneers, as our Guardian repeatedly emphasized; the immediate construction of the first dependency of the Mother Temple of the West, designed to convincingly demonstrate to the public the spirit of service to humanity which underlies the Divinely-ordained institutions surrounding the Mashriqu’l-Adhkar; the establishment, during the Ridván period of 1959, of the Regional Spiritual Assembly of the South Pacific Islands, under the sponsorship of the American National Assembly, a task assigned to that Assembly by our Guardian in his message to the 1953 Annual Convention; a marked acceleration in the process of enlisting in the ranks of the Faith an ever greater number of Indians, the original inhabitants of the Americas, of Eskimos in the far North, and of representatives of the Basque and Gypsy races in those areas assigned to the United States Bahá‘í Community; a carefully planned and vigorously prosecuted campaign aimed at enlisting in the army of Báb‘u’lláh, large numbers of the Negro race — so much loved and admired by Shoghi Effendi, thereby fulfilling one of his frequently expressed and most ardent hopes; the in-
Beloved Friends! At the outset of this Most Holy, decade-long Crusade, our beloved Guardian raised this challenging call addressed directly to the members of the Communities of North and South America:

"It is incumbent upon the members of the American Bahá'í Community, the chief executors of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan, the members of the Canadian Bahá'í Community acting as their allies, and the members of the Latin American Bahá'í Communities in their capacity as associates in the execution of this Plan, to brace themselves anew, in addition to the responsibilities they have assumed, and will assume, in other continents of the globe, an intercontinental campaign designed to carry a stage further the glorious work already inaugurated throughout the Western Hemisphere."

"Standing on the threshold of a ten-year long, world-embracing spiritual crusade, these Communities are now called upon, by virtue of the weighty pronouncement recorded in the Most Holy Book, and in direct consequence of the revelation of the Tablets of the Divine Plan, to play a preponderating role in the systematic propagation of the Faith, in the course of the coming decade, which will, God willing, culminate in the spiritual conquest of the entire planet."

"Let Everyone Arise Wholeheartedly"

With this vision before them, let each and every one of them arise, joyously and wholeheartedly, with fresh dedication and determination, and respond to these soul-stirring words of their Guardian:

"I direct my impassioned appeal to obey, as befits His warriors, the Summons of the Lord of Hosts, and prepare for that Day of Days when His victorious battalions will, to the accompaniment of huzzas from the invisible angels in the Abhá Kingdom, celebrate the hour of final victory."

Let them remember how often he said the immediate future was dark, but the distant future infinitely bright. No words could better describe the glory of the Order we are called upon to build than his own:

"How pressing and sacred the responsibility that now weighs upon those who are already acquainted with these teachings! How glorious the task of those who are called upon to vindicate their truth, and demonstrate their practicality to an unbelieving world! Nothing short of an immovable conviction in their divine origin, and their uniqueness in the annals of religion; nothing short of an unwavering purpose to execute and apply them to the administrative machinery of the Cause can be sufficient to establish their reality, and insure their success."

"How vast is the Revelation of Bahá'ulláh! How great the magnitude of His blessings showered upon humanity in this day! And yet, how poor, how inadequate our conception of their significance and glory! This generation stands too close to so colossal a Revelation to appreciate, in their full measure, the infinite possibilities of His Faith, the unprecedented character of His Cause, and the mysterious dispensations of His Providence."

Signed:
Ruhíyyih A. Furutan
Amelia Collins Paul Haney
A. Q. Faizi Jalál Krázer
Over 1600 Baha'is Convene at Chicago Intercontinental Conference

In Spiritually-Charged Atmosphere of Consecrated Unity and Resolve

ON a Friday morning in May 1958 at exactly ten o'clock Chicago time, over sixteen hundred assembled Baha'is paused to pay silent tribute to their beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi. In a spirit of consecrated unity, they stood with heads bowed in prayer while in London (three o'clock London time) a wreath was placed on the Guardian's grave by William Sears, Hand of the Cause.

This was a high mark of the first session of the Intercontinental Conference for the Western Hemisphere held at Chicago and Wilmette, Ill., May second, third, and fourth, attended by 1660 Baha'is from thirty-one countries.

In response to the wish of the Guardian expressed in his last message of October 1957, representatives of national and regional spiritual assemblies of the Western Hemisphere met with the Guardian's special representative, Hand of the Cause Dr. Ugo Giachery, and with five other Hands of the Cause. This was the third of a series of five Intercontinental Conferences to be held in 1958.

All who attended the Conference, whether representatives or visitors, were aware that this was a gathering of great spiritual import, a fitting sequel to the historic occasion in Chicago of the first public mentioning in the western world of the name of Bahá'u'lláh. It followed the Conferences held at Kampala, Uganda, in January, and at Sydney, Australia, in March, and preceded the Conferences to be held at Frankfurt, Germany, in July, and at Djakarta, Indonesia, in September.

Throughout the Conference, but especially at the Thanksgiving Service at the House of Worship on Friday afternoon and during the closing session on Sunday afternoon, an awareness was felt of the great spiritual forces released into the world by the Báb, Who sent forth the Dawn-Breakers; by Bahá'u'lláh, Who called mankind to unity; by 'Abdül-Bahá, Author of the Divine Plan; and by the beloved Guardian, champion of the Administrative Order. The souls of those present were filled with awe and their hearts swelled with deep longing for consecration and service.

At nine on Friday morning at Chicago's Eighth Street Theater, the first session was opened with devotions in English and Spanish. The panel of young readers included among others, a pioneer to Korea, a pioneer to the Indians, and a Latin American. The first reading was a selection from the Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh: "O Son of Being! Love Me, that I may love thee . . ."; "O Son of Being! My love is My stronghold . . ."; "The sign of love is fortitude under My decree . . ."; "My calamity is My Providence . . ." As the timeless phrases were heard in the dusk of the auditorium with its emerald-green curtain and masses of flowers, the city clamor receded. Each of us had brought his own love and sorrow to this gathering, but our separate individualities seemed to drop from us as we shared this experience.

The Guardian's special representative, Dr. Ugo Giachery, made his entrance accompanied by two mem-

Hand of the Cause William Sears at the grave of the Guardian in London, England, on May 2, 1958, with the wreath he placed there at the same time the Intercontinental Conference opened in Chicago, arranged on behalf of the American Baha'is.
bers of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, Conference hosts, and was warmly greeted on the stage by other officers of the National Assembly. All rose to honor the revered Hand of the Cause and to offer him a loving welcome.

The Convocation was given by H. Borrah Kavelin, the Conference chairman. He said that the Conference was a great bounty from Shoghi Effendi. After his ascension a great spirit was released throughout the Bahá'í world; this spirit was augmented at the first two Conferences, and should be invoked here. The five purposes of the Conferences as outlined by the Guardian were: 1. Offering thanksgiving to Bahá'u'lláh for the first five years of the Crusade; 2. Reviewing and celebrating victories of the first five years; 3. Deliberating on how to fulfill the remaining goals; 4. Stimulating individual conversion; 5. Assisting in the completion of three Temples.

"Friends," Mr. Kavelin concluded, "what more fitting memorial could be raised than to dedicate this Conference to the blessed memory of our beloved Guardian?"

The Primary Mission of the Bahá'í Faith

Mr. Horace Holley, beloved Hand of the Cause, gave the dedication address. "There are not many Bahá'ís," Mr. Holley said, "who know the difference between the condition of the Faith at the time of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's ascension and today. Step by step the Guardian guided the Bahá'í world into World Order and into a profounder understanding of the Bahá'í Faith. In a letter in 1929 the Guardian mentioned, '...that Divine Civilization, the establishment of which is the primary mission of the Bahá'í Faith.'

"In the past it was thought the sole purpose of religion was to guide people into spiritual understanding which would lead to cooperation and peace. Shoghi Effendi was to us then a bright light illumining the path. He outlined the evolution of the Administrative Order in which the spiritual assemblies of today will become the Houses of Justice. In the same letter, he stated, 'Not only will the present-day spiritual assemblies be styled differently in the future, but they will be enabled also to add to their present functions those powers, duties, and prerogatives necessitated by the recognition of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, not merely as one of the recognized religious systems of the world, but as the State Religion of an independent and sovereign power. And as the Bahá'í Faith permeates the masses of the peoples of East and West, and its truth is embraced by the majority of the peoples of a number of the Sovereign States of the world, will the Universal House of Justice attain the plenitude of its power, and exercise, as the supreme organ of the Bahá'í Commonwealth, all the rights, the duties, and responsibilities incumbent upon the world's future super-state.' Again the Bahá'ís were overwhelmed. . . . the Bahá'í Faith was to become the government of the world!

"In another letter of March 21, 1930, the Guardian wrote, 'I consider it my duty to warn every beginner in the Faith that the promised glories of the Sovereignty which the Bahá'í teachings foreshadow, can be revealed only in the fulness of time, that the implications of the Agdas and the Will of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, as the twin repositories of the constituent elements of that Sovereignty, are too far-reaching for this generation to grasp and fully appreciate. I cannot refrain from appealing to them who stand identified with the Faith to disregard the prevailing notions and the fleeting fashions of the day, and to realize as never before that the exploded theories and the tottering institutions of present-day civilization must needs appear in sharp contrast with those God-given institutions which are destined to arise upon their ruin. I pray that they may realize with all their heart and soul the ineffable glory of their calling, the overwhelming responsibility of their mission, and the astounding immensity of their task."

"For let every earnest upholder of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh realize that the storms which this struggling Faith of God must needs encounter, as the process of the disintegration of society advances, shall be fiercer than any which it has already experienced.'"

"The Guardian affirmed, Mr. Holley continued, "that Bahá'u'lláh provided the essentials for a divine economy, one agency for the unification of the world and for the establishment of righteousness and justice upon the earth. Humanity, the Guardian said, has, alas, strayed too far to be redeemed through the efforts of rulers and statesmen, however devoted.'"

Mr. Holley said the small company of Bahá'ís of East and West are crossing a mighty bridge, a bridge suspended high over the chaos of the world. One end rests on the sacrifice of the twin Manifestations of God, the other end will lead us to the Kingdom of God. We can advance only as we construct the bridge in the divine pattern. Only as we construct the bridge will the peoples of the world follow us. Let us not think that any act of our daily lives is in any way transient or trivial.

"The Joy of Our Hearts"

Dr. Ugo Giachery spoke next. "It is impossible for me to tell you at this moment of the emotions which are raging within my heart," he said. With difficulty
he continued, "The chairman said I was bringing to you the spirit of our beloved Guardian . . . who was the delight of our eyes, the joy of our hearts, the purpose of our lives. Physical separation has been a hard thing to bear and you must excuse me. It has been five months since his passing. Every flower . . . every leaf . . . every stone has his perfume . . . every corner reminds you of his grace, his spirit, his kindness, his understanding."

Dr. Giachery said that Shoghi Effendi had thirty-six years of unbearable burdens which shortened his dear life. We owe him a debt of gratitude. His spirit is everywhere the friends are gathered. Our gratitude can be translated into action to prove that we are worthy of this sacrifice. "To you who are following in the beloved Guardian's footsteps," he said, "I bring love and fragrance of the spirit. I bring you the love of the Hands in the Holy Land."

Dr. Giachery then read the seven-page message from the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land directed to all those attending the Conference in Chicago. It was a solemn and stirring appeal to the friends to arise to fulfill every wish of the Guardian. [Editor's Note: This message is printed in its entirety beginning on page 1 of this issue.]

Dr. Giachery summed up: For this Crusade we have an immensely potent instrument in the Divine Plan. Every act of obedience brings a victory; every victory leads to new spiritual life. The Western Hemisphere was singled out by 'Abdu'l-Baha. Attendants at this Conference must feel the weight of this responsibility. The greatness of this affliction, which has filled all hearts with grief and longing, must make us wiser, more consecrated than ever before. There can be no escape from duty for any believer, least of all for any American believer. We must ponder the critical state of the home front that we may rescue it from its precarious position. "The individual alone must assess its character . . . and shed attachments . . . " We must not allow "this one remaining opportunity to be irrevocably lost." God will make of this dire deprivation a heaven. Let us strive to gladden the heart of the beloved Guardian in the Abhá Kingdom; something we did not always do while he was alive.

While we listened to the Guardian's representative and shared his deep sorrow, we turned with new humility and selflessness to the assigned goals. As one body we felt the purification, the emptying process of grief. We knew again that physical bereavement is the testament of immortality. The ardent love revealed by this cherished Hand of the Cause had evoked in our bewildered and waiting hearts a response from which would flow a new will at the springs of our being.

Many messages of loving support and hopes for the success of the Conference had been received. Some of these were now read by the chairman. Dr. Grossmann, Hand of the Cause, sent heartfelt, loving wishes and hopes for blessings. From the National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand, "We pray the Conference will be the forerunner of great achievements and victories"; from the National Assembly of Italy and Switzerland, "We stand by, pledging our full support." The community of Tonga sent loving prayers. Other messages were read from the Rome community; from the National Spiritual Assemblies of Scandinavia and Finland, of the Benelux Countries, and of the Iberian Peninsula.

"The Word of God Forever New"

Mr. Kavelin introduced Leroy Ioas, Hand of the Cause, as adjutant to the beloved Guardian in the Holy Land, who spoke with deep emotion. He said that the Word of God, while it might be old, was still forever new. The words of the Báb were as if given for this Conference. The Báb asked the people of the Word to leave their homes and travel far and wide to spread the Cause of God. If you do this God will be with you, promised Bahá'u'lláh. Shoghi Effendi laid down the path and the steps we might take to achieve these goals. "May we in this Conference," Mr. Ioas said, "enter into the spirit of the Guardian. He was a driving, dominating force who knew only success."

Mr. Kavelin next introduced Hand of the Cause Mason Remey, who has served the Faith with distinction for more than forty years. Mr. Remey spoke of the International Conference at Sydney which he attended. There were one hundred and ninety-two delegations registered from nineteen countries.

John Robarts, Hand of the Cause, said, "I bring you most loving, most prayerful greetings from five thousand Africans on the continent of Africa. They would want me to express gratitude and love for your assistance. They are praying that this Conference will bring forth the great results of the Kampa Conference. We are forging a link of love and appreciation between the two continents that will go on forever."

Sylvia Ioas and Jessie Revell, members of the International Bahá'í Council at the World Center, came forward to be greeted by the friends. Miss Revell said she brought the love of Rúhíyyih Khánum, of the Hands in Haifa, and of the friends there; also the love of the friends in London where she visited the grave of the Guardian.

Members of the Auxiliary Boards of the Hands of the Cause then gave words of greeting, as did representatives of the participating national and Regional assemblies and distinguished visitors from various countries.

Thanksgiving to Bahá'u'lláh

Friday afternoon the throng of Bahá'ís was taken by bus to Wilmette, where they gathered reverently in the auditorium of the House of Worship, the Mother Temple of the West, for a service of thanksgiving to Bahá'u'lláh. The beautiful tones of the readers' voices and the soaring music of the a cappella choir assisted in lifting the worshippers to new spiritual heights.

At the conclusion of the service each Bahá'í had the inestimable privilege of viewing the sacred portraits of the Bab and Bahá'u'lláh. Dr. 'Ugo Giachery, who unveiled the portraits, lovingly anointed the hand of each Bahá'í with the Guardian's own attar of roses, a symbol of the spiritual fragrance so abundantly present.

The Fourth Phase of the World Crusade

Friday evening the Conference session opened in Chicago with a prayer chanted in Persian. Mr. Kavelin shared further messages of greeting from the Bahá'ís of Pakistan, Stockholm, and Iran, from the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, from the
Local Spiritual Assembly of Brussels, and from the Regional Spiritual Assemblies of Northwest Asia and Southeast Asia.

“The Fourth Phase of the World Crusade” was the subject of the evening, presented by Dr. Ugo Giachery and visiting Hands of the Cause. Dr. Giachery first thanked the friends for their demonstration of love and affection that afternoon. He said, “I would like to have embraced each one. I felt a tremendous bond of love. I did not know the faces, but I am glad that the Faith is growing. I looked at those hands I anointed—capable, strong hands, most of them. I felt happy; they belonged to friends who will be doing things, who will arise to the occasion, who will make a new page of history for the Baha’is of America.”

The key to the work of the next five years, Dr. Giachery stated, is the vital process of individual conversions. Next most important: building the three Temples, at Kampala, Frankfurt, and Sydney. He continued, “It gives me great joy to see how many intelligent Negro friends are in our community—this is most encouraging. I have been told that since the message to the Kampala Conference, there have been more and more enrollments in Africa. The same momentum must take place here among the Negro race.”

“You are blessed in a thousand ways,” he added, “with your great abundance of mechanical civilization. If you just give up these things, which after all do not amount to much, you will be able to increase the flow of pioneers... Let us achieve what would have brought Shoghi Effendi the greatest joy and happiness.”

Mr. Kavelin then reviewed in detail the accomplishments to date toward completion of the twenty-seven goals of the Crusade. Nine of the goals have been completed, thirteen partly completed, and five are not yet achieved. “Great miracles have been attained thus far,” Mr. Kavelin said, “but much remains to be done. We hope that many will see fit to arise in the Crusade and offer their services.”

There were at least three occasions during the Conference for an expression of the great eagerness and enthusiasm which animated the Baha’is who were hoping to enter the pioneering field. At this point in the program many volunteers came forward to tell what prompted them to offer their services as pioneers. Many had been planning to pioneer for months or years. Many also were new Baha’is or were young people to whom “instant and exact obedience” suddenly meant pioneering now.

Mr. Ioas, in reference to the enthusiastic response for pioneers, said that he had asked the Guardian at the beginning of the Crusade why he wanted the Baha’is to disperse, and that the Guardian had replied that the time was fast approaching to spread the Cause of God all over the earth. We need to build the lighthouses of the Faith through which the Holy Spirit descends. If there is one area where a pioneer does not go, he is depriving that area of the regenerative power of the Holy Spirit of Baha’u’llah.”

Mr. Robarts gave eloquent testimony to the spirit present. “The only thing that really matters,” he said, “is serving the Cause in the way Shoghi Effendi really wanted. Pioneers feel so sorry for these poor American Baha’is still at home, for God does assist us in every step we take. Some of us may have remorse that we didn’t serve the Guardian more when he was alive. Now we are on our own, and we are moving forward.”

Mr. Kavelin told of an African at Kampala who remarked that formerly we had to contact the Guardian through personal correspondence which few could do. Now he is everywhere, and we can reach out to him.

Mr. Holley declared a pioneer is not merely a person who goes from an old place to a new place, but a person who goes from an old self to a new self. Spiritual progress is made by obeying a Manifestation. When he sets up a goal we can only attain progress by reaching that goal.

And so this wonderful day closed with a Prayer by ‘Abdu’l-Baha, read by Dr. Ugo Giachery, which contained these words, “O my God! O my God! Verily these servants are turning to Thee, supplicating Thy Kingdom of mercy... O Lord! make them radiant lamps, fruitful trees and shining stars. May they come forth in Thy service and be connected with Thee by the bonds and ties of Thy love, longing for the lights of Thy favor...”

The Second Day of the Conference

Five languages, English, Spanish, Oneida, Mohawk, and an Eskimo dialect were used in the devotions which opened the second day of the Conference.

Mr. Kavelin asked all present who pioneered during the first five years of the crusade to come to the stage to be greeted. As more and more came forward, the official photographers became frantic. One photographer despaired, “We cannot take them individually; we wouldn’t have any bulbs or film left!” Another whispered, “I suggest the audience take the stage and let the pioneers take the auditorium.” In all, seventy-five came forward. The chairman then referred to the great service that many here had given in pioneering on the Homefront, and asked them to come to be greeted. There were eighty-three in this group.

So much zest and enthusiasm was evoked in the audience that Dr. Giachery smilingly said, “I do not like to stop your talking — talking is indeed the best
part of these meetings.” Once again he urged the friends to forget all attachments: “No position, no home or family ties can give you the joy of leaving your homeland to pioneer,” he said. “I know; I speak from experience.”

Persian Visitors Addressed in Their Native Tongue

Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh next gave an address directed especially to the large group of Persian friends present who contributed in large measure to the warmth and success of the Conference. It was translated into Persian by Mosratollah Rassekh. She said in part: “We American Bahá’ís owe an everlasting debt of gratitude to Bahá’í of the land of Tá. Our love is so deep that I doubt that in a lifetime we could express it. It was the blood of the Persian friends who watered the seeds of our Faith, their steadfastness that brought us to this glorious moment. I cannot resist this opportunity to tell you of an experience twenty years ago in Persia. An old man showed me his wrists. ‘I was in Siyáh Chál with Bahá’u’lláh—and to think I should live to see the day when a Bahá’í comes out of the West.’

‘Persian friends, we tried in many ways to show you how much we loved you in your trials. Our hearts throbbed with sorrow for you. At that time we prayed for you. We poured forth our energy in a tremendous appeal that cost the American Community $60,000. Best of all, we demonstrated by our telegrams how much all the Bahá’í world loved the Bahá’ís. The Guardian warned us that this victory was not won for all time, that trials would come again and again, leading to a greater triumph. The Persians and the friends in the West are different in temperament. Though our aim is common, our temperaments are widely diverse. This difference was so apparent at the funeral of the Guardian. All our hearts were throb­bin­g with grief, but we showed it in different ways. Persians have, I’m sure, the largest tears in the world. Persians believe, and rightly so, that nothing is too difficult, nothing is impossible. They go about stubbornly doing the things that the West would say cannot be done, and very often they succeed. The Americans have an important part in the combination of emotion and practicality. When they combine, you have unique Bahá’í groups. The Guardian said to some of the pilgrims, if ten per cent of the Persians left to pioneer, all our goals would be settled. Now is the time to demonstrate in action your great love to Shoghi Effendi. We in the Western world need you in many, many places. Turn those tears into action. Come to us. We need many pioneers here and in South America. Please come. You are very, very welcome.”

Progress, Plans, and Needs of the World Crusade

The beautifully printed Conference programs listed Progress, Plans, and Needs of the World Crusade in six parts. The first two included the central area of the Western Hemisphere: Central America, Panama, and Mexico, and the Greater Antilles. South America comprised the second two parts, and Canada and the United States the last.

James Facey, representing Central America, Mexico, and Panama; Randolph Fitz-Henley for the Greater Antilles; Mrs. Dorothy Campbell for Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela; Roberto Cazcarra for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Uruguay, and Paraguay; and Esteban Canales of Central America all spoke with great feeling of the great need for an ever-increasing flow of pioneers to insure attainment of the remaining goals of the Ten-Year Crusade.

The Guardian’s Map of Crusade Accomplishments

Before the Alaska report was given, Dr. Ugo Giachery displayed and described the Guardian’s map of Crusade accomplishments. This was an identical copy, and the only one made, of the map Shoghi Effendi drew with his own hands. The Guardian was so keenly anxious to have it ready for the Conference that he took it with him to London and was adding to it up to the last day of his life.

It is an exquisite piece of work that exemplifies the artistic mood in which it was planned and executed. Eighteen different colors were used. Lines radiate from the continents in fan-like patterns. The World Center accomplishments are depicted in gold. Of the countries, Uganda was first with ten victories, Alaska second with nine. Dr. Giachery said that Alaska was one of the Guardian’s pet new National Assemblies. On the map the radiating lines look like the coronet of a queen.

“I remember one night at table,” Dr. Giachery said, “when the Guardian came in, his eyes sparkling with joy. He tried to make us guess what news he was bringing, then he unrolled a map and showed the Faith in the far North, on Franklin Island.”

Robert Moul of Alaska spoke next. “There is a National Assembly in Alaska is a miracle,” he said. “Fifteen years ago the first Assembly was formed. In 1958 Alaska was a consolidation goal. We thought we had ten years, but the Guardian had other plans. When we learned that we were to have a National Assembly by Ríjíván 1957, our collective gasp must have been heard round the world.

“To give you an example of the Guardian’s inspiring leadership: when we heard that the Fund for the
Hagiratu’l-Quds had been spontaneously started with a contribution of thirty-five dollars, he cabled five hundred pounds for it. The impact of the institution of the Hands of the Cause, and of the teaching work of Florence Mayberry as Auxiliary Board member, was electrifying.”

Mrs. Peggy Ross told of the progress, plans, and needs of the immense territory entrusted to the indomitable Canadian Community. Not only are there thousands of miles to be traversed, but there are varied ethnic and language groups under the Canadian jurisdiction. In the past five years, because it was necessary to concentrate on good foundations, the teaching work seemed to go backwards instead of forwards, but now the results are seen in a steady increase of believers and Assemblies which promises success for the Crusade goals.

“Other goal territories are equally demanding and varied,” Mrs. Ross explained. “They include Samoa, the Marquesas, Iceland, Greenland, Labrador, Keewatin, Franklin, Yukon, and a number of smaller islands. There is a great need for suitable pioneers.”

Cable to Hands in Holy Land

A cablegram from the Conference replying to the message from the Hands in the Holy Land, framed by Katherine McLaughlin, Roland Estall and Jenaee Caldwell was read:

THIRD INTERCONTINENTAL CONFERENCE CALLED BY BELOVED GUARDIAN KEENLY AWARE HIS EVER PRESENT GUIDANCE SEND LOVING APPRECIATION MESSAGE REVERED CUSTODIANS PULSATING HEART WORLD CENTER. HUMBLY GRATEFUL INSPIRED LEADERSHIP GUARDIAN’S REPRESENTATIVE HAND CAUSE UGO GIACHERY WHOSE INTIMATE LOVING SERVICE CONFERENCE TOUCHES ALL HEARTS. BLESSED PRESENCE SIX HANDS MEMBERS INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SIXTEEN HUNDRED FIFTY TWO REPRESENTING TWENTY NINE COUNTRIES INCLUDING AT LEAST THIRTEEN BOARD MEMBERS ALSO MEMBERS AT LEAST ELEVEN NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES. PROGRAM THANKSGIVING VIEWING PORTRAITS HOLY MANIFESTATIONS ANOINTMENT BY HAND RAISED ASSEMBLAGE HEAVENLY HEIGHTS GREATER UNITY MATURITY RELEASING POWER EVIDENT IN RESPONSE TO RESPONSIBILITIES AND CALL FOR PIONEERS ESPECIALLY YOUTH GIVING PROMISE ULTIMATE COMPLETE VICTORY ALL GOALS BELOVED GUARDIAN’S CRUSADE. LOVINGLY PLEDGE LOYALTY INSTITUTION HANDS AUTHORITY PROVED OF GOD AND FAITHFULNESS STEWARDSHIP PROVED BY THEIR ACTS. SUPPLI­ CATE PRAYERS HOLY SHRINES.

H. Borrah Kavelin reviewed the progress of the Crusade goals of the United States. He recalled the Conference of 1953 when Rubiyiyih Khanum brought Shoghi Effendi’s message giving the United States twenty-four goals. “Who would have believed,” Mr. Kavelin said, “that so much could have been accomplished in the last five years. Ninety-four Knights of Bahá’u’lláh have left our shores. As of January first of this year there were 314 believers from the United States in the pioneering field. In the past five years, our National Budgets have totalled two and a half million dollars.”

Intercontinental Teaching

Intercontinental Teaching under the auspices of the United States was reported by Charlotte Linfoot, Asia; Rex Parmalee and Elsie Austin, Africa; Edna True, Europe; William de Forge and Katherine McLaughlin, Western Hemisphere.

Miss Linfoot stated that the few unopened goals in Asia were a result of peculiar conditions, chiefly political. The ultimate success, here, according to the Guardian, may be greater than in Africa. In addition to permanent settlers, there is a need for those who can go for several months. In these countries of slower tempo we need a great deal of persistance of effort, and a great deal of patience. “The only people who are in a hurry,” Miss Linfoot said, “are the Bahá’ís.”

Edna True reported that the mission of the European Teaching Committee will not be accomplished until there is a strong national assembly in each area. Miss True said that there was not one moment when someone was not trying to fill the post in the one remaining opened virgin territory.

Rex Parmalee spoke of the outstanding success in Africa, which has made us complacent. Last year there was a net loss of pioneers. Elsie Austin said that there were only two local spiritual assemblies in North­west Africa in 1953; now there are forty-three, and many groups. “This area still needs many pioneers. It is a great area for teaching. Hearts are ready. We should be proud of our part in their spiritual ferment and growth. Here you are working with pioneers of five great countries; the United States, Britain, Persia, Egypt, and India. One sees the deep reverence of the Oriental pioneers, the activity and fervor of the Western believers; the depth of the Indians; and the order of the English. This is a great learning experience. There is still a great challenge in Africa. In four territories not yet opened, we have been utterly frustrated.

William de Forge said, “The flood of pioneers from the Conference is growing every minute. A total of 154
pioneers is required now. Now is the time."

Katherine McLaughlin gave a moving account of a visit she had recently made to the Indian Bahá'í Community in Bolivia. She said, "The contrast between the rich and the poor in this country is very marked; but, from a spiritual, not a material point of view, who are poorer than those who have not heard the Message of Bahá'u'lláh?"

The friends were saddened by the word received during the conference of the passing of saintly Mrs. Clara Sharp in Tihrvan, But there were happy and humorous notes also. Everyone stood to sing "Happy Birthday" for Mason Remey, who was about to celebrate his eighty-fifth birthday. Strolling in the sunshine to the nearby park for the Conference photograph was a pleasant interlude.

Sunday morning we gathered at the Eighth Street Theater for the last day of the Conference. The deeply moving devotional readings set the tone for the final sessions. They ended with a prayer chanted in Persian. This prayer of Shoghi Effendi, chanted by a voice of extraordinary sweetness and power, seemed to express the essence of spiritual fragrance. One experienced a heightening of the senses so that fragrance and sound seemed to blend into one quality.

Volunteers for Pioneering

The chairman explained that the program had been rearranged so that volunteers for pioneering could come forward in the morning session. This roll call of volunteers was an impressive and moving spectacle which no one present will forget. At least eighty-five dedicated souls stepped forward. There were many touching statements, but a single example may be cited. One gentleman said that he had been a minister for fifty-two years, had now been two months in the Cause, and had never seen such harmony and peace among men as at this Conference. "I'm just floating on air," he said. "Whenever my wings drop, I'm going south in His Name. Bahá'u'lláh has sent me out to talk to the ministers. I have a great message for them. Pray for me!"

Mrs. Nancy Phillips, secretary of the American Indian Service Committee, urged us with great seriousness to consider the importance of teaching the aborigines of the Western Hemisphere. This is the only remaining task of the Seven-Year Plan, she told us. When speaking to the friends in 1933, Dorothy Baker said that during her pilgrimage Shoghi Effendi had spoken again and again of the Indians. "Now, halfway in the Crusade," Mrs. Phillips said, "we have made a beginning. There is a marked acceleration in enrollment in the ranks of the Faith. We must remember that the Indian Service Committee will guide us in the practical considerations of where is great need for teaching and where may be suitable jobs. Find for yourself some of the heartlands of our country," she exhorted, "and know that in fulfillment of the promise of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, there will be a brighter future when the Indians shall have embraced the faith of Bahá'u'lláh."

Mason Remey spoke of the great success of the Conference and of his joy at being present. Leroy loas declared that it was with no little emotion that he arose to speak. "These holy souls who have arisen to carry the banner of Bahá'u'lláh to so many areas, bring close memories of the Guardian's happiness and enthusiasm when he received news of the success of the pioneers," he said.

Mr. loas remarked that he was particularly impressed that so many Negro friends had arisen to serve in the South. He said the Guardian referred to the Negro, as 'Abdu'l-Bahá had done before him, as the apple of his eye. Mr. loas also spoke of the Guardian's deep love for and close association with, the pioneers. The Guardian was depressed and grieved when he learned of some difficulty that had befallen a pioneer. "I am telling you this," Mr. loas added, "so that you will know that the Guardian's heart is with you every moment, every second, and that he is coming to your aid and assistance."

Horace Holley said that as long ago as 1946 the Guardian, in a letter to America, wrote that the Bahá'í Community would have to be a reservoir to provide pioneers for the First and Second Seven Year Plans. "He has repeated this promise and warning with increasing emphasis ever since," Mr. Holley said. "Our capacity to send out pioneers depends on our confirming new believers. We cannot all go, but we can all contribute. We must arise above confusing, harassing, personal disagreements which veil us from the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh, so that the reservoir will be supplied with hundreds and hundreds of additional pioneers throughout the remaining years of the Crusade."

John Robarts reminded us that the beloved Guardian had urged that we on the homefront disperse, not only abroad, but to smaller places on the homefront. In cities we are immersed in a sea of materialism.

Dr. Glachery said, "I cannot express my gratitude to Shoghi Effendi for singling me out to come here. I have a confession to make. When I received the message to come here, I was bewildered, I felt unworthy of such an assignment, and I sent a cable to the Guardian. He answered, "You deserve the honor." I am happy although my heart is very heavy. I have an invisible bond, an unbreakable thread which has tied me to each of you. Your tenderness, love, loyalty—I
don't accept it personally. It is for Shoghi Effendi. I take all this love as a tribute to his memory.

"Our Bahá'í World Center"

One of the features of the Sunday morning program was an address on "Our Bahá'í World Center" by Dr. Ugo Giachery. A resume follows:

The great institutions of the Faith in the twin cities of Haifa and 'Akká represent our spiritual development. A few years ago Shoghi Effendi sent Dr. Giachery a photograph of Mount Carmel in 1900. It was then a dry, rocky mountain with little vegetation and no buildings except a Carmelite monastery on the northwest slope. There has since been a tremendous transformation.

Carmel means Vineyard of God. The Old Testament speaks of it. The ancient prophets of Israel trod there. It is the site of Elijah's cave. It is said that Jesus and Muhammad went to Mount Carmel. Bahá'u'lláh's Tablet of Carmel is in Gleanings, pp. 14-16. This is one of the fundamental documents on which the transformation of the entire mountain is based. Dr. Giachery urged us when we get home to read this Tablet again, to memorize it if we can, to help us understand the Institutions of the Faith and the Administrative Order. In it, Bahá'u'lláh promises, "Ere long will God sail His ark on thee."

Of all the living religions, only the Bahá'í Faith has its spiritual and administrative centers in one locality. For Christianity, Jerusalem is the spiritual center, and the administration is elsewhere. Mecca and Medina are the spiritual centers of Islam, but since the fall of the Caliphate, there has been no administrative center.

This land of Mount Carmel and Bahji is permeated with tremendous spiritual power. Shoghi Effendi often spoke of the great potency and force of the spiritual center. Bahá'u'lláh used to pitch His tent on Mount Carmel. He pointed out to 'Abdu'l-Bahá the location, marked by a clump of cypress trees, half-way up the slope of the mountain, where the Báb's remains should be put. The original building was simple, of local stone, constructed under 'Abdu'l-Bahá's direction, with great difficulty and suffering. The real transformation came under Shoghi Effendi's leadership. His vision went beyond physical, human limitations. He often had a faraway look as though he was seeing something not visible to our eyes, that he alone could see. He was planning in terms of centuries, not just a few years, in these basic buildings. It was the Guardian's plan to create a solid Center that will withstand all the storms and conflicts of the world. He added a vision of millenniums ahead, and erected and embellished the Institutions.

In his Messages in 1949, the Guardian embarked on the construction of the Administrative World Center. The Archives building is visible from land and sea. It is valued at $250,000; but is worth much more in labor and effort. If we could express in money the anguish, effort, and labor, the figure would be astron
The Guardian knew exactly what had to be done, and did it in the quickest, most efficient, though sometimes unorthodox manner. The gardens are beautiful, kept with loving care. They are the best in the Middle East. There one is overcome with a sense of peace, detachment, tranquillity to be found nowhere else in the world. This is the impression not only of Baha'is but also of the visitors who come from all over the world. There is nothing else but peace and repose. When the Shrine is lit by floodlights at night, it is a dream vision from all parts of the city. The mayor has requested that the lights be turned on during all of the present centennial celebration.

The Most Sacred Spot

The most sacred spot in the Faith is the Tomb of Bahá'u'lláh, about four miles from the historic city of 'Akka. The ancient city goes back to the time of the Phoenicians. In the tenth and eleventh centuries it was a fortress of the Crusaders. Until 1936 the mansion of Bahjí was in the hands of the covenant-breakers, and was kept in a terrible condition. Shoghi Effendi had it repaired. Now, through his love and foresight, there is no more beautiful building in Israel. It was possible to obtain surrounding land through a descendant of a brother of Bahá'u'lláh. Sandy plots were transformed into gardens. It is Dr. Giachery's opinion that at Bahjí one experiences a different emotion from that felt in the gardens of the Báb's Shrine. One feels something overpowering, something that makes you feel small, infinitesimal, as though you are nothing but a little pebble in the path. You feel the magnitude and intensity of Bahá'u'lláh's power. A new terrace has been recently completed at the gardens. From it one can see the entire area. On clear days one can see the dome of the Shrine of the Báb glittering in the distance. There is an invisible but indestructible bridge connecting these two spiritual centers of the Faith.

The Final Conference Session

Sunday afternoon the session was opened with a prayer read in Spanish by Roberto Cazcarra. Messages received from the revered Hands of the Cause, Adelbert Mulischlegel and Paul Haney were read. Horace Holley and H. Borrah Kavelin gave the last addresses of the program on the topic, "Houses of Worship in the World Crusade." Mr. Holley stated that 'Abdu'l-Bahá, in a talk given in 1912, had described the House of Worship as a collective center, a cause of accord in human hearts, and a symbol of the divine uniting force. The Maujudi'l-Adhkâr with its dependencies, represents the wholeness of life: spirit and science, faith and worship, and the fulfillment of humanitarianism through service to mankind. Moreover, in the recognition of progressive revelation in its services of worship, it acts not merely as the mouthpiece of the latest Revealer, but also of the previous Ones. Because it represents the wholeness of life and the one eternal religion of God, it is an in-
stitution of immeasurable spiritual influence. The Maghribi’l-Ashkhar is the sacred place where this great miracle is being maintained. Eventually there will be a Temple not only on all continents, but in all cities. The people will realize that this is the one power that will save mankind from its ills and enable it to establish the new World Order of Bahá’ulláh.

Mr. Kavelin stated that the House of Worship is a source of deep satisfaction to all of us and a spiritual beacon to all the world. He told of his visit to the Temple site at Kampala on the occasion of its dedication. Nearly 500 people rode out on a blazing hot summer day to an elevation overlooking the city. There they witnessed the laying of the cornerstone by ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Ruhiyyih Khánum and Musa Banání, Hand of the Cause. The Africans are proud of their achievement. Their House of Worship is to be completed by Ridván 1959. It will be the tallest structure in all Uganda, symbolic of the high station of our Faith on that continent.

Closing Messages From the Hands of the Cause

The five reverent Hands of the Cause gave the closing messages. Mason Remey said that it had been a blessed privilege to absorb, one from another, the bountiful outpourings of spirit. John Robarts told of an episode that Amatu’l-Bahá Ruhiyyih Khánum had related: When she first married Shoghi Effendi and came to live in that holy spot, she thought, being under the shadow of that blessed Tree, that the destiny of her soul would be safe and secure. But Shoghi Effendi told her that the destiny of her soul lay in the palm of her own hand. The destiny of every soul, he said, must depend on the service and devotion of each to the Cause. Even the station of a Hand of the Cause is no guarantee of that soul’s future.

The climax of the whole Conference for many an individual present was the final words of Horace Holley. His penetrating, thoughtful mind had contributed in the past week so many speeches that were like polished gems, that the brevity and impact of this one was totally unexpected. In the emotion-charged atmosphere of the last few moments of the Conference, Mr. Holley rose and with what seemed to be all the intensity of his soul, cried out, ‘Ya-Bahá’u’l-Abhá!’ three times with great force and rising inflection. One could only recall ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s words in the Tablets of the Divine Plan, “Oh, how long that it could be made possible for me to travel through these parts, even if necessary on foot, and with the utmost poverty, and while passing through the cities, villages, mountains, deserts, and oceans, cry at the top of my voice, ‘Ya-Bahá’u’l-Abhá!’ and promote the divine teachings. But now this is not feasible for me; therefore I live in great regret; perchance, God willing, ye may become assisted.”

Leroy Ioas said those who have had the great bounty of serving the Cause in Haifa always think how happy Shoghi Effendi would have been to witness a gathering such as this. How he would have thrilled to the achievement of goals of the great Crusade which he conceived, to spread the Cause of God. After such conferences, he would always say, “Now we must see what the friends will do.” It is up to us to prove what we say. There is a new spirit sweeping over the Bahá’í world. The Guardian said that the Fourth Phase of the World Crusade must be the most glorious, most spectacular, and dram
Combine the pictures of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. He had the strength and delicacy of both. He was ready to frown and ready to smile. He had a humorous manner of address often. Still there was the tenderness that could not be found anywhere else. He had a tremendous capacity for work. His day started very early, sometimes before sunrise and he worked uninterruptedly, sometimes past midnight, always in the service of the friends, of humanity. His translations will never be equalled by any scholar. His vision did not belong to a human being, it was beyond the most perfect telescope that could be invented. That's why he warned us constantly. He saw into the future. That's why he was urging us all the time, pointing the way to physical and spiritual salvation. He chided the American friends sometimes; he was aware, although he had never been here, of the danger of material progress as the two things, comfort and spirituality, do not go together.

"I am telling you these things not to urge you, but to explain. We thought years ago that Shoghi Effendi was a different self—I may look the same, but I am a different person inside. One person summed up the feelings of all: "We were transported."

—JOYCE LYON DAHL

**Message From the Hands of the Holy Land to the First All-France Convention**

ON THE historic occasion of the convening of the First all-France Bahá’í Convention and the election of the National Spiritual Assembly of this famous land, long one of the chief pillars of European civilization and a fountain-head of freedom and liberalism, our minds naturally turn to our beloved Guardian, whose ceaseless encouragement, tireless efforts, and unflinching determination made possible this event of such great spiritual significance. In spite of the fact that France had the unique and enviable position of being the first nation on the European continent to receive the warming and illuminating rays of the sun of Bahá'u'lláh’s Revelation, the friends gathered here, more particularly those of French extraction, are well aware of how difficult it has been to bring the work of our glorious Faith to this point of consummation.

Since the light of this New Revelation was first brought to France almost sixty years ago, this country has been blessed by many and varied events of profound spiritual significance. We may well, at this moment of victory, recall some of these which are of outstanding historic interest.

From France the very first party of Western pilgrims proceeded to the Turkish penal colony of ‘Akká to visit ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. In 1899, upon the return of that handful of souls, now aflame with the Glad Tidings of this New Revelation, May Bolf, with the approval and under the loving guidance of the Master Himself, began to teach the Faith in Paris. Before long a flourishing, enkindled and wholly dedicated group of souls was gathered there, including believers of such distinction as Hippolyte Dreyfus, the first native French believer, Thomas Breakwell, the first British believer, the Hand of the Cause Charles Mason Remey, and many others. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá Himself sent the greatest Bahá’í teacher of the East, Mirza Abú’l-Fadl, to deepen the Faith of that early group. In those early years, Laura Barney, who later became the wife of Hippolyte Dreyfus, journeyed to ‘Akká and, during a long sojourn in the Holy Land, compiled that book of inestimable value Some Answered Questions.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Visits to Paris

In 1911 and 1912, Paris was blessed by the presence of the beloved Master Himself, who remained there for considerable periods of time. Many Orientalists, scholars, and men famous for their erudition throughout Europe sought His presence. It was there that He gave His famous Paris talks, lamenting the depths to which Europe had sunk in her pursuit of materialistic ideologies, and exhorting the people to awaken spiritually, in words which were the very breath of the Holy Spirit.

It was during one of his visits that the Master uttered these prophetic words: "Try to propagate the Teachings of God ... Now in Europe, it is the beginning of a new day. It is dawn. Ere long the Divine Light shall penetrate everywhere." On another occasion He said: "Though you find Paris dormant now, eventually it will become revived, because I have spent many a sleepless night here, during which I supplicated the Almighty to shower His confirmations upon the people. I had no rest, no sleep—I was constantly suppliant."

It was not until after World War II, with the inauguration of the Second Seven-Year plan given by the beloved Guardian to the American Bahá'í Community, one phase of which was aimed at the spiritual conquest of ten European "Goal" countries, that the work in France itself began to fulfill the prophecies of the Master. Though naturally herself not one of these goal
countries, the vitalizing effects of the systematic prosecution of 'Abdu'l-Bahá’s Divine Plan were felt throughout the length and breadth of France; the faithful and persistent groups of believers already established in such cities as Marseilles and Lyon, as well as the Paris community, began to be stimulated, not only by the general atmosphere of intense activity which was pervading adjacent countries, but also through direct help from traveling Bahá’í teachers and pioneers, and from the European Teaching Committee of the National Assembly of the United States.

The number of French Bahá’ís—the firm bedrock on which all activity in that country must ultimately rest—was increasing; the loyalty and devotion of these native friends greatly encouraged and pleased the Guardian, who saw in them the promise of the future and realized that the day when France would be able to have her own National Spiritual Assembly was fast approaching. From that time on, he fixed his attention on France, showered his encouragement on the work of its believers, urged many American friends to pioneer there, and watched over the progress being made with both pride and interest, a pride and interest which culminated with his announcement that the first election of its independent National Assembly would take place in Rídvan 1958.

First National Assembly on Continent

The believers of French extraction gathered in this convention, as well as their loving and devoted co-workers from other countries who have pioneered in France, without whose unsparking and dedicated efforts this victory could not have been won so soon, are aware that they are now electing the first National, as distinguished from Regional, Spiritual Assembly of the European continent, an assembly which constitutes yet another pillar of the Universal House of Justice. This is a great distinction, a great honor, and imposes a great responsibility, more particularly at this time when the Cause of God has received such a grievous blow through the sudden passing of its beloved Guardian, its guide and its shield. There is no doubt, however, that his love and his spirit are with you on this historic occasion, and that he will continue to watch over the advancement of this community which he so tenderly encouraged for so many years, and whose present coming of age was so eagerly anticipated by him.

Our beloved Guardian doubtless would have called upon the National Assembly elected at this historic first French Annual Convention to formulate its own Five-Year Plan for the remainder of the World Crusade, as he did in the case of the newly-formed national bodies in Africa in 1956. Perhaps he would have specified the objectives himself, as he did for the subsidiary Six-Year Plans given to each of the thirteen national and regional assemblies formed in the Rídvan period of 1957. We may be sure, however, that his hopes for the future development of the Faith in France would, following his earlier pattern, encompass: (1) the devising of ways and means of insuring the rapid spread of the Cause throughout that land; (2) the consolidation and multiplication of its assemblies, groups and isolated centers; (3) the planting of the banner of the Faith in all the various Departments of the country, especially those which have as yet had no sustained teaching activity within their borders; (4) the incorporation of the new National body, as well as the local spiritual assemblies; (5) the establishment of a site for a future Mashriqu’l-Adhkár; (6) the holding of summer schools to deepen the knowledge and understanding of the believers; and (7) above all the spreading of the light of this Divine Revelation far and wide amongst the people of that country, in order that the promises of the beloved Master may be speedily fulfilled, and the French nation receive the redeeming grace of Bahá’u’lláh in this dark age through which it and the whole world is now passing.

Words of Guardian Concerning France

As the assembled friends consult earnestly and prayerfully upon the unfinished tasks before them, they may well turn for inspiration and assurance to the words of the beloved Guardian, addressed to the national conventions two years ago—a message in which he referred specifically to the formation of the National Spiritual Assembly of France.

"Before the eyes of the warriors enlisting under its banner stretch fields of exploration and consolidation of such vastness as might well dazzle the eyes and strike awe into the heart of any soul less robust than those who have arisen to identify themselves with its Cause. The heights its champions must scale are indeed formidable. The pitfalls that bestrew their path are still numerous. The road leading to ultimate and total victory is tortuous, stony, and narrow. Thirs, however, is the emphatic assurance, revealed by the Pen of the Most High—the Prime Mover of the forces unleashed by this world-girdling Crusade—that 'Whoever ariseth to aid our Cause, God will render him victorious over ten times ten thousand souls, and, should he wax in his love for Me, him will We cause to triumph over all that is in heaven and all that is on earth.'"

Signed:

Rufiyth
A. Q. Fáizi

Paul Haney
Jalal Kházeh

Amelia Collins
A. Furutan
First National Spiritual Assembly of France, Formed Ridvan 1958, Becomes Twenty-Seventh Pillar of Faith of Baha’u’llah

AIDED by the inspiring, comprehensive, thoughtful message from the Hands of the Cause in Haifa; in the presence of the dearly-loved Hand of the Cause Herman Grossmann and newly-appointed Hand of the Cause William Sears of Africa; under the counsel and attentive loving care of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, the appointed interim National Body, ably and indefatigably represented by member Edna True; with the eventful attendance of one of the first believers of France, devoted early believer Laura Dreyfus-Barney, the first National Convention of the Baha’is of France moved joyously toward the hour of election of its first National Spiritual Assembly and the first independent National Assembly on the continent of Europe.

Deeply moved by the knowledge that this historic step was being taken at the express direction of Shoghi Effendi, aware of the blessings that had been showered upon France in turn by the two memorable visits of ‘Abdu’l-Baha, and by the eternal fires kindled by Him at that time in Paris; and by the divine, masterful guidance of our beloved Guardian in the propagation of the teaching work and the establishment of the administrative pillars, the delegates and the attending friends from twenty different localities of France and from six countries, including Iran and South Africa, moved through their deliberations with a conscious knowledge that the spiritual destiny of a country was being fulfilled.

Assemblage of 90 at First Convention

Opened with the reading of prayers in French and English and with beautiful Persian chanting, reaffirming the unity of the nationalities which have banded together under the banner of Baha’u’llah to bring to fruition this splendid flower of the Ten-Year Crusade, the First National Convention of France, held sixty years after the introduction of the Faith to Paris by a young and enthusiastic group of students, who long since have dispersed into wider fields of service, brought together, in the period of the most joyous Festival, over ninety believers, the largest congregation of Bahai’s yet assembled in France.

Perhaps the most moving aspect of the Convention was the living love and the forceful leadership of the Guardian and the constant mention of his words and works by those who spoke and by those who took part in the deliberations and consultations. The messages of love and appreciation sent by the Hands of the Cause from all parts of the world, from Australia, Asia, continental Europe, and England, the Near East and the United States defined in word and spirit the everlasting unity possible and existent in the Bahai World.

The greetings from the twenty-six national assemblies the world over lent dignity and responsibility to the momentous prospect facing the assembled delegates.

From California, Saigon, Belgium, New York, Tahiti, Chicago, Tunis, Andorra, Tehran and other scattered points, letters and cables came pouring in from those who had pioneered a while in France and had then been forced to move on before this final goal had been attained—but who rejoiced in this Ridvan period that France had won this signal victory. Local assemblies, whose formation had been closely knitted to the work in France, through the selfless, timeless, devoted efforts of the members of the European Teaching Committee, sent messages of congratulations to a national community which was aware that the entire Baha’i World had shared the responsibilities and the work—and had a share of the victory.

As the first delegates were called one by one, they moved forward with their ballots; and history stirred once again—and as gloriously as on ancient pages. Delegates from famous cities moved forward to add a new kind of fame to the annals of Marseille, Nice, Lyon, Orleans, Paris! As the fourth phase of the Ten-Year Crusade opened, France became the twenty-seventh pillar on which the International House of Justice will be built, and the only National Assembly to be formed this Ridvan.

Seventy-seven of the one hundred fifty-two adult believers in France were present at this solemn and crucial juncture. The majority of the followers of Baha’u’llah, working together in this land that has already forty-two localities opened to the Faith, comprising seven local assemblies, seven groups and twenty-eight isolated believers, sat in conscious concentration as the goal set by the Guardian was attained—and the dedication of those noble souls of sixty years ago was realized.

Report on Goals and Achievements

Reports of the various national committees, set up by the European Teaching Committee, brought into focus the extent of the work actually accomplished. Goals set for France to be fulfilled before the formation of the national assembly were humbly acknowledged as attained; with the increase of pioneers and native believers, with the multiplication of isolated centers and local assemblies, with the translation and publication of literature, with the purchase of an endowment, with the establishment of summer schools.

The ten goal cities named by the Guardian were opened to the Faith, with the exception of one. Many visiting and resident believers had travelled to teach the Faith. A magnificently moving tape on the life of Baha’u’llah had been recorded for use. And the astonishing and gratifying total of seventy-two native French believers had assembled under the banner of the Faith.

As the Convention moved on through its three-day session, the perspective necessary to appreciate the goals already achieved and the work to be accomplished in the future was clearly realized. Non-delegate friends, catching the flame of inspiration, clamored to be heard; and the enthusiasm, so precious in the French believers, had to be curbed.

During the afternoon session of the last day, the newly-elected National Assembly announced to the
assembled delegates and friends the receipt of a generous gift, left to the National Assembly of the United States with the expressed hope that it be used for the promotion of the Faith in France, a gift from the late Edith Sanderson, who was a bulwark of devotion and service in the long years the Faith in France lay dormant. Thus France, guided by the Guardian, aided by the care and affection of the American National Assembly, helped by the friends throughout the world, materially blessed by this generous bequest, began its national responsibilities, already rich in the treasures of both the spiritual and material worlds.

Reception and Public Meeting Held

The entire Convention period was most fittingly opened with a reception held at the National Hazratu'l-Quds in Paris, on the eve of this great event, during which a report of the first Intercontinental Conference held in Kampala was given. Hand of the Cause William Sears, who unexpectedly found himself in Paris and who had participated in this first of the five congresses called for by the Guardian in his last message to the Bahá'ís of the world, gave a most moving recital of what took place in the heart of that fast-awakening continent. During the Convention sessions and at the Unity Banquet, the friends also had a chance to hear of the work being done by the native believers in Africa. A beautifully-prepared and well-attended public meeting, on the first night of the Convention, at which Madeleine Davy, exceptionally gifted French believer, spoke so simply and yet so eloquently of the spiritual foundations of the Bahá'í Faith, following which Louis Henuzet of Belgium masterfully outlined the administrative form through which the purity and strength of the Faith functions, attracted an audience of about one hundred and fifty.

Election of National Assembly

Halfway through the Convention the solemn period of the election of the National Assembly, at five minutes to four o'clock on the afternoon of April 26, 1958, was announced. The seriousness, the importance, the spiritual significance of this event was lost to no one. In an abrupt quietness, prayers and extracts from the writings of Shoghi Effendi on this subject were read. Reported back to the Convention by the tellers, as the elected National Spiritual Assembly for one year of the Bahá'í believers of France, were the names of nine: Sara Kenny, Jacques Soghomonian, Francois Petit, Joel Marangella, Chahib 'Alá'i, Sally Sanor, Lucienne Migette, Farhang Javid, and Florence Bagley. These nine met immediately after the afternoon session to elect their officers. The results, as reported to the friends were: Chairman, Joel Marangella; Vice-Chairman, Sara Kenny; Corresponding Secretary, Francois Petit; Recording Secretary, Sally Sanor; Treasurer, Farhang Javid.

Having accomplished one half of the duties prescribed to delegates, the Convention moved on after the election, continuing, through two more sessions, with the vitally important task of consultation.

On Sunday, late in the afternoon, following a few words of hope and encouragement spoken by Hand of the Cause Herman Grossmann, the historic first National Convention of France came to a close, leaving to the assemblage of friends these too few memorable hours for their sustenance in the year to come; leaving also to the friends the knowledge that another of the goals so long urged, so tirelessly worked for, so patiently attended by our beloved Shoghi Effendi has been won, and that the establishment of these broader bases of love and understanding his dearest wish.

—SALLY SANOR

Convention Reports Reaffirm Awareness of New Spiritual Forces, Dedication of Bahá’ís to Remaining Goals of Ten-Year Crusade

Alaska

Bahá’ís from all points of Alaska met in Anchorage for the Second Annual Bahá’í Convention on April 26-27, 1958. Delegates representing five local spiritual assemblies were present with one assembly delegate voting by absentee ballot. More than forty adults and several youth were in attendance, despite the handicap of distance and the necessity of expensive air travel.

Mr. Robert Moul, chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska, called the convention to order, and following roll call by the Secretary, a special prayer for the departed was dedicated to our beloved Shoghi Effendi, whose passing we mourn deeply and particularly on occasions such as this.

With the reading of the Convention Message from the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land, assuring all Bahá’ís of their support and stating that most of the statistics contained in the message were gleaned from the Guardian’s own notes, on which he had worked until two days before his passing, the knowledge that we are still under his protection was doubly apparent. There was a spirit of re-dedication and maturity present as the Alaskan Bahá’ís move forward to fulfill the goals set forth in the Ten-Year Crusade.

While the need for more pioneers to Alaska is still great, we are happy to report that Alaskans have also pioneered. Assemblies having sufficient numbers have sent settlers to goals in Alaska and many Alaskan Bahá’ís, members of the Armed Forces, have moved on to various stations elsewhere.

The Secretary of the National Teaching Committee reported on the accomplishments achieved in Alaska in the past year; while all the goals were not filled a good many were and the future looks fruitful. Much ground work was done by visiting speakers and teachers.

Plans for a Bahá’í Summer School, possibly in early August, were discussed briefly; complete details will be announced in the Alaskan Bahá’í News.

Many suggestions and recommendations for ways and means of teaching the natives were offered by the delegates and members of the National Spiritual Assembly; these recommendations will be studied by the Assembly and shared with the friends.

At this point the Chairman of the Convention, Verne L. Stout, asked that the discussion be opened to all persons assembled; this was done, with the approval of the delegates and members of the National Spiritual Assembly. From this discussion many interesting and informative ideas were gleaned. Agnes Harrison, the representative from Bethel, explained some of the problems involving her particular locality: the need for time to invite neighboring villages if a public meeting is scheduled, and the weather in winter making the attendance of such a meeting impossible for these same villages; the need for sincerity, humbleness, and patience, especially when moving to a pioneer post, such as Bethel, Nome, or Barrow, where the population is predominantly native Alaskan.

She further mentioned that teachers, nurses, and secretaries are usually able to find work; couples are more successful as a rule. The need for a ‘true’ picture of the situation was expressed; for instance a pioneer from the midwest might be considerably shocked to find prices like these: Water 15 cents per gallon, Milk 90 cents per quart, and Electricity 25 cents per kilowatt. These facts are mentioned not to discourage pioneers but to keep them from becoming discouraged. The people who have gone out, many times with nothing more than faith to back up their undertaking, report their spiritual reward most glorious.

This report would not be complete without some mention of the Young Adult members; hearing the wisdom poured forth from these young people, seeing the enthusiasm with which they are facing the future, hearing the optimism they express leaves one with the feeling that the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh rests in competent hands.

—Marie Guffey
Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay

The Second Annual Convention of the Bahá'ís of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay was held in the intimate atmosphere of the Ḥazíratu'l-Quds in Asuncion, Paraguay, on April 25-27, 1958. Twenty-four delegates from the five countries were present, including delegates of Negro, Indian, and white racial backgrounds, as well as European and American pioneers, with a joyous welcome also being given to a delegate from the southernmost city in the world, Punta Arenas.

During the Pre-Convention School April 23 and 24, courses were given on the themes of the Covenant, Institution of the Hands of the Cause, the Technique and Spirit of Consultation and The Day of God (from Advent of Divine Justice) which gave great impetus to the flow of consultation and the prevailing spirit of love and unity in the following convention days.

On the evening of April 24, a "Meeting of Unity" was held in lieu of the usual festive Ridván. This meeting was opened with meditation on the real significance of Bahá'í unity, using inspirational passages from the Teachings and excerpts associated with recent events in the Bahá'í World. The Master's definition of Unity was the theme of this introduction: "Unity is the expression of the loving power of God and reflects the reality of divinity." This was followed by an elevated devotional period together in a fragrant atmosphere of jasmine and attar of roses. These fragrances produced the strong impression of the very presence of the beloved Guardian with us that night.

It is always difficult to recapitulate the highlights of a convention in which confirmations flow so abundantly. Perhaps the most unforgettable memory will be the presence of the Canton Huanuni delegates, who spoke such pure words from their hearts as these: "We shall teach our children to enter into the new life;"

"First we shall illumine our brothers and people will ask us why we have advanced so far in our little village;" "I shall go on foot, passing over the mountains, crossing the rivers, seeking for believers; night and day I will walk looking for prepared souls ...; "We invite all our Bahá'í brothers in the world to visit us." A large proportion of the consultation during the Convention was devoted to the clearly expressed needs of the Bolivian Indian Friends in their deep desire to serve the Faith as pioneers.

The Convention closed with prayers in the following languages: Spanish, English, French, Italian, Norwegian, Quechua, and Aymara, read by delegates of those backgrounds. Among the frequently-heard words of "adieus" (farewell) was the phrase "Hasta siempre" (which has the untranslatable sense of being together forever).

National Assembly Election

The following members were elected to serve on the National Spiritual Assembly for the coming year: Jose Mielnik, Athos Costas, Salvador Tormo, Roberto Cazcarra, Roque Centurion Miranda, Else Cazcarra, Fabienne Guillon, Mary Binda, and Ellen Sims.

One can only sum up the spirit of this memorable Convention in the words of the revered Custodians of the Faith in the Holy Land: "A mighty wave of poignant love has swept all hearts, drawing the believers closer, uniting them in purpose, spurring them on to greater dedication, sacrifice and service in the path of God."

—Ellen Sims
Benelux Countries

The second Benelux convention, held April 26-27, 1958, in the conference room of the Hazíratu’l-Quds in The Hague, Holland, opened with prayers in French, Dutch, and English, followed by a moment of reverent silence in memory of the beloved Guardian. Louis Henuzet, chairman of the outgoing National Spiritual Assembly, read a cable from Herman Grossmann, Hand of the Cause, and then called upon Jan Sysling, Auxiliary Board member, to speak of his visit to the Guardian’s resting place in London.

After the election of the convention chairman, Jan Sysling, and secretary, Lea Nys, a report on the formation of the National Spiritual Assembly of France was given by Louis Henuzet, who attended the convention.

The nineteen delegates present deliberated considerably on the many needs and demands of a developing Bahá’í community—the care of three Hazíratu’l-Quds in Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg; budget; translation and distribution of literature; administrative responsibilities and the coordination of committee work; and above all the need to enlarge the scope of teaching so that many new believers may be enrolled.

Particularly stressed was the need to search ways and means for the legal incorporation of the National Assembly, and the urgency of securing their endowment—the last to be obtained.

The Message from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land, read from a French translation, and distributed in Dutch and English, was followed by a discussion period.

The Dutch Book Sales Committee reported on many new items being translated and published, and the Belgian Book Sales Committee reported an excellent record of distribution and stated its view that a Publishing Trust should soon be established. Both Committees take responsibility for translating as well as publishing, and have been very active.

Convention recommendations made to the incoming National Assembly strongly emphasized the need to concentrate on teaching work and suggested the following: More direct contact between the National Teaching Committees of each country and the communities and isolated Bahá’ís; the direction of Bahá’ís to goal cities as a continuous aspect throughout the year; a monthly schedule of meetings, activities, subjects, and speakers for holding of lectures and firesides, with results published in the Bulletin; the urgent need for a Bahá’í couple who speak French or German to settle in Luxembourg; and the possibilities for Iranian student pioneers. A weekend school following the Frankfurt Intercontinental Conference, for the purpose of deepening Bahá’ís only, was recommended.

The new Benelux National Spiritual Assembly, with its officers are: Chairman, Jan Sysling; Vice-Chairman, Louis Henuzet; Secretary, Lea Nys; Treasurer, Bob van Lith; Recording Secretary, Ben Levy; and Elsa de Kominck, Pierre Bram, Jean Nys; and Claude Levy.

—Ifrom report of Lea Nys

Iberian Peninsula

The Second Annual Convention of the Bahá’ís of the Iberian Peninsula was held in Madrid April 25-28, 1958, and was open to the attendance of the believers in general, who came from the nine communities of the Peninsula to the number of about thirty-five. Charles Monroe Ioa, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands, and chairman of the outgoing National Spiritual Assembly, opened the Convention, after which Angelo Silva Carneiro, also member of the Board, was elected its per-
that translations of all messages had been made and distributed, and a revision for publication, of the complete Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Spanish. Many important translations into Portuguese were also reported, among these being passages from 'Abdu'l-Bahá in London, the Persian Bayán, and other compilations, this being the work of Angelo Carneiro.

Attention was called to the great Intercontinental Conferences planned by the Guardian himself; about twelve persons from the Peninsula expect to attend the Frankfurt Conference next July.

Charles Ioas gave a clear and inspiring comment on "The New Phase of the Cause," calling attention to the importance of the Proclamation of the Hands of the Cause, which he read with comments, explaining that the Nine Hands in Haifa are the Custodians of the Faith until the formation of the International House of Justice, but in the meantime the friends should concentrate on the goals set by the Guardian for the Ten-Year Crusade.

Virginia Orbison commented upon the Convention Message of the Hands, upon which the delegates consulted in regard to the questions discussed in this important communication. Stress was put upon the individual responsibilities for living the Baha'i way of life, observing strict morality and integrity in all its aspects.

The Convention was summarized by the Chairman, Angelo Silva Carneiro, who commented on the wonderfully comprehensive spirit shown in the Convention, and the harmonious consultation and unanimous decisions made by the National Spiritual Assembly during the past year. He quoted a passage from Bahá'u'lláh which urges the people to become "submerged in the Ocean of My Words" in order to know and learn. He recommended fewness of words and greatness of action. He also expressed gratitude for the spiritual presence of our beloved Guardian, and his watchfulness from the Abád Kingdom, also for the thoughtful vigilance of the Hands of the Faith, the continued and much appreciated support by the American National Assembly and the European Teaching Committee and for the fruitful participation by the delegates.

The Convention ended on a high
note of enthusiasm and devotion, each one resolving to do his utmost to fulfill all the goals of the Ten-Year Crusade as the beloved Guardian would have it, keeping in mind and heart his continuous exhortations to become worthy of their elevated mission.

The Iberian friends were again thankful for the continued protection which the Baha'is are being favored with during their meetings, summer schools, and convention, and continually remember the words of the Bab "God will assist all those who arise to serve Him."

—Percy G. Leadley

New Zealand

The Second Annual Convention of the Baha'is of New Zealand was held at the Hazratu'l-Quds in Auckland on April 25-27, 1958. Unlike the first convention held last year, there was only one overseas visitor present this time.

Average attendance at all sessions was thirty-one delegates and friends. All were disappointed that the convention message from the Holy Land was not received during the convention period. However, portions of the beloved Guardian's message to the previous convention were restudied.

A comprehensive program was arranged and carried through. Special highlights of this agenda were: "Conference Impact," when New Zealand visitors to the Intercontinental Conference in Sydney, Australia, gave their impressions of the proceedings; the New Zealand Crusade Goals review; first-hand accounts of the teaching work in Persia; and a visit by all present to view a suitable site of four and one-quarter acres of wonderful land as the proposed Temple Site, which must be attained. This proposed site is elevated, with extensive views, and is situated fourteen miles south of Auckland on the main "southern outlet" motorway and Great South Road. All those present were unanimous in the opinion that the site could not be bettered.

The most important item of business was the election of the new National Spiritual Assembly. These are the members elected, with the officers designated: S. J. Carr, chairman; Mrs. M. Harnish, vice-chairman; Miss K. Carpenter, treasurer; and Mrs. D. Weeks, Mrs. L. Fenner, Mrs. B. Van der Vaart, E. B. Dewing, P. Leadley, and H. K. Blundell.

On the whole it was a happy convention, with a real Baha'i spirit prevailing. The coming year promises to be one of more intense activity in the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh by the New Zealand friends.

—Percy G. Leadley

North East Africa

Conscious of the stupendous sacred legacy that our most beloved departed Guardian has entrusted the Baha'i World Community to carry; cognizant of the dynamic power of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh and its miraculous permeation throughout the four corners of the world, within the memory of persons who have watched its growth ever since the Author of the Faith was a prisoner in the penal colony of 'Akka; inspired by the presence of the revered Hand of the Cause, Mr. Tarázú'lláh Samandari, who had, in the prime of youth, the unique blessing of beholding the luminous countenance of Bahá'u'lláh, and enriched with a storehouse of spiritual experience which has been accumulating for a period of eighty-five years; in such an atmosphere the third National Convention of the Baha'is of North East Africa was opened on April 24 with the resonance of our impressive prayer, revealed by the Master, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and chanted by a child of five years of age. After this prayer the delegates, as well as the visiting
friends, stood in silent prayer for five minutes, in commemoration of our most beloved Guardian.

The whole atmosphere of the Convention was resounding with the spiritually laden words of the revered Hand of the Cause, Taráz’ulláh Sámandari, who attended all the sessions.

The delegates from Mogadiscio, Asmara, Addis-Ababa, Khartoum North, and Port Sudan brought the glad tidings of the progress of the Cause in those areas. It is hoped that the coming year will be a new beginning for the speedy achievement of the remaining goals of the Ten-Year Plan.

The Convention terminated through the receipt of the following message released from the Holy Land:

"Grateful convention message fervently praying divine confirmations delegates friends beloved Guardian ever present his happiness dependent attainment sent victories fulfillment all goals—Hands of Faith."

The result of the election of the incoming National Spiritual Assembly was as follows: Abdu'l-Rahim Yazdi, chairman; Yusuf Mustapha, vice-chairman; Tewfik M. Ali, secretary; Iskandar Hanna, treasurer; Mirza Badi Bushruí, assistant secretary; Dr. Rawshan Yazdi, Hussein Amin Bikar, Abbas Rushdy, Syyid M. Azzawi.

—BÁBí BUSHRUÍ

Final Intercontinental Conference
To Be Held in Djakarta Sept. 22-27

The Fifth and final Intercostental Conference called for by the beloved Guardian in his last letter to the Bábí’s of the world will be held in Djakarta, Indonesia, from September 22 to 27, 1958, inclusive. The Regional Spiritual Assembly for the Bábí’s of South East Asia, which is the host for this Conference, expresses the hope that a vast number of friends from all over the world will attend this culminating historic event.

Since housing is a serious and difficult problem in Djakarta, the friends who plan to attend the Conference should inform the National Spiritual Assembly of South East Asia as quickly as they can of their intention, specifying their preferences as to the class of hotel and the exact date of arrival.

In applying for the necessary visa it is very important that the application states that the visit is for tourist reasons and no mention at all must be made of the Bábí Conference. This instruction must be strictly observed.

If any of the friends who plan to attend the Djakarta Conference are able to devote some time to teaching in the various countries in south and east Asia, please inform the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bábí’s of the United States so that suggestions as to cities and addresses can be supplied.

American Bábí’s planning to attend the Djakarta Conference must carry with them current Bábí identification cards from the National Spiritual Assembly.

**BáBí Publishing Trust Out of Stock**

Atomic Mandate by Marzieh Gail is temporarily out of stock pending arrival of new shipment from India, where it is being printed. Orders for 50 copies or more will be recorded for future delivery when stock arrives. Orders of less than this amount should be reordered after July 20.

Minimum Order, $1.00

Available from

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110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

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**Calendar of Events**

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BáBí News is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bábí’s of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bábí World Community.

Reports, plans, news items and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from National Assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

BáBí News is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1957-58: Mrs. Eunice Braun, chairman; Miss Charlotte Linfoot, secretary; Mr. Richard C. Thomas.

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Call For Unified Understanding

By the Hands of the Cause
Residing in the Holy Land

It has come to our attention that there is, amongst the believers, discussion regarding the Guardianship which exceeds the statement made by the united body of the Chief Stewards of the Faith, the Hands of the Cause, which they issued from Bahji last November after nine days of deep and heart-searching consultation following hours of supplication in the Holy Tomb of Bahá'u'lláh.

We therefore, acting on behalf of the Hands of the Faith, wish once again to call the attention of all the friends to the words in that Proclamation: “It was likewise certified that the beloved Guardian had left no heir. The Aghsán (branches) one and all are either dead or have been declared violators of the Covenant by the Guardian for their faithlessness to the Master’s Will and Testament and their hostility to him named first Guardian in that sacred document. The first effect of the realization that no successor to Shoghi Effendi could have been appointed by him was to plunge the Hands of the Cause into the very abyss of despair.”

The American Hands of the Faith have expressed this same thought very clearly in a message prepared for a series of teaching conferences held in the United States earlier this year.

“Shoghi Effendi appointed no successor in his own lifetime because he himself had no natural heir and because no member of the Holy Family qualified. The Master’s Testament is the sole authority controlling the appointment of successive Guardians, and its specific provisions were scrupulously upheld by the Guardian in his non-appointment of a second Guardian. Since a successor could only be chosen and designated by Shoghi Effendi in his own lifetime, the friends must dismiss all hopeful expection that a will appointing a second Guardian may later be found.”

We call upon all believers, for the sake of preserving the unity of our beloved Faith for which the Báb was martyred, Bahá'u'lláh and the Master imprisoned, and for which the beloved Guardian so completely sacrificed himself, to concentrate on the thoughts expressed in the Proclamation, and to desist from all further speculation on the future development of the institutions of the Faith—speculation which can only give rise to those very differences of interpretation forbidden by Bahá'u'lláh and ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, and against which they repeatedly warned us.

Bahá'u'lláh has left the Divine System He conceived, the Master elaborated and the Guardian clarified, but the Divinely-guided scion of his house, Shoghi Effendi has, for reasons none of us can fathom, been lifted from the pattern. What he has left us is more than sufficient for us, the Community of the Most Great Name, to establish the first stages of that world-redeeming Order Bahá'u'lláh has given to mankind. Our sacred obligation is to fulfill our Guardian’s wishes, his plans, and his most cherished hopes, leaving the overall scheme of God to unfold as He sees fit, in His mysterious ways, in the days to come. Let us be confident that if we do our part He will never fail in His, and with this assurance go forward unitedly, courageously, and with complete consecration.

Let us also rejoice with grateful hearts over the truly remarkable measure of Divine protection vouchsafed to us since the passing of our beloved Guardian, an un-failing sign that Shoghi Effendi’s spirit is with us, guiding and inspiring the believers everywhere, and assisting us to achieve total victory in the Holy Crusade bequeathed to us by him.

Signed:

Ruhíyyih
Amelia Collins
A. Q. Faízí

A. Furután
Paul Haney
Jalál Kházer

Haifa, Israel, June 12, 1958
Commentary on Message
From Hands of Cause

Beloved Bahá’í Friends:

The communication issued by the Hands of the Faith residing in the Holy Land on June 12, 1958, is earnestly commended to the attention of every American believer.

Its real import and significance is their heartfelt appeal for unified understanding throughout the Bahá’í world community of the present status and future development of the institutions of the Faith of Bahá’ulláh. We are summoned to abide by the statements contained in the Proclamation which came to us from the Holy Land soon after the passing of the Guardian, when the body of the Hands as Chief Stewards, after days of prayerful consultation, rallied the body of the believers around the Revelation of Bahá’ulláh, the Master’s Testament, and the Guardian’s unique service in developing the nascent local, national, and international institutions of the New World Order.

We must discern in this communication the existence of divided opinions reported to Haifa, and the vital need of “preserving the unity of our beloved Faith . . . to concentrate upon the thoughts expressed in the Proclamation, and to desist from all further speculation on the future development of the institutions of the Faith—speculation which can only give rise to those very differences of interpretation forbidden by Bahá’ulláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, and against which they repeatedly warned us.”

For the older believers the condition resembles those days of grief and speculation following the passing of the Master until the light of Divine assurance was rekindled in our hearts by Shoghi Effendi in his station and capacity of Guardian.

“Bahá’ulláh has left the divine system He conceived, the Master elaborated, and the Guardian clarified, but the divinely-guided scion of His house, Shoghi Effendi, has, for reasons none of us can fathom, been lifted from the pattern. What He has left us is more than sufficient for us, the Community of the Most Great Name, to establish the first stages of that world-redeeming Order Bahá’ulláh has given to mankind.

“Our sacred obligation is to fulfill our Guardian’s wishes, . . . leaving the overall scheme of God to unfold as He sees fit, in His mysterious ways, in the days to come.”

This communication, dear friends and co-workers, requires the understanding and obedient response of every member of the Bahá’í community. Without that wholehearted obedience, one’s faith would be fatally incomplete.

The western mind is prone to reject the element of mystery, and for it substitute its own rational explanation or human speculation. A primal element of revelation is that it both reveals sacred truths we can understand, and mysteries which we must accept and not attempt to penetrate. The unknowable mystery is the spiritual universe in which the revealed truths are as the glitter of stars.

—U.S. National Spiritual Assembly

Death of Relentless Enemy

Sohrab, relentless enemy faith after witnessing (for) third (of a) century (the) irresistible spread (of the) Holy Cause, (in) forty-five hundred centers (under) guidance beloved Guardian, died (the) first (of) Ridván, every hope frustrated, every plan extinguished, every ambition thwarted. (This) striking evidence (of) God’s avenging wrath (on the) one hand (and) on (the) other (the) unfailing protection (of the) community (and) institutions reared (by) the beloved Guardian inspires believers (to) arise (and) serve (with) renewed courage (and) dedication (to) insure (the) complete success (of the) crusade.

Share message (with) Hands (and) national assemblies.

April 28, 1958

Beloved Friends:

This cablegram from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land sent to all Hands and all national assemblies completes the historical records of Covenant-breaking in America after the passing of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. Of the few who rejected the Will and Testament, Ahmad Sohrab, working through the New History Society, became the outstanding, bitter, and resourceful foe of the Guardian and the Bahá’í Administrative Order.

As the message states, his every hope was frustrated, his every plan extinguished, and his ambition thwarted. Once more the Bahá’ís have been witness to the avenging wrath of God and His continuous protection of the Bahá’í community and its institutions.

Such an event cannot but inspire the believers in all countries to arise and insure the “complete success of the Crusade.”

—U.S. National Spiritual Assembly
Beloved Friends:

Assurance of victory in the remaining goals of the World Crusade is established for the American Bahá'í community through the glorious achievements already won. In 1953 these achievements appeared to be remote, if not impossible. Let us summarize the record, which should be an intimate part of our Bahá'í knowledge.

Of twenty-nine virgin areas to be opened, twenty-six areas have been opened, the remaining three being inaccessible. The most recent victory has been the placing of a pioneer in Spitzbergen.

In the consolidation areas allotted to the United States, two national assemblies have been formed (Alaska and France) and eleven regional national assemblies are established.

More than twenty languages have been translated and published.

All three Temple sites (Johannesburg, Panama, Stockholm) have been acquired.

Thirty-three out of thirty-four Hazíratu'll-Quds have been acquired. All thirty-four endowments have been purchased.

Eighty-two out of the necessary 100 local assemblies in the United States have been incorporated.

One hundred ninety-seven local assemblies out of the necessary 300 in the United States have been elected.

The Temple landscaping has been completed.

The first Temple accessory, the Bahá'í Home, is nearly completed.

Ninety-four American pioneers have achieved the distinction of nomination by the Guardian as Knights of Bahá'u'lláh.

Three hundred and fourteen American pioneers were serving in foreign fields as of April 21, 1958.

The Primal Goal

The Crusade tasks still to be achieved revolve around the all-important Bahá'í goal—the election of the Universal House of Justice, the Pillars of which are the various national spiritual assemblies. Thus, the existing regional assemblies are to be replaced by national assemblies in each country: Europe, 11; Western Hemisphere, 20; South Pacific, 1.

A total of thirty-two national spiritual assemblies are to be formed by the American Bahá'í community in cooperation with the regional assemblies now actively functioning.

The recent Intercontinental Conference in Chicago made appeals for pioneers from the participating assemblies of the Western Hemisphere: Central America, the minimum need is seventeen pioneers this year; Greater Antilles, eleven pioneers; Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela, forty-five pioneers; Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, a considerable number.

American Bahá'ís through their National Assembly are to make generous contributions to the cost of Temples in Frankfort and Sydney.

The specific requirements of the
homefront, to be presented to the friends in a series of communications, are inseparably intertwined with the goals abroad, since the homefront is the source of the pioneers and the budgets needed to bring the Crusade tasks to completion.

Our Supreme Privilege

No people since the dawn of history has had the God-given privilege bestowed upon the American Baha'is of being the decisive factor in the formation of the Universal House of Justice. The unerring guidance assured to its members, the powers and functions assigned to this institution, the vital role it must assume in fulfilling the prophecies concerning the coming of the Kingdom on earth—all these considerations inspire the hearts with clear vision, mature capacity, and inflexible resolve.

Actually, the destiny of the human race is involved in our individual services and our community undertakings during the next few years. This is the hour when the latent heroism of the soul sustained by God will become manifest, and the idols of the vain imaginations of the world-

ly people will be broken forever and the power of the Manifestation of God will rule mankind.

May each and every American Baha'i ponder the hour in which he is living, and turn with all his power to the Supreme!

For this mission the beloved Guardian labored during thirty-six years in order to prepare the community chosen and blessed by 'Abdu'l-Baha. In assuring the victory of the World Crusade we demonstrate our devotion to Shoghi Effendi and our worthiness to receive the blessings he showers upon us from the realms above.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Reports to Hands in Holy Land

The Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land request all national and regional assemblies to publish the following instructions in their Newsletters:

"The assemblies and believers are kindly requested to address all reports of the progress of the work of the Faith to the Hands in the Holy Land, as a group, and not in the names of or addresses through any one of the Hands serving here. As there are no officers or secretaries amongst us, and as we wish to serve our most beloved Guardian in complete unity, forgetful of personality but mindful only of our sacred responsibility, we request the friends from now on to address all letters sending us messages, or calling our attention to certain matters, enclosing reports or contributions, to THE HANDS OF THE FAITH, P.O. Box 155, Haifa, Israel. Any contribution should be made out to the BAHÁ'Í CUSTODIANS FUND, as it facilitates our arrangements here. Each of us will be happy always to hear from our dearly-loved friends as individuals; but matters pertaining to the Cause of God and its work which the believers desire to call to the attention of the Hands cannot be taken up officially unless addressed to us, as a body."

—HANDS OF THE FAITH IN THE HOLY LAND

_Bahá'ís attending the Intercontinental Conference in Sydney, Australia, in March 1958._
Additional Reports of 1958 National Conventions

The Convention opened with prayers in English by the Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, Mrs. Edith Craig, in Persian by S. A. Suleimani, and in Japanese by Naomi Hashimoto. Sixteen of the nineteen delegates attended; the Convention was deprived of the presence of the delegate from Taiwan, and the two from Korea, both of who had exerted an arduous heartbreaking three-month effort to get passports and visas in vain. From every other area in North East Asia, however, except Macau and the yet-unopened territories of Hainan and Sakhalin Islands, Baha'is had come.

Under the chairmanship of Yadullah Rafeat, the Convention proceeded with efficiency, and at the same time in a free atmosphere of consultation. The first of the Convention was highlighted by Hand of the Cause Agnes Alexander's talk on the functions of the Custodians of the Faith. Her last words echoed the Master's plea to spread continuously the Teachings and diffuse the "holy fragrances."

North East Asia

With the last and most powerful of the beloved Guardian's messages to the Bahá'ís of North East Asia in his own handwriting set before them in photostatic copies, and with the presence of his dearly loved and revered Hand of the Cause Agnes Alexander and Auxiliary Board Member William Maxwell to further guide and inspire them, the assembled delegates to the Second Annual Convention of the Bahá'ís of North East Asia in Tokyo, Japan, answered the roll call on the morning of April 25, 1958.

The world-wide message of the Custodians of the Faith uplifted the Convention to fresh resolve, and all eyes turned with broadened vision from the overall objectives of the Crusade to the assigned tasks revealed by the beloved Guardian in his Six-Year subsidiary plan for their particular area.

As the record of the past year was read, his words of admonishment and encouragement took on a solemn meaning; his sacrifice and the legacy of the Guardianship had thrown our shortcomings into sharp relief.

His statement that "nothing short of complete dedication to the objectives of the Six-Year Plan you are called upon to fulfill, and of the utmost sacrifice on your part... can ensure the success to which I confidently look forward..." reminded us we had been given the clear requirement and secret of success. More deeply understanding that gratitude for being offered the unique opportunity to execute the Plan of God could be vindicated only by obedient fulfillment of his unerring guidance, the Convention devoted itself to the election and the deliberation on the ways and means of prosecuting its part of the Spiritual Crusade.

Cable on Memorial Fund

In response to the cable from the Hands in Haifa, which offered yet a further privilege, that of contributing to the monument for the resting place of Shoghi Effendi in London, the Convention came to the agreement that contributions should express a single, unified spirit of all the Bahá'ís of North East Asia. The
attendants at the Convention therefore restrained themselves and, for the most part, reserved their pledge for the combined contribution of the community.

**Ridván Feast**

The Baha’is of Tokyo and Yokohama were hosts at the Feast of Ridván. It was a fellowship which connected hearts beyond the confines of that gathering, across the expanses of the Pacific Ocean to the brother communities in the Antipodes. It was on this occasion that Habib Sabet showed the motion pictures of the Sydney Intercontinental Conference.

**Public Proclamation During Convention**

The opportunity for the diffusion of the Light of the Faith was eagerly seized upon by those responsible for the Convention arrangements. There was splendid newspaper publicity in the Tokyo and national newspapers of Japan, as well as radio announcements on three consecutive days.

A public congress on the second night of the Convention featured Hiroyasu Takano and Philip Marangella, who spoke in Japanese and English, respectively. The mild but compelling manner of Mr. Takano harmonized with the dynamic and eloquent speech of Mr. Marangella for a unity of appeal that could not fail to affect every listener.

**National Assembly Election**

The election of the new National Spiritual Assembly marked the midpoint and spiritual climax of the Convention. The Assembly and its officers include: William Maxwell Jr., chairman; Hiroyasu Takano, vice-chairman; Yadullah Rafeat, secretary; Mrs. Barbara Sims, recording secretary; Philip Marangella, treasurer; and Miss Agnes Alexander, Michitoshi Zenimoto, Nourreddin Montazr, and Dr. David Earl.

**Progress of Six-Year Plan**

With hearts and minds correctly oriented by the impelling message from the Custodians of the Faith, the Convention proceeded to focus attention upon the record of achievement in North East Asia for the past year. The number of adherents increased by more than 30 per cent; five new local spiritual assemblies came into being; six new centers were established; incorporation of the National Spiritual Assembly was practically consummated; negotiations for the incorporation of firmly-grounded local spiritual assemblies were initiated; a National Bahá’í Fund was begun and its expenditure of 1,399,000 Yen and of $8,456.00 balanced; the holding of regular firesides and of special conferences throughout the entire area indicated the teaching phase of the process of consolidation in the previously opened territories was not neglected; the number of separate translation projects in Korea was raised to eleven; the publication of a second edition of a comprehensive study plan was put to use; four translation projects were completed in Japan, bringing the total number of translations to seven; in Taiwan the booklet Bahá’í World Faith was revised and printed; summer schools in Korea, Japan, and Taiwan met with unprecedented success; a Bahá’í burial ground was acquired in Japan; the introduction of the Faith to the Japanese islands of Hokkaido, Shikoku, Naoshima, and Teshima, and the Korean island of Chaeju raised the number of islands opened to the Faith to seven, not to mention the Pescadores Islands and Okinawa Island visited by pioneer Philip Marangella; plans to acquire a site for the first Maghribí’-Adhkár of this region on the lofty slopes of Mt. Fuji in Japan were almost concluded.

**Attainment of Remaining Goals**

The Convention then turned to the challenging requirements set by the Guardian: “An effort,” he had written, “unprecedented in its scope and intensity, must be exerted to attain, speedily and completely, the specific objectives of this Plan.”

The imperative nature of those objectives had been underlined by the convention message from the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly when it expressed hope for the early completion of those goals. Determined to redeem the shortcomings of the past, the delegates deliberated on the action that must lead to the attainment of these remaining objectives.

**Delegates at the National Convention of the Baha’is of North East Africa in April 1958, reported in Bahá’í News for July.**
India and Burma

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India and Burma for 1958-1959 includes the following members, listed with their elected officers: G. A. Amreliwala, chairman; Dr. M. E. Lukmani, vice-chairman; Hooshmand Fatheazam, secretary; A. A. Butt, assistant secretary; R. N. Shah, treasurer; and K. J. Hakimian, Dr. K. K. Bhargava, S. Chatterjea, and Mrs. Shirin Bomman.

Scandinavia and Finland

The Annual Convention of the Bahá'ís of Scandinavia and Finland, meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, elected the following members to the National Spiritual Assembly for 1958-1959: John Nielsen, chairman; Palle Bischoff, vice-chairman; Gerd Strand, corresponding secretary; Lotus Grace Nielsen, recording and assistant secretary; Gudrun Ofstedgaard, treasurer; and Modesta Hvide, Hans Oedemyr, Lisbeth Andersen, and Jean Bonn.

As Finland has no member on this Regional Assembly, the National Assembly, meeting after the convention, pledged special vigilance to the needs and requirements of this country for the coming year.

Twenty-seven Bahá'ís attending this Convention went to the Temple ground for a program of prayers. On May 2 the following cablegram was sent to our friends and spiritual parents in the United States: “Purchase completed May 2, loving greetings American Bahá'ís gathered conference whose sacrifice made this possible. NSA SCAN-FIN.”

—Gerd Strand

Southeast Asia

After a year of functioning under their newly-formed Regional Spiritual Assembly, the Bahá'ís of Southeast Asia met in Singapore for their Second Annual Convention, April 29-May 2.

A year of operations brought to the foreground the need for consultation on many topics. Of principal concern was the matter of enlarging the Bahá'í community by increasing the number of centers and local spiritual assemblies; acquiring of Haírátu'l-

The impact of the successive communications from Haifa, of the accounts of the Sydney Intercontinental Conference, of the many messages from Auxiliary Board members and believers from Japan, Korea, and America all stirred those present to reconsecrate themselves to the prosecution of their assigned role in the Spiritual Crusade. All hearts were drawn together by a prayer by Hand of the Cause Agnes Alexander, and the Convention closed with the inspiring words of the Guardian urging us “to arise” still resounding in our minds and hearts.

—John McHenry
Quds, endowments, burial grounds; publication of literature in the various needed languages; and the securing of recognition of Bahá'í marriage and Holy Days, as well as the incorporating of local assemblies. All of these goals are contained in the Six-Year Plan which the Bahá'ís of this region adopted. Emphasis was placed upon a need for deepening work among the many new groups and assemblies, and for understanding of the importance of maintaining a regular flow of funds.

There was earnest discussion on ways to facilitate settlement of two remaining World Crusade goals—the Cocos Islands and Nicobar Island. There is also a need to establish the Faith in British North Borneo.

A cable from the Hands of the Faith in Haifa brought joy to the friends with its acknowledgement of the victories won and the statement that these were “comparable (to) news (of) African continent.” One of the pioneers, Dr. K. M. Fozdar, who had made many of these victories possible, passed away suddenly just a few days prior to the convention. In speaking of him Mr. A. Samimi, secretary of the convention, stated that he was the first pioneer to Singapore and had taught many of the believers in Malaya and Singapore.

The newly elected Regional Spiritual Assembly for Southeast Asia consists of Chairman, Mrs. Shirin Fozdar; Vice-Chairman, Mr. K. H. Payman; Secretary, Mr. A. Samimi; Treasurer, Mr. Kishin Khemani; and Dr. R. Muhajer, Mr. Leong Tat Chee, Mr. Yankee Leong, Jamshed Fozdar, and Mr. G. Saurajen.

Universal Auxiliary Language
A Study and Lecture Reference

The Bahá’í principle that a universal auxiliary language would be chosen and taught in schools throughout the world has not been particularly stressed by believers in recent years, the reason no doubt being the greatly decreased interest in Esperanto. Nevertheless, the teachings make it clear that this principle has a decisive influence in the establishment of a world society.

A recently published work, One Language for the World, by Mario Pei (the Devin-Adair Company, New York, 1958) offers Bahá'í students and public speakers a well integrated exposition of the need for such a language, the past attempts to solve the problem, and the nature of its future solution. This book is commended as an impartial, scholarly, yet simply written treatise admirably suited as background information for Bahá'ís.
A typical North Sea storm on the Frisian Islands. Shoghi Effendi, in his 1954 Convention Message, referred to the Frisian Islands as "the wind-swept and inhospitable archipelagos of the North Sea."

The Frisian Islands, partly belonging to Holland and partly to Germany, were virgin goals assigned to the German National Spiritual Assembly and to be opened during the Ten-Year Plan.

Inspired at the Intercontinental Conference of Stockholm in July, 1953, three pioneers left before the closing of the Holy Year for those remote regions in the North Sea. Gertrud Ankersmit went to Texel; Ursula v. Brunn, with her little daughter Gisela, chose Wyk on the Isle of Föhr; and Elsa Maria Grossmann moved to Westerland on Sylt. Gertrud Ankersmit tried very hard to get settled on Texel. She made several good contacts, had firesides, but could not get a lasting job, and when finally she had fallen very ill, she was forced to leave. Ursula v. Brunn, with Gisela, remained one year and a half on the island of Föhr, where she made valuable contacts and gave the Message to many people. They were followed by Elsa Klagas, who got a satisfying job in Wyk and has, up to this date, tirelessly worked to contact people and make them acquainted with the Faith.

The writer of these lines arrived in Westerland on September 24, 1953. When she left the train—for the Isle of Sylt is connected with the European Continent by a twelve kilometres-long dam throughout the flat sea—the clock was just striking noon, exactly the time for prayer. In this very moment that little island became included in the big Bahá’í circle because Bahá’u’lláh chose to put His finger on its soil!

After one year, on the Báb’s Birthday, the first believer, a lady from Hamburg living in Westerland, adhered to the Cause. Since then we have had many firesides and several study classes, and even had many opportunities of mentioning the Faith in a greater circle of interested people. Two Hands of the Cause, Dr. Mühlschlegel and Dr. Grossmann, lent their kind assistance—the latter also to Wyk on Föhr. Their loving spirit remained with us as a lasting source of inspiration. Lately our friend Bertha Grünewald, a Bahá’í from the Continent, is planning to settle in Westerland.

Several times the Bahá’ís of this region have gathered on the isles of Föhr and Sylt, in order to discuss problems, which are so much the same in both places, and to double our strength and give us mutual consolation. Pioneering in these spots is hard work. Our daily experiences are mostly disappointing and again and again we have to make a new start.

As a rule the people of these islands calmly listen to the news of the Cause when they hear it, even
Miss Elsa Marie Grossmann (right), first Baha'i pioneer to Westerland/Sylt, Frisian Islands, and Mrs. Bertha Grunewald, who settled there in 1957.

during a longer period, but you cannot in the least realize what they are thinking of in their inmost hearts. Only, in the moment they recognize its claim, they retire and withdraw. This happens to us again and again, almost with mathematical accuracy.

Yet there is quite another happening worthy of record, for it fills the heart with joy and hope. There was a fine and very cultured old lady of pure Frisian origin and belonging to one of the oldest families of this place. She, with the swiftness of lightning, grasped the truth of the Cause, its authority and weight. She loved to listen to its teachings, to inhale their loving atmosphere, and talked about them to others. When finally she fell very ill, still in her fleeing earthly days the Teachings gave her consolation and she mentioned them to the very last lapse of her life. After having passed away from this world, we feel her spirit ever stronger amongst us than ever before and trust that the Beloved of our hearts may bestow upon her the full knowledge of His Glory!

The ancestors of the Frisian folks were mostly navigators, intelligent, keen, and bold, and they loved their freedom more than their own lives, as said in one of their escutcheons: "Rather dead, than slave!" But many of them also were pirates and did not care about leading astray the ships seeking refuge at their islands from storms and tempests of the sea, and to kill the mariners, in order to rob their vessels and their loading. Of course they never did such things to any of their own people. Quite on the contrary, they unhesitatingly risked their lives, in order to save them from sea-troubles. There is another old device, mirroring forth still another side of the Frisian character, which runs: "A pure heart—a clear horizon!"

It seems to me that many of the attributes of the Frisian ancestors have nowadays been transmitted to their great-grandchildren; but in the last hundred years some of these little islands have become seaside resorts and a great love for materialism and making money as quickly as possible has brought quite a new aspect to the development of the Frisian character. Only future time will show what may come out of it, but we know, spiritually seen, that it will depend only upon how people accept the Cause of God.

The landscape of these regions is a very beautiful one, rough in a way, but in summer very rich through its variety of colors and its ever-changing play of light, and clouds, and winds. It may happen to you that, being—perhaps in autumn—quite alone on the solitary, endless dunes and perceiving nothing but this primary landscape with its infinite sky and sea, you suddenly feel that tremendous, almost annihilating loneliness as it might have been experienced by a first man in a first creation.

The story of the opening of the Frisian Islands to the Cause of God is, as yet experienced, not a very crimson-colored one, when compared with many others from more radiant pioneer places. This was for a long time a heavy load on us here, but only the fact that our beloved Guardian was fully aware of the situation and often transmitted us his inspiration and loving comfort, lightened its weight. We think of the little white lighthouses everywhere on these islands, looking over the sea calmly and firmly, and fully indifferent to the storms and tempests around them, just showing the seeking sailor the right route. This exactly is our way: to be like light-houses of His Cause for whomsoever seeks His Path. And this finally, if God willing, may lead to His spiritual victory.

—ELSA MARIA GROSSMANN
Hand of the Cause Leroy Ioas
Appeals for the Homefront

One of the joyous experiences of the delegates and visitors to the U.S. Fiftieth Annual Convention was to see and hear the revered Hand of the Cause, Leroy C. Ioas, who is in the United States for several months of rest following his years of strenuous services at the World Center of the Faith, as assistant secretary to the beloved Guardian and secretary of the International Bahá'í Council.

Always intensely interested in teaching, Mr. Ioas participated briefly in the consultation on this subject at the Convention, pointing out that even during the period of the great dispersion of Bahá'ís to all parts of the world the beloved Guardian talked continually about the homefront and the need of replenishing it so that the lifeblood might continue to stream out from America to all parts of the globe.

He quoted Shoghi Effendi as saying that if the believers would do as he said, would follow his instructions and become the agency through which he could work, they would be amazed at the victories that they would win for the Faith. His special plea to the friends was that we become the reeds through which the spirit of the Guardian can function in the world and become the medium for salvation to a dying society "because that is the main task of the remaining five years of this great global Crusade."

"Ours is the privilege," said Mr. Ioas, "to be the handful of people who will bring to realization the dream of the prophets of old for which Daniel himself set the date of 1963. When we gather at the World Conclave in that year, let it be not a handful of Bahá'ís but an evidence of the dynamic spiritual power of those who are resurrected in the Name of the Lord, so that the glory of the Lord might cover the earth as the waters cover the sea, and the universal spirit of Bahá'u'lláh might bring salvation to the multitudes over the face of the earth."
Newly Established Local Spiritual Assemblies, Formed

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Makassar, Sulawesi, Indonesia, formed April 21, 1958.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Usumbura, Ruanda-Urundi, formed on April 21, 1957.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Palermo, Sicily, formed on April 21, 1958.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Toungoo, Burma, formed April 21, 1958.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Bangil, Bali, Indonesia, formed April 21, 1958.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Belize, British Honduras, Central America, formed on April 21, 1958.
Ridvan 115, Represent Many Countries of the World

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Kenitra, Morocco, formed on April 21, 1958.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Meknes, Morocco, formed on April 21, 1958, including a Berber couple standing at left.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Akashi, Japan, formed on April 21, 1958.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Singli, Sumatra, Indonesia, formed April 21, 1958.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Kanowit, Kuching, Sarawak, formed April 21, 1958.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Jasin, Malaya, formed April 21, 1958.
Dr. Giachery Shares Platform
With Phoenix Religious Leaders

A public meeting on the theme, "The Day God Declared Himself to Man," held in the auditorium of the Phoenix library building on May 26, was the occasion for a wider and more effective proclamation of the Faith ever possible in that city. Spon-

sored by the Local Bahá'í Assembly, the program featured a panel discus-

sion shared by a rabbi of the leading Jewish congregation of Phoenix, a
canon from the Episcopal Cathedral, a speaker for the Moslem Faith, and
dr. ugo giachery as Bahá'í representative. The date coincided as nearly
as possible with the anniversary of the Declaration of the Báb and the
Jewish Holy Day of Shevous.

Each participant limited his remarks to the high points of the Faith
to the representing. Members of the au-

duration were invited to submit writ-

ted questions for discussion by all four

panel members. The questions pro-

vided a unique opportunity for a

convincing and clear presentation by

dr. giachery of the conclusive an-

swers which the Faith offers to the confusing religious issues of

our time.

These questions were: "Do you be-

lieve the peoples of the world will

ever be united racially or religious-

ly?"; "Do you believe in life after
death?" and "Do you believe the

Prophet of your Faith to be divine?"

As the guests arrived in the beau-
tiful auditorium which is a part of

the growing civic center in Phoenix,

they were greeted by youth of Phoe-
nix and adjoining communities who

served as ushers and hostesses.

Chairman for the program was

aiTon Thomas, executive director of

the Phoenix Urban League and a

Bahá'í. Equal consideration was
given to each speaker and no Bahá'í
literature was offered or displayed.

Printed programs carried informa-
tion regarding the identity of each

of the speakers and the congregations

they represented. In the case of the

Bahá'ís, the phone number of the se-

cretary of the local assembly was

included.

Intense Preparations Made

Preparations for this program in-

cluded newspaper coverage, advance

radio and television interviews with

the chairman regarding the educa-
tional quality of the program the

Bahá'ís were offering to the public,

posters placed in all important loca-
tions, mailing of invitations, phone
calls and personal contacts, an-

ouncements in several churches, and

meetings for prayers by the Bahá'ís each noon for a week pre-

ceeding the occasion.

The blessings conferred upon this
effort began with the arrival of

dr. and MRS. Giachery a few hours

before the program, the attendance

at the meeting of a capacity audience

of approximately 300 persons show-
ing obvious interest in the subject, and

and the opportunity for radio and

television appearances for dr. gia-

chery the following day, at which

time direct questions regarding the

Faith cleared the way for a broader

presentation of the Faith than ever

before possible through this medium.

First Bahá'í Funeral Service
Conducted in New Zealand

The first funeral to be performed
entirely by Bahá'ís was recently con-
ducted in New Zealand, following the

passing of Mrs. Helen Parkin of


The service was conducted by two

women, and throughout the reading

of the Bahá'í Writings, the large con-

gregation listened in rapt attention.

It says much for the beauty of the

readings and the great impression

which they made that no one thought

it incongruous for a funeral service
to be conducted by women. This, for

such a conservative country, was a

remarkable tribute both to the man-

ner in which the proceedings were

conducted and to the power of the
divinely inspired words which many

of those present heard for the first
time.

Auxiliary Board Member Addresses
Audience of 100 Negro Baptists

Dr. Sarah Pereira, member of the

Auxiliary Board for the American

Hands of the Cause, addressed a Ne-

gro audience of over one hundred

persons on the Bahá'í Faith on May

18, 1958.

She was the principal speaker at

the Twelfth Annual Women's Day

Program at St. Paul's Baptist

Church in St. Albans, W. Va., and

her talk stimulated an excellent re-

sponse.

Bahá'í Summer School of Asmara, Eritrea, held during September 1957.
Polynesian from Tonga Island
Attends Sydney Conference

"It would be a great contribution to the world-wide character of our Faith to have people of this race active in this service and representing what their race has to give as time goes on in the joint Bahá'í national and international councils." So wrote the Guardian concerning the Polynesian people to these pioneers on May 1, 1956.

On March 3, 1958, the Guardian's wish was fulfilled when a Tongan believer left to attend the Sydney Intercontinental Conference. His going, like so many initial steps in the development of the Faith, was not achieved without obstacles and difficulties.

In November 1957, after the news of the five Intercontinental Conferences was received here, during a routine report of progress to the Asia Teaching Committee, it was as if someone prompted this pioneer to write, "How I wish it might be possible for someone, perhaps Latu, to go to the Djakarta Conference." Early in February 1958 a letter received here from the Asia Teaching Committee stated "we would like to explore with you the thought you mentioned." The thought was "explored" at once by the nine believers of the temporary Local Assembly here, who decided they would like to send someone to the Sydney Conference if financial help could be given, and the fairest way would be for everyone to vote for the representative. Carefully worded cables flew back and forth between here and the Asia Teaching Committee. Ballots were sent out to the believers on other islands with letters explaining the whole affair.

While waiting for the out-of-town ballots to be received, it was learned with dismay that the letters and ballots sent to two believers temporarily on an island eighty miles away were still in the post office here. No boat was going for about two weeks. It was impossible to explain what was happening by telegram; neither could the two believers vote by telegram. So the voting meeting had to be held without those two votes as voting and travel formalities would not wait.

The result of the voting was that Latu, one of the two believers eighty miles away, who knew nothing of what had transpired, was chosen. A brief telegram was sent asking his acceptance and requesting him to be vaccinated immediately, if he could go. The most important step, however, was to cable the Australian National Assembly to secure cabled landing permission from the Australian Immigration Department for Latu, without which transportation could not be purchased. The days ticked by. No reply from Australia was received concerning the permit. The only boat from Tonga enabling Latu to reach Australia in time for the Conference was to leave March 3.

On February 19 Latu managed to get passage on a schooner to bring him back here, and as he boarded the vessel, our letter telling him what it was all about, was handed to him—after two weeks' delay!

On his arrival here we again cabled the Australian National Assembly about the landing permit and still no reply came. We had been trying to carry out this business, as all else has been done here, in accordance with the Guardian's advice that the work in Tonga should be carried on very discreetly. However, by February 25, with only three business days remaining before the boat left, we were desperate; so after consultation, we decided to invoke the aid of the British Consul. Accordingly an urgent cable was sent from his office. A day or so later, the cabled permission "to attend the Bahá'í International Conference" was received. All our efforts to "keep quiet" were thus blown to the winds, for there is no such thing as private communication—what the office boy knows, pretty soon everybody knows.

However, the way was cleared to purchase the transportation on almost the last day it could be bought.
On February 28 in a tropical thunderstorm and torrential rain, the believers came “to bring their presents for Latu,” some of them so drenched they had to be dried off by the kitchen fire before we could have the meeting. They hadn’t quite raised the amount they had set themselves, and the cables had cost more than we anticipated. The cash gift was presented to Latu, who received it in great humility and asked the prayers of the believers during his important mission.

Then their sense of humour bubbled forth. “Well, Latu, you’ll be in Sydney during the Fast—you don’t need to eat, so that will be enough money!” Latu, who weighs about three hundred pounds, laughed with the rest, for he does keep the Fast although it will be interrupted by his travel time. He was to visit the believers in Samoa and Fiji en route and carried with him, for printing in Australia, the Tongan manuscript of the chapters from Some Answered Questions which is to be our next publication; also the letter from the Guardian which is quoted at the beginning of this story, which to Latu is more precious than words can tell, for he realizes, with great humility, that he was the one chosen to first fulfill the Guardian’s hope.

—ELSA BLAKELY

First Sahara Desert Tribesman
Enrolls in Baha’i Faith

The Sahara—almost since history began the minds of men have been fascinated by this vast, trackless area of stones, sand, and sun. From the Nile valley it stretches a formidable five thousand kilometers to the salt waves of the Atlantic, and from the shores of the Mediterranean, almost two thousand to the dusty brushland of pre-equatorial Africa—stark sterile peaks jutting three kilometers into the cloudless sky, and endless seas of drifting sand—Death Valley the magnitude of the entire United States.

Most of the western half of this burning wasteland has, since antiquity, been dominated by the Tuareg peoples—the proud, hostile Berber tribes known worldwide as the veiled bluemen of the Sahara. These nomadic masters of the desert have survived until today, maintaining their very distinct culture by means of a series of developments including a written form of their Temajegh language, which facilitates the most vital communication about desert and oasis conditions; sedentary slave communities in oasis and mountainous areas; a matrilineal organization which maintains a high degree of purity of race; and a ruthless plundering of all surrounding societies.

For more than a thousand years the Tuareg have each summer established a seasonal camp on the shores of the Niger River in the vicinity of what is now Timbuctoo. After the brief autumn rains they return once again to their desert retreats with their serfs and flocks, leaving behind only a slave community to coax a meager grain crop from the parched sand.

Through the centuries this seasonal camp, Timbuctoo, has grown into a permanent trading community, drawing residents successively from the Ghana, Mandingo, Arab, and Songhoi Empires, and exchanging the products which arrive by water from the south for those which arrive by caravan from the north.

Islam was introduced in the eleventh century; “western civilization,” about fifty years ago. The people, including the Arab slaves, the Ghibbi, and the Tuareg slaves, the Bela, are all nominally Muslim, but the practices incorporate also beliefs in fetishes, genii, and vampires.

Heterogeneous peoples, concepts, and cultures have vied for centuries to dominate the scene in Timbuctoo and each has, in its turn, risen to a position of dominance only to subside again into the eternal sands—and always the noble Tuareg has hovered on the outskirts, observing,
entered momentarily, but always disappearing again into his unchallenged domain—the searing hot sand and stones of the vast, trackless Sahara.

Eighteen hundred kilometers to the north on Riddâvân 112 Rabat, the first Local Spiritual Assembly was formed by the mutual declaration of the nine servants of Bahá’u’lláh in that city. This establishment was not unusual. An official stamp was designed and adopted, stationery printed, records made, and a photograph was dispatched to Haifa—another achievement, but just one more among many. The nascent assembly turned to its teaching tasks and within weeks two new members were enrolled.

Then a letter was received from the Holy Land. Shoghi Effendi, beloved Guardian of the Cause, expressed his sincere hope that from Rabat the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh would be “spread throughout Morocco.” The friends were greatly pleased to have so great an aspiration for their future visited upon them; but pleasure soon turned to puzzlement and then concern, for why should Rabat have been chosen for this singular honor—and how was it to be affected?

The year 112 passed, as did 113, and much of 114. The teaching activities had slowed to an occasional contact, but no serious students of the Cause. And so it was when Asa­dek was invited to tea, expectations were not eminent.

This young student was stopping in Morocco on his return trip from Cairo, where he had, for several years, sought the explanations to Qur’ánic prophecies. He had much in common with a local Bahá’í, S. Riaz Rouhani, who had spent his early and student years in that Egyptian city, and soon reservations were replaced by a warm friendship. Each Sura and verse that Riaz explained had the dual effect of intensifying this new friend’s interest and increasing his respect for his newfound source of wisdom. He began to devour books and to feel that perhaps he was at last discovering the Truth that he had sought for so long and for which he had travelled so far from his familiar Almachra. His search became increasingly intense and was culminated three weeks before Riddâvân when he, Asadek Abba, was enrolled in Rabat as the first Tuareg believer in the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh. His ardor, sincerity, and intelligence so impressed his fellow believers that he was chosen to serve on the Local Spiritual Assembly.

He intends to return to his tribe, Kel Antessar, to teach. It is then that the people are scattered throughout the desert and the teaching work can best be affected. He is, in the meantime, sagaciously preparing himself with a more profound grasp of his new-found Faith, and meanwhile has won the friendship of a fellow desert inhabitant, a Mauretanian.

It is known, historically, that during the seventeenth century Morocco’s influence extended to include Timbuctoo and the surrounding Sudan. Could this “Greater Morocco” be that to which our Beloved Guardian had reference in his letter to Rabat? If so, the first step toward the accomplishment of this majestic aspiration has been taken, but then, it must also include Rio de Oro, and, with this in mind, we asked Moh­amed, the Mauretanian, how far was his home oasis, Agjoujatt, from Rio de Oro. He replied, “Not too far—just twelve days—by camel.”

N.W. Africa Reports Enrollments, Formation of New Assemblies

The infinite variations in the development of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh in Northwest Africa are but suggested by the many facets of this gem that this month sparkles with the brilliance of the One Light, a few of which are shared herewith.

One of the oldest established communities in all of Africa, Tunis, is now, after its many years of inactivity, coming into renewed vitality. Under the guiding direction of the Regional Teaching Committee Number One (there are 10 RTC’s in Northwest Africa) the friends here have quietly been carrying out a consolidation plan for some time. Groups have been established in Kef and Sfax. In January a new believer was reported in Kef and in April Mr. Ghadimi, pioneering in that city, reported the declarations of two new believers. This brings the total to seven adults in that goal city.

In the meantime, Tunis has also seen the addition of a new face as a result of the new activity. Recently the friends, here, have in addition made several trips down the east coast to Sfax, and it is hoped that
soon the results of this renewed spirit will appear there, too.

Algeria

Algeria is a country in which the passion of ultranationalism is currently dominating the minds of men, and in which every unfamiliar activity and word is suspected of political connotation. Under these circumstances our courageous pioneers in Algiers are carrying out a plan to consolidate the basis of the Bahá‘í Faith and spread the tranquilizing influence of its Divine Message.

The goal cities, Constantine and Bone, recently were visited by Mr. Attar. He renewed old contacts and spoke with many new acquaintances about the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh. After sixteen days in these cities, he returned to Algiers, leaving behind several interested persons and some Bahá’í books.

Morocco

The friends throughout Morocco contributed to a fund established to defray the expenses of African believers who otherwise might not have been able to attend the historic conference in Kampala. The contributions totaled 123,735 francs (about $300), and were forwarded by the Regional Teaching Committee here to the Central East Africa National Spiritual Assembly. A letter from the Hands of the Cause in Africa acknowledged receipt and praised the spirit of this contribution. This, in turn, has inspired the friends to establish another fund in Morocco to assure that at least three indigenous Moroccan believers will be permitted to attend the forthcoming Frankfurt Conference.

In Ceuta, the Spanish controlled Moroccan port across the straits from Gibraltar, two new believers, Mr. and Mrs. Augusto Martin, have brought with them a revivifying influence. Your reporter visited with these new friends in April and can testify that the new enthusiasm among the Bahá’ís in that otherwise sleepy city is indeed an unmistakable experience.

Elsewhere in Morocco, the Kenitra Local Spiritual Assembly was formed this Ridván, and the very active friends in Meknes were successful in their aspirations only at the eleventh hour, when three contacts requested enrollment. The new Meknes Assembly in the North, and the group with our good friend and very active teacher, Mr. Djalali, in the south, in Marrakech, now pose two springboards to the ultimate goal in Morocco—the Berber heartland—the High Atlas Mountains. The friends in Morocco have built the bases for this spiritual conquest patiently and well for the past five years—surely, the ultimate victory will be theirs!

Nigerian and Cameroons

The best news from Northwest Africa this month comes from our revered Hand of the Cause, Enoch Olinga, who wrote very briefly, just before Ridván: “About another 70 have declared in Mamfe since January, making a total of about 242 new believers in six months. The following are new groups ready for local assemblies: Ossing, Taipa, Tinta, Talii, Tutumbu, Boa and Etoko in the British Cameroons, and Akpabuyo in Nigeria.

“Three important chiefs: Chief Fon-gang, Chief Tataw, Chief James Enow, all of Mamfe, have not only accepted the Cause, but are serving it with zeal and zest.”

To this should also be added that the Regional Teaching Committee Number Ten, in addition to organizing the teaching work so well in their area, have demonstrated their vision by sending Mr. Willie Enang to pioneer in Ghana. Mr. Enang has an outstanding record of achievements in Nigeria, and has settled in Kumasi, capitol of the Ashanti district of Ghana.

—Robert L. Haffer

Coloane Island. Colony of Macau, Opened to Bahá’í Faith

The Portuguese Colony of Macau consists of three geographical units: the two islands Taipa and Coloane, and the peninsula where the city of Macau is located. Formerly this peninsula was an island, but it has been connected with the mainland by reclaimed land. The city is one of the oldest foreign settlements on the China Coast and is situated about fifty miles south of Hong Kong. The islands of Taipa and Coloane are four and eight miles further south of Macau.

In Macau is located the historical spot where the first Peace Treaty between China and the United States was signed in 1844. The site is an old Buddhist Temple, and is marked with a plaque. The stone table where the Treaty was signed is in excellent condition.

For the Ten-Year Plan our beloved Guardian designated Macau as a virgin goal, and so the first pioneer, Mrs. Frances Heller, arrived here October 20, 1953, from the New Delhi Conference. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Scherer left their home in Wauwatosa, Wisc., on September 25 headed for Macau as their goal, arriving on December 8, 1953. In April 1954, the three pioneers visited the Island of Taipa and proclaimed the Faith there.

Although a number of Bahá’ís had already visited Coloane during previous years for business reasons—these being John Chang, Sergeant
Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Greensboro, N.C., incorporated on April 2, 1939.

Julio Mata, and Harry Yim—yet the Faith had not been proclaimed, and so on June 19, 1958, Harry Yim and Carl Scherer visited Coloane and officially opened this island to the Bahá'í Faith. Mr. Yim had the unique honor and distinction of being the first Bahá'í to give the Message on this picturesque island when the story was told at the Black Sand Beach Tea House to Mrs. Wong, Po Kwong.

Coloane is a lovely spot with many wooded hills covered with beautiful pine trees. Along the “Bund,” or esplanade, a row of ancient banyan trees enhances the charm of this Chinese village and provides shade during the hot summer months. On this island a number of wealthy Macauns have built summer homes and a number of fine bathing beaches are located. There are several other small villages besides the village of Coloane, where, in the future the words of Bahá'u'lláh will be heard to arouse all mankind from its long spiritual slumber.

—Carl Scherer

First Sicilian Community
Contributes New Translations

Taormina, located at the south east end of Sicily, almost reached assembly status within the first year of the World Crusade. However, for material reasons, most of the members were compelled to seek positions in other parts of Italy, and all efforts were then concentrated upon Palermo, the capital city, where an American pioneer family served prior to pioneering in France.

Unlike Taormina, Palermo required four years of continuous effort before the first declarations began. After the enrollment of the first resident couple, other declarations followed successively every few months. The arrival of the first Persian pioneer family, a mother and two sons, descendants of followers of the Báb and of one of the four Hands of Bahá'u'lláh, served to accelerate the teaching effort and to attract three promising students of architecture to the Faith. Hand of the Cause Dr. Ugo Giachery also helped prepare and enroll these friends. The loving, ever-prayerful encouragement of the Italo-Swiss National Assembly and the European Teaching Committee; visits from Bahá'í teachers and friends; and the immediate response to the last-minute call of the European Teaching Committee on the part of another youthful descendant of a Hand of Bahá'u'lláh brought the formation of the first Bahá'í local Spiritual Assembly in Sicily on the fifth Ridván of the Ten-Year Plan.

At present the Community consists of eleven Bahá'ís—the Assembly of four Italians, four Persians and the American Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, plus the first Sicilian youth and the young American pioneer. Six of the youthful members attend the University of Palermo, gather weekly to plan special meetings (such as World Youth Day) for their friends in Palermo and to prepare their monthly News Letter, in hopes of stimulating greater activity in the promulgation of the Teachings among the Italo-Swiss Bahá'í youth. So far, three letters have been mailed to seventy youth centers in the two languages, Italian and English. Three of these youth have already translated, typed, and illustrated four copies of Living Today for Tomorrow's World, placed three of the copies in serviceable plastic-paged books for immediate use in Palermo and sent the fourth copy to the European Teaching Committee to approve and correct in order that they may have it printed and ready for use at the Frankfurt Conference for Italian speaking children. (All the Bahá'ís in Palermo hope to attend the Frankfurt Conference en masse in July.)

Frequent contributions for publishing other essential Bahá'í literature in Italian have been sent from Palermo, including a special contribution in memory of Shoghi Effendi for the publication of Christ and Bahá'u'lláh in Italian. It is interesting to report that an Italian translation was sent from Palermo of this book done by our Sicilian friend and her daughter, because they felt “the Italian people should know of this great truth, too.” Five “Fifteen-Minute Talks,” translated into Italian from the Bahá'í Writings, have been given at the Holy Day gatherings and twice-a-week Fireside and Language Class, and put on file for further use in Palermo.

Sicily indeed is greatly blessed to have for its Archives two glorious letters from the beloved Guardian to the Palermo believers. These should continue to inspire us to grasp the opportunity and privilege of arising promptly and joyously to fulfill the unfinished tasks for the establishment of the Kingdom of God on Earth before it is too late.

—Emma M. Rice

Baha'i International Community

Listed in United Nations Yearbook

The believers, and particularly the various national spiritual assemblies, are informed that the Union of International Associations has published a seventh edition (1958-1959) of the Yearbook of International Organizations, which lists all the nongovernmental organizations related to United Nations.

The listing of Bahá'í International
Community in this international reference book is a source of great prestige.

The seventh edition is published in the English language. Copies can be ordered from the Union of International Associations, Palais D'Egmont, Brussels 1, Belgium, at the price of $14.00 United States currency, Sterling Zone 78—or 580 Belgian Francs from Europe.

It is advisable that each national spiritual assembly participating in the Bahá'í International Community should order a copy of this reference book and make use of it in their public relations work.

Grand Manan Newspaper Prints

First Publicity on Faith

As a result of attending the Intercontinental Conference in Chicago, the pioneer on Grand Manan, Canadian goal, has obtained the first Bahá'í publicity in the Grand Manan newspaper. The article is an excellent one, mentioning the Conference in Chicago which Doris Richardson, the pioneer, attended, and stating the meaning of the Bahá'í Faith and purpose of the World Crusade.

Mrs. Richardson has written, “The fact that this article appeared as I gave it to the island reporter is proof of so many things. It means that now for the first time since coming to this island the Faith has been publicly announced and favorably too, for the reporter thought it was newsworthy and found it all very interesting. It also means that from now on he will accept other articles. Everyone on this island now knows that I am a Bahá'í, for the paper is read by all islanders.”

Grand Manan, an island in the Bay of Fundy off the coast of New Brunswick, is a rather isolated place, presenting many difficulties to the pioneer who longs to awaken its inhabitants to a knowledge of the new Day of God. Every goal of the World Crusade is vital and every pioneer who labors at that goal is valued by the friends in every part of the globe. Undoubtedly their prayers will lend a spiritual support that this glimmer of light may presage the dawn of victory for this pioneer and for the Cause of God.

Bahá'í School in La Paz, Bolivia,
Prepares Indians For Pioneering

A Bahá'í School for the preparation of Indian pioneers was held in La Paz, Bolivia, from March 10-April 3, 1958, as a result of the offers of several Aymara Indians to serve as pioneers in Bolivia.

The following four believers from the community of Vilacollo (Canton Huanuni) were enrolled for this purpose: Andres Jachakollo, Isidro Jachakollo, Carmelo Jachakollo, and Juan Jachakollo. Besides this group of pioneer volunteers, the enrollment was increased by the presence of two students of the Faith, Sra. Juana de Tapa and her daughter Hortencia, of chola background. Through their deep interest in the Faith, their native city of Potosí, Bolivia, will be opened to the Faith.

The course given, approved by the National Spiritual Assembly, was under the direction of the National Indian Teaching Committee for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The studies were carried through most successfully, using the method of daily reviews and ending with a final test which merited the
Confirments of Spirit Recounted
By Pioneer to Buddhist Thailand

Excerpt from letter dated May 6, 1958, from Mrs. Caroline Lawrence, Bangkok, Thailand:

"... I have been thoroughly exhilarated by the interest shown in the Faith by the numerous contacts here in Bangkok. Charles Duncan has many, many contacts. Many have come to him through his teaching English, but many are people he has met otherwise. There are several monks who come regularly to study the Faith. Their questions regarding the deepest essence of the spiritual beliefs is truly wonderful to hear, for they grasp the truth quickly. We have felt quite certain that there are many monks who are monks because that is the only way they could provide themselves with an education. Although they haven't bluntly stated that they would change their religion if they had the same educational opportunities, it is vaguely hinted on many occasions. This is quite significant, and our Thai Bahá’ís understand their predicament and are immediately interested, and all want us to hurry and get enough money to open a Bahá’í school where the underprivileged people, who are truly the needy ones, can go to school and get a first hand good education.

"Prior to my coming here I had studied and read everything I could lay my hands on about the Buddhist doctrine and the way it is practiced in this area. However, I find that much of it, though interesting to know, is not known by the Buddhists themselves. The basic facts of the Buddhist Teachings are not even remotely understood by the people. They are so steeped in 'custom' that the reason behind these customs has ceased to exist in reality. We find it necessary to explain to them their own doctrines before they can begin to listen to the Bahá’í principles. At first it seemed this was a peculiar way of doing it. Why (I thought) must they be taught the reason for their customs, why not just teach Bahá’í Faith and show them how much the Faith could help them both personally and nationally? But it proves not nearly so simple a matter.

"For myself, I have been putting in extra hours studying everything I can find in order to give myself more spiritual insight and understanding. I have worked on various faults of my own in order to make my own life a better example for those with whom I come in contact.

Auxiliary Board member Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin with two Bolivian cholas, students of the Faith.

Correction

The story of the Canton Huanuni Indian Assembly in Bolivia, Bahá’í News for February 1958, page 9, mentioned two friends of Andrés Jachacollo, members of the Regional Teaching Committee, who went to talk to the entire Jachacollo settlement.

The two friends were Elton Smith and Angel Garcia. Estanislau Alvarez, whose name was given by mistake, continued the work with the Indians after the first nine had declared themselves, visited their village, and served actively on the National Indian Committee. He helped conduct the recent Indian Pioneer School in La Paz, Bolivia.

Bahá’í youth present at the annual Bahá’í Summer School held in Bahia, Brazil, on February 15-19, 1958.
ever being stopped by strangers and invited to talk, or walk, or have coffee with them. I recognized then that there was something that I didn’t understand. Your heart and the others, too, would become very happy at the wonderful interest shown by all whom Charles meets regarding the Bahá’í teachings. I realize, of course, that the number of declared believers here is small, but three local assemblies in a Hinayana Buddhist country is even more than anyone could have wished for at this early stage. It would be marvelous to have more numbers in each area, and we continually pray for them, other place which I used to call home. Here I seem to feel the nearness of Bahá’u’lláh much more so than at Winston-Salem, although I’m sure He was just as close there. Here we call on Him for much more guidance than I ever thought was possible. At first I was somewhat disappointed that I had to be in the city of Bangkok, and not in a glorious new territory, but when I left North Carolina I left with the promise to go wherever I would be of the most help. Strange things led to my being in Bangkok, but I am learning to accept with equanimity all sorts of things as doors open or close at the Will of God. If this is where I am most useful, then so be it. Maybe it’s not where people are needed most, but where I can personally serve Him best.”

Ten Local Assemblies in Canada
Have Been Incorporated to Date

The National Legal Committee of Canada has reported to the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly that to date ten local spiritual assemblies have been incorporated in that country.

Canada’s goal in the Ten-Year Crusade is the incorporation of a total of fifteen local assemblies; thus two-thirds of that number has been attained in the first half of the Crusade.

Incorporated local assemblies include: Edmonton, Alta.; Hamilton, Ont.; Scarborough, Ont.; Toronto, Ont.; North York, Ont.; Vancouver, B.C.; Vernon, B.C.; and Winnipeg, Man.

Halifax and London local assemblies expect to be incorporated in the near future.

Suva, Fiji Islands, Assembly
Registers Bahá’í Endowment

The Local Spiritual Assembly of Suva, Fiji Islands, has registered the Bahá’í endowment in Fiji in their name. It consists of an area of land of 1 rood 12 perches (more than one-half acre), situated near the top of a hill with a magnificent view of the Suva Harbour.

Suva will be the headquarters of the Regional Spiritual Assembly of the South Pacific which is to be formed during Ridván 1959.
Baha'i Holy Days Recognized in Australia

The Australian Bahá’í Bulletin reports that the Commonwealth Public Service of Australia has created an Australia-wide precedent by officially granting leave on Bahá’í Holy Days to an Australian believer.

BAHA’I IN THE NEWS

An Iranian students’ association quarterly magazine entitled The Daneshjoo, in its Spring 1958 issue, carries an article entitled “Religion and State in Iran” which mentions the Bahá’í Faith as one of the possible solutions of the religious problem in Iran, other possible solutions being the reinstatement of Zoroastrianism and the adoption of Christianity.

Holiday Abroad, 1958, an illustrated tourist book, lists the Bahá’í Shrines and Gardens as one of the features of Haifa, and contains a large photo of the Shrine.

The Globe and Mail, March 8, 1958, a Canadian newspaper, featured in a detailed article the future construction of a Bahá’í House of Worship in Toronto. The article presents Bahá’í teachings, and refers to the Intercontinental Conferences being held this year and to the World Conference to be held in Baghdád during 1963.

An Israeli tourist pamphlet printed in French states in its final paragraph that the Bahá’í Shrine on Mount Carmel is the inspiration for all the legends of our time or for the future.

A 1958 calendar distributed by Hardings Restaurants quotes a passage by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá on the power of love.

The Waterloo Daily Courier, Waterloo, Iowa, published a large feature story on the religion page March 28, which illustrated the Bahá’í House of Worship, and under the title ‘The Promised Day of God’ described the relationship of the local spiritual assembly to the world Bahá’í community and to the teachings of the Faith. This feature was one of a series of church messages underwritten by a number of local firms.

Le Soir, the largest newspaper in Belgium, published a series of informational articles as preliminary to the opening of the world exposition in Brussels, April 17, 1958. On March 5, this paper ran an article entitled “Ten Years in the Promised Land” which reported developments in the Holy Land, and illustrated by a picture of the Shrine of the Bab. Alluding to the Shrine and the International Archives, the author said: “They are the mausoleum and the Temple of Justice of the Bahá’ís who practice the fourth religion recognized in Israel, and who have made of Haifa a center of radiance.”

In Norway, the Morgenavisen Mandag of January 20, 1958 published a long article on the Faith illustrated by a picture of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. No translation has been made available.

A recent issue of The American Mercury, presents an article by Hilary Grey on “The Brotherhood,” in which the Bahá’í Faith is associated with Theosophy, Rosicrucian, World Congress, etc., as organizations responsible for misleading propaganda concerning the brotherhood of man.

A minister or priest, in a letter published on October 1, 1957, by the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer wrote: “... all religions appear to be having a good time from the Bahá’ís in Wilmette (sic) near Chicago to the Rosicrucians in Los Angeles.” The letter, however, adopts the Bahá’í position where it complains that “present-day religiosity” makes God the mere servant to the wishes of men.

From many sources the National Spiritual Assembly has received copies of Awake! for September 22, 1957, published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, which contains an article entitled “What is the Bahá’í Cause?” Accord-
From Tangier, Morocco, has come a copy of a reference to the Faith published in Paris-Match March 15, 1958, an illustrated French magazine. This reference was made in a letter written to the editor commenting on a series of articles about the "Great Shepherds of the World" — Moses, Jesus, Buddha and Mohammad. The writer stated that he would have been very pleased if the series had also included the two Persian Prophets, the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh.

The map of Chicago distributed by Standard Oil Company gas stations lists the Bahá'í House of Worship under points of interest.

The Camp Fire Girl for January 1958 published a "Capsule Calendar" of January dates which included World Religion Day.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, May 9, 1958, published a story about the Temple University Music Festival which stated: "A first performance by the Music Education Chorus was 'A Bahá'í Prayer' by Lee Tichenor of this city. Well written for voices, Tichenor's work rises in cumulative yet restrained power."

The New Christian Advocate, Methodist magazine, listed All Things Made New by John Ferraby in its Book Review column for July. "Students of religion will welcome this comprehensive outline of the Bahá'í Faith, with its message proclaiming the oneness of God and of religion, addressed to unbelievers and to persons already following a religion."

A far different reception was given to George Townshend's Christ and Bahá'u'lláh in another Methodist magazine World Outlook. "An ex-Christian appeals to Christians to join a reformed and universalized Islam. A missionary document of the Bahá'í Faith."

**Calendar of Events**

**FEAST**

August 20 — Asmá' (Names)

**NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**

August 29 — September 1

**Baha'i House of Worship**

Visiting Hours

Weekdays

10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (Entire building)

7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays

10:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Entire building)

5:00 P.M. to 9 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Service of Worship

Sundays

3:30 P.M., lasting until 4:15.

BAHA'I NEWS is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá'í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items, and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from national assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.


Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá'í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Dear Bahá'í Friends and Co-workers:

The passing of the beloved Guardian, and his stupendous last messages, present the American Bahá'í community with the greatest challenge in its history. We have been given mighty tasks to perform, and now we are deprived of our greatest immediate source of inspiration, guidance and stimulus. This means that we ourselves must assume the full responsibility for achieving the very clear-cut objectives Shoghi Effendi has assigned to us. It offers us a "God-given opportunity" to come of age, to achieve a state of spiritual maturity that will enable us to move forward to these goals with vigor, unity and effectiveness.

Taking stock of the situation, it has become apparent that our failure to date on the home front has not been due to lack of effort, to inadequate faith or insufficient desire to remedy the situation; rather it has stemmed from the clear fact that we neither understand the power of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh nor obey wholeheartedly its laws and teachings.

This was pointed out by the Guardian himself in the letter written on his behalf by his secretary on July 19, 1956: "It is evident that one of the reasons that the work on the home front in America is so seriously lagging is that the Bahá'ís themselves, though undoubtedly devoted, loyal and conscientious, are not always very deeply grounded in the spiritual fundamentals of their Faith. This produces a maladjustment, so to speak, in the nature of their service to the Cause; and only through a deeper understanding of their Faith and the inner spiritual strength that this understanding brings will they be able to reinforce themselves to meet their tasks, to see the joy of discharging their duties and grasping their privileges."

To overcome this spiritual lethargy from which stems our lack of success, we need a mighty spiritual reinvigoration. The Beloved Guardian places the attainment of this spiritual reinvigoration first in the three special points in his last letter on which he pleads for us to concentrate.

The Faith of Bahá'u'lláh is perfect, possessing its own propelling power and providing everything needed for its establishment. However, the inexhaustible spiritual assistance inherent in it can only flow to and operate through us - the "instruments" through which it must function - when we fulfill the specific conditions and obey the laws and teachings that have been clearly defined in the Writings.

"... Unlike all the dispensations of the past," says Shoghi Effendi, "the apostles of Bahá'u'lláh in every land, wherever they labor and toil, have before them in clear, in unequivocal and emphatic language, all the laws, the regulations, the principles, the institutions, the guidance they require for the prosecution of their task."

In The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh (pages 51-52) he further says: "That the Cause associated with the name of Bahá'u'lláh feeds itself upon those hidden springs of celestial strength which no force of human personality, whatever its glamour, can replace; that its reliance is solely upon that mystic Source with which no worldly advantage, be it wealth, fame, or learning can compare; that it propagates itself by ways mysterious and utterly incomprehensible with the standards accepted by the generality of mankind, will, if not already apparent, become increasingly manifest as it forged ahead towards fresh conquests in its struggles for the spiritual regeneration of mankind."

If we, as individuals, do not reflect the power of the Cause we are neither spiritually reinvigorated nor can we hope to teach the Faith with any appreciable success. Not by the force of numbers, nor by the mere exposition of a set of new and noble principles, not by an organized campaign of teaching - no matter how worldwide and elaborate its character - not even by the staunchness of our faith or the exalation of our enthusiasm, can we ultimately hope to vindicate in the eyes of a critical and sceptical age the supreme claim of the Abá'hí Revelation. One thing and only one thing will unfailingly and alone secure the undoubted triumph of this sacred Cause, namely, the extent to which our inner life and private character are reborn in their manifest upholds the splendor of those eternal principles proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh."

The National Spiritual Assembly is offering such an approach, emphasizing the most basic of our teachings and stemming from the counsels and warnings contained in the Guardian's last letters to the American Bahá'í community.

It is prepared to provide continuous and sustained assistance for systematic, unified action covering all of the three special objectives so strongly emphasized by the Guardian: "spiritual reinvigoration, administrative expansion, and material replenishment." It will use for this purpose all of the means at its command, including recommendations for individual and group study and carefully planned conferences. The friends are requested to watch Bahá'í News which will be the medium through which much of this assistance will be given.

It is our earnest request that every believer throughout the American Bahá'í community, whether veteran in the Cause or newly enrolled, whether in their midst or afar, will respond wholeheartedly to every recommended effort and undertaking for the home front, and that he will set up for himself his own personal goals for his maximum contribution to the success of the total World Crusade.

With complete humility let us each and every one turn to Bahá'u'lláh and prayerfully seek, through this united endeavor, to gain a fresh and deeper knowledge of our glorious Faith, a more mature understanding of its laws and teachings and of our responsibilities as Bahá'ís. Thus can we feel certain that we will gain that "spiritual reinvigoration" which constitutes the prime requisite for our own spiritual salvation and the attainment of our collective tasks.

Let us fully realize that in this sentence from the beloved Guardian's last treasured message to the American Bahá'ís he is speaking to each of us:

"... I would rather entreat each and every one of them to immortalize this approaching, fateful hour in the evolution of a world Spiritual Crusade, by a fresh consecration to their God-given Mission, coupled with an instantaneous plan of action, at once so dynamic and decisive, as to wipe out, on the one hand, with one stroke, the deficiencies which have, to no small extent, bogged down the operations of the Crusade on the home front, and tremendously accelerate, on the other, the progress of the triple task, launched in three continents, and constituting one of its preeminent objectives."

In our own hands lies the degree of our success. Perhaps nowhere has Shoghi Effendi more lovingly expressed his confidence in us than in this paragraph from his letter through his secretary, written July 19, 1956:

"The American Bahá'ís have so far never failed in any mission they undertook, and he hopes and believes there will be no failure this time. He has the greatest confidence in their loyalty, their faith, and their devotion, and he feels sure that with the help of Bahá'u'lláh they will arise to the occasion which has literally thrust upon them."

With warm Bahá'í love,

Faithfully yours,

August 1, 1956

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
suffer the travails and sorrows inseparable from the promulgation of the Word of God to a humanity that is rapidly losing touch with spiritual reality and being drained of the vital force of faith, and that he no longer must bear the weight of work which rested so crushingly on him for over a third of a century.

Strong Evidence of a New Maturity

As we now survey the vast field of his accomplish­ments in the light of our great loss, we begin to realize what this one being, inspired by God, driven by forces beyond our understanding, accomplished in so brief a time. A staggering task now faces us. The Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land, however, have been amazed at the strong evidence of a new maturity amongst the believers and their firm and irrecoverable determination to carry on to complete fulfillment the work of their dearly-loved Shoghi Effendi. There is no doubt in our minds or in the minds of any of the Chief Stewards of the Embryonic World Commonwealth of Bahá'u'lláh, that this can be done as long as we all work together in a closely-coordinated pattern following the design he set for us, keeping the life-blood flowing into Haifa, the great Heart and permanent Spiritual and Administrative Center of the Faith as he designated it, and out of it again on a world scale in the form of news, sta­tistics, and advice.

In the great work that lies before us, the Bahá'ís in the Antipodes have a very important part to play. The significance of this role has been strongly emphasized by the fact that, whereas at the opening of the World Crusade in 1953, the beloved Guardian called for four Intercontinental Conferences to be held in Africa, America, Europe, and Asia, this time at the Crusade's half-way point, he has added a fifth Intercontinental Conference to serve the rapidly growing needs of Australasia. The progress which has been achieved in this region has been truly phenomenal, and has kept pace with Shoghi Effendi's own thirty-six years of min­istry of the Faith. From the days after the beloved Master's ascension, when the first Center was firmly established in Sydney, until last April, when the Guardian called for the election of the first historic National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand, the unfoldment has been steady; the loyalty, devotion, obedience, and enthusiasm of the Australian and New Zealand believers were a constant source of pride to him, and attracted an ever-increasing measure of encouragement and attention on his part. His love and good-pleasure were poured upon them in many ways, the most im­pressive evidence being his plan to erect one of the three Masqué 'l-Adhkárs to be constructed during the World Crusade, in Sydney. This project was par­ticularly dear to his heart, knowing as he did that it will constitute a mighty, silent teacher of the Faith, and be a haven of refuge spiritually to all the believers in that area. This Mother Temple, not only of the Anti­podes, but of the entire Pacific region, will, by his ex­press instructions, be specially and eternally blessed through having in its foundations some of the sacred dust from the innermost Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, and a fragment of plaster from the room of the Báb in the fortress of Máká where He was imprisoned. The Guardian, in his last message to the Bahá'í world, par­ticularly encouraged the believers attending these five historic Conferences to rally to the support of the temples now being erected and thus ensure their speedy completion.

A Mighty Spiritual Axis

In Shoghi Effendi's last message to the Australian National Spiritual Assembly he unfolded before their eyes, in his own inimitable way, a vast panorama of future development in the entire Pacific area: he pointed out that Australia and Japan constitute the northern and southern poles of a mighty spiritual axis running through the Pacific region and that through this axis the current of a close collaboration in the execution of the Divine Plan throughout the entire re­gion must flow. He emphasized that within this area embraced by New Zealand and Australia in the south and Japan in the north, "an area endowed" as he wrote "with unimaginable potentialities, and which, owing to its strategic position, is bound to feel the impact of world-shaking forces, and to shape to a marked de­gree through the experience gained by its peoples in the school of adversity, the destinies of mankind." A tremendous responsibility inevitably rested on the two oldest and strongest communities represented by the Australian National Spiritual Assembly and the Re­gional National Spiritual Assembly of North East Asia, to not only carry forward the teaching work in the islands scattered over the face of the sea, but in their homelands as well. We cannot do better than recall his own weighty words on this subject: "A responsi­bility, at once weighty and inescapable, must rest on the communities which occupy so privileged a position in so vast and turbulent an area of the globe. However great the distance that separates them; however much they differ in race, language, custom, and religion; however active the political forces which tend to keep them apart and foster racial and political antagonisms, the close and continued association of these commu­nities in their common, their peculiar and paramount task of raising up and of consolidating the embryonic World Order of Bahá'u'lláh in those regions of the globe is a matter of vital and urgent importance, which should receive on the part of the elected representatives of these communities, a most earnest and prayerful con­sideration."

He reminded the Australian believers that theirs was a two-fold task: on the one hand, to consolidate, multi­ply, and expand the institutions of the Faith at home and in the many islands beyond its confines, and on the other, to forge fresh links with its sister communities, particularly those in the North Pacific, in anticipation of the mission these communities are destined to col­lectively discharge.

New Zealand's Six-Year Plan

He reminded both the Australian and New Zealand communities of their immediate duties, affectionately naming New Zealand—whose recently elected National Spiritual Assembly will constitute a pillar of the future International House of Justice—that "far-away and promising dominion"; he called upon its National As­sembly to formulate a Six-Year Plan aimed at multi­plying the spiritual assemblies, groups, and isolated centers, at incorporating both the national and local spiritual assemblies, at obtaining recognition of both Bahá'í Holy Days and the Bahá'í Marriage Certificate, and at purchasing a site for a future House of Worship.
Message From the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land to the Fourth Intercontinental Conference in Frankfurt

More than nine months have passed since that heartbreaking day when, according to the inscrutable decrees of God, our most beloved and precious Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, passed to the realms on high. Though our sorrow is still fresh in our hearts we cannot but marvel, as we witness the vast number of friends gathered at the opening of this fourth great Intercontinental Conference being held in the very heart of the European continent, at the protection vouchsafed this holy Faith by the Almighty; at the tender wisdom which inspired our Guardian to provide us, during this first year of cruel and bitter separation, with these five great rallying points; at his forethought when he urged the believers to make every effort to attend them; and at the vigilance which moved him, so shortly before his passing and in his last great message to the Bahá‘í world to reinforce the institution of the Hands of the Faith through the appointment of eight more of these “Chief Stewards of Bahá‘u’lláh’s embryonic World Commonwealth.” This designation, never before applied to them by him, appears to have been calculated to enable them, with the loving support of the national assemblies and the believers, to carry the Cause of God forward through this exceedingly difficult and stormy strait in the history of mankind to the calmer waters which lie ahead as the World Order of Bahá‘u’lláh begins to take shape and gain in stature and experience.

We, in spite of the load of grief we still bear in our hearts, a grief which has bowed our heads and humbled our spirits, can nevertheless lift up our voices in thanksgiving to Bahá‘u’lláh. We thank Him now not only, as was the Guardian’s expressed wish, for the bounties bestowed during the first five years of this World Crusade, but for the measure of sure protection, of merciful grace, poured upon us since the beloved Guardian’s passing. The Bahá‘ís have everywhere stood firm in the Covenant of God; tested, tried, bereft, and filled with longing for their so-deeply loved guide and leader, they have demonstrated how great has been the effect of his life and its works by their steadfastness, by the renewed dedication they have shown to the plans he laid down for them, by an unprecedented degree of unity amongst themselves, by a deeper determination to gladden Shoghi Effendi’s heart than when he was with them physically in this world. They have arisen, East and West, to go forth and pioneer on both the Homefronts and in the newly opened territories; they have supported the Bahá‘í Funds from hearts that were loyal and overflowed with tenderness for their religion in its hour of need; they have rallied round the Hands of the Faith, the Custodians at the World Center, and the national and regional spiritual assemblies; they have gathered in large numbers at these great intercontinental conferences; they have comforted each other in their loneliness; and they have arisen to spread the Word of God abroad with new zeal and dedication. Can there be any doubt that all this is the result of Shoghi Effendi’s sacrifice, the over a-third-of-a-century-long sacrifice of his life, the sudden end, when his spirit in one breath freed itself from his tired and overladen heart? You all are gathered here today because of Shoghi Effendi, according to Shoghi Effendi’s wish, Shoghi Effendi’s Plan, Shoghi Effendi’s hope!

Before turning our thoughts to what he desired should be considered at these great conferences, let us recall the purpose of this vast globe-encircling Crusade. It is a step in the unfoldment of the Divine Plan laid down for us by ‘Abdu‘l-Bahá, and whose execution He entrusted primarily to the people of the “Great Republic of the West,” the most promising child of European civilization. It has already, in five short years, carried us well on the way towards the accomplishment of our primary objective, which the Guardian said is no less than the spiritual conquest of the entire planet. Led by our beloved Commander-in-
Chief, we have opened nearly all the independent sovereign states, the chief dependencies, the most important islands and territories of the world to our glorious Faith; even the wintry island of Spitzbergen has been settled, leaving only a few states inside the Soviet Union or within its orbit, still unopened. Of the forty-nine National Ha'iratu'l-Quds to be purchased as part of the Ten-Year Plan, forty-eight have been acquired; of the fifty-one National Endowments that have been acquired; of the eleven Temple sites specifically mentioned by our beloved Guardian, all eleven have been acquired; the mighty task of translating and publishing the literature of the Faith, as called for in the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan, is now nearing completion; the Bahá'í Publishing Trusts, except for those in Islámic countries where the believers are still oppressed, ignored, and proscribed, have all been founded; and the task of incorporating national and local spiritual assemblies is well on its way to fulfillment. Even the Homefronts—the most challenging perhaps of all the tasks allotted to us by the beloved Guardian under the terms of this World Crusade—are, in many countries, meeting, nay surpassing, his expectations. Two of the three mighty Mother Temples are already being constructed: namely, those of Africa and the Antipodes. It was this overall pattern of marked success, of surging spiritual vitality, which characterizes the activities of the World Bahá'í Community, that undoubtedly caused our Guardian to unite us in these five Intercontinental Conferences, not only to humbly thank Bahá'u'lláh for mercies received, not only to deliberate on ways and means of accomplishing the next five years' work, but as a reward for having served faithfully, with enthusiasm and consecration, this blessed Cause of God, and, as we now see, as a mercy in the hour of separation, a tender enfolding of us, his "dearly beloved co-workers," in the arms of that one who, in his modesty and purity of heart, called himself only "your true brother."

The work of Bahá'u'lláh lies before us to be completed. No one generation will do this; a thousand years at least are required to carry out and mature the specific provisions of His Dispensation. But to each man his opportunity, to each generation its tasks. Shoghi Effendi has laid down for us in clear and unmistakable terms our next five years' work. To the degree to which we scrupulously adhere to his plan, obey his words, comprehend the implications of his perfect design, to that degree only will our affairs prosper, our work attract the blessings from On High, and the foundation of the World Crusade be solidly and lastingly laid.

The beloved Guardian, in his last message to us all, made clear that the fourth phase of our Ten-Year Plan which we have, with the holding of these great conferences all over the world, now embarked upon, "must be immortalized, on the one hand, by an unprecedented increase in the number of avowed supporters of the Faith, in all the continents of the globe, of every race, clime, creed, and color, and from every stratum of present-day society, coupled with a corresponding increase in the number of Bahá'í centers, and, on the other, by a swift progress in the erection of the Mother Temples of Africa and Australia, as well as by the initiation of the construction of the first Masriqu'l-Adhkár of Europe."

The commencement of work on the Temple to be erected in Germany is long overdue. We know from the Words of the Master that these Houses of Worship are the greatest silent teachers of the Faith. How infinitely precious is any building erected in the love of God and for the mention of His Name! How much more so these first continental "Mother Temples," being raised to the glory of Bahá'u'lláh! How infinitely so the Temples for whose construction the Guardian himself is responsible, whose location he has specified, whose design he himself has approved. It was one of his most cherished desires to have these Temples built. He himself pledged he would supply one-third of their estimated cost. We must now carry on his work, see that the budget, now being expended monthly for the construction of the Sydney Temple, is met, and that at least the major part of the sum required for the European Masriqu'l-Adhkár is raised, in anticipation of the early commencement of actual building operations. Time is flying. We do not know what the future world situation will be. What we do know is our immediate duty to the work specified for us by our Guardian.

The other half of the main task confronting us is the "unprecedented increase" in the number of believers throughout the world. Pioneers are needed everywhere, in all continents, in all the islands opened to the Faith, on the Homefronts, and in the goal territories. Two things are required to get a pioneer to his post, an enkindled, consecrated soul, willing and ready to go out in the teaching field and, if he cannot supply them himself, the material means necessary to get him to his post and often to enable him to remain at it. This type of service to the Faith offers a wonderful opportunity for partnership between those who have some worldly means at their disposal, but feel for some reason unable to go forth themselves, and those who yearn to respond to the call for pioneering, but are prevented from fulfilling their heart's desire because of lack of material resources.

Let us recall our Guardian's words, at the opening of the World Crusade, to the entire body of the followers of Bahá'u'lláh:

"... I direct my appeal to arise and, in the course of these fast fleeting years, in every phase of the campaigns that are to be fought in all the continents of the globe, prove their worth as gallant warriors battling for the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh. Indeed, from this very hour until the eve of the Most Great Jubilee, each and every one of those enrolled in the Army of Light must seek no rest, must take no thought of self, must sacrifice to the uttermost, must allow nothing whatsoever to deflect him or her from meeting the pressing, the manifold, the paramount needs of this preeminent Crusade.

"'Light as the spirit,' 'pure as air,' 'blazing as fire,' 'unrestrained as the wind'—for such is Bahá'u'lláh's own admonition to His loved ones in His Tablets, and directed not to a select few but to the entire congregation of the faithful—let them scatter far and wide, proclaim the glory of God's Revelation in this Day, quicken the souls of men and ignite in their hearts the love of the One Who alone is their omnipotent and divinely appointed Redeemer."

At this time surely nothing is impossible to us. We have passed through nine months of fire since our
beloved Guardian left us, but we have burned together. We have seen, and felt deeply in our hearts, our unity as a world community, as followers of the Most Great Name. We have neither been separated nor paralyzed through this great shock and grief. The World Center of the Faith which he so assiduously built up and consolidated, the heart of the Bahá’í World Community, has not ceased to beat. The communion between the hearts of the friends and the great heart enshrining the Qiblih of the Bahá’í world, continues to gather strength. This has been a shining evidence to us all that Bahá’u’lláh’s mercies have not ceased to be showered upon us; that what the Guardian built endures and will endure, a living organism, throughout the stages in the evolution of our Faith which lie ahead. After this ordeal by fire which we have passed through, can we doubt that, with this fresh sense of oneness, with our purified hearts, we will not receive, if we arise now to serve as we should, an extraordinary measure of the bounty of almighty God? Great moments in history require great deeds; great men are not necessarily those best qualified to be great, but rather those who see their chance and seize it, with love and courage, when it offers itself. The records of our Faith show that its heroes and heroines, its saints and martyrs, sprang mostly from the rank and file, but what they possessed, which raised them to the summits of fame and glory, were vision and faith. Let the friends now follow the path of Shoghi Effendi, let them arise to complete his work as set forth in the Ten-Year Plan, let them labour as he did, steadily, patiently, consecratedly, day after day, week after week, year after year, until his tasks are completed. The world now marvels at what this one man did in thirty-six years. Let his lovers arise and put their shoulder to the wheel and move this blessed Faith forward on the path of its destiny until, God willing, their hearts stop as did his, from the excess of their labours in the path of God.

Signed:

Ruhiyyih
Amelia Collins
A. Furutan

William Sears
A. Q. Faizi
Jalal Kházeh

Construction of Africa Temple Proceeds With Erection of Supporting Pillars

The second contract for the construction of the Mother Temple of Africa at Kampala, Uganda, was signed in June 1958, providing for the erection of reinforced concrete pillars up to dome height. This follows the completion of the first contract, the foundation and the steps up to floor level. In addition, a well and pump have been installed, insuring an adequate supply of water, and a landscape architect has drawn up plans for tree plantings.

In January, during the Kampala Intercontinental Conference, the Guardian’s revered representatives, ‘Amatu’-Bahá Ruhiyyih Khánum and Hand of the Cause Musa Banání, placed a silver casket containing sacred earth from the Shrine of Bahá’u’lláh and a wooden box holding a piece of plaster from the Prison of Mah-kú, where the Báb had been incarcerated, beneath the foundation stone.

When the present work of constructing the pillars is completed, a third contract will be executed for the erection of the walls, roof, and dome.

Construction of the dome will present numerous problems. A dome of the shape and proportions called for by the designs has never been built anywhere in the world before; equipment and engineers for the prestressed concrete work required do not exist in that part of the world. The hill on which the Temple is being erected is high above the surrounding land, and encounters strong winds. This will present difficulties for the builders when planning their scaffolding at such an unusual height. In addition, the extreme changes of temperature, from hot afternoons to cool nights, create great problems of expansion and contraction.

Despite all these difficulties, the National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa reports that the problems are slowly being surmounted.

The final work on the finish, acoustics, doors, windows, and electrical fittings should be started by the end of 1958, and it is expected that the building will

Steel shafts for the reinforced concrete pillars that will rise to dome height for the Mother Temple of Africa, under construction near Kampala, Uganda.
There was a total of thirty official participants, consisting mostly of professors of leading universities of Italy, Egypt, Lebanon, Russia, United States, France, India, Switzerland, Japan, Denmark, Belgium, and other countries throughout the world. Very few observers were granted admittance, and it was therefore a privilege for the Baha’i’s to be represented.

As a prelude to the symposium, a day was consecrated to the commemoration of the signing of the Charter of Human Rights.

The discussions of the symposium manifested the desire among the diverse personalities to cooperate by all modern means of popular education to facilitate the exchange of spiritual concepts and mutual tolerance between the peoples of the Orient and Occident.

Nevertheless, it was evident, from the Baha’i viewpoint, that there was a lack of cohesion, proving the need of a superior force capable of cementing hearts together.

They came to the conclusion that religion was the greatest factor in the formation of civilizations in the past, and that if humanity would establish a more humane world it must have new standards of morality and a reconsideration of religious values.

During the intervals between the sessions, personal contacts were made by the Baha’i delegates, and Baha’i literature was discreetly distributed. The delegates felt that the week of fruitful consultation developed an eager desire to investigate the religious problems of our time, and that the presence of Baha’i might prove in the future that the spirit of Baha’u’llah was working among those leading personalities of the world.

—Lea Nys

Australian NSA Asks Continued Contribution: For Construction of Temple in Sydney

A letter from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Australia expresses the hope that the Baha’is will continue their contributions for the construction of the Sydney Temple, so that there will be no interruption or delay in its early completion. It says: “The project is creating a lot of public interest; over 1,000 cars pass the site each hour on Saturdays and Sundays.”

Thirty New Local Assemblies Established In Area of Southeast Asia Regional Assembly

The formation of thirty new local spiritual assemblies in the area under the jurisdiction of the Regional Spiritual Assembly of Southeast Asia was accomplished on April 21, 1958.

Eight of these assemblies are located in Vietnam, where the number of believers now number about 200. Baha’u’llah and the New Era has recently been translated into Vietnamese, and 3,000 copies have been published to assist in attaining the goal of 500 Baha’is in Vietnam by the time of the Djakarta Conference in September.
Six Newly-Formed Local Spiritual Assemblies of Central Vietnam

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Hoa Thai, Quang Nam Province, Central Vietnam.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Son Thang, Quang Nam Province, Central Vietnam.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Quang Ngai, Quang Ngai Province, Central Vietnam.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Ky Ngoc, Quang Nam Province, Central Vietnam.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Phu Tho, Quang Nam Province, Central Vietnam.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Toupane, Central Vietnam.
First Philippine Baha'i Summer School
Conducted at Solano in Two Languages

The first Baha'i Summer School and Conference in the Philippines was held at Solano, in the province of Nueva Vizcaya on Luzon Island, where more than twenty years ago The Greatest Name was first made known on these islands.

This conference was held in the humble, windowless Haziratu'l-Quds, erected by the loving sacrifices of the Solano friends. Baha'i children opened the first session with a beautifully composed choral greeting that added the element of youthful gladness and meekness to the spiritual atmosphere.

All prayers and talks were spoken in either English or the Ilocano languages and then translated into the other, so that all present might understand the proceedings.

Orlando D. Maddela, the convenor of the school, is the son of the first Baha'i believer of the Philippines. He not only conducted the school program, but spoke at a public meeting at the Plaza of Solano, held on the evening of May 31. Other speakers at this meeting were Mariano Tagubat of Solano, and William Allison, a recently-arrived pioneer from the United States.

Sixty-two persons attended the first day's sessions of the summer school. Mr. Tagubat, Theodore Boehnert, and Mr. Allison spoke on subjects that included the history, the principles, and the administration of the Faith.

On the second day, speakers discussed the laws and ordinances of Bahá'u'lláh, the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and prospects for the future. Forty-two persons attended these meetings.

The closing session was devoted to the study of the Regional Spiritual Assembly's Six-Year Teaching Plan and the part of the Philippine Islands in this plan. Subjects included: multiplication of centers, pioneering, increase in the number of believers, consolidation of existing centers, summer schools, translations and publications, incorporation of local spiritual assemblies, obtaining Haziratu'l-Quds, the Bahá'i Fund, and teaching conferences.

This first summer school was an inspiring demonstration to the Philippine believers of the Bahá'í spirit of love and unity, and their steadfastness in their beloved Cause.

Chicago Tribune Publishes Proclamation of Faith by Well-Known Author

Some years ago the Book of the Month Club announced as one of its monthly selections a book entitled Song of the Sky by Guy Murchie. The name of Bahá'u'lláh appeared in this volume and the announcement of the book stated that Guy Murchie was a Bahá'í.

Now this well-known Bahá'í author has written an article entitled "I Am A Bahá'í," which is featured in the magazine section of the Chicago Sunday Tribune of July 13, 1958.

The Sunday Tribune has a very large circulation throughout the middle west and even in distant cities. For example, Mr. Murchie's article was noted and put to good use with contacts by a believer in Portland, Ore. Many inquiries for Bahá'í literature have come to the National Bahá'í headquarters from Sunday Tribune readers, and the number of visitors to the Temple has noticeably increased.

"I Am A Bahá'í. This means that I believe in the new world Faith that began in Persia a hundred years ago and has just now come into general attention in the West," Guy Murchie's article begins. He explains his interest in the Bahá'í Faith by stating that as a writer for the Chicago Tribune he had been asked by Col. Robert R. McCormick, seventeen years ago, to find out what the Bahá'í Temple, then under construction, "was all about."

"The spiritual creed behind this extraordinary creation struck me as so reasonable and beautiful that,
Eight members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the Greater Antilles for 1958-1959.

after a few months of studying its history and principles and finding it stood for world unity and love and progress, and that it did not conflict with Christianity (but rather fulfilled it), nor modern science, nor anything else I believed in, I embraced it in its entirety.

The article as a whole presents an interesting and sound exposition of the history and teachings of our revelation. The Shrine of the Bab and the Baha’i House of Worship are illustrated. American believers can be grateful not only to Mr. Murchie, but also to the late Col. McCormick and the Chicago Tribune for many instances of publicity favorable to the Faith of Baha’u’llah.

The editor of the Chicago Sunday Tribune has given permission to the Baha’i Publishing Trust to reprint Guy Murchie’s article as a pamphlet. Mr. Murchie has also consented to this arrangement. The Publishing Trust will announce the pamphlet when ready.

Indians of Five Southwestern Tribes
Weekend Guests at Gimlin Ranch

Fifty-five persons gathered at the Gimlin ranch near Camp Verde, Ariz., on the weekend of July 25-27, for two “Indian Days.”

Some came hundreds of miles, as did two Navajo families. Fifteen of the twenty-eight Indian friends came from the nearby Camp Verde Apache Reservation. Other tribes represented were Yavapai, Mohave, Walpi, and Otomi. Ceremonial dances held concurrently in Hopiland prevented several Hopi friends from coming. One guest was a visitor to Arizona from Helsinki, Finland.

Nine Baha’i communities in Arizona, California, and Nevada were represented. Meals were pot-luck, and many brought overnight camping equipment.

Plans for this weekend began early last spring, when Mr. and Mrs. Begay Tsosie, who live near the Monument Valley country in Arizona, visited their first white home, a Baha’i residence in Sparks, Nev.

No program was arranged, but Indian arts and crafts were displayed, including Papago and Apache basketry, water color paintings, and an unusual exhibit of natural dye pigments used in Navajo weaving.

The warmth and love felt by everyone who came was reflected in the spontaneous participation of the Indian guests. Prayers were given in Apache, Yavapai, and Navajo. The Baha’i prayers were translated into Navajo.

Through an interpreter, as spokesman for the Navajo who speak no English, Mr. Tsosie expressed the appreciation and thanks of all, and said that he felt this meeting was a beginning, a promise of things to come. He spoke of the need for more meetings.

Second annual convention of the Bahá’ís of the Greater Antilles, held at Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in April 1958.
such as this one, so that peoples who have been apart can come together in the spirit of oneness and brotherhood.

Highlighting the weekend, for all those who knew of it, was a touching demonstration of this fine man's acceptance of Bahá'u'lláh, through His son. Mr. Tsosie, who had heard the wonderful message of Bahá'u'lláh in Navajo last spring, asked through his interpreter if a certain white figurine in the ranchhouse were of Bahá'u'lláh.

He was told it was not, then shown a picture of the son of Bahá'u'lláh. He stood looking at 'Abdu'l-Bahá's picture silently for a long moment, then touched his heart and his head, and knelt in reverence. He then spoke in Navajo to his eleven-year-old boy, who repeated the same act of devotion.

When the hour came for starting the long drives home, everyone gathered for prayer and heard the words of Bahá'u'lláh in supplication for protection, again spoken in Navajo. The bounty shared in this weekend of fellowship was an uplifting and inspiring experience for all.

—Charlotte Nelson
Norman Gimlin

Greensboro Bahá'ís Present Faith
On Six Television Programs

The Greensboro, N. Car., Bahá'í community has recently taken advantage of a most unusual opportunity to present the Faith to the general public in three states: Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

It all started several months ago, when the community was asked to join the Greensboro Ministerial Fellowship, with the local spiritual assembly chairman as representative. This gave the chairman the opportunity to attend luncheons and meetings, and will eventually give him an opportunity to tell Greensboro's leading Protestant clergy about the Faith.

Being a member entitles one to the privilege of having the Faith and its representative listed in the Church Directory, and presenting six fifteen-minute programs of a devotional nature on television station WFMY-TV. No sooner had the Faith become a member of this fellowship than the chairman was told he would be responsible for the programs from June 9 to June 15.

Much planning and a great deal of preparation went into the making-up of these programs. It was decided by the Teaching Committee that each morning "Words for the World" would be played, with slides of the Gardens on Mount Carmel as the video picture.

Subsequently the chairman selected a special devotional theme for each day, using Paris Talks, Divine Art of Living, and Life Eternal as source books.

The beauty, the dignity, and the power of the Creative Word: the impression of the program created somewhat of a sensation at WFMY-TV. Everyone was asking about the Faith and the Gardens. One of the Greensboro Bahá'ís is a continuity writer at the station, and he was plied with questions.

Several pieces of mail soon arrived from outlying areas in North Carolina, the only correspondence ever received pertaining to the "Devotions" program. One
First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Forest, Ont., Canada, formed on April 21, 1958.

letter urgently appealed for information on life after death.

Since WFMY-TV has been telecasting since 1949, and instigated the program at that time, the fact that the Baha’i Faith attracted the only correspondence in nine years is of some significance.

On Sunday, June 15, the program was conducted by the Greensboro Local Assembly chairman, Jack Davis, who had as his guest Mrs. Irma Hayden, chairman of the Nashville, Tenn., Local Spiritual Assembly. Having two races on the program was a very important teaching factor in the South, and is bound to have a far-reaching effect.

To have had such a privilege as these six programs, telecast over one of the largest and most powerful stations in the nation, is assuredly one that could not be devised; the opportunity was created for us, and is just another step forward to recognition and the ultimate emancipation of the Faith in this section of the country.

—F. KIMBALL KINNEY

Los Angeles’ Youth Panel Discussions: Attract Youth and Adults to Faith

The Youth and Young Adult Committee of Los Angeles, Calif., in an effort to expand its services in attracting more young people to the Faith, has developed an excellent plan which has been used successfully for more than two years.

Working closely with the Local Spiritual Assembly, it has not only presented youth panels for firesides and for a public meeting each month but also, under the Area Teaching Committee of the Southwestern States, has sent “travelling panels” to several other communities in Southern California and Nevada. Each panel is comprised of three or four youth, or young adult speakers, and an adult moderator. The moderator gives a brief introduction to the Faith to introduce the subject, the questions, and the speakers. The speakers each have five minutes to answer two questions, after which the moderator sums up and opens the meeting for general discussion, assisting the panel members to answer questions when necessary.

Very careful preparation has gone into this program. A two-hour study class, for all those interested in this method of teaching, provided for one hour of deepening in the Faith with the help of Mrs. Jesma Herbert and Miss Serrita Camargo, experienced teachers. This was followed by a one-hour workshop in which five minute talks, assigned in advance, were given. These talks were recorded on tape and played back for evaluation and constructive criticism.

The next phase was a two-hour class of straight study and discussion, with the aid of various study outlines. This was followed by a teaching institute using, besides many quotes on teaching, the study of the brochure Success in Teaching by Ruhlyyih Khánun.

The fourth phase was a one-hour study period on "The Covenant and Administration" followed by practical workshops and discussion on such subjects as: opening a new city to the Faith, functioning as an

Bahá’í Group of Manila, Philippine Islands, on April 20, 1958.
isolated Bahá’í or as a group, forming an assembly, knowing and using the Bahá’í institutions, living the Bahá’í life, the Ten-Year Crusade, pioneering, and work on the homefront. Charts, maps, and all available visual aids were used extensively, and throughout the emphasis was on the orientation and services of Bahá’í youth and young adults in the Bahá’í community and the World Crusade. Finally there was systematic study of Some Answered Questions.

Much prayer and consultation goes into the selection of panel topics as well as the speakers for each. Alternates are chosen at the same time, and a moderator who will work well with the particular panel and speakers. A rehearsal is always held by the panel members before the public meeting. The secretary and chairman of the committee attend all rehearsals and careful records are kept on possible speakers and moderators as well as those that have participated, including the dates and places. Letters of invitation to participate in this program are sent to all young people and moderators recommended by the assembly and by the area teaching committee.


The enthusiasm and capacity of the young people has been an inspiration to the community, and the impact upon the audiences to which they have spoken has been most effective in attracting both youth and adults to the Faith. This, or a similar plan for using the talents and energy of young people, could well be adopted in every Bahá’í community where there is even a small number of youth and young adults.

**Faith Publicized in Saigon Magazine**

One of the prominent Saigon, Vietnam, magazines, Bong Lua, has published an article on the Bahá’í Faith, together with photographs of the Holy Shrines and the International Archives Building in Haifa, the House of Worship in Wilmette, and several Bahá’í gatherings.

**Chicago Assembly’s Weekly Meetings at YMCA Praised by Religious Work Committee**

The Local Spiritual Assembly of Chicago, Ill., has sponsored a program of weekly meetings at the Washington Park YMCA since July 1957. Most of these meetings have featured Bahá’í speakers on various aspects of the Faith, followed by a question and answer period.

One speaker was Mrs. Vivian Wesson, Bahá’í pioneer on leave from Liberia, with students from Liberia participating in the discussion of that country. Another was a young Chicago Bahá’í who had spent the summer in Mexico in volunteer work among underprivileged children. There were also several sessions devoted to reading and discussion of such Bahá’í books as The Reality of Man and Foundations of World Unity.

As a result of this weekly activity at the Washington Park YMCA, the Bahá’ís were invited to participate in their Annual Springtime Teen, sponsored by the Religious Work Committee of this branch of the “Y” as a friendly gesture to the religious workers of many denominations during the year. This year the occasion had further significance because it marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of the YMCA in Chicago.

At this gathering the general chairman of the activity introduced the Bahá’ís, praised their religious activity during the year, and expressed the hope that it would continue.

**Second Cherokee Woman Embraces Faith**

Mrs. Nellie Jumper, a Cherokee residing on the Indian reservation at Cherokee, N. Car., has enrolled in the Bahá’í Faith, the American Indian Service Committee has revealed.

With Mrs. Jumper and Mrs. Minnie Feather, also Cherokee, and Mrs. Ethel Murray, the Bahá’í pioneer, there are now three Bahá’ís on the reservation, which is small in area.

**Bahá’í Literature Published in Indonesian**

The translation of Bahá’u’lláh and the New Era in the Indonesian language has been approved, and is now in the process of being printed. The booklet Bahá’í Community has also been translated into Indonesian, and will soon be published.

**Summer School Held at Santiago, Rep. Dom.**

The first National Summer School of the Dominican Republic for 1958-1959 was held the first weekend of June at Santiago. Bahá’ís and students from Cuidad Trujillo, Moca, and Santiago took part.

**Deprived of Bahá’í Membership**

The Regional Spiritual Assembly of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay has been obliged to remove the Bahá’í voting rights of Mrs. Frances Benedict Stewart, an American who has been pioneering in Latin America. She can no longer be recognized as a Bahá’í in the United States or elsewhere.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
The Art of Teaching

Teaching the Cause is the foremost duty and greatest delight of every Bahá'í. It devolves upon us, therefore, to consider how we can improve our teaching activities.

Knowledge

The main requisites of teaching are knowledge, faith, and love. The Founder of our Faith has emphasized that the person who would teach others must first teach himself. Systematic, regular study of the tenets and history of our Faith is a must for all, young and old. Summer schools, conferences, classes, and informal get-togethers are means for supplementing, but not supplanting, private study.

Teaching also is a learning process. If you want to master a subject, try giving a course on it! We dare not wait for our knowledge to become perfect before rushing into the arena of teaching. We shall never know everything about our all-embracing Faith but each one of us, no matter how ignorant or lacking in capacity, has something to impart to inquirers. We must never be overwhelmed by our inadequate knowledge or inability because it is not our puny efforts but solely God's confirming grace that makes Bahá'í.

Our value as teachers sinks to zero if we feel that we have the power to confirm souls. We must avoid the extremes of underestimating and of overrating our abilities. The secret of success in teaching is God-consciousness. According the Faith first place in our lives and realizing that bestowing the Glad-Tidings of God on others is our supreme task and the source of our lasting happiness, will lead us to acquire the knowledge that is needful.

Faith

Faith is contagious. Our devotion to the Cause is bound to influence inquirers. Faith will move mountains of doubt, fear, unbelief, ignorance, and sin. We of the West must take heed not to let the world be too much with us or to permit material pursuits to dwarf our spiritual aspirations.

It has often happened that when the teaching outlook in a locality appeared very dark the doors of progress suddenly opened in response to prayer. Self-discipline is required if prayer is to play a larger part in our scheme of daily living. What we oc­cidentals most urgently require is what the Persians call tawajjüh, which means turning our faces toward God. It is faith that gives us the motivation to teach. Once the desire to teach is powerful enough, abundant means and opportunities will be found, particularly in countries like Britain and America where freedom abides.

Love

The requisite of love must be demonstrated both toward God and toward His creatures. When the strong emotion of love is focussed on both God and man, the result can only be unlimited triumph in teaching the Faith of God. Too often we think of subject matter by itself instead of related to the experience and background of the learner. In teaching, the learner must be uppermost in our minds and the effect of what we say will be tremendously enhanced if it is suffused with the spirit of love.

According to traditions accepted as authentic by al-Bukhári, the Prophet Muḥammad imparted to His companions valuable hints on teaching. "Announce agreeable things; do not startle your auditor." This could mean that we eschew the evang­elist's approach of threatening the listener with the tortures of Hell and instead picture to him the happy Bahá'í world commonwealth of the future in which the wealth of mankind will not be squandered on instruments of human destruction but will be consecrated to such constructive ends as the sharpening and refinement of the human mind and the prolongation of life.

What we teach must be built on the thought patterns and experience of the inquirer and not be repugnant to him. Of course we cannot alter the teachings to make them more palatable, but the order of our teaching should be such that the negative commands come later, after the in­quirer understands the stations of the Central Figures of the Faith.

Our aim is to attract, not to repel. "Make the way easy and not difficult," counseled Muḥammad. When we carry out this instruction, we shall succeed in guiding the "waiting servants" to the "chosen highway" which leads to personal and social salvation. Faith, knowledge, and love constitute the armour of God with which we can capture the "cities of men's hearts."

—Dr. Robert Gulick, Jr.


**BAHÁ’Í IN THE NEWS**

A new monthly magazine, *The Mediterranean and Euraftrica*, has published in its first issue (June 1958) an article entitled “Bahá’ísm—Another View of the Middle East” by Delia Mary Seton. The purpose of this article was apparently to establish a new conception of Islam in the Western world by pointing out that the Bahá’í Faith was “kindled within the bosom of Islam, and now it extends as far afield as Africa and—perhaps most significantly of all—it has its headquarters in Haifa, Israel.”

The author has made a careful study of Bahá’í sources and her article is a very creditable exposition of the Faith. A reference to Bahá’u’lláh appears on page 68 of “The Story of Orchestral Music and its Times” by Paul Grabbe.

Mirror for Youth, published quarterly by Youth of All Nations, Inc., New York, reprints a letter written by an American student to her “pen pal” in Germany. This letter describes a visit she made to a Bahá’í fireside meeting. “It was really wonderful. It made me feel as if, in spite of superficial differences, there is really a chance that the world can be ruled through peace and understanding, instead of the childish quarrels that have always plagued men’s relations with their neighbors.”

*The Frankfurter Allgemeine (Germany)* Sunday, May 3, 1958, published a long and detailed article about the Faith, illustrated by two large photographs of the Wilmette Bahá’í House of Worship, an exterior and an interior view, and also by a picture of the dome of the Hazíratu’l-Quds, Tihbrán, showing the military leaders who were beginning the destruction of the dome there, May 1955.

In the light of the Intercontinental Conference scheduled for Germany, this article was most opportune. An Israeli publication dealing with freedom of religion, freedom from fear, and freedom from want, carries an illustration of the Shrine of the Báb.

The June 1958 issue of *Harper’s Magazine* contains an unusual reference to the Faith. In an article by Dan Wakefield about a group of teen-age New Yorkers who have abandoned the ways of violence and seek to imbue other youths with their new outlook, he says “As a young man in his early twenties, Ramon (Diaz) came from Puerto Rico on a pilgrimage to the Bahá’í Temple in Chicago and stopped off in New York on the way.”

Three references to the Faith appear in *Wilmette Life* for July 31, 1958. One is a progress report on the construction of the Bahá’í Home, with a photograph of the building. Another reports the publication of Great Themes of Life by Eric Bowes and the presentation of a copy to Wilmette Public Library by the local Bahá’ís. The third reports that the Bahá’í House of Worship is one of more than 100 houses of worship discussed in *Historic Churches of the United States* by Robert C. Broderick, published by Wilfred Funk.

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**Calendar of Events**

**FEASTS**

September 8—’Izzat (Might)  
September 27—Mas’úl (Will)

**INTERCONTINENTAL CONFERENCE**  
September 22-27—Djakarta, Indonesia

**NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**  
October 10-12

**Bahá’í House of Worship**  
Visiting Hours

**Weekdays**

10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Entire building)  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)

**Sundays and Holidays**

10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Entire building)  
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)

**Service of Worship**

Sundays  
3:30 p.m., lasting until 4:15.

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**BAHÁ’Í NEWS** is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá’í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items, and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from national assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

**BAHÁ’Í NEWS** is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1958-59: Mrs. Eunice Braun, Miss Charlotte Linfoot, Richard C. Thomas.

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"The Most Important Work Human Beings Have Ever Done In the History of Our Planet"

A Communication From the Custodians of the Faith

It is nine months since our world was shaken and hearts broken by the passing of our beloved Guardian. Those poignant words which he wrote after the ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá now echo in our ears with a personal meaning to our generation: “The shock has been too terrible and sudden for us all to recover from in so short a time, but whenever we recall His Sayings and read His Writings, hope springs in our hearts and gives us peace that no other material comfort can give.” Although the official period of mourning has now ended, we know that inwardly each Bahá’í will always grieve deeply for the loss of that priceless embodiment of loving kindness and divine wisdom.

The spontaneous declarations of love for our beloved Guardian and loyalty to the Hands of the Cause, raised up by his sacred pen to be the “Chief Stewards of the embryonic world commonwealth of Bahá’u’lláh,” which have been received from all parts of the world, many of them voiced in terms of surpassing beauty, have been a source of great comfort and strength to us.

The Hands of the Cause serving in the Holy Land, as well as the members of the International Bahá’í Council, have felt particularly the terrible physical absence of our beloved Guardian in this place most closely associated with him, where every object our eyes fall on recalls to us his labor, his perseverance, his final sacrifice. The great waves of prayer and of loving confidence, which have come pouring in to us from the national spiritual assemblies and the believers all over the world, have reassured and sustained us, and have given us strength and courage as we labor to protect the World Center and maintain it as the unifying hub of the great wheel of the Cause our Guardian so carefully built up and set in motion. This has given us assurance that our Guardian himself is aiding us to aid him. We thank all the friends for the support and assistance they have given, for the wonderful spirit of steadfastness they have shown, and the many deeds they have performed in the beloved Guardian’s name since his passing. This united action which has resulted in so many victories, is, in the words of the beloved Guardian himself, “an added proof to the world that there is a mighty spirit that animates the friends, that there is nothing impossible to them.”

The Custodians, the group of Hands serving at the World Center on behalf of the Hands of the Cause throughout the world, have had to meet and surmount many problems. Some of the permanently appointed Custodians, because of attendance at various conferences to which they were sent by the beloved Guardian, and for reasons of health, have been unable to be in residence at Haifa at all times. We have been fortunate, however, in having their places filled temporarily by the following Hands, who have acted as substitute Custodians: Ugo Giachery, John Ferraby, Shu’u’lláh ‘Alá‘í, Adelbert Mihlschlegel, ‘Ali Muḥammad Vargā, and William Sears. This arrangement has been most fortuitous, as it has brought us first-hand reports of the status of the Faith in various areas and enabled these temporary Custodians to better sense the overall needs of the Faith as seen from the World Center.

Beloved friends, we are now, together, embarked upon the most important work which human beings have ever done in the history of our planet. Ours is the priceless privilege and the grave, inescapable responsibility of raising up that sacred institution, the Universal House of Justice. This can be done only after the complete triumph of his Ten-Year Plan, which is designed to lay the necessary foundation for that weighty and supreme Edifice of the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh.

The measure of divine protection already accorded our precious Cause at the World Center, in the cradle of the Faith, and throughout the world, since the be-
loved Guardian's passing, has been truly miraculous. Surely this is that same divine protection spoken of by the Master in His letter to the entire Bahá’í world following the passing of Bahá’u’lláh. His words today bring us not only solace in our bereavement, but a firm and undying resolve to fulfill our high destiny.

"O ye beloved of the Lord! . . . Today is the day for steadfastness and constancy. Blessed are they that stand fast and firm and immovable as the rock, and brave the storm and stress of this tempestuous hour. They, verily, shall receive His divine assistance and shall be truly victorious . . . In His Most Holy Book He calleth the firm and steadfast of His friends, 'O people of the world! Should the radiance of My Beauty be veiled, and the temple of My body be hidden, feel not perturbed, nay arise and bestir yourselves, that My Cause may triumph, and My Word be heard by all mankind.'"

With warm Bahá’í love,
In the service of the beloved Guardian,

Signed: Ruqiyih A. Furutan
A. Q. Fa’izi
A. Vargha
William Sears

Haifa, Israel
August 8, 1958

Commentary by U.S. National Spiritual Assembly

Beloved Friends:

Marking the end of the official period of mourning for our irreparable loss and grief at the passing of the beloved Guardian, the communication addressed to each individual believer throughout the world by the Hands of the Cause resident in the Holy Land, dated August 8, greatly strengthens the bond which unifies the believers in their devotion to the World Center.

How gratifying to Bahá’ís in these difficult days to learn of the “spontaneous declarations of love for our beloved Guardian and loyalty to the Hands of the Cause” received from all parts of the world, and the “great waves of prayer and of loving confidence which have been pouring in to us from national spiritual assemblies and the believers all over the world.”

On the other hand, as the Guardian said, “inwardly each Bahá’í will always grieve deeply for the loss of that priceless embodiment of loving kindness and divine wisdom.”

We are brought closer to the work proceeding so energetically at the World Center by the realization that the Hands there have had to “meet and surmount many problems,” including the temporary replacement of those Hands who have missions to carry out elsewhere, or have been called away for reasons of health.

The climax of this communication comes in this passage: “Beloved friends, we are now, together, embarked upon the most important work which human beings have ever done in the history of our planet. Ours is the priceless privilege and the grave, inescapable responsibility of raising up that sacred institution, the Universal House of Justice. This can be done only after the complete triumph of the Ten-Year Plan, which is designed to lay the necessary foundation for that weighty and supreme edifice of the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh.” Thus, spiritually renewed and purified by the forces conveyed through these words, we return to our immediate duties and responsibilities for assuring the success of the World Crusade.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Eleven Hands of the Cause, 2,259 Bahá’ís Attend Historic Fourth Intercontinental Conference in Frankfurt, Germany

The fourth of the five Bahá’í Intercontinental Conferences requested by the beloved Guardian was visibly under his guiding and inspiring influence, and greatly blessed by the presence of his special representative, the revered Hand of the Cause of God, Mrs. Amelia Collins, vice-president of the International Bahá’í Council; and by ten other Hands of the Cause, nineteen Auxiliary Board members, representatives of sixteen regional and national spiritual assemblies, and 2,259 believers, more than half of them from Iran, which gave a deeply stirring manifestation of the unity of the East and the West, as foretold by the Master.

This historic conference was held at the Congress Hall, in Messsegelande, Frankfurt/Main, Germany, from July 25 through 29, 1958, while from July 22 through 24 a reception for the registration of Bahá’ís took place at Stanley Hall in the Zoological Gardens.

The Words of Bahá’u’lláh: “It beseemeth all men in this day to take firm hold on the Most Great Name, and to establish the unity of all mankind. There is no place to flee to, no refuge that anyone can seek except Him,” appeared on the cover of the attractive Conference Program, which carried also a sketch of the Mother Temple of Europe, to be erected by the Community of the Most Great Name near Frankfurt/Main.

In the program we read the Call to the Conference by Dr. Adelbert Mühlischlegel, chairman of the Host National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, in which the five-fold purpose of the Conference was set forth; as well as the names of the national assemblies officially represented, as requested by the Guardian: the British Isles, represented by Ernest Gregory; Italy and Switzerland, by Fritz Schar; the United States, by Charles Wolcott; and Germany and Austria by Dr. Eugen Schmidt.

At the entrance to the Congress Hall a large sign proclaimed Bahá’u’lláh’s affirmation that “Religion is a Radiant Light,” and dominating the interior of the hall the Greatest Name, magnified many times, hung against the grey-curtained wall back of the platform; many beautiful Persian rugs were on the floor, as well as on the long table across the front of it, the floor surrounding it, and the stairs leading up to the platform. Here the Hands of the Cause were seated
during all the sessions of the Conference, with the Auxiliary Board members and representatives of the national spiritual assemblies seated in the first two rows below the platform.

The Conference was convened by Dr. Adelbert Mühlechlebel, who announced that the Guardian’s representative was about to enter the Hall, whereupon the great assemblage arose in silent homage as Mrs. Amelia Collins ascended the platform, escorted by Dr. Ugo Giachery and Dr. Hermann Grossmann. A period of eloquent silence was followed by a memorial service for the Guardian, with readings from Prayers and Meditations, and the Prayer for the Divine Plan by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, in German, English, and Persian.

Mrs. Collins Speaks of the Guardian

Mrs. Collins then addressed the friends; from her voice, carrying clear and strong over the microphone, and from her face, radiant and smiling, emanated a love that reached the heart of each one present. “How can I ever find words to bring to you what is in my heart about our Guardian?” she asked. “I feel we must all fill ourselves at this time, so that his spirit and his wishes will carry us through the next five years of the Global Crusade he initiated, and enable us to consummate his every hope and wish! This, the fulfillment of his own plan, is the loving memorial we must build for him.

“When I first heard of the passing of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, I was a young believer, and after the provisions of His Will and Testament became known, my whole heart and soul turned to that ‘youthful Branch’ appointed by Him to watch over and guide the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh. How I prayed that God would help me to make him happy! Early in 1923 I first met our divine Guardian in Haifa. He was just a young man, with all the determination to carry forward the great work entrusted to his care. He was so spontaneous, so loving and outgoing in the buoyancy of his beautiful heart. Through the years we all watched with wonder and in ever deepening devotion to him and appreciation of his God-given gifts, the unfoldment of Bahá’u’lláh’s Divine Order, which he built up so patiently and wisely all over the world; but, dear friends, what a cost to himself!

“In 1951, when the Guardian called some of the friends to serve him in Haifa, I began to learn of some of the things he had passed through. His face was so sad, one could see his very spirit had been oppressed, during the time when the family opposed and finally abandoned the Faith and the Guardian to go on their own way. I can truthfully say that for a number of years, we who served in the World Center seldom saw him smile... His sufferings had been heartbreaking.

“The Guardian had a profound and innate humility. Whenever the Faith was involved he was averse in his defense and king-like in the authority with which he spoke, but as a human being he was self-effacing, and would brush aside our adulation and praise and turn it toward the Central Figures of the Faith. We knew this characteristic of his, how he would not allow a photo taken of himself, but invariably urged the friends to place a picture of the Master in the room. He would not permit the friends to have clothing or things of his, lest they might be considered as relics.

“After the years of sorrow and trial he went through with the family, after his final separation from them, came a new joy to our beloved Guardian. He loved the progress that came with the goals of the Global Crusade; it lifted him up. How can I ever describe to you his eyes when he came over to the Pilgrim House and spoke of a new achievement! His beautiful face would be all smiles, he would spread out one of his maps on the dining room table, and his fingers would point out the new endowment or the new Hazíratul-Quds purchased, or the new language translated, as the case might be.

“I feel it would be no exaggeration to say that it was the progress of the Ten-Year Plan that gave him the encouragement to go on working so hard. More than once he said, during the last years of his life, that his ministry had lasted longer than that of Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, and he complained of the crushing burden, but none of us could think that it presaged his demise...”

Mrs. Collins then reviewed some of the manifold services which the Guardian had rendered the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh, such as the completion of the Shrine of the Báb “with an arcade and dome, both of which the Master had stated it should have,” the erection of the monuments and Archives Building, and she described the developments at the World Center, reviewed the list of translations as well as the writings, which “streamed out over the world in a mighty flow of exquisite language.”

“It was his hand in everything,” she said, “from the littlest to the biggest thing... Many gloves fell apart on that hand but the work of the Cause went on uninterruptedly until the last night of his life!” When he had erected the machinery of the Bahá’í Administrative Order, he suddenly shifted the whole machinery into gear and called the first Seven-Year Plan, the first step of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Divine Plan which is the instrument for the spiritual conquest of the entire globe... What a gift he had and what gifts he gave to us!”
hearty greeting of welcome to all, and then announced that the message from the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land would be read first by Mrs. Collins, followed with a German translation by Dr. Hermann Grossmann, and a Persian translation by Jalâl Khâzîh.

This message enumerated the victories that had been won in the first five years of the Crusade and suggested that "It was this overall pattern of marked success...that undoubtedly caused our Guardian to unite us in these five Intercontinental Conferences, not only to humbly thank Bahá'u'lláh for mercies received, not only to deliberate on ways and means of accomplishing the next five year's work, but as a reward for having served faithfully, with enthusiasm and consecration, this blessed Cause of God, and, as we now see, as a mercy in the hour of separation, a tender enfolding of us, his dearly beloved co-workers in the arms of that one who, in his modesty and purity of heart, called himself only 'your true brother.'"

The special tasks to be considered by the Conference were "that the budget, now being expended monthly for the construction of the Sydney Temple, be met, and that at least the major part of the sum required for the European Majshīrū'l-Adhkár be raised; and that of the 'unprecedented increase' in the number of believers throughout the world, calling for pioneers in all continents, in all the islands opened to the Faith, on the homefronts, and in the goal territories...

The introduction of the Hands of the Cause of God by John Nielsen, chairman of the Regional National Spiritual Assembly of Scandinavia and Finland, followed, and each spoke a brief message of greeting; Mrs. Amelia Collins, Jalâl Khâzîh, Dr. Ugo Giachery, Dhikru'lláh Khâdem, Enoch Olinga, Hasan Balyuzi, John Ferraby, John Robarts, Dr. Hermann Grossmann, and Dr. Ugo Giachery. Hand of the Cause Musa Banâni also attended the conference, but was in the hospital when this picture was taken.

In conclusion she said: "He made each believer feel that he had a part to play; that he was precious to the Faith and had deeds to discharge and enjoyed privileges because he was a member of the community of the Most Great Name. Let us never lose sight of this...His work in this world is done—ours is not! We are in a way Shoghi Effendi's heirs. We have inherited this work. His plan is completed, ours is the task to fulfill it. We must each of us complete our share of the World Crusade. This is the memorial we must build to our beloved Shoghi Effendi. Let us love him now more than ever before, and through the power of our love attract his love to us and bring his blessings on our labors. Let us not fail him, for he never failed us! Let us never forget him, for he never forgot us!"

Prayers closed this morning session, which had indeed brought the believers close in spirit to the beloved Guardian, and the hearts were united in humble thanksgiving for him and for his great service. The prayers at the opening and closing of each session were in the different European languages with chanting in the Persian language, and all of the talks were translated into the English, German, and Persian languages, with a speed and skill that won the appreciation of everyone.

Message From the Hands in the Holy Land

In opening the afternoon session, Dr. Mühlschlegel, on behalf of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, which had been given the honor of organizing the conference, extended a warm and
the Crusade, and the recognition of Bahá’í Holy Days in forty-four countries, which is a sign that the Faith is being recognized. He pointed out also that the map was on display below the platform where the friends could study it more closely, and he added, “He made of it a work of art, a thing of beauty which we can carry in our hearts as a memorial.”

This visual review of achievements was followed by the living review when nineteen members of the Auxiliary Boards for the propagation and protection of the Faith were called to the platform: in all, thirteen from Europe, three from Asia, two from Africa and one from America. Fifteen regional and national spiritual assemblies were represented, namely: Germany and Austria, the British Isles, Italy and Switzerland, United States, Iran, Arabian Peninsula, Pakistan, India and Burma, Northeast Africa, Northwest Africa, Iraq, Northeast Asia, Benelux, Scandinavia and Finland, Iberian Peninsula, and France. “This review of representatives is the greatest memorial to our Guardian,” cried Ugo Giachery. “For thirty-six years he prepared what we are witnessing now!”

Knights of Bahá’u’lláh Introduced

The afternoon session began with the reading of the messages which had been received from over the world. Then, as a further “living review” of achievements, the Knights of Bahá’u’lláh, those who had arisen at the beginning of the Crusade to pioneer, were called to the platform and each one introduced by Dr. Giachery. Forty-eight were present from twenty-seven goal countries and islands of the Crusade. Each was presented with a pin with a nine-pointed star bearing the Greatest Name which had been sent from Japan for the occasion.

The evening session was reserved for “The Mother Temple of Europe.” Dr. Eugen Schmidt, the chairman of this session, first gave an impressive address about the spiritual significance of the Masjídi‘-u’l-‘Adhkar as the “visible embodiment of the Universality of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh,” and “the most powerful silent teacher.”

He introduced the architect, Teuto Rochell, who explained some of the architectural matters regarding

Fourth Bahá’í Intercontinental Conference held at Congress Hall, Messegelande, Frankfurt/Main, Germany, on July 25-29, 1958.
his plan in a talk on "An Idea Takes Form." Pictures of the model were shown on the screen and the architect explained the features of his plan for a modern building of glass, steel, and cement with a height of thirty meters, a diameter of forty meters, and a glass dome with a diameter of twenty-four meters, buttressed with twenty-seven ribs extending down to the foundation, and a glass corridor with nine entrances surrounding the base of the dome. A cross-section of the model gave the view of the interior, which will seat 450 persons. The entire structure is to cost from 1.2 million to 1.5 million German marks.

Ruprecht Kruger spoke of "The Struggle for Justice and Space," which for the past five years has involved the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria in much red tape, because it is necessary to secure the permission of the local, regional, and national government to build the Temple. He explained that all land that is purchased must be approved by the authorities because they have the right to buy the land first, and only if they waive this right can the ground be bought outright: there are eighteen persons judging the case, and if one says no, it is impossible to purchase the land.

"Usually this does not matter, yet one of them said no in our case," he said. "The Christian Churches are responsible for the status quo and are strongly opposed," with the result that several contracts have been signed but not approved.

A model of the proposed structure was on display, and a cross-section gave a view of the interior. Postcards of the model were on sale and many of the friends purchased them to send to Baha'i communities, soliciting their prayers for the speedy construction of this beautiful Temple in the heart of Europe.

**Viewing of Baha'u'llah's Portrait**

Sunday, July 27, the high point of the Conference, came when the friends gathered to enjoy the great privilege of beholding the portrait of Baha'u'llah while standing near the blessed earth from the Holy Shrine of Baha'u'llah and viewing a lock of His precious hair, which Mrs. Collins had brought to the Conference as requested by the Guardian. Beautiful talleman roses adorned the table, which was covered with a lovely Persian rug. On one side stood Dr. Giachery and Mrs. Collins, and on the other Jalal Khâ'ez, Hasan Balyuzi, John Roberts, Enoch Olinga, Dikrullâh Khâdem, and Dr. Adelbert Mûhlschlegel, Hands of the Cause.

As the believers filed by, Mrs. Collins, with a radiant smile, anointed the hand of each with altar of roses from a vial used by the Guardian for that purpose, and repeated the Greatest Name, "Allâh-u-Abha!" It was a holy atmosphere of purification and dedication that pervaded the Congress Hall that morning. For more than four hours the believers passed by, and each one had the same loving, radiant greeting and the outstretched hand anointed with altar of roses by Mrs. Collins, who at the advanced age of 85 years was enabled to perform this sacred mission, the crowning act of a lifetime of service to the Cause. Surely no one present will ever hold age a barrier to activity in the Faith, nor doubt the assistance that is vouchsafed to those who arise to serve!

**Thanksgiving to Baha’u’llah at Feast and Devotions**

At the Unity Feast that evening the hearts turned in humble thanksgiving to Baha'u'llah. "First," as Mr. Ferraby said, "for thirty-six years of the guidance of Shoghi Effendi, for that most potent Covenant which is one of the most distinguishing features of the World Order of Baha'u'llah; and two of the products of that Covenant is the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and the Tablets of the Divine Plan, which is the Charter of the World Crusade. The first fruits were the two Seven-Year Plans, and the latest evidence of the Divine Plan is the Ten-Year Crusade. Now it is half ended. We have seen with our own eyes how the bounties of Baha'u'llah have been showered upon us in these first five years. All the lands of the world were settled by the rush of pioneers in the first year; we have witnessed the contributions of the friends supported the activities, the Haziratu'll-Quds were established, and the endowments purchased. We achieved a very great deal in the third phase; the bounties of Baha'u'llah continued to be showered on us. Many national and regional assemblies were established.

"We are now in the fourth phase, when the Guardian expects a tremendous increase in the number of Bahá'ís throughout the world. Let us this evening, as we pray, feel that the bounties will continue to be showered on us until 1963 when the friends gather in Baghdad to celebrate!"

The devotional program of thanksgiving to Baha'u'llah followed, and the readings and prayers also included the Prayer for the Departed for Fritz Shaver, American pioneer to Switzerland for over ten years, who recently had passed away in Basle.

Dr. Grossmann presented many beautiful and precious gifts that had been received by the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria for the Temple: Persian rugs, a picture of the mosque in which Baha'u'llah prayed in Adrianople, a piece of plaster from the room in which Baha'u'llah lived there, as well as roses from Baha'u'llah's House which He Himself
had planted when a prisoner in Adrianopol, silver vases, a plaque carrying the Greatest Name, a shirt of 'Abdu'l-Baha, and many other gifts too numerous to mention.

Donations for the Temple

Monday morning two long prayers were chanted in Persian, and it was explained that the Guardian had especially requested these prayers for the inauguration of the Temple in Wilmette. "These prayers have been used this morning," Jalal Khazeh explained, "because we must now approach the task of securing donations for the Temple, one of the tasks mentioned by the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land. This is an important day, and we must be sure that the spirit of the Guardian is present. To explain this idea: if we visit a factory we see a lot of machinery working and functioning. They are working without their own will and knowledge. It is the will and knowledge of the engineers who have produced them. The same is true of this conference. We have come here from every part of the globe. Why did we do so? It was the Guardian's wish that led us here!"

"I remember when I was in Haifa with my friend, Mr. Navidi. We heard our Guardian tell about the progress of the Cause and the influence it will have in coming centuries. Mr. Navidi asked what use this progress would have for us if we would be dead. Could we witness such progress from the world beyond? The Guardian replied that of course our spirit will be able to witness from the world beyond what is going on here and the victories and emanations of these spirits are continuing their effect on the world. If now this is true of our spirits, we should rest assured that the sacred spirit of our beloved Guardian is a strong force and has great effect in our community and in the progress of the Cause."

Charles Wolcott, delegate of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, and chairman of the morning session, made a few introductory remarks directed to the friends of Iran. "Your fathers and grandfathers," he said, "have sacrificed with their blood for the Faith. Today we must use the means we have to show the Guardian that we give all our efforts and donations to the progress of the Cause. The fourth phase of the World Crusade has started. This stage must establish bulwarks of our Faith in all parts of the globe. Pioneers must arise and go to places which have not been reached. We need more centers everywhere. We must realize that the monthly cost of the Sydney building must be met regularly and we are about to begin the cost of the Mother Temple of Europe in Frankfurt." He announced many donations, which had already come in, of money and jewelry; that an automobile had been given for the trip to 'Akka from Haifa; that an Afnán a candlestick had been given which will be placed on the Guardian's grave in London.

Habib Sabet spoke of a Bahá'í who had asked the Guardian regarding the Crusade and he replied that he had measured the power and capacity of the friends around the world and had then made the Ten-Year Crusade. "It has been estimated that the expenses of the first five years that have been met thus far have exceeded twenty million dollars, and this amount has been paid by the Bahá'ís throughout the world," he said.

"We all know that Mrs. Amelia Collins has been contributing continuously throughout her life. Today we have the pleasure to announce the donation of $50,000 which she gave when the efforts for the Temple started." He continued to announce contributions that were sent to him on the platform, while the ushers distributed pledge forms in Persian, English, and German for those who wished to pledge a specific amount to be paid later. This hastened the collection of donations.

Cable to Hands in the Holy Land

The committee that had been requested to draft a cable to be sent to the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land, submitted the following which was unanimously adopted: SACRED SPIRIT BELOVED GUARDIAN SHELTERING CONFIRMING BELOVED REPRESENTATIVE AMELIA COLLINS NINE REVERED HANDS CAUSE 229 BELIEVERS 57 COUNTRIES PRESENT THIS HISTORIC CONFERENCE. WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS WE HEREBYE PLEDGE OURSELVES PROVE OUR LOVE DEVO­TION TO HIM BY ACCOMPLISHING ALL REMAINING GOALS CRUSADE STOP WITH EVERY DEEPEST LOVE AND ASSURANCE FAITHFULNESS VENERATION HANDS CAUSE HOLY LAND BEG YOUR PRAYERS HOLY SHRINES.—FOURTH INTERCONTINENTAL CONFERENCE.

At the beginning of the afternoon session the three gifts from the Guardian to the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria were presented by Mrs. Collins, and received by the chairman, Dr. Mühl­schlegel.

Excerpt From Convention Message Read

Joel Marangella, chairman of the afternoon session on pioneering, read an excerpt from the Convention Message of the Hands in the Holy Land concerning the attainment of every objective of the World Crusade. He then pointed out the goals that took priority in the countries not yet opened to the Faith, and the islands where there is just one Bahá'í pioneer at this time. Mimeographed forms in the different languages were distributed to those wishing to pioneer as Marion Hofman forcefully and dynamically spoke on "Our Pioneers."

"The mission of Bahá'u'lláh is to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, therefore teaching is the essence of this Faith," she stated. "We must take this message to every city and every person in the world. This is pioneering!"

Island Pioneers Introduced

The pioneers who now lived on an island alone were asked to come to the platform and give their name and the island on which they were pioneering so that the friends could better understand how many there were who needed help. Pioneers were there from the Faroes, Hebrides, Orkneys, Skye, Malta, Rhodes, Sardinia, Corsica, Sylt, and Iceland. Liechtenstein and Andorra were also mentioned as in need of pioneers. Then in response to this call for pioneers seventy-five believers arose, and were introduced to the friends.

Congress Hall Filled for Public Meeting

In the evening a public meeting was held in the Congress Hall, to which had been invited the city of-
Official and friends of the Frankfurt Bahá'ís. The hall, with a seating capacity of 2,500, was filled, and many Bahá'ís stood in the balcony.

Dr. Adelbert Mühlenschlegel spoke in German on the subject "The Earth is but One Country," and Hasan Balyuzi spoke in English on "Religion is a Radiant Light."

The last day of this great conference was devoted to a consideration of the remaining teaching needs of the Crusade, and Musa Bánání, the Hand of the Cause of Africa, was able to be present. Before he spoke, a cabled reply from the Hands in the Holy Land was read: "HEARTS TOUCHED (BY) EVIDENCE (OF) DEDICATION AND DETERMINATION CONVEYED (BY) LOVING MESSAGE (AND) UNMISTAKEABLE EVIDENCE (OF) SPIRIT (OF) THE) BELOVED GUARDIAN PERVADING (THE) UNPRECEDENTED HISTORIC CONFERENCE PLANNED BY HIM. ARDENTLY PRAYING (AT) SHRINES (FOR) ATTAINMENT (OF) ALL OBJECTIVES (OF) HOLY CRUSADE (AND) PARTICULARLY SPEEDY CONSTRUCTION (OF) MOTHER TEM-

Rostrum of the Congress Hall, Frankfurt/Main, Germany, crowded with volunteers for pioneering at the Intercontinental Conference.
Mr. Sabet was asked to report on the contributions; he announced that 915,917 D.M. had been contributed by the friends in cash and asked that another effort be put forth by the friends to make it a million; this goal was reached by further contributions.

At twelve o'clock there was a pause, and David Hofman explained that "at this very moment the friends in England are laying flowers on the most sacred and blessed spot in Europe, the grave of our beloved Guardian." He then read the excerpts with reference to Shoghi Effendi from the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Review of Remaining Crusade Goals

Charles Wolcott then gave a brief review of the remaining goals to be attained in the next five years: "During the second Seven-Year Plan given by the Guardian to the United States, the original ten goal countries of Europe were opened. At the beginning of the Crusade our goal was a national assembly in each of these ten countries. Later in 1953 the Guardian added Finland and France. The Guardian knew our capacity and gave us our tasks step by step. The closing of the third phase of the Crusade witnessed the achievement of four regional assemblies in these countries. Now each must form its own national assembly in the coming five years. To do this we must have many local assemblies. Many local assemblies are the first step toward a national assembly." He made an appeal for Latin America "where we need 150 pioneers to establish twenty local assemblies," and appealed to the Bahá'í's of Holland to go to Dutch New Guinea.

Jaláí Kházeh explained that "our principle aim is to establish the International House of Justice, and this matter needs great work and sacrifice. If we imagine the International House of Justice to be a structure it would be erected on about sixty pillars, each to stand as a symbol of a national spiritual assembly. When the plan started we had only twelve national assemblies, twelve pillars, then in 1956 we had three, in 1957 we had thirteen, and this year one; in 1959 there will be four more, totalling thirty-three. In reality, however, we will only have twenty-three as the remainder are regional national assemblies. We have then eleven national assemblies to be erected in Europe, three in Asia, and twenty in Latin America! Thirty-four pillars must be erected and then the dome should be put on these fifty-seven pillars. Our main goal is to build up the rest of the edifice which our Guardian has started.

"The important thing," Mr. Wolcott reminded the friends, "is to keep this goal in front of you and take back to your homeland the thrilling news, and entreat all of the believers at home to become a part of this Crusade while there is yet time!"

The session then turned to a consideration of the teaching needs of the European countries. Jan Sysling, chairman of the Regional National Spiritual Assembly of the Benelux countries, spoke of Luxembourg; Hand of the Cause Dr. Vargá reported on Austria; Miss Virginia Orbison, a member of the National Assembly of the Iberian Peninsula, explained the requirements of Portugal and Spain; John Nielsen, chairman of the Regional National Assembly of Scandinavia and Finland, made a special plea for Finland; and Fritz Schar, chairman of the Italo-Swiss National Assembly, spoke on Switzerland and Italy.

A call for pioneers was raised for these areas, and fifty-eight responded. This brought the total number of volunteers to 133, which meant that both tasks laid before the conference had been achieved, with one million marks contributed and the above number of pioneer offers.

Appeal to the Government

A special committee had been appointed during the conference, at the request of the National Assembly of Germany and Austria, to appeal to the national government for the realization of the Temple project. Dr. Schmidt now announced that such an appeal had been drafted, and it was hoped that it would have an effect on the Hessian government.

Farewell to the Conference

The Hands of the Cause then one by one approached the microphone and said farewell to the friends, with comments on the achievements of the conference. In particular, the hearts of the audience were touched with these precious words of Mrs. Collins, which closed the sessions:

"Beloved friends, you have all become so dear to me in these days. You have all brought the Guardian nearer to me. There is little more to say, but I would like to add to what has been said today to those who have offered to go pioneering. To win one smile from the Guardian is enough to take you through a whole year of pioneering, and I am sure you won the first smile today!

"I am going to say something very personal. When our beloved Guardian informed me of the mission I was to perform, I became frightened, and then I laid it aside. I thought 'I will see the Guardian before long and he will give me strength and he will tell me what to say,' but we all know that plan was changed, and I came here fearing to face so many of the friends. I was not well, but miracle after miracle happened to me, and why? Because I felt the great loving spirit of the Guardian.

"For six weeks before I came to Frankfurt I practised almost every day to see how long I could stand, fearing that I had a very sacred mission to perform. I never could endure over one half-hour, and I was completely exhausted! You all know what happened: I stood for over four hours! That was what the Guardian gave me and I am sharing it with you. Because that will happen to everyone of you if you will just do what the Guardian wishes you to do. You have the key here, and don't lose it! We must each become a magnet, a magnet to attract the Holy Spirit—and I have felt that here every hour I have been with you, so precious and sacred!

"Several here this afternoon have said it was hard, it was sad, to say good-bye. I feel just the opposite. Every year when the Guardian parted from us in Haifa he would give me certain instructions; last Spring when he left he had said goodbye, he was coming before in my room, but the next morning when we were gathered to see him off, he took my hand and said, 'Don't be sad!' So I leave those words with you 'Don't be sad!'"
U. S. National Assembly Implements Dynamic, Decisive Homefront Campaign
With Study Material to Deepen Understanding of Bahá'ú'lláh's Teachings

In his last communication to the American Bahá'ís dated September 21, 1957, the beloved Guardian called more urgently than ever before upon “every single member of this strenuously laboring, clear-visioned, stout-hearted, spiritually endowed community . . . to immortalize this approaching, fateful hour in the evolution of a world Spiritual Crusade . . . with an instantaneous plan of action, at once so dynamic and decisive as to wipe out, on the one hand, the deficiencies which have . . . bogged down the operations of the Crusade on the homefront, and tremendously accelerate, on the other, the progress of the triple task . . . constituting one of its preeminent objectives.”

The three aspects of this task “which can brook no further delay” he named as being “spiritual reinvigoration, administrative expansion, and material replenishment.”

With this clearly-defined challenge before it, the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, following much prayer and consultation, has mapped out a “dynamic and decisive” homefront campaign for the remainder of the Ten-Year Plan, which incorporates the participation of every national committee, local spiritual assembly, Bahá'í group, and individual believer. The campaign was launched on August first with a letter addressed to every American Bahá'í, appealing for wholehearted response to all the requests made by the National Assembly, including the adoption of personal goals for maximum contribution to the three aspects of teaching and service called for by the beloved Guardian.

Since “spiritual reinvigoration” was named by Shoghi Effendi as first of the three points on which he pleaded for us to concentrate, the National Spiritual Assembly distributed at the same time an individual and group study and discussion outline designed to help every believer deepen his knowledge and understanding of the essential teachings regarding (1) the Station of Bahá'ú'lláh, (2) the Covenant of Bahá'ú'lláh, (3) the Mission of Bahá'ú'lláh, and (4) His Laws and Teachings.

Further Study Material to Follow

Further study material will follow at regular intervals, each release dealing with certain fundamental spiritual and administrative verities, aimed at indi-

A section of the quartz facing for the Mashriqu'í-Adhkar of Australia, being constructed near Sydney. Behind this quartz facing the main cement supporting wall will be constructed. The architect and builders expect the completion of construction by March 1959, to be followed by interior decoration, furnishings, and exterior landscaping.
individual reinvigoration, and better understanding and application of basic administrative principles in local and national activities.

To give further impetus to this campaign, the National Spiritual Assembly has scheduled a series of approximately forty conferences throughout the nation to be held on the latter part of October, and to be conducted by the Hands of the Cause, members of the Auxiliary Boards, and members of the National Spiritual Assembly. At these conferences the friends will be given opportunity to consult on the various aspects of the campaign, particularly on subjects relating to administration which appear to need clarification before "administrative expansion" can be realized.

By these and various other means, the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States is endeavoring to take dynamic leadership in wiping out the deficiencies which have "bogged down the operations of the Crusade on the homefront" and, in the words of Shoghi Effendi, to assist the American believers "to arise to the occasion which history has literally thrust upon them."

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Custodians of Faith Restore Bounty of Pilgrimage to Holy Land

The believers are informed that the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly has received a cablegram from the Custodians in Haifa stating that pilgrimage to the Holy Shrines will be reopened beginning December 1, 1958. Before proceeding to the Holy Land each pilgrim must have received approval from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land of his or her application for the blessing of pilgrimage.

It is also to be understood that approval of pilgrimage is granted according to the priority of applications as received in Haifa. The Guardian made no distinction in dealing with applications, except this element of priority.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

The Baha'i Home

As we near the date when the Baha'i Home in Wilmette will be opened, the National Spiritual Assembly wishes to offer the friends, both for their own information and for accurate statements in speaking of the Home to non-Baha'is, an explanation of its particular purpose and the special advantages it assures to its guests.

All believers understand from the beloved Guardian's instructions that the Baha'i Home represents the first accessory of the Baha'i House of Worship to be constructed, and in addition it is a Crusade goal assigned to the Baha'is of the United States.

As soon as possible a series of photographs will be taken showing exterior and interior views, and these illustrations when published will reveal the impressive architectural design, the efficient layout of rooms, and the very attractive furnishings and scheme of decoration. The photographs will also show at least the beginnings of a most attractive landscape plan prepared by Mr. Hilbert Dahl.

As a structure designed for a specific purpose, the Baha'i Home when completed will be an achievement in which all believers can take pride.

It has already been reported that the Baha'i Home accommodates twenty guests, the administrator, and a staff of workers. Not only is there a large reception room, hobby room, and library, but the landscaping plan also provides attractive garden paths and an area for leisurely outdoor hours.

The land was purchased, and the construction carried out, by the Temple Trustees. Since a home for the aged operates under special regulations, the Baha'i Home has been incorporated, with a Board of Directors consisting of the nine annually elected members of the National Spiritual Assembly. This corporate body holds title to the land and building, will operate the Home, and maintain its own records, including a bank account in the name of The Baha'i Home, Incorporated. The administrator will be Mrs. Florence Gibson, a Bahá'í, whose professional training admirably prepares her for the operation of the Home where personal relations are all-important.

What the Baha'i Home offers is a beautiful home environment and pleasant association with other persons within the age group. There are many individuals who at the age of sixty-five find themselves facing ten or more years without family or intimate friends. For such persons the Baha'i Home offers a haven of comfort and the opportunity to make a new circle of intimate friends. Moreover, because this Home is not a nursing home, the Baha'i guest is not obliged to live with the sick, the helpless, and the senile.

Two guests will be offered accommodation as a gift from the American Bahá'í community. The other eighteen guests will pay as much as they can toward the actual cost of their maintenance. All guests are carefully chosen with reference to sound personal character and capacity for pleasant human relations.

What the American believers are accomplishing in this unique project is to demonstrate to the public the Bahá'í principles of the oneness of mankind and humanitarian service. The Baha'i Home makes no discrimination of race, religion, or nationality. It is hu-
Official Commemorations of the Passing of the Guardian Not to be Held

The U.S. National Spiritual Assembly has received from the Hands of the Cause residing in the Holy Land a letter dated August 11, addressed to all national assemblies. This communication reports a decision which each national assembly is requested to present to the believers.

"After careful thought and prayerful consideration, the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land feel that it would be disloyal to the wishes of our beloved Guardian for us, or for the friends throughout the world, to gather on November 4 and officially commemorate his passing. His words given in the Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh makes this very clear: To commemorate any event associated with his life would be tantamount to a departure from those established truths that are enshrined within our beloved Faith."

The letter also states: "However, each individual believer may, indeed we feel should, remember this unforgettable day with prayers and meditation, and seek to rededicate himself to the service of the Faith and to ponder ways and means by which he can aid in achieving the goals set by the beloved Guardian."

In accordance with this decision, the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly points out that on November 4, 1958, and also on successive anniversaries of the passing of the Guardian, no local, regional, or national meetings are to be held and no programs of commemoration prepared even for a few believers. The sacred character of the day will inspire individual believers, each by himself, to pray, meditate, and make effort to attain rededication to the service of the Faith.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Ghana Prime Minister Accepts Baha'i Citation of Appreciation During Visit to United States

When Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana, Africa, visited the United States in July, an effort was made by the National Spiritual Assembly to present to him in person a citation expressing the appreciation of the American Bahá’í community for his work in assuring freedom of religion to his people.

Since Dr. Nkrumah’s schedule was too full to permit a personal interview, the following letter and a beautifully framed photograph of the Bahá’í House of Worship was delivered to him in New York on July 24 by H. Borrah Kavelin, chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly, and Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh:

Dr. Kwame Nkrumah,
Prime Minister
Ghana, Africa
Your Excellency:

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States, in our capacity of administrative body directing the affairs of the members of our Faith resident in this country, esteems it a high privilege to express respectful greeting and spiritual welcome on the occasion of your Excellency’s visit to the United States.

On behalf of the American members of our Faith, the National Spiritual Assembly more particularly honors your Excellency for the enactment of laws assuring religious freedom in the country of Ghana. For many years our Assembly has maintained Bahá’í teachers in all continents, and in the course of spreading the Bahá’í message affirming the unity of God, the unity of His Prophets, and the unity of mankind, we have experienced many forms of opposition arising from prejudice and the denial of the principle of religious freedom.

For this reason the American Bahá’ís desire to pay tribute to your Excellency for enlightened leadership in the moral and social progress of humanity. In token of this Bahá’í esteem we respectfully request your Excellency to accept the gift of an illustration of the Bahá’í House of Worship located in Wilmette, Illinois, whose doors are open to all seekers without discrimination of creed, race or nation.

Sincerely,
National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States.
H. Borrah Kavelin, chairman
Horace Holley, secretary.
Dr. Nkruman's reply through his private secretary on July 31 is reproduced below:

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. Chairmen,

The Prime Minister has asked me to convey to you, the Secretary and the Members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís in Wilmette, his sincere thanks for your letter of good wishes to him and for the framed photograph of the Bahá'í House of Worship in Wilmette.

Dr. Nkruman sends you all his greetings and good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

The Chairmen,
National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís
530 Sheridan Road,
Wilmette.

49,166 Visit Bahá'í House of Worship in Wilmette During Summer Months

The number of visitors to the Bahá'í House of Worship in Wilmette during the three summer months of June, July, and August 1958 totalled 49,166, of which more than one-third were Sunday visitors. The visitors on one Sunday in July numbered over 2,000. These figures bring to more than 550,000 the number of individuals who have visited the Temple since its dedication on May 1, 1953.

During these same summer months, tours were arranged for approximately fifty special groups ranging in size from 15 to 550, or a total of more than 1,800, both adults and young people. Several of these groups were from churches and from YMCA and YWCA organizations from as far away as Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. The largest single group to have visited the Temple this year was composed of 350 retired employees of the Western Electric Company and their friends. Other large groups were composed of 150 delegates to the International Congress of Religious Libraries, librarians from the Chicago Historical Society, three bus loads of delegates attending the Lions International Convention, and 115 students from all the states of the United States and Canada, attending the National High School Institute at Northwestern University, all of them editors of high school publications who were to write articles on the Temple and the Faith for their local school papers. Fifty teachers attending summer session on the Chicago campus of Northwestern University were another very interested group.

The gardens surrounding the Temple were the special attraction for the Chicago Plant, Flower, and Fruit Guild of the Illinois Garden Club and for the Garden Club of the Village of Winnetka. The superintendent of a new cemetery was so impressed by the Temple landscaping that he requested the name and address of the landscape architect, Hilbert Dahl, for the purpose of consulting him for the landscaping of this new cemetery.

Not all visitors sign the guest registers, but an examination of the records for June, July, and August reveals that there were 374 visitors from 64 foreign countries, the largest number from Canada (47), Germany (26), Sweden (24), England (24) and Mexico (18). The seventeen countries of Asia represented were: India, Pakistan, Burma, Israel, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaya, China, Formosa, Syria, Philippine Islands, Jordan, Iraq, Japan, Iran, Russia, and Hong Kong. The twenty-one European countries listed included Hungary, Poland, Greece, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. There were visitors also from Australia, New Zealand, Guam, Hawaii, six countries in Africa, and fourteen in Latin America.

The Temple and the gardens continue to attract the attention of innumerable photographers who, in addition to taking their own pictures, purchase large numbers of colored slides and postcards to send to their friends back home. Many requests come to the National Spiritual Assembly for information from people all over the country. Frequently these inquiries are addressed simply to "Bahá'í Temple, Wilmette (or Chicago), Illinois."

In an effort to stimulate a still larger number of tours, the Temple Guides Committee has provided local spiritual assemblies in the area surrounding the Temple with posters which can be sent to organizations to post on their bulletin boards, inviting their members to visit the Bahá'í House of Worship singly or in groups. Thus the Bahá'í House of Worship continues to be the great "silent teacher."

East Baton Rouge, La., Schools Recognize Bahá'í Holy Days

The Bahá'í Group of Baton Rouge, La., has been informed by the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board that the state school law (R. S. 17:221-17:232—Sub-Part C) makes absence from school, for observance of religious holidays, legal absences. (The word parish as used in Louisiana is equivalent to the word county as used in other states).

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
Baha’is of Alaska, Canada, and United States
Contribute to First Alaskan Summer School

For the first time in history, Bahá’ís from other parts of Alaska, Canada, and the States converged on Juneau for an official Bahá’í gathering—the opening of the first permanent Bahá’í Summer School in Alaska. Juneau established its first Local Assembly a year ago, and a unique but most evident change in the spiritual atmosphere of the city was sensed by the friends who had been present in Juneau previous to that time. A spirit of general awakening seemed evident to all.

The Summer School was blessed with a message from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land through the National Assembly of Alaska which read: “Please convey loving greeting attendants first Summer School.”

The total number attending the school sessions was thirty-nine, with ten of them being contacts, the students and teachers being drawn from ten places in Alaska, Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory, Seattle, and Evanston, Ill. The Bahá’ís were very grateful for this attendance, considering the vast distances involved, both within Alaska and from outside.

The school was opened with an informal Chinese dinner at the American Legion hall, rented for the entire summer school period, at which time the friends viewed a TV program presented by Mrs. Eunice Braun from Evanston, Ill., who was introduced by Monte Smith of the Juneau Bahá’í community. On Sunday afternoon the Juneau Bahá’ís were hosts at a picnic at Auke Bay, with a trip to see the nearby Mendenhall glacier.

Courses included “Bahá’í History,” and “Islam,” by Joan Anderson of Whitehorse; “Know Your Bahá’í Literature,” by Eunice Braun, Managing Director of the Bahá’í Publishing Trust in Wilmette; and “Prophecy and Christianity,” by Hazel Mori of Seattle. Two programs on “Morals and Ethics” were given by the youth, with Vivian Ayerst of Sitka and Janet Stout of Palmer presenting material at one session on “Child Education.”

Evenings were utilized as public teaching events, the first being Monday evening with a talk on “The Purpose of Life” by Eunice Braun; a Tuesday evening talk on “Christian Prophecy” by Hazel Mori; a youth session on Wednesday, and a showing of Life magazine slides on Islam by Joan Anderson on Thursday evening, coordinated with a slide-showing of Spain by Eunice Braun with emphasis on the Islamic period. On Friday evening a farewell party was held, after a talk by Hazel Mori, with a number of guests of the Bahá’ís attending.

Outstanding publicity for these events, and for the School, was obtained on radio, TV, and press through efforts of Monte Smith, publicity chairman. An unusually attractive window display was arranged by Herb Johnson through arrangements with Pan American airlines office—the most strategic place in the city.

Bahá’ís attending the school were grateful for the services of Don Anderson, who handled registration, housing, and social arrangements; Glenn Moul, session chairman; Janet Smith, in charge of devotions; Al Tasaka, official photographer; and Mrs. Marian Johnson, literature sales, and who also was secretary of the Summer School Committee.

Hazíratu’l-Quds of Osaka, Japan, Donated by Persian Pioneer

The third Hazíratu’l-Quds of the Bahá’ís of Japan has been established with the gift of the residence of Hassan Naderi, Bahá’í pioneer in Osaka. The other Hazíratu’l-Quds are the National Center in Tokyo and the Local Center in Amagasaki.

This newly-acquired Bahá’í Center is located near the heart of Osaka. It is a two-story residence with all necessary utilities on 357 square meters of land.

Two Chicago Television Programs Present
Basic Facts of Faith, Temple Worship Program

Television station WBBM-TV (CBS), Chicago, is conducting a Public Affairs feature on the world’s great religions under the title “Pathways to Faith.” Each religion is presented through materials furnished by the religious group itself in a program prepared by WBBM-TV with the cooperation of representatives of the religion.

The series includes Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and Bahá’í.

The Faith of Bahá’u’lláh was presented in two half-hour periods, 9:30-10:00 a.m., Sunday, August 24 and August 31.

On August 24 the history, teachings, and meaning of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh were vividly expressed in a number of black and white slides that included a photograph of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, the Mansion of Bahá’u’lláh, the Shrine of the Báb, the International Archives Building, Green Acre Institute, and Geyserville School. There was also a moving picture of the House of Worship in Wilmette. A running commentary on these subjects was delivered by the program announcer.

He then interviewed four representatives of the Faith, who answered questions concerning the Founder, the worldwide Bahá’í community, the basic teachings and the administrative order, the relationship of the Faith to other religions and to civil government, and the
principle of progressive revelation.

The Baha'is interviewed were Horace Holley, Miss Charlotte M. Linfoot, Miss Judy Bernstein, and Harlan Scheffler.

The concluding Baha'i program, Sunday, August 31, consisted of the reproduction of a public worship program as conducted in the Temple auditorium, with readings from the Holy Books and selections by the Baha'i Temple A Cappella Choir.

The readers taking part in the worship program on August 31 were Mrs. Lili Clooman, Herbert Baler, Mrs. Anne Floyd, and Harlan Scheffler.

Following so closely the publication of the Baha'i article by Guy Murchie in the Chicago Sunday Tribune, this TV performance, transmitted by so important a Chicago station, can be regarded as a notable landmark in the public recognition of our Faith in the United States.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Baha'i Teachers and Youth Contacts

Form Cultural Club in San Salvador

A group of non-Baha'i youth of San Salvador, El Salvador, together with three adult Baha'is as counselors, have founded the "Club Juvenil Excelsior" as a way of filling the moral and cultural vacuum threatening these earnest and promising students. They have had their meetings for several months in the local Haziratu'l-Quds.

"Contemplating the state in which society now finds itself," begins their constitution, "we have decided to form a club with the proposal to gather youth who in the future will guide the society to noble and cultural ends."

There are at present fifteen members, who with about ten guests listen to men of education or public affairs explain their work. One recent guest speaker was so intrigued by both the club and by what little he knew of the Baha'i teachings that he spent the greater part of the program asking questions about the Faith. Though this was unexpected, it did give the believers the opportunity to explain the teachings without giving the youth, who are mostly Catholic, the feeling of being indoctrinated. Three of the youth have already said that they wish to become Baha'is.

The other activities of the club are recreational. It is open without discrimination to youth of all social classes, races, nationalities, and religions, and promises to respect the ideas of all the members. The constitution mentions that the applicants for membership must have "no vices," and includes as the moral of the club, the entire text of 'Abdu'l-Baha's "To Live the Life."

Youth of three other cities of El Salvador have expressed a desire to form clubs using the same text.

Two Panama Baha'is Visit Guatemala, Mexico

Seeking Employment to Settle as Pioneers

One of the greatest joys of teaching the Faith is to see our pupils rise on their own to spread the Message. Recently, two young men from Panama, Hector Ehrman and Alberto Landau, worked overtime for some months, saved their money, and went to the Annual Convention in Guatemala, visiting Baha'i communities en route, and continuing their journey afterwards by land to Mexico where they visited many communities, deeply impressing all who saw and heard them with their obvious sincerity and dedication. They are looking for employment throughout this territory with the hope of becoming permanent pioneer settlers.

This is the kind of spirit that will make the Faith grow by leaps and bounds, because whereas the inhabitants of these countries rather take for granted North American pioneers and travellers, the idea of the Latins doing this work is still rather new and very convincing.

Yerrinbool Summer School Dates Announced

The twenty-third annual Yerrinbool Baha'i Summer School will be held at "Bolton Place," Yerrinbool, New South Wales, from December 26, 1958, to January 8, 1959.

Inquiries should be addressed to: Mrs. J. Vohrads­ kay, secretary; Baha'i Summer School Committee; 108 Prince’s Highway; Dapto, New South Wales.

BAHA'I IN THE NEWS

Magnolia Times, a mimeographed newsletter published by the patients in East Louisiana State Hospital, refers to the fact that Caroline Rogers, a Baha'i employee, is described so favorably that the Faith is arousing attention.

The Chicago Sunday Tribune Magazine for June 1,
1958, had an article reporting the results of a poll taken of a cross section of Chicago area teen-agers. One of the questions asked was to name the historical man and woman most admired, and the name of Baha'u'llah was turned in by one student.

The publication entitled An Expert's Guide to Chicago includes the "famous Baha'i Temple" as one of the sights along the North Shore.

The Kiwanis Magazine, April 1958, published a visitor's guide to Chicago in preparation for their Forty-Third Annual Convention, which included a map marked with nine featured places to see. The Baha'i Temple was second on this list.

The Lynn, Mass., Daily Evening Item, May 21, 1958, answered a question about how many people belonged to the Baha'i religion. "When Shoghi Effendi, international Baha'i leader, died in November 1957, it was reported the religion had nearly 4,000,000 members in 250 countries."

The Daily Journal-Gazette and Commercial-Star, May 22, 1958, ran under the heading "Community Church Services—this Week's Sermon" the text of the first number of the Baha'i Public Relations Bulletin entitled "Religion."

The Employment Security News, State of Idaho, of March 1958, published this item: "Rhoda Broughton wished all her friends a 'happy New Year' on Friday, March 21. She happily announced that she is going to Chicago in April as a delegate to the Baha'i Convention."

### Calendar of Events

**FEASTS**
- October 16—Ilm (Knowledge)
- November 4—Qudrat (Power)

**HOLY DAY**
- October 20—Birth of the Bab

**PROCLAMATION EVENT**
- October 24—United Nations Day

**NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**
- October 10-12

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**Baha'i House of Worship**

**Visiting Hours**
- Weekdays: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)
- Sundays and Holidays: 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ( Entire building)

**Service of Worship**
- Sundays: 3:30 to 4:10 p.m.
Thou dost witness, O my God, how He Who is Thy splendor calleth Thee to remembrance, notwithstanding the manifold troubles that have touched Him, troubles which none except Thee can number. Thou beholdest how, in His prison-house, He recounteth Thy wondrous praises with which Thou didst inspire Him. Such is His fervor that His enemies are powerless to deter him from mentioning Thee, O Thou Who are the Possessor of all names!

Praised be Thou that Thou hast so strengthened Him with Thy strength, and endowed Him by Thine almighty power with such potency, that aught save Thee is in His estimation but a handful of dust. The lights of un­fading splendor have so enveloped Him that all else but Thee is in His eyes but a shadow.

And when Thine irresistible summons reached me, I arose, fortified by Thy strength, and called all that are in Thy heaven and all that are on Thy earth to turn in the direction of Thy favors and the horizon of Thy bounties. Some caviled at me, and determined to hurt me and slay me. Others drank to the full of the wine of Thy grace, and hastened towards the habitation of Thy grace, and hastened towards the habitation of Thy grace.

I beseech Thee, O Thou Who are the Creator of earth and heaven and the Source of all things, to attract Thy servants through the fragrances of the Robe of Thine Inspiration and Thy Revelation, and to help them attain the Tabernacle of Thy behest and power. From eternity Thou wert by Thy transcendent might supreme over all things, and Thou wilt be exalted unto eternity in Thy Godhead and surpassing sovereignty.

Let Thy mercy, then, be upon Thy servants and Thy creatures. Thou art, in truth, the Almighty, the Inaccessible, the All-Glorious, the Unconditioned.

—Prayers and Meditations, pages 73-74
Message From the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land to the Fifth Intercontinental Conference in Singapore

As the last historic Conference marking the midway point of the Crusade opens, our thoughts and our hearts turn with a great wave of mingled emotions to our beloved Guardian—and beyond and above him to Bahá'u'lláh, the supreme Manifestation, the Glory of the Father, the Eternal Beauty of God revealed in all its splendour to men in this age.

It is nearly a year since the historic “October Message” of 1957 was released to the Bahá'í World by our Guardian. We cannot but look back upon this year with feelings of awe and wonder; in spite of the great calamity which overtook us, our hearts are moved in profound thanksgiving to Bahá'u'lláh. Swiftly following upon the plans for the celebration of the halfway point of the Ten-Year Plan came the paralyzing shock of the sudden passing of our beloved Shoghi Effendi, our guide and leader, our appointed protector and Guardian. Added to our grief and consternation was a sense of bafflement at the ways of God—but only for a short time. East and West the followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh demonstrated how deep was their belief in Him, and how well His Guardian had built the foundations of His Divine Order in the hearts of His servants. Chastened through their great sorrow, purified through their great love, the believers arose as one man to support unitedly the institution of the Hands carefully erected by the Guardian during the last decade of his life and strongly reinforced by him just before his passing. This profound unity manifest amongst the Hands of the Cause themselves, and amongst all the widely scattered Bahá'í communities throughout the world, immediately attracted the protection and blessings of Bahá'u'lláh.

The first of these five historic Conferences, held in Africa less than three months after the passing of the Guardian, witnessed a great release of spiritual power in that continent so dear to his heart. This was swiftly followed by the equally successful Australian, American, and European Conferences. An unprecedented number of believers gathered on these occasions, and large numbers of pioneers volunteered for service with a dedication reminiscent of that great wave of enthusiasm and consecration which in 1953 carried the pioneers to all corners of the earth, and in one brief year opened nearly all the virgin territories—a feat which was the source of immense pride to the beloved Guardian.

The Conferences held to date this year have also witnessed, pursuant with the expressed hope of the beloved Guardian, the raising of nearly three-quarters of a million dollars for the construction of the three Mother Temples of Africa, Europe, and Australia, and the attainment of the other goals of the Ten-Year Plan.

Had not Bahá'u'lláh overshadowed the followers of His Cause with His infinite love and bounty, at this time of grief and profound tests, had not Shoghi Effendi’s own spirit remained with us, guiding and protecting us, we would not be able in this last historic Conference called for during this year by the Guardian, to look back over the past eleven months of victory and say, “Praise be to Thee, O God, for the outpourings of Thy Mercy and Bounty and Thine infinite protection.”

The overflowing measure of Divine grace we have witnessed has ensured that the Plan of Shoghi Effendi for these great Conferences has been successfully fulfilled, the spirit he hoped would be generated by them has been generated; the pioneers he hoped would arise, have arisen; and funds he hoped would be raised have been forthcoming; and the ways and means for the furtherance of the work of the Crusade which he urged should be discussed, have been deliberated upon and are bearing fruit already in different parts of the Bahá'í World.

These will be hard years for us all, but love has
matured us, grief steeled us. At these five Conferences we have gathered strength from the outpourings the Guardian promised us; these gatherings would attract from on High, and from our association with each other. We must now go forth like good soldiers, a conquering army, each to his own post, to do his own battle, to keep his own tryst on the home or the pioneer front. This is not going to be easy. Every formation of something new involves a certain degree of death of the old self. The old order is dying and we see how harsh are its death pangs. Something of our protected past may well be said to have died with the closing of this Conference. For over one hundred and fifteen years we Baha’is have been nursed and personally watched over. Now we are required to stand on our own feet and, in the path of service to this Holy Faith, we ourselves must watch over and assist our fellowmen to turn to the Supreme Manifestation of God for this Day, and seek their salvation through Bahá’u’lláh. That patience and fairness, that loving forgiveness and wise tolerance Shoghi Effendi invariably showered on us individually, we must emulate and show to each other as well as to the world. That justice he so impartially administered must be emulated by all elected Baha’i bodies, that unflinching, adamantly adherent to principle which won him the respect of government and layman alike, the believers, as individuals and when functioning as assemblies, must show forth at all times. In other words, dear friends, the spirit of Shoghi Effendi must go with us from this Conference, not only with the attendants gathered here, but with the believers all over the world, who, surely, inwardly or outwardly, have participated in these five majestic, stirring, creative commemorative Conferences. His spirit we must keep alive in our hearts, his love we must foster through loving him more, his radiant nature, which the Master so well knew, must always be remembered by us so that we may, as individuals, strive to acquire a little of that selfless radiance ourselves.

The beloved Guardian often said that whenever he suffered, the work of the Cause went forward. We may ask ourselves if this unworthy world did not require the supreme sacrifice of the life of its Guardian to release those forces, at this critical juncture in human history, which are necessary to carry it forward into that Golden Age of spiritual civilization which the Bahá’í Dispensation must give rise to. Whatever interpretation we place upon the passing of Shoghi Effendi, an event which in its very essence is one of the mysteries of God, one thing must be evident to all—the sacrifice of this infinitely precious life must not for an instant, to the slightest degree, be in vain. We must be the ransom that pays for that sacred blood. We, all the Bahá’ís everywhere, East and West, young and old, new in the Faith or veterans, must arise with complete unity, a more mature consecration, a deeper love for Bahá’u’lláh, and ensure that the vital objectives of the Ten-Year Crusade are completed, and in many fields added to and markedly surpassed.

We have had a soul-shattering shock; deepest grief, longing for our beloved Guardian so suddenly removed from our midst, has moved us to the depths of our being and made our hearts restless with desire to do many things for him now which we neglected to do when he was alive. The Bahá’ís have rallied to his conferences, helped in the protection of the Faith to which he gave all his service, and have supported the appointed Hands of the Cause and the elected representatives of the believers. This, however, is only the first step. Before us lie almost five years of hard work, years, we may well believe, of turmoil in the world, years when, in the face of a steady process of deterioration in human affairs, our institutions must be painstakingly erected and consolidated, the foundations for the future Universal House of Justice securely built, in order that this Supreme Edifice, when it comes into being, may be in a position to fulfill its Divinely appointed functions, the spirit of the Faith made to burn brighter, its teachings disseminated far and wide, and that process of mass conversion so often referred to by the Guardian, set in motion and given increasing momentum.

Purity of heart, honesty of mind, sincerity of motive were characteristics deeply prized by Shoghi Effendi. These characteristics he felt were strongly represented in the so-called primitive peoples; they drew him to them and increased his conviction that the Cause of God has a tremendous future amongst the dark-skinned peoples of the world, and that they have great racial gifts of mind and heart to bring to the service of this Faith. It is significant to ponder that the first, the opening of this halfway point of the World Crusade was chosen by him for the heart of Africa, and that the last, the closing Conference, was set midway in the Pacific-Asian region. He did not thus honor the old world and the new. No, he chose the black people and the brown people for this distinction. He visualized the African and the Pacific peoples vying with each other in the spread of the Faith. Each marked increase in membership in one region was relayed by him to the other, with the hope of stimulating a fresh burst of enthusiastic teaching efforts. Much of his joy, during the last years of his life, came from the news of the remarkable progress

Bahá’í Endowment in Luxembourg, situated in the Commune d’Eich, Section C de Weignier Kirch: Rue des Forarms.
The first of the two annual teaching congresses was held in Managua, Nicaragua, on July 26-27, 1958. Seventeen Baha'is and six guests attended. Sessions were arranged to allow for everyone to enjoy a simple meal together on both days. The teachers, Pablo Pérez, Hooper Dunbar, and Donald and Mignon Witzel, covered the most important phases of teaching in Latin America, as well as the spiritual fundamentals of the Faith.

the Faith was making in these two areas.

The African Conference released a great spiritual power among the Negro believers, who returned from it to their tribal homes to teach with new enthusiasm and understanding, and to convince their own peoples of the truth of Baha'u'llah's Message. We feel confident that the representatives of many of the peoples of the Pacific region attending this Conference will do likewise, and that this will mark the beginning of a vast process of conversion of the inhabitants of the islands of this immense ocean to the Cause of God.

Who knows, perhaps it is the immediate destiny of our great Faith to be raised on the two wings of the black and brown races through a great wave of mass conversion which will have repercussions all over the world, and, releasing spiritual powers as yet untapped, enable the leaven of the Faith of Baha'u'llah to penetrate into the lives of the peoples of the older yellow and white civilizations, so materialistic, so disillusioned, so morally corrupt and spiritually bankrupt.

The first evidences of this mighty process envisaged by our beloved Guardian have already become manifest in the extraordinary, the truly heartening conversion of such a large number of people in the Mentawai Islands and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands to this new religion. Those who have had the privilege of carrying the Message of Baha'u'llah to them can testify how deep is the faith with which they have embraced it, how steadfast their intent to serve it and uphold its laws, how ripe their hearts to enfold its truth and make it a part of their lives.

Another evidence of the unfoldment of this process has been the formation of Baha'i schools in the new Hebrides, in Mentawai, and in the Gilbert and Ellice Archipelago—schools of which Shoghi Effendi was immensely proud. How many pilgrims watched enthralled as the strong, forceful, and fascinating hand of the Guardian pointed to the spots on the map of the world he had filled in, and tapped the circle which marked one of these precious schools. How bright the light that lit up his blessed face as he stated this was no mere summer school, but a real school, opened and maintained by Baha'is, in which the children of indigenous people were being educated in both a normal curriculum and in the Baha'i standards. It was his ardent hope that these schools should be maintained, reinforced, and similar ones established on a sound and permanent basis in other areas. He repeatedly made it clear that in these unspoiled regions of the world lay a great hope for the future. He constantly encouraged pioneers to move into them, and in these fertile fields of service, busy themselves with the teaching work where it promised the greatest success.

This culminating Conference held during this sad but fruitful year must yield, for all believers present, as well as for those throughout the Baha'i world, a special harvest. Our hearts, still bleeding in separation from our dearly beloved Guardian, we must annul in the fire of self-sacrifice to this infinitely precious Faith. The need of our fellowwomen is to hear the Glad-Tidings of Baha'u'llah greater than ever. The doors to pioneering, to the construction of the Mother Temples called for in the Ten-Year Plan, to the founding of Baha'i schools, to the dissemination of our literature, to the erection of our administrative institutions, still stand open. Before some world catastrophe closes them devastatingly, albeit temporarily in our faces, let us not waste one precious moment!

Shoghi Effendi's love is burning in our hearts, his appeals are still fresh in our ears. The vision he gave us of our present task is clear and perfect; let us keep it forever before our eyes.

"Let there be no mistake. The avowed, the primary aim of this Spiritual Crusade is none other than the conquest of the citadels of men's hearts. The theater of its operations is the entire planet, its duration a whole decade. Its commencement synchronizes with the Centenary of the birth of Baha'u'llah's Mission. Its culmination will coincide with the Centenary of the Declaration of that same Mission. The agencies assisting in its conduct are the nascent administrative institutions of a steadily-evolving, divinely appointed Order. Its driving force is the energizing influence generated by the Revelation heralded by the Bab and proclaimed by Baha'u'llah. Its Marshal is none other than the Author of the Divine Plan. Its standard-bearers are the Hands of the Cause of God appointed in every continent of the globe. Its generals are the national spiritual assemblies participating in the execution of its design. Its vanguard is the chief executors of 'Abdu'l-Baha's Master Plan, their allies and associates. Its legions are the rank and file of believers standing behind these same ... national assemblies and sharing in the global task embracing the American, the European, the African, the Asiatic, and Australian fronts. The charter directing its course is the immortal Tablets that have flowed from the Pen of the Center of the Covenant Himself. The armor with which its onrushing hosts have been invested is the glad-tidings of God's own Message in this Day, the principles underlying the Order proclaimed by His Messenger, and the laws and ordinances governing His Dispensation. The battle cry animating its heroes and heroines is the cry of Ya Baha'u'll-Abba."—HANDS OF THE FAITH IN THE HOLY LAND
Three new Indian groups in Bolivia have recently accepted the Bahá'í Faith through the efforts of the La Paz and the Canton Huanuni Indian Assemblies.

In Potosí there is a group of five chalas (a mixture of the white and Indian races), in Huanacota there are eight Indian Bahá'ís, and in Chalapiti there are five Indian believers. The two latter places were opened by Andrés Jachacollo, who went on a forty-six day teaching trip, and Isidro Jachacollo, on a twenty-six day teaching trip, both of whom are dedicated Canton Huanuni friends.

Both state that there are a number of other Indians interested in the Faith in these places, and that they will continue with their efforts, hoping to confirm enough to make local spiritual assemblies before long. One of these friends is also going on a teaching trip to Potosí to cooperate with the chalas there in several weeks of joint efforts.

An idea of the sacrifice required can be given when one learns that these Bahá'ís must walk for a total of ten days going and returning to their own village.

In a recent teaching trip, Athos Costas, secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, recorded the following impressions of his two days' stay in Canton Huanuni:

"The Bahá'ís of Villakollo are almost all young, numbering seventeen believers with twelve children in the community. They are very hospitable and amiable, having a great desire for spiritual, cultural, and social progress. They are much nearer to the real values of life than city inhabitants. They are pure of heart, and the progress of the Faith there could be like Africa. On leaving them, I thought of these people who live in the mountains, enduring such extreme cold, and with such arid soil, living in their tiny huts made of adobe and thatched with straw, with unglazed openings for doors and windows, and felt that a part of my heart remains with them.

"At the end of my Bolivian teaching trip, I thought..."
that the Bahá'ís should not spend their energies in the
arid spiritual climate of the great cities, but go out to
the provinces, the little 'pueblitas' where the people
live a more primitive life, much less superficial, where the
Faith will progress much more rapidly through
contact with consecrated pioneers."

That Bolivia is awakening to the Faith is evident from
the report of Mr. Costas on his August teaching trip.
In Cochabamba he gave a radio talk, and spoke at a
public meeting in the Centro Cultural Boliviano-Norte-
americano before a group of eleven Bahá'ís and twenty-
three guests, mostly young people who showed great
interest.

The newspaper El Pueblo gave a full summary of
the talk.

In La Paz, a public meeting was held in the Municipal
Library, with an attendance of eight Bahá'ís and fifty
guests. This was preceded by announcements on the
radio, and was followed by a summary of the talk in
the newspaper La Nacion. Many of the contacts in La
Paz were brought by the three Indian Bahá'ís resident
in that city.

In Santa Cruz a talk was given in the salon of the
radio station "Grigotá," with an attendance of thirty.
The entire forty minute talk was also broadcast by the
radio station, and two newspapers published sum-
maries of the talk. One publication used a photograph
of the Bahá'í House of Worship as an illustration.

Land for Mother Temple of Paraguay
Purchased Near Capital City of Asuncion

Among the additional goals set by the Guardian be-
fore his passing was the purchase of land for the
Mother Temples of Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Paraguay achieved this goal on September 30, 1958,
after months of searching and disappointments over
excessively priced land. The National Spiritual As-
sembly of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and
Uruguay joyfully announces that an area of three hec-
tares (about seven and one-half acres) has been bought.

The land is located fifteen kilometers from the capital
city of Asuncion.

This land should increase in value in the future, as it
is located about three kilometers from the National Air-
port, on the road between the well-known towns of
Luque and San Lorenzo. About half of the land is a coco
palm tree plantation, overlooking a typical Paraguayan
panoramic view.

Esperantists at World Congress in Germany
Attend Bahá'í Meeting, View Exhibits

Almost one hundred people from eleven countries at-
tended the Bahá'í meeting at the Forty-Third World
Congress of the Esperantists at Mainz, Germany, on
August 3, 1958.

After the program was opened with music and the
reading of a prayer of Bahá'u'lláh, W. von der Ley
spoke on the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith. Guests from
England, France, Sweden, The Netherlands, Poland,
Italy, Spain, Brazil, the United States, and Germany
left their names and addresses on the contact list.

Over two hundred people visited the Bahá'í exhibit,
where Bahá'í literature in Esperanto, and pictures of
interest to Esperantists were displayed. The pictures
included a large portrait of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, photographs
of leading Bahá'ís and Esperantists such as Martha Root,
Lidja Zamenhof (the daughter of the founder of the
Esperantist movement), and John E. Esslemont. Other
photos showed Haifa and the Shrine of the Báb, views of
the House of Worship in Wilmette, and pictures of
the Intercontinental Conferences in 1953.

Public Teaching Launched
at Palmer, Alaskan Goal City

Since Mr. and Mrs. Verne Stout and their two chil-
dren went to Palmer, Alaska, a few months ago to open
that goal city, they have been quietly but steadily mak-
ing friends for the Faith. The Matanuska Valley fair,
held August 29 to September 1, provided an occasion
for public proclamation through the Bahá'í exhibit, with
some 400 pieces of literature distributed.

The booth, centrally located and displaying a Temple
model, photographs, and literature, was unavoidably
visible to all 14,000 persons who attended the fair. Chairs
were provided in the booth so that visitors could rest
and read various Bahá'í books and pamphlets on a
small table, including the latest Bahá'í World volume,
and Appreciations of the Bahá'í Faith. Newspaper ad-
vertisements of public meetings in other Alaskan cities
were on display. The booth was also utilized as a means
of presenting Bahá'í literature (including Destiny of
America, and A Pattern for Future Society) to a num-
ber of civic leaders on a local and state level.

Bahá'í visitors to the booth came from Kodiak, Una-
laska, Tanana Valley, Bethel, and Anchorage, Alaska,
the first two places representing World Crusade goals.

The Matanuska Valley, flanked by the Chugach Moun-
tains, is the richest farming area of Alaska and is the
site of the well-known "farm-colony" experiment be-
gun in the 1890's under the U.S. government, when this
land was first cleared and settled.

Bahá'í delegates at the third All-Vietnam Teaching
Conference held at Toulane, which was attended by
over seventy Bahá'ís and their friends.
First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Tinto, British Cameroons, formed on April 21, 1958. This assembly successfully hosted a teaching conference.

The Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Bakebe, British Cameroons. This responsible body actively helped to organize a successful teaching meeting in their town.

First Photographs From British Cameroons Illustrate Results of Continuous Teaching By Regional Committee and Local Assemblies

The outstanding record of achievements in Nigeria and British Cameroons, reported in Bahá'í News for August 1958, is due to a well-known, yet potent, formula: continuous organized teaching activities.

The mainspring in these countries is Northwest Africa's Regional Teaching Committee No. Ten. This body plans a never-ending series of teaching meetings, conferences, and other activities throughout the area.

Then the local spiritual assemblies concerned cooperate in organizing the numerous details and notifying the believers. If appropriate, the believers then extend invitations to their friends and contacts.

The result is invariably the same: a well-attended meeting in that distinctly Bahá'í atmosphere, so wonderful to experience, so conducive to spiritual regeneration.
S. Australian Government Appoints Baha'i to Officiate at Marriages by Local Assemblies

The Australian Bahá'í Bulletin for August 1958 has reprinted an extract from the South Australian Government Gazette for July 3, 1958, as follows:

**Marriage Act Registration**

"Notice is hereby given that, under authority of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, dated 21st June 1958, the Principal Registrar has registered Mr. Harold Collis Featherstone of Port Adelaide (Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Port Adelaide, Incorporated) as an officiating registrar under the Marriage Act, 1936-1937.

A. W. Bowden, Principal Registrar"

The Bahá'í Bulletin points out that local spiritual assemblies in South Australia may conduct marriages in conjunction with the Officiating Registrar.

Baha'is of Belgium and Luxembourg Hold Joint Conference to Study Teachings

A "National Bahá'í Day of Belgium and Luxembourg" was held in Charleroi, Belgium, in September, under the auspices of the National Teaching Committee for these two countries. The day was dedicated to the study of the Bahá'í Teachings, and proved to be an immense success.

There were thirty-four Bahá'ís and five guests present, from Brussels, Luxembourg City, Antwerp, Liege, Ostende, and Charleroi, as well as a Persian pioneer family from Tunisia.

The program was excellently planned, with three subjects for discussion: "Spiritual Qualities Which Conform to the Bahá'í Life," "The Stature of Bahá'u'lláh Among the Other Prophets," and "The Twin Nature of Man," presented respectively by Miss Suzanne de Koninck, Louis Henuzet, and Marcel Mathot.

This National Day was designed as a substitute for a summer school this year, due to the Intercontinental Conference held at Frankfurt, Germany, in July.

Sholapur and Ahmedabad, India, Schools Recognize Baha'i Holy Days

The educational authorities of Sholapur and Ahmedabad, India, have given permission to Bahá'í children attending schools in their respective jurisdictions to observe Bahá'í Holy Days as holidays.

—National Spiritual Assembly of India and Burma

Correction

References to Shoghi Effendi as "the divine Guardian," attributed to Mrs. Amelia Collins in the account of the Frankfurt Intercontinental Conference prepared by the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria for the October issue of Bahá'í News, should have been reported as "the beloved Guardian."

National Bahá'í Day of Belgium and Luxembourg, held at Charleroi, Belgium on September 21.
First Summer School of Southern States Held at Blue Ridge in August

A SUMMER sun . . . an early dusk . . . the scent of the spruce and the pine . . . misty clouds bowing low to hide majestic mountain peaks . . . a solemn stillness . . . a nearness to God . . . all this is Blue Ridge, and here from August 23-28, 1958, nearly eighty Bahá'ís and friends held the first Bahá'í Summer School of the South. Here, deep in the mountains of western North Carolina, this interracial group gathered with love and harmony.

Conferences had been conducted at Blue Ridge in other years, but this was a school, and from the very onset this was evident to all in attendance. The study and consultation were serious. Although it was required that each person take at least two classes, nearly everyone attended all three. A great impetus for further study was generated. The time was short and the schedule heavy. Each day began at 7:30 with Devotions.

Morning courses, running simultaneously from 9:15 to 11:15 were: "Islam," taught in a masterly fashion by Roy Mottahedeh; "World Crusade," clearly outlined by Lorana Kerfoot; and "Introductory Class," ably given by Erma Hayden.

Afternoon courses, running simultaneously from 1:15 to 2:45 were: "Advent of Divine Justice," warmly presented by Albert James; and "Bahá'í Administration," dramatically set forth by Zella Svendsen.

The evening course from 7:15 to 9:00 was: "Covenant and Covenant Breaking," effectively directed by Jack Davis.

In each case we were blessed with exemplary teachers, who gave devotedly of their time.

The youth attended morning and evening classes with the adults, but in the afternoon held their own class where they consulted on many aspects of the Faith, particularly those that concerned the Youth most directly.

Thelma Allison, Louise Jackson, Alice Walton, and Marion Goldstein conducted the children's classes, and on the last morning the children presented the Devotions and displayed their handiwork.

Each day formally ended with Devotions at 9:15; however, informal gatherings lasted long into the night. Mrs. Allison and Mrs. Svendsen shared the stories of their pilgrimages to Haifa. Slides of the Temple and Shrine Gardens were shown, and Bahá'í experiences were exchanged over cups of coffee. The warmth and feeling in these evening get-togethers are never to be forgotten.

The recreational facilities at Blue Ridge are many, among them hiking, swimming, and horseback riding. While many spent their leisure time pursuing these, at the same time others used the hours to come together for discussion and visiting with the teachers.

Attendants at the first Bahá'í Summer School of the Southern States, held at Blue Ridge, N. Car., August 23-28.
and each other.

Many who had attended other summer schools in the past felt that this was the best in spirit and content, and it was hoped that we might continue to have a school in this beautiful setting. This seemed impossible, as we had not near the attendance that the YMCA management required to renew our contract. However, at the time the School Committee was meeting with the management the entire group gathered together for prayers, and great was our joy when we were offered the facilities for three years.

Five days are not many. All too soon they sped by. We gathered for the last time on the huge veranda of the main house. We felt the knowledge and the beauty fill our minds and hearts. The time of parting was near ... still we stood. These past days we had prayed, studied, laughed, wept and had fellowship together. Reluctantly we bid goodbye to old friends and new. Our feelings were divided—a part of us yearned to stay, to partake forever of this closeness, and yet already stirring within us was the great longing and urgency to hurry forth—back to share our re-awakened faith with fellow believers, and to take what we had gained to a thirsting world.

This was the first Blue Ridge Summer School. The sun was warm, the mountains stood like sentinels against the sky. The clouds bowed low, the air was still—and God was there.

—GAIL CURWIN

Pioneers From United States Settle in Five Central American Countries

A group of devoted new pioneers have been welcomed to five of the Central American countries during the past few months, to assist at this crucial time in the Ten-Year Crusade.

To Costa Rica has come Richard Mirkovitch from California, who is working as a physical education director at the Methodist School in Escazu.

Hooper Dunbar, also from California, is teaching English in Managua, Nicaragua.

Honduras has now become the home of Grace Dean from New Mexico, Seymour Malkin from California, and David Mathieson from Connecticut, all of whom are getting oriented in Tegucugalpa. Robert Anker from Nevada is now in San Pedro Sula looking for work there or in one of the goal cities along the Caribbean coast.

Mrs. Edith McLaren, a pioneer from New York state, has recently arrived in Guatemala.

Frank Wilson, another Californian, is getting established in Santa Tecla, El Salvador.

Successful pioneering demands many personal sacrifices which later bring manifold blessings. A vivid example is that of Donald and Mignon Witzel, devoted, hard-working, and valiant pioneers for many years in hot, inhospitable Managua, Nicaragua.

This year, after a series of trying housing difficulties, they found a perfect house, but decided that it is more important to spread the Faith than to live comfortably, so they sub-let the house and moved to Masaya, where they will commute each day to their positions in the American School in Managua, despite high transportation expenses.

Retailhuleu, Guatemala, Baha'i Community Functions Without Resident Pioneer

The city of Retalhuleu, Guatemala, is one of those rare spots in the civilized world that does not seem to be contaminated with materialism and fanaticism. The people are friendly, spiritually minded, and unprejudiced.

This city was opened to the Bahá'í Faith a few years ago by Louise Caswell, who took advantage of the visit of another Bahá'í to announce, through leaflets distributed by a jeep and with the assistance of a public address system, a series of public lectures in the movie theater and in an open-air garden.

The first two lectures were well attended, but no one came to the third one. However, Louise made her presentation, and the speaker, Artemus Lamb, gave his lecture to an invisible audience which gradually gathered outside the garden and in the street. At the end, three women and a man came in, and another lecture was given.

Today there is a happy little Bahá'í community formed, and it is maintained without the help of a resident pioneer, a rare occurrence in Central America.

Just two miles away is the Indian village of San Sebastian, where there are Latin Bahá'ís and Indian contacts. There is much optimism for its Bahá'í development.

Pakistan Temple Land Purchased, Assembly Attains Registration by Government

Two goals of the Guardian's Six-Year Plan for Pakistan have been achieved, according to the National Spiritual Assembly there:

About twenty-two acres of land has been purchased for the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkar of Pakistan in Deh Ibrahim Hyderi, Karachi.

The National Spiritual Assembly has been registered under the Societies' Registration Act on May 26, 1958.
Baha'i Indian Center at Gallup Redecorated by Weekend Work Party

The Baha'i Indian Center at Gallup was given a face-lifting within and without when a work party of pioneers and members of the American Indian Service Committee painted, remodeled, and decorated the Center on the weekend of July 19.

Part of the new adornment placed in the Center was a beautiful rendition of the “Greatest Name” made by Don Hawley and Kahir Radpour, and color prints of the Shrine of the Bab and the House of Worship.

On Saturday evening the group gathered among the paint pots to hear a wonderful talk by Ted Cardell, well-known British pioneer to Africa, who was a member of the work party. Then on August 16, during the famous Gallup Indian ceremonials, a dinner and open house were held at the Center with Ted Cardell and his wife, formerly Alicia Ward of Tempe, as guests of honor.

Pioneers From Peoria Now Hosts at Center

Anthony and Josie Madonia, resident pioneers at the Center during these activities, have now moved from Gallup to nearby Fort Defiance, Ariz., where Mr. Madonia is employed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Their places as hosts and pioneers at the Center have been taken by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wright and their family, who arrived from Peoria, Ill., on August 19. The Gallup group, which includes the original pioneer to this “Indian capital of the world,” James Stone, is starting new teaching and service activities for the benefit of the many Indians in that city.

Baha'i Youth Serve the Indians

An Open Letter

The American Indian Service Committee shares the following letter, feeling that its appeal extends to all believers, although it is addressed to Baha'i Youth. Its author, Tim Rost, became a pioneer among the Indians immediately after his graduation from college two years ago. He is presently teaching school and serving among the Indians of the Fort Totten (Sioux) reservation in North Dakota.

Dear friends,

This letter is addressed to those Youth who wish to strive to live the Laws of God's Faith and to serve humanity with no selfish motives, with no desire for rewards, with willingness to lay down their lives if necessary, and with tender spiritual love. The Indians await you.

You are not inadequate. If you are not yet ready—and remember, you are still young—you can train yourselves to become so. There is nothing to fear. You must act promptly before it is too late.

We who are on or near the reservations can perhaps most fully realize how badly you are needed. Your generation has a great responsibility in this
manner. Anguish fills our hearts when we consider how much work there is to be done, and how few to do it.

Contact Bahá’ís who have had experience in this work. Visit places where Indians can be found. Get to know Indian Bahá’ís. You can then glimpse their great spiritual potentialities.

If you plan to attend college or are now in college, find out what kinds of occupations can lead to positions on or near reservations, or in towns with at least some Indian inhabitants. If there are Indians in your college or university, try to cultivate their friendship.

The American Indian Service Committee can give you invaluable help. Contact them.

Sometimes it is best for a young Bahá’í to choose a place to pioneer near other Bahá’ís who can give spiritual and material help. This work is not always easy.

Prayer is a dynamic force. Use it in dealing with them. They will respond sooner or later. Be free. Do not let them take advantage of you—they will lose respect for you. They are very observant.

Be especially obedient to the Laws of the Faith, dealing with morals. Disobedience can lead to disaster.

The rewards are great. The love of a little Indian child is like a precious jewel. No one can really help them except us. This fact is constantly becoming clearer and clearer.

You must raise the level of their thoughts by raising your own. You must raise their morals by raising your own. You must give them hope for the future by having more confidence that the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh will uplift the poor ones of the earth.

Don’t expect immediate responses from them. Remember, you too are being trained. Be patient.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the Bahá’í Youth can meet the challenge. The Bahá’í Faith, as we all know, presents basically a joyous Message. You can find this joy with them.

—Tim Rost

95 Students From 11 States Attend

First Southwestern Bahá’í Summer School

The first Bahá’í Summer School in the southwestern part of the United States was held at Bachman’s Lake on the site of the YMCA-Camp Kiwanis. It was a precedent-setting event in that it marked the first time that facilities of the resort area were made available to Negroes.

All who were privileged to attend the week-long session of the Southwestern Bahá’í Summer School were impressed with the facilities and highly appreciative of the job done by the committee. One of the most warmly expressed appreciations was a report on the school written shortly after his return to Roswell, N. Mex., by P. R. Meinhard, editor of the Area Teaching Committee Bulletin for the Rocky Mountain States. We take the liberty of quoting verbatim Mr. Meinhard’s excellent report:

“Blessed to a rare degree with a spirit of combined consecration, studiousness, and fellowship, the opening session of the new Southwestern Summer School was indeed a joyous and fruitful occasion. It was conducted at the spacious YMCA-Kiwanis camp on Bachman’s Lake on the outskirts of Dallas, Texas. The time was August 23 to 30. An unofficial count indicated that about 95 students came from eleven states to attend. And, thanks to the energetic and resourceful committee, faculty and staff, all seemed to share a double sense of having spent a profitable week and of having helped to open an important new teaching facility.

“The study courses and teachers were as follows: Bahá’í Administration and Institutions of the Faith, Mrs. Velma Sherrill; Know Your Bahá’í Literature, Mr. Lloyd Sherrill, The World Crusade and Its Relationship to the Divine Plan, Miss D. Thelma Jackson and Mr. David Baral; The Covenant and Covenant-Breaking; Mrs. Florence Mayberry. In addition, special events included classes on Teaching the Minority Groups and on Firesides, both by Mr. Ellsworth Blackwell, and a session in which the students, guided by Mr. Robert Hopkins, framed suggested Bahá’í answers to frequently asked questions.

“In the first of two successful public meetings, Mrs. Velma Sherrill gave an excellent general talk on the Faith. The second one presented a panel comprised of Mrs. Florence Mayberry, Ellsworth Blackwell, and Dr. Neil McFarland of the Divinity School of Southern Methodist University. Dr. McFarland created a mild sensation by foreshadowing a distinctly liberalized Protestant attitude of ‘coexistence’ toward all other faiths.

“Interspersed with all these events were recreation periods for both youngsters and grown-ups, and evenings of sociability under the soft Texas moon. All in all, the week impressed those present with the great significance and value of the new teaching center. Needless to say, it offers essential Bahá’í training to many believers hitherto unable to reach a summer school. Its very inauguration apparently proved a great ‘invigorator’ to the valiant believers of the surrounding area. And it provides a broad, new gateway through which the beloved colored people may pass to find the Faith. In short, the school is a great boon to the American Bahá’í community in general, and to its Southwest-

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Lincoln, Neb., formed on April 21, 1958.
ern members in particular."

Cooperation, and assistance wherever help was needed, on the part of members of the Dallas Bahá'í community contributed greatly to the success of the Southwestern Summer School. Children's classes and activities were conducted by Mrs. Pauline Hansen of Dallas and Mrs. Marjorie Heath of San Antonio.

John D. Thomas of Dallas was convenor of the Southwestern Bahá'í Summer School Committee, which consisted of these committee members: Jack Raborn, Robert Hopkins, Mrs. Allene Squires, all of Dallas; Miss D. Thelma Jackson, San Antonio; E. D. Gray, Houston; and Mrs. Thelma Thurston Gorham, Oklahoma City.

Conferences in Chautauqua and Phoenix

Study Bahá'í Principles of Child Education

A conference on the Bahá'í philosophy of child education was held at Chautauqua, N.Y., on August 30-31, 1958, with sixty-three registrants representing twenty-seven communities in seven states. Frank Meese, chairman of the East Central States Area Teaching Committee, served as chairman of the conference.

Mrs. Martha McCloskey of Hamburg, N.Y., spoke on the philosophy of education. She explained that the word "to educate" means "to draw out," not "to fill in," and that philosophy meant wisdom underlying a system of knowledge.

In order for education to be effective, she stated, one must teach the whole being. The three elements in Bahá'í education were stated as: (1) The independent search after truth, (2a) Science and religion must agree, (2b) The oneness of the world of existence, and (3) The law of God.

Laurence La Rocque, Oak Park, Ill., chairman of the National Child Education Committee, was the principal speaker. He told of an extensive survey by the committee on methods of teaching the Faith to children.

"It seemed to us," he said, "that to pour facts into the mind of a child was not education. Our direct aim should not be to make Bahá'ís, but to so educate and guide the children that through their own experience they would be led to Bahá'u'lláh."

Mr. La Rocque spoke on the children's classes at the Bahá'í Temple in Wilmette, used as a laboratory for trying out the ideas of the committee. Knowledge comes in three ways, he explained: through sensation, through perception, and through conception.

The children in the primary class, who range in age from three to five years, learn through their senses. These children are taught that there are three kingdoms of creation, without attempting to have them comprehend these kingdoms, and that God is a Mystery, a Power, Unknown. They are encouraged to talk and to discuss the ideas they bring up. They play, sing, tell stories, and take walks. Visual education materials are used extensively.

The six-to-eight-year age group learns through perception. They learn of the kingdom of man; the qualities and needs of the human kingdom; the social laws; obedience to God, society, and the world about him; their physical tools and their spiritual tools, such as prayer. Plans and participation are encouraged, using dramatics in acting out a given situation. The goal is a spiritual basis for a solution of their personal problems.

The nine-to-twelve-year age group learns through conception, as well as by sensation and perception. They have an understanding of abstract ideas and can deal with the powers of man. An understanding of self in relation to the world and to God is stimulated,
with a conception of the inner and outer worlds. The children lead the discussion; the teacher begins to be merely a guide.

The thirteen-to-fourteen-year age group studies the unity of science and religion, and progressive revelation. The story of religions are related to the Bahá’í Revelation as an evolutionary development, with no attempt to show the Bahá’í Faith as superior. These children should fully study the Bahá’í Faith, its institutions, history, and teachings.

Mr. La Rocque concluded his talk with the following suggestions: Teach the children the kingdom of heaven, emphasize the mystery of God, guard against analogies of God, and keep alive the wonderment of life. The goal of child education is to awaken and train the child’s soul.

On Sunday morning the conference continued with Mrs. Jane Czemiejewski presiding. She emphasized the obligation of teaching, and stressed the point that no one is excused.

Charles Grindley of Ontario, Canada, explained his plan of teaching based on the compilation The Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh, and Frank Meese concluded the conference with the reading of a Bahá’í News insert on “Education.”

**Phoenix Conference Studies Teaching Activities**

On September 7 an Open House for the Child Guidance Classes, jointly sponsored by the Phoenix and Phoenix Suburban Area North Assemblies, Ariz., gave members of the two communities an opportunity to highlight their studies of the children and children told of their current study an interesting program was disclosed.

First and second graders are studying the attributes of God, such as Love, Kindness, and Mercy, illustrated through Hidden Words, prayers, favorite children’s poems, and short stories, not only of the Bahá’í Faith but of other religions as well. The third graders go a step further and investigate reasons behind our physical, cultural, and religious differences with the aid of the book, All About Us by Eva Knox Evans, stories of other lands, illustrative crafts, prayers, and discussions.

Fifth and sixth grade students are beginning a study of social and cultural conditions of children in the 1840s, with an emphasis on the mission of interest on the children of Persia and the early life of ‘Abdu’ll-Bahá. The class has voted to have a conference in January which will cover the life and teachings of each Manifestation of God as its extra achievement project. Following a year-long course on the Bible and the Qur’án, a study of The Dawnbreakers, and some sections of God Passes By is providing the junior youth with a background understanding of progressive revelation, as well as a general knowledge of the history and literature of the Faith. The youth class is studying the “Origin, Powers, and Conditions of Man,” using Some Answered Questions as text, with supplementary material from Bahá’í and other sources, reading from the books in class followed by roundtable discussion.

The adult group, composed chiefly of parents of children attending classes, provides an opportunity for discussion of steps in spiritual growth of children and their parents, as revealed in the Bahá’í writings. Children’s classes in Phoenix have had a long and interesting history. Originally sponsored by the Phoenix Assembly and carried on with one teacher and an average attendance of from three to nine children, the classes were co-sponsored with the Assembly of adjacent Phoenix Suburban Area North, beginning in 1951. Teachers increased to three and attendance to fifteen. Presently there are six teachers with an average attendance of twenty-eight. Meetings are held every Sunday morning from 10 to 11 in various Bahá’í homes on a monthly rotating basis.

Plans for the devotional period with which the classes begin are made by the host family. Simple prayers with a background of recorded classical music makes up the program generally, after which the children divide into their classes. Dens, kitchens, bedrooms, and outdoor patios, as well as dining and living rooms serve as locale for these groups.

Teachers meet regularly to discuss any problems, make necessary changes, and assess their progress. In selecting material for study, attention is paid to the capacity and interests of the children’s age levels, continuity of instruction, and the underlying responsibility to provide each growing child with the knowledge he will need for intelligent and devoted acceptance of the Faith at age fifteen. In general, class divisions are made according to grades in school, but the happiness and adaptability of individual children is always considered.

Currently all teachers are parents, and each has made time for this work amid other Bahá’í responsibilities.

**1,000 Members of Grandmother Clubs**

**Tour House of Worship in Wilmette**

On October 6, 1,000 of the 1,500 “Grandmas” gathered in Chicago for the seventeenth annual meeting of the National Federation of Grandmother Clubs of America, visited the Bahá’í House of Worship in twenty-chartered buses. These women came from all parts of the United States and showed great interest in the Temple.
Guardian's Messages From 1950 to 1957

To Be Published in November

Messages to the Bahá'í World, 1950-1957, by Shoghi Effendi, the new work containing the Guardian's messages during this period to the entire Bahá'í world community, is expected to be available by the Bahá'í Publishing Trust of the U.S. by November 10. This is an historic work, eagerly anticipated by Bahá'ís throughout the world.

From 1922 until 1950, the letters and cablegrams from Shoghi Effendi in his capacity as Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith were addressed to individual national spiritual assemblies or national Bahá'í communities conveying various directives and explanations. For example, the letters written to the American Bahá'í community between 1927 and 1932 were published under the title, Bahá'í Administration, and a later series as The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

In 1950 the Guardian changed his emphasis from the needs and activities of national bodies to the Bahá'í world community, culminating in his initiation of the Ten-Year World Crusade launched in 1953 and calling for the first time upon the participation of all Bahá'ís in one common world plan. These letters likewise announced the establishment of the International Bahá'í Council, the institution of the Hands of the Cause, and other important international developments.

The present volume includes the major communications which Shoghi Effendi addressed to the Bahá'í world from April 25, 1950, to his last general letter of October 15. They possess unique importance in documenting the progress of the World Crusade and determining its progressive unfoldment to the year 1963, the Centenary of Bahá'u'lláh's announcement of His prophetic mission—a Crusade which is not only establishing the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh throughout the world, but is also preparing the way for the formation of the Universal House of Justice.

These are messages that require deep and prayerful study on the part of every Bahá'í. It is not possible for us, who long to carry out Shoghi Effendi's plan, to fathom the measure of wisdom, divine guidance, and sacrifice that has given us these messages or the Plan that they outline. We can only bring a humility of heart and a resurgent of our own determination to fulfill our rightful part in these precious years that remain of the Ten-Year Plan.

Foreign Students of Seven Countries Attend
National Dress and Costume Party in New York

Twenty foreign students from Iran, Trinidad, Ghana, Turkey, India, Pakistan, and Japan attended a "National Dress & Costume" party at the invitation of the Intercontinental Committee of the New York Spiritual Assembly on September 5, at the New York Bahá'í Center. Among the guests were the president and vice-president of the Ghana Students Union.

The guests were impressed by the warmth and sincerity of the Bahá'ís; most of them were introduced to the Faith for the first time, although some had heard of the Faith in their native lands.

At a follow-up "Fireside" some of the guests attended and heard H. Borrah Kavelin, chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly, speak on "One World."

This was the first organized mass effort to attract foreign students in which results were evident. Many friends were made for the Faith and similar activities of this nature are planned for the future by the Intercontinental Committee. This committee was formed by the New York Local Spiritual Assembly, following the advice of the Guardian to contact foreign students.

50 Attend Race Amity Follow-Up

Public Meeting at St. Petersburg

On September 28 Miss Olive Alexander of Miami, Florida, spoke at a public meeting given by the Bahá'ís of St. Petersburg, Florida, at the Metropolitan Council House, headquarters for the National Council for Negro Women in St. Petersburg. The room was offered to the Bahá'ís free of charge "because of their service to the Negro people in this city." About 50 people attended, representing both races.

This meeting was planned as a follow up to Race Amity Day when a mixed audience of approximately 175 responded to the 500 invitations sent.

Miss Alexander's talk on The Advent of Divine Justice was well received. A large quantity of literature was taken, and several inquiries were made about future meetings.

The St. Petersburg Bahá'ís are to be highly commended for their efforts. Though small in number, they have successfully combined audaciousness with careful planning.
Central American Teaching Committee Plans
Summer School in El Salvador for December

An international summer school at Lake Coatepeque, El Salvador, will be held on December 24 to 28, sponsored by the Central American Teaching Committee.

"To Teach and Confirm Bahá'ís," a class for believers, will study the goals of the World Crusade, and a class for Bahá'ís and their guests will examine "The Standards of Bahá'í Life."

A special project of the school will be a visit to the Pepil Indian town of Izalco to present a Bahá'í program there.

San Antonio Uses "Bahá'í News" to Discuss World Crusade Progress at Feasts

Bahá'í News has been used at Feasts in the San Antonio, Texas, community in a way that should be of interest to other communities as well.

Someone is appointed to review the current issue of Bahá'í News before each Feast to formulate pertinent questions about the international and national progress of the Faith. These questions form the basis for a short discussion during the consultation period. A large world map is also used to make the news of the victories and needs of the Crusade more meaningful.

This discussion of the Bahá'í News stories has proven helpful in creating an awareness of the current events of the World Crusade.

Bahá'í Publishing Trust
Messages of the Bahá'í World, 1956-1957. By Shoghi Effendi. Introduction by Horace Holley. This volume contains the major communications which Shoghi Effendi addressed to the Bahá'í world from April 23, 1950, to his last general letter dated October 1957.

These messages cover the historic events initiated and announced by the beloved Guardian in his messages to the entire Bahá'í world community, and his reports on the achievements of the World Crusade. Bound in blue cloth, stamped in gold, in same size and format as other works of Shoghi Effendi.

Per copy ....................................... $2.00

Bahá'í Calendar, 1959. (Bahá'í year 115-116). This is our standard 9x12 calendar depicting Feasts and Holy Days in separate colors and listing all essential information concerning Holy Days and Anniversaries on the back. It carries a black and white photograph of the Temple gardens in Wilmette, with a close-up of one of the Temple pylons.

Per copy ....................................... $ .25

10 copies ..................................... $ 2.00

50 copies .................................... $ 7.50

Calendar of Events

FEASTS
November 4-Qudrat (Power)
November 23-Qawl (Speech)

HOLY DAYS
November 12-Birth of Bahá'u'lláh
November 26-Day of the Covenant
November 28-Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá
(1:00 a.m.)

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
November 21-23

STATE CONVENTIONS
December 7

Bahá'í House of Worship
Visiting Hours
Weekdays
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Entire building)

Service of Worship

Sundays
3:30 to 4:10 p.m.
“Exquisitely Beautiful Monument”
(Cable from Hands of the Faith)

With thankful hearts announce completion exquisitely beautiful monument at beloved Guardian's resting place. November first sacred dust from Bahá'u'lláh's Shrine placed in foundation in presence four Hands of Cause. Garden embellishment of precincts progressing. Appeal believers rededicate themselves service Holy Cause for which beloved of all hearts sacrificed his precious life.

November 2, 1958
Beloved Friends:

The “exquisitely beautiful monument” designed as a memorial to the beloved Guardian has been completed at his resting place in the London cemetery. No doubt we shall soon have the privilege of seeing photographs of the ceremony when, in the presence of four Hands of the Cause, sacred dust from the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh was placed in the foundation.

This historic occasion is employed by the Custodians for an appeal to all Bahá'ís throughout the world to rededicate themselves in service to the "Holy Cause for which beloved of all hearts sacrificed his precious life."

So poignant and compelling a call will surely bring a world-wide response from the Bahá'ís of all local communities in all continents. May the American Bahá'ís as one soul be kindled in ardor and determination to carry out the Guardian's wishes for the triumphant termination of the World Crusade.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Nine Hands of the Cause, Bahá'ís of Thirty-Four Countries
Meet in Singapore for Fifth Intercontinental Conference

The five Intercontinental Conferences so providentially planned by our beloved Guardian and announced to us in his last communication to the Bahá'í world in October 1957, have now been concluded. In the words of the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land, "the overflowing measure of Divine grace we have witnessed has insured that the plan of Shoghi Effendi for these great conferences has been successfully fulfilled, the spirit he hoped would be generated by them has been generated, the pioneers he hoped would arise, have arisen, the funds he hoped would be raised have been forthcoming, and the ways and means for the furtherance of the work of the Crusade which he urged should be discussed have been deliberated upon and are bearing fruit already in different parts of the Bahá'í world."

Although all five Conferences were dedicated to the same five-fold purpose defined by the Guardian himself, each was unique in certain respects. This was true also of the fifth and final Intercontinental Conference held September 27 to 29, 1958, in Singapore, Malaya, for it drew representatives from the largest geographical area of the world, included members from the black, white, yellow, and brown races, and converts to the Faith from all the major religions of the world.

Conference Site Changed to Singapore

Shoghi Effendi had designated Djakarta, Indonesia, as the city for this final Conference. However, the internal conditions of that country were such that at the last moment a change of venue to Singapore became necessary. Nevertheless, there were in attendance 150 believers from thirty-four countries, representing thirteen national spiritual assemblies. Present also were nine Hands of the Cause, a member of the International Bahá'í Council, twelve members of the Auxiliary Boards, and nine Knights of Bahá'u'lláh.

This inspiring report of attendance was included in the cablegram from the Conference conveying to the
Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land the deepest appreciation for the presence of the beloved Guardian's special representative, Leroy C. Ioas, and of their own loving message to the Conference. The message further expressed assurance of the gathered friends of "loving devotion, loyalty and dedication of (their) services (in the) execution of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Grand Design initiated by the beloved Guardian" and humbly supplicated their prayers.

As in the other Conferences, the reading of the special message from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land and greetings from the Hands in attendance struck the keynote for the deliberations which were to follow. Mrs. Shirin Fozdar, chairman of the Regional Spiritual Assembly of South East Asia, acting as chairman of the Conference, presided at all sessions, which opened with prayers in Persian, English, and other languages spoken in this area. After extending a loving welcome to all the friends, she presented the representative of the Guardian, Hand of the Cause Leroy Ioas, who, after commenting that in reality Shoghi Effendi was the host of this Conference, read the stirring message from the Holy Land (published in the November Baha'i News).

Leroy Ioas Pays Tribute to Shoghi Effendi

The chairman next introduced Hand of the Cause 'Abu'l-Qasim Faizi, who spoke of the five aims of the Conference. Then Mr. Ioas gave to the friends an intimate, loving, and reverent account of the thirty-six years of the sacrificial services of the beloved Guardian to the Cause of God, including in his remarks many moving incidents illustrating the humility, love, kindness, devotion, insight, and unerring guidance of the Guardian, as well as the degree to which he sacrificed his personal life in his obedience and dedication to the commands of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. (This address by Mr. Ioas is printed on page 4 in this issue of Baha'i News.)

Mr. Ioas presented the World Crusade map created by the beloved Guardian himself, which had been displayed also at the other four Conferences, describing how Shoghi Effendi personally kept a record in his pocket-size notebook of every achievement of the objectives of the Ten-Year Plan, and with what happiness he received news of every new victory.

The sessions of the first day concluded with the Guardian's representative anointing all present with attar of roses and the viewing of the portrait of Bahá'u'lláh brought to the Conference by Mr. Ioas at the Guardian's instruction for this purpose.

Southeast Asia Crusade Goals Reviewed

The sessions of the second day included a review of the Crusade goals in Southeast Asia, followed by a call by Habib Sabet for contributions for the further progress of the Faith in that part of the world. In a short time the sum of $104,000 (United States dollars) was pledged. Then a call was made for pioneers, and nine arose on the spot and offered their services.

The morning of the third and last day was devoted largely to talks on teaching, emphasizing the Guardian's instructions that knowledge and teaching are the sacred duties of each believer, and that the administrative aspect of the Faith must be developed so that the Cause will function readily and efficiently at all times. Throughout the sessions there were inspiring talks by the nine Hands of the Cause, who, in addition to Leroy Ioas and 'Abu'l-Qasim Faizi, were: Tarazu'llah

Mrs. Margery McCormick, special representative of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, reported the accomplishments of that community in the World Crusade, including the statement that there are forty-eight pioneers from the United States in nineteen countries of Asia, that $49,158 had been spent on teaching assistance to Asia since the opening of the World Crusade, and that $1,515,000 had been spent in achieving other objectives of the Crusade throughout the world.

Mr. Faizi explained how the Custodians of the Faith function in the Holy Land, and Miss Agnes Alexander spoke of the development of the Faith in Japan, where there are now eight local assemblies and a national spiritual assembly embracing six territories. She also stated that the beloved Guardian had called the National Spiritual Assembly of Japan the spiritual North Pole of the Pacific, and Australia the spiritual South Pole, and had instructed them to work together as the axis for teaching work in that vast area.

Call for More Pioneers in Pacific

Mrs. Peggy Ross, secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of Canada, and Mrs. Marguerite Sears of Africa also spoke on behalf of the Bahá'ís of their countries. Noel Walker, representing the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia, called for more pioneers in the Pacific, especially for the Admiralty and Cocos Islands, and for help for the New Hebrides and its Bahá'í school.

Mrs. Shirley Charters of New Zealand described the teaching work among the Maoris, and Miss Mable Sneider of Central America, enroute to pioneer in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, asked for help for the Pacific goals of the National Spiritual Assembly of Central America, Panama and Mexico: the Marshall Islands and Tuamotu, as well as for the Gilberts, where there are many believers needing careful and patient deepening in the Faith. Pioneers from Brunei and Laos also spoke, and a moving moment was one in which four Arabian believers who had been in prison for six months for the Faith, were called to the platform.

Members of the Auxiliary Boards, pioneers, and believers from all of the countries represented were asked to give reports on the progress of the World Crusade and particularly on the supplementary tasks assigned to them by the beloved Guardian in his last communications to the Regional Spiritual Assembly of Southeast Asia. Many of the Hazíratu’l-Quds were already purchased, summer schools had been conducted, and time schedules adopted for other goals.

Minute's Silence for Memorial Observance

On the last day, at four o'clock Singapore time, after the chanting of prayers in Persian, a minute's silence was observed by the Conference to coincide with the exact time of the placing of flowers on the grave of the beloved Guardian in London by English believers on behalf of the Southeast Asia Conference.

Thus ended the last of the five great gatherings called by Shoghi Effendi himself for the rallying of all the believers throughout the world and for the release of the spiritual forces that can, if each plays his part, insure the triumph of the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh in all of the five continents and the islands of the seas.

Having witnessed the results of the other four Conferences, the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land had confidently expressed the hope that this final Conference “will have repercussions all over the world, and, releasing spiritual powers as yet untapped, enable the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh to penetrate into the lives of the peoples of the older yellow and white civilizations, so materialistic, so disillusioned, so morally corrupt and spiritually bankrupt.” “Let us not waste one precious moment,” they wrote in their Conference message. “We must now go forth like good soldiers, a conquering army, each to his own post to do his own battle, keep his own tryst on the home or pioneer front . . .” “Shoghi Effendi’s love is burning in our hearts, his appeals still fresh in our ears, the vision he gave us of our present tasks clear and perfect; let us keep it forever before our eyes.”
The Guardian of the Faith
by Leroy Ioas

Singapore Intercontinental Conference
September 27, 1958

It is difficult for a person with a limited capacity to say anything about the Guardian of the Bahá’í Faith. I recall one time when speaking of the Guardian, I spoke of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá at the same time and Shoghi Effendi said: “You must never mention ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and the Guardian at the same time. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá is the ocean, I’m but a drop.” All I can do is to relate experiences of the love and deeds of the Guardian.

Shoghi Effendi was thirty-six years dedicated and completely efaced for the Faith of God. Thus he was thirty-six years a complete sacrifice to the Cause of God. Shoghi Effendi arose usually about 5:30; then performed his prayers, then received his mail, cables, letters, and minutes from all over the world. Friends, you don’t know how meticulous he was—all mail was opened by him. After this rush cables were read and answered.

In the afternoon he would go up to the Shrine of the Báb and meet with the Eastern pilgrims and have tea with them, would lead them in prayer at the Sacred Shrine. He would return to his home, read cables, direct correspondence, thence to Western Pilgrim House and dine with the pilgrims from the West; would answer their questions, then meet with the Bábí Council and direct correspondence again, 5:30 to 11:30, not one day a week, not two days a week, but seven days a week, week after week, year after year.

When I first arrived at Haifa I was impressed by the delicacy of the features of Shoghi Effendi. I was amazed to see the delicate, fine, beautiful, but small man Shoghi Effendi was. He was smaller than ‘Abdu’l-Bahá; Shoghi Effendi was about the size of Bahá’u’lláh. When Shoghi Effendi was a small child, the Greatest Holy Leaf used to take him into her arms and say that these hands are the hands of Bahá’u’lláh. His features were a great deal like those of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. His eyes were like those of the Báb, they had the same brilliance.

Everything about Shoghi Effendi was refined, delicate, beautiful, glorious. The trait or virtue that stands out most is his rare humility, a humility I could not understand. It was evanescent in the greatest degree. For instance, Shoghi Effendi never spoke of himself, never spoke of himself as the Guardian. He would talk of the days of the Báb, Bahá’u’lláh, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, then refer to the days after them. Shoghi Effendi never spoke about his Ten-Year Plan. He said the task we have to do is the Ten-Year Crusade. Then another virtue that we don’t understand is a love that I am unequal to describe. When he loved an individual he saw the good deeds accomplished, never the shortcomings. How deeply he loved every person! I can’t tell you how deeply he suffered when all his kind and kin turned against the Cause.

The next trait was kindness; always trying to make someone else happy. The weight of the world was on his shoulders. Friends would cable him questions, questions—never would the friends cable him good news. What could he do for this one, that one, the servants working in the gardens, every one. A kindness to reach out to every heart to make everyone happy.

I want to tell one story to show his tenderness, his love. A member of the National Spiritual Assembly of Canada was on pilgrimage. One night that person discussed translations into the Eskimo language. This person said the Eskimos are not acquainted with roses and nightingales, etc. So many of the Writings mention these things, could the rose, nightingales, etc. be changed to fish and other words the Eskimos know. Shoghi Effendi said in translating literature it is about God. The Words of Bahá’u’lláh must be written as Bahá’u’lláh wrote them. Next night when saying goodbye to this pilgrim, Shoghi Effendi took a phial of attar of roses out of his pocket and said to the pilgrim: “When you return to Canada, please anoint the friends on my behalf. This is special attar of roses for the rose. He then reached in his pocket and brought out another phial of attar of roses and said that this is for the Eskimos. Perhaps this way they will get acquainted with the rose Bahá’u’lláh spoke of.” Now how could Shoghi Effendi, so weighed down with the weight of the Cause, think of these things to do. This is the spiritual insight, the tenderness, the love of Shoghi Effendi.

One day a person came to Western Pilgrim House sick and looking like a refugee, poorly dressed. I asked what I could do for him and he said he was on pilgrimage. I took him to his room. When it came to meet the Guardian I suggested he change his clothes. I didn’t realize the only clothes he had were on his back. We went down to meet the Guardian. The Guardian said that this guest of honor must sit at the head of the table; this man was a Knight of Bahá’u’lláh. When this man left he kissed him likewise on both cheeks and said that this man is one of God’s heroes. The way the Guardian judges people is in contrast to the way we judge people.

This was astonishing to me, being trained in the west—the precision of the mind of Shoghi Effendi. The manner in which he dispatched his work, everything he did was astonishing. I say that I was trained as a business man, to make quick decisions. Letters
would come from all over the world about this subject or that subject, and the Guardian would say, "Why don’t they write the essence, that is all I wanted.” Then he would cable for essence.

I want to say he suffered a lot because of wrong actions of Baha’is. I was asked about the divine infallibility. The same question came up in the Christian era. Where did Shoghi Effendi and the Guardianship begin or end? Was everything he did infallible? I can only say I don’t know. The best thing I can do is state one or two experiences, then judge for yourselves.

One night at the dinner table Shoghi Effendi was discussing the operation of the administration in the future and as he talked I noted one thing that I felt wouldn’t work under a certain condition and intended to ask him later. When the Guardian had finished and was sipping his coffee he turned to me and said that under certain conditions that wouldn’t work, and then went on to explain it to me.

Another time the Guardian was relating an incident which happened when I was on the National Spiritual Assembly of U.S.A., and he said to me: “You were on the National Spiritual Assembly at that time, weren’t you, Leroy? You tell me whether what I say is what happened at that meeting.” It was as the beloved Guardian related.

I have been asked whether the Guardian knew his passing was near. I can only relate incidences.

One night the Guardian came to dinner very very distressed. He had not been well all day, and when he came over he pushed his dinner away, he pushed his food away. Ruhíyyih Khánum said: "Shoghi Effendi, won’t you eat? You haven’t eaten all day.”

One night Shoghi Effendi talked on spiritual things, the most beautiful I ever heard. He said, “Let us enter the door of heaven and forget for a few minutes.”

Usually I would take Shoghi Effendi over to his house after dinner and talk of all sorts, the National Spiritual Assembly, the pilgrims. This night the Guardian said: “Leroy I’ve been Guardian of the Cause of God for thirty-six years. Bahá’u’lláh was Head of the house for twenty-nine years. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá was Head of the Faith twenty-nine years. I’ve been Guardian for thirty-six years. In Bahá’u’lláh’s time the Faith was in eleven countries, in the days of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in thirty-one countries and today it is in 250 countries and islands. The problems have weighed me down, I can’t stand it.”

I said: “Shoghi Effendi, why not give me more work, and you just make the decision, that will give relief.” The Guardian, with tears in his eyes said, “Leroy, only God can give me relief.”

Friends, just a few more minutes:

Shoghi Effendi one night related early experiences when he was appointed Guardian of the Cause of God. He said he had not expected it because he thought he would be able to help establish the Universal House of Justice, then when he returned from England to Haifa he found he was appointed Guardian, and he didn’t want it. He said: “I didn’t think I was capable of the heavy task. I knew what it meant, so went away by myself and did not return till I conquered myself and gave myself to God, and when I had conquered myself and turned myself to God I returned and knew I could do the thing God wanted me to do.”

The Guardian said that this is what every Bahá’í in the world must do. Every Bahá’í must turn and give themselves to God. It makes no difference what the responsibility is, national spiritual assembly, local spiritual assembly, pioneering, all must become channels; until he does, he cannot do full service to the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh.
Benelux Bahá’ís, With Assistance of Many National Assemblies, Proclaim Faith to Millions at World’s Fair in Brussels

On the seventeenth of April 1958, King Baudouin of Belgium pronounced, in his royal discourse which opened the Universal and International Exhibition of Brussels: “Technology does not suffice to create a civilization. Though it is an element of progress, it demands a parallel development of our moral conceptions, of our will to realize, together, a constructive effort.”

There, on the plain of Heysel just north of Brussels, was launched a magnificent and extraordinary undertaking, concentrating the effort of forty-seven nations and eight international and supranational organizations, to present to the world the scientific, cultural, artistic, and moral achievements of our times. Its theme . . . “World Cooperation; The Building of a New and More Human World; Modern Technology in the Service of Man.”

To the Bahá’ís throughout the world, this exhibition spelled out in very realistic terms the teachings and prophecies of Bahá’u’lláh about the progress which man would attain, and of the crying need which mankind has for the healing grace of God.

For those Bahá’ís visiting the exhibition grounds, though marveling at the audacious architecture, the technological wonders, the folklore and customs of so many peoples, they saw that humanity was not yet really aware of that Cord which could bind the human race into one fold, one world. All the elements were there, but the divine knowledge of mankind’s oneness and the machinery of world order were lacking. The majority of the nations, in presenting all aspects of their cultures, also showed a considerable degree of nationalistic sentiment.

But in spite of this, such organizations as the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, the European Coal and Steel Community, the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, the Council of Europe, Benelux, and the Customs Cooperation Council demonstrated that the path ahead leads to unity.

As itinerant teachers. A fine response was received, and literature poured in from Germany and Austria, India and Burma, Denmark, United States, Brazil-Peru-Columbia-Ecuador-Venezuela, British Isles, Sweden, and Singapore.

Through the Hands of our Faith residing in the Holy Land, contacting the Commissioner General in Tel Aviv, it was made possible for the showing of some color slides of the Bahá’í Shrines and Gardens in the continuous projections which were given every day at the Israeli Pavilion. What Bahá’í was not also surprised, in walking into the basement projection room of this Pavilion, to find, among eight immense panels representing major cities in Israel, one showing the Queen of Carmel seated upon her throne overlooking the Bay of Haifa, and another the city of ‘Akká—with the Most Great Prison! In addition, free literature showed certain photographs of the Shrine of the Báb.

2100 Large Posters Displayed Over Large Area

The National Spiritual Assembly of Persia announced that, since it had no literature to send, they were transmitting a contribution to be used to spread the name of the Faith during the period of the exhibition. This sizeable contribution was put to immediate and efficacious use. A series of 2100 large posters were printed in black ink on an orange background, and

Bahá’í display in Brussels, Belgium, during the World’s Fair.
were placed all over the cities of Brussels, Antwerp, Charleroi, and Liege in Belgium; in Amsterdam and The Hague, Holland, and in Luxembourg City. The poster simply was headed with the word "BAHA'I" in large letters and beneath it the words "WORLD UNITY" printed in French, Dutch, English, German, Spanish, and Italian. At the base of each was indicated the address of the respective Bahá'í Center of the city, and when meetings were held.

The literature, so generously offered, was passed out at every opportunity, and all efforts were united, both by the local Bahá'ís as well as the visiting Bahá'ís, to broadcast the Faith.

It was also through the means provided by the National Assembly of Persia and the aid of the National Assembly of the United States, that a neat, attractive display was maintained for a period of over four months at a central location in the city. The display showed the beautiful model of the House of Worship at Wilmette and various photographs and literature of the Faith in different languages.

It was an honor to have in Brussels during the entire period of the Fair, Mehdi Azizbaglou, a Persian Bahá'í who was the Commissioner-General of the Iranian Pavilion, and his wife. Mr. Azizbaglou gave an immense prestige to the Faith by his presence and position, and he never failed to help wherever possible. On October 1, on behalf of King Baudouin, Commissioner-General of the Exposition Baron Moens de Fernig decorated Mr. Azizbaglou as Commander of the Order of the Crown for his services rendered. This took place as part of the celebrations of National Day of Iran.

Worthy also of mention is Mr. Ezzat Zahra'i, secretary at the Iranian Pavilion to the Commissioner-General, who was equally a member of the Executive Committee of "Jeuneexpo," a youth organization of those who worked at the fair grounds, amounting to 1800 youth. This organization, strictly non-political, was designed to meet the demands of the youth, to acquaint the young people gathered there from all nations, and to create a better understanding aiming at harmony of the races and peoples. Opportunities were taken to make the Faith known to many of the members.

Before and during the exhibition, the Chief of Translators for the Belgian Government at the Fair attended many public and fireside meetings.

Reception Committee Serves Visiting Bahá'ís

To handle the physical arrangements for the Bahá'í visitors coming to Brussels during the Fair, a special Reception Committee was formed locally, and their services greatly facilitated helping the friends. Special cards showing the name and address of the Hazíratu'l-Quds, telephone numbers of French, Persian- and English-speaking Bahá'ís, and a map indicating how to get to the Hazíratu'l-Quds were printed.

The name "Bahá'í Faith" and Hazíratu'l-Quds address was registered with Directeur du Syndicat d'Initiative de Bruxelles, Commissariat de Tourisme, and Federation Touristique du Brabant in order that the friends could be traced by visitors.

It was announced that this year a long article written by the Bahá'í International Community for the Yearbook of International Organizations would be printed, and excellent contact was made with leading personnel connected with this yearbook which is printed in Brussels.

Preliminary to the exhibition opening, an unsolicited article appeared in Le Soir, leading newspaper in Belgium, entitled "Ten Years in the Promised Land" by Mr. Louis Verschraeghen, with a photo of the Shrine of the Báb and an accompanying three-column article.

At the inauguration ceremonies held with all Commissioner-General's, Philibert Schoomblood, a leading Belgian architect and designer of the "Palais de l'Elegance," spoke openly of the Faith.

As part of a series of three meetings entitled "Messages of Brussels," Bahá'ís attended one on May 28 which had as its theme "Spiritual Values in a More Humane World," where leading professors and spiritual leaders from Italy, France, Brazil, and Japan spoke on the need for spiritual values amidst temporal achievements. Most talks were strongly akin to the Bahá'í teachings.

The Baha'i News of September 1958 reported at length on the "East-West Symposium" held June 26 to July 3 under the auspices of the Belgian branch of UNESCO. Excellent contacts were made through the two Bahá'í delegates to this Symposium and many of the leading personalities assisting declared openly their knowledge of the Faith and admiration for its Teachings. These personalities included the Director-General of UNESCO, who spoke very warmly of the Bahá'ís of the United States and his keen awareness of the Bahá'í International Community.

During the summer months at the exhibition, the Israeli Pavilion came out with the showing of a 16 mm film on Israel, which included the Shrine of the Báb.

There was a break in activities with the holding of the Bahá'í Intercontinental Conference at Frankfurt on July 25-29, and the second European Conference of the Hands on July 30-31. After that historic Conference, Brussels had the privilege of being veritably deluged with Bahá'í friends from all over the world.

Brussels, being the midway point between Frankfurt
and the graveside of our beloved Guardian, received these dear friends, totalling from 250-300. Up till that time and after the Conference, the visiting Bahá'ís came from Tanganyika, Uganda, India, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Germany, Austria, England, Rhodes Islands, Pakistan, Israel, France, United States, Turkey, Iran, Libya, Ireland, and the Canary Islands.

Two Hands of the Cause Visit Brussels

A particular honor for the community was to welcome Jaláí Khážeh, Hand of the Faith in the Holy Land, on August 3, during his first trip to Europe to see the friends, and Dhikru'lláh Khádem, Hand of the Cause in Asia, well known by the Benelux friends from past visits, on August 27. Their words were inspiring and comforting as they spoke of the sacrifice of our beloved Guardian and the meaning of our lives in terms of the Ten-Year Crusade. Mr. Khážeh spoke at a fireside, and Mr. Khádem to all Bahá'ís of Belgium at the Hazíratu'l-Quds in Brussels.

Firesides and open meetings were held at the Hazíratu'l-Quds at numerous intervals during the visits of the friends, often totaling over fifty present. The majority of the visitors were Persian friends from the cradle of our Faith who, by their special character, imparted a great joy and strength to the Community.

Glistening in the sun on the plain of Heysel stands the nine-globed Atomium, symbol of the World's Fair and the material benefit of man. Another united effort of man and nature's resources were put to work in order to give humanity a hope and pave the way for a better world. God's ways are often mysterious and beyond our immediate ken but we, the Bahá'ís, can pray that this gathering-place, this experimental testing-ground of international cooperation, become another of the prime-movers which pushes the human race onward to that Lesser Peace. The words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá ring ever louder in our ears as we reflect: “O Thou kind Lord! Unite all, let the religions agree, make the nations one so that they may be as one kind and as children of the same fatherland. May they associate in unity and concord. O God! Upraise the standard of the oneness of humankind. O God! establish the Most Great Peace.”

—Ben Levy

First Bahá'í School of South Vietnam Has Over 100 Students

The first Bahá'í school in South Vietnam is located in the village of Phuoc Long. The school has two classes: the morning class, with its teacher, Bui Van Trieu, is shown in the photograph at the left. This class consists of eighty-three students, and the afternoon class has twenty-five students. All teachers are Bahá'ís.

The building in the picture at the right shows the Hazíratu'l-Quds of Phuoc Long, which also serves as the Bahá'í school house. This is the only school house in this village.

Students are taught the basic grammar school subjects, and elements of Bahá'í history and principles simplified for their capacities.

It is expected that next year the village itself might assist the Bahá'ís in enlarging the school facilities, since the village officials are very favorably impressed.
Guardian's Last Wish For Paraguay Realized With Dedication of Temple Site

DEDICATION of the land for the Mother Temple of Paraguay was the culminating event of the third annual Bahá'í Teaching Congress at Asuncion on October 12, 1958.

The purchase of this site, located fifteen kilometers from the capital of Paraguay, was made on September 30, and reported in Bahá'í News for November. It is three hectares in area (about seven and one-half acres).

Prayers were read in English, Spanish, and Guarani at the dedication ceremony, held in the midst of tall, swaying palm trees.

During the program, the Paraguayan friends were reminded that the purchase of this land was the last expressed wish of Shoghi Effendi for their country, and they felt a sense of deep gratitude and triumph as well as the expectancy of many teaching confirmations for the future.

The Teaching Congress, held at the Hazíratu'lı-Quds, brought together the Bahá'ís of Paraguay and Srta. Mary Binda of Santiago, Chile, a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, for a program of study and consultation.

Srta. Binda spent a week in Asuncion, and during this time she was given opportunities to speak directly on the Faith on two radio stations, as well as to talk with United Nations' officials and make other important contacts for the prestige of the Faith. Three public meetings were held at the Center during this time.

Left: Group of Bahá'ís at the dedication of the Temple Site on October 12, 1958. Right: Third annual Bahá'í Congress of Paraguay, held at the Hazíratu'lı-Quds in Asuncion on October 12, 1958.
Central and East Africa Progress Report
Lists Impressive Achievements

Included in a general progress report of October 1, 1958, from the National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa are these impressive facts:

There is a total of 176 local spiritual assemblies, 151 groups, 202 isolated centers, making a total of 529 centers. The individuals that make up these centers represent ninety-eight African tribes.

At the present time Bahá'í literature has been produced in the following languages: Acholi, Ateso, Giriam, Kikikuyu, Lubukusu, Luganda, Lugbara, Lumasaba, Luo, Runyoro-Rutoro, Swahili, and Yao.

All five goals of the Ten-Year Plan have been achieved: purchase of land for the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, formation of the Regional National Assembly of Central and East Africa, establishment of the National Hażiratu'l-Quds in Kampala, incorporation of the National Assembly, and purchase of national endowments.

Action on achieving the six goals of the Central and East Africa Seven-Year Plan has been initiated, and varying degrees of progress are reported. These goals include the multiplication of the number of believers, isolated centers, groups, and assemblies; consolidation of work achieved; initiation of the National Bahá'í Fund; establishment of Bahá'í endowments and incorporation of local assemblies; construction of the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkár; and translation and dissemination of Bahá'í literature.

Supplementary goals toward which progress has been made include at least one Hażiratu'l-Quds for each territory, recognition of Bahá'í Holy Days, establishment of Bahá'í burial grounds, public recognition of the Faith, settlement of additional islands, and acquisition of land for Bahá'í schools.

Three-Day Taiwan Summer School
Stresses Administration of Faith

Devotions in Chinese, Persian and English opened the sessions of the second Taiwan Summer School held in Taipei, October 10-12, in the Anna Lee room of the International House. Miss Agnes Alexander, Hand of the Cause from Japan, was present, and also Carl Scherer, Auxiliary Board member from Macau, China.

Topics discussed included the following: "The Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and the Guardian" by Agnes Alexander; "The Need for Administration" by Carl Scherer; "Bahá'í Principles" by M. S. Yuan-on; "History of the Bahá'í Faith" by Wang Shi; "Progressive Revelation" by Mr. Suleimani; "Institutions of the Faith" by Keith Craig; "Development of the Soul" by Edith Danielson-Craig.

Agnes Alexander also reported on the Southeast Asia Conference, and Carl Scherer presented slides on the Shrine of the Bab, and the Southeast Asia Conference.

An open panel discussion on applications of administration, held on the morning of October 12, gave an interesting highlight to the meetings.

Thornton Chase Memorial Meeting Held

A memorial program for Thornton Chase, the first American Bahá'í, was held at his grave in Inglewood Park Cemetery, Los Angeles, Calif., on September 30, 1958. The Local Spiritual Assembly of Inglewood conducted the program, consisting of readings from the Bahá'í Writings.

'Abdu'l-Bahá asked that Mr. Chase's grave be visited annually on the date of his passing.
**Formation of Bahá’í Group on Cherokee Reservation**

Demonstrates Perseverance and Obedience to Teachings

__Ethel Murray__ was among the first Bahá’ís in this country to arise to pioneer among the American Indians in the beginning months of the Ten-Year Crusade. Leaving her home in Providence, R.I., in November 1953, Mrs. Murray settled first in Asheville, N. Car., then in Bryson City, and finally in Cherokee, which she had chosen as her ultimate destination.

This reservation was of special importance to the Crusade, for the Cherokee language was the one chosen by the Guardian for the first American Indian translation of the Bahá’í Writings.

Mrs. Murray has remained in Cherokee since June 1954. Only those closely associated with her know to some extent the “staying power” of her devotion to the Faith and to her beloved friends, the Cherokee Indians. With the recent formation of a Bahá’í group in Cherokee, with Mrs. Murray, Minnie Feather, and Nellie Jumper as members, and the establishment of a small but exceedingly attractive Bahá’í Center in the heart of the village, it seemed timely that something of the Cherokee story be shared with the friends in Baha’i News. A letter from Mrs. Murray, written in response to such a request, follows:

**Dear Friends:**

It is difficult to summarize the varied experiences of the last five years, when I have been wholly dependent on Bahá’u’lláh.

I felt that the first thing that should be done, was to find someone to translate some of the Bahá’í teachings into the Cherokee language. This took some time and effort, but finally two were selected who could work together. Our wonderful Indian Committee sent the substance for a pamphlet *A New Day Comes* and Mose Owle and Ben Bushyhead did the translation.

As distances to most of the Indian homes are so great that it was difficult to reach many of these people, and some other doors were closed, I decided to follow ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s example and try to get some people to come to me. By offering clothing that was badly needed, and which the friends have been kindly sending to me for distribution, it was not long before a number were coming to my house more or less regularly.

In this way I was able to talk to them of the Faith.

My home was open to all, and I soon became known as “the Bahá’í lady.” I made it a point to follow Bahá’u’lláh’s teaching in the *Hidden Words* No. 30, “Deny not My servant should he ask anything from thee, for his face is My face; be then abashed before Me.”

During the second year Minnie Feather, who is part Cherokee, came into the Faith, and though she had difficulty in coming at regular periods, there was a close bond of friendship and understanding.

There have been many happy experiences, some humorous and some discouraging, but Bahá’u’lláh has gradually opened doors of service, and made it possible to establish a suitable place for a Bahá’í Center, with a display in front, where many of the thousands of tourists from all over the country can stop if they wish, and learn something of the Faith; or they will, at least, see the name “Bahá’í World Faith.” A few come into the Center for literature. Two Baptist ministers have been in, among others. And now almost every day I have callers and am able to say a few words for the Faith.

Then, last but not least, another sincere soul, an Indian woman whose name is Nellie Jumper, has accepted the Faith, making three of us in this group. We are looking forward to the time when another Bahá’í will come to help in this very important work, among these kind and lovable people, so dear to the heart of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.

—**Ethel Murray**

The American Indian Service Committee is anxious to hear from prospective pioneers who are interested in.

**Bahá’í Center at Cherokee, N. Car.**
assisting the work of the Cherokee Bahá’í Group. Except for the usual opportunities for teachers, nurses, and doctors, jobs are scarce on the Cherokee reservation. However, Mrs. Murray has recently written, “I believe an electrician could get a great deal of work, but he would probably have to live just off the reservation, unless Bahá’u’lláh found him a place as He did me.” Mrs. Murray’s experiences offer abundant proof that “God will assist all those who arise to serve Him.”

—AMERICAN INDIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE

Training Course in Bubulo, Uganda, Prepares Teachers To Conduct Bahá’í Weekend Schools

A Bahá’í School for thirty-three Teso teachers and District Committee members was held at Bubulo in Bugisu, Uganda, from August 23 to 29, 1958.

Javan Gutosi, member of the Central and East Africa National Spiritual Assembly, secured classroom and sleeping accommodations from the Bugisu Coffee Cooperative. For convenience, beauty of location, and the cordial hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Gutosi, no better place could have been found.

The school offered three general courses: “Bahá’í Administration,” presented by Ali Nakhjavani at the morning sessions and then demonstrated by the students at two-hour afternoon sessions; “Bahá’í History,” presented by Mary Collison; and “Some Bahá’í Laws and Social Teachings,” by Rex Collison.

Textbooks in Ateso were prepared for the latter two courses, and there was also an outline on “Administration.” Written tests on these subjects were given, and prizes were awarded to the honor students.

Although everyone worked hard for over six hours a day, they were all enthusiastic. Many said it was the finest school yet held in Uganda. The real measure of its worth will be shown in the number and success of weekend schools held in sections of Teso by these students of the Bubulo school.

Informal evening discussions, stories, and singing, were enjoyed by everyone. It is hoped that similar schools in Swahili and Luganda will be organized soon.

First Results of Teacher Training School

The first school planned as a result of the Bubulo Teacher Training course was held in Teso District B, and was staffed by eight of the believers that had attended this training school.

In the village of Kobwin, Teso, a Bahá’í has offered his house for Bahá’í meetings and for a special training course for local assembly secretaries.

Evangelical Church Leader in Uruguay Expresses Interest in Faith Following Holy Land Visit

Bahá’ís of Montevideo, Uruguay, gave a reception for Dr. Nector Figari, well-known pastor of the Evangelical Church, on October 23, 1958, following his return from Jerusalem, where he took part in the World Bible Contest.

Since Dr. Figari’s return, he has been giving much publicity to the Bahá’í Faith in his public talks, as he was greatly impressed with the beauty of Mt. Carmel and the spirituality surrounding the Holy Tombs.

The reception was given in the home of Roberto and Else Cazcarra, who, at the request of their distinguished guest and his friends, gave the Bahá’í Message with special reference to the prophecies fulfilled. Many questions were asked, and great interest was manifested in the Bahá’í answers.

Dr. Figari stated: “The Bahá’í Faith is so ample that the program it presents with respect to the unification of all the religions is marvelous and admirable.”

The visitors were deeply impressed when the Bahá’ís narrated the life and work of Hand of the Cause Dr.
George Townshend, and showed great interest in his last book, Christ and Bahá'u'lláh. Copies of the Kitáb-i-Áqá and The Renewal of Civilization were presented to Dr. Figari, and a beautiful bouquet of flowers was given to his wife. An invitation was extended to him to take part in the World Religion Day program in January.

Geyerville School Offered Enthusiastic Study, Improvements in Services and Accomodations

Enthusiastic study marked the 1958 season at the Bahá'í School at Geyerville, Calif. There was a strong feeling of warmth and consecration as the friends worked together and studied courses on the Covenant, various phases of Bahá'í society and culture, and ways of teachings.

In addition to the weekday schedules of eight different classes, there were Sunday seminars for about three hours in the middle of the day, with time out for lunch, that were especially appreciated by those who could come only for the day or weekend.

The school was in session for seven weeks from June 29 to August 31, with a two-week intermission. This was longer than any previous summer school season at Geyerville. Devotions were scheduled three times a day—morning, noon, and evening—instead of the usual once-a-day in the morning.

Three hundred eighty-five people were registered. The smallest weekly attendance was eighty-seven and the largest weekly attendance was 138.

The library was very popular. A total of 1,034 books were drawn, not counting those used for devotions and those read by browsers in the library.

All-year-round publicity was obtained last year in several newspapers of Sonoma County, one new paper being added to the list and the number of column inches being increased in all of them. Two newspapers in the area welcomed the Bahá'ís with editorials, and the Geyerville Chamber of Commerce published a welcome to Bahá'ís.

The extra-curricular events of the school attracted more interest than in previous years, and many came from the surrounding area for these programs. One of the high points was a talk by Hand of the Cause Leroy Loas, who gave his memories of the Guardian to a packed hall. About four hundred attended the Unity Feast, an annual "home-coming" occasion. Classes were suspended to keep the Holy Day for the Martyrdom of the Báb.

Afternoon forums were planned for every weekday except for sessions when there were classes in the afternoon. Evening programs were mainly of two types, recreation for the students attending the school, or proclamation of the Faith to the public.

In the opinion of people who have been associated
with the school for many years, this season was outstanding from several other standpoints, namely (1) financial returns which helped to pay for improvements, (2) harmony evidenced by many expressions of appreciation but only a few minor complaints, (3) more efficient management of all departments and better service offered, (4) better accommodations with a new cafeteria, improvements in the dormitories, and central sanitary facilities, and (5) the success of the newly adopted scholarship system.

This scholarship system was a "share-the-work" plan in which students put in a few hours a day on some assigned job in exchange for half of their living costs at the school. This made it possible for some to attend who otherwise could not, and helped the school to keep down salary costs. No outside help was employed.

Other students helped to keep down expenses by performing their own maid service in living quarters and by carrying their own trays in the cafeteria from steam table to dining room and back to the dishwasher. There were also volunteers for special work projects. As a result of this spirit of Bahá’í service, the National Spiritual Assembly was able to apply $2,000 from net receipts of the summer school toward the cost of cafeteria improvement.

Those who came from a distance were surprised to see the remodeled cafeteria, which was in process of being completed as the school opened. Plans for its new kitchen and for modernizing the old dining room were drawn by architectural student Roderick Ward, and the new construction was done by a Cloverdale building firm. Raymon Dones supervised all construction, and the renovating of the dining room was done by volunteer labor. The success of the project was due in large part to many hours of unselfish volunteer labor contributed by many Bahá’í individuals and communities in Northern California. Two new washrooms were built at one end of the cafeteria building. Other buildings were improved by volunteer labor with repaired foundations, new roofings, a replaced porch, additional windows, and exterior painting.

It seemed as if pride in the school and a desire to serve were contagious and carried over into the classes. There were requests for school improvement projects that could be performed from a distance by communities too far away to come to Geyserville for weekend work parties. There were also requests for more school sessions and a broader curriculum to answer the needs of more people.

—Beatrice Rinde

Attendance and Interest at Davison School
Showed Gains Over Previous Summer

Over 325 people registered for instruction during the past summer at the Davison Bahá’í School, Davison, Mich. Under the able management of Mr. and Mrs. Elva Green, and the efforts of the Maintenance Committee in redecorating and repair, the school provided an attractive fresh appearance and a pleasant, home-like atmosphere for study and discussion.

Through the skilled and devoted tutelage of Mrs. Etta Catlin, program director, the classes and social program were conducted in a well-organized manner, productive of worthwhile instruction and Bahá’í experience.

Many qualified Bahá’í teachers responded to the invitation to teach, and those in attendance benefited from their knowledge and spiritual development. Among others there were: Lois Nochman, Marjorie Brown, Edith McLaren, and Michael Jamir.

Particularly well-attended were those courses which offered help in meeting the problems of the Bahá’í in a Christian culture, and the application of Bahá’í principles in our future society. Indicative of the conscientious desire of Bahá’ís to "leaven" was the special interest displayed by students in those classes designed to aid in teaching the faith to all types of fundamentalist or liberal Christians. Also well received was a music program conducted by Esther Wilson, making the students better acquainted with available Bahá’í devotional selections.

Both the teachers and the students were heartily in favor of the experimental double-period classes in which lecture, workshop, and directed study were all used. Two such classes were scheduled and they were taught by two husband and wife teams; John and Madeline Byers, and Robert and Elinor Wolff. This method provided an intensive study of one subject rather than a survey of several subjects, and its popularity recommends it for next year’s planning.

Both the Junior and the Senior Youth Sessions were well attended, many of the students having come back for their second or third year. Wholesome recreation was sprinkled throughout their studies, and the opportunity to "socialize" with youth of other races provided a preview of the pleasant possibilities inherent in the future world community.

Weekend courses proved very popular and drew heavily from surrounding urban centers, for those people who could not arrange for a longer stay at the school. The teachers cooperated enthusiastically in these "capsule courses," and thus enriched many lives who could not otherwise share in the benefits of the school.

Throughout the summer public talks were given...
First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Logan, Utah, formed on April 21, 1938.

The student secretary in her report commented on Mr. Holley's address as follows: “Everyone there was fascinated because this was their first experience with this religion.”

A question period followed the talks, and many excellent questions were directed to all three speakers. Refreshments were served afterwards and those who wished to do so were privileged to visit the auditorium of the Bahá'í House of Worship. Many viewed the exhibits in Foundation Hall and purchased books and pamphlets.

The local Bahá'í youth circulated among the students and found several eager to accept their invitation to attend the Bahá'í youth firesides in Wilmette.

Many Arizona State College Students Learn of Faith During “Religion in Life Week”

The Religious Council on campus at Arizona State College at Flagstaff, Ariz., sponsored an observance known as “Religion in Life Week” the week of September 28 to October 3, 1958, which opened with a banquet at the First Baptist Church.

Four Bahá'ís, two students, and two adults, were in attendance. Harry Hambley, a Bahá'í representative on this council, was asked to give the Invocation, one of the Prayers for Mankind, which was very graciously received.

Each day of that week seminars for students and public meetings were held by the various faiths and denominations, culminating with a Bahá'í seminar from 3 to 4 p.m. on October 3, and a public meeting in the auditorium the same evening, both conducted by Dr. Nosratollah Rassekh.

Over seventy-five students were present at the seminars; in fact, a whole psychology class was in attendance. The evening session was most inspiring, with an excellent and thought-provoking talk by Dr. Rassekh, and a most interesting question and answer period followed. The theme for this week's activities was, “Missing Something?”, which, of course, from the Bahá'í point of view was a matchless opportunity for our speaker.

Following the meeting Bahá'ís and their interested contacts enjoyed an informal fireside at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCormick.

Greensboro Bahá'ís Continue Integrated Public Meetings

The Greensboro, N. Car., Bahá'í community continues to promulgate the Bahá'í teaching of the oneness of mankind with integrated meetings in an area that is very segregation-conscious.

On September 21 they held their Proclamation Day meeting at the Hayes Taylor YMCA with a panel discussion on “The Oneness of Religion.” Three adult Bahá'ís and one youth took part: Betty Thompson, Jack Davis, Kimball Kinney, and Judy Bernstein, a student at Duke University.

About twenty-five persons were in attendance, among them two women students from A. and T. College who became interested to the point of attending the
Conference for College Youth in Charleston, W. Va.

After the Proclamation Day meeting, most of the contacts met for coffee and fellowship after the meeting in the only restaurant in Greensboro where the white and Negro races may mingle.

The Greensboro community sponsored a statewide institute on the highlights of the Blue Ridge Summer School on October 12. Baha'i's from Charlotte, Durham, and Raleigh attended. The morning session featured a discussion of Islam, and in the afternoon summaries were given of the Blue Ridge courses on Baha'i Administration, the World Crusade, the Youth Institute, and the Covenant and Covenant-Breaking.

At least once a month the Greensboro committee goes to Winston-Salem for extension teaching. The only building in all of Winston-Salem in which integrated meetings can be held is the U.S. Army. The Greensboro Assembly's representative, Jack Davis, contacted the officer in charge, was courteously received, since the officer had a favorable impression of the Faith from a Baha'i contact in Panama, and received a definite government contract for use of the building.

Negro Welfare Group. Named for Baha'i, Dedicates New Headquarters in Miami

The James E. Scott Community Association (Negro Welfare) dedicated their new headquarters in Miami, Fla., on October 19, and the local Baha'i's were invited to attend.

Capt. James E. Scott, for whom the association was named, was a member of the Baha'i Faith. At the dedication Mrs. Emily Bethel, chairman of the Miami Local Spiritual Assembly, was invited to read the opening prayer, which she selected from the Baha'i Writings.

This Community Association functions within the framework of the National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers.

Davison School Announces Dates, Theme For Winter School Sessions

Davison Bahá'í School, Davison, Mich., will hold its annual Winter Session from December 26 to January 1. "Spiritual Reinvigoration" will be the theme for study this year.

Reservations are now being accepted at one standard rate of $4.00 per day for room and board. Interested persons who are not Baha'i are welcome at all classes. Requests should be addressed to Alice Luther, registrar; Davison Bahá'í School; 3208 S. State Road; Davison, Mich. There will be no facilities for children at this Winter Session.

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**Calendar of Events**

**FEASTS**

December 12—Masa'il (Questions)
December 31—Sharaf (Honor)

**STATE CONVENTIONS**

December 7

**NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**

January 1-4, 1959

**Baha'i House of Worship**

**Visiting Hours**

Weekdays 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Entire building)

**Service of Worship**

Sundays 3:30 to 4:10 p.m.
Message to 1958 State Conventions from the Hands of the Cause in America

WHILE in this hour all American Bahá'ís are immersed in the pressing tasks of the homefront, let us raise our eyes to the level of the universality of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, from which the purpose of our human existence and the devotion of our hearts are continuously nourished.

That universality, created for mankind in the text of His Revelation, was maintained in its full integrity from 1892 to 1921 by the Center of His Covenant, and from 1921 to 1957 by the Guardian of His Faith.

With the passing of our beloved Shoghi Effendi on November 4, 1957, the responsibility for preserving the unity of the believers throughout the world has rested upon the Chief Stewards of the Commonwealth of Bahá'u'lláh by express appointment and direction of the Guardian himself. Though the Chief Stewards supply the instrument through which the Bahá'í World Community is guided and encouraged to complete the projects defined by the Guardian, that weighty mission cannot be fulfilled except through the conscious knowledge and the ardent cooperation of the believers themselves.

It will be well to review on this occasion the salient passages in the letters we have received from Haifa since the Guardian's passing.

The Proclamation issued on November 25 by the entire body of Hands assembled at Bahji contained the words: “Is not the most precious legacy bequeathed to us by Shoghi Effendi the privilege of constancy in the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh and devotion in teaching His Message? This is the heartfelt plea we direct to every Bahá'í: The hour has come, as it came with the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, when true Bahá'ís will be distinguished by their firmness in the Covenant and their spiritual radiance while pressing forward the mighty work committed to every area of the world community—to every individual Bahá'í!...”

“When that divinely ordained body (that is, the Universal House of Justice) comes into existence, all the conditions of the Faith can be examined anew and the measures necessary for its future operation determined on consultation with the Hands of the Cause.”

On December 13 this cabled message was transmitted for all national assemblies and believers: “Conferences (that is, the five Intercontinental Conferences announced by the Guardian for 1958) provide unexampled opportunity to demonstrate mysterious divine force animating our dearly-loved Faith, the vitality of the institutions of the embryonic world order, and the determination of the Bahá'í community to diffuse uninterruptedly the fragrance of Bahá'u'lláh's mighty Revelation to a fear-laden humanity, deprived of power to recognize the Divine Light unaided.”

Two months later we received this significant message: “We do not know what the future holds in store; by this we mean that the world situation is so precarious that, as the Guardian so repeatedly pointed out, wars and disturbances of an unforeseen nature may break out and perhaps cut the World Center off from all or part of the other Bahá'í centers temporarily; meantime we have this mighty plan, the last five years of it to vigorously prosecute; it can only be coordinated and directed from the World Center.... "You and we must always bear in mind that what inspires and unites the Bahá'í World Community is the pulsating stream to and from one universal point... The Guardian himself spoke in his last message to all national assemblies of the Holy Land—the Qiblih of a world community, the heart from which the energizing influences of a vivifying Faith continually stream, and the seat and center around which the diversified activities of a divinely appointed administrative order revolve."”

In a cabled message received on April 20, the believers were invited to contribute to a special memorial fund for the purpose of erecting a monument at his grave in the London cemetery. By this decision the Custodians offered a worldwide project which united the Bahá'ís in a common gratitude for the beloved Guardian's unique services to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. A recent cable from Rúhíyyih Khánum in London announced that the monument had been completed.

On June 12 the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land issued a grave and serious call for unified understanding: “We call upon all believers, for the sake of preserving the unity of our beloved Faith for which the Báb was martyred, Bahá'u'lláh and the Master imprisoned, and for which the beloved Guardian so completely sacrificed himself, to concentrate on the thoughts expressed in the Proclamation, and to desist from all further speculation on the future develop-
ment of the institutions of the Faith—speculation which can only give rise to those very differences of interpretation forbidden by Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, and against which They repeatedly warn us. . . . Our sacred obligation is to fulfill our Guardian’s wishes, his plans, and his most cherished hopes, leaving the overall scheme of God to unfold as He sees fit, in His mysterious ways, in the days to come. Let us be confident that if we do our part He will never fail in His, and with this assurance go forward unitedly, courageously, and with complete consecration.”

These words were received in a letter dated August 8, 1958: “The great waves of prayer and loving confidence which have come pouring in to us from the national spiritual assemblies and the believers all over the world, have reassured and sustained us, and have given us strength and courage as we labor to protect the World Center and maintain it as the unifying hub of the great wheel of the Cause our Guardian so carefully built up and set in motion. . . .

“Beloved friends, we are now, together, embarked upon the most important work which human beings have ever done in the history of our planet. Ours is the precious privilege and the grave, inescapable responsibility of raising up that sacred institution, the Universal House of Justice. This can be done only after the complete triumph of his Ten-Year Plan, which is destined to lay the necessary foundation for that weighty and supreme edifice of the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh.”

Who can fail to see that in the Bahá’í situation revealed by these messages, the pure spiritual vision coincides with the nearest and most practical task facing every believer and every Bahá’í institution? Thrilled by a glimpse of the Kingdom, we turn with redoubled energy to our daily efforts to serve the World Crusade, realizing in the depths of our hearts the fact that the Crusade must be achieved in full measure by 1963 if the Universal House of Justice is to assert its majestic grandeur and creative power against the dark forces which threaten to engulf mankind in a common ruin.

The unity of Bahá’ís throughout the world is no uniformity forced upon us at the cost of our self-respect and rational powers, but a pure expression of the Holy Spirit which descended through Bahá’u’lláh as God’s Supreme Gift to mankind.

The American Hands and the members of the Auxiliary Boards pledge their utmost support to the teaching work in every state of the United States where the problem of a laggard homefront has not yet been solved, and stand ready to deal with any evidences of Covenant-breaking or insidious attempts to darken the hearts of the believers and divide the community.

Sincerely,
CORINNE TRUE
HORACE HOLLEY

Baha’i Marriage

In order to further emphasize and clarify the requisites concerning Bahá’í marriage, the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States wishes to call attention to the following excerpts from communications from the World Center, most of which were published in the Canadian Bahá’í News in August 1958.

The first is from a letter from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land, dated April 25, 1958, and is as follows: “Our beloved Guardian made it clear that it was the responsibility of the Bahá’í body performing the marriage ceremony to confirm without question the fact that the living natural parents of the two individuals who are being married have given their consent to the marriage. It is preferable that this consent be given in writing, but if this is not possible, or inadvisable for some reason, verbal consent in the presence of witnesses is sufficient.”

In this connection a letter from the beloved Guardian to the Canadian National Assembly through his secretary on June 28, 1956, stated:

“Regarding your question of applying the sanction of suspension of voting rights to people who marry without the consent of parents, this should be done from now on. The laws of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas are explicit and not open to any ambiguity at all. As long as the parents are alive, the consent must be obtained; it is not conditioned on their relationship to their children. If the whereabouts of the parents is not known legally, in other words, if they are legally dead, then it is not necessary for the children to obtain their consent, obviously. It is not a question of the child not knowing the present whereabouts of its parents, it is a question of a legal thing—if the parents are alive, they must be asked.”

Quoting again from the aforementioned letter from the Hands of the Faith: “The Guardian would permit no compromise on the question of non-Bahá’í religious marriage ceremonies in cases where both parties are Bahá’ís. If one of the parties is a non-Bahá’í, there can be two religious ceremonies.

“All believers must have the Bahá’í ceremony, regardless of whether it is legally recognized or not. If the Bahá’í is marrying a non-Bahá’í, there would be a Bahá’í ceremony in all cases, even though the non-Bahá’í also wished to have another ceremony, either civil or religious.

"...The beloved Guardian stated that in cases where there is more than one ceremony, the Bahá’í service and the other civil or religious ceremony must both be performed on the same day.”

In a letter to Australia through his secretary on June 20, 1954, the Guardian explained that where the Bahá’í is marrying a non-Bahá’í who wishes to have a ceremony of his own religion carried out, it must be quite clear that, first, “the Bahá’í partner is understood to be a Bahá’í by religion, and not to accept the religion of the other party to the marriage by having his or her religious ceremony; and second, the ceremony must be of a nature which does not commit the Bahá’í to any declaration of faith in a religion other than his own.”

In still another letter dated May 7, 1957, the Guardian wrote to Australia through his secretary: “...The Bahá’ís must, in view of the conditions of the world today, stand forth firmly and courageously as followers of Bahá’u’lláh, obeying His Laws and seeking to build His World Order. Through compromise we will never be able to establish our Faith or win others’ hearts to it. This involves often great personal sacrifice, but we know that, when we do the right thing, God gives us strength to carry it out, and we attract His blessing. We learn at such times that our calamity is indeed a blessing.”

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
"Call out to Zion, O Carmel, and announce the joyful tidings: He that was hidden from mortal eyes is come! His all-conquering sovereignty is manifest; His all-encompassing splendor is revealed. Beware lest thou hesitate or halt. Hasten forth and circumambulate the City of God that hath descended from Heaven, the celestial Kaaba round which have circled in adoration the favored of God, the pure in heart, and the company of the most exalted angels. Oh, how I long to announce unto every spot on the surface of the earth, and to carry to each one of its cities, the glad-tidings of this Revelation—a Revelation to which the heart of Sinai hath been attracted, and in whose name the Burning Bush is calling: 'Unto God, the Lord of Lords, belong the kingdoms of earth and heaven.' Verily this is the Day in which both land and sea rejoice at this announcement, the Day for which have been laid up those things which God, through a bounty beyond the ken of mortal mind or heart, hath destined for revelation. Ere long will God sail His Ark upon thee, and will manifest the people of Bahá who have been mentioned in the Book of Names."—Gl. p. 16
Construction of Gallery Walls and Roof Nears Completion as Work Progresses on House of Worship in Australia

It is nearly twelve months since the excavation work for the Temple was started. By January 1958 the cement foundation for the outer brick retaining wall had been laid and by March 21st during the Sydney Intercontinental Conference, the foundation walls with a quarter of the Temple floor had been constructed. For some months following this period work was confined to completing the base and to the preparation of forms which were to be used in the building of the walls of the Temple.

The completion of the foundation floor allowed for the next step in the construction program, which was the erection of a central cement pouring tower with its nine sixty-foot supporting columns. These columns with the tower will be further extended as the work progresses. The steel reinforcement for the columns supporting the dome and gallery now began to appear and were quickly joined by the sections of the outer walls which had been prepared on the site. These sections, each comprising a face of the Temple up to the gallery windows, were cast in moulds containing the outer facing of opaque quartz; here white cement was used, as well as a waterproofing material. These sections, about two inches thick and strongly reinforced with heavy timber, are lifted into position by a large travelling crane which serves all parts of the construction. An inner form is then erected and that portion of the wall is poured. The outer surface of the Temple walls is thus finished as the wall is poured and requires only a stiff brushing when the form is removed to show the quartz aggregate. The repetitive nature of the work enables an unusual degree of economy to be achieved as the materials used in construction can be used progressively from face to face of the Temple.

At this time, November 1958, the nine facings of the lower walls have been erected. It is estimated that the outer gallery walls and gallery roof will be completed by January 1959. Precast frames for archways and doors, gallery windows etc., are being made in the factory—these will be made entirely of white cement and a finer opaque quartz than that used for the walls. Progress has been delayed in part by the need to experiment with unusual features in construction. This is the first time in Australia that such a type of finish has been used extensively on a building. The completion of the gallery roof will actually mark the halfway point of construction and, as the second story and dome will be much less in area, progress is expected to be accelerated. The dome itself originally presented a number of problems which have now been satisfactorily eliminated, and the construction of the dome should not now be difficult or lengthy. The ribs of the dome, made of pre-stressed concrete, will be made on the ground, then when lifted into position will support the scaffolding and forms for the dome sections. It is now intended to make only an inner form and then to blow the cement and fine aggregate on to the forms with a cement gun. An unusual feature of the Temple will be the use of a hollow ring immediately above them is built, the first roof is almost complete, and the wall between the two roofs has been started. It is estimated that this contract will be completed within four months, after which the dome will be constructed.

Mashriqu'l-Adhkar of Africa Rises on Kikaya Hill

From many parts of Kampala it is now possible to see the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar rising on the crest of Kikaya Hill. The contract now being executed is for the main structure, and already the beams of the arches are cast in place, the concrete-block wall...
Readings at Nineteen-Day Feasts

Although the question about what readings are appropriate for the spiritual portion of the Nineteen-Day Feast was answered a number of years ago, it has been asked so frequently in recent months that the National Spiritual Assembly finds it advisable to quote the following excerpt from a letter to a believer from the Guardian through his assistant secretary dated April 27, 1956, published in the Australian Bahá'í Bulletin:

"The Writings of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh can certainly be read any time at any place; likewise the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá are read freely during the spiritual part of the Feast. The Guardian has instructed that during the spiritual part of the Feast, his own writings should not be read. In other words, during the spiritual part of the Feast, readings should be confined to the Writings of the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh and to a lesser extent, of the Master; but during that part of the Feast the Guardian's writings should not be read. During the period of administrative discussion of the Feast, then the Guardian's writings may be read. Of course, during the administrative part of the Feast there can be no objection to the reading of the Writings of the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh or 'Abdu'l-Bahá."

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

(The above article, which should have been included in the December issue, was omitted due to space limitations.)
Visit to New Zealand by Hand of the Cause from Africa  
Eagerly Received by 4000 Who Heard His Talks on Faith

WHEN Enoch Olinga, Hand of the Cause from Africa, a native of Nigeria, made his pilgrimage to Haifa nearly two years ago, the beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, gave him a new name, “Father ofVictories,” for the contributions he had made in teaching the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh. Now, along with the efficient and enthusiastic sponsorship of the Bahá’ís of New Zealand, he has added new triumphs to the Cause of God.

On Saturday, October 18, Mr. Olinga arrived from Australia where he had gone following the Intercontinental Conference in Singapore, and was immediately driven to Hamilton, eighty miles way, where a very full program had been arranged among the Maori people. An official welcome was given to Mr. Olinga, and a party of twenty-five Bahá’ís, at Turangawaewae Marae, where it was mentioned that he was the first person from Africa to cross the Marae, although many famous people had visited this Pa (Maori village), including the Queen of England. A recording of the Bahá’í Faith in the Maori language was presented by Mr. Olinga to the Maori ruler, King Koroki, in a tearful, and heart-moving scene. Then, after another journey of thirty-three miles, Mr. Olinga addressed over 200 Maoris at Kihikihì. They came in chartered buses from many miles around, and along with their four paramount tribal chiefs who were present, were spell-bound at the speaker’s words, and presented him with gifts.

On October 19 Mr. Olinga visited Rotorua, most famous of Maori areas, where personal contact was made with several people. The next stop for the Bahá’í party, with their honored guest, was a large forestry school in Kaiangaroa where there are two Tongan Bahá’ís, and where an address by Mr. Olinga had been arranged by the Welfare Officer in charge. The audience, completely absorbed by Mr. Olinga’s words, took all of the literature on the Faith that was available. A most thrilling sidelight to this evening was the news that the Welfare Officer had twice visited Shoghi Effendi and the Bahá’í gardens in Haifa, and both he and his wife declared their desire to be Bahá’ís.

A number of schools and colleges were addressed by this honored Hand of the Cause, and several excellent newspaper interviews were published. The final occasion in this area was a well-attended public meeting in Hamilton, attended by a Maori Methodist minister who had been present at Turangawaewae. Altogether Mr. Olinga had addressed almost 3,000 people, other than Bahá’ís.

Talk on Race Amity Enthusiastically Received

The New Plymouth, New Zealand, area had also made excellent plans for Mr. Olinga’s visit, which included a talk on “Racial Amity and Good Will” at the YWCA to a group of thirty-nine guests of the Bahá’ís, some of them Maoris. Concerning this talk, the New Zealand Bahá’í Newsletter states: “After he had spoken for an hour and a half, discussion was so eager that supper was put back time and again and, at the request of the audience, slides of the Holy Places at Haifa were shown and explained.”

There were many newspaper interviews in New Plymouth, and invitations to appear at schools where the children were much attracted to Mr. Olinga and clung to his hands. One headmaster spoke of the visit at the evening Parents’ Center discussion. There were luncheon meetings, many personal contacts with Maori friends, and one with the Mayor of New Plymouth, Mr. Honner, who had officially opened the Bahá’í Summer School last year on Mt. Egmont, reported in the March 1958 Bahá’í News. The power of Bahá’í love and fellowship was demonstrated in the Maori friends’ insistence
Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga and Guide Rangi at Whakarewarewa, Rotorua. He is holding the carved stick presented to him at Turangawaewae by the Maoris there.

on driving Mr. Olinga to the airport.

**Auckland Activities Include Radio, Magazine Interviews**

Activities in Auckland began with an informal evening gathering where one contact declared her intention to become a Bahá'í. On Friday, October 23, an interview was held at the National Radio Station, after which Mr. Olinga addressed the entire assembly of 750 students at the Teachers Training College, meeting later in a smaller lecture room to answer specific questions; this was followed by a magazine interview. Mr. Olinga's public lecture in Auckland on "The Unity of Mankind" was also well attended.

In addition to his many public appearances and meetings with interested contacts, accompanied by Auxiliary Board member Hugh Blundell, Mr. Olinga met in various places for special study and discussion with the Bahá'ís alone, and while in Auckland was taken to see the Temple Site. Here there was a pleasant surprise encounter with a gentleman from Uganda, now attached to the Adult Education center in Auckland, and his son, who conversed with Enoch Olinga in his own language.

**What It Means to Be a Bahá'í**

The following moving comment on Enoch Olinga's visit was made by the National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand:

"... the National Assembly is at a loss to adequately express ... its thanks to Bahá'u'lláh for the blessing of the presence of beloved Enoch Olinga in this country. No words can describe the deep joy and spiritual fragrance which he has left, not only with the believers but with all those with whom he came in contact in New Zealand ... overall about 4,000 persons.

"During the nine days of his visit, the Bahá'ís fortunate enough to have met him have known the true meaning of love, humility, and devotion. They have learned of the power of positive thinking and have enjoyed laughter. But above all this they have seen what it means to be a Bahá'í.

"The National Spiritual Assembly offers its deep appreciation for this bounty and earnestly hopes that through it much work for the Faith will be accomplished. The National Assembly will do all in their power to consolidate the very remarkable work done by Mr. Olinga. This is the only tribute worthy of him."

In his last message to the Bahá'í World, Shoghi Effendi wrote: "The fourth phase (of the World Crusade), the opening of which is now approaching, must be immortalized, on the one hand, by an unprecedented increase in the number of avowed supporters of the Faith, in all the continents of the globe, of every race, clime, creed, and color, and from every stratum of present-day society ... must witness ... an upsurge of enthusiasm and consecration, before which every single as well as collective exploit, associated with any of the three previous phases, will pale."

In New Zealand has been witnessed such an "upsurge" of enthusiasm, the results of which should inspire and spur on every Bahá'í community to arise and demonstrate to their fellowmen the love of the Manifestation of God in the hearts of those who bear His name. The victories are waiting—they need only the outstretched eager hand, the dedicated heart, and faith.

Mr. Olinga and Guide Rangi at the entrance to the Whakarewarewa Pa in Rotorua.
Baha’is Participate in Many UN Day Observances

REINFORCEMENT of ties binding the World Baha’i Community to the United Nations was considered by our beloved Guardian such an important matter that it was included by him as one of the objectives in our Ten-Year World Crusade.

Each year the Bahá’ís of the United States, and other countries as well, have done much to accomplish this objective, through many vital programs developed for observance of United Nations Day and other special days and events in support of the United Nations. This year was no exception, and some of the highlights reported are given below.

Outstanding in both advance preparation for, and in results obtained, was the public meeting held in Willowick, Ohio, sponsored by them and four other Bahá’í groups (Cleveland Heights, Mayfield Heights, South Euclid, and Euclid, Ohio) attended by 125 persons, thirty-five of whom were guests. Their program was given twenty-two column-inches of newspaper publicity, seven radio spot announcements, nine large posters were placed in stores, and two displays set up in bank windows. When the Bahá’ís went to one bank to dismantle the display after UN Week, the manager expressed regret that it had to be withdrawn because of the attention it had attracted. He asked the Bahá’ís for a photo of the display for reproduction in the bank’s magazine, along with an appropriate article. The report of this meeting expressed deep appreciation for the cooperation of William deForge, Auxiliary Board member, who was their speaker, and concluded with this comment: "Due to Cleveland’s magnificent support of this meeting, the audience was integrated by close to a 50% margin in a strictly white neighborhood."

Seattle, Wash., reports two successful projects: An afternoon forum, attended by fifty persons, and a dinner and talk on the general theme of the birth of the Báb and its import on present-day world affairs. The dinner was attended by twenty-six persons. Programs were mailed to personal friends, newspaper releases were issued, and publicity items giving the gist of both programs were furnished to the local press.

An interesting and enjoyable evening was sponsored by the Bahá’ís of Oklahoma City. They called it "An International Mixer." This was a social evening devoted to international games, music, fellowship, and a smorgasbord featuring foods that are typical of many parts of the world. A display of artifacts and handicraft objects from around the world was an interesting exhibit to those attending. Ten guests of other faiths were present, among them nationals of Korea, Formosa, and Iran. In addition to the "Mixer," the friends in Oklahoma City participated in a local United Nations pilot project known as the "World Affairs Program Clinic," a full day and evening conference. One of the Bahá’ís served as a hostess at the evening session and assisted with the distribution of U.N. literature.

The Webster Groves, Mo., Bahá’ís were particularly busy during UN Week, for they sponsored three important projects: a public meeting, which was attended by forty-eight persons, and at which the speaker was Mrs. Margery McCormick, a member of the National Spiritual Assembly and the Auxiliary Board; a UN dinner for high school students and international visitors, which was attended by twenty persons; and a Children’s UN party to which twenty-three children came, dressed in costumes representing various countries. A delightful film, "The Toymaker," was shown at the party which, through the use of puppets, demonstrated the "oneness of mankind." This exciting project for children will be a continuing one through this community’s "Friendships, Unlimited" series. The children are already invited to attend the next party in November, and other gatherings will follow at regular intervals. The report also stated: "We made excellent contacts with foreign consuls during our UN Week activities and have arranged for several of them to participate in the Human Rights Day program. Also, we have been asked to participate in an American Tea to be sponsored by the Missouri Interracial Council as a result of our participation in the Greater St. Louis Citizens Committee for UN Week. Two believers living in Clayton, Mo., participated in these activities and in addition, assisted Kansas City, Kan., as speakers at the Kansas City meeting.

Baha'i exhibit at the United Nations Festival at the Winthrop hotel in Tacoma, Wash.
Logan, Utah, in addition to assisting with the city-wide celebration of UN Day, held a meeting in the form of an Open House for international students at Utah State University. The twenty students attending represented eleven different countries, and good fellowship and lively discussion filled the evening. The friends report that later they heard that one student from the Middle East, who did not attend, upon hearing that the event was sponsored by the local Bahá’í community, expressed amazement at that fact: he had believed until then that Bahá’ís were to be found only in Iran and ‘Iraq.

Bahá’ís of Shorewood, Wis., cooperated with the Milwaukee community in a Panel Discussion meeting. Persons on the panel included nationals of Austria, India, Ghana, and the U.S. The Bahá’í chairman of the meeting, Cornett Taylor, is a member of the Milwaukee Mayor’s Human Rights Committee. Eighty persons attended the meeting as a result of fine publicity from newspapers and radio, library exhibit and window displays.

Manhattan Beach, Calif., reported two exciting projects: participation with fifteen other organizations in a "Family Festival." Due to last minute changes it was necessary to rebuild a large, already-completed exhibit, but because of the spirit of the Bahá’ís in dealing with this emergency, they were recipients of much favorable comment, according to their report. "This is one of the few observances where Bahá’ís have an opportunity to live their Faith in working with non-Bahá’ís," they state. "For instance, when we had to rebuild the booths, several people mentioned to some of us that there had been some amazed discussion about the 'marvellous cooperative spirit and friendliness toward others (by the Bahá’ís) in the face of unfair actions on the part of others.' Some of these people are coming to firesides, but mostly it is a way of letting many people know a little more about the Faith, and of making friends for the Faith." Their other project was a public meeting to which thirty-two persons came, seventeen of them of other faiths.

In Fresno, Calif., two UN Day programs were held: one, a public meeting at which a professor of political science from Fresno State College was the speaker; and the other, a UN Day Dinner, sponsored by the local Youth Committee. A number of foreign students were among the twenty-three guests at the dinner. In addition to these two projects, a Bahá’í was invited to serve on the Fresno Committee for UN Week, and the local assembly, in cooperation with that Committee placed UN posters, and gave 500 UN pamphlets to the
state and city colleges for free distribution. The Bahá'í public meeting was announced in the bulletins of the Universalist and Unitarian Churches.

Provo, Utah, held a public meeting on which they received seven inches of local newspaper publicity; they placed fifty UN posters around town, and participated in the Utah County UN Committee banquet. They comment, "Assisting city and county groups has brought increased recognition (for Bahá'ís) from civic and educational leaders."

As far as the Fairbanks and Tanana Valley, Alaska, Bahá'ís can determine, the public meeting held by them was the only UN Day observance in that area. Announcement of their meeting was made on television and radio, as well as through the high school, the University of Alaska, and the Negro Church.

At the meeting in Lima, Ohio, fifty-four persons attended, and it is the plan of this community to follow-up with another public meeting and a meeting in honor of Human Rights Day. Bahá'ís of Findlay, Ohio, cooperated with the International Relations Committee of the B&P Women's Club in presenting two speakers at a public meeting.

Roswell, New Mexico, sponsored both an International Picnic and a public meeting. Fine newspaper and radio publicity was received in connection with these events.

Tacoma, Wash., worked with seventy-two local organizations in the city-wide UN Day program held at a local hotel. In the ballroom were nineteen booths, one of them the Bahá'í booth. Fifty-nine persons signed the Bahá'í guest book.

The small group of Bahá'ís in Barberton, Ohio, were successful in obtaining excellent newspaper publicity on a display of UN literature at the local library. Free UN literature was also made available at the display. These friends sent sixty-five post cards to friends, and placed advertisements in the newspaper calling attention to the display.

Yonkers, New York, held an International Supper and Fireside meeting. They plan to follow-up this meeting with a well-advertised Human Rights Day program. The Long Island, New York, Bahá'ís all cooperated in presenting a Panel Discussion meeting at a centrally located hotel. Members of the panel represented five nationalities. Fifty-four persons attended, twenty being interested guests.

Montclair, New Jersey, was host to twenty persons at an International Dinner. The spirit of friendliness and the fine Bahá'í talk given drew very favorable comment from one guest in particular, a local church leader.

The Providence, Rhode Island, group held a public meeting which was attended by eleven Bahá'ís and eight friends.

The two assemblies and one group, Oakland, Berkeley, and Hayward, California, respectively, cooperated with the AAUN in holding a public meeting for an audience of forty-two. After the meeting they were hosts at an International Tea.

Ventura, California, reports no city-wide observance of UN Day but that their meeting attracted an audience of twenty-six. They distributed posters, sent cards, made telephone calls to friends, and were successful in securing excellent newspaper and radio publicity. A series of fireside meetings will follow this meeting.

New York City held three meetings to which a total of ninety persons came, among them thirty-six guests. Their meetings represented two International Dinner firesides, and one public meeting. At the meetings films and slides were shown, in addition to the talks given. The report states that "Twelve nationalities were represented among our guests." And, "our guests were most impressed by slides showing the Bahá'í World Center."

Many more reports have come in and others are arriving daily; however, because of space limitations it is not possible to cover all of them in a report such as this. It is heartening to note the wide variety of programs held and the ingenuity displayed by the friends in assuring success in the various localities.

—Lee Blackwell
As an approach to the high moral standards to which Bahá'u'lláh as the Inaugurator of the first worldwide spiritual civilization, calls us, let us consider the divine gift of life itself.

A seeker of truth once asked ‘Abdu'l-Bahá in what state the soul exists before it enters the body. He answered: "In a state of potentiality. It has no consciousness in the sense in which we comprehend this term. Individual consciousness is not born until conception takes place."

‘Abdu'l-Bahá was asked further whether the choice of entering this world lies with the soul itself. He answered: "The Will of God is the determining factor. When God wills it, the soul steps into the arena of human life."

And asked whether every soul appearing upon earth, is a new creation, He answered: "Yes, every soul has a beginning, but once created, is eternal."

A new sense of responsibility takes hold of us when we become fully conscious that God, and not our parents, decreed the very second at which we were to set out upon the path to eternity. We begin to feel that there is some connection between the time of our sojourn here and the overall plans of God. We who are Bahá'ís have indeed found this connection. Through the mercy of God, we know clearly what our assignment is; namely, bringing into being a "new race of men"—men worthy of the "Day of God."

Since Bahá'u'lláh tells us that "the purpose of God in creating man is to enable him to know his Creator and to attain His Presence," it is obvious that the inner man is our chief consideration, and that the invisible realities—heart, soul, spirit, mind—are more important than the visible. In these intangibles lies our capacity to know God; lie the strength and will, if we choose to apply them, to subordinate our materialistic tendencies and to stimulate our spiritual consciousness—our higher self.

"As all glory lieth in the soul of man," says ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, "there can be little progress connected with a life of the outer senses, any more than there is life in the husks of a seed. It is the kernel of a seed which sprouts, sends forth its shoots, and grows into a flower, plant, or tree, while the husks but break away, shrivel, and die; so the individual who lives only in the world of the senses, lives on the husks of life."

Today, as though impelled by the law of gravity, men's moral standards have been pulled to the earth. There are many causes. Obviously, we are on the ebbing side of old civilizations; men are too far away from the Prophet of their respective religions—too far away from the light of His spiritual teachings. War, the greatest generator of animal instincts, has torn down the restraints which decency and personal responsibility normally impose. Material plenty on the one hand, and hunger and poverty on the other, are both prolific sources of moral weakness and often of sex excesses.

There is a reason why Bahá'u'lláh uses the term "purity" so frequently in His Writings. This wholesome word is seldom heard in everyday living, excepting in relation to foods and drugs. But hear this call of Bahá'u'lláh:

"Be pure, O people of God, be pure; be righteous, be righteous!" "We verily behold your actions. If We perceive from them the sweet-smelling savor of purity and holiness, We will most certainly bless you." And again: "Purity and chastity have been, and still are,
This photograph of the World Religion Day observance held a year ago at Bahía, Brazil, illustrates one of many such meetings held throughout the world on January 19, 1958. World Religion Day, to promulgate the Bahá’í teaching of the fundamental oneness of religion, will be observed in 1959 on January 18.

The most great ornaments for the handmaidens of God.

It is not an unfamiliar experience for any of us today, to find a surprising promiscuity or laxity in relations between the sexes, even among spiritually-aware people, people who know and cherish the Bahá’í Teachings, even among friends who have entered our beloved Cause!

This is most unfortunate, for such a situation ceases to be just the personal responsibility of the individuals involved; rather, a shadow begins to fall upon the entire community, and the sincerity of its teaching efforts is questioned.

With great force and clarity, our beloved Guardian in his message, The Advent of Divine Justice, exhorts us to chastity. “All of them, be they men or women, must, at this threatening hour when the lights of religion are fading out, and its restraints are one by one abolished, pause to examine themselves, scrutinize their conduct, and with characteristic resolution arise to purge the life of their community of every trace of moral laxity that might stain the name, or impair the integrity, of so holy and precious a Faith. A chaste and holy life must be made the controlling principle in the behavior and conduct of all Bahá’ís, both in their social relations with the members of their own community, and in their contact with the world at large. It must adorn and reinforce the ceaseless labors and meritorious exertions of those whose enviable position is to propagate the Message, and to administer the affairs, of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh. It must be upheld, in all its integrity and implications, in every phase of the life of those who fill the ranks of that Faith, whether in their homes, their travels, their clubs, their societies, their entertainments, their schools, and their universities... It must be closely and continually identified with the mission of the Bahá’í Youth.”

“Such a chaste and holy life, with its implications of modesty, purity, temperance, decency, and clean-mindedness, involves no less than the exercise of moderation in all that pertains to dress, language, amusements, and all artistic and literary avocations. It demands daily vigilance in the control of one’s carnal desires and corrupt inclinations... It requires total abstinence from all alcoholic drinks... It condemns... the practices... of companionate marriage, infidelity in marital relationships, and all manner of promiscuity, of easy familiarity, and of sexual vices.”

“O ye My loved ones!,” pleads Bahá’u’lláh, “suffer not the hem of my sacred vesture to be smirched and mired with the things of this world...” “They that have tarnished the fair name of the Cause of God by following the things of the flesh—these are in palpable error!”

There is just one moral standard, and that is the standard of right and wrong set by the Manifestation of God. There is no compromise. Yet, we must show great love and humility in emphasizing this fact.

The new World Religion Day poster, 14x20 inches, in three primary colors and gold on heavy, high-gloss paper. There is space at bottom for date and place of public meeting. Designed by same artist who did Race Amity Day poster, these are available at 50c each; five for $2.00, sent third-class postpaid. If first-class or air-mail is desired, include postage with your order for following weights: one poster, 3 oz.; 2 posters, 5 oz.; 3 posters, 6 oz.; 5 posters, 9 oz. Please send orders and checks only to Bahá’í Press Service, 434 Thomas Ave., Rochester 17, N.Y.
If someone is pursuing an unwarranted love relationship, we must point out that, from the Bahá'í standpoint, this love is being permitted to take precedence over the love of, and the love for, Bahá'u'lláh. We must stress that by sacrificing our transient desires to His Will—the Will of God—astonishing confirmations await us. We must implant confidence and faith in the power of Bahá'u'lláh to straighten out every type of personal and social problem. Has He not come to bring harmonious living?

The Báb and Bahá'u'lláh gave their lives for us—can we not give up an unjustified personal love in obedience to their sacred Commands?

"When God desired to manifest grace and beneficence to men, and to set the world in order," says Bahá'u'lláh, "He revealed observances and created laws; among them He established the law of marriage, made it a fortress for well-being and salvation."

As party to the Covenant of God, ours is the obligation to keep these “observances and laws.” Herein lies the order of the world; herein lies our only guidance and protection.

In the words of Bahá'u'lláh: "Wert thou to consider this world, and realize how fleeting are the things that pertain unto it, thou wouldst choose to tread no path except the path of service to the Cause of thy Lord."

Bahá'u'lláh places “among the highest and most laudable of all acts,” are the following:

1. Trustworthiness: “If any one betray the least of trusts or neglect,” says Bahá'u'lláh, “and be remiss in the performance of duties which are intrusted to him . . . or seeks after his own personal, selfish aims and ends in the attainment of his own interests, he shall undoubtedly remain deprived of the outpourings of His Highness the Almighty!”

2. Truthfulness: This, Bahá'u'lláh calls “the foundation of all human virtues. Without truthfulness, progress and success in all the worlds of God are impossible for any soul. When this holy attribute is established in man, all the divine qualities will also be acquired.”

Under “truthfulness” we may also include refraining from the insidious practice of backbiting: “For the tongue is a smoldering fire, and excess of speech a deadly poison,” says Bahá'u'lláh. “Material fire consumeth the body, whereas the fire of the tongue devoureth both heart and soul. The force of the former lasteth but for a time, whilst the effects of the latter endureth a century.”

3. Purity of Heart While Communing with God: When we sincerely seek the Help of God, “this supplication,” ‘Abdu'l-Bahá asserts, “is in itself a light to the heart, illumination to the sight, life to the soul, and exultation to one's being.”

4. Forbearance.

5. Resignation to Whatever the Almighty Hath Decreed.

6. Contentment with the Things His Will Hath Provided: “. . . He is not to be numbered with the people of Bahá who followeth his mundane desires, or fixeth his heart on things of the earth,” remarks Bahá'u'lláh. “He is my true follower who, if he come to a valley of pure gold will pass straight through it aloof as a cloud, and will neither turn back, nor pause. Such a man is assuredly of Me . . .”

7. Patience, Nay Thankfulness in the Midst of Tribulation.

8. Complete Reliance, in All Circumstances, upon God.
The moral standards which Bahá’u’lláh seeks to inculcate, in both our individual and social lives, are the loftiest which man has ever been called upon to fulfill. All of them are qualities of the mature soul; all are requisite to a spiritual civilization and to eternal life. But, a living God has potentially equipped us to attain to this nobility of conduct.

"Within the very breath of such souls as are pure and sanctified," Bahá’u’lláh assures us, "far-reaching potentialities are hidden. So great are these potentialities, that they exercise their influence upon all created things."

The emergence of a "new race of men" thus becomes inevitable.

—Elsa Steinmetz

Auxiliary Board Member Visits Argentine Bahá’í Communities

Sra. Else Cazcarra, member of the Auxiliary Board and of the National Spiritual Assembly of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, visited the Bahá’í communities of Argentina on a teaching trip from August 19 to September 8, 1958.

In Buenos Aires, her first stop, she attended the Nineteen Day Feast; was interviewed by a representative of one of the leading newspapers, La Razon, resulting in the publication of an article on the principles of the Bahá’í Faith and a photograph of herself; and spoke on "Science and Religion" at a public meeting attended by forty persons.

Other cities visited by Sra. Cazcarra included Ezeiza, Rosario, Cordoba, and La Plata.

Fifth Annual Italo-Swiss Summer School Attended by 95 Bahá’ís and Contacts

The fifth annual Italo-Swiss Bahá’í Summer School took place from September 19 to 26, 1958, at the Hotel des Salines, Bex-les-Bains, Switzerland.

In spite of the fact that few were expected to attend the school this year, as many friends had used their vacations for the Intercontinental Conferences, there were eighty-three Bahá’ís from ten countries, and twelve guests.

The school was blessed this year in having two Hands of the Cause, Dr. Hermann Grossmann and Dr. Ugo Giachery, who helped greatly in the teaching by their inspirational courses in German and Italian.

The Italo-Swiss community has a language problem, which was solved by dividing the courses into three schools, French, German, and Italian. In addition a very interesting course was given in English for the bilingual friends on the "Promised Day Has Come" by Firuz Kazemzadeh from New Haven, Conn.

The last days were crowned with joy when four of the contacts declared their Faith and several others said that after more study they, too, wanted to become Bahá’ís.

Maud Bosio, reporting the school sessions, stated: "On the day of departure when all were gathered for suggestions for the next year, it was unanimously agreed that this year was the best school we have had. The spirit of love and unity was deeply felt by us all. It was sad to part, but it is sure that each one of us will bring back to his or her community and work a greater enthusiasm to "carry on" with the remembrance of these days."

Twenty Attended Second Summer School of Nicaragua, in Nandaime

The second annual Bahá’í Summer School of Nicaragua was held in its permanent location, Nandaime, Nicaragua. For three days, September 13, 14, and 15, the monotony of this quiet little town was enlivened by laughing groups of young people clustered around the visiting Bahá’í teachers.

The visitors from other countries included Sr. José Antonio Soto Gattgens from San José, Costa Rica; and Mr. and Mrs. Quentin Farrand of Ahuachapan, El Salvador. From within Nicaragua, Managua sent Sr. Armando Fonseca Duval, and Sr. Pablo Pérez Toledo; Masaya was represented by Donald Ross Witzel, and Nandaime itself was proud to present Sr. Juan Castro.

The lectures presented had something for every taste. Mr. and Mrs. Farrand offered inspiring ideas on "The Ethics of Bahá’í Life," "Fulfilment of Bible Prophecy," and related themes, some of which were prepared by Sr. Salomon Escalante of Costa Rica,
Baha'i group of Unalaska, Alaska, a World Crusade goal. The first Aleut believer, Vassa Lekanoff, is in the center. Others are Elinore and George Putney, and Elaine and Jenabe Caldwell, pioneers there.

Second Japan Summer School Classes
Include Study and Workshop Sessions

The second Japan Bahá'í Summer School was held at Gohra, on August 29-31, 1958.

Among the talks given were the following: “Fulfilling the Need for Bahá'í Education,” by N. Hashimoto; “The Guardian and the Institutions of the Faith,” by Miss Agnes Alexander, Hand of the Cause; “The Bahá'í Concept of God,” and “The Meaning of the Manifestation,” by H. Takano and Philip Marangella; “What is Prayer?” by Miss Alexander and M. Zenimoto, and “Immortality,” by Mrs. Joy Earl.

The study and workshop sessions were devoted to: the practice of public speaking, led by H. Takano and Dr. Mizuno; methods of presenting the Faith, led by Dr. David Earl and M. Odani; and questions and answers, conducted by Rohollah Montaza, Mr. Ishil and Dr. David Earl.

Mrs. Shirin Fozdar of Singapore, chairman of the Regional Spiritual Assembly of Southeast Asia, was the speaker at the public meeting arranged by the school on August 30.

First Bahá'í Burial Ground
Obtained in Khartoum, Sudan

When the wife of the caretaker of the Bahá'í cemetery in Cairo fell ill and passed away while on a visit to Khartoum, the Bahá'ís there were faced with the critical need for a Bahá'í burial ground. After ten hours of negotiation with the government authorities, the Khartoum North Local Spiritual Assembly was successful in obtaining a plot of land, and the funeral was performed in accordance with Bahá'í principles.

Bahá'ís in many areas of the world who are not faced with such a problem cannot, perhaps, fully appreciate the reasons that lay behind such a difficulty, but they can share and sympathize with their friends' anxiety at such a time, and lend their prayers that the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh may speedily triumph and bring union, concord, and elimination of all prejudice—not only for the living, but for those who have passed on.

Athlete Speaks on Racial Discrimination
at Bahá'í Public Meeting in Stamford

Jackie Robinson, the professional baseball player, was guest speaker at a public meeting sponsored by the Bahá'ís of Stamford, Conn., on November 3, 1958.

He spoke to a group of forty on the problem of racial discrimination in the United States and in other parts of the world, on the ideals and goals of the NAACP, and of the vital importance of evaluating each individual as an individual, whatever his race, color, or creed.

Mr. Robinson, in addition to his achievements in the athletic world (he was the first Negro to play on a major league baseball team in the United States), has been active in the fields of the humanities and social science. He was recently honored by the National Young Men's Christian Association as "Man of the Year."

Part of the public meeting was given over to questions and answers, which were lively and informative.
Bahá'í Holy Days Recognized
By Butte and Champaign Schools

The Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Butte, Mont., has received a letter dated October 21, 1958, from the Superintendent of Schools stating that Bahá'í students may have excused absence from school on the Bahá'í Holy Days.

The Local Spiritual Assembly of Champaign, Ill., reports that permission has been given by the Superintendent of the Champaign community schools for children of Bahá'í parents to be excused from school attendance on Bahá'í Holy Days.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

New Orleans, La., School Board
Recognizes Bahá'í Holy Days

The Orleans Parish School Board in New Orleans, La., has given recognition to the Bahá'í Faith by permitting Bahá'í children to remain away from classes on Bahá'í Holy Days when such permission is requested in writing by the parents.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Minister Lauds Bahá'í Faith from Pulpit

On November 9 Rev. Keith M. Rhinehart, pastor of the Aquarian Foundation Church in Seattle, Wash., spoke to his congregation of 175 people on “The Beauties of Bahá’í,” giving an hour’s historic outline of the Faith, describing the Temple, and telling about his visit to the Shrine of the Báb and the Gardens in Haifa.

Although there were many inaccuracies in his statements, it was evident to the Bahá'ís in the audience that he himself has been impressed by the Faith and that his discussion of it made a great spiritual impact upon his congregation.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Researcher Interviews Charlottesville Bahá'ís

A member of the social research team of Columbia University recently interviewed the Charlottesville, Va., Bahá'í group on the racial question and the segregation problem in the local schools. The Sociology Dean of the University had recommended that this be the first interview in Charlottesville on the attitudes of the white people. Bahá'ís stressed their belief that the Faith could overcome racial discrimination, and the researcher seemed pleased with the results of her interview.

Clark County School District, Nevada,
Recognizes Bahá'í Holy Days

On August 28, 1958, the Superintendent of Schools for Clark County, Nev., issued a memorandum to all school principals and administrators in the county listing five Jewish Holy Days and the five Bahá'í Holy Days falling within the school year “for which parent excuses should be accepted for children.”

Besides Las Vegas, where there is a local spiritual assembly, the area includes the larger cities of Henderson and Boulder and a number of small towns.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Alaska “News” Appears as Printed Magazine

The Alaska Bahá'í News is now published as a printed magazine, beginning with the November-December 1958 issue. It was formerly published in mimeographed form.

Mrs. Janet Stout, managing editor, has announced plans to publish ten issues during the next twelve-month period. Photographs of Alaskan events can now be reproduced in the magazine.

Calendar of Events

FEASTS
January 19—Sultán (Sovereignty)
February 7—Mulk (Dominion)

WORLD RELIGION DAY
January 18—To proclaim the fundamental oneness of religion

U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
January 1-4
February 13-15

Baha'i House of Worship

Visiting Hours

Weekdays
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Entire building)

Service of Worship

Sundays
3:30 to 4:10 p.m.
A MESSAGE FROM
THE HANDS OF THE CAUSE
TO THE BAHÁ’ÍS OF EAST AND WEST

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ’ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS
Beloved Friends:

Twenty-five of the twenty-seven Hands of the Cause of God have once again met in the blessed Mansion of Bahá'u'lláh near the holiest spot on this planet, and prayerfully considered the grave problems now facing the Bahá'ís of the world. Though no longer plunged in the agony of grief that afflicted our hearts last November, we are nevertheless profoundly concerned over the success of the tasks entrusted to the believers of the East and West by our beloved Guardian in the provisions of his mighty globe-encircling Crusade.

With feelings of deepest gratitude we realize that Bahá'u'lláh has vouchsafed to us during this past year—dark and overshadowed though it was by the passing of our beloved Guardian—many evidences of His unfailing grace and protection. The unity of the Cause of God has been maintained, and out of the fire of this mighty test, the believers have emerged with chastened and consecrated hearts, mature in spirit, with a deeper sense of oneness than ever before, eager to assist in winning every goal set for them by their beloved Guardian. God has indeed opened the doors of His mercy to us.

A befitting and magnificent monument to the beloved Guardian's precious memory has been raised up above the sacred earth in London which enshrines his blessed remains, a memorial to the erection of which the believers from every corner of the earth had the privilege of contributing.

The five mighty conferences called by Shoghi Effendi, and whose purposes he outlined in his message marking the midway point of the Crusade, were held with outstanding success; almost five thousand believers being privileged to attend them. The roll-call from among the followers of the black race in Africa and the brown race in the Pacific has more than doubled during the past year, a triumph which alone would have brought infinite joy to his blessed heart. Two of the three Mother Temples which he specified should be built will be completed well within two years of his passing. The funds for these Temples, and for the teaching work to which he attached such supreme importance, have poured in abundantly from all parts of the world, a loving and loyal testimony to the determination of the Bahá'ís everywhere to carry out his every wish. Spitzbergen, the last and one of the most difficult of the virgin territories to be opened during the Crusade, received its first pioneer less than six months after he left this world.

In spite of such heartening progress, we must face the fact that this year ahead may well prove to be the crucial turning-point of the entire Crusade, and upon which its completion critically hangs. Many of the most important goals still remain to be achieved: work on the Mother Temple of Europe has not yet commenced, although it must rise in all its splendor to shed its spiritual blessings upon that continent before 1963. The Local Spiritual Assemblies still to be formed as part of the original plan number no less than 394. The number of National and Regional Assemblies which must be elected before the end of the Crusade, in the alarmingly short time of four and a half years, is no less than thirty-eight, four of which are to be formed as planned by the beloved Guardian this coming Ridván.

We are now embarked upon the fourth and final phase of this historic Crusade. Our beloved Guardian's own words tell us that this phase must be characterized by "a powerful impetus the world over to the vital process of individual conversion—the pre- eminent purpose underlying the Plan in all of its ramifications" and "must be immortalized on the one hand by an unprecedented increase in the number of the avowed supporters of the Faith in all continents of the globe, of every race, clime, creed and color, and from every stratum of present day society, coupled with a corresponding increase in the number of Bahá'í centers."

The fateful years of the beloved Guardian's glorious Crusade are swiftly passing. "How staggering" he told us, is "the responsibility that must weigh upon the present generation." His stirring appeal for an "upsurge of enthusiasm and consecration, before which every single as well as collective exploit, associated with any of the three previous phases (of the Crusade) will pale" is directed to every believer on the planet, but especially "to their elected representatives, whether local, regional, or national, who, in their capacity as the custodians and members of the nascent institutions of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh must shoulder "the chief responsibility in laying an unassailable foundation for the Universal House of Justice which, as its title implies, is to be the exponent and guardian of that Divine Justice which can alone insure the security of, and establish the reign of law and order in, a strangely disordered world." This House of Justice, he tells us, "posterity will regard as the last refuge of a tottering civilization."

Upon these National and Regional Assemblies which we must now raise up, has been conferred the sacred privilege of electing the members of this Universal House of Justice. The guidance of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh will flow into the World Order established in the Bahá'í Dispensation through this Supreme Body, whose infallibility is assured by the Pen of Bahá'u'lláh Himself. 'Abdu'l-Bahá declared in His Will and Testament that the members of the Universal House of Justice must "deliberate upon all problems which have caused differences, questions that are obscure and matters that are not expressly recorded in the Book. Whatsoever they decide has the same effect as the Text itself. . . . That which this body, whether unanimously or by a majority doth carry, that is verily the Truth and the Purpose of God Himself." Guided by the precious storehouse of sacred and inviolable texts given to us by Bahá'u'lláh and elaborated by 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi, pouring our forces into the execution of the Divine Plan of the Master, now in the twenty-eighth year of its unfolding within the successive Plans laid down by our beloved Guardian, supported by the unfailing aid of the Supreme Concourse promised in our writings, with our beloved Guardian's spirit watching over the work he so dearly...
The Hands of the Faith, solemnly mindful of the primary function conferred upon them in the Will and Testament of ‘Abdu'l-Bahá to protect the Cause of God and promulgate its Teachings, and deeply conscious of their present great responsibility as Chief Stewards of Bahá'u'lláh embryonic world commonwealth, have already arranged for a number of the Hands to travel extensively during the coming year in order to carry the spirit of the beloved Guardian and the World Center of our Faith to the believers and their elected representatives, particularly in those areas where so many of the future pillars of the International House of Justice must be erected, namely Latin America and the goal countries of Europe.

The Hands of the Faith have also planned to give every aid within their power to the National Spiritual Assemblies in supporting and stimulating the work on the Home Fronts of such old and tried communities as those of Persia, the United States, Canada, India, Australia, Great Britain, and Germany. In rededicating themselves to their share of the heavy burden now resting upon each and every follower of Bahá'u'lláh, the Hands appeal to the National and Regional Assemblies to assist them in the mighty tasks that lie ahead through a closer and swifter cooperation with the Hands serving at the World Center, who of necessity are called upon to coordinate the international work so laboriously built up, at such a great cost to himself, by our most beloved Guardian. Prompt consultation on teaching problems, reports concerning the progress being made and the present status of the work undertaken by each National or Regional Assembly, as well as appeals for advice and aid, should pour continually into the Holy Land in order that good news may be shared for the encouragement of all and any crises which arise in the Bahá'í world may be swiftly dealt with, and not a moment of our infinitely precious time between now and the completion of the Crusade—just fifty-two short months away—be lost.

Bahá'u'lláh, ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, and the beloved Guardian have repeatedly warned us that the time is short, that these fast-fleeting hours in which we live will come to us no more, and we shall never again have a similar opportunity. The beloved Guardian has in no uncertain terms stated that the “pre-eminent task . . . in this day” is “a task . . . so urgent!” as to be “accorded priority over every other activity.” Let us each one take to heart his passionate appeal.

“However arduous the task; however formidable the exertions demanded of them; however afflictive the darts which their present enemies, as well as those whom Providence will through His mysterious dispensation raise up from within or from without, may rain upon them; however grievous the ordeal of temporary separation from the heart and nerve-center of their Faith which future unforeseeable disturbances may impose upon them, I adjure them, by the precious blood that flowed in such great profusion, by the lives of the unnumbered saints and heroes who were immolated, by the supreme and glorious sacrifice of the Prophet-Herald of our Faith, by the tribulations which its Founder Himself willingly underwent, so that His Cause might live, His Order might redeem a shattered world and its glory might suffuse the entire planet—I adjure them . . . to resolve never to flinch, never to hesitate, never to relax, until each and every objective . . . has been fully consummated.”

Upon the immediate and continued response in each individual heart to this ringing call depend the victory of his precious and holy Crusade, the last world-encompassing Plan which His divinely-guided pen bequeathed to the believers. Never before in the history of the world have human beings been faced with such a staggering responsibility and such a blessed privilege. Now more than ever before the heroic pioneers must cling Courageously to their vital outposts; a swift stream of new pioneers must flow out spontaneously, without a moment’s delay, to reinforce them; traveling teachers must dedicate themselves to the work both in far-off lands and on the critical Home Fronts; ample resources must be poured forth with unprecedented generosity from hearts consecrated to nothing less than an overwhelming victory on every front. The success of the Crusade depends upon the individual believer arising to teach. For, as the beloved Guardian himself has told us, “The unseen legions, standing rank upon rank, and eager to pour forth from the Kingdom on high the full measure of their celestial strength on the individual participants of this incomparably glorious Crusade, are powerless unless and until each potential Crusader decides for himself, and perseveres in his determination, to rush into the arena of sacrifice ready to sacrifice his all for the Cause he is called upon to champion.”

“This challenge, so severe and insistent, and yet so glorious, faces no doubt primarily the individual believer on whom, in the last resort, depends the fate of the entire community. . . . He it is who acts as one of the multitude of bricks which support the structure and insure the stability of the administrative edifice now being raised in every part of the world. Without his support, at once wholehearted, continuous and generous, every measure adopted, and every plan formulated, by the Body which acts as the national representative of the community to which he belongs, is foredoomed to failure. The World Center of the Faith itself is paralyzed if such a support on the part of the rank and file of the community is denied it. The Author of the Divine Plan Himself is impeded in His purpose if the proper instruments for the execution of His design are lacking.” The beloved Guardian ends with this stern warning: “The sustaining strength of Bahá'u'lláh Himself, the Founder of the Faith, will be withheld from every and each individual who falls in the long run to arise and play his part.”

We feel confident that the friends in every corner of the Bahá'í world, fully aware of the gravity of the crisis facing them, and unified as never before by the sacrifice of the life of our beloved Guardian, will arise as one soul in many bodies in a mighty forward surge to complete as an immortal monument to his memory the triumph of his holy Crusade.

The Hands of the Faith eagerly and confidently anticipate that upon the unassailable foundation of this united victory brought about by the consecrated devotion of the friends, there will be raised up the central body, the Supreme House of Justice, and once again a precious source of divine infallibility will return to the earth with the establishment of that Supreme Body on the occasion of the Most Great
Beloved Friends:

Your National Assembly is placing in the Hands of every member of the American Bahá’í community a copy of the message issued to the Bahá’ís of East and West dated at the Mansion of Bahá’u’lláh, Bahjí, November 30, 1958.

This message represents the fruitful outcome of the second annual conference of the Chief Stewards of Bahá’u’lláh’s embryonic World Commonwealth held in the Holy Mansion from November 21 through November 30. Its purpose is to present to the Bahá’í World Community a unified spiritual understanding of the conditions existing within the community at this time and to address an impassioned appeal to every believer and every Bahá’í institution to strive for the successful achievement of the Crusade goals that still lie ahead, together with complete assurance that the powers of God will reinforce the efforts of the sincere and devoted souls.

The National Spiritual Assembly urges each Bahá’í to ponder this message until he grasps its full import and significance. For in these words we possess a faithful reflection of the beloved Guardian’s plans and hopes for the success of the Crusade based upon the Master’s Tablets of the Divine Plan by 1963, a date associated with the prophecy of Daniel. As has been repeated many times, these present years are dark with peril for mankind, and the consolidation of the Bahá’í World Community represents the sole hope of the future. Nothing short of the election of the Universal House of Justice will suffice, for the House of Justice will apply the laws of the new era, and deal with all problems confronting the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh. In this sacred institution the divine gift of infallibility will again provide truth and guidance to mankind. Infallibility gives us the supreme and perfect assurance that ours is indeed the religion of God.

In addition to prayerful study by individuals, this document provides a basis for action by all Assemblies, local and national, and is to be the subject of frequent consultation as well as reference.

What unspeakable blessing is ours, dear friends and co-workers, that the beloved Guardian provided Bahá’ís who can serve as a bridge between the passing of Shoghi Effendi and the election of a God-inspired House of Justice!

In the light of the powers and functions conferred upon that body, in passages of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá cited in this message, we are freed of any apprehension that the death of Shoghi Effendi befall us as a calamity capable of destroying our hope in a golden age, the establishment of the Kingdom on earth.

The hour of our final and irrevocable decision to fulfill or to betray our sacred trust is upon us. May we partake of the love and confirmation assured each and every follower of Bahá’u’lláh!

—National Spiritual Assembly
Whenever religion becomes a matter of passive belief and the performance of ritual, human society reveals fatal symptoms of self-destruction. At such a time the Prophet manifests the Divine Will, revealed as hope to those who recognize Him but as terror to those who deny.

In the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh the nature and purpose of religion is for the first time completely unveiled. We who recognize in Bahá'u'lláh the Word of God are called upon to demonstrate what faith in God actually means at this stage in the evolution of man and society.

For Bahá'ís not only have access to truth; we not only have before us supreme examples of heroism and sacrifice; we not only stand obligated to exercise certain virtues and qualities; above all we are spiritually obligated to establish the new world order, with its local, national, and international elective institutions.

It is through the Bahá'í community that the blessings of the new day are poured forth. The more unified and active our community, the greater the bounty received in terms of assurance, justice, peace, brotherhood, and true progress.

Your National Spiritual Assembly is grieved and shocked to report a poor attendance at state conventions and a small number of votes cast by mail. Such a situation appears as a symptom of an ill that must be cured before it becomes a disaster to ourselves, our nation, our religion, and to the world.

Is the potency of our faith so weak that we tend to reduce the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh to mere passive beliefs? Have we become like the Christians, whose religion no longer guides the individual nor determines the great issues of a civilization?

Beloved friends! Your National Spiritual Assembly appeals to every individual believer to realize that our first and most important Bahá'í obligation is to take an active part in the life of the Bahá'í community. Let us each resolve to attend each Nineteen-Day Feast with a heartfelt devotion to our fellow-believers. Let us share our resources with the local and national Bahá'í Funds. Let us open our homes for teaching inquirers. Let us realize that from day to day our individual lives, unassuming though they may outwardly appear, contain the germ of superhuman quality and influence bestowed upon us by our Creator. The buried seed cannot yield up its treasure in cold, hard earth, nor can our latent virtues and capacities manifest their powers in an indifferent personality.

It is not for any of us to cherish indifference as a reaction to what other believers do or fail to do. We each stand forth in the eyes of God as His creation, meriting His blessing or His condemnation, as weighed in the scales of perfect love and justice. As others join us in our effort to create unity, the rivulet of individual resolve becomes the irresistible torrent.

Upon the Bahá'ís of the world rests the future destiny of mankind. We who call ourselves Bahá'ís, let us disclose the mystery of faith to our fellow men. This is the eloquence which surpasses the powers of speech, the understanding which human education can never bestow. Unity, tender and compassionate, can alone survive the imminent perils of our day.

—U.S. National Spiritual Assembly

Unity — Tender and Compassionate

William Sears, Hand of the Cause,
To Serve in the Western Hemisphere

The American Hands of the Cause have been informed by the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land that it has been decided William Sears "will proceed to the Western Hemisphere and reside there for the present. He will serve with the other Hands of the Cause residing in that hemisphere."

When Mr. Sears arrives in America plans will be formulated under which he will visit local communities in the United States, and as far as possible in Alaska and Canada.

—Corinne True
Horace Holley
First Visit of a Hand of the Cause to Fiji and Samoa Islands
Brings Great Bounty to Bābā's and Warm Public Reception

Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga, following his nine­day visit to New Zealand in October 1958 (January Bābā's News), journeyed to Fiji and Samoa, where he and the Message he brought were as warmly received as in New Zealand.

On Sunday evening, October 26, Miss Lily Buksh had the great bounty and privilege of meeting and welcoming the first Hand of the Cause to visit the Fiji Islands. From the very moment that he stepped from the plane, Enoch Olinga radiated love and joy to all he met. Even the Fijian porters refused to take the customary tip for carrying his luggage, as they felt that here, indeed, was someone different.

The following morning Mr. Olinga was driven by friends to Sigatoka, where it had been arranged that he contact an isolated Fijian Bahá'í who was able to introduce him to several friends, and a small gathering ensued that evening. The result was that some Indian school teachers were so impressed that they sent a special request to Suva that they be allowed to arrange a public meeting for him to address upon his return from Samoa. This was agreed upon.

First Public Proclamation of Faith in Suva

On Tuesday Mr. Olinga arrived in Suva, where he spent forty-three crowded hours before leaving for Apia. He was first taken to the radio station, where an interview was recorded. Then he was taken by a Fijian Bahá'í for an interview with a reporter of the local newspaper. As a result of this, a sympathetic article on the Bahá'í Teachings appeared in the press on the morning of the public meeting.

His first evening in Suva was spent with the Bahá'ís who had gathered at the Hazíratu'll-Quds to meet him. After lovingly greeting everyone, he conveyed words of greeting from the Hands of the Faith in Haifa, and from the Bahá'ís of Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

He spoke of his experiences with the Guardian, and emphasized the Guardian's words that in these days it was not enough just to agree and sympathize with the fine ideals of the Bahá'í Faith. We must be converted to the Faith. But conversion was not enough, we had to have faith. But faith was not enough alone, we had to have great love. And even that was not enough, we had to teach the people and spread the Cause throughout all the peoples of the world. The Bahá'ís should not remain passive, but should become dynamic.

Previously the Fijian Bahá'ís had worked quietly among the people, without attracting any public attention, but with such a distinguished visitor coming it was determined to seize the opportunity to come out into the open. The task was then to make sure that the Suva Town Hall was filled for this occasion.

The public meeting was advertised over the radio in both the Hindustani and Fiji languages, 400 invitations were distributed, and the information was passed around verbally.

As a result people of four races, representing five major religions, packed into Town Hall. It was estimated that over 400 persons listened raptly, sympathetically, and admiringly to Mr. Olinga's message. The leaders of an Indian religious society approached the Bahá'ís with a plea that they be allowed to arrange another public meeting during the few days that he would be in Suva upon his return from Samoa, and that the Bahá'ís were to be their invited guests.

Early Thursday morning Enoch Olinga left by flying boat for Apia.

Bus Load of Bahá'ís Give Samoan Welcome

On the day of Mr. Olinga's arrival in Samoa, October 29, the friends hired a bus to travel the twenty-two miles to the airport to welcome him. On the way
stops were made at the different villages to gather those friends that could come, and by the time the airport was reached about thirty believers eagerly awaited the arrival of their first Hand of the Cause and their first African brother.

How lovingly he met the friends, and how they returned his love! Soon he was laden with the South Pacific welcome, as lei upon lei of beautiful fragrant blossoms were laid upon his shoulders. After greeting the friends he gave a short talk in which he conveyed the love and greetings of the revered Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land and the friends in all the countries he had visited.

That evening an assembly meeting had been arranged to officially welcome Mr. Olinga, and to discuss with him the many problems confronting the assembly, particularly teaching work. During this session much valuable guidance was given by Mr. Olinga, and his comments were of great benefit to the assembly. No public meetings, press, or radio interviews were arranged, as the assembly did not think it wise at the present stage of development of the Faith in the Samoan Islands.

A special meeting for close contacts in the Apia area was held on Thursday night, and about twenty people attended. Mr. Olinga gave an inspiring talk on the Faith, and this was followed by a spirited discussion for several hours.

On Friday evening a meeting of all the Bahá'ís of the Samoan Islands had been arranged. The Bahá'ís and their contacts totalled over fifty persons, listening to Mr. Olinga's words and asking many questions.

As the friends in the villages wanted to show their hospitality and gratitude, and time was limited, they decided to combine into two meetings. On Saturday, November 1, a party of the Apia friends accompanied Mr. Olinga to Fasito'otai, where the Bahá'ís of the village of Fasito'ota, Nofalo'iti, and Fasito'otai had arranged a meeting. He was made ceremoniously welcome in a fale (Samoan house), beautifully decorated for the occasion, by the chiefs of the villages, Bahá'í and non-Bahá'í, and speeches of welcome were made.

**Highest Samoan Honor Given by Chiefs**

Mr. Olinga gave a short talk in reply on the unity of mankind and religion. This was followed by the king's kava ceremony, which is the highest honor that can be offered in Samoan custom. He was then presented with a kava root, and another was presented by the Bahá'ís, to be taken to the Holy Land.

In Samoa the fale has no fixed walls, and so all afternoon people came by, watched, and listened. Many children gathered around, as if drawn by a magnet. The Bahá'í children presented a beautiful program, and many were moved to tears to hear the gems of Bahá'u'lláh from their lips.

The villages then served a feast, Samoan style, for all present. When Mr. Olinga departed, he left behind him an excited throng of people.

**Model of the Bahá'í House of Worship now under construction near Sydney, Australia.**

**Construction of the Australian Bahá'í House of Worship near Sydney had reached this stage in November 1958.**
Sunday afternoon was devoted to a meeting of the Leauvā'a, Malie and Afega Bahā'ī groups. It was held in Leauvā'a at the home of one of the Bahā'īs, and was attended by several non-Bahā'ī chiefs and contacts. Here Mr. Olinga was again welcomed, and he spoke about the Faith. Much time was devoted to questions and answers, which were most fruitful. This was followed by a Samoan feast.

That evening many of the friends called to say farewell, and to listen to Mr. Olinga's words for the last time. He lovingly presented each Bahā'ī family with a beautiful picture of 'Abdu'l-Bahā, and there were tears in many eyes.

Very early the next morning he left by car for the airport, but even at that hour the friends in the villages were gathered at the roadside along his route for one last farewell and the placing of the fragrant flowered leis upon his shoulders.

No words can adequately express the spirit, love, and harmony that pervaded all these meetings in Samoa. The friends said it was as if the hearts were singing. It was a tremendous experience for the local believers, whose horizons had been widened, whose devotion had been deepened, and whose desire to serve the Cause has been manifestly increased.

Return to Fiji

Mr. Olinga's first appointment upon his arrival back in the Fiji Islands was a visit to a village school. It had been his special request that he be enabled to visit a Fijian village, and a Bahā'ī school master had arranged that Mr. Olinga might visit the village where he was teaching.

He addressed the children after being entertained with song and dance, and later spoke informally to their teachers over a cup of tea. Before leaving, the Bahā'ī visitors were invited to a Fijian bure for a delicious meal of native foods. The journey back up the river late at night was very relaxing, and those present will long cherish pleasant memories of his voice rising above the sound of the motor as he taught the party its first Bahā'ī song.

The second public meeting in Suva was held in a motion picture theater which had been loaned to the Bahā'īs free of charge. Once again almost 400 people of many races and religions gathered to hear his address.

Mr. Olinga left Suva early next morning for his last appointment in Sigatoka. Some of the friends gathered at the bus stop to bid him farewell, and as he left a much-needed rain gently began to fall, to mingle with the tears of the friends.

The public meeting arranged by the friends at Sigatoka also proved to be most successful, and although this is only a small township, almost 300 people gathered to welcome him and to hear his message.

The hearts of the friends in all of Fiji are very full as a result of Enoch Olinga's visit. It is their earnest intention to foster the growth of the many seeds sown by his visit, to keep the Faith before the public, and to rededicate themselves anew to the great tasks that lie ahead.

National Spiritual Assembly of South Pacific

To be Formed in Suva, Fiji Islands, in April

The formation of the first Regional Spiritual Assembly of the Bahā'īs of the South Pacific will take place in Suva, Fiji Islands, during the first Annual Convention of the believers of that area on April 24-26, 1959.

This is one of the World Crusade goals assigned by Shoghi Effendi to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahā'īs of the United States. A teaching conference the day preceding the Convention will be open to all
Bahá'ís, whether delegates or visitors. The following information will be helpful to believers planning to attend:

1. Visas will be required by all non-British subjects. Applications for visas should be made to the nearest British Consulate.

2. All must have a return ticket and sufficient funds for the period of their stay in Suva, or be in possession of a sea or air ticket to a destination outside the Fiji Islands to which he or she has right of entry.

3. All must carry smallpox inoculation certificates, except people from New Zealand and the surrounding Pacific islands.

4. Native peoples are not normally carried by shipping or air lines without prior approval of the Immigration Department. It is very important, therefore, that the names and addresses of native Bahá'ís planning to attend the Convention be sent to the Convention Arrangements Committee in Suva so that it may take the necessary steps to obtain clearance.

5. Requests for hotel or other housing reservations should be sent to the Convention Arrangements Committee giving the expected date of arrival and the anticipated length of stay. The living costs per day range from £3.5 to £1.76 (Fiji pounds). The address of the Committee is: Miss Irene Jackson, c/o Fiji Broadcasting Commission, P. O. Box 334, Suva, Fiji Islands.

6. All Bahá'ís expecting to attend the Convention and/or teaching conference must carry with them proper credentials from their National Spiritual Assembly.

—U.S. National Spiritual Assembly

Bahá'í International Community Takes Part
In Recent United Nations Activities

Our collective international relations with the United Nations have been greatly strengthened in recent months through the following developments.

The Bahá'í International Community was authorized to appoint observers to attend a conference of African nations held in Addis Ababa for ten days beginning December 29. Three observers were requested to serve: Ali Nakhjavani, Gila Behta and Charles Hassan.

The United Nations for the first time has published a “list of non-governmental organizations recognized by the United Nations Office of Public Information for 1958.” Photostats of the pages bearing the titles and the name of the Bahá'í International Community have been sent the various national spiritual assemblies as a prestige item.

Twenty-six national assemblies have sent Bahá'í International Community letters endorsing the Genocide Convention as follows:—“Since the teaching and practice of the oneness of mankind is the cornerstone of the religion revealed by Bahá'u'lláh, His followers throughout our jurisdiction recognize the vital importance of the Genocide Convention for assuring the protection of small and helpless races and peoples.”

—Bahá'í International Community

National By-Laws Amended to Provide
For Alaska's Admission as a State

Since the Territory of Alaska has become a State of the United States, but possesses its own independent and permanent National Spiritual Assembly, the By-Laws of the Declaration of Trust have had to be amended so as to recognize this fact.

The amendment appears in the National By-Laws, Article 2, which now reads as follows: “The Bahá'ís of the United States, for whose benefit this trust is maintained, shall consist of all persons resident in the several States, Territories or Federal Districts of the United States, except Alaska, who are accepted by the National Spiritual Assembly as fulfilling the requirements of membership in the Bahá'í community . . . .” etc.

Believers are requested to add the words “except Alaska” to their personal copies of the Declaration of Trust. This amendment will be included in the next printing of the pamphlet.

—U.S. National Spiritual Assembly

Bahá'í school of Trang Giang, Central Vietnam. The Hazíratu'l-Quds, in the background, serves also as the school building.
Teaching Tour of Chile by National Assembly Representative
Includes Visit to Southernmost Community of Baha’i World

A N EXTENDED teaching tour throughout Chile was made in October and November 1958 by Salvador Tormo as representative of the National Spiritual Assembly of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Following are some of the interesting highlights of his trip:

In Punta Arenas, the friends received the visiting Baha’i with great joy, saying: “We often have the sensation of being on another continent due to our geographic isolation.” His opening words were: “Punta Arenas can be proud of being in a strategic place in the world spiritually. It is like a lighthouse in the southernmost part of the world.” Excellent publicity was given in the newspaper Prensa Austral and Sr. Tormo, with Sra. Dora de Handler, spoke over Radio Polar on the topic: “New Horizons.”

How necessary it is that those who can travel visit isolated Punta Arenas, is reflected in their local Bulletin: “Our community feels spiritually renewed ... his words of stimulation invigorated our spirits and hearts and gave us the necessary energy to begin a new era of greater activities.” Rúhíyyih Khánum wrote to this community in January 1958: “Your community had a special place in the heart of our beloved Guardian ... he attributed great importance to the Lamp of Baha’u’lláh which shines in that southernmost goal of our Faith.”

On Chiloé Island, where the lone pioneer, Mrs. Louise Groger, stays steadfastly at her post, Sr. Tormo was able to give the Message to nine of her contacts. Later she wrote that one lady returned with her daughter the next day to talk about “What is a Baha’i? and promised to invite other neighbors to come to learn about the Faith.

In Santiago a number of meetings were held, as well as a radio talk and interview with the editor of the newspaper La Nacion.

In nearby Viña del Mar, Sr. Tormo had the moving experience of talking over the radio, addressing words to the Juan Fernandez Island Baha’ís, giving his loving greetings to them and the inhabitants of that island. The friends were delighted to hear his voice, as Sr.

Meeting held during the Regional Teaching Conference at Quilpué, Chile, in November 1958.

Sr. Tormo giving a talk over Radio Polar at Punta Arenas, Chile, in October 1958.

Mrs. Louise Groger at her pioneer post on Chiloé Islands. She markets her vegetables, and states that prospective pioneers can earn a living from the land.
Some of the farm workers who were given the Bahá’í Message at Loncoche, Chile, on the site of the Temple Land, National Endowment, and annual Bahá’í Summer School, October 1958.

and Sra. Tormo were the Knights of Bahá’u’lláh who brought to birth their first local assembly.

In Loncoche, Sra. Tormo spoke to nineteen farmworkers on the grounds where the Temple site and National Endowment is located, and where the Loncoche International Bahá’í Summer School is held nine days each summer. In the little city of Loncoche, the editor of the newspaper La Epoca asked him to stay an extra day to give a public talk. The decision was quickly made and Sra. Tormo, with Sra. Fabienne Guillón, made a house-to-house visit that same night, giving personal invitations to attend the meeting.

The next day forty-five people came to hear the talk, including the important people of the town. The topic was: “Is There a Solution for This World Crisis?” After his departure, Sra. Guillón told of her happiness to learn that the Bahá’í Teachings were being discussed “on all the street corners of the town.” A number of residents have expressed their interest in attending the forthcoming Summer School.

In Quilpué, the Valparaíso and Quilpué friends, and others able to attend, held a successful Regional Teaching Conference of about forty Bahá’ís. Sra. Tormo said: “It was a marvelous conference, characterized by an elevated spirit of unity.” The owner of the salon where the public meeting was held expressed his feelings eloquently with the desire to become a Bahá’í. The deliberations of the conference in the gardens of the Bulling home were also “magnificent,” with the manifestation of the spirit of hospitality and love of that Bahá’í family.

There, too, a joyful surprise awaited Sra. Tormo as two married couples with their children, and another young man from Juan Fernandez Island (all now living on the mainland of Chile), came forward to embrace him.

Leaving Chile, Sra. Tormo visited briefly Mendoza, Argentina, where a poignant incident took place, reminding us of the prisoners’ plea to the Frankfurt Conference to search out those in the prisons and give them the Message.

A young prisoner had become interested in the Faith and had a copy of Bahá’u’lláh and the New Era in prison with him. Sra. Tormo was given permission to visit him, although it was not a scheduled visiting day. The young man spoke enthusiastically and intelligently about the Teachings, saying that if Sra. Tormo had come the next day, he would have introduced several other young men to whom he was giving the Teachings.

As they took leave of each other, the prison guard and chief standing nearby were greatly affected to see the two men embrace each other as a father would embrace a loved son. Sra. Tormo later said: “I felt impelled to give him a strong embrace . . . the emotion I felt at that time is unexplainable . . . a heavenly experience.”

Bahá’í meeting in Punta Arenas, Chile, in October 1958, with National Assembly representative Salvador Tormo, front center.

“Fruits of the Ten-Year Crusade”: Sr. Tormo with Juan Fernández Island Bahá’ís and their children at Quilpué, Chile, in November 1958.
Brussels Assembly Publicizes Relationship of Faith to United Nations Organization

Bahá'ís of Belgium ably demonstrated their sincere interest and cooperation with the work of United Nations in 1958. Brussels, Antwerp, Charleroi, and Liège Bahá'ís held public meetings in each city with good newspaper publicity resulting. L'Afrique et le Monde, published in Brussels, gave twenty-seven column inches to a story on the principles of the Faith, and its relationship to United Nations, following a public talk given at the Brussels Center.

As a member of the Bahá'í International Community represented by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, the Brussels Assembly has been placed on the regular mailing list for documentation and visual aids produced by UNESCO and supplied to provide each community and group in Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg.

Kampala Assembly Secures Land

For a Bahá'í Burial Ground

Formal application for land for a Bahá'í cemetery to the Kampala, Uganda, Municipal Council has been made by the Kampala Local Spiritual Assembly, following preliminary inquiries.

A meeting was called with the Medical Officer of Health, and the Parks and Cemeteries Superintendent, and a piece of land was offered in one of the municipal cemeteries. This was accepted by the Kampala Assembly, and by December 4, 1958, all details were cleared up and a plot of land was marked out for the Bahá'í Faith in the Nakawa Cemetery.

The Bahá'í plot is pleasantly located, shaded with tall eucalyptus trees, and has a metal road to its entrance. It is almost 1200 square yards in area, with space for about forty graves.

A fence of flowering shrubbery ensures its privacy from the surrounding graveyards, and the Bahá'ís have permission to improve the hedge, to lay out paths, and generally to make it a place of simple beauty.

Northwest Africa Teaching Committee Issues

Bi-Monthly Newsorgan, "The Crusader"

Northwest Africa's Regional Teaching Committee Number Seven for Liberia and Sierra Leone recently distributed the first issue of its publication, The Crusader.

The objectives of the newsorgan, according to the introductory statement made by the RTC, are to serve as "a source of news, hope, and inspiration" to the friends, to act as a means of promulgating official notices, and to help unite the region in itself and each believer to the international Bahá'í community. In an excellent effort to achieve these objectives the nine-page paper devoted space almost equally to each.

The leading news item was a report on the construction of the Mother Temple of Africa. It spoke of problems concerning the erection of the dome structure and the finish work, which is scheduled for completion by mid-1959. Another item welcomed the timely return of a pioneer to Liberia. Two others saluted indigenious pioneers who are currently serving at difficult, isolated posts.

The notices for the two-month period included the scheduled meetings of the three local spiritual assemblies, weekly public meetings and a detachable reminder-calendar of Nineteen-Day Feasts and Holy Days.

In several articles the paper fulfilled its function as a source of instructive information. Various aspects of the Bahá'í life were touched upon, and the first of a series of "Health and Home" was presented.

The friends in Area Seven are to be congratulated on their achievement. The Crusader is a paper proudly added to the family of Bahá'í publications.

40 Bahá'ís of Eritrea and Ethiopia Attend Third Annual Summer School in Asmara

The third Bahá'í Summer School of Asmara, Eritrea, held on August 23 to 31, 1958, was an attempt to fulfill the wishes of the Guardian, when, in his cable of September 1957 addressed to Asmara, he assured the friends of his fervent prayers for the expansion of this important institution. Adjirgi, a small village about sixty kilometers outside Asmara, was chosen to witness the sowing of the "establishment of order in the world and of the tranquility of its people...."

During a whole week over forty friends lived together in the Hotel Bellavista, sharing the same spirit, devotional gatherings, Holy Writings, classes, discussions, and recreation.

Friends from many places in Eritrea and Ethiopia came to partake of this true Bahá'í life: Addis Ababa, Gondar, Adiquala, Massawa, Agordat, Barentu, and Asmara. A further blessing was the presence of Eritrean Bahá'í ladies among the new believers that were attending their first summer school.

A diversified program covered these subjects: "Bahá'í Administration" by Charles Hasson of Addis Ababa, "Bahá'í History" by Dr. Hushang Abdieh of Asmara, "Islam" by Mrs. Jeanne Mesbah of Asmara, "The Laws and Ordinances of Bahá'u'lláh" by Dr. Farhoumand, and "Meditation" by Dr. Walter Niederreiter.

In the evenings, Mrs. Niederreiter, who had recently returned from Frankfurt, Germany, spoke about the Intercontinental Conference there. Her eloquent way of presenting the spirit of this conference was deeply felt by everyone.

Interesting and important discussions followed every session, especially after reading Teaching Problems by Rúhíyyih Khánum.

The youth of Asmara showed their desire to deepen their knowledge as Bahá'ís by taking an active part in all the activities of the school.

To close this wonderful summer school, the Youth Committee of Asmara presented a play, "The Assembly's Growing Pains," by Rúhíyyih Khánum. This play was later filmed as a record of this historical summer school, which is "to evolve into the Bahá'í universities of the future."

—JEANNE MESBAH
Asmara Baha’i Community
Attains New Goals for Faith

Top left: The Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Asmara, Eritrea, which received legal recognition as a religious body by the Government of Eritrea on November 13, 1958.

Lower left: Third annual Bahá’í Summer School held at Asmara on August 23-31, 1958.

Top right: Bahá’ís of Asmara attending a recent youth conference.

Lower right: Land for the Hazíratu’l-Quds of Asmara. Another goal recently achieved is the acquisition and government approval of a burial ground for the Asmara Bahá’í community.
Religious and Civic Groups Join in Observance of Human Rights Day at Bahá’í Temple

A tenth anniversary celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was held in Foundation Hall of the Bahá’í Temple on the evening of December 8, co-sponsored by the Bahá’ís in surrounding communities and the following religious and civic organizations: Evanston Human Relations Council; United Nations Association of Evanston; North Shore Human Relations Council; American Jewish Committee, and the Catholic Interracial Council.

An appropriate atmosphere was established for the meeting by the playing of a recording, loaned by Station WEAW of Evanston, of the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights made by Sir Laurence Olivier, the English actor, at the first anniversary of that Declaration in New York City.

Dr. John Slawson of New York City, member of the executive committee of the United States National Commission to UNESCO, and executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee, was the keynote speaker, reviewing in an authoritative manner the historic first Universal Declaration, the progress made since that time, and the weaknesses and problems that presently exist, making impossible a realization of the full import of that Declaration.

A four-member panel, as follows, then proceeded to comment on various aspects of the bill of human rights, its successes and failures: civil, Dr. Sarah Martin Pereira, member of the Bahá’í Auxiliary Teaching Board and professor of languages at Tennessee A. and I. State University; religious, Rev. Tyler Thompson, professor at Garrett Biblical Institute; economic, Dr. Paul Mundy, head of Dept. of Sociology at Loyola University; cultural, Maurice B. Mitchell, president of Encyclopaedia Britannica Films, Inc. Each panelist commented ably on his respective field, the latter three stressing mostly conditions that exist in the home communities of this area.

After the panelists’ presentations, a very lively discussion period followed, with numerous questions being asked. This enabled Dr. Pereira to illustrate ways in which the Bahá’í Teachings apply to problems of human relations and human rights, and how they are resolved in the Bahá’í community.

A literature table, located near the entrance to Foundation Hall, permitted each sponsoring group to display literature on its organization, as well as materials on the Declaration of Human Rights. In addition to this a special leaflet was prepared, giving some background on each organization and placed on all of the chairs so that each guest could have a copy.

In spite of extremely inclement weather, with hazardous driving conditions and sub-zero temperature, there was an attendance of over 200, about half of what was anticipated had the weather not been so severe.

This tenth anniversary celebration had its inception when the National Spiritual Assembly approved a suggestion from the Evanston Bahá’í Assembly, who were in turn asked to take the initiative in planning such a meeting, with the support and co-operation of the Wilmette, Winnetka, Waukegan, Chicago, Maywood, Elmhurst, Batavia, and Oak Park Bahá’í communities.

All planning, publicity, and preparation of several thousand invitational flyers (which the American Jewish Committee prepared at no cost in their Chicago office) was handled by a central planning committee composed of one representative from each sponsoring group. Mrs. Eunice Braun, chairman of the Evanston Bahá’í Assembly, represented the Bahá’ís on this committee, and took the initial steps in contacting and consulting with the other organizations that eventually resulted in a plan for the co-sponsored meeting. Mrs. Braun also opened the meeting, welcoming the guests to the Temple on behalf of the Bahá’ís, and extending an invitation to visit the Temple auditorium after the meeting, which was kept open and lighted for this purpose. All of the speakers, and many guests, accepted this invitation, this being the first visit for many of them to the Bahá’í Temple.

Lee Thorpe of Evanston, chairman of the Evanston and also the North Shore Human Relations Councils, acted as moderator for the meeting.

At the request of the committee, three members were suggested as hosts to the speaker and panelists at a dinner preceding the meeting, as follows: Lee Thorpe, chairman of the planning committee; Dr. Walter Zand, chairman of the Chicago chapter of the American Jewish Committee, through whose auspices Dr. Slawson was obtained as a speaker; and Mrs. Eunice Braun of the Evanston Assembly. This meeting enabled the speaker and panelists to get acquainted with each other, and to make arrangements for the best order of presentation at the meeting. It was noted that quite a number of questions concerning the Faith were asked at this dinner, and Dr. Slawson, who showed a deep and respectful interest, reflected this in his opening comments at the public meeting in Foundation Hall.

Dr. Sarah Pereira has reported that upon her re-
Johnson
'tional Council
'AHA'I NEWS
ing in Nashville. Dr. Pereira feels that this offers a
the majority of them guests who had had
well as with the outstanding speakers who participated
in the program, and the many guests who attended.

Beverly Hills Human Rights Day Observance
Attracts Many New Contacts to Faith

Beverly Hills, Calif., commemorated the tenth anni-
yersary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
with a meeting at the YMCA, attended by 100 persons,
the majority of them guests who had had little or no
contact previously with the Faith.

A well-planned program began with a showing of the
film, "Lady From Philadelphia," starring Marian And-
derson, who was recently appointed as U.S. delegate
to the Thirteenth General Assembly of the UN. The
film, first presented on the Edward R. Murrow tele-
vision program last year, covered Miss Anderson's
trip through the Far East as an emissary of the U.S.
State Department, and was a vivid expression of the
theme of Human Rights.

Miss Helene Boughton, vice president of the Los An-
geles chapter of the UN Association, spoke on the
historical background of the Declaration and on cur-
rent developments in upholding it within the UN.
Charles Wolcott, member of the U.S. National Spiritual
Assembly, followed, expressing the Bahá'í viewpoint
that all "human" rights originate with God.

The Beverly Hills Bahá'ís feel that the program,
along with the fellowship that developed through a
social period following it, and the literature presented
to the guests, did much to encourage the interest of
about twelve persons wishing to make a further study of
the Faith.

In addition to personal contacts, many types of pub-
licity were used to attract attention to the meeting,
including newspaper ads, a feature story in the local
newspaper, spot announcements on local radio stations,
and invitation-programs sent to many civic, cultural
and service organizations.

Four Faiths Participate in Panel Discussion
at Human Rights Day Observance in Boise

The observance of Human Rights Day in Boise,
Idaho, November 29, was sponsored by the Bahá'ís
of Boise and Ada County communities in the YWCA
in Boise. The speakers represented the Buddhist, Jew-
ish, and Christian faiths, with Mrs. Jesma Herbert
presenting the Bahá'í view. This was the best attended
meeting held by the Bahá'ís for some time, there be-
ing fifty-one present, of whom twenty-three were
guests. A Negro minister of the local Baptist Church
was much impressed by Mrs. Herbert's presentation.
The Jewish speaker stated he had never appeared on
a panel with anyone so well-qualified.

A direct result of this meeting was an invitation
from the Presbyterian Church for a Bahá'í youth speak-
er. An invitation also was received from the Buddhist
speaker to attend the opening of the new Buddhist
Temple in Ontario, Ore., in February.

Correction in Message from Hands of Cause

The friends are requested to make the following cor-
rection in their copies of the Message from the Hands
of the Cause dated November 30, 1958, which they
received as an insert in the January issue of Bahá'í
News: page 1, second column, fifth last line, to read
"the twenty-second year of its unfoldment . . . ."
—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Bahá'í Booth at Utah State Fair Attracts
Many Thousands of Visitors

The Bahá'í's of Utah recently united in a state-wide
effort to present the Bahá'í Faith to the public by
preparing a well planned booth at the Utah State Fair
in Salt Lake City. More than half the population of
Utah attended from September 12-22, offering a unique
teaching opportunity to the Bahá'ís.

Bahá'í communities of Utah assisted in the work of
financing, building, and manning the booth. Utah is
fortunate in having Bahá'ís of many talents, with the
result that the 16x16 foot square booth gradually took

Bahá'í booth at the Utah State Fair in Salt Lake City
from September 12-22, 1958.
on a professional appearance.

The booth had a prize-winning appearance, from the draped ceiling to the carpeted floor. Symbols of the world's religions, Bahá'í principles, and the names of the Divine Revelators, strikingly lettered in brilliant gold on a soft black background, decorated the walls. Tasteful furnishings from Bahá'í homes, and plants in green and red effectively set off the simple decor. Four spotlights illuminated the points of interest.

The booth was open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, and was well served by Bahá'ís. The paid personnel of surrounding booths were constantly amazed by the spirit of service shown by the Bahá'ís.

It was an exciting experience! When crowds were large, Bahá'ís, who "never convert," talked to interested people in the booth, and even went out into the aisle to "buttonhole" more timid souls. Fifteen hundred pieces of Bahá'í literature were given out selectively, to prevent careless discarding of it on the fairgrounds. A guest book was kept on the counter for the names of those desiring additional literature or notice of future meetings.

It would seem likely that half of the 250,000 visitors passed the Bahá'í booth, and, in doing so, had an opportunity to learn of the Bahá'í principles. Never before has the Faith been so widely presented to the public in the State of Utah. The effort was extremely rewarding in the spread of the Message, as well as to all of the individual Bahá'ís who served. A large percentage of the Bahá'ís of the state joined in a spirit of service and, as a result, a new unity was found. All of those who cooperated in this effort, have been made aware of "a grace vouchsafed unto him who serves."

Second annual Summer School held at Asunción, Paraguay, on December 13-14, 1958.

Conway, Ark., Methodist Student Movement

Studies Bahá'í Faith at Hendrix College

The Methodist Students' Movement of the First Methodist Church of Conway, Ark., which draws its membership from Hendrix College and the State Teachers College, invited Paul Pettit and Eldon Dennis to speak on the Bahá'í Faith on November 16, as a part of their study of various religions.

The Bahá'ís were invited to spend the entire day with this group, and the whole day was spent in talking with them about the Faith. The day began at 9:45 a.m. with a lecture at the church on the general principles of the Faith, attended by about forty-five persons.

During lunch at Hendrix College a group of nineteen asked questions and sought additional information, then this group adjourned to the Faculty Lounge for further discussion lasting more than two hours.

This was followed by dinner at the church, attended by about forty persons, during which time the students at the individual tables asked one question after another. When dinner was over an hour's discussion of questions and answers followed, with fifty-six attending. When time ran out the questions were cut off, and the meeting was brought to a close with a Bahá'í prayer. However, about twenty students stayed and asked questions on an informal basis. Over 200 pieces of literature were distributed during the day, and many sincere comments and expressions of appreciation were given to Mr. Pettit and Mr. Dennis. The college president and the program chairman remarked that the Bahá'í Faith was the most interesting religion they had studied.

Southern Rhodesia and Northern Mozambique

Hold Area Teaching Conference

The Area Teaching Committee of Southern Rhodesia and Northern Mozambique held a successful Teaching Conference on November 15-16, 1958.

Bahá'ís came from Bulawayo, and almost every Bahá'í from the Salisbury area attended at least one of the sessions.

The theme of the conference was "Deepening." Lengthy and interesting discussions were held on these questions: What is the purpose of deepening, and How can we deepen ourselves in the Faith?

In his opening remarks Hastings Højane, chairman of the conference, said, "I wish you to join together in prayer and devotion." He said he believed that everyone realized the importance of the Area Teaching Committee, and told us that we had come with two baskets within us, one full and the other empty. It was everyone's duty to empty the one which was full, and to fill the other. By joining in the consultation and giving ideas, the full basket would be emptying; by listening and taking notes of what others said, we were filling the empty basket.

The workshop method proved very successful, and all discussions were more clearly understood when they were presented in a summary. It was brought out that the purpose of deepening was to enable us to stand fast and firmly as a tree with our roots firmly embedded in the teachings, and that we were not to be swayed from our truth. We can effectively deepen ourselves by constant attendance at regular meetings, by participating in teaching activities, and by following a well-planned teaching course from the Sacred Writings.

The conference felt that there were new believers
that needed great assistance from the older Bahá’ís, and it was felt that they could grasp more of the Bahá’í Teachings, and at the same time increase their interest, if given responsibility within their grasp, and by being encouraged to take part in extension teaching trips.

After a recess for dinner, the friends gathered to hear messages from Hand of the Cause John Robarts, and from the National Teaching Committee. A talk was given by Mrs. Audrey Robarts on “Extension Teaching,” which is our great need in spreading the Cause.

On the next day the discussion touched mostly on “Bahá’í Administration.” It was brought out that knowing the Administration would enable us to love and appreciate any responsibility given us, that we would not absent ourselves from meetings unnecessarily, and that we would have confidence within ourselves in our teaching.

Finally there was a quiz presented by Mrs. Florence Fathe-Azâm. The quiz was so arranged that the Bahá’ís wished they had read most of the books before the quiz! Later on a copy-list of where to find the answers in the Bahá’í books was given for reference. This meant that the friends would have to look up the answers, and in doing so would help to deepen themselves.

—SOUTH AND WEST AFRICA NEWSLETTER

Ten Latin American Countries Need More Pioneers To Attain Formation of National Assembly

Following the beautiful and stirring message of November 30 from our leaders, the Hands of the Cause of God, the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee again renews its appeal for pioneer volunteers. No one whose heart throbs with love for Bahá’u’lláh has failed to be stirred by the joyful hope of the establishment of the Universal House of Justice in 1963, nor by the appeal to each individual to do his share to bring the beloved Guardian’s Crusade to a triumphant consummation.

Twenty of the Pillars of the Universal House of Justice—twenty new national spiritual assemblies—must be established in Latin America. While the past five and a half years have witnessed a great expansion of the Faith in many of these Republics, the minimum base for a national assembly, the required number of local assemblies set by the beloved Guardian still remains to be built in no less than ten of them. As pointed out by the Hands of the Cause, this year is critical. The required new local assemblies must be started immediately in order to achieve the victory.

The Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee welcomes the offer of any volunteer to pioneer in Latin America, or to fill the place here in the United States of someone who is ready to leave but cannot until his place on an assembly or goal group is taken. Address: Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, secretary; 73 College Road West; Princeton, N.J.

—WESTERN HEMISPHERE TEACHING COMMITTEE

Stresses Value of “The Bahá’í World” In Teaching at Pioneer Outposts

Assuming that each Bahá’í who reads this already has his personal copy of The Bahá’í World, Vol. XII, have you ever thought of its forceful teaching value in pioneer outposts, or in any part of the world where literature is scarce and the Faith is little known?

Although this international record is timeless in its value to Bahá’ís as an historical record and document

Bahá’ís of Lancaster and Millersville, Pa., combined efforts in observance of Human Rights Day. There was a public meeting at the YMCA in Lancaster on December 7, following the state convention, with Annamarie Honnold speaking on “A Bahá’í Looks at Human Rights.” The above photograph shows the Human Rights display in the window of the Lancaster Free Public Library for one week before the meeting.
The work-study sessions will have a minimum study program of one class per day and devotions. The rest of the time will be spent on work projects for the improvement of the school. A flat rate of $10.00 per week will be charged all registrants for the work-study sessions to apply on the cost of food and lodging.

Anyone who is interested in a scholarship for the Youth Session or the regular sessions should apply to the Geyerville Bahá’í School, Geyerville, Calif.

Brotherhood Award Given NSA Chairman

H. Borrah Kavelin, chairman of the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly, and five other leaders of religion in this country were given Brotherhood Key awards by the Labor Temple Fellowship, Inc., at a Brotherhood Brunch on December 21. This large interfaith group is affiliated with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Mr. Kavelin spoke for about fifteen minutes on the Bahá’í Faith, its Divine Source, and what Bahá’ís throughout the world are doing in the promotion of brotherhood.

Bahá’í Message Given at All-Faith Chapel

The All-Faith Chapel of Solar Aircraft Co., San Diego, Calif., invited Michael Rochester, a local Bahá’í, to speak at chapel services in December. Brief talks and readings from the Bahá’í Writings were given to two groups of employees, totalling about 100 persons.

Speakers for the services are selected by an interfaith board of nine employees, one of whom is a Bahá’í. The chapel, built by employees with company funds, was dedicated in 1955 at a service in which the Bahá’í community was represented.

BAHA’I IN THE NEWS

A handbook published by the University of Chicago in its section devoted to religious groups refers to the Bahá’í discussion group “created to relate the ethical teachings of the Bahá’í Faith to the life on campus.”

The Standard Oil Company map of Chicago and vicinity includes the Bahá’í House of Worship in its section on points of interest.

Los Angeles Community Sets Goal

For Regular Contributors to Fund

As one of its local objectives in the homefront campaign the Local Spiritual Assembly of Los Angeles, Calif., has set a goal of 70% of the members of the community as regular contributors to the Bahá’í Fund. Progress reports are given by the treasurer at each Nineteen-Day Feast.

Starting with April 21, 1958, as the base, the number of regular contributors has steadily increased until at the end of the first six months the percentage had almost doubled.

This is one aim on which all communities and groups should focus attention during the next four years.

-U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Geyerville Bahá’í School Announces

Dates for 1959 Sessions

The Geyerville Bahá’í School Program Committee has announced the dates of the 1959 sessions, which have been approved by the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly as follows:

June 21 to June 28—Youth Session
June 29 to July 4—Work-Study Session
July 5 to August 16—Regular Sessions
August 17 to August 29—Work-Study Session
August 30 to September 7—Regular Session

No adults will be registered for the Youth Session except staff members necessary to run the school. Youth will also be welcomed at all other sessions. The work-study sessions will have a minimum study program of one class per day and devotions. The rest of the time will be spent on work projects for

Entrance to the remodeled cafeteria at Geyerville Bahá’í School in California.
Worth Sparks, Jr. Besides publishing a photograph of Mr. and Mrs. of a Baha'i group in the city by Mr. and Mrs. Robert book on algebra used in the junior high school con-

Affairs has established a special department for re-

The Israel Office of Information is issuing a series of pamphlets entitled This is Israel. No. 6, "Religious Life" contains a paragraph about the Baha'i World Center in Haifa. The Israeli Ministry for Religious Affairs has established a special department for relations with the Baha'i Faith.

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Benelux Countries corrected this error and the letter written by that Assembly was published on February 6, stated: "The two Wisconsin scientists were Dr. Manucher Javid, associate professor of neurosurgery, and the late Dr. Paul Sethlage, associate professor of anatomy."

The Stars and Stripes, newspaper of the American armed forces in Europe, on August 2 mentioned the Intercontinental Conference in Frankfurt, and illustrated the model of the Baha'i Temple to be constructed in Europe.

People and Places, an illustrated monthly magazine published by DeSoto dealers, carried in September a two-page illustrated feature on the Baha'i Temple. In addition to a full-page illustration of the Temple, three small illustrations of the interior of the dome, one of the texts carved on the nine entrance doors, and a picture of the interior were shown. The accompanying text, summarizing the purpose and design of the House of Worship, was taken from accurate sources. This article was written by Marshall K. McClelland, a free-lance writer who has made a careful study of Baha'i literature.

The Courrier du Littoral, published at Ostend, Bel-
gium, carried a display article on the Martyrdom of the Bab.

Dallas Times Herald, August 22, announced the opening of the first Baha'i Summer School in the Southwestern States, and outlined the program.

The Muellermist Irrigation Company, Maywood, Ill., manufacturers of automatic lawn sprinkling systems, has distributed an illustrated descriptive folder listing important installations that includes the Baha'i Temple. The Temple also appears on a page illustrating several installations.

The Nashville Banner, July 31, published an extensive notice on the passing of Nellie Jennings Roche: "Recognized as one of the South's outstanding women in the insurance profession. . . . The great-great-granddaughter of Gen. James Robertson, founder of Nashville, she had lived in Nashville all her life and been active in its civic and religious affairs. . . . Originally a member of St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Miss Roche.
became a member of the Bahá'í Faith about thirty years ago. She served as chairman of the Bahá'í community here several years ago."

On August 10 the Chicago Sunday Tribune published the seventh in a series of articles by Louise Hutchinson "telling how a Tribune reporter found that Chicago and suburbs are a delightful place for a vacation." This article described a Sunday morning meeting in the Methodist Temple. "But there is another House of Worship in the Chicago area that is unique in all the world." This statement introduced an excellent description of the Bahá'í Temple and its purpose.


Chemical Bulletin, September 1958, a monthly trade journal published by the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society, describes a journey in and around Chicago of interest to Society members attending a convention in Chicago. This journey includes a visit to the Bahá'í Temple — "One of the most interesting and beautiful buildings in the Chicago area... a glittering gem in white and myriad colors."

The Year Book of International Organizations, 1958-59, published by the Union of International Organizations in official collaboration with United Nations, lists the Bahá'í International Community on pages 261-262 in the section on Religion and Ethics. The twenty-three National assemblies participating in the Bahá'í International Community at the time this statement was prepared, are all listed.

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### Calendar of Events

**FEASTS**
- February 7—Mulk (Dominion)
- March 2—'Ala' (Loftiness)

**INTERCALARY DAYS**
- (Ayyám-i-Ha), February 26 to March 1

**DAYS OF FASTING**
- March 2-21

**U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**
- February 13-15

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**Baha'i House of Worship**

**Visiting Hours**

**Weekdays**
- 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)

**Sundays and Holidays**
- 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Entire building)

**Service of Worship**
- Sundays
- 3:30 to 4:10 p.m.
Behold! He is the blest and sacred bough that hath branched out from the Twin Holy Trees. Well is it with him that seeketh the shelter of his shade that shadoweth all mankind.

—’Abdu’l-Bahá
"We have commanded you to pray and fast...

Thou seest, O God of Mercy, Thou Whose power pervadeth all created things, the servants of Thine, Thy thralles, who, according to the good-pleasure of Thy Will, observe in the daytime the fast prescribed by Thee, who arise, at the earliest dawn of day, to make mention of Thy Name, and to celebrate Thy praise, in the hope of obtaining their share of the goodly things that are treasured up within the treasuries of Thy grace and bounty. I beseech Thee, O Thou that holdest in Thy hands the reins of the entire creation, in Whose grasp is the whole kingdom of Thy names and of Thine attributes, not to deprive, in Thy Day, Thy servants from the showers pouring from the clouds of Thy mercy, nor to hinder them from taking their portion of the ocean of Thy good-pleasure. All the atoms of the earth bear witness, O my Lord, to the greatness of Thy power and of Thy sovereignty; and all the signs of the universe attest the glory of Thy majesty and of Thy might. Have mercy, then, O Thou Who art the sovereign Lord of all, Who art the King of everlasting days, and Ruler of all nations, upon these Thy servants, who have clung to the cord of Thy commandments, who have bowed their necks to the revelations of Thy laws which have been sent down from the heaven of Thy will. Behold, O my Lord, how their eyes are lifted up towards the dawning-place of Thy loving-kindness, how their hearts are set upon the oceans of Thy favors, how their voices are lowered before the accents of Thy most sweet Voice, calling, from the most sublime Station, in Thy name the All-Glorious. Help Thou Thy loved ones, O my Lord, them that have forsaken their all, that they may obtain the things Thou dost possess, whom trials and tribulations have encompassed for having renounced the world and set their affections on Thy realm of glory. Shield them, I entreat Thee, O my Lord, from the assaults of their evil passions and desires, and aid them to obtain the things that shall profit them in this present world and in the next.

I pray Thee, O my Lord, by Thy hidden, Thy treasured Name, that calleth aloud in the kingdom of creation, and summoneth all peoples to the Tree beyond which there is no passing, the seat of transcendent glory, to rain down upon us, and upon Thy servants, the overflowing rain of Thy mercy, that it may cleanse us from the remembrance of all else but Thee, and draw us nigh unto the shores of the ocean of Thy grace. O Lord, through Thy most exalted Pen, that which will immortalize our souls in the Realm of glory, will perpetuate our names in Thy kingdom, and safeguard our lives in the treasuries of Thy protection and our bodies in the stronghold of Thy inviolable fastness. Powerful art Thou over all things, be they of the past or of the future. No God is there but Thee, the omnipotent Protector; the Self-Subsisting.

Thou seest, O Lord, our supplicant hands lifted up towards the heaven of Thy favor and bounty. Grant that they may be filled with the treasuries of Thy munificence and bountiful favor. Forgive us, and our fathers, and our mothers, and fulfill whatsoever we have desired from the ocean of Thy grace and Divine generosity. Accept, O Beloved of our hearts, all our works in Thy path. Thou art, verily, the Most Powerful, the Most Exalted, the Incomparable, the One, the Forgiving, the Gracious.

—Gleanings page 299-302

Ruhíyyih Khánum Addresses Over 200 British Bahá'ís During London Visit

THE British friends had the wonderful privilege of a visit from Hand of the Cause 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum last October when she was in London to supervise the completion of the beloved Guardian's monument. On Sunday afternoon, October 26, more than 200 Bahá'ís from all parts of Britain gathered at the Eccleston Hotel in London to meet her.

The following excerpts of Rúhíyyih Khánum's talk at that meeting, reprinted from the January issue of the British Bahá'í Journal, were compiled from notes taken by several people, and while they are not a verbatim report, there was no disagreement among the compilers:

"The strength of the Bahá'ís is in each other. We feel lonesomeness except in meeting together, when our hearts are consoled. We love Shoghi Effendi now more than ever, and we find our happiness in doing something to please him."

'Amatu'l-Bahá then told us that after the passing of the beloved Guardian she had visited the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, and there, in spite of her tremendous sorrow and her love for the Guardian, she knew that it was because of Bahá'u'lláh—not because of Shoghi Effendi—that she was a Bahá'í. It is Bahá'u'lláh's Cause we are trying to establish, and she realized that if she turned with all her heart to Bahá'u'lláh she would be able to come through.

Our purpose in life is to know and to love God. Shoghi Effendi once gave advice to a Bahá'í who said he could not get on with the Bahá'í community where he was, and so was no longer active in that community. The Guardian said that this was the wrong attitude, that we cannot possibly be compatible with everyone, but because we love God we love our fellow men. We should love people because we love God and they belong to God, just as we love everything..."
connected with those we love, even small mementos. The Bahá'ís must be dear to each other; unity springs from love; warmth and a strong knitting together come from love. The Administrative Order is now working well all over the world. It was built by the older Bahá'ís over a long and laborious period, and now the new Bahá'ís find this Order already here. To-day the need in the Bahá'í world is Love, for each other and for humanity.

The Guardian has left us everything we need; we should hold to the Guardian's plan, the Ten-Year Crusade. This is the last plan we shall ever have from Shoghi Effendi; it gives us opportunities for service which will never recur. We should keep our minds on our objectives, decide which are the most important things to concentrate our energies on and remember that every single moment that escapes us is not coming back. In this way the work will go forward.

There is not enough brevity in the Cause. We must train our minds to say things in a concise and brief manner, avoiding anecdotes and reminiscences in consultation.

We must put first things first; each Bahá'í must consider this and see that he is not tied down by side issues which prevent him from grasping his choice.

The Guardian is not our 'Exemplar,' but we could with advantage imitate his way of working. Shoghi Effendi was unidirectional—like an express train on a track; knowing where he was going, nothing diverted him from his purpose. He spent all his time doing the task which lay ahead. The Hands in Haifa find it is all they can do to keep abreast of work the Guardian did all alone. Shoghi Effendi had method; he had tenacity and a unidirectional drive towards his goal. He worked until the job was completed. We must learn to be like that.

The Guardian relied on God and on himself. That is to say, he would find out for himself as to whether a job could be done and then, having decided that it could, he would do it himself. We must also show initiative in this way; we must be audacious and drive through with perseverance in carrying out the affairs of the Cause. We must analyse the facts. The believers are the power-houses of the Faith.

It is very important now that the Bahá'í think of the Faith as a World Faith. Bahá'u'lláh came to establish World Unity. Shoghi Effendi literally forged the Bahá'í world. This is our most precious heritage, and it must not be allowed to slip back. We must cultivate consciousness of the greatness and preciousness of being part of the Bahá'í world.

The national spiritual assemblies must think internationally;

The local spiritual assemblies must think nationally;

The groups must think in terms of being local spiritual assemblies and the isolated believers of becoming a group. The largeness of vision will bring tremendous strength, and a world consciousness will strengthen the unity of the Bahá'ís all over the world.

The world organization of the Cause is the responsibility of the Hands and the national spiritual assemblies. The function of the Hands in Haifa is to hold the Bahá'í world together. We must pray for these Hands; their work is infinitely important and all are working as hard as they can. It has been a great blessing during the past year at the World Center to have had a number of the other Hands substituting at different periods for some of the Hands appointed to serve there. This has brought the Custodians firsthand reports of the status of the Faith in various areas, as well as enabling the temporary Custodians to better sense the overall needs of the Faith as seen from the World Center.

How to Reach the Grave of Shoghi Effendi

These directions on reaching the grave of Shoghi Effendi in Great Northern London Cemetery are supplied by the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles with the request that visiting Bahá'ís make use of them instead of calling upon that Assembly for information and assistance.

By car from Marble Arch: Up Edgware Road—about half-mile turn right into Marylebone Road (lights)—about half-mile turn left into Gloucester Place (B.523), thence into Park Road (A.41). Keep left and continue to Wellington Road and Finchley Road (still A.41) to Swiss Cottage. Continue on Finchley Road towards Golders Green. At Tower Garage (about two miles) take right fork. Straight on through Golders Green (still Finchley Road till North Circular Road crosses (about two miles). Turn right (A.406). At crossroads after overhead bridge (gasworks on corner) turn left into High Road (A.106). At end bear right, then forward at crossroads and keep left into Brunswick Park Road. Cemetery gates down hill on right.

By underground: Travel to Arnos Grove Station (Piccadilly line), thence by bus or on foot (about ten minutes' walk), following map.
The Bahá'í Home, First Dependency of Mashriqu’l-Adhkar, Opens in Wilmette

On February 1 the American Bahá'í community achieved another and unique objective of the beloved Guardian's Ten-Year Plan, for on that day "the first dependency of the Mashriqu’l-Adhkar in Wilmette," The Bahá'í Home, began actual operation.

To acquaint the residents of Wilmette and the neighboring communities with the particular purposes and services of The Bahá'í Home (as described for the believers in Bahá'í News, October 1958), Sunday, January 25, was publicly announced as open house, both by means of a large advertisement in Wilmette Life and special articles in Chicago and suburban newspapers. In addition, approximately 200 special invitations were sent to officials of the Village of Wilmette, the
Wilmette Chamber of Commerce, and a number of social service organizations, as well as to directors of other homes for elderly people, doctors, and business concerns, inviting them to inspect the premises and become acquainted with the facilities and services that are provided. A corps of local Baha'is received the visitors and conducted them on tours of the building.

Although a heavy snow storm and hazardous driving conditions prevailed all day, nearly 200 persons signed the guest book. All were very complimentary and enthusiastic, not only about the structure itself and the artistic and practical interior decorating scheme and choice of furnishings, but also for the concern that has been given for the safety, interest, and comfort of the residents. Many remarked particularly about the unusual safety precautions, which include the absence of steps and scatter rugs, hand rails in the corridors and bathrooms, the communication system between all bedrooms, bathrooms, and the administrative offices, and the isolation room with facilities for the treatment of minor illnesses. The well-lighted, cheery hobby room, the spacious and well-equipped kitchen, com-

Top left: Cook's table in kitchen.

Top right: A portion of the parlor.

Center: A typical single room, one of sixteen similar rooms for guests.

Bottom: Northeast portion of living room.
fortable living quarters for the administrator, cook, and maid were other areas of special interest, as were the small parlor for private visits and the inviting book-nook. The newspaper publicity devoted considerable space to the description of the landscaping scheme, which includes several gardens with walks and benches, and a stockade cedar fence on three sides to provide quiet and privacy. Every room of the "U" shaped structure looks out on these private gardens, so planned as to give warmth, color, and beauty all the year-round. One garden of hybrid tea and floribunda roses will provide cuttings for the dining room, and one small plot has been set apart for the residents who wish to make gardening a hobby.

While accommodating only twenty guests, a high standard of selection and operation will be maintained in order to make this a model home for elderly men and women. As the first accessory to the Bahá'í House of Worship, it exemplifies the principle that prayer to God must be fulfilled in service to one's fellow men without discrimination of race, class, or creed.

The construction and furnishing of The Bahá'í Home, costing approximately $200,000.00, has been financed completely by the American Bahá'ís. It has its own Board of Directors and is incorporated under the State of Illinois as a non-profit corporation.

William Campbell Wright of Wilmette is the architect, and the interior decoration was planned and carried out by Mrs. Ida E. Wright, interior decorator of Winnetka, assisted by a committee of Bahá'ís consisting of Miss Edna M. True, Mrs. Dorothy Redson, and Dr. Katherine K. True. Landscaping was designed by Hilbert E. Dahl and L. Wyatt Cooper, who have already won a wide reputation for the beauty of the gardens surrounding the Bahá'í House of Worship. The Administrator is Mrs. Florence V. Gibson. An Admissions Committee appointed by the Board of Directors, composed of six Bahá'ís and three non-Bahá'ís, processes all applications; the final decisions about admission are made by the Directors.

The general requirements for admission are: that the applicant must be sixty-five years of age or over; must be in reasonably good health and able to attend to all personal needs; must be of good character and able to integrate happily into group living in the Home. The financial arrangement arrived at by the Board of Directors in consultation with the applicant and the applicant's family does not include hospital or long-time nursing care, or funeral expenses.

Since The Bahá'í Home is a home in the complete sense for all residents, whether Bahá'ís or non-Bahá'ís, the premises cannot be open at all times for inspection by the casual visitors. However, the Board of Directors will try to work out some arrangement to have the Home open during certain hours for delegates and visitors to the forthcoming National Convention.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Canada Launches Bold Campaign to Proclaim Faith to Public

A bold and courageous campaign to proclaim the Message of Bahá'u'lláh in Canada has been undertaken by the Promulgation Committee of the Canadian National Assembly in Western Ontario.

Many communities in this area are reported to have become Bahá'í-conscious as never before, as a result of sympathetic and enthusiastic press support, radio coverage, and public talks.

This campaign has also served to excite and quicken the Bahá'ís, and has produced a unifying and revitalizing force so greatly desired by the Guardian. Repercussions to the proclamation activities have included denunciations of the Faith from the pulpit of Christian churches and sermons directly related to the claims of Bahá'u'lláh, as well as the securing of many vital contacts for the Faith from interested inquirers.
THE tenth observance of World Religion Day, which was inaugurated in 1950 by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of the United States, was held on Sunday, January 18, 1959. When the third Sunday in January was first designated as World Religion Day, it was only a national event; today it is being observed by Baha’i communities in many parts of the world.

The theme for the occasion was “the fundamental oneness of religion.” The Baha’i Press Service prepared a release and advertisement on this theme and distributed these to over 300 Baha’i press representatives, the Associated Press, United Press International, and the Associated Negro Press. It is with great interest that we note that in many instances the papers carried the full text from the release, “If we investigate without prejudice these great religions, we will find that in name and form they differ, but fundamentally they agree.”

When we realize that this message reached 47 states, more than 120 Baha’i communities, over 125 papers with a potential reading circulation of ten million, it is a thrill. We recall the promise of ‘Abdu’l-Baha that “Every seed sown in this day shall bear fruit”; perhaps not tomorrow, this week, next month, nor next year, but some day, and this is what is so important for the future of our beloved Faith. It is a significant example of what the friends can do when they make a concerted effort on behalf of the Faith. “Blessed are those who work in groups.”

How was the public reached? Why did the papers tell our story? We are not an organization of a million adherents in this country, nor did we have the services of a public relations firm, nor a large bank account at our disposal. This outstanding record was achieved by the isolated believer, the sick, the aged, the new believer, the friend with four or five small children, the groups of two, three, or five and the communities of nine, fifteen, and more. This is the miracle of our Faith, friends; that so much can be done by so few when we have the courage of our convictions, and faith is courage.

Colorful Poster Widely Used

Visual materials continue to become a pressing need in reaching the multitudes and with this in mind the Baha’i Press Service had a colorful poster depicting the oneness of religion drawn by an artist, Jack Tarleton, for display. Over 400 of these posters were distributed to the friends, some communities ordering as many as 15, 25, and 30. We have been told that these were most effective, and in some communities
the friends were asked to keep the posters on display for a week after the event. These posters were shown or displayed in public libraries, banks, YWCA's, YMCA's, hotel lobbies, bus terminals, vacant stores, and many other places where people are apt to conglomerate.

We didn't have to pay for this space; it was given to us. Our theme, "the fundamental oneness of religion," could have been provocative and controversial, and we could have been denied the space for our exhibits, but we weren't. It is quite evident that your community knows for what the Bahá'í Faith stands, at least the leaders in your community do, and they have no fear. Could the effort, which seems so ineffectual to you at the time it was made, have penetrated the hearts and minds of some of your citizens to make them so cooperative?

The fact sheet of religious symbols, as another aid for attracting the public, and circulated to the press representatives, was put to use, not only as a distribution piece, but as a publicity item in the local papers and in exhibits. There were many exhibits of the sacred writings of the revealed religions, and several centered their display around the golden rule of each of the major faiths. We are becoming increasingly more eye-minded.

Public meetings were primarily the function held in observance of World Religion Day, with a discussion period following the talk. Some of these were panels of representatives of other religions, and a significant number presented friends from other lands, who spoke on their religion, making these meetings a colorful and world-embracing picture, particularly when the speakers were in native costume. Then, there were those who had a Bahá'í speaker only, who drew upon the wealth of material in the Bahá'í Writings on the revealed religions themselves. Children and young adults also participated in the occasion. Many communities had a social time after the meeting and served refreshments; others had special musical programs. It just seemed that the friends made every effort to attract the public.

Many radio announcements and interviews were reported, another mass media for proclaiming the Faith. It is becoming increasingly more available to the Faith.

First Public Meeting Held on Hopi Reservation

The first Bahá'í public meeting ever held on the Hopi reservation took place on January 11 at New Oraibi, Ariz., at the home of a Hopi friend of Melvin and Irene Vanderhoof, pioneers now living on this reservation. Although the date of January 11 was chosen to meet the convenience of other Bahá'ís who came to help, the World Religion Day theme was followed. A welcome was extended by the Hopi hostess and Mrs. Vanderhoof, followed by short talks given by the minister of the local Independent church (a Hopi) and by James Ginnett, Bahá'í pioneer living on the adjacent Navajo reservation. The Vanderhoofs have reported with great enthusiasm that deep harmony and love was felt at this gathering and a sense of spiritual nearness to the Hopi people has been apparent increasingly ever since. "Hopi Hi-Lites," a monthly newsletter circulated on the reservation carried an account of the event, as well as a Flagstaff newspaper.

Bahá'ís from the Navajo reservation attended the World Religion Day public meeting held in Flagstaff on January 18, bringing friends from the reservation with them. The small hall was filled to capacity, with many Bahá'ís and their guests who came to hear Mrs. Nancy Phillips speak. On January 25 a public meeting was held in Window Rock by the Navajo reservation Bahá'ís, with World Religion as the theme. Amoz Gibson narrated the slide showing on the Holy Land and the Bahá'í Temple in Wilmette.

Brussels, Belgium, again celebrated World Religion Day with a public meeting, and even though the city was blanketed by a heavy snow storm, twenty eight people attended the public meeting. E. Claude Levy delineated the march forward mankind is making in the material and political sphere through scientific discoveries and regional unification, and pointed out the need for spiritual unification of the religions of the world, emphasizing what the coming of Bahá'u'lláh signifies for this day.

Panel discussions were held by the Little Rock, Ark., community on the subject: "How Religion Can Solve Today's Problems." Two clergymen and a Bahá'í speaker participated. Bakersfield, Calif., presented a panel of young adult members of the Los Angeles Bahá'í community, who discussed "World Peace." Charleston, W. Va., had a panel discussion on "The Fundamental Oneness of Religion" with representatives from the Judaic, Christian, Islámic and Bahá'í Faiths, followed by coffee and a discussion hour.

Nassau, Bahamas, reports that four American Bahá'ís participated in a panel discussion which resulted in a twelve-column-inch publicity on the World Religion Day observance last year in Little Rock, Ark., in which the meeting was held in a synagogue, with a Presbyterian minister as moderator, representatives from the Seventh Day Adventist Church and the Society of Friends participating in the program, and the president of the Interracial Ministerial Alliance
closing the meeting with a prayer, with music furnished by the choir of the Negro college. This was evidently quite newsworthy to the citizens of the Bahamas in light of the publicity on the integration of schools received in the press in Little Rock and elsewhere. We never know how far reaching our efforts will be, Little Rock, Ark., to Nassau, Bahamas.

The communities using visual aids as a means of observing World Religion Day were Iowa City, Iowa, who showed colored slides on Palestine; Rochester, Minn., had colored slides on Haifa and the Bahá’í House of Worship; Dumont, N.J., presented an illustrated talk with slides of Europe and South America; Charlotte, N.C., showed colored slides of the four religions in Palestine, with a Bahá’í narrator; Youngstown, Ohio, had a Bahá’í from Africa who spoke on “Religion In World Affairs” and showed films of Ghana and Africa. An exhibit of African art objects was on display. Waukesha, Wis., showed the film “Haifa, A Name To Remember,” with three speakers; and Lancaster, Pa., presented “Palestine—Holy Land of Four Faiths,” and a Bahá’í spoke on the basic agreement underlying the major faiths.

Communities presenting representatives from other major faiths on their program were: Costa Mesa, Newport and Orange County, Calif., who had a speaker on Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Society of Friends, Islâm and the Bahá’í Faith; Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley presented seven of the world religions on the theme “the fundamental spiritual precepts of the world’s religious beliefs are essentially the same.” Speaking to this subject were: a Hindu, a Zoroastrian, a Jew, a Buddhist, a Christian, an American Indian, and a Bahá’í; Montclair, N.J., welcomed an Indian educator from New Delhi to the discussion at their open fireside meeting which had been preceded by a two-week book exhibit at the public library and excellent newspaper publicity. St. Petersburg, Fla., sent out 300 attractive invitations and had a representative from Judaism, Christianity and the Bahá’í Faith; Rochester, N.Y., had a Hindu, a Moslem, a Jew, a Christian, and a Bahá’í on their program, and each spoke of the teachings of his faith. The guest speakers were all foreign students from Bombay, India, Iran, Nigeria, and Israel.

Variety of Related Subjects Are Discussed

The communities that held public meetings on topics other than “The Fundamental Oneness of Religion” were: Birmingham, Ala., who had a Bahá’í speak on “Religion In The Space Age”; San Diego, Calif., panelists spoke on “Religious Unity—A Compromise or Revelation?”; the speaker for the communities of Santa Barbara and Ventura, Calif., spoke on “Keepers of the Flame”; West Miami, Fla., “World Religion,” with a book display in the Florida Light and Power Company; Cedar Falls and Castle Hill, Iowa, communities had a speaker on “Religion—The Hope of The World”; Waterloo, Iowa, had a tea and the Bahá’í speaker spoke on “One Infallible Authority”; Greater Boston, Mass., presented a program at the Adult Education Center with a member of the faculty of Temple Israel the guest speaker; Peoria, Ill., chose as their topic “The Purpose of World Religion”; the Quincy, Ill., Bahá’í speaker spoke on “A Universal Faith Established By The Return of Christ”; Roswell, N. Mex., had a public meeting on “True World Religion And What It Means To You and All Mankind”; the Niagara Falls, N.Y. speaker spoke on “This Is The Day For World Religion”; a Jew, Christian, and Bahá’í spoke on “The Challenge of Religion In Our Time” in Greensboro, N.C.; Barberton and Akron, Ohio, chose the topic “World Religion, What Is It?”; Salem, Ore., had two speakers, the non-Bahá’í spoke on “Panorama of World Religions” and the Bahá’í on the “Bahá’í Faith.”

Astoria, Ore., held a meeting on “Religious Unity”; Syracuse, N.Y., held a public meeting and the speakers were a Bahá’í and a native of Poona, India, who spoke on “Search for God”; Durham, N.C., presented a physicist, a child psychiatrist, and a Bahá’í who spoke on the topic: “The Atomic Mandate: Science and Religion are Equally Important”; Seattle and Spokane, Wash., “God’s Timetable for Religious Unity”; Tacoma, Wash., “Universal Religion To Unite The Hearts of Men”; Wauwatosa, Wisc., presented a Bahá’í speaker on “Journey In Space.”

Key West, Fla., reported a broadcast over a local radio station with a Bahá’í speaker on the “Birth of World Religion”; Burlington, Vt., reports announcements and an interview on the local radio station, as well as two window displays. Topeka, Kans., had a luncheon meeting; Boise, Idaho, had letters to the editor calling attention to World Religion Day and for what it stands; Decatur, Ill., called attention in their ad “Religion Unlimited,” and to Bahá’í books in the public library on the theme. Atlantic City, N.J., reports that they believe theirs was the first publicity on the Faith.

The children’s Bahá’í School in Maywood, Ill., had a program for their friends and families; the East Rochester, N.Y. Bahá’í Children’s School had a special World Religion Day program. An eleven year-old
child conducted the meeting, and children from five to twelve participated in the program with prayers, songs, and the presentation of the art work on religious symbols done by the children in the second grade and explained by one of the older children. There was a colored movie on "The Religions In The Holy Land." The children served the refreshments and even the three year-olds assisted by passing the napkins.

Other communities which held public meetings on the "Fundamental Oneness of Religion" were: Jefferson County and Denver, Colo.; in California, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Oxnard, Redding, San Francisco, and Stockton; Indianapolis, Ind.; Colorado Springs, Colo., New Haven, Conn.; Des Moines, Iowa; South Bend, Ind., Baton Rouge, La., Port Huron, Mich., New Haven, Mich.; Butte, Mont., Yonkers, N.Y.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Lima, Ohio; Logan, Utah.

The topics were numerous, the types of observances many; we are only sorry that the reports were not complete enough to do justice to your efforts; nor have they all been received. However, we do know this, that because each one of you who had a part in this significant undertaking, this impact on the hearts and minds of the public which has been caused by our working together in unity on this occasion, will have its effect. World Religion Day continues to be the leading event to proclaim the Bahá'í Faith to the multitudes.

—BAHÁ'Í PRESS SERVICE

Central America and Mexico Communities
Hold Outstanding UN Day Observances

Bahá'í communities in several cities of Mexico and Central America have reported very good results from well-planned United Nations Day activities.

The Bahá'í Public Relations Committee of Tegucigalpa collaborated with the Student Council of the Inter-American Cultural Institute of that city in the UN Day Celebration. Nearly one hundred people, including representatives of the various diplomatic missions of the city, attended. According to its own request, the Bahá'í committee received no mention of its services, but the student group knew and unofficially gave publicity to the Bahá'ís.

The next Sunday, as a follow-up, the Bahá'í committee gave a party for the student committee and guests who had participated in the program. The chief of the U.S. Information Service, the Press Attaché, and other guests seemed deeply impressed by the relaxed atmosphere, as well as by the beauty and simplicity of the function.

The Guadalajara Bahá'í community reports an ambitious and highly successful celebration of UN Day. Before an audience including a representative of the Governor of the State of Jalisco, and professors of the University of Guadalajara, four speakers, including two Bahá'ís, one representing UNESCO and the United Press, and the other representing the "Confraternidad Intellectual Mexicana Americana" presented their topics. "Bahá'í Proposals for Revision of the United Nations Charter," and "Principles of the International

Low-Caste, Impoverished Rodiyas of Burma
Given Bahá'í Message and Gifts

An article appearing in the Colombo, Ceylon, newspaper acted as a stimulus for Colombo Bahá'ís and visiting Bahá'í friends from Rangoon, Burma, to travel sixty miles to a remote village to bring the Message of Bahá'u'lláh. The article referred to a branch of the Sinhalese people, known as Rodiyas, considered to be at the bottom of the cast system.

The Rodiyas live in poverty in the village of Diganwela. The nine families making up this village have very little to eat or wear, and range in age from infants to elderly people of seventy-five years. Gifts of food and clothing were distributed to them. There,
gathered in an open space in front of a hut, Anver Cadr of Rangoon spoke to them about Bahá'u'lláh in the Sinhalese language. A Bahá'í with a Buddhist background explained about the second coming of the Buddha, referring to the condition of the world at present, and the need for a World Teacher to unite a divided world. Copies of Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era in Sinhalese were presented, and a donation was made toward the collective fund for the welfare of their village.

The Local Spiritual Assembly of Colombo writes in the Bahá'í News Letter of India and Burma: "Finally assuring them that we would visit them often, we recited a prayer in Sinhalese and prepared to depart. But no, those kind souls would not let us go unless we partook of their young coconuts. At last we departed with a fervent hope that Bahá'u'lláh would shower His blessings on these souls."

**Pioneers Open Goal City of Chitre in Panama**

In June 1958 the National Teaching Committee of Panama chose the city of Chitre, Panama, as the goal for an assembly by Ridván 1959. In July six Bahá'ís from the Canal Zone community decided to make the 162 mile trip into the interior of Panama to visit this goal city.

After registering at the hotel, the six gathered in a room and said prayers for the city. Then they split into two groups and began to explore the possibilities. One group had not walked more than two blocks when they looked up and saw a little hardware store which bore the sign "La Nueva Era" (The New Era). They decided to take a picture of it. While they were focusing the camera, the owner came out and posed in front of the store for them. After the believers had introduced themselves they asked him why he happened to name his store "La Nueva Era." He explained that it is a new era, an age of freedom from human bondage. Of course he was the first contact made for the Faith there. It went easily from there on. Many people heard of Bahá'u'lláh on that first visit.

On October 18th and 19th the city celebrated the 110th anniversary of its founding, and three Bahá'ís who have settled there were serenaded as an official welcome to the city and had the honor of being officially invited to attend the fiesta by the president of the city council in person.

Regular firesides are being held every Saturday night, and the response to the cause is more than could possibly have been hoped for by any of those six who first went to Chitre to "plow the ground with their prayers."

**First Recognition of Bahá'í Marriage in Canada Achieved in British Columbia**

The first Certificate of Registration under the Marriage Act was issued to a Bahá'í assembly by the government of the Province of British Columbia on December 16, 1958, certifying that the chairman of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Vancouver is legally authorized to conduct marriages in that province.

This achievement of the first victory in the legalization of Bahá'í marriage in Canada is a cause of rejoicing by all Canadian Bahá'ís, as it was a goal dear to the heart of Shoghi Effendi.

**Spread of Faith in Bolivia Proves Need For Pioneers in Western Hemisphere**

On the high altiplano of the Andes live thousands of Indians, some in small cities, many on the plains or in the mountains. Less than three years ago, the mayor of one of the cantons in Bolivia, while in the capital, La Paz, walked past the Bahá'í Center, with its friendly sign, "Inquiries Invited." With his knock, the door opened to a surging spread of the Faith among this race, which both the Master and the beloved Guardian so often urged us to teach. In a few months he and his brother had entered the Cause.

Within a week, Andrés was saying: "This is what the Indian wants. He wants to find the Will of God. He doesn't like contention and fighting; he doesn't like drunken fiestas. He wants justice and education. He wants to obey the Will of God. This is what all the Indians need. This is what the whole world needs."

Already Andrés and Carmelo were telling other Indians of the Faith. By Ridván of 1957, seven months after their enrollment, the first assembly was established in Huanuni, their canton. And the teaching continued. The Indian Bahá'ís are teaching their brothers in many localities, walking the distances of two to five days journey. Already there are several groups, two more large enough to have assemblies this Ridván.

Greeting with joy the fulfillment of the beloved
Guardian’s desire, the National Assembly of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay appeals for pioneers, “consecrated and detached Bahá’ís,” to live with the Indians “in order to consolidate the formation and functioning of these new groups and communities. This task is so important and the possibilities of reaping fruits are so enormous that we cannot let it go. Bolivia is like Africa and needs the same class of pioneers that are awakening that Negro continent. It is true that these pioneers should know at least a little Spanish in order to communicate with the more educated Indians.” (The Indian in Bolivia speaks Aymara or Quechua.)

Life on the altiplano is bleak and rugged. The Indians are colorful, and long for the opportunities to rise, culturally and spiritually. Anyone interested in this post, or in other of the twenty Latin American Republics, to assist in building these Pillars of the Universal House of Justice, can write to: Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee; Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, secretary; 73 College Road West; Princeton, N.J.

Teaching Activities at U. S. Colleges Reviewed by Bahá’í College Bureau

Bahá’í teaching efforts at colleges and universities have taken on many different forms, from formal meetings, to intimate personal conversations. The Bahá’í College Bureau has been attempting to help organize the former, stimulate the latter, and act as a clearinghouse for other activities. Here are a few examples of recent events:

Institutes on College Teaching were held at ten campuses across the nation — at Ohio U. at Athens, West Virginia State U. at Institute, Texas Christian U. at Fort Worth, the U. of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Stanford U. in Palo Alto, the U. of Washington at Seattle, the U. of Buffalo, the U. of Arizona at Tucson, Tulane U. in New Orleans, Harvard U. at Cambridge, and the U. of Wisconsin at Madison.

The agenda included a general review of Bahá’í activities at colleges and a discussion of specific local problems. John Ferraby’s book All Things Made New was reviewed as an aid in teaching the Faith in colleges. Public meetings were held at some of the colleges in conjunction with the institute with a representative of the College Bureau as a speaker. An evaluation of the institute by the participants concluded the meeting.

The teaching experience of the students in all parts of the country was very similar: it indicates that public activities are important to arouse interest, but personal contact, based on individual excellence, is by far the most effective teaching method. Participation in various interfaith activities is an excellent means for making contacts. Experience has shown that publicity based on worthwhile activities is not only free — activities are news — but also much more effective than paid advertisements featuring, for example, pictures and quotations.

A key factor in the success of teaching efforts is continuity, such as regularly scheduled firesides and deepening classes. A student’s life is an active one and there is only a limited amount of time for extra-curricular activities. The neighboring communities can do much to help the students with the physical arrangements of such activities. The availability of a Bahá’í home where meetings or classes can be regularly scheduled helps to make these activities successful.

The reports received by the College Bureau indicate that the institutes filled a real need and should be held at intervals. At this time the bureau is formulating plans for another institute to be held early in May, perhaps the weekend of May 9. This will provide an opportunity for an evaluation of current activities and the formulation of future plans.

As the concluding event in the Centennial Celebration of student religious activities, the University of Michigan sponsored a National Consultative Conference in November 1958, to which Bahá’í representatives were invited. This was the first national conference in our times to which representatives from all sections of the country were invited to plan the teaching of religion on campuses and to discuss the religious life of their students.

Six hundred faculty teachers of religion, religious workers, personnel workers, administrators, and representatives of national educational and religious organizations were present. The Bahá’í representatives were Dr. Manucher Javird, Dr. Hamilton Miss, and Dr. Otto Zmeskal, together with Mrs. Marie Esterer and Mrs. Helen McClusky. As a result of their participation in the discussions and informal talks during the three-day meeting, many people of significant standing in the academic community had a favorable contact with Bahá’ís, which is likely to influence their future attitudes toward Bahá’í student activities. The delegates felt that participation in this meeting was of considerable value and expressed their appreciation.

The first meeting with the Indians of Nicaragua, on November 16, 1953, at Momimbe. All are not pure-blooded Indians, but they maintain themselves separately in this area near the city of Masaya, where Mignon and Donald Witzel are pioneering. Meetings are continuing at regular intervals.
of the support given them by the Ann Arbor community.

Religious Emphasis Week is held on many campuses and offers splendid opportunities for Bahá’í participation. During the past year, the verse “Say: All were created by God,” submitted by the Bahá’í students at Ohio University, was used as the theme of their celebration. Students at Arkansas State College at Flagstaff participated in “Religion in Life” week with Dr. Nasrat’olláh Rassekh as speaker. Iowa State College is planning a Religious Emphasis Week during February 1959. Mrs. Velma Sherrill, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause, will be the Bahá’í representative. Students at Montana State University have joined in the Religious Emphasis Week activities, with Mrs. Hazel Mori as featured speaker. The newly formed Bahá’í Club at San Jose State College co-sponsored the “Religion in Life” week there.

A very successful teaching effort was made by Winston Evans at Anderson College in Indiana. Although there were no Bahá’í students enrolled at Anderson, Mr. Evans was invited by the Social Science Department to hold a two-day seminar on the Faith, which was received with much interest. An equally successful series of talks was given by Paul Pettit at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark. By invitation of the local chapter of the Methodist Student Movement, Mr. Pettit spent an entire day with this group discussing the Faith, which the president of the group termed “the most interesting religion” they had yet studied. (See Bahá’í News for February.)

Several new Bahá’í Clubs were founded this year: Cornell University, San Jose State College, Palmer School of Chiropractic, University of Wisconsin, and Utah State College all have new Clubs. There are, however, several existing Clubs which are in danger of losing their constitution owing to a lack of new students, particularly the Clubs at the University of Michigan and at Northwestern University. The enrollment of Bahá’í students at these schools would help to maintain these important achievements.

Administratively, the Bureau has compiled a file of all Bahá’í students and a listing of the colleges where there are any Bahá’í activities. A Speaker’s Bureau with a membership of over 100 has been formed to help with college teaching all over the country, and an up-to-date record of these activities is maintained. To keep these records meaningful so that they may serve as a basis for coordinated teaching efforts, the College Bureau is wholly dependent on the cooperation of those directly engaged in this work at the colleges. We therefore urge all of the believers to keep us informed, to let us know of their teaching problems and to share with us their successes. Only in this way can the Bureau perform a useful function.

—Bahá’í College Bureau

Teaching the Faith in Norway

A pioneer in Tromsø wrote the following letter which expresses important points of view for the teaching work:

“One of the many requirements which a Bahá’í faces when he enters a country just beginning to build its administrative order, is the fact that he represents the administrative order as long as he is the only Bahá’í in the entire area. Today, in a country like England, one is never far from a spiritual assembly or a group, and every new Bahá’í is slowly led into the existing organization; no one expects him to know everything at once.

“In Norway every new Bahá’í has not only the responsibility of helping to build up the administrative order, but must also teach his new Faith to others as soon as possible in order to pass on to others the divine grace vouchsafed to him. Certainly it is wise to absorb the teachings slowly and carefully, but when you are confronted by someone who says: ‘Please tell me about your wonderful new Faith,’ there is no holding back! A pioneer has had the opportunity to learn his Faith in company with others (later he wishes he had learned more) and can recall his own experiences, but a new Norwegian Bahá’í here in the North must teach in order to learn.

“The thought that the most diverse people, all with their own ideas and personalities, alone have the responsibility for carrying the personal teaching work, would be frightening if it were not God’s work. Actually only one Bahá’í knows about the wonder that lies in maintaining the unity of the Bahá’í Faith. Of course mistakes are made, but the comprehensive, astounding picture of unity and the immovable goal before one’s eyes is, from hour to hour, gaining in stature and is daily being fulfilled by new Bahá’ís to whom recognition (of the Faith) has been granted. The pioneers have a task before them which is not simple, but the Bahá’ís who take their first wavering steps under the guidance of the pioneer are sure of my great admiration and unending praise. Through their efforts the task of those who follow is made much simpler.”

—Bahá’í Nachrichten

Teaching Congress held at San Miguel Aliende, Mexico, on October 31 to November 3, 1958.
NEWS BRIEFS

An international school under the auspices of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Greater Antilles, held in Port au Prince from December 26 to 29, 1958, was attended by Bahá'ís from Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Haiti. Many expressed deep appreciation for the understanding that they gathered from courses on the Guardian's Six-Year Teaching Plan, the Covenant, and Bahá'í Administration, taught by W. A. W. Mitchell, Sheila Rice-Wray, and Randolph Fitz-Henley.

A half-hour of free television time for a presentation of the Bahá'í Faith was secured by a member of the Avondale, Ariz., Bahá'í group through the cooperation of the Phoenix Council of Churches. The telecast included the reading of prayers, slides of the Shrines and gardens at Haifa and of the House of Worship in Wilmette, and a talk on the Teachings.

The National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska has announced that the hard-to-fill goal of Metlakatla in southeastern Alaska has been settled by William Adams, who had established a business there. This is an all-Indian village, and the home of his wife.

The first Eskimo believer, Peter Singyke, a youth, has been enrolled in the Faith. He resides on Baranoff Island.

All Which Ye Potentially Possess

Know thou that all men have been created in the nature made by God, the Guardian, the Self-Subsisting. Unto each one hath been prescribed a pre-ordained measure, as decreed in God's mighty and guarded Tablets. All that which ye potentially possess can, however, be manifested only as a result of your own volition.

The above words of Bahá'u'lláh are reassuring; but we must read carefully and concentrate on the last line of the quotation, for there we see that the responsibility is put squarely upon us.

BAHA'I IN THE NEWS

A publication of the University of California lists gifts made to the University from January 1, 1957, to December 31, 1957. On page 43 the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Los Angeles appears on the roster of donors.

Presbyterian Life, August 10, 1957, has an article entitled "Iranian Students form Unique Training School" in which the methods used to convert Islamic youth to Christianity are reported. The illustration shows a minister talking with six youths, the caption being "Protestant Minister interprets Islam and Bahá'ism in more advanced class."

La Maison, September 1958, an illustrated monthly magazine published in Brussels, published a photograph of the House of Worship in Wilmette and a
photograph of the design selected for the House of Worship to be constructed in Europe.

On page 86 of the book *Jesus Compared* by Charles S. Braden, the following brief reference to the Faith has been noted: “On the basis of numbers, the Bahá'í Faith, for example, might with equal right be considered one of the great religions, and on the basis of its worldwide spread, much more so, for the Sikh faith has made no effort to propagate itself outside of India and is to be found, apart from India, only where Sikhs have gone as immigrants.”

Newspaper clippings recently received reveal much local interest in and acceptance of the teachings and activities of the Faith.

Fort Wayne News Sentinel, May 31, ran a feature article entitled “Bahá'í Faith Gains Internationally; Successive Crusade Major Factor.”

On September 20 Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette also published a feature article illustrated by a photograph of a meeting at the local Bahá'í Center. The article was entitled “Bahá'í, 'Faith of Unity,' Growing in Mid-West.”

An article in the Boston Herald July 13 on the National Jamboree of Scouts held at Valley Forge, contains a brief reference to the religious services held for Boy Scouts of the Bahá'í Faith. The same article (AP) also appeared in the Boston Daily Record of the same date.

In the section entitled “Letters to the Editor” in the Chicago Daily News on October 7, the featured letter was written by Mary Konishi, a believer, to correct certain religious views expressed by a Daily News columnist.

The Daily Report of Ontario and Upland, Calif., on September 13 ran an extensive article entitled “Student to Devote Life to Expounding of Bahá'í.” The student in question is Hushidar Motlagh, a Persian believer enrolled as a student in Chaffey College.

Described as the “best magazine publicity ever published on the Faith in Argentina” was the three-page article appearing in the July 31 issue of Mundo Argentino, with accurate references to the Faith and photographs of ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, the Bahá'í Temple, and a group of believers gathered in the Bahá'í Center of Buenos Aires. The caption reads: “Bahá'í, an administrative religion for the peace of the world.” This article is the first in a series of reports on the religious communities of Argentina under the general heading: “How God is adored in Buenos Aires.”

The St. Louis Post Dispatch dated Friday, December 12, devoted nearly half a page to a feature story entitled “It's a Small World Romance in St. Louis.” The author presents a vivid human interest report of a Bahá'í marriage conducted in Glendale for Dr. Maarten Nieuwenhzeen of Amsterdam, Netherlands, and Miss Farah Eghrari, Bahá’í from Tíhrán. Their meeting was brought about through an unusual
combination of circumstances, as the author recounts. Of greatest interest to believers is the explanation of Bahá’í marriage given the reporter by Mrs. Velma Sherill.

Bahá’í Author Publishes Book of Poems

Gertrude W. Robinson has published a collection of her poems under the title *For Fruitage of Tomorrow* in a limited edition. All are imbued with the religious spirit, and some refer directly to the Manifestation, or to a Bahá’í institution—the Temple and Davison School.

The author is contributing copies to the libraries of our Summer Schools, but is not offering any for sales distribution.

Bahá’í Publishing Trust

*I Am a Bahá’í*, By Guy Murchie. This interesting exposition on the history and teachings of the Bahá’í Faith first appeared as an article in the Chicago Sunday Tribune Magazine Section a few months ago. A report on it was published in the September issue of *Bahá’í News*, page 6.

Many people visited the Bahá’í House of Worship following its publication in the Tribune, and telephoned or wrote the Bahá’í National Center for information, perhaps more so than any other similar piece of publicity that has appeared in the Chicago area.

In addition to being informative, this article, written by a well-known American writer, who is author of the Book of the Month Club selection *Song of the Sky*, has a unique approach that makes it unusually interesting and appealing to most readers.

The reprint has been prepared in large quantity for wide distribution, particularly to Bahá’í mailing lists. The format, designed by Conrad Heleniak, a Bahá’í of Green Bay, Wisc., facilitates the simplest, most inexpensive handling and mailing. It opens out to four pages, size 8½ by 11 inches, but is folded to 8½ by 3½, with one side blank for addressing. It can be sealed with sticker, stapled, or mailed in other ways. A return postcard may be inserted on the inside.

Committees should inquire of their post office for information on third-class bulk mailing rates, which are very inexpensive.

20 copies ........................................ $ 1.00
100 copies ..................................... 4.00
250 copies ..................................... 9.00
500 copies ..................................... 16.50

(All prices postpaid, and subject to usual community discount.)

**Baha’i Publishing Trust**

110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

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**Calendar of Events**

**FEASTS**

March 21—Bahá’í (Splendor)
April 9—Jalálat (Glory)

**DAYS OF FASTING**

March 2-21

**HOLY DAY**

March 21—Naq-Ruza (Bahá’í New Year)

**U. S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**

March 20-22

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**Bahá’í House of Worship**

**Visiting Hours**

Weekdays
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)
Sundays and Holidays
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Entire building)

**Service of Worship**

Sundays
3:30 to 4:10 p.m.
A RISE, and proclaim unto the entire creation the tidings that He Who is the All-Merciful hath directed His steps towards the Ridván and entered it. Guide, then, the people unto the garden of delight which God hath made the Throne of His Paradise. We have chosen thee to be our most mighty Trumpet, whose blast is to signalize the resurrection of all mankind.

Say: This is the Paradise on whose foliage the wine of utterance hath imprinted the testimony: “He that was hidden from the eyes of men is revealed, girded with sovereignty and power!” This is the Paradise, the rustling of whose leaves proclaims: “0 ye that inhabit the heavens and the earth! There hath appeared what hath never previously appeared. He Who, from everlasting, had concealed His Face from the sight of creation is now come.” From the whispering breeze that wafteth amidst its branches there cometh the cry: “He Who is the sovereign Lord of all is made manifest. The Kingdom is God’s,” while from its streaming waters can be heard the murmur: “All eyes are gladdened, for He Whom none hath beheld, Whose secret no one hath discovered, hath lifted the veil of glory, and uncovered the countenance of Beauty.”

Within this paradise, and from the heights of its loftiest chambers, the Maids of Heaven have cried out and shouted: “Rejoice, ye dwellers of the realms above, for the fingers of Him Who is the Ancient of Days are ringing, in the name of the All-Glorious, the Most Great Bell, in the midmost heart of the heavens. The hands of bounty have borne round the cup of everlasting life. Approach, and quaff your fill. Drink with healthy relish, 0 ye that are the very incarnations of longing, ye who are the embodiments of vehement desire.”

This is the Day whereon He Who is the Revealer of the names of God hath stepped out of the Tabernacle of glory, and proclaimed unto all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth: “Put away the cups of Paradise and all the life-giving waters they contain, for lo, the people of Bahá have entered the blissful abode of the Divine Presence, and quaffed the wine of reunion, from the chalice of the beauty of their Lord, the All-Possessing, the Most High.”

—Gleanings, p. 31-32
Distinguished Foreign Officials Visit Bahá'í House of Worship

By special appointment made by the United States Department of State, a group of ten members of the Senate and House of Deputies of Argentina, with three of our own government officials, visited the Bahá'í House of Worship in Wilmette on February 28. Great interest was shown both in the Temple and the exhibits, and many questions were asked about all aspects of the Faith.

Another special visitor, on March 4, was The Honorable Dwarka Nath Chatterjee, Political Minister of India, recently arrived at the Indian Embassy in Washington. Mr. Chatterjee also asked many questions, and was particularly interested to hear about the strength and activities of the Faith in India.

He was accompanied by James P. Ince, organizing chairman of the third annual session of Evanston, Ill., Inside UN, in which the Bahá'ís of Evanston and neighboring communities are participating both as one of the sponsoring organizations and members of one of the delegations in the general assembly. Mr. Chatterjee was the principal speaker at the first plenary session of the organization.

Hand of the Cause Dr. Giachery Visits Greater Antilles

Hand of the Cause Dr. Ugo Giachery, who has been on a tour of Latin America and the Greater Antilles, arrived in Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, on January 30, 1959, from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

He was met on his arrival by the chairman and acting secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Greater Antilles, W. A. W. Mitchell; by Mrs. Sheila Rice-Wray, the national treasurer; and by Rafael Benzan, chairman of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Ciudad Trujillo.

On his first night there, Dr. Giachery showed his slides of the Bahá'í Shrines and other buildings on Mt. Carmel and of 'Akka, and then addressed the believers.

A visit to the editorial offices of the newspaper El Caribe by Dr. Giachery and Mr. Mitchell resulted in an excellent article and photograph on the purpose of Dr. Giachery's tour of the Greater Antilles, and of the spread of the Faith throughout the world.

February 1 he visited Santiago, about 140 miles away. Two meetings were held, one with the entire community and the other for the showing of the slides of the Holy Land, and then returned to Ciudad Trujillo for another meeting with that community.

Dr. Giachery, accompanied by the national assembly chairman and treasurer, left by airplane on February 2 for Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where a meeting of the assembly was held for two days. He addressed a public meeting on the first night, and showed the Holy Land slides on the second night. Both meetings were well attended by believers and their friends.

On February 5 Dr. Giachery and Mr. Mitchell left for Jamaica, and that evening he spoke to the Bahá'í children of Kingston, and afterward the adult believers.

The next day he spoke at a public meeting in the Lecture Hall at the Institute of Jamaica, and on February 7 he joined the Kingston Bahá'ís in celebrating the Feast of Dominion. He later showed them his colored slides.

Cuba was the next stop on his tour, where he visited the communities of Havana and Marianao from February 8 to 11.

Dr. Giachery returned to Kingston on February 11, and continued on his trip to Latin America.

Endowment in Vientiane Purchased

A piece of land measuring 1000 square meters in area has been purchased in Vientiane, Laos, by the pioneer there, Dr. H. Taed, and donated to the Local Spiritual Assembly.
Baha'i United Nations Observers Attend Economic Commission in Ethiopia

The three Baha'i observers at the UN Economic Commission for Africa: Ali Nakhjavani, Gila M. Bahta, and Charles B. Hassan.

Thanks to the unremitting efforts of the United Nations Committee of the American National Assembly, the International Baha'i Community was granted permission to send three official observers to the first session of the Economic Commission for Africa held from December 29, 1958, to January 6, 1959, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Gila Bahta and Charles Hassan of Addis Ababa, and Ali Nakhjavani (substituting for Philip Hainsworth, appointed observer unable to attend) of Kampala, were the accredited Baha'i representatives at this important Commission called by the United National Economic and Social Council for the purpose of consulting upon effective means of extending economic aid to the countries and territories of Africa.

Although the Baha'i observers had no consultative capacity at the Commission, the fact that they had been granted official status as observers provided them with the invaluable opportunity of meeting and discussing the affairs of the commission and of introducing the Faith to the representatives of many governments and non-governmental organizations present. In this way, it has been possible for the first time in Africa to reinforce the ties of the binding of the Baha'i World Community to the United Nations, one of the goals of the Ten-Year Plan.

Not only was the United Nations Economic and Social Council contacted by the American Baha'i United Nations Committee, but the Baha'i observers in Addis Ababa succeeded in meeting and discussing the Faith with representatives to the Commission from Belgium, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Morocco, Sudan, Britain, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Kenya, Zanzibar, Tanganyika, Uganda, China, Israel, Japan, Holland, and the United States. In a number of cases they found that the members of the Commission already knew of the Faith, had met

Hall of the Parliament Building in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where the UN Economic Commission for Africa was held.
Baha'is, and that the representatives from America and Britain had actually helped personally when their governments had protested to the Persian Government about the recent persecution of the Persian Baha'is. A short message of good wishes in writing was sent by the Baha'is observers to all the delegates. Many verbal acknowledgments and expressions of acknowledgment were received. The Baha'i representatives attended two official functions held in honor of the Commission. One was at the Palace of His Imperial Majesty, Haile Selassie I, where Ali Nakhjavani was presented to the Emperor. The second was a party given by the Lord Mayor of Adis Ababa. The next session of the Economic Conference for Africa will be held in 1960 in Tangier, Morocco, to which it is hoped Baha'i observers will also be sent.

—Baha'i Gazette of Central East Africa

Thirteen Language Translation Goals.
Eight Others Achieved by Australia

One of the remaining two language translation goals of the Ten-Year Crusade for Australia has been achieved with a translation of Baha'i literature into Anenityum, the Australian National Spiritual Assembly has announced.

Of the fourteen language translations assigned to Australia, only Bentuni remains unachieved. Assistance from pioneers west of the area of Steenkool, in the far western Netherlands New Guinea, where this language is spoken, has been sought, but a translator has not been found.

However, there have been eight extra language translations attained beside the goal assignments. The Bogotu translation, achieved by the Solomon Island community this year, was placed on the Guardian's map of crusade achievements just before his passing.

Two items of literature have been published in Tongan, an introductory pamphlet and a small prayer book. In the process of publication is a book of selections from Some Answered Questions, and almost ready for printing is a pamphlet on the Baha'i teachings on immortality.

In view of the fact that Tongans are all literate, and the Bible is the only book that has been translated into Tongan, the publication and distribution of Baha'i literature in the Tongan language becomes a most important means for spreading the Faith there.

Following is a complete list of Australian goal language translations:

**Goal Translations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Translation Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anenityum</td>
<td>New Hebrides Is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bentuni</td>
<td>Dutch New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binandere</td>
<td>New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housilou</td>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifu</td>
<td>Loyalty Is.</td>
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**Extra Translations**

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Group of Baha'is attending the nineteenth New Zealand Summer School held at the Hastratu'l-Quds in Auckland on January 1-9, 1959.
Nineteenth New Zealand Summer School
Attended by Many Baha'is and Friends

The nineteenth Baha'i Summer School of New Zealand was held at the National Ha'iratu'l-Quds in Auckland on January 1-9, 1959.

There were two morning sessions, at which a variety of Baha'i subjects were discussed. On two occasions outside speakers gave talks during the evening sessions. Mr. Blakely, a Baha'i pioneer from Tonga Island, showed slides of Tonga, and others of interest were also shown. The Youth Group entertained the friends on the last evening.

Altogether sixty-five Baha'is and their friends attended the school.

Unity Day was held on January 3, when all were guests at lunch and an afternoon tea. After luncheon the friends assembled to hear a talk on some aspects of unity by Mrs. Blakely.

Hand of the Cause Collis Featherstone was in New Zealand during the sessions and spent some time at the school, although he was engaged consulting with the Maori Teaching Committee.

Alaska Assembly Sponsors Four Conferences

to Consult on Message from Hands of Cause

The Alaskan National Spiritual Assembly sponsored four conferences in January to consult on the November 30 message from the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land. The essential purpose of the meetings was to consult on the unaccomplished goals of the Ten-Year Crusade and the position of the individual believer in relation to them.

The conference in the Fairbanks-Tanana Valley area, with Mrs. Kathryn Alio in charge, stressed the meaning of sacrifice and the true meaning of the privilege of giving. It was pointed out that sacrifice is not made up of surplus funds and energy, but rather needed funds and energy.

The Anchorage-Spenard conference, with Richard Mereness as chairman, attracted Baha'is from Bethel, Seward, and the Matanuska Valley. Earnest consultation was held on the "staggering responsibilities and blessed privileges" facing each individual believer as pointed out in the Hands' message. Reference was made to the Guardian's words in Baha'i Administration, p. 57, wherein he states that only to the extent "to which our own inner life and private character mirror forth" the eternal principles of Baha'u'llah will the Cause be triumphant.

Robert Moul represented the National Assembly at conferences at Ketchikan and Juneau. The Ketchikan conference traced the progress of the Faith during the past five and a half years, emphasizing this year as the crucial turning point. The needs of the National Fund were also stressed.

In Juneau, the entire membership of the Juneau, Auke Bay, and Douglas communities convened. The discussion was spirited, each person present taking part.

Increasing Number of U. S. Communities
Hold Human Rights Day Observances

A complete report on American Baha'i observances of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1958, has been received from the U.S. United Nations Committee, supplementing the reports published in the February issue of Baha'i News.

Twenty-six communities reported their observances to this committee. Most meetings were well-attended, and excellent publicity was received. It is apparent that an increasing number of Baha'i communities are finding cooperation with the United Nations in observing this and other special occasions not only demonstrates our sympathy with their efforts, but also provides excellent opportunities to make contacts and to exemplify the Baha'i principles.

New Zealand Temple site, comprising 4 1/4 acres, on Redoubt Road ten miles southeast of Auckland. The area is elevated, and opens out from a frontage of 100 feet, dominating the scene for many miles.
Ezeiza and Mogadiscio Hold Annual Summer Schools

Bahá’ís of Ezeiza, Argentina, and Mogadiscio, Somaliland, again held their annual Bahá’í Summer Schools, and have reported good attendance in a spiritual atmosphere of study and deepening in the Faith.

The Ezeiza International Summer School was held on February 7-15, 1959, with Bahá’ís attending from Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay; there were also interested contacts present. Among the courses were God Passes By, Christ and Bahá’u’lláh, Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh, and Bahá’í Administrations.

There were many hours of study and consultation on related topics, including the messages from the Hands of the Cause. All classes were held outdoors under the spreading trees, and there was apparent a sense of deepening together in the realities of the Faith.

On February 9 a group of nineteen students went to the grave of May Maxwell in Quilmes Cemetery, where a commemorative service was held, recalling “the first martyr to rest in the Western Hemisphere, the star-servant of Bahá’u’lláh, and beloved handmaiden of the Center of the Covenant.” An article on this event was later submitted to the British newspaper in Buenos Aires, the Standard, to call attention to this historic site in Argentina.

The theme of the fourth annual Mogadiscio Summer School was a quotation from Bahá’u’lláh’s Tablet to the Shah of Persia referring to the unconquerable power of the Faith of God, and man’s duty to become an instrument of God’s Will. The talks on history, Bahá’í teachings, and administration were given from this viewpoint.

It was a united, happy school, and showed signs of greater maturity. Everyone was happy to have Iraq Yeganeh present, not only for himself, but because it seemed that in some ways he filled the absence of Cyrus Samandari, who had attended all previous schools.

Gratitude to the beloved Guardian was expressed and felt by all, as it was through his wonderful letter of encouragement after the first summer school that the Mogadiscio Bahá’ís found the stimulus to hold the school annually, even when the chances for success had not seemed bright.

British NSA Invites London Visitors to Assist in Teaching Work

The National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles extends an invitation to believers who go to London in order to visit the Guardian’s last resting place, to arrange if possible to spend a few additional days in London assisting in the teaching work. Believers able to do so are requested to notify the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles the dates they can devote to teaching so that meetings can be arranged.

The address of the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles is: Mr. John Ferraby, 27 Rutland Gate, London S. W. 7, England.

Brotherhood Theme Presented to the White House

Through the Bahá’í Group of Athens, Ohio, the National Spiritual Assembly of the U.S. received a copy of the material prepared by the Campus Religious Council of Ohio State University during Brotherhood Week, including the agreement to use the phrase—“Say: All are created by God,” as making for the lessening of racial, religious and national tensions. This phrase was chosen after consideration of the University President’s challenge to find a moral equivalent of the atomic bomb.

The Athens Bahá’ís proposed to submit this phrase to President Eisenhower for use as a message to be beamed to the world by the satellite launched during the Christmas season.

The National Assembly approved this plan, but since contacts with heads of governments can only be made by the National Assembly itself, a covering letter was written and the material presented at the White House.

Through Frederick Fox, special assistant in the White House, a letter was written to the National Assembly on February 6 expressing thanks for the Ohio State University material on Brotherhood Week, enclosing copy of letter written by Mr. Fox to the President of Ohio State University Campus Religious Council, and also a copy of President Eisenhower’s message prepared for National Brotherhood Week.

Kenya Holds Teacher Training School

The first seven-day school in Kenya was held under the auspices of the Regional Teacher Training Committee at Namwela Market near Kimilili in western Kenya, from December 28 to January 4. Regular classes were conducted by Irene Bennett of Nairobi on administration; Mary Collison on Bahá’í History, and Rex Collison on Bahá’í laws and social teachings. Many written tests were given and prizes awarded for exemplary work.
Visit to Pipil Indian Village in El Salvador Highlights
 Central American International Summer School Sessions

Fourteen Central American pioneers from Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, British Honduras, and El Salvador united during their vacations in a most inspiring four-day International Summer School, sponsored by the Central American Teaching Committee, held at the Hotel del Lago at Lake Coatepeque, El Salvador.

The school was divided into classes on two themes: "Teaching in the World Crusade," with eight separate subjects discussed, and "Standards of Bahá'í Life," with three topics.

An invitation was extended to anyone who wished to share in the early devotions on the lakefront at six o'clock in the cold dawn. Everyone participated, every morning! The spiritual power was tremendous, forming a beautiful base for each day's work, in the study classes and consultation.

The closing session brought deeply inspiring anecdotes of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and accounts by Edith McLaren and Louise Caswell of their trips to visit the Guardian in Haifa.

The school was an experience rich in all its aspects; the spiritual sustenance was profound, and the great joy of sharing in study preparation for forming the national assemblies cannot be overstated.

Visit to Pipil Indian Village

One of the outstanding activities of the school was a visit to the Pipil Indian village of Izalco, about two hours travel from Lake Coatepeque.

After the arrival of the visiting Bahá'ís by chartered bus, the Indian friends gathered at the Bahá'í Center. They recognized instantly the sincerity in the love extended to them, and gave, in return, unstintingly of their friendliness. All of the visiting Bahá'ís were presented, and each said a few loving words while the cacique (chief) responded with a warm welcome.

A happy note was furnished by one of the most promising Bahá'í contacts in Santa Ana, Ramón Turush, who is a nephew of the cacique, Don Félix. He has been educated as a teacher and musician, and has the Indian gift of spiritual perception.

He had made several trips to Izalco with the Bahá'ís, and gladly accepted when asked to say a few words to his own people in this humble village. To the complete surprise and great delight of the Bahá'ís present, he not only extended loving words, but launched immediately into a most enthusiastic and deeply sincere statement of his admiration for the Bahá'ís teachings and for the Bahá'ís themselves. His words had a powerful simplicity.

Then the Teachings were mentioned directly to the Indian friends for the first time by Artemus Lamb. His few words were simple, sincere, and powerful, terminating with brief quotations from the Guardian on the place the Indian has in the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh. His words were received with an intent interest.

Don Félix had brought his Indian marimba band, and they added gaiety with their lovely music. The musical program also included songs by some of the visiting Bahá'ís. All the while many other Izalceños were outside, looking through the windows and doors, charmed by the gaiety and loving companionship expressed.

It was a tremendous experience for everyone, and it was difficult not to weep for joy. All hearts were very full, and all were reluctant to say goodbye. The waiting friends who could not come in were promised that the Bahá'ís would return soon, and would arrange a program for everyone.
First Bahá'í Winter School of Egypt Held in Cairo

The Bahá'ís of Egypt had the privilege of holding their first Bahá'í Winter School at the Hazíratu’l-Quds in Cairo on January 29 to February 4, 1959.

Morning sessions were assigned for study of the following subjects: "History of the Bahá'í Faith," "Bahá'í Laws," "Teaching the Faith," "The Unfoldment of Divine Civilization," "The Administrative Order of Bahá'u'lláh," and "The Bahá'í Community."

Evenings were spent in a period of general discussion of Bahá'í subjects, and in social entertainment. A farewell party was given on the last evening, when the importance of the Bahá'í school was emphasized. It was reiterated that the Guardian attached great importance to these Bahá'í institutions, and that with the establishment of the first Bahá'í winter school in Egypt the confirmations of the Blessed Beauty would assist the Bahá'í community to render greater service to the goals prescribed by the Guardian under the Ten-Year Crusade.

With a new consecration to the love of the beloved Guardian, the Tablet of Ahmad was chanted at this meeting, praying for the members of the community to arise with a new determination in the service of the Faith.

Nine German and Austrian Cities Observe World Religion Day

Eight cities in Germany and one in Austria celebrated World Religion Day this year, with all reporting that the meetings were especially successful and well-attended by the public.

Speakers at all of the German meetings spoke on a theme taken from the Book of Isaiah: "The Fruit of Justice Will Be Peace." Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Hannover, Karlsruhe, Nurnberg, Cologne, Freiburg, and Munich participated in this observance.

The Vienna, Austria, meeting presented Jewish, Buddhist, Protestant, Old-Catholic, Liberal-Catholic, Moslem, and Bahá'í speakers, all stressing the belief that love and justice must be the cornerstone of all religious effort.

Native Chief is Host to First Bahá'í Summer School in Samoa

The first Bahá'í Summer School in the Samoan Islands was held at Siumu, Upolu, on December 25-28, 1958. Arrangements were made by the Local Spiritual Assembly of Apia, Mrs. Lilian Ala'i, the assembly secretary, has submitted the following report on this historic school:

On the morning of December 25 the truck which had been hired for transportation went from village to village picking up friends and equipment until at last, overflowing, it turned down the cross-island road to Siumu, to the accompaniment of songs, laughter, and the music of ukuleles. Siumu was reached around mid-day after three flat tires, and there we were greeted by Chief Atanoa, who had kindly placed his two-story home and two additional fales at our disposal. His home was beautifully decorated in our honor, and the assistance and kindness he showered upon us during our stay at Siumu greatly added to the success of the school.

Before the opening of the school the Bahá'í men attended a welcome kava ceremony given by Chief Atanoa and other chiefs of the village, while the ladies prepared food to be shared by all. The remainder of the afternoon was given over to settling in and making arrangements for cooking and bathing, etc. The school was opened by devotions in the evening, which was followed by an explanation of the purpose of the summer school, the outlining of the program and the setting up of rosters for devotions, cooking, etc., for the next day.

Adult classes discussed the formation, duties, and powers of an assembly, brief discussions on national assemblies and the Universal House of Justice, the Suva Convention in Ridván 1959, and the method of the election of delegates and their duties. This also led on to the Samoan Two-Year Plan and the determination of the accomplishment of additional assemblies in the Samoan Islands. All sessions were followed by question and answer periods. Chief Atanoa attended several of the sessions and asked leading questions about the Faith and its principles. Although the program provided for leisure hours, these seemed to become discussion periods with contacts who asked questions on the Bible and received the Bahá'ís answers thereto.

As twelve Bahá'í children attended the School, special morning and afternoon classes were arranged for them covering God and His Messengers, Bahá'í prayers and songs, and the Bahá'í Child's A.B.C.

On the day of our departure Chief Atanoa presented the school with a roast pig, and we in turn gave a feast for him and his family and some other village chiefs, during which we thanked Chief Atanoa for all that he had done for us.

This was our first Summer School. Thirty-four people, including twelve children, had attended, and it was unanimously agreed that it had been a joyous and instructive occasion. Its success was due to the whole-hearted cooperation and unity of the friends. From it we have gained much experience and closer bonds with one another.
Many Groups Hear Auxiliary Board Member During Brotherhood Week at Baton Rouge

The scheduled visit of Mrs. Florence V. Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause, to Baton Rouge, La., coincided with Brotherhood Week, and the Bahá'ís made a special effort to publicize the Bahá'í teachings on the oneness of mankind.

George B. Galinkin, correspondent of the group, reported that on the very day the public meeting was announced in the local press as a “Brotherhood Day Program” sponsored by the Bahá'ís, the same newspapers carried a statement by the District Attorney that “racially integrated gatherings such as meetings held recently by the American Friends Service Committee do not violate Louisiana law because they qualify as ‘religious functions.’” This article concerned a religious institute sponsored by the American Friends, and gave the address which was also the address of the meeting announced by the Bahá'ís. After defining the segregation laws, the District Attorney quoted the following from the applicable statute: “None of the provisions of this apply to religious gatherings, services or functions.”

As a result of this unexpected publicity, the Bahá'í meeting was the largest ever held in Baton Rouge, with twenty-eight persons attending, sixteen of whom were not Bahá'ís, nine of them being Negroes. Of these nine five came from the newspaper announcement.

The day following the public meeting, Mrs. Mayberry addressed two classes of students at Southern University (Negro), one of seventy-one students and the other thirty-two. This was the first time a Bahá'í had ever spoken at this university. A Negro contact had obtained the invitation for Mrs. Mayberry to speak through the Dean of the School of Sociology, who later expressed his desire to study the Bahá'í Faith.

On the preceding Friday Mrs. Mayberry spoke to the Hillel (Jewish) Foundation at Louisiana State University. This was the first time that a Bahá'í had spoken on this campus also. Fifteen Jewish students were present. The program was scheduled to last one hour, but the students asked questions for an additional hour and a half.

Following this meeting a student from Pan-American House (South American students) asked if they could have a Bahá'í speaker during Religious Emphasis Week; one student of journalism offered his services to the Bahá'ís regarding future publicity, and three non-Bahá'í students and two Negro contacts attended a follow-up fireside.

Besides meetings with Bahá'ís and with contacts, Mrs. Mayberry also spoke on the Negro radio station and made a tape recording which was played a few days later on another station.

Since Baton Rouge is a goal city, this eventful week has done much to encourage and aid the local Bahá'ís towards the early achievement of their aims.

Mauritius Island Forms Eight Assemblies in Four Years. Expects More This Ridván

When she responded to the Guardian’s appeal at the outside of the Ten-Year Crusade, set forth at the Chicago Intercontinental Conference in 1953, Ottilie Rhein knew that she was destined for the far-off island of Mauritius. Searching in vain for information about her goal, she had to fall back on the encyclopedia, which gave her only a summary sketch. Although she was German by birth, and had lived in America for many years, the Bahá’í Faith called her to the tropics!

East of Madagascar, in the blue waters of the southern sea, the island of Mauritius, called “the star and key of the Indian Ocean,” was the place where this miracle was to be performed.

Ottilie Rhein arrived there in December 1954, lived first at the Park Hotel, and then at the Residence Club of Phoenix. A month later she settled at Belle Rose, which would be, henceforth, a center of attraction for interested friends that would soon become the first adherents to the Cause.

At this crossroad of races, where mingle streams of people from China, India, Africa, and Europe, and where each guards jealously its traditions, customs, and manners, Mauritius lends itself with difficulty to a religion that would fuse, into a homogeneous whole, the qualities that two centuries of everyday intermingling had not succeeded in uniting. The task proved to be arduous, but the faith and indomitable courage of a woman were about to triumph over the obstacles erected by the ignorance and selfishness of mankind.

A Persian, Mr. Shayani, who was passing through Mauritius, was fluent in French, a language better understood by the Mauritiussians, and gave her great assistance.

Pioneers who were neighbors on Reunion Island, Le­land and Opal Jensen, finding themselves refused an extension of their permit to remain there, came to lend a helping hand. The ways of God are mysterious! After the trials they had suffered on this sister island, they expended themselves with additional ardor.

The results were not long in coming. Ridván 1956 saw the formation of three Bahá’í assemblies: Port Louis, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, and Belle Rose. No one can measure at this time what their precious cooperation had brought. Let us say simply that their names will ever be associated with the history of the Faith on
Mauritius, for their counsel, their solicitude, and all they have endured for us are to this day a source of inexhaustible inspiration.

Naw-Rúz of 1956 was the first great Feast, and brought together more than fifty believers. We had the pleasure of having with us Jalál Nákhjavání, who was making his second visit to Mauritius, and who would return in April 1958.

In order to help us resolve our problems at the beginning, John Robarts came to pay us a visit in 1956. A year later two doves stopped on our island, Robert Quigley and William Sears. They gave us precious help for the registration of the Port Louis Assembly. Registration of the assemblies of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Belle Rose, and Vacoas had to come the following year with the warm-hearted cooperation of Jalál.

Delegated by the National Teaching Committee of South and West Africa, Gilbert Robert spent a full year with us at the beginning of the year. His brilliant talks stirred enthusiasm among the Mauritian.

At Ridván 1958 two new assemblies were formed: Richmond and Stanley. Our hopes for the coming year are Goodlands, Palma, and Castel. Will we raise the number of assemblies to nine? We ask our friends to help us make it with their prayers.

—MAURITIUS ISLAND TEACHING COMMITTEE

Teaching, Welfare Activities Among Indians
Conducted by Sioux Falls Bahá'ís

Bahá'ís of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., have been actively interested in working with the American Indians of the South Dakota reservations. One of their activities is cooperation with the Council of Seven Fires, a local group formed three years ago to promote the welfare and advancement of the Indians. The chairman of the Sioux Falls Bahá'í Assembly, Bill Myers, serves as president of this council.

On January 25, 1959, the Sioux Falls Bahá'ís, for the second time, made a teaching trip to Flandreau, S. Dak., and met with their Indian friends at the Indian church there. Mr. Myers spoke to them on “The Oneness of Mankind.” The Bahá'ís have found the Indians very friendly, and experienced an encouraging closeness to them at this meeting.

New Groups, Conferences, UN Activities

Mark Spread of Bahá’í Faith in Korea

The continuing expansion of the Bahá'í Faith in South Korea is revealed in a report listing progress over a ten-month period in four goal cities, where extension teaching work is being carried on by the three existing Local Spiritual Assemblies of Kwangju, Seoul, and Mokpo.

In Chunju, where there were no Bahá'ís a year ago, there are now the requisite number for a local spiritual assembly; in Pusan the group of three members has grown to five, with the possibility of an assembly there also this year; in Songjungi there are now two believers and an Hazíratul-Quds has been leased to provide a center for more intensive teaching activities. While there are as yet no Bahá'ís in the fourth goal city of Suwon, an Hazíratul-Quds has been leased so that teaching work may be started.

 Altogether, the number of Bahá'í centers has increased from five to seven, and the number of local spiritual assemblies is expected to increase from three to five this year.

Two teaching conferences, in addition to the summer school, were held under the auspices of the local spiritual assemblies, with Mrs. Mamie Seto, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause of Asla, serving as guest teacher at the conference in Seoul, and Roy MacDonald of Seoul acting in this capacity in Kwangju.

The report also includes a summary of the activities of the Kwangju Bahá'ís in connection with UN Day and Human Rights Day in 1958. The former occasion provided the first opportunity for the proclamation of the Faith from a public platform.

The audience was composed of more than 1,000 high school students who were addressed by high ranking dignitaries of the province, including the president of the UN Association, the president of one of the universities, the president of the Women's Association, the director of the United States Information Service, and others, besides the Bahá'í pioneer, John McHenry III, and his Bahá'í interpreter, J. D. Oh.

Although at first there had been some doubt whether the Bahá'ís should participate, it became clear that the Faith had every right to be represented in view of the unique laws, institutions, and divine economy.
which are the embodiments of the hopes of the United Nations. Other religions were invited to take part, but did not do so.

The result of this meeting was a great increase in the number of students coming to firesides, more than the local believers can possibly teach. Another apparent result has been a request from the United Nations Association of the city of Mokpo to hold an extended conference in their city for the purpose of explaining the role of the oneness of religion and other Bahá’í principles in reaching peace.

During Human Rights Week, a Bahá’í talk was given at the Buddhist High School in Songjongi, all of the arrangements having been made by one of the local teachers, Son Chong Tae. Again John McHenry III was the speaker. It was the third time talks had been given there, always with the warm invitation of the principal of the school.

On that day, less than two hours after the talk, the opportunity arrived to speak directly about Bahá’u’lláh and some of His teachings. This resulted in sincere inquirers, an offer of a meeting place (which has since become the Bahá’í Center), and in the early enrollment of Son Chong Tae as the first believer. Mr. Son soon became chairman of the Bahá’í group, and in December he was married at the first Bahá’í marriage ceremony in Korea.

During this same week, a public meeting was held for students of both of the city’s universities. The Dean of Education of Chosun University, Professor Kwak Bong Soon, gave the main address. The talk on the Bahá’í Faith brought forth many questions, and a number of the students have become regular attendants at the fireside for university students.

College Bureau Schedules Institutes
At Twelve Universities on May 2

The Bahá’í College Bureau is sponsoring, on May 2, a second series of one-day institutes for college youth at the following colleges: San Jose State College, San Jose, Calif.; Santa Ana Junior College, Santa Ana, Calif.; University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore.; Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah, Colorado State College, Greeley, Colo.; Kansas State Teacher’s College, Emporia, Kans.; University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.; University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio; Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.; Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.; Duke University, Durham, N.C.; and Brown University, Providence, R.I.

Many of our youth feel hesitant about serving as officers on a committee because they are concerned about their ability to carry out such an assignment. Hence we have chosen as the administrative topic for the morning session: “How to be a Chairman.” This portion of the institute will be conducted by a representative of the Bahá’í College Bureau, covering the subject in a detailed practical manner — chairman of public meetings, firesides, youth meetings, of consultation, panel moderator, etc.

The afternoon session will cover two topics, “Prayer” and “Fasting” with the hope of helping the students answer the many questions they are confronted with about these subjects.

The institutes are for all students, Bahá’í faculty and staff, and adult Bahá’ís who are interested in working with youth.

The College Bureau hopes that these institutes will provide an added inspiration for the teaching efforts on college campuses, which are such an important part of the homefront, thereby helping to fulfill the goals of the Ten-Year Crusade.

“Conference at Urbana to be held May 9.

—Bahá’í College Bureau

Eighty Youth Meet in Black Forest
For Annual German Winter School

German Bahá’í youth gathered again for their annual Winter School during the holiday season at the Schauinsland in the Black Forest. More than eighty people from Italy, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, France, England, America, Korea, and Germany, came to spend ten days in the beautiful surroundings in order to deepen their knowledge of the Faith. Besides studying and discussing the teachings of Bahá’u’lláh, there was time for skiing and other recreation.

One of the highlights of the school was the visit of Jean Sevin, a Knight of Bahá’u’lláh and pioneer to Tahiti, and later Tahiti, who showed his beautiful slides of Tahitian scenes. He skillfully combined historical events, social needs, and daily life on these islands with views of the Bahá’í Faith. The students were greatly impressed by his visit.

Mr. Sevin also spoke and showed his slides at eight other German towns during this period, and all the meetings were well attended.

Faith Well-Represented at Iowa College’s
Observance of “Religion in Life” Week

“Religion in Life” Week, held on February 15-18, 1959, at Iowa State Teacher’s College in Cedar Falls, might best be described as a victory for the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh.

For this annual event Rev. Harold E. Bernhard, direc-
tor of religious activities on the campus, contacted the Bahá'í College Bureau for a speaker to participate. Mrs. Velma Sherrill, member of the Auxiliary Teaching Board, was invited to represent the Bahá'í Faith in a series of lectures, panel discussions, and small informal group discussions during the three-day period.

Lecturers on Confucianism, Hinduism, Shintoism, and Catholic Christianity were also invited. These faiths were very well represented by professors from other universities, but it can be truly said that the light of Bahá'u'lláh shone round Mrs. Sherrill. Her own confidence in the message she was giving, inspired much interest among the students and others who heard her.

Mrs. Sherrill's activities began with an unscheduled talk at the College Hill Lutheran Church. Her campus teaching commenced the next day, February 16. Included in her heavy schedule was a recorded interview at the college radio station; one of her talks, "What's New in Religion," which was recorded, has since been broadcast.

On the last evening of Mrs. Sherrill's visit to this area, the friends of Waterloo and Castle Hill communities held a dinner in her honor at a Bahá'í home. Two young people from the college attended the dinner as a result of Mrs. Sherrill's teaching.

**Bahá'í Publishing Trust**

The Creative Plan of God; A Comprehensive Study Guide for Teaching Children. This study material, originally compiled by the National Bahá'í Child Education Committee some years ago, was extensively revised this past year. Included in it is a bibliography prepared by Gretchen Westerveldt, college librarian at State University Teachers College, Potsdam, N.Y., specialist in children's books.

Part I deals with creation through the various kingdoms to man and his link with his Creator. Part II covers progressive revelation from the Day of Adam to Bahá'u'lláh. Part III, the Bahá'í World, explores the structure of Bahá'í administration from the individual Bahá'í to the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

The lessons are planned to be adaptable by the teacher to all ages of children. They contain prayers, readings, and stories that can be read by older children themselves, as well as the lesson suggestions and projects. The book is 8½x11, 72 pages, with a colorful cover that is attractive to both pupils and teacher.

**Bahá'í News Index, Vol. II. Issues No. 173 to 322; January 1945 through December 1957.** Compiled by May Prentiss Stebbins. This new volume, covering twelve years of later issues of Bahá'í News, is carefully detailed, and is produced in the same format as Vol. I, but has red plastic spiral binding and the cover stamped in red ink to readily identify it from the first volume. 8½x11, 140 pages.

Per copy ........................................ $2.00

**Bahá'í Pocket Calendar; 1959-1960.** Designed to fit a billfold, the pocket calendar this year is especially attractive, having an interesting photo of the Shrine of the Báb with a view of the harbor on the reverse side. As in previous years, it runs from May 1, 1959 to May 1, 1960.

Ten copies ........................................... $0.50

25 copies ............................................. $1.00

100 copies .......................................... $3.00

(Note: isolated Bahá'ís wanting a single copy can order one for 5 cents, but should include enough items to fill out minimum order of $1.00)

**Calendar of Events**

**FEASTS**

April 9—Jalál (Glory)
April 28—Jamál (Beauty)

**HOLY DAYS**

April 21-May 2—Feast of Ridván (Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh)
April 21—First Day of Ridván (About 3:00 p.m.)
April 29—Ninth Day of Ridván
May 2—Twelfth Day of Ridván

**U. S. NATIONAL CONVENTION**
April 23-26—Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette, Ill.

**U. S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**
April 22

**Bahá'í House of Worship**

**Visiting Hours**

*Weekdays*

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)

*Sundays and Holidays*

10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Entire building)

**Service of Worship**

*Sundays*

3:30 to 4:10 p.m.
MAGNIFY Thou, O Lord my God, Him Who is the Primal Point, the Divine Mystery, the Unseen Essence, the Day-Spring of Divinity, and the Manifestation of Thy Lordship, through whom all the knowledge of the past and all the knowledge of the future were made plain, through Whom the pearls of Thy hidden wisdom were uncovered, and the mystery of Thy treasured name disclosed, Whom Thou hast appointed as the Announcer of the One through Whose name the letter B and the letter E have been joined and united, through Whom Thy majesty, Thy sovereignty and Thy might were made known, through Whom Thy words have been sent down, and Thy laws set forth with clearness, and Thy signs spread abroad, and Thy Word established, through Whom the hearts of Thy chosen ones were laid bare, and all that were in the heavens and all that were on the earth were gathered together, whom Thou hast called ‘Ali-Muhammad in the kingdom of Thy names, and the Spirit of Spirits in the Tablets of Thine irrevocable decree, Whom Thou hast invested with Thine own title, unto Whose name all other names have, at Thy bidding and through the power of Thy might, been made to return, and in Whom Thou hast caused all Thine attributes and titles to attain their final consummation. To Him also belong such names as lay hid within Thy stainless tabernacles, in Thine invisible world and Thy sanctified cities.

Magnify Thou, moreover, such as have believed in Him and in His signs and have turned towards Him, from among those that have acknowledged Thy unity in His Latter Manifestation — a Manifestation whereof He hath made mention in His Tablets, and in His Books, and in His Scriptures, and in all the wondrous verses and gem-like utterances that have descended upon Him. It is this same Manifestation Whose covenant Thou hast bidden Him establish ere He had established His own covenant. He it is Whose praise the Bayán hath celebrated. In it His excellence hath been extolled, and His truth established, and His sovereignty proclaimed, and His Cause perfected. Blessed is the man that hath turned unto Him, and fulfilled the things He hath commanded, 0 Thou Who art the Lord of the worlds and the Desire of all them that have known Thee!

Praised be Thou, O my God, inasmuch as Thou hast aided us to recognize and love Him. I, therefore, beseech Thee by Him and by them Who are the Day-Springs of Thy Divinity, and the Manifestations of Thy Lordship, and the Treasuries of Thy Revelation, and the Depositories of Thine inspiration, to enable us to serve and obey Him, and to empower us to become the helpers of His Cause and the dispersers of His adversaries. Powerful art Thou to do all that pleaseth Thee. No God is there beside Thee, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the One Whose help is sought by all men!

—Gleanings, page 84-86
Beloved Friends:

Excerpts from two recent communications received from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land are presented to the American believers with an appeal for their serious consideration by all individual believers, by all local communities, by committees, and by area conferences.

Under date of February 11 our Assembly received a letter from which we cite the following passages:

"As the remaining years of the Ten-Year Plan are rapidly drawing to a close, we are most deeply concerned over the fulfillment of the goals set by our beloved Guardian, and a great deal of our attention is taken up with ways and means of arousing the Bahá’í world to instant action.

"Our suggestion is that these two great pillars of the Faith, Persia and America, representing the East and the West, unite in a joint effort . . . the Persian Bahá’ís should be invited to contribute to a fund which would go directly to the American National Assembly, forwarded by the Persian National Assembly, to be used for the specific purpose of financing American pioneers who are ready to go and fill the all-important pioneer posts abroad . . .

"This plan would have nothing to do with the flow of Persian pioneers who are able to leave their country. It would be a system of deputization of American believers on the part of the Persian believers in order to fulfill at the earliest possible date some, at least, of the objectives of our beloved Guardian’s Plan.

"Although all arrangements would be handled by the American National Spiritual Assembly . . . it would be highly desirable if . . . the Persian contributor or contributors . . . could later be put in correspondence with the person or family that it deputized. This, we feel, would bring the Bahá’ís of East and West, already so much more closely united through the grief caused by the passing of their beloved Guardian, closer together than ever before, and knit them . . . in a deeper bond of fellowship. In this way a firmer foundation will be laid for that occasion . . . when the believers . . . will come under the direct guidance of the Universal House of Justice, and when that august body will need to have the greatest unity, fellowship, and cooperation amongst all believers in order to further the work of the Bahá’í world."

This arrangement means that American volunteers for the pioneer field for Latin American, European, and Oriental areas, whose mission at present cannot be financed from the American National Fund, will be dispatched to these posts through deputization by Persian believers, through that Fund, as replenished by donations forwarded by the National Assembly of Persia.

As rapidly as funds are made available in this manner, American volunteers will be sent to the posts selected for them by one of our intercontinental teaching committees.

Response to This New Opportunity Is Urgently Invited

From a letter dated February 24, also written by the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land, the following excerpts emphasize the vital importance of accomplishing the remaining tasks of the World Crusade:

"As the conclave of the Hands of the Cause in Bahjí in November 1958, it became apparent to all that if the Bahá’ís of the world are to remain faithful to their trust and demonstrate their devotion to the beloved Guardian, they must arise in a supreme effort to accomplish all the tasks of the Ten-Year Crusade, and particularly to win those goals which have to do with the establishment of local assemblies, the foundations for the national spiritual assemblies called for as specific objectives of the Ten-Year Plan. These national assemblies constitute paramount goals, because they are pillars of the Universal House of Justice.

"This beloved Guardian himself has called for the holding of the first World Bahá’í Congress in Rejván 1963. It would indeed be a fitting crown to the beloved Guardian’s life of complete sacrifice and service if the House of Justice is established at that time."

"America has the lion’s share of this great task, as the beloved Guardian gave the United States a continuing responsibility for the achievement of the goals in the areas where regional national assemblies have been established in Central and South America, and in Europe.

"As we analyze the situation, local spiritual assemblies must be formed in these areas as follows:"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>62</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beloved friends! The tasks assigned to our Bahá’í community at this stage of the Crusade are clearly defined. The channels of administrative direction are all in operation. The means are assured. The focal point of spiritual achievement is in the hearts of
individual Bahá'ís and Bahá'í families willing and eager to respond.

"We are not unmindful, of course, of the great responsibility resting upon your Assembly in bringing the number of local assemblies in the United States up to three hundred. This, in itself, will perhaps require a very marked pioneering movement. However, we hope that strong financial assistance from the Persian Bahá'ís will make it possible for a mighty wave of pioneers to go forth and fill those posts abroad where the need is most urgent. This certainly would simplify your financial problem of settling and developing the Faith in goal cities in the United States."

Destiny has brought our community to its supreme test. In pressing forward now, we bring to fulfillment the very meaning of America in the life of the human race. It is for this crucial victory that 'Abdu'l-Bahá traveled across the land in 1912; it was for this achievement that the beloved Guardian unfolded through our community the significance of obedience to Bahá'u'lláh, the purposes of the Cause, and the nature of Bahá'í institutions. An overflowing cup of the pure Wine of Holiness has been offered the American believers. Your National Spiritual Assembly is assured that it is not offered in vain.

"What service could be more glorious than sacrificing for the establishment of the Universal House of Justice, and what demonstration of love and devotion to the Guardian could be more wonderful than achieving all the objectives of his Ten-Year Plan!

"We live in an hour of great destiny. We pray that each one of us may valiantly play his or her part until total victory is won."

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
Benelux NSA Host to European Conference
at Brussels Called by Hands of Cause

The fifth European Conference called by the Hands of the Cause in Europe met in Brussels, Belgium, on December 27-28, 1958. The National Spiritual Assembly of the Benelux Countries served as host, and members of the national assemblies and of the Auxiliary Board for Europe attended.

Dr. Ugo Giachery served as chairman, and opened the meeting with a reading of the message of November 1958 from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land, and discussion centered on this letter.

Consultation dealt almost exclusively with the Ten-Year Plan goals on the European continent. The Hands of the Cause assured the national spiritual assemblies of all possible help. It was emphasized that everything else must be secondary to the attainment of these goals.

Frances Wells of Alaska, on pilgrimage to the Holy Land by way of Belgium, spoke on Sunday evening about the work of the pioneers in the far north, and showed slides of the northern communities.

It was announced at the conference that in the next few months four of the European Hands of the Cause will be travelling in service to the Faith: Dr. Ugo Giachery in Central America, Dr. Hermann Grossmann in South America, and Dr. Adelbert Mühlschlegel in Scandinavia. Hasan Balyuzi will go first to Haifa for several months, then he, too, will travel.

Dr. Giachery Meets Temple-Area Baha’is
Upon Return from Central America

Dr. Ugo Giachery, Hand of the Cause from Europe, spoke to several hundred Baha’is of northern Illinois at the Baha’i House of Worship in Wilmette on April 5, en route to Europe and the Holy Land after an extended tour of Central America and the Greater Antilles.

Hand of the Cause Horace Holley introduced Dr. Giachery, who spoke first of the deeply moving experience he had that same afternoon when he attended, for the first time, the worship service in the Temple auditorium.

“This was a perfect conclusion to my journey to Central America,” he said. “It is so beautiful.”

He then spoke of the great opportunities the Baha’is have in America, with the many freedoms they enjoy, and went on to emphasize the great challenge before us, with the coming formation of the Universal House of Justice. Sixty-one national spiritual assemblies and 400 local spiritual assemblies are needed by 1962, he explained, so that the Universal House of Justice may be elected in the following year.

Speaking of the Ten-Year Crusade, Dr. Giachery commented: “This is the greatest spiritual enterprise since the beginning of the world. We are bringing the water of life to the people. We must be proud that we are Baha’is, and we must be conscious of the infallibility of the Teachings of Baha’u’llah.”

In contrast with the freedoms enjoyed by the people of North America, Dr. Giachery stated, the people of Central America have been oppressed for hundreds of years; the Baha’is of Latin America are famished, and need a helping hand.

Concluding his appeal for pioneers to assist in the Ten-Year Crusade, Dr. Giachery said, “There is no greater happiness or joy than serving the Cause anywhere.”

Following this talk, Dr. Giachery gave an impressive and loving commentary on a series of beautiful color slides he had photographed of the Shrine of the Báb, the International Archives Building, the monument gardens, and the landscaping on Mt. Carmel; the Pilgrim Houses and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s house in Haifa; and the Mansion and Tomb of Baha’u’lláh at ‘Akká, so many of them a wondrous legacy wrought by the hand of our beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi.

On the next day Dr. Giachery went to Milwaukee, Wisc., where he spoke at the Bahá’í Center that evening to an audience of about 125 Bahá’ís from all parts of the state.

He then returned to Chicago, and on April 7 departed for New York, en route to Europe.
U. S. Baha’is Hail Naw-Ruz With Many Public Observances

Naw-Ruz observances are reported by seventy-five Bahá’í centers as we go to press. Many fellowship meetings were held where isolated and group believers came together, and children and youth participated. Music was the highlight of most programs with the breaking of bread on this very joyous Bahá’í festivity. All through the reports we sensed a current of unity.

From the press clippings received to date we would conclude that the public was well informed of this anniversary of the New Era declared by the Báb in 1844. Space permits only a brief résumé of these activities, but with it goes a deep appreciation for your reports and for the effort made in the “reinvigoration of the spirit” which comes with this Bahá’í New Year, on the 116th anniversary of the Dawn of a New Age.

Two contacts declared intentions to become Bahá’ís at a Naw-Rúz observance at a Negro Baptist Church Youth Center in Baton Rouge, La., to assist in forming the first Local Spiritual Assembly in that city on April 21. “This has been our goal,” the Bahá’í press representative writes. “A few weeks ago it almost seemed impossible, but we never gave up. Now it is close to being a reality. We have always tried to use the publicity in order to keep the name Bahá’í before the public. Many times we meet people who tell us they see the articles in the newspaper and think we must have a very large number of Bahá’ís in the city. We are only seven.” Invitations were sent out to forty people: twenty-one adults and three children attended. Of this number, eight were Bahá’ís and thirteen were guests. Of the eleven Negroes present, only one was a Bahá’í. Confirmation classes were immediately arranged for the two who declared their intentions of joining the Faith.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá assures us that every seed sown in this day shall bear fruit, but the cultivation and nurturing of that seed is in our own perseverance, our wisdom, our obedience to the Covenant, and in our sincerity of intention. What a thrilling experience to see one’s faith in action! May it be the torch that will set the blaze aglow in our own communities!

Some sixty Bahá’ís and their friends from nine communities joined with the Assembly of Victor Township, N.Y., in a covered dish Naw-Rúz festival at the home of one of the friends in Victor. They came from Canandaigua, Clifton Springs, East Rochester, Geneva, Irondequoit, Linwood, Livonia, Rochester, and Seneca Township. They were privileged to have as their guest speaker, a Bahá’í friend from Quincy Ill., who spoke on “The Dawn Of A New Age.” The following day this same friend spoke at a luncheon for influential Negro contacts at the home of the chairman of the Rochester Assembly.

On Sunday afternoon the Bahá’í children’s schools of East Rochester and Victor had their Naw-Rúz observance at the home of believers in Irondequoit. There were twenty-nine children and twenty-one adults from Canandaigua, East Rochester, Livonia, Perinton, and Rochester. An eleven-year-old boy was program chairman. There were prayers, a reading on the meaning of Naw-Rúz, songs from the Bahá’í Children’s Song Book, group singing, a violin solo by a ten-year-old boy, recitations, and a vocal duet by two little girls aged five and seven. After the program, games were organized for the children; these were followed by refreshments. This was the first time that the two schools had a joint program.

Of the reports received, Long Beach and Lakewood,
Calif., had the largest number of non-Bahá’ís attending a buffet dinner. There were thirty guests out of an attendance of fifty-five. After the dinner there was an illustrated lecture. They had a book display, and literature was distributed; the editor of the local newspaper expressed interest in the occasion and literature was left with him. Follow-up meetings have been planned.

Des Moines, Iowa, had a special program at the home of one of the believers. The history of spirituals and demonstration of group singing was followed by a social hour.

In Missouri, Independence, Kansas City, St. Joseph, and Kansas City, Kans. had a joint dinner meeting at the YWCA with a musical program featuring the Fellowship House Chorus.

Council Bluffs, Grand Island, Lincoln, and Omaha, Nebraska; and Niles, Mich., had a public meeting and luncheon with a speaker on the Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and Bahá’í religions.

Other communities reporting were: Flagstaff, Ariz., had a youth program; Little Rock, Ark., used the media of advertising to bring the message of Naw-Rúz to the public; in the state of California, Altadena had a musical program, a talk and social hour; Beverly Hills gave a special program for the occasion; Geyersville and Sonoma County served pot-luck supper in the community hall, and children were remembered with favors at the social hour.

Lakeside, in addition to the above, had a picnic and program by the Bahá’í children; La Mirada, Downey Judicial District, held an Intercalary Day party, as a pre-Naw-Rúz observance, for the children attending Bahá’í School; Redding advertised the meaning of Naw-Rúz; San Diego had a dinner and guest speaker; Whittier, with Anaheim and Long Beach, had a picnic and special program of Bahá’í songs sung by groups of children.

In Colorado, Colorado Springs held a social gathering with organ music, games, and refreshments; Denver ran a newspaper advertisement for Naw-Rúz; in Connecticut, New Haven had a gathering for the friends in the home of one of the believers; Norwich, Fort Point, and Alton, R.I., joined together at the home of a believer in Mansfield; Wilmington, Del., had a special program of religious readings; Key West, Fla., had a meeting at the home of one of the friends, who showed slides of his trip to Mexico, as well as of the Bahá’í House of Worship and gardens in Wilmette; Boise and Ada County, Idaho, had a dinner meeting at the Columbian Club, and the Bahá’í children’s class presented a program of dances.

The North Shore area of Illinois attended worship services and a public meeting with refreshments at the Bahá’í House of Worship in Wilmette; Peoria observed the occasion with public meetings; Quincy with a panel of youth at the Quincy Art Center; Indianapolis, Ind., had a special program; Sioux City, Iowa, had good publicity and a newspaper advertisement for the occasion; Portland, Maine, held a public meeting at the YWCA; Attleboro, Mass., published publicity; Flint, Mich., gave a cooperative supper at the Davison Bahá’í School with a speaker and slides of Haifa; in Minnesota, St. Cloud used publicity and an advertisement; St. Paul gave a public program at the Bahá’í Center; Dumont, N.J., observed the occasion with prayer and discussion, followed by a social hour.

This Race Amity Day poster has been prepared to help publicize meetings for Race Amity Day on June 14, 1959. It is printed in four colors and gold on heavy, felt-finished white paper, size 14 by 20 inches. There is space at the bottom for information about a local meeting, or for offering literature. The charge is fifty cents each, five for $2.00, and should be ordered from Bahá’í Press Service, 434 Thomas Ave., Rochester 17, N.Y. Orders filled after June 1 are not returnable should they not arrive on time.

In New York, Buffalo held a public meeting and reported one of the best pieces of publicity they ever had; Grand Island and Niagara Falls gave a potluck supper and talk; Hamburg served a buffet supper; Elmira and Horseheads gave a luncheon for twelve, with eight contacts; New York City held a public meeting, with a musical program and refreshments. Naw-Rúz cards were mailed to the news editors of five major daily papers; Logan, Utah, featured a buffet supper and special program with a guest speaker; Hinsdale, N.H., and Brattleboro Vt., had eighteen attend a covered-dish supper, followed by readings from the Hidden Words and a showing of slides of the Holy Land and Bahá’í Temple; Keene, N.H., and Ward白沙和Burlington, Vt., had a worship service dedicated to the unity of mankind and of religion; Spokane, Wash., served a dinner with nearby groups, resulting in their first publicity in the local newspaper; in Wisconsin, Brookfield held a
supper and special program, and Rhinelander observed the day in the home of an isolated believer who received excellent publicity and the second best newspaper coverage on the occasion, next to Flint, Mich.

The Bahá'ís of Phoenix and Tempe and their guests held their observance of Naw-Rúz at the Phoenix YWCA, with over a hundred in attendance. A cross-section of the world was what the gathering became, as among the guests were members of the Indian community, those of Mexican and Spanish descent, as well as our Negro friends who mingled with great joy and fellowship from the cradle to the grandparents.

The evening began with the Prayer for Naw-Rúz. Dinner was shared by all, followed by an explanation and reading on Naw-Rúz with several musical selections. The program ended with group singing. Everyone left with a joyous feeling of unity and happiness.

Naw-Rúz in Navajo-land

The festival of Naw-Rúz, celebrated by the Bahá'ís and their friends of the Navajo Reservation at Píñon, Ariz., attracted 100 participants from Friday through Sunday, March 20 to 22. Twenty-three were Bahá'ís, the others included Navajo friends, some of whom travelled 100 miles to attend, and residents of Píñon.

Most of the meetings were held in a newly-completed Navajo Chapter House built by the Tribal council for the purpose of providing the Navajo people with a place to gather. When permission to use the house was asked, the Bahá'ís made it clear it would be for religious purposes, and assent was given without hesitation.

Friday evening's meeting was intimate and informal, with readings and a talk by Dr. Nasratollah Rassekh from Sedona, Ariz. Saturday night's dinner and talk, also by Dr. Rassekh, was attended by seventy-five, and was described by the Píñon friends as "beautiful in its simplicity, sincerity, and warmth." It began with the reading of a prayer by a Navajo believer. Each morning began with the sharing of prayers.

Guests from distant points were housed in the Amoz Gibson home in Píñon, and in the homes of neighbors who also work at the Navajo school there.

Bahá'ís on the Navajo Reservation, now numbering fourteen, and living in four separate locations, and the pioneer couple on the adjacent Hopi Reservation, continue to meet in their own groups for study classes and firesides, and together once a month, bringing their Indian friends with them to share hospitality, loving fellowship, and the Message of Bahá'u'lláh.

Manila Holds First Naw-Rúz Celebration

The Bahá'ís of Manila and four surrounding communities in the Philippine Islands were the happy hosts to a group of forty Bahá'ís and their friends at the Naw-Rúz celebration this year, the first of its kind to have been held in that city. Two of the four major daily newspapers carried announcements of the event and one of them so aroused the interest of the editor of the woman's page that she wrote a feature article, mainly about the Bahá'í calendar, which appeared on the front page of the following Saturday morning edition. She also spoke of the nature of the Naw-Rúz Feast itself, and of the extent of the Faith in the Philippines and its goals for peace in the world.

—BAHÁ'Í PRESS SERVICE
Second Philippine Summer School
Attended by Forty-Five Bahá'ís

Forty-five Bahá'ís attended the second annual Philippine Bahá'í Summer School at Solano on March 26 to 30.

"Each day seemed too short, and each hour too shallow for the eagerness and thirst of their souls," the chairman, William Allison, reported. "Our sessions began with prayers each morning and afternoon, led by the friends of Solano, Diffun, Gundaway, and Manila. The fact that four believers, including a newly declared member, came from Manila, was a great inspiration to the friends in this isolated community of Solano."

Classes included a study of The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh, and lectures on "How to Use Christian Scriptures in Teaching the Bahá'í Faith," "Bahá'í Responsibility in the New World Order," "The Role of Women in the Bahá'í Cause," "How to Teach the Bahá'í Faith in the Philippines," "Entrance into the Kingdom," and "The Bahá'í Era." These last two lectures were given in Ilocano and English.

The final afternoon session was devoted to "The Ten-Year World Crusade and the Philippines." Mr. Allison recalled the recent message from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land, emphasizing the urgency of the work to be completed and the short time in which it could be achieved.

Reports from the various Bahá'í communities of their activities were given, and the goals they would strive to achieve by 1960 were listed. Special consideration was given to the five goal cities selected for the formation of local spiritual assemblies by 1963, and to the completion of the translation of Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era and of the pamphlet Bahá'í Answers into Tagalog. Incorporation of the local assemblies of Diffun, Gundaway, Santiago, and Manila is also part of the Plan.

In his report Mr. Allison paid special tribute to Felix R. Madella, the first believer in the Philippines, who first read about the Faith in a pamphlet left behind by Mrs. Loulie Mathews on one of her visits to the South Pacific, and later in an old newspaper. Before World War II Mr. Madella was the only Bahá'í in the Philippines. Now his community of Solano has more than one hundred believers, and has sent pioneers to three different regions in the Islands, where there are strong local assemblies. "Here is a perfect evidence," wrote Mr. Allison, "of Bahá'u'lláh's promise that His Words would arise in both the East and West with splendor and great glory."

Usumbura Secures Official Recognition

A shining light from the French-speaking territories is Usumbura, in Ruanda-Urundi, where the African community has carried on the work of the Faith without any pioneer assistance for some two years. Strong foundations were established here when Rex and Mary Collison lived for some time in Usumbura, and their work has borne wonderful fruit in the firm and devoted believers who now form the Usumbura community. The Usumbura Local Assembly has felt for a long time that the progress of the work has been severely handicapped by the lack of government recognition and the fact that they have no center. In an effort to rectify this state of affairs, the national assembly secretary, Philip Hainsworth, was sent to Usumbura to appeal to the authorities for recognition and for permission to purchase a Fázíratulláh-Quds. Accompanied by his family, he drove to Usumbura and was there given a wonderful welcome by the community. During the course of a four-day visit, many interviews were held with various government officials, including the Head of Native Affairs and the Director of African Housing. The result of all this consultation was that a letter was drafted, and approved by the Governor of the territory, which recognized the Bahá'í community in Usumbura. In addition, the Director of Housing proved most co-operative and went out of his way to help the Bahá'ís to locate a suitable house.

—Bahá'í Gazette of Central East Africa
Intercalary Festival Attracts Large Crowds at Los Angeles Center

Nearly 700 persons participated in the Intercalary Days celebration held at the Los Angeles, Calif., Bahá'í Center on February 26-28, in accordance with the joyful spirit of this period.

The celebrations were given an enthusiastic start at a Proclamation Meeting on Thursday, February 26. Charles Wolcott, vice-chairman of the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly, gave a most inspiring talk, "Leaves of One Tree" before a heartwarming number of people.

On the next day the Center was astir with activity from 2:00 p.m. until well after midnight. Between the events, Baha'is and their guests admired the impressive and beautiful displays set up by the various committees.

The lecture on "Painting and Music," in the afternoon, pointed out the changing course of civilization as reflected in the works of great artists and composers.

Friday evening's program was one of pure delight and enjoyment, spotlighting the allied arts, including literature, drama, music, the visual arts, sand painting, and the dance.

On the following morning the Bahá'í children presented the Faith to their friends and parents in a program presented entirely by the members of the children's classes. This was followed by games, a picnic lunch on the back lawn, and gifts distributed to the children from a magic fish pond.

At 3:00 p.m. Baha'is and their guests were taken on a world tour through the magic of color slides.

After a devotional period at 6:00 p.m., at which prayers were read in nineteen languages, the festal board was set, and the international theme of the day was climaxed by a buffet dinner featuring foods from around the world.

How wonderful it was, to see the Center filled with the warmth and energizing devotion that comes from putting into practice the realization that "Ye are all the leaves of one tree...."

—Los Angeles Bahá'í Journal
Monaco, Smallest Country in Europe, Shows Steady Growth of Faith

Monaco, a goal country of the Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assembly, and the smallest country in Europe, covers an area of but three square miles along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. It is famous for its semi-tropical climate, its sunshine, its Casino and villas, and no taxes. Prince Rainier, of the Grimaldi family, which became rulers of Monaco in 1351, is one of the few remaining absolute sovereigns.

In September 1953, when the Ten-Year Crusade was initiated, Mrs. Nellie French, then over eighty years of age, came to Monaco as a pioneer, and first introduced the Bahá’í Faith there at a meeting at the Hotel Royale in Monte Carlo. After only two months, in December of that year, Mrs. French passed away.

In February 1954 another pioneer, Mrs. Shamssy Navidi of Tihirán, with her two children, came to Monaco. She was followed shortly by Mrs. Kelsey and by Miss Florence Ullrich from the United States.

A year later, in April 1955, the first local spiritual assembly was formed. Since then some of the friends have moved away, but four new believers have been welcomed, so that assembly status has been maintained.

As in other countries whose government is Catholic, it is difficult to have public meetings. Monaco is allied to the Vatican by concordat. There have been, however, many private meetings with guest speakers and regular weekly firesides. A youth group is being formed, as well as a class for children.

On the occasion of the marriage of Prince Rainier to Grace Kelly, and when the first heir to the throne was born, gifts were presented to Their Serene Highnesses by the Bahá’ís of Monaco. In return, gracious acknowledgments were received from Prince Rainier.

It is to be hoped that, through the continued efforts and sacrifices of our pioneers and the Bahá’í friends, this beautiful little land of sunshine, with its worldly atmosphere of pleasure seekers, will gradually be lightened by the spiritual Sun of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh.

—MAYD BOSIO

First Bahá’í School in Tasmania

Held at Dilston in January

The first Tasmanian Bahá’í School was held on January 30 to February 1, 1959, at Dilston. The holding of a school was first suggested by Miss Glad Parke, one of the Tahiti pioneers, to the Regional Teaching Committee for their consideration.

Miss D. Kaiser, a Lilydale Bahá’í, graciously offered her home at Dilston, on the banks of the Tamar River eight miles from Launceton, for the school, and this was gratefully accepted.

At 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, January 30, the school was officially opened by the chairman, Miss G. Lamprill. Then followed a special prayer of Bahá’u’lláh, read by David Benson, aged eleven, the only Bahá’í youth.

Devotions were interspersed throughout the sessions, and were fittingly arranged to suit the subjects of the talks.

A tape recording made by the Australian Hand of the Cause, Collis Featherstone, was played by Maurice Wheeler, who donated the tape to the school. The message was a soul-stirring one, and a clarion call to all Bahá’ís to arise for the triumph of the Faith and the fulfillment of the beloved Guardian’s Ten-Year Crusade.

The Tasmanian Regional Teaching Committee stated: “In summarizing, we would say that it is very difficult to express in words the whole significance of such a school; its value is inestimable. In this, our first Tasmanian Bahá’í School, its inauguration, we feel, was fully justified by results. The spirit that pervaded the whole of the sessions was one of Bahá’í fellowship, and a sincere desire to consult together with the object of more effectively serving the Faith. The request to join the Bahá’í ranks by the only non-Bahá’í present seemed a fitting climax to the spirit of the school.”

—AUSTRALIAN BAHA’I BULLETIN
The Bahá’í Interracial Teaching Committee organized an institute to help in the teaching work of the Southern States at Durham, N. Car., on February 7-8.

The theme was the coordination of teaching methods and techniques in, and for, the South. The purpose was to develop plans that might be adopted generally throughout the South for increased teaching among the Negroes as part of the homefront campaign.

Readings were taken from The Advent of Divine Justice, and Paris Talks, presented by Louise McCorkle. "Teaching in the South" was discussed by Mrs. Beatrice Thigpen, who spoke on The Covenant, Preparation, Making Contacts, and Guidance.

On the second day a talk on "Teaching in Africa" was given by Grant Hadden. Fireside Teaching and Sacrifice were two of the main topics. Later Mrs. Marguerite Galle spoke on "How the Master Brought Racial Groups Together in Love and Amity."

Discussion brought out the following points:

1. Daily commune for personal reinvigoration. Acquire a thirst for spirituality. Read the Holy Books, especially the Utterances of Bahá'u'lláh. Take much time for prayer and meditation. Remember the daily obligatory prayers and the Prayer for the Southern States. Aim to acquire, one by one, the attributes of God.

2. Source material for teaching those whose approach is from the Bible point of view. Bible references: Bahá'u'lláh, the Glory of God; Báb, the Gate 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Servant of God, the Branch.

3. Bahá'u'lláh's concept of justice. "The freedom of man from superstition and imitation, so that he may discern the Manifestation of God with the eye of Oneness, and consider all affairs with keen insight."

4. Suggested sources of contact: Offer volunteer services to the Girl Scouts, day nurseries, Parent-Teacher Associations, feed patients, write letters, read to patients, feed children, visit those who have no family, make friends at gas stations, laundromats, and super markets, comfort the bereaved, attend prayer meetings, read Bahá'í prayers, visit Negro churches, and read Negro newspapers.

Teaching Campaign in Shreveport

A splendid example of how a well-conceived and executed teaching plan will attract many new seekers to the Faith was given by Shreveport, La., on February 1-8, with the visit of Mrs. Florence Mayberry, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands of the Cause.

The Shreveport Bahá'í community arranged a program of activities that included news stories in eight newspapers, paid advertisements in three newspapers, four radio interview broadcasts, radio spot announcements for public meetings on five stations, two television interviews, book displays at the Shreve Memorial Library and the Margaret Bollinger Book Mart, five public meetings, five informal fireside meetings, three luncheon meetings, and a visit with the officials of the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce.

Paul R. Pettit, reporting on this campaign, stated: "It is generally felt that this intensive and concentrated type of teaching activity is most beneficial. Its effectiveness is very pronounced, and the results exceeded our fondest expectations.

"The newspapers stimulated attendance at the scheduled public meetings, and were probably responsible for most of the people there. A number of phone calls were received by Mrs. Mayberry and the Bahá'ís as a result of the newspaper publicity, requesting information on meetings, or on the Faith. . . . The most active contacts since Mrs. Mayberry's visit are the result of newspaper publicity."

Radio and television broadcasts were also responsible for the attendance of a number of people at the public meetings, and for inquiries on the Faith. A ten-minute interview on the "Party Line" program on radio station KWKH was the result of a request from the station for the Bahá'í view on reincarnation. This is a public service program in which the listener expresses his opinion on the subject under discussion. References were made to the Faith on at least two succeeding "Party Line" programs.

Television station KSLA-TV presented a fifteen-minute interview with Mrs. Mayberry on the "Dateline" program on February 3.

Mr. Pettit stated: "The response from the KSLA-TV program was tremendous, probably the most extensive of any particular proclamation effort. Three telephone calls for information were received while the program was still on the air, and many more were reported by the station later. Many people mentioned seeing this interview."
Through the assistance of a retired municipal judge, it was arranged for Mrs. Mayberry to speak on the Faith to over eighty Rotarians at their regular luncheon meeting on February 5.

"The response to the notice in the newspaper was most thrilling; the president announced that there were more guest Rotarians attending this meeting than had ever attended any previous meeting in the history of the Club," Mr. Pettit reported.

Other results of this intensive teaching activity included: a request for a Bahá'í speaker, at a future date, by the A. T. E. Study Group; a similar request by the head of the Centenary College Sociology Department to speak to a class on sociology; an invitation by Judge Louis Lyons to Mrs. Mayberry to attend a luncheon meeting of the Interclub Council when she is next in Shreveport; firesides are being held each Saturday evening with a local Bahá'í speaker; a study group is being held each Friday evening to study Bahá'í subjects desired by contacts; and social and personal gatherings will be concentrated on by the individual Bahá'ís to gain the confidence of the seekers.

"In summation," Mr. Pettit stated, "it can be concluded that the tremendous proclamation of the Bahá'í Faith in Shreveport and Bossier City during Mrs. Mayberry's visit literally had the residents of both these communities talking on the street corners and everywhere else about this 'new religion.' Without doubt, the fruits of this effort will develop for years to come, and long after the initial impetus has been dissipated."

Visit to San Antonio

On February 25 Mrs. Mayberry spoke at a public meeting at the St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. There were sixty-one persons present, including forty-four contacts. Almost 350 announcements of this meeting were mailed to clubs and organizations, and to personal contacts of the local Bahá'ís. Publicity included a paid advertisement and two free publicity stories in the newspapers, and spot announcements on the radio. Fireside meetings with the interested contacts are being held as a follow-up to this program.

Bahá'ís of Apia, Samoa,

Construct Haziratu'l-Quds

Last year the Bahá'ís of Apia, Western Samoa, set themselves a Two-Year Plan of achievement. Part of that plan called for the construction of a local Haziratu'l-Quds, in order that the growing number of believers might have a place to hold their meetings.

Today, these believers' hopes and prayers are being realized. The concrete foundations of their Center were laid in February, and an 18x36 foot rectangular building, fully screened, with a corrugated iron roof, now rises in Apia—a monument to the tremendous sacrifices of the Samoan friends, pioneers, and new believers alike, who, in love for, and gratitude to, Bahá'u'lláh, and out of their limited and meager resources, have added to the £100.0.0 donated by the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly for the building, almost enough money to complete the Haziratu'l-Quds—a "do it yourself" project, with everyone helping. All but £70.0.0 of the total cost of £400.0.0 has been raised, and it is hoped that this remaining sum will also be forthcoming soon.

In addition to the funds contributed by the friends, gifts of furniture, glassware, mats, and other items have also been received. It was expected that the building would be completed by Naw-Rúz.

The Canadian National Spiritual Assembly, in reporting this event at one of their World Crusade goals, stated: "Our hearts join in thanksgiving with our Samoan brothers and sisters at this time of glorious achievement in that region of the Bahá'í world so loved by our beloved Guardian."

Correction

The article on "The Guardian of the Faith," published in the December 1958 issue of Bahá'í News, was a report on an address by Hand of the Cause Leroy Ioas, taken from the notes of Mrs. Madge L. Featherstone of Semaphore, Australia, as recorded at the Singapore Intercontinental Conference.
Public Meetings in Switzerland
Bring Increased Recognition to Faith

Bahá'ís of Switzerland are inspired by the enthusiastic response they have had to a number of public meetings in recent months. Not only have the meetings been exceptionally well-attended, but they have brought additional notice from press and radio.

On January 30 the Bahá'ís of Lausanne presented Jean Sevin, Bahá'í pioneer to Tahiti for the past five years, to an audience of 110. Many came originally attracted by the subject: "Tahiti, Five Years Experience of a Bahá'í Pioneer." The history, customs, and actual problems of this region were beautifully illustrated by slides, reminding one of Gauguin's paintings in their exotic coloring. But it was the Bahá'í Faith itself, ably presented by Mr. Sevin, that drew the final unanimous and enthusiastic response.

The stock of literature was completely sold, much of it to the university students present. A good article appeared on the Faith in a Lausanne newspaper two days later, and Radio-Lausanne requested an interview with Mr. Sevin, the event so impressing the interviewer that he suggested a much longer period be given to the next Bahá'í guest speaker!

The following evening Mr. Sevin presented his program in Geneva to 170 people, there having been good newspaper and poster publicity given previously. Mr. Sevin's delightful way of presenting his subject again evoked interest and enthusiasm. Early the following month, the program given in Neuchatel and Vevey, two Crusade goal cities, awakened new response to the Faith.

In St. Gall, a Crusade goal in German Switzerland, a series of public talks brought forth an invitation for Fritz Semle, vice-chairman of the Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assembly, to speak before the Bons Templers. The subject given to Mr. Semle by the Bons Templers themselves is "The Future in the Light of the Bahá'í Faith."

Guam Observes World Religion Day
With Broadcast and Public Meeting

Bahá'ís of Guam observed World Religion Day on January 18 by using two teaching mediums, a radio talk at 12:30 p.m. and a public meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Edgar A. Olson, who has had past experience with radio, spoke on the broadcast, and Robert Imagire addressed an audience of thirty people at the Guam Academy of Music, centrally located in Agana, Guam's principle village. Both speakers used the suggested theme of the oneness of religion.

These events were well-publicized with the placement of posters in prominent locations, many spot announcements on the radio, and five stories in the local newspaper.

Canada Summer Conference Scheduled

The Western Canada Bahá'í Summer Conference will be held at the Banff School of Fine Arts, Banff, Alberta, on August 23-30, 1959.

Davidson Bahá'í School Announces
Sessions from July 20 to Sept. 4

The Davidson Bahá'í School announces its 1959 Summer Schedule will begin on July 20, with a two-week session for Junior Youth. Courses offered the youth will include: (1) Progressive Revelation, (2) Religion and Science, and (3) Principles of Bahá'í Administration.


Air Force Academy Accepts Bahá'í Books

The Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Colorado Springs, Colo., recently presented the Air Force Academy Library with a group of thirteen Bahá'í books in honor of Mrs. Loulie Albee Mathews, Bahá'í lecturer and author, who resides in Colorado Springs.

Mrs. Gladys Roberts (second from left), secretary of the Colorado Springs Bahá'í Assembly, made the official presentation to Lt. Col. George V. Fagan, Director of the Academy Library. Observing the ceremony are Mrs. Vivian Pooley, Mrs. Mary Creitz, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hill.

The land occupied by the Air Force Academy was formerly the site of the Temerity Bahá'í School, donated to the Faith by Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Mathews of Pine Valley, near Colorado Springs. The school, organized in 1940, was first known as the International Bahá'í School, whose primary purpose was to give special training in teaching to prospective pioneers to Latin America.
Living the Bahá’í Life, and (4) Teaching the Faith.

Many fine teachers have accepted invitations to teach at Davison this summer, and the following names are presently on the 1959 faculty: Fred Sudhop, Eunice Braun, Ruth Blackwell, Archie Tichenor, and Heather Stewart. Popular husband-and-wife teams who will serve again this year are the Wolfs and the Byers.

In addition to the regular courses, plans are made to conduct intensive study courses each weekend, and thus enable some students to have capsule courses when they are not able to attend for a longer period.

Complete announcement of all these classes will be found in the official 1959 Summer School Program.

Prospective students are urged to make reservations as soon as possible by writing the Registrar, Davison Bahá’í School, 3208 South State Road, Davison, Mich. Prices will be comparable to last year, and many improvements have been made in accommodations.

Parents contemplating enrolling for Family Sessions are reminded that special classes and entertainment will be provided for children while adult classes are in session.

If You Cannot Go Far—Then Go Near!

The Canadian Bahá’í News, April 1959, has published the following article, indicating clearly the dedication and loving service that brings results in these swiftly-passing, meaningful days of the World Crusade. Can this be the quality of devotion for which the beloved Guardian called in his message to the American believers of September 1957? He said: “It is upon the individual believer, constituting the fundamental unit in the structure of the Homefront, that the revitalization, the expansion, and the enrichment of the Homefront must ultimately depend.”

“Have you ever thought of teaching the Faith, as a special project, in a town near you? A place, perhaps, where an isolated believer is in need of help, a place where no other firesides are being held. Choose a place that is not a goal, for this teaching you plan to do is to be an ‘extra’ effort, over and above what you and your teaching committee are now doing. You cannot know, if you have not yet undertaken this type of teaching, the joy that floods in upon you, for such extra effort brings in its wake much extra joy.

“The most recent of such efforts that has come to our attention is from London, Ontario, where Bob and Dorothy Smith felt within themselves an urgency to do more, although they were already carrying a sizeable teaching and administrative load.

“Two friends, who had become believers in London last summer, moved to St. Thomas and were in need of experienced assistance. Prayer and consultation pointed the way. Remembering the shining example of Grace and Harlan Ober, the Smiths dedicated themselves to give weekly firesides at the home of Myrna and William Davis in St. Thomas.

“Filling the car with London Bahá’ís, they made the trips regardless of weather, and though at first there was, perhaps, disappointment, they continued their efforts. Now the results are showing, like crocus shoots through snow. Five persons are attending with promising regularity.

“The Smiths assumed full responsibility for the time, effort, and financing of this project, and to quote them, ‘We deem it a privilege and a loving service to the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh.’

“Will you make a decision to consult with your teaching committee to see if you too can render such a loving service to His Glorious Cause? This, too, is pioneering in a sense. If you cannot go far, then go near, but go! Dedicate a few extra hours of teaching outside of your immediate community. Open wide the flood gates of joy.”

Honolulu Bahá’ís Place Many Books in Schools and Libraries of Oahu

The Library Committee of the Honolulu, Hawaii, Bahá’í community, since February of this year, has been successful in placing two Bahá’í books, Bahá’u’lláh and the New Era and Prescription for Living, in all of the eleven public high schools on the island of Oahu. To date several gracious letters of thanks have been received from their librarians.

Since March of this year, the Bahá’ís have been given permission to place Bahá’u’lláh and the New Era and Prescription for Living in all eight of the private high schools on Oahu. Two of these, Maryknoll and St. Louis, are Catholic schools, three are non-sectarian, one is Congregational, and two are Episcopalian.

Seven of the branch libraries on Oahu have had the above books in their libraries since last year. Bahá’í books in the main library in Honolulu represent the largest selection of religious books in the library, over twenty in number. Last year the main library accepted Christ and Bahá’u’lláh, Bahá’í Prayers, and Bahá’u’lláh and the New Era in the Japanese language.

Transfer Jurisdiction of Three Islands

Mentawai Island, Portuguese Timor, and Cocos Island have been transferred to the jurisdiction of the newly formed Regional Spiritual Assembly of South East Asia. They originally were assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia.
An African Pioneer Speaks

In the first five years only a small portion of the many great goals set for us by our beloved Guardian were accomplished. Now, in these fleeting months, we have yet the majority to achieve. How staggering and how heartbreakingly is it to realize that many of us are still asleep!

Only we can hear the call; we are under the All-Protection Tree. But are we listening? Are we not as heedless as those of past ages? Today the clarion calls are the appeals and the messages from the Hands of the Cause, the letters from the spiritual assemblies, the plans and programs of their committees. These letters and messages are not being written to entertain us; there's a job to be done!

Life was given for one purpose: to love; to obey, and to serve God by serving His humanity. It is but one stopover on our long trek into God's other kingdoms. What we have here on earth, this sack of gold, is too heavy to lift heavenward. Let us drop it!

It has been the same story down through the ages. The Prophets come, they call, and their Message leaves its heavenly vibration in the air for years and years. So few lift their heads to listen, but when those few have heard, they, too, go out, cup their hands to their mouths and echo the call. Have you listened? Have you heard?

Why do so few hear this Message? What has happened to our fellow-believers, that some do not hear the rumblings of this great flood, this spiritual challenge? Were they not deepened enough, or have they forgotten?

Bahá'u'lláh has been calling us for years, through our beloved Shoghi Effendi. Now He calls us through the entrusted Hands of the Cause. This is the call before the flood.

—ALYCE B. JANSSEN

BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS

The National Geographic Magazine for January 1959 contains an article entitled “Station Wagon Odyssey: Baghdad to Istanbul” by William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court, and Mercedes H. Douglas. While in Tabriz he was encountered by a Bahá'í who gave him information about recent Bahá'í activities. The author then recounts the story of the public execution of the Báb at Tabriz.

The New International Year Book for a number of years has carried a brief statement about the Faith, with special emphasis on activities in America. Material has been supplied for the next edition, including reference to the completion of the Home for the Aged in Wilmette.

The newspaper entitled Novedades, published in Mexico City, reported on December 29, 1958, the marriage of Barbara Carson to Alejandro Cervantes Bustamente in a Bahá'í ceremony. A two-column photograph of Barbara Carson illustrates the article. This is the first reference to a Bahá'í marriage which has appeared in the Mexican press. “Mr. Canales read the marriage contract by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, which was profoundly moving and listened to with great interest by those present,” the article stated.

The school paper published by the students of the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, entitled Polígrapo, reports an address delivered before the Department of Religion and Philosophy by a member of the local assembly. “Mr. Heath, a businessman from a Fomento industry, spoke of the foundations of Bahá'í and related some of his personal experiences in the religion.” This article appeared in January 1959.

The Toronto Globe and Mail for January 17, 1959, published an extensive article about the Faith under a four-column head “Bahá'ís Accept Messages of Eight Religions.” This article was based upon an interview with Mrs. Peggy Ross, secretary of the Canadian National Assembly, who during the autumn of 1958 completed a journey round the world, meeting the believers in each city she visited. A large photograph of Mrs. Ross, carrying souvenirs of her trip to Samoa, accompanied the article. Mrs. Ross is also a member of the Auxiliary Board appointed by the American Hands.

A real estate firm of Wilmette ran a page advertisement in Wilmette Life for January 22, 1959, with several illustrations of streets, houses, and interiors. The Bahá'í House of Worship appears at the top of the page.

The Asian Student, a weekly newspaper published as a service to Asian students in the United States by the Asia Foundation, published in its January 13, 1959, issue a detailed review of the book by John Ferraby entitled All Things Made New. “Each age requires a reinterpretation of human values relative to their divine or universal application. Such reinterpretations often takes place by God manifesting Himself to man in the form of the Founder of a religion that is both a renewal of former religions and the inspiration of its age.” The reviewer was K. Bhashara Rao.

Under the title “Portia, Teacher and NCNW Executive Director,” the Pittsburgh Courier on January 17, 1959, published an article about Elsie Austin accompanied by her photograph. “Attorney Elsie Austin of

BAHÁ'Í GROUP OF ROSARIO, ARGENTINA, WHICH HOPES TO REACH ASSEMBLY STATUS AT RIQÁN 1958, THEREBY ASSURING THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF ASSEMBLIES NECESSARY FOR THE FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF ARGENTINA IN 1959. A REGIONAL TEACHING CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN ROSARIO ON NOVEMBER 30, 1958, WITH THIRTY-THREE BAHÁ'ÍS AND SIX GUESTS FROM NINE ARGENTINE CITIES.
From law to teaching in India was not a short step, but an important one. It stemmed from her interest in the Bahá’í religion. (The reporter unfortunately substituted “India” for “Africa” in this reference to Miss Austin.)

A recent issue of New York Herald-Tribune carried a letter signed by Mrs. Diane C. Starher, Orleans, France, which clearly and forcefully sets forth the need of a return of the Prophet. “If we are to have this civilization, it is not necessary to have a universal religion, such as the Bahá’í World Faith, the only force capable of spiritually regenerating mankind and of providing the means by which this civilization can be attained.”

In one of a series of articles reporting on the lesser known religious groups of Akron, Ohio, the Akron Beacon Journal of December 13, 1958, dealt with the Bahá’í community and the Bahá’í teachings. Here there has been a small group for some fifty years. Their fireside meetings were described sympathetically and the Bahá’í teachings explained.

The State Convention of the Bahá’ís of New Mexico was briefly reported in the Santa Fe Scene for December 13.

### Bahá’í Publishing Trust

**A Tribute to Shoghi Effendi.** By Amelia Collins. The address delivered by Amelia Collins at the Intercontinental Conference in Frankfurt/Main, Germany, July 1958, which she attended as the chosen representative of the Guardian. Mrs. Collins tells with deep feeling and moving language of her intimate knowledge of Shoghi Effendi during the last six years of his matchless service to the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh. Printed on quality antique paper stock with white deckle-edged cover.

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### New Printing — Reduced Price

**What is a Bahá’í?,** the published interview with Stanwood Cobb appearing in the Washington Daily News, has been reprinted with a few slight changes and is available at lower prices. This has considerable appeal to the public, judging by the number of requests that have come in for the books listed on the back of this leaflet.

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### Calendar of Events

#### FEASTS

- May 17—Aẓamát (Grandeur)
- June 5—Núr (Light)

#### HOLY DAYS

- May 23—Declaration of the Báb
- May 29—Ascension of Bahá’u’lláh

### Bahá’í House of Worship

**Visiting Hours**

**Weekdays**

- 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (Entire building)
- 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (Auditorium only)

**Sundays and Holidays**

- 10:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Entire building)
- 5:00 P.M. to 9 P.M. (Auditorium only)

**Service of Worship**

- Sundays: 3:30 to 4:10 P.M.
Beloved Friends:

The U.S. National Assembly calls your attention to this important message cabled to our recent convention by the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land:—“IMPELLED APPEAL NAME BELOVED GUARDIAN TO AMERICAN BELIEVERS TO CONCENTRATE PARTICULAR ATTENTION ON THE URGENT NECESSITY TO RAISE A SECOND ARMY OF PIONEERS TO GO FORTH AND ESTABLISH NEW ASSEMBLIES IN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA, THE ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION OF THE FUTURE PILLARS OF THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE. CRUCIAL HOUR REQUIRES UNPRECEDENTED SACRIFICIAL OUTPOURING OF FUNDS ON THE PART OF THE CHIEF EXECUTORS OF THE DIVINE PLAN. LIKEWISE APPEALING TO FRIENDS GATHERED AT CONVENTION IN CRADLE OF FAITH TO RESPOND TO THE NEED THROUGH GENEROUS SUPPORT OF DEPUTIZATION PROJECT. URGE FRIENDS JOIN IN PRAYERS FOR SUCCESS OF THIS HISTORIC UNDERTAKING IN EAST AND WEST.”

This appeal is directed to every individual believer, every local assembly, every group, and every area teaching committee. It is to be pondered by every follower of Bahá'u'lláh in America, discussed at Nineteen-Day Feasts, and reprinted with appropriate comment in local and area bulletins.

What the Hands in the Holy Land express so vigorously in this brief text actually concentrates the essence of those passages in their written Convention message (enclosed with the May issue of Bahá'í News) pertaining to the American Bahá'í community.

1. “Impelled appeal... American believers to concentrate particular attention on urgent necessity to raise a second army of pioneers to go forth and establish new assemblies in Europe and Latin America as the essential foundation of future pillars of the Universal House of Justice.”
2. “Crucial hour requires unprecedented sacrificial outpouring of funds on the part of the chief executors of the Divine Plan.”
3. “Likewise appealing friends gathered in Convention at cradle of Faith (that is, Persia) to respond to the need through generous support of deputization project.”
4. “Urge friends join in prayers for success of this historic undertaking in East and West.”

Mission of the American Bahá'ís

That they followed their written message with this urgent appeal clearly indicates the urgency of our service to the Crusade at this time.

Turning now to the Convention message addressed to all annual Bahá'í conventions held this year throughout the world, we note these salient passages pertaining to the mission of the American Bahá'ís:—

“This past year has witnessed the steady onward march of the Cause of God in every field. When we recall how grievous and shattering was the blow we received in November 1957, we cannot but marvel at the evidences, so clear for friend or enemy to behold, of the indomitable strength of this Cause which the Guardian knit so firmly together, and the foundations of whose Administrative Order he laid so securely during his lifetime that the earthquake of his passing neither shattered the unity nor shook the confidence of the Community of the followers of the Most Great Name. Let us bow our heads humbly in gratitude to the Author of our Faith for His protection and manifold mercies showered upon us during these days of supreme test and suffering.”

“The number of countries, islands, and dependencies where the Standard of Bahá'u'lláh has been unfurled now totals two hundred and fifty-five, as a result of the settlement during the past year of a pioneer in Spitzbergen, the one remaining virgin goal outside the Soviet orbit. This feat, achieved by the Knight of Bahá'u'lláh Paul Adams, brings the total number of new territories opened to the Faith since the inception of the Ten-Year Plan to one hundred and twenty-seven. At the end of the sixth year of the Crusade the number of localities included within the pale of the Faith has reached the impressive total of over five thousand
two hundred, fulfilling the wish of Shoghi Effendi, expressed in his last Ridván Message that "... strenuous efforts must be exerted for the purpose of multiplying the existing groups and isolated centers in all the continents of the globe, insuring thereby the early attainment of the goal of five thousand Bahá’í centers in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. "Such a signal achievement represents an increase of almost seven hundred centers since his passing, centers referred to by him as pivots of Bahá’í teaching and administrative activity, and which have more than doubled since the launching of the World Crusade in 1953."

New National and Local Assemblies Formed

"The formation during the current Ridván period of the new National Spiritual Assemblies of Austria, Burma, and Turkey, and the Regional National Spiritual Assembly of the South Pacific, as specified by the beloved Guardian himself, brings the total of these forerunners and future pillars of the Universal House of Justice to thirty-one, sixteen of which are now incorporated, four having achieved this status during the past year. The total number of local spiritual assemblies established throughout the world, and constituting, in the words of our Guardian, 'the foundation of a rising Administrative Order,' is now nearly twelve hundred and seventy-five, almost two hundred more than the number reported in last year's Convention Message."

"The number of languages into which Bahá’í literature has been translated now totals two hundred and sixty-one, an increase of one hundred and seventy-two in six years, over ninety of which represent supplementary languages added since the inception of the Crusade.

"The acquisition of the Ḥażíratu’l-Quds in Caracas, Venezuela, and the endowment in Brussels, Belgium, during the past year completes the list of such properties originally specified as goals of the Ten-Year Crusade. In addition to these, located in the capitals and chief cities which are or will be the seat of the national and regional assemblies to be established by 1963, a significant number of Ḥażíratu’l-Quds have been acquired in recent years."

"The original Crusade goal calling for the acquisition of eleven Temple sites was fulfilled more than a year ago, with the purchase of the site of the future Ḥażíratu’l-Adhkär in Stockholm. In anticipation of the day when Bahá’í Houses of Worship will be built, not only in every continent, but in many different countries, the beloved Guardian included the purchase of additional Temple sites in the subsidiary Plans which he assigned to the new national and regional assemblies formed since 1953. Seventeen of these supplementary sites have now been acquired throughout the world, eight during the past year, in Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay, and Uruguay in Latin America; New Zealand in the Antipodes; and in Tunisia on the northern fringe of the African Continent."

Evidences of Expansion of Bahá’í Institutions

"Throughout the Western Hemisphere, the Community of the Most Great Name now comprises over nineteen hundred Bahá’í centers. In Central and South America and the neighboring islands, where a total of twenty new national spiritual assemblies must be formed before 1963, there are nearly two hundred and forty centers, sixty-five of which have their own local spiritual assemblies. Since the beginning of the World Crusade, contact has been established with nearly sixty Indian tribes in North, Central, and South America, of which nearly thirty are now represented in the Faith. The steady advancement in this field, to which the beloved Guardian attached so much importance, is evinced by the formation of the second all-Indian Local Spiritual Assembly in South America last Ridván in Vilakollo, Bolivia. Among many other evidences of the expansion of Bahá’í institutions throughout the Americas during the past year may be mentioned the inauguration of the first Summer School in Alaska; the beginning of active publication by the newly-established Bahá’í Publishing Trust in Buenos Aires; the first dependency of the Mother Temple of the West, the Bahá’í Home for the Aged, was officially opened a few months ago, an event of undoubted historic importance exemplifying those institutions of humanitarian service which Bahá’u’lláh Himself specified should cluster about the Ḥażíratu’l-Adhkär in every city—and demonstrate the spirit of His Teachings."

"The last three of the five mighty Intercontinental Conferences, called for by the beloved Guardian at the mid-way point of the World Crusade, were held in Chicago, Frankfurt, and Singapore, and proved the vehicles for a communion of heart amongst the sorrowing believers the world over such as had never before been experienced in Bahá’í history. Over six thousand of the followers of Bahá’u’lláh attended these conferences."

"Although the work before us may be less spectacular than that already accomplished, there can be no doubt in anyone’s mind that upon its successful conclusion depends the ultimate triumph or failure of the entire Crusade. It constitutes no less than the bedrock of future Bahá’í activities for centuries to come, for upon it depends the erection, on a firm and lasting foundation, of those new national assemblies which are to be among the first pillars of that mighty institution of Bahá’u’lláh, the Universal House of Justice. The task is a two-fold one: In the republics of Latin America and the ten Goal Countries of Europe immediate action must be taken to reinforce and bring to Assembly status those groups which are at the present time the most promising nuclei for new assemblies, and without the multiplication of which the new independent national assemblies will lack the foundation the Guardian specified as pre-requisites for their election."

A Second Army of Pioneers Needed

"Careful consideration of the nature of the work facing the Bahá’í world during the coming four years reveals that the paramount need, one might almost say the sole need, is to raise a second glorious all-conquering army of pioneers, who will arise and go forth with the same rapidity, dedication, and zeal as did that first glorious army in the opening years of the Crusade, and this time conquer, not new territories and islands, but new cities, towns and villages in the Western Hemisphere, Europe, Asia, North Africa, and the Antipodes."

"This presents to each and every Bahá’í a tremendous personal challenge. Is he or she going to have a part, before it is too late, in the Guardian's
Global Crusade, the purpose of which is primarily to lay that lasting foundation for the Universal House of Justice created in His Most Holy Book by Bahá’u’lláh? There is no longer time for hesitation, the sands of the Crusade are rapidly running out and with them each one’s own great personal opportunity, never to recur. Every single believer must hold before himself the goal of either personally being responsible for the attainment of these objectives, through arising to pioneer himself, or through assisting his fellow-Bahá’ís to do so, and thus be instrumental in insuring that by 1963 the followers of Bahá’u’lláh will be found in firmly grounded, well informed, actively functioning communities in every area where a national regional assembly exists, and in many of the territories and major islands where His Cause has been established during the World Crusade.

“It is, we firmly believe, the supreme duty of all national and regional assemblies to concentrate their undivided attention during this particular year of the Crusade on procuring new pioneers and settling them, with no delay whatsoever, in those spots where their presence in the chosen objectives abroad or in the goal cities of the various homefronts will enable new assemblies to be formed next Ridván. There can be no doubt that upon the success of such steps taken immediately depends the fortunes of our Guardian’s Crusade, a Crusade which in its world-embracing scope, has carried the Divine Plan of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá a mighty step forward in its unfoldment, and which must inevitably lead to the spiritual conquest of the entire planet.

“The financial resources of the Bahá’í world must be mustered and expended at this time for the attainment of this mighty purpose. We can do no better than appeal to each and every individual believer in the Guardian’s own words: ‘Let them resolve, instantly and unhesitatingly, to place, each according to his circumstances, his share on the altar of Bahá’ís sacrifice, lest, on a sudden, unforeseen calamities rob them of a considerable portion of the earthly things they have amassed.’”

Here we have before us the fuller exposition of this “Crucial Hour,” which carries the promise of Bahá’u’lláh Himself that the unification of mankind in one faith and one order is now to be achieved. The Bahá’ís advance through no pathless jungle of uncertainty to an unknown future, but stand in the very heart of victory. This we must realize with all our spirit, because without the sacrifice of the lower self to the spirit of faith, the irresistible force of that victory cannot inspire us. To manifest the spirit of faith, we must fulfill the Guardian’s Ten-Year Plan. There is no faith if there is no realization and no sweeping flood of joyous self-sacrifice.

Let the non-believing world continue its vain effort to create peace with the fabric of war, and to attain wealth by multiplying the sources of poverty and ruin. It is for every Bahá’í to fulfill his true destiny in giving his all to fulfill the destiny of a divine Cause.

Sincerely,
—U.S. National Spiritual Assembly

Teaching Conference and Winter School held at Bangalore, India, from December 24 to 31, 1958.
Indian Conference of UN Non-Governmental Organizations Stresses Need for Realization of Oneness of Mankind

The Second Indian National Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations on United Nations Information was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, from April 3 to 5, 1959. This Conference was opened by the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, with an address advocating the idea of the oneness of nations of the whole world, thus attaining the federation of all nations.

He exhorted the people to live in peace, harmony, and unity, and to abolish all prejudices, and added that it is high time that mankind realize we are all basically one, and only one, in this world. We should think, plan, and work for each other’s welfare, he said.

The Under-Secretary of the UN, Mr. Subramaniyam, who represented the Secretary-General at the Conference, also stressed the significance and the importance of the oneness of all the nations of the world.

There were about one hundred non-governmental organizations of India represented at this Conference, which included political, semi-political, non-political, social welfare, trade unionist, and some religious organizations. The International Bahá’í Community of India was represented by Mrs. Shrin Fozdar, Dr. K. K. Bhargava, R. R. Williams, and P. C. Auplish.

The Conference was divided into three working groups: Information about UN, Teaching about UN, and UNO as an Instrument of Peace. Bahá’ís were represented in all three of these groups.

These working groups held discussion on their respective subjects, and placed their reports before the Plenary Session of the Conference on April 5, for discussion and approval by the full house.

Several resolutions regarding propagation and popularity of the UN principles were passed by the Conference. Through these resolutions it was recommended to the UN that every possible step be taken for publicizing the UN Charter and its principles enunciating the oneness and unity of mankind, and the methods to achieve lasting peace. The non-governmental organizations were requested to inculcate the UN spirit among the people they represented.

Among the most important resolutions passed by the Conference on peace, universality, military pacts, total disarmament, universal education for peace, and a world language, the Bahá’í delegates sponsored several resolutions that were also passed, including annulment of the veto clause in the UN Charter, UN recognition to the federations of peoples of different states as well as to their governments, and admission of all sovereign states to the UN, with other states that have not reached a sovereign status under direct trusteeship of the UN.

On the evening of April 5 a symposium on Peace was organized, and many speakers took part. They emphasized the need for a new world order and unity among all the nations to bring everlasting peace.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, vice-chancellor of Delhi University, said that the time has come for the world to be united under one religion, since the old religions, due to their static and impracticable status, have become outdated.

This new religion, Dr. Rao said, should be based on the realization of the oneness of mankind, so that the problems of world peace might be solved, and there would come maximum understanding of each other through common bonds of love and unity.

Dr. Rao was immediately reminded of the Bahá’í Faith and its teachings given to the world by Bahá’u’lláh. The Bahá’í delegates presented the Bahá’í plan for peace to the speaker and to the audience. The Bahá’í Message was also given to the participants of the Conference, and it was fully commended by the other delegates.

All National Assemblies Endorse
United Nations Genocide Convention

Two representatives of the Bahá’í International Community, H. Borrah Kavelin and Mrs. Mildred R. Mottabedeh, presented to the President of the Human Rights Commission, Ambassador Gunewardene of Ceylon, an endorsement of the Genocide Convention by all its national and regional assemblies, representing more than eighty countries and territories, on April
Representatives of the Bahá’í International Community greeting the President of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations, Ambassador Ratnakirti Gunewardene, after presenting an endorsement of the Genocide Convention by all the Bahá’í national and regional assemblies.

10, 1959, in New York City. These endorsements came from Bahá’í assemblies located in North and South America, Europe, Africa, the Orient, Australia and New Zealand.

The Genocide Convention has been ratified by fifty-nine countries, the largest number of ratifications obtained by any Convention adopted under the auspices of the UN. Genocide is defined as the international crime of destroying national, racial, or religious groups.

Mr. Kavelin, chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States, made the following statement: “Mr. President, I have the honor and the privilege to present to you, as the keeper of the conscience of the United Nations and therefore of the world at large, documents which represent an act of conscience of my fellow co-religionists of more than eighty countries and territories.

“The resolution they have adopted reads: ‘Since the teaching and practice of the oneness of mankind is the cornerstone of the religion revealed by Bahá’u’lláh, His followers throughout our jurisdiction recognize the vital importance of the Genocide Convention for assuring the protection of small and helpless races and peoples.

“The Bahá’ís of the world have endorsed the Genocide Convention as an expression of their firmly-held conviction of the oneness of mankind and of the human race.

“Nations, races, and religious groups are called upon to enrich, through their own inherent gifts, the common treasury of civilization. Therefore the destruction of any one of them impoverishes the whole of the human race.

“Upon the preservation of this basic noble principle depend all the other efforts of the United Nations. By endorsing the Genocide Convention the Bahá’ís express, through us, the hope that all the nations of the world will rally around this great Convention.”

Ambassador Ratnakirti Gunewardene replied as follows: “Mr. Kavelin and Members of the Bahá’í International Community: I am greatly impressed by the endorsement of the Genocide Convention by eighty national and regional assemblies of the Bahá’ís, coming as they do from countries and territories from all over the globe. This is a most powerful expression of world opinion. It makes us feel that our work here in the United Nations is supported indeed, not only by the governments, but by the peoples themselves.

“The Genocide Convention is a treaty by the people and for the people. It has been ratified by an impressive number of fifty-nine parliaments for the purpose of protecting not the Governments but the peoples themselves. It is people who provide the backbone of human history, and by destroying them history itself is interrupted. Millions of innocent men and women perished from genocide throughout the ages, but death did not silence their voices. These voices have awakened and nourished our conscience. It is with the ink of their blood that the Genocide Convention was written by the United Nations. We have now in this Convention a meaningful compact between East and West for the preservation of mankind.

“The Genocide Convention has already made an impact on human consciousness. The world ‘genocide’ carries in itself a moral judgment which the world will not suffer to be circumvented or weakened. To weaken a treaty which deals with the protection of life would mean undermining life itself. It is for this reason that nations have been unwilling to let the Genocide Convention lose its forcefulness, by having its concept included in other documents which are not enforceable. We hope that more nations will ratify the Genocide Convention and will adopt domestic laws against genocide. Let us rededicate ourselves to an affirmation of our belief in this great Convention which is so basic to civilization.”
869 Delegates and Visitors Find Renewed Inspiration at Fifty-First U. S. National Convention in Wilmette

UNCONQUERABLE joy, zest, and resolution in the face of tasks still unfinished—this was the spirit that promptly enveloped the Fifty-First Annual Convention of the Bahá’ís of the United States as it opened in Wilmette on April 23, 1959, for four prayerful days of deliberation and inspiration.

Reverence tempered the eager excitement of delegates and visitors in the Temple’s Foundation Hall when Chairman Borrah Kavelin hallowed the convocation with the simple words, “May this Convention be inspired by the spirit of the beloved Guardian.” Then a quick climax was reached with the reading of the message addressed by the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land to all of this year’s thirty-one national conventions.

In this historic document the revered Hands summarized many recent and current advances and victories, including the formation of four new national and regional assemblies during Riqván. In contrast, they pointed out that the success of our beloved Guardian’s Crusade, and the consequent assurance of early establishment of the Universal House of Justice, still depended upon a triumphant conclusion. In this connection the paramount need, and the foremost challenge to every believer, is a “second army” of pioneers to conquer, not new territories, but additional cities, towns, and villages in the Western Hemisphere, Europe, Asia, North Africa, and the Antipodes.

To help implement this “mass migration,” the beloved Hands proposed, to the National Spiritual Assemblies of Iran and of the United States, a joint deputation project whereby Persian Bahá’ís, eager but hampered in going forth, can give financial assistance to North American believers able to reach the places so urgently in need of teachers and settlers.

Pioneers Urged to Remain at Their Posts

Heavily stressed, along with this great plan, were pleas that all present pioneers, abroad and on the homefronts, remain at their posts at all costs, and that, as implored by the beloved Guardian, believers everywhere place “on the altar of Bahá’í sacrifice” their share of the needed financial resources.

Singularly appropriate after the reading of the message was a brief address, by revered Hand of the Cause and secretary of the Convention Horace Holley, on the institution of the Hands. Particularly impressive was his reminder that, through one inspired sentence designating the Hands as “chief stewards,” Shoghi Effendi gave continuity to the Faith after his passing, when no national assembly could have taken the initiative in order to assure this.

The message from the Hands in the Holy Land brilliantly illuminated the theme that had been set for the Convention: “This Crucial Year of the World Crusade.” Further confirming the direction and tone of the Convention were two statements by beloved Hand of the Cause William Sears, who is functioning as an American Hand for the remaining Crusade years. First he appealed for that greater love, among ourselves and toward all mankind, that will transform the world.
Subsequently he added a ringing, energizing declaration: "We are the people; this is the hour," a slogan which permeated all the consultation that followed, and which gave the Convention a "wonderful spirit of action," as Mr. Sears himself later described it.

Exemplifying that spirit was the Convention's cabled acknowledgment of the message from Haifa:

CONVENTION DEEPLY GRATITUDE FOR MESSAGE OF HANDS OF CAUSE DEPICTING ONWARD MARCH OF FAITH AND PROVIDING BASIS FOR CONVENTION CONSULTATION AND ACTION. HUMBLED AND INSPIRED BY PROPOSAL OF JOINT DEPUTIZATION PROJECT UNITING EAST AND WEST. DEEPLY APPRECIATE ASSIGNMENT TO WESTERN HEMISPHERE OF HAND OF CAUSE WILLIAM SEARS WHO FIRES US WITH RENEWED LOVE AND ENTHUSIASM. AWARE OF VAST SCOPE OF UNFINISHED TASKS BUT PRAY AND BELIEVE WE WILL PROVE WORTHY OF SUPREME CONFIDENCE PLACED IN US BY OUR BELOVED GUARDIAN. UNITED WITH YOU IN LOVE FOR THE FAITH OF BABA'

In reply, the revered Hands reemphasized the original message's peak points applying to the tasks of the American Baha'is:

IMPELLED (TO) APPEAL (IN THE) NAME (OF THE) BELOVED GUARDIAN (TO THE) AMERICAN BELIEVERS (TO) CONCENTRATE PARTICULAR ATTENTION (ON THE) URGENT NECESSITY (TO) RAISE (A) SECOND ARMY (OF) PIONEERS (TO) GO FORTH (TO) ESTABLISH NEW ASSEMBLIES (IN) EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA, (THE) ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION (FOR THE) FUTURE PILLARS (FOR THE) UNIVERSAL HOUSE (OF) JUSTICE. (THIS) CRUCIAL HOUR REQUIRES (AN) UNPRECEDENTED SACRIFICIAL OUTPOURING (OF) FUNDS (ON THE) PART (OF THE) CHIEF EXECUTORS (OF THE) DIVINE PLAN. (WE ARE) LIKewise APPEALING (TO THE) FRIENDS GATHERED (IN THE) CRADLE (OF THE) FAITH (TO) RESPOND (TO THE) NEED THROUGH GENEROUS SUPPORT (OF THE) DEPUTIZATION PROJECT (WE URGE (THE) FRIENDS TO JOIN (IN) PRAYERS (FOR THE) SUCCESS (OF THE) HISTORIC UNDERTAKING (OF) EAST AND WEST.

Self-Examination Reveals Shortcomings and Progress

Relating this newly depicted future to the recent past, the representatives of the American Bahai Community reviewed its shortcomings in a true spirit of self-examination. It became evident that if the last year had to be reckoned as one of meager general growth in the United States, this was at least partially offset by the definite and progressive acceleration of youth activities and enrollments. Furthermore, there were many other facets of promulgation that reflected notable advances or that gave promise for the near future. Among these were the earnest consideration and planning of expanded teaching among our beloved friends, the Negroes; the growing effectiveness of the teaching among the equally dear American Indians; the burgeoning activities of the College Bureau; the continued strengthening of relations with the United Nations on both national and international levels, in accordance with the beloved Guardian's wishes: the constant, out-

Hands of the Cause Horace Holley and William Sears.

H. Borrah Kavelin, chairman, and Arthur L. Dahl, treasurer, of the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly.

William de Forge, chairman of the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, and Rexford Parmalee, chairman of the U.S. Africa Teaching Committee.

Francis Johnson, chairman, and Mrs. Nancy Phillips, secretary, of the American Indian Service Committee.

Mrs. Etta Woodten, chairman of the Interracial Teaching Committee, and Ronald Hauck, secretary of the National Bahai Youth Committee.
standing advances in the field of child education; the further expansion of public proclamation through the press and other media, including new or recently revised literature designed to meet every need; the closer orientation of the summer schools to the Crusade goals; and the forward-looking reorganization of the significant audio-visual facilities.

Also to be counted as a positive factor was the encouraging response, among the believers themselves, to the National Spiritual Assembly's current homefront campaign to support our blessed Guardian's triple plea for "spiritual reinvigoration, administrative expansion, and material replenishment." Admittedly the response had not been far-reaching and fast enough to prevent, among other things, a considerable deficit in the past year's budget. However, a growing awareness of our responsibilities will probably improve the financial situation to the point of covering this deficit as well as the newly approved budget, somewhat smaller than last year's as a result of the completion of certain projects. Similarly, the National Spiritual Assembly's devoted and continuing efforts in the reorientation campaign will no doubt bear fruit in the other fields of our endeavor.

National Spiritual Assembly Elected

In the midst of its consultation the Convention paused, as always, for the solemn fulfillment of its other principal purpose: the election of the new national administrative body. The roster, following election of officers, stands as follows: Chairman, Borrah Kavelin; Vice-Chairman, Charles Wolcott; Secretary, Horace Holley; Assistant Secretary, Charlotte Linfoot; Recording Secretary, Edna True; Treasurer, Arthur Dahl; and Ellsworth Blackwell, Katherine True, and Florence Mayberry.

With this sacred duty prayerfully performed, the delegates resumed their consideration of the principal challenges that face the Bahá'í world, and particularly the American community, including those in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

First and foremost, obviously, comes the tremendous need and opportunity for 200 to 300 pioneers of the "second army" for Central America and Europe—100 of them needed immediately, in response to a special appeal from the Hands in the Holy Land. Closely coupled with this is a critical need for settlers to release other homefront Bahá'ís who can move to Latin America on a self-supporting basis. Both of these projects will serve the transcendent task of establishing, world-wide, thirty-four more national assemblies, of which eleven in Europe and twenty in the Western Hemisphere are the American community's responsibility. In addition, and despite these drains on their present numbers, the American believers must still form, or reconstitute, about 100 more local assemblies as soon as possible, to reach the needed total of 300, and must incorporate sixteen.

Highlights of Convention

All of the foregoing typifies a consultative ebb and flow that probably develops in every Bahá'í Convention: tasks accomplished versus things to be done; victories against reverses; poignant soul-searching followed by reviving joy. Over against recurring realization of multiple goals yet unattained stood the happiness of sending a message of gratitude and love to blessed 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rubiyth Khánum; the appearance before the Convention of the dearly cherished Hand of the Cause, Mrs. Corinne True; the joyous and arresting address given by William Sears as part of the intervening Ridván Feast; the radiant gathering of some fifty volunteers for the new "army," representing themselves and ten more; a notable talk by Miss Flora Emily Hottes on "Living the Life and the World Crusade"; the long-awaited news of government permission to build the Temple in Germany; the coming forward of Mrs. Charlotte Gillan, who helped to dedicate the Temple foundation stone in 1912 in the name of Alaska, and who in spite of her ninety years now wishes to pioneer there; the heartening messages from points far and near; the thrill of inspecting the recently opened Bahá'í Home, beautiful first accessory of the Maslı属'u'l-Adhkár; and the chanting of a prayer by a young Persian girl as she...
and her fiancé made public announcement, before the Convention, of their betrothal.

Many were the inspirational and cogent phrases that rang in the minds of the 869 delegates and visitors as the great convocation drew toward its close: The rank and file must learn to teach. Go to the churches and study our competition. Don't send the children to church Sunday school; it only builds a foundation that will have to be torn up. Give full support and obedience to the administrative institutions; don't waste energy in wondering about their decisions. The present emergency, wholly spiritual in character, requires superhuman effort. We have been given all we need to carry out our tasks; draw on the Power. We must reach a state of universal love which rises above personality. To be truly integrated in the Faith, we must study daily, so as to really know the teachings and apply them to ourselves. Look to the Writings for inspiration, and to our fellow-believers for stimulation. Teach the soul as well as the mind. Concentrate on the power and help of prayer. There is strength only in unity! And, climaxing all, the Master's pearl of divine wisdom, "Spirituality is love in action."

Final Plea for Renewed Spirit at Home

With uplift outweighing regret, and dedicated resolve overshadowing all else, the fifty-first American Convention took its place in Bahá'í history; but not before Chairman Kavelin had voiced a final plea to "renew at home the spirit caught here," and beloved Hands Horace Holley and William Sears had offered their final strengthening words to everyone present.

Reluctantly each goes his own way, his inner eyes and ears still filled with sights and sounds. The warm vista of all the friends in Foundation Hall. The world's holiest House of Worship breathed in blending light and ethereal nighttime fog. The exaltation of the Revelator's prayer, Sweet-Scented Streams, sung by the choir in Charles Wolfe's undying music. And finally, a throbbing residue of sound that is almost silence. Is it a mental persistence of echoes from the Convention? Is it the departing wayfarer's own crowding pulse? Is it, possibly, a sensing of the first muted footfalls of the promised "troops," settling out at long last on their quest for their Lord?

—P. R. AND S. B. MEINHARD

First South Pacific Teaching Conference at Suva Precedes First Convention

The first teaching conference ever to be held for the Bahá'ís of the South Pacific took place in Suva, Fiji Islands, on April 22, 1959, as a prelude to the first annual convention of the Bahá'ís for that area, which was to follow during the next three days. Thirty-four believers from five island groups were present—Cook, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon, and Tonga—and from the national Bahá'í communities of Australia, New Zealand, and the United States of America. Among them were Hands of the Cause H. Collis Featherstone, five Auxiliary Board members, and five Knights of Bahá'u'lláh.

Mr. Featherstone acted as chairman of the conference, and Miss Margaret L. Rowling served as recorder and provided an excellent report from which this account has been prepared.

Miss Rowling reported that the spirit of the conference, which consulted on ways and means to carry forward 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan and to complete the Guardian's Ten-Year Crusade, could best be expressed in the words of Bahá'u'lláh: "Verily, We behold you from Our realm of glory and shall aid whosoever will arise for the triumph of Our Cause with the hosts of the Concourse on high and a company of Our favored angels." (Gleanings, p. 39.)

Following opening prayers in English, Samoan, and Fijian, the program for the forenoon session included in addition to the greetings by Mr. Featherstone on behalf of the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land, from the Hands of the Cause in the United States, as well as from Mrs. Clara Dunn and himself as Hands of the Cause in Australia, greetings from Mrs. Margery McCormick on behalf of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and its Asia Teaching Committee, a stirring account by Mr. Featherstone of the rapid growth of the Faith in the South Pacific since the announcement of the World Crusade by Shoghi Effendi in October 1952, and reports of accomplishments from all of the island groups represented. These reports opened up the consultation that was to follow during the remainder of the conference on these subjects:

The best methods of spreading the Faith to island peoples; providing transportation to assembly meetings and Nineteen-Day Feasts for widely scattered members; translation of Bahá'í literature from English into
the many languages spoken in the Polynesian, Melanesian, and Micronesian areas; incorporation of local spiritual assemblies; child education; establishment of Ḥazīratu’l-Quds; meeting the need for the stimulating effect of outstanding visitors and traveling teachers; handling the opposition of the sections of other religions that are established in the islands; finding employment for members who wish to transfer to other islands to establish the Faith; obtaining recognition of Bahā’ī Holy Days; providing good grounding for new believers in the spiritual teachings and administrative requirements of the Faith, so that they will not only be able to withstand the pressures brought to bear on them by other religious organizations, but also to enable them to teach effectively among their own people.

The afternoon session opened with the Bāb’s prayer for the removal of difficulties recited in eight languages: Hindustani, Kwaraae (Solomon Islands), Tongan, Rarotongan, Maori, Fijian, English, and Samoan.

According to Miss Rowling, a high note of enthusiasm was expressed in the consultation which followed on: “What is the best method of teaching the Faith?” “What books and pamphlets in English are most helpful in teaching the Faith in this area?” “What is the best way of having translations made?”

Mrs. Madge Featherstone, member of the Asian Teaching Committee of Australia, reported that, of the fourteen languages allotted to Australia by the Guardian for translation during the Ten-Year Crusade, thirteen had been completed and twelve additional translations had been achieved.

Mrs. Margery McCormick gave inspiring information and suggestions of teaching methods. She stressed the importance of visual aids, and illustrated certain types which she had personally found useful in the United States.

The conference adopted three recommendations to be presented to the first Regional Spiritual Assembly, which would be elected at the forthcoming convention, all having to do with the subject of translation and publication of teaching literature. One of the resolutions recommended a committee to simplify the language of the English text of certain widely-used basic pamphlets in order to meet the need of the less literate among the island peoples.

Many tributes were paid to the efficiency of the Asian Teaching Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia and the conference recorded its appreciation of all that had been done by this committee since the beginning of the World Crusade to help the pioneers in the South Pacific, including the monthly publication of Koala News which has been a constant source of inspiration and the means of keeping the pioneers and new believers throughout this vast region in touch with each other.

Other highlights were the references made to: the completion of the Ḥazīratu’l-Quds in Apia, Samoa, during the recent Fast period; the summer school held over the Christmas period in the home of one of the chiefs of Samoa—the first Bahā’ī summer school held in the South Pacific; and the establishment of Bahā’ī schools in their own school buildings in the Gilbert Islands and in the New Hebrides. “Perhaps the greatest highlight of all,” Miss Rowling stated, “was the thrilling account of the consecrated work of the Knights of Bahā’u’llāh and those who have carried out consolidation work in each of the goals of the Ten-Year Crusade, which has resulted in sufficient local spiritual assemblies being formed to enable the Regional Spiritual Assembly of the South Pacific to come into being during Ridvān 1959.”

The conference concluded with a social evening, including the showing of slides of the Holy Land, providing the friends from this vast area with still another opportunity to become acquainted with each other and with the elected delegates who would convene the following morning for the most important business of all, the formation of the first Regional Spiritual Assembly in the South Pacific.

—U.S. ASIA TEACHING COMMITTEE

National Spiritual Assembly of France Attains Legal Incorporation

The National Spiritual Assembly of France announces with great joy the attainment of its most important remaining goal of the Ten-Year Crusade. During its first year as a national pillar in the administration of our Faith, on December 19, 1958, the National Assembly of France received legal recognition of its national incorporation.


Ontario Summer Conference Scheduled

An Ontario Bahā’ī Summer Conference will be held from August 1 to 8, 1959, at the Geneva Park YMCA Camp on Lake Couchiching. Courses will include “Stirring Tales of the Early Dawnbreakers,” “The Relationship of the Individual to God through Bahā’u’llāh” and “Comparative Religion.”

For reservations and further information please write to: Ben Koltermann, 1633 Spring Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.
Two Bahá’í Marriages in Malaya
Give Wide Publicity to Faith

The first Bahá’í marriage in the Federation of Malaya and Singapore was performed on October 5, 1958, with the wedding of Antony Fernandez and Miss Betty Monterio.

Following the ceremony a reception was held at Capitol Hall, attended by the Chief Minister of State, the Secretary of State, local dignitaries, and over 500 other guests. Because of the great interest in this wedding, ‘Abú’l-Qásím Fáizi, Hand of the Cause, gave a talk on the Bahá’í Faith to the assembled guests.

The second Bahá’í marriage in Malaya was performed on December 20, 1958, for Leong Ho Chiew and Miss Lee Lan Choong. This wedding was also instrumental in giving publicity to the Faith in Malacca. Among the guests were Hand of the Cause Rahmatu’lláh Muhájjir and Mrs. Shírin Fozdar. Mrs. Fozdar was given an opportunity to speak about the Bahá’í Faith and its progress in Malaya, particularly in Malacca.

Correspondence Course on Bahá’í History
in Central and East Africa Widely Used

The Teacher Training Committee of the Bahá’ís of Central and East Africa announced on March 1 a correspondence course in “Bahá’í History” for African believers with a good knowledge of English. A limited number of students was assigned to each of the English-speaking territories of the region.

The response has been much greater than expected. Over seventy-five students enrolled, representing eighteen places in Uganda, five in Tanganyika, six in Kenya, and Mahe in the Seychelles Islands.

The course consists of six lessons based upon the Teacher Training booklet An Outline of Bahá’í History, and about the same amount of additional material in the form of supplementary sheets.

Results of this first correspondence course have been so encouraging to the Teacher Training Committee that it plans another course on the “Teachings and Laws of Bahá’u’lláh,” to begin in a few months.

—Central and East Africa Bahá’í Gazette

Study How to Teach Children the Faith
at Sioux Falls Parent-Teacher Conference

In order to help both the parents and teachers of Bahá’í children to arrive at a better understanding on how to teach children the Bahá’í Faith, the Child Education Committee of the Sioux Falls, S. Dak., Assembly conducted a three-hour Bahá’í Parent-Teacher Conference on April 19 which was attended by six of the Sioux Falls Bahá’ís. Following the opening address by the chairman, Mrs. Elnor Murray, who stressed the importance of religious education in the lives of children, the group consulted on nine questions. These questions included the following:

What basic Bahá’í teachings should be taught to the Bahá’í child?

Should there be a period of daily worship in the home?

Correspondence with Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
by the National Assembly of Írán Revealed

The National Assembly of Írán has sent to the American National Assembly a copy of a letter addressed by the Assembly to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt during her recent visit to Írán, and a photostatic copy of her acknowledgment.

"Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
American Embassy
Írán

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

"On behalf of the Bahá’í community, over one thousand centers in Írán, we wish to extend our most cordial and warmest greetings to you on your very short visit to Írán.

"The Bahá’ís of the world, particularly those in Írán, have great admiration and appreciation for your work and will never forget all you did on different occasions to help the persecuted Bahá’ís in this country.

"We shall always pray and wish for your success, health, and prosperity wherever you may be, as you are so precious for the welfare of mankind."

Respectfully,
A. Shahqolí
Secretary, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Írán"

March 19, 1959

Mrs. Roosevelt’s Reply

"Dear Mr. Shahgholi:

"Thank you so much for your great kindness in extending such a warm welcome to me upon my arrival here in Írán. I am pleased and honored by this mark of your regard as well as by your graciousness in presenting me with such a lovely gift."

"Sincerely yours,
(signed) Eleanor Roosevelt
Embassy of the United States of America
Írán, March 19, 1959"
How can the importance of the Nineteen-Day Feast and Holy Days and their meaning be impressed on the child? A suggested outline and reading material was provided for each person for further study and discussion.

"Release the Sun" by William Sears
to Be Issued by U. S. Publishing Trust

So many inquiries have been received about William B. Sears' book Release the Sun, that it seems necessary to inform the believers an American edition of this book will be available in the near future. Mr. Sears, with the assistance of the Bahá’í Reviewing Committee, is making necessary corrections and revisions of the limited edition that was published hurriedly in India specifically for use in Africa, and he wishes distribution to wait upon the publication of the revised edition by the Bahá’í Publishing Trust. As soon as it is available it will be announced in Bahá’í News.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Northeast Asia NSA Incorporated

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Northeast Asia received on February 13, 1959, from the Tokyo Judicial Affairs Bureau, Shinjuku-ku Branch Office, the Certificate of Incorporation under the Japanese name, "Hokuto Asa Bahá’í Zenkoku Seishin Gyoseikai." The document states that the purpose of this body is: to propagate the Bahá’í Faith according to its doctrine and to carry on and conduct activities for the Bahá’í Faith. Thus another objective of the World Community has been accomplished.

National Bahá’í Addresses

Please Address Mail Correctly!

National Bahá’í Administrative Headquarters:
536 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Ill.

National Treasurer:
112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.
Make Checks Payable to: National Bahá’í Fund

Bahá’í Publishing Trust:
112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.
Make Checks Payable to: Bahá’í Publishing Trust

Bahá’í News:
Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.
Subscription and change of address: 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.

Baha'i Publishing Trust

"Christian Century" Reprint Now a Self-Mailer

The Christian Century Magazine Reprint. Because of a continued demand for the reprint of the article entitled "Bahá’í: A Second Look," written by Marcus Bach, a new printing has been made. The format has been changed to make it a self-mailer, using third-class postage and similar in design to I am a Bahá’í issued a few months ago. No envelope is necessary to mail these now, and another item (Basic Facts of the Bahá’í Faith, for example) can be enclosed at no extra postage. This is one of the most sympathetic and challenging articles written on the Faith by a non-Bahá’í writer, one who is known throughout the world for his books and lectures on religion. This challenging article should be in the hands of as many people in the Christian churches as possible.

25 copies ........................................ $1.00
100 copies ..................................... $3.00
500 copies .................................... $10.00

Minimum Mail Order, $1.00
Baha'i Publishing Trust
110 Linden Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

Calendar of Events

FEASTS
June 5—Nur (Light)
June 24—Rahmat (Mercy)

HOLY DAY
July 9—Martyrdom of the Bab

U. S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
June 12-14

Baha’i House of Worship

Visiting Hours

Weekdays
10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (Entire building)
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays
10:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Entire building)
5:00 P.M. to 9 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Service of Worship

Sundays
3:30 to 4:10 P.M.
"Grateful Remarkable Response to Ridvan Message"

(Cable from the Hands of the Faith Residing in the Holy Land)

Grateful remarkable response believers appeal Ridván Message (for) second army (of) pioneers new impetus teaching activity homefronts.

Strong evidence Bahá'u'lláh's invincible hosts gathering forces preparation conquest remaining goals beloved Guardian's crusade.

Persian American deputization plan receiving enthusiastic response long-suffering, dedicated, self-sacrificing friends Cradle Faith whose initial pledge will assist many pioneers proceed posts vital goal areas Europe, Latin America.

Encouraging news received World Center impels us share following high lights continuous progress global crusade. Over three score new local assemblies formed Persian homefront, surpassing all previous records. In Central East African territories alone over twenty-three hundred new believers enrolled past year, total now nearly sixty-five hundred. Seventy-seven new local assemblies formed Kenya, Tanganikya, Uganda; total entire area now exceeds two hundred fifty (assemblies). In Indonesia number centers increased from thirty to one hundred fifty, in brief span one year. In Java alone ninety-seven centers now established, compared only eight (a) year ago; number adherents Faith that country now over nine hundred, representing nine-fold increase past year.

Call upon believers east (and) west arise, shoulder God-given responsibilities support present plans for successful completion precious unique history-making crusade being undertaken (by) thirty-one national (and) regional assemblies created by beloved Guardian. Confident total victory within reach if all hearts turn (to) Bahá'u'lláh supplicating His unfailing assistance united, whole-hearted, dedicated effort fulfil present phase 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan.

Share message Hands (and) national assemblies.

Cablegram June 8, 1959

Beloved Bahá'í Friends:

This message addressed to the entire Bahá'í world through the Hands of the Faith and the national assemblies will quicken the heart of every believer.

What could be more encouraging than these words from the World Center of our glorious Faith? "Strong evidence Bahá'u'lláh's invincible hosts gathering forces preparation conquest remaining goals beloved Guardian's crusade" ... "confident total victory within reach if all hearts turn (to) Bahá'u'lláh ...

Adding the achievements reported in this cablegram to those enumerated in the Hand's Convention Message, we have not merely a statistical balance but the assurance of a new spiritual condition fulfilling the age-old hope for the redemption of the human race.

That condition begins with the formation of the Universal House of Justice, through which Divine law and order can be delivered to all races and peoples. In that body we will behold the consummation of the sacrifice of all the Prophets and Messengers since history began. It signifies a continuous expression of the Will of God in the guidance of the affairs of mankind.

What more noble privilege was ever proffered human beings than this provision added by the Hands; "if all hearts turn (to) Bahá'u'lláh supplicating His unfailing assistance ...

—U.S. National Spiritual Assembly
The Meaning of Faithfulness

In these crucial years of the World Crusade when we are immersed in the vital tasks which prepare the way for the formation of the Universal House of Justice, we must beware lest the immensity of the efforts blind us to the true nature of our Faith.

It is well to recall how many years the beloved Guardian devoted to an exposition of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh and the significance of the Bahá'í community before he launched the first great collective undertaking, the Seven-Year Plan.

The Guardian's successive letters from October 1927 to July 1932, collected and published under the title Bahá'í Administration, raised up those landmarks by which a believer who had been Jew, Moslem, or Christian became a Bahá'í, qualified to serve the universal purposes of Bahá'u'lláh.

The generation of believers, who first followed these landmarks and constructed highways from the religious experiences of the past to that of the day of God, are passing away. It is no longer necessary to plead for the recognition of the local spiritual assembly and its committees, or the National Spiritual Assembly and the national committees it appoints from year to year. Nevertheless, even those believers who enter the Bahá'í community at the present time, while they are no longer pioneers who first trace a path and then build a highway, are actually compelled to achieve inwardly what their predecessors had to achieve in terms of a new concept of a religious society.

There is a world of difference between the new Bahá'í who accepts the institutions on the basis of how they happen to be administered when he enters the Cause, and the new Bahá'í who has traced the emergence of the institutions through the literature and can accordingly evaluate them in terms of the creative purpose rather than their temporary practice.

Since the formative passages of those letters of Shoghi Effendi are no longer brought to our attention in successive issues of Bahá'í News, it would be well to assemble at least a certain number of more significant passages in the hope that many individual believers will study them conscientiously and thus develop, beyond a mere passive acceptance, to the degree of inner understanding.

The following selections are all taken from Bahá'í Administration, sixth edition, published in 1953.

"According to the direct and sacred command of God we are forbidden to utter slander, are commanded to show forth peace and amity, are exhorted to rectitude of conduct, straight forwardness and harmony with all the kindreds and peoples of the world. We must obey and be the well-wishers of the governments of the land, regard disloyalty unto a just king as disloyalty to God Himself, and wishing evil to the government a transgression of the Cause of God." (p. 4)

"O ye beloved of the Lord! In this sacred Dispensation conflict and contention are in no wise permitted. Every aggressor deprives himself of God's grace. It is incumbent upon everyone to show the utmost love, rectitude of conduct, straightforwardness and sincere kindness unto all the peoples and kindreds of the world, be they friends or strangers. So intense must be the spirit of love and loving-kindness, that the stranger may find himself a friend, the enemy a true brother, no difference whatsoever existing between them. For universality is of God, and all limitations earthly. Thus man must strive that his reality may manifest virtues and perfections, the light whereof may shine upon everyone." (p. 9)

"Furthermore, 'Abdu'l-Bahá reveals the following: 'It is incumbent upon everyone not to take any step without consulting the Spiritual Assembly, and they must assuredly obey with heart and soul its bidding and be submissive unto it, that things may be properly ordered and well arranged. Otherwise every person will act independently and after his own judgment, will follow his own desire, and do harm to the Cause. "The prime requisites for them that take counsel together are purity of motive, radiance of spirit, detachment from all else save God, attraction to His Divine Fragrances, humility and lowliness amongst His loved ones, patience and long-suffering in difficulties, and servitude to His exalted Threshold. Should they be graciously aided to acquire these attributes, victory from the unseen Kingdom of Bahá shall be vouchsafed to them. In this day, assemblies of consultation are of the greatest importance and a vital necessity. Obedience unto them is essential and obligatory." (p. 21)

"Large issues in such spiritual activities that affect the Cause in general in that land, such as ... any periodical which the National Body may decide to be a Bahá'í organ, the matter of publication, of reprinting Bahá'í literature and its distribution among the various assemblies, the means whereby the teaching campaign may be stimulated and maintained, the work of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar, the racial question in relation to the Cause, the matter of receiving Orientals and association with them, the care and maintenance of the precious film exhibiting a phase of the Master's sojourn in the United States of America ... and various other national spiritual activities, far from being under the exclusive jurisdiction of any local assembly or group of friends, must each be minutely and fully directed by a special board, elected by the National Assembly, constituted as a committee thereof, responsible to it and upon which the National Body shall exercise constant and general supervision." (p. 24)

"In order to avoid division and disruption, that the Cause may not fall a prey to conflicting interpretations and lose thereby its purity and pristine vigor, that its affairs may be conducted with efficiency and promptness, it is necessary that every one should conscientiously take an active part in the election of these assemblies, abide by their decision, enforce their decree, and cooperate with them wholeheartedly in their task of stimulating the growth of the Movement throughout all regions. Members of these assemblies, on their part, must disregard utterly their own likes and dislikes, their personal interests and inclinations, and concentrate their minds upon those measures that will conduce to the welfare and happiness of the Bahá'í Community and promote the common weal." (p. 41)
Grant Permission to Build Temple at Frankfurt After Six-Year Struggle

During the past Baha’i year, it seemed at times practically impossible to obtain permission for the Mother Temple of Europe, to be built at Frankfurt/Main.

In May the Landrat (district president) informed the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria that permission for the Temple would only be given if the Baha’is would build four roads leading to Langenhain (this is the very spot near Frankfurt where the Baha’i Temple is to be erected), a main purification plant and an enlargement of the water supply system for Langenhain. Fortunately the National Assembly was able to avert this decision.

After waiting for the permission for half a year, the National Spiritual Assembly received, in early December, the decision of the county council, which stated that the Baha’is were not allowed to build the Temple in this district because in this area there had never before been erected any building of this kind! After this the National Assembly, as well as the mayor of Langenhain, separately lodged a complaint with the Regierungs-präsident in Wiesbaden, and again all possible steps had been taken to further the project.

On March 25 the Regierungspräsident in Wiesbaden informed the National Assembly that the preliminary building application had been returned to the county council for revision, as the contested resolution of early December 1958 could not be maintained on the basis of the explanations given. The county council had been requested to decide again without delay.

On March 31 the National Assembly heard that the project would be decided upon again on April 2 in the meeting of the county council. On April 6 the National Assembly received word that the next day they could pick up the price and settlement permission at the office of the county council.

Finally the Baha’is had the papers in hand, and the National Assembly cabled to the Hands of the Cause residing in the Holy Land about the great achievement. Again on the same day the county council sent a letter that they had cancelled the negative decision of early December, and that the detailed building application could now be submitted to the Regierungs-präsident in Wiesbaden. The believers were extremely relieved that, with the help of Baha’u’llah, they were enabled to fulfill the desire of the beloved Guardian to have the Mother Temple of Europe built near Frankfurt/Main.
On Thursday morning April 23, in the sun-drenched city of Suva, Fiji Islands, the first Annual Convention of the Baha'is of the South Pacific was opened by the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly representative, Mrs. Margery McCormick. A total of sixty believers were present, including revered Hand of the Cause Collis Featherstone, five Auxiliary Board members, five Knights of Bahá'u'lláh, nine delegates, and visitors from the following countries and island groups: United States, Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Fiji Islands, Tonga, Cook Islands, and Samoa.

The first session opened with devotions in English, Fijian, Hindustani, and Tongan. The innumerable words of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh, expressed in so many different tongues, constituted a tremendous spiritual experience, welding the assembled believers together with bonds of fellowship and love. At this moment, as at other times during the convention, consciousness of the privilege of being a Bahá'í and the honor of witnessing so striking an evidence of the power of this Faith to engender love and unity welled up within the heart, bringing a deep sense of longing to the soul.

In her opening address Mrs. McCormick conveyed the love and best wishes of the U.S. Bahá'ís for a successful convention, and expressed the regret of all U.S. National Assembly members at their not being able to be present to share with the assembled believers the joy of achieving this World Crusade goal.

The roll call showed nine delegates to be present, from Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tonga; with deep regret the Convention recorded the absence, due to transport difficulties, of the ten Gilbert and Ellice Islands delegates.

The convention proceeded to the election of Walli Khan as convention chairman and Mrs. Dulcie Dive as convention secretary. During the counting of votes, Mrs. McCormick read a letter of greeting from the U.S. Asia Teaching Committee. This inspiring letter reviewed the stupendous achievements of the last seventy months, pointing out how these victories provide yet another evidence of the power of the Hosts of the Supreme Concourse.

Message from Hands of Faith Read

High mark of the convention was the reception of the stirring message from the Hands of the Cause in Haifa. In this message, which was read by Mr. Featherstone, the Hands of the Cause enumerated the successive achievements, dating from the revelation of the Tablets of the Divine Plan, which have led up to the formation of the Regional Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the South Pacific. The formation of a supplementary Four-Year Plan was suggested, in order to consolidate and extend the historic work already achieved. The Hands stated: "You are now launching the barque of your own independent existence . . . Your destiny is in your own hands, the hands of the people of these islands who have become Bahá'ís, and who are the electors of this historic Regional South Pacific Assembly." The complete message follows this report.

Discussing the convention message, Mr. Featherstone called on the believers to arise and teach during this unique period in the history of the Faith. "Each Bahá'í in the Pacific is a foundation stone," Mr. Featherstone said. "Upon your efforts the Kingdom of God in the Pacific will be reared." "Not only have we become members of the world religion, not only have we arisen to teach the Faith, but also we have assumed the obligation of establishing the Kingdom of God on Earth, with its attendant world civilization." Mr. Featherstone concluded his moving address by appealing to every believer not to deviate one hairsbreadth from obedience to God's Plan for this age.

Following reception of the convention message, this cable was sent to the Hands of the Cause in Haifa:

"EIGHT COUNTRIES ONE HAND FIVE AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS FIVE KNIGHTS OF BAHA'U'LLAH NINE DELEGATES TOTAL SIXTY BELIEVERS ASSEMBLED CONVENTION SEND LOVING GREETINGS STOP DEEPLY GRATEFUL IN-
SPRINGING ENCOURAGING MESSAGE GIFT ASSURE
DEVOTION FULFILMENT GOALS BELOVED
GUARDIANS PLAN”

Messages were also sent to the three island groups which did not have members of their community present at the Convention: Gilbert and Ellice Islands, New Caledonia, and New Hebrides.

Progress of the World Crusade

Mrs. Madge Featherstone, assistant secretary of the Australian Asian Teaching Committee, spoke next on “The World Crusade and its Goals in the South Pacific.” She summarized clearly and concisely the progress which has taken place since 1953 in each of the island groups of the South Pacific. Six local assemblies have been established, and the one assembly existing in 1953 has been consolidated; in addition, Bahá'ís reside in a further thirty-four localities situated in all the island groups specified for the Crusade, except the Loyalty Islands. Of the fourteen language translations specified as Crusade goals, thirteen have been achieved, together with an additional twelve translations. In Suva, the goals of purchase of a building to serve as a Hazíratu'l-Quds and of a Bahá'í endowment have both been attained. In addition, a Bahá'í school has been constructed in Port Vila, New Hebrides, and a Hazíratu'l-Quds in Apia, Samoa. Mrs. Featherstone concluded her address by appealing to the believers, one and all, to arise as never before to serve the Cause.

Building upon Mrs. Featherstone's address, convention delegates spoke on various aspects of the teaching work in their localities which might well have application in other South Pacific areas. This included discussion of children’s classes and of deepening classes for new believers.

Celebration of Ridván

Thursday night the friends gathered for the Ridván Feast. Prayers and selections from the Holy Writings were read in English, Samoan, Rarotongan, M'wala, and Tongan. Mrs. Elsa Blakely of Tonga spoke on “The Story of Ridván,” describing Bahá'u'lláh’s banishment to Baghdad and the events which occurred there prior to His Declaration. She pointed out how great was Bahá'u'lláh’s outpouring of Revelation during this period when He lived in conditions of extreme poverty. As Mrs. Blakely spoke of the Garden of Ridván and of the Declaration which has immortalized it, we felt almost overwhelmed by an awareness of the great spiritual forces released into the world at the coming of the Lord of Hosts.

Next, Tanuvasa Seniola of Samoa addressed the gathering on “The Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh.” Were any proof needed of the great spiritual capacity of the Pacific Islanders, this address would suffice. Speaking with deep sincerity he said, in part: ‘‘Were we to spend all our lives in meditation, the mystery of Bahá'u'lláh’s declaration would yet remain unravelled. . . . This is the Day for which countless generations through the ages prayed, the Day of the Manifestation of Bahá'u'lláh, the King of Days.” Mr. Tanuvasa concluded by referring to the Bahá’í Revelation in these words: “Bahá'u'lláh has given this most precious gift to us. It is ours to share with others. It is a living fountain to give to the people of the world who are so thirsty.”

Accomplishing Remaining Goals

Friday morning, the second day of the convention, opened with devotions in English and Rarotongan Maori.

A message of loving greetings was sent by the convention to the U.S. Convention, expressing deep appreciation at the assistance given by the American Bahá'ís during the last six years, and by the U.S. National Assembly representative Mrs. McCormick during the convention.

The morning session was devoted to consultation on
how to accomplish the remaining Crusade goals in the South Pacific and on the best teaching methods for the people of this region. The delegates from each island group spoke briefly on the religious background of their people, on their teaching methods, and on possible aid which the Regional Assembly might give.

Delegates all praised the visual aids shown to the convention by Mrs. McCormick, and recommended that the Regional Assembly should distribute similar material to all island groups; it was felt that this material, is particularly suitable for teaching in this area.

The necessity for use of the administrative machinery to coordinate teaching activities was stressed. Bahá’ís should teach the Faith from its relationship to Christianity and the teachings of the Bible. Problems associated with the translation of literature and methods of deepening new believers were also discussed. Visitors from Australasia and the United States felt particularly humble at hearing the delegates quite matter-of-factly refer to up to four firesides and deepening classes being held in each local community each week.

Knight of Bahá'u'lláh Alvin Blum, who had travelled 4,000 miles to be present, said, upon invitation by the convention: “The power and the spirit of the Faith together constitute its greatest teaching medium. Wherever one Bahá’í exists, and the appropriate conditions are satisfied, a whole community will spring up around him. The Founders of the Faith have released great spiritual power; it is our duty to use it.”

**Election of National Spiritual Assembly**

Friday afternoon delegates gathered for the election of the Regional Spiritual Assembly. Before the election, three short talks were given on the Institution of the National Spiritual Assembly.

Hand of the Cause Collis Featherstone spoke on “The Spiritual Foundation of the National Assembly,” pointing out the uniqueness of this Revelation in all religious history in that it contains two distinct interrelated sections: the spiritual teachings and the administrative order.

Peter Khan, a member of the Australian National Assembly, spoke on “The Functions and Responsibilities of the National Assembly.” He enumerated the various functions of the National Assembly under seven headings, and spoke briefly on its responsibilities as representative of the national community.

Mrs. Margery McCormick spoke on “The Bahá’í Fund,” pointing out that it is one of the great institutions of the Faith, specified by Bahá'u'lláh. “We must all contribute according to our means,” said Mrs. McCormick, “It is the sacrifice that goes behind the giving that counts, not the amount given.”

After prayers had been offered for guidance, the election of the Regional Spiritual Assembly was held in an atmosphere of silent reverence. As the name of each island group was called, and its delegates came forward to put their votes in the ballot box, our thoughts turned to rememberance of the effort and sacrifice which had been the lot of those valiant and devoted servants of the Abhá Beauty who had translated this moment from the realm of dreaming and longing into that of reality.

The results of the election of members of the Re-
Regional Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the South Pacific, and the officers elected by the Assembly are: Chairman, Alvin Blum; Vice-Chairman, Walli Khan; Secretary, Irene Jackson; Treasurer, Dulcie Dive; and Suhayl 'Aláí, Stephen Percival, Lisita Maka, Mabel Sneider, and Gertrude Blum. The Assembly includes members born in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Persia, Tonga, and Fiji, and coming from backgrounds rooted in the Jewish, Christian, and Moslem Faiths.

Following the election, gifts were presented to the new assembly from administrative bodies, communities, and individuals all over the world. These gifts included a donation of $1000.00 as an inaugural gift to the National Fund from the Hands of the Faith, in the name of the beloved Guardian. Messages of greeting were received from the sister national assemblies of the world.

Late Friday afternoon a public meeting was held in Suva Town Hall, with an attendance of about 140. The meeting, chaired by Walli Khan, was addressed by Mr. Featherstone and Mrs. McCormick. The speakers were welcomed by Dr. Gopalan, a member of Suva City Council, who referred to the harmonious mixing of races in the Bahá'í communities as being evidence that Bahá'ís put their teachings of the oneness of mankind into practice.

Mr. Featherstone, speaking on the subject "What is the Bahá'í World Faith?" discussed the political, racial, and economic divisions which, in this troubled world, have set man against his brother. He showed that true religion, far from adding to the divisions of mankind, is the ideal solvent for the barriers dividing humanity. The Bahá'í teachings on the oneness of religions and the unity of mankind were then explained. Mr. Featherstone concluded his stirring address by stating that the coming of the Bahá'í Faith will bring about the unity of mankind and the birth of world civilization.

Mrs. McCormick, whose talk was entitled "Bahá'u'lláh, the Prophet for this New Age," vividly described the circumstances surrounding the birth of the Bahá'í Revelation in the Siyáh-Chál, and the historical details of the Ministry of Bahá'u'lláh. She explained the station of Bahá'u'lláh as the Promised One, leading on to show that a person entering the Bahá'í Faith fulfills rather than repudiates his former Faith.

Following these two speakers, Peter Khan addressed the meeting, at the request of a member of the audience, on the relationship of the Bahá'í Faith to Islam, and on the necessity in the present age for unprejudiced search after truth.

Concluding Events

Friday night over sixty believers attended a dinner given by Mrs. Margery McCormick at the Grand Pacific Hotel. Representatives of many races, some of whom had travelled thousands of miles to be present, gathered around one table and broke bread together in a universal and age-old expression of brotherhood.

On Saturday the entire day was devoted to consultation directed towards the subjects of teaching needs, teacher training, itinerant teachers, and Bahá'í schools, using the Convention Message from the Hands of the Cause as a guide. The newly-elected Regional Assem-
bly, which had met until far into the previous night, presented ten lines of activity which it felt should form the basis for the supplementary Four-Year Plan suggested by the Hands. These ten points were discussed in detail by the delegates. The use of prayer as a necessary part of any teaching activity was stressed. Bearing in mind the fact that Islanders are more willing to listen to a visitor than to a member from their own locality, the convention recommended the exchange of travelling teachers between island groups.

In this session, as the convention drew to a close, the strength and vigor of the South Pacific community were seen reflected in the earnestness and creativity of the consultation, and in the love and harmony which bathed the entire gathering.

As the convention concluded, revered Hand of the Cause Collis Featherstone, whose presence was one of the special blessings given the convention, gave this last touching message: "This has been a wonderful, historic occasion. Future historians will regard these meetings as marking the turning point in the affairs of the South Pacific and as infusing new spirit into the area.

"We who come into this world have but a very short time in which to serve our Creator. Being given the privilege and the bounty of accepting the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, we know that, while the physical body returns to dust, the spiritual being goes on to a glorious world in which it retains memory of its previous deeds on this plane. Let us arise and ensure that when we attain to the next world, we will not feel remorse at not having rendered greater service to our Beloved."

The convention has now concluded. Delegates and visitors have travelled thousands of miles to return to their homes. Although it may not be externally apparent, each one has been transformed. Each believer attending this Convention has carried back with him the memory of a gathering of many races upon which Bahá'u'lláh shed light and warmth. This memory is as a precious jewel of unfading luster, which will be a constant source of inspiration during the years of service which lie ahead.

-Peter J. Khan

Message from the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land

To the First Convention of the South Pacific Islands

On the occasion of the historic formation of the South Pacific Regional National Spiritual Assembly, the hearts of the followers of Bahá'u'lláh are uplifted in thanksgiving for this great victory which testifies to the progress of His world-encompassing Faith and to the powers He has released in this age, which will inevitably enable mankind to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth foretold by the Prophets of God in past dispensations.

This latest achievement in the promulgation of the Divine Plan revealed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá himself, and set in motion by our beloved Guardian through successive detailed plans, cannot but release untold blessings in that area of the world so dear to his heart, and which absorbed so much of his attention during the last years of his life.

In the darkest period of the First World War, 'Abdu'l-Bahá called upon the members of the North American Bahá'í Community, in his Tablets of the Divine Plan, to "travel through the three great island groups of the Pacific Ocean, Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia—and with hearts overflowing with the love of God—deliver the Glad-Tidings of the Manifestation of the Lord of Hosts to all the people." The first results of His ringing appeal were witnessed in the opening of Australia and New Zealand to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, the carrying of His Message to the Society Islands, and the formation of a strong community in Hawaii, thus establishing a bridge of centers stretching from San Francisco to Sydney, and paving the way for the tremendous victories which have been won in this area under the direct guidance of the beloved Guardian during the first six years of his Ten-Year globe-encircling Plan.

With the inception of this World Crusade in 1953 and the allocation amongst the National Spiritual Assemblies of America, Canada, Persia, and Australia of the major islands and island groups of the Pacific, the teaching work began to stride forward at a formidable pace. Pioneers from the older communities poured into the Pacific region, and it is primarily due to the dedication, perseverance, self-sacrifice, and initiative of these consecrated souls that this first Convention is being held just one year after the passing of the midway point of the Crusade. Great as is this fruition of their labors, we must not forget for a moment that the greatest achievement we are witnessing on this happy occasion is the fact that the delegates chosen to elect this first Regional Pacific Bahá'í Assembly are representative of the peoples of Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia who have come together with the love of Bahá'u'lláh, embraced His Faith, and risen to establish it in their home islands. This is the glorious victory of our beloved Shoghi Effendi, the realization of his hopes, the consummation of his plan for this part of the world.

The extraordinary progress made throughout the Pacific region is evident to all, and must be a great source of pride and joy to those gathered together during these blessed Ridván days to hold their first Annual Convention. Let us recall some of the milestones that have led up to this crowning event: Your National Headquarters, the seat of your Assembly, has been purchased according to the beloved Guardian's own endowment, registered in the name of the Suva Assembly and likewise situated in Fiji, has been acquired as one of the goals of that same Plan; the rapid spread of the Faith in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, which led to the establishment of the first Bahá'í School in the entire Pacific area, on land contributed by one of the Gilbert Islanders and built through the efforts of the Bahá'ís themselves; the founding of the second Bahá'í school in this
region, which has recently completed its new building on its own land, in the New Hebrides; the construction in Samoa of the first local Haziratu'l-Quds of the South Pacific and the holding there of a Baha'i Summer School; the large and rapidly increasing number of spiritual assemblies, groups, and isolated centers which have been established in such widely-scattered areas as Tonga, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Samoa, the Solomons, the New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Cook Island, the Loyalty and Marshall Islands, and Fiji, all of which will now come under the guidance of their own regional assembly; the many translations of Baha'i literature into the languages spoken throughout these island groups—when we recall all these evidences of the onward march of the Faith, our hearts are lifted up in thanksgiving to Baha'u'llah Who made these victories possible, victories which bear eloquent testimony to the great spiritual promise this area of the globe holds for the future, and lead us to believe that ere long its peoples will contribute, in the World Baha'i Community, a particular, unique, and important share to its counsels and render it great services in both the teaching and administrative fields.

The words of the beloved Guardian, so often reiterated in the last years of his life, that the continent of Africa and the Pacific Islands were vying with each other for the palm of victory in the teaching field, are still ringing in our ears. We have recently seen during the visit of an African Hand of the Faith to that area how electric is the effect produced on the minds and hearts when a representative of a different race, from a distant land, travels amongst Baha'i communities of another region. It forecast that happy day when Baha'i teachers from the great ethnic groups of the Pacific will arrive and travel to the far corners of the world, teaching the people the Glad-Tidings of this Divine Message, exchanging visits with their African brethren and, like bees in a garden of flowers, pollinating the hearts of men the world over with the love of Baha'u'llah.

The New Regional Assembly of the South Pacific should, we feel, form a supplementary Four-Year Plan for the purpose of rapidly swelling the number of the adherents of the Faith throughout the area of its jurisdiction; consolidating the historic work already achieved in these newly-opened territories; markedly increasing the number of spiritual assemblies, groups, and isolated centers in the ten island territories which it represents; incorporating, whenever possible, those local assemblies which are firmly grounded; multiplying the translations of Baha'i literature in the languages spoken in that region; founding additional local Haziratu'l-Quds, Baha'i schools, and summer schools; purchasing the site of the future Mother Temple of the South Pacific to be erected in Suva; and inaugurating an independent National Fund.

Well knowing the difficulties that confront it and the enthusiasm with which its newly-elected members plan to carry forward the work of our glorious Faith in that promising area, we are placing at its disposal, in the name of our most beloved Guardian, the sum of One Thousand Dollars as an inaugural gift to its new National Fund. We feel sure this reminder of the constant love of Shoghi Effendi, of the high hopes he cherished for the future of the Faith there, and the rapid unfoldment of its institutions under the aegis of this new Regional Assembly, will serve to stimulate the friends to shoulder a greater measure of responsibility, to rise to fresh heights of service and self-sacrifice, and to prove worthy of all the blessings showered upon them by that wonderful being who served them with such selfless and self-sacrificing devotion for thirty-six years.

You are now launching the barque of your own independent administrative existence. Although the American National Assembly, your Mother Assembly, will always be ready to give you advice and assistance, and although your fellow Baha'is all over the world will surround you with their loving thoughts and moral encouragement, your destiny is nevertheless now in your own hands, the hands of the peoples of these islands who have become Baha'is, and who are the electors of this historic Regional South Pacific Assembly. We feel confident that, just as you have already produced from amongst yourselves many Baha'i teachers, you will in the future, with the help of the devoted pioneers who have come to live amongst you, ever increasingly carry on your own work, and teach this Faith to the people in hundreds of the larger islands throughout this area. Your activities will gladden the soul of our beloved Guardian, vindicate the confidence he placed in you and the high hopes he cherished for your future, and attract upon you the blessings of the Author of our Faith.

We can do no better than recall some of Baha'u'llah's gemlike utterances when He appealed to His followers to arise and teach His Faith: "Be unrestrained as the wind, while carrying the Message of Him Who hath caused the dawn of Divine Guidance to break. Consider how the wind, faithful to that which God hath ordained, bloweth upon all regions of the earth, being inhabited or desolate. Neither the sight of desolation nor the evidences of prosperity, can either pain or please it. It bloweth in every direction, as bidden by its Creator."

"O ye beloved of God! Repose not yourselves on your couches, nay, besit yourselves as soon as ye recognize your Lord, the Creator, and hear of the things which have befallen Him, and hasten to His assistance. Unloose your tongues, and proclaim unceasingly His Cause."

"Blessed is the spot, and the house, and the place, and the city, and the heart, and the mountain, and the refuge, and the cave, and the valley, and the land, and the sea, and the island, and the meadow where mention of God hath been made, and His praise glorified."

"Please God ye may all be strengthened to carry out that which is the Will of God, and may be graciously assisted to appreciate the rank conferred upon such of His loved ones as have arisen to serve Him and magnify His name. Upon them be the glory of God, the glory of God, that is in the heavens and all that is on earth, and the glory of the inmates of the most exalted Paradise, the heaven of heavens."

In the service of the beloved Guardian,

HANDS OF THE CAUSE IN THE HOLY LAND

(Signed) 

Ruhiyyih Jalal Khazeh
Amelia Collins A. Q. Fazi
Mason Remey Paul Haney
LeRoy Ioas A. Furutan
Hand of the Cause Dr. Grossmann
Visit Bahá’ís in Bolivia

The Master once said that the love of the friends drew him to America. It might well be said that the loving desire of the Indian believers in Bolivia brought to them a visit from a Hand of the Cause.

Two years ago, the friends in Vilakollo requested their National Assembly that a visit from a Hand of the Cause be made to their village. Their National Assembly was deeply touched with the request, and arranged for a visit from an Auxiliary Board member and later two visits from the National Assembly secretary.

On May 10, 1958, the revered Hand of the Cause, Dr. Hermann Grossmann, made the historic visit to the Indian village of Vilakollo, meeting eleven adult believers and many children. The friends, realizing that the strenuous trip and walking in the high altitude had physically affected Dr. Grossmann, offered immediate prayers in Spanish, Aymara, and Quecha. The believers were profoundly impressed to have their wish for a visit from a Hand of the Cause granted and his loving and encouraging words made them extremely happy.

Later, Dr. Grossmann visited the communities of Cochabamba and La Paz, in intimate meetings with the friends and close contacts. In Cochabamba he said that such was the spirit there “that he could not distinguish between those who were and were not Bahá’ís.”

His visit to Bolivia ended May 16, as he took off from the highest airport in the world in La Paz. The Bolivian friends closed their report on this memorable first visit from a Hand of the Cause with these words: “Jamás lo olvidaremos los Bahá’ís de Bolivia!” (Never shall the Bahá’ís of Bolivia forget him!)

U. S. United Nations Committee Explains Bahá’í View on World Refugee Year

A proposal for a World Refugee Year, to begin in June 1958, was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 5, 1958, following the presentation of a draft resolution sponsored by the United States, the United Kingdom, and eight other governments. The stated aims of World Refugee Year are:

“a) To focus interest on the refugee problem and to encourage additional financial contributions from Governments, voluntary agencies, and the general public for its solution.

“b) To encourage additional opportunities for permanent refugee solutions, through voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or integration, on a purely humanitarian basis and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees themselves.”

World Refugee Year is envisioned as a “human year,” in contrast with the scientific emphasis of the recently concluded International Geophysical Year. It has been estimated that some forty million men, women, and children have become refugees since the end of World War II.

Over two million still need some form of assistance from the United Nations. They once had homes in parts of Europe, Algeria, Palestine, Tibet, or China, but are escapees from the horrors of war, revolution, and persecution. Too many seem to have reached a dead end in a camp in Austria, a barracks in Italy, a tent in Gaza, a shack in Hong Kong. Countless children have been born in these places and still live there. But once the conscience of man is aroused, as the world learned during the Hungarian crisis, miraculous rescues can be accomplished.

The Bahá’í U. S. United Nations Committee believes Bahá’ís should understand this worldwide movement, about which newspapers and magazines are carrying information. Authoritative pamphlets may be obtained for the asking by writing the “United States Committee for Refugees,” 11 West 42nd St., New York 36, N. Y.

It is clear that Bahá’í undertakings have first, if not total claim on any funds Bahá’ís are able to contribute to worthy causes, for we, under the guidance of Bahá’ulláh, are building a world order which will be the true refuge for all mankind. “That which the Lord hath ordained as the sovereign remedy and mightiest instrument for the healing of all the world is the union of all its peoples in one universal Cause, one common Faith.” Nevertheless we can advise our non-Bahá’í friends, who are not permitted to contribute to the Bahá’í Cause, about this opportunity to alleviate human misery and rid the world of some of its trouble spots. Furthermore, some of us are members of organizations that would be glad to concern themselves with World Refugee Year if they understood its purpose.

—U.S. UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE

Permit Teaching on Alberta Indian Reservation

There are now eight Indian believers on the Peigan Reserve in Alberta, Canada. The Canadian Indian Teaching Committee reports there are several more studying the Faith, and they expect to form a local spiritual assembly there next April. This committee has received permission from the Indian Council to teach on the Reserve, and much interest has been aroused by their visits.
First National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Burma, elected Ridvan 1959, with Hand of the Cause Taraju'llah Samandari and I. K. B. Bakhtiari, member of the Asian Auxiliary Board (holding plaque of The Greatest Name).

Delegates to the first Burma Convention, held in Rangoon on April 23 to 25, 1959, with Mr. Samandari and Mr. Bakhtiari.

Baha'is attending the First Convention of the Baha'is of Burma.
Annual Conventions Review Achievements of Past Year, Marshal Forces to Attain Remaining Crusade Goals

Alaska

At 11 a.m. on the opening day of the Third Annual Convention, following the reading of the message from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land, the Bahá'ís of Alaska proceeded to the site of the future Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, eight miles out of Anchorage, for the dedication ceremony.

A short distance on De Armoun Road, off the Seward highway, and up a rather steep incline lies the hallowed spot, a setting lavishly endowed by nature and fashioned by the Hand of God throughout all eternity for the Mother Temple of Alaska.

Even the elements joined in the festivities of this eventful sacred mission. After an intermittent downpour of several weeks, the sun broke through fluffy white clouds. Snow-capped mountains smiled down from all sides, while below us the waters of Cook's Inlet, an arm of the Pacific Ocean, shimmered in the sunshine.

Silence fell upon the group of fifty people gathered there. It deepened into calmness as we revelled in the scenic vista around us, our hearts in unison with the wonder of it all.

A group of nine people gathered in a semicircle facing the assembled friends, while a deep peace, felt only on rare occasions, gave a realization that invisible forces were there.

Elmer Guffy, pioneer to Fairbanks in the World Crusade, made the introductory remarks, telling us how a gift of three acres of land was offered to the National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska by Evelyn and Vernon Huffman in 1957, and that this had the approval of our beloved Guardian in a letter of August 15, 1957, along with his appreciation.

The stillness was broken as Mrs. Huffman, secretary of the National Assembly, read from the Sacred Writings. Other readings were then given by Betty Becker, one of the first pioneers to Alaska under the first Seven-Year Plan; by Mrs. Janet Stout, the first believer in Alaska under the first Seven-Year Plan; by Robert E. Moul, pioneer to Ketchikan and Douglas under the World Crusade, and chairman of the National Assembly; and by Edgar Russell, World Crusade pioneer to Seward.

The "Prayer for Alaska," which is very close to the heart of all Alaskan Bahá'ís, was read by Arthur Gregory, one of the first believers in Alaska, who served on the first local spiritual assembly, and who is now pioneering in Homer. This was followed by readings by Mrs. Dorothy Taylor, delegate from Ketchikan, and by Mrs. Rose Yarno, first pioneer to Kodiak under the World Crusade.

Wallace Harrison concluded the dedicatory service by reading "The House of Worship." His wife, Agnes, is our first native believer in Alaska, of Eskimo, Indian, and Aleut descent.

One of the friends stated: "Pilgrims who visited the Holy Land during the lifetime of the Guardian have told us of his great joy and happiness when goals and tasks were accomplished. Surely his presence was with us on this very eventful occasion, and we trust that we have gladdened his heart, at least in a small measure, in fulfilling this goal of the World Crusade.

"Blest must be the city of Anchorage, to be the area chosen by our beloved Guardian for the first Temple of Alaska. This city is fast becoming the hub for intercontinental travel, the air crossroads of the world. Here people of all races, color, and creeds will find a universal House of Worship. We are looking forward to the day when the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár will diffuse its beams of unity through our great land of Alaska, and will bring about the fulfillment of its destiny, the oneness of its people."

During the convention sessions which followed, on April 25 and 26, the secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly enumerated the progress made to date on the World Crusade: (1) Inaugurating a National Bahá'í Fund, (2) Initiating local Bahá'í endowments, (3) Incorporating the National Assembly, (4) Purchasing a plot of land, and (5) Establishing a summer school.

Six challenging goals remain to be completed: (1) Maintain existing assemblies and increase their membership to 151, (2) Incorporation of active local assemblies, (3) Establish six new local assemblies by 1960, (4) Form seven groups, and (5) Multiply the number of Bahá'í centers. The National Assembly emphasized consolidation, rather than dispersal, this year.

—Betty Becker

Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay

The Third Annual Convention of the Bahá'ís of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay was held in the beautiful resort city of Viña del Mar, Chile, with twenty-six delegates and forty-two visitors present, including a Persian, an American travelling teacher, a Bolivian Indian pioneer, and Juan Fernandez Island Bahá'ís attending their first convention.

After a two-day Pre-Convention School, the Convention met on April 30, May 1-2, 1959.

To the visiting friends, the region around Viña del Mar elevated the spirits with the Chilean panorama of mountains and ocean, vineyards and flowers everywhere.

The spiritual atmosphere of loving hospitality was provided by the host communities of Valparaíso, Quilpué, and the joyful, newly-formed community of Viña del Mar as they gave the reception for delegates and visitors in Hotel O'Higgins on April 27 and the Ridván Feast on April 28.

The presence of the revered Hand of the Cause, Dr. Hermann Grossmann, during this period widened our vision of the future of the Cause in this area, and gave a profound sense of the spirit emanating from the Holy Land. As a result, the convention was characterized by high resolve and serene faith.

Progress of the Faith was reflected in the report of formation of three new local spiritual assemblies: Rosario, Argentina; Viña del Mar, Chile; and the second all-Indian assembly in Bolivia, located in Jankahuyo. The goal of the purchase of the Paraguayan Temple land was reached, as well as the development and expansion of the Bahá'í Publishing Trust in Buenos Aires.

It was very heartening to learn that most of the population of Juan Fernandez Island is now receptive to the Faith, and to learn of several other large groups of Bolivian Indian believers, with continually growing statistics there.

Much consultation was given to the pioneers' needs to reach the minimum goals in Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, as both Argentina and Bolivia met their assembly goals this year. Four local assemblies need to be formed this coming year: Minas, Uruguay; Encarnacion, Paraguay; and Loncoche and Valdivia, Chile, to insure this triumph.

Many friends arose to offer their vacation period to
teach in these places, although all agreed that permanent pioneers are urgently needed. The hope was expressed that the "wave of pioneers" called for by the Hands of the Cause will be realized soon. Special attention was called to the need for German-speaking pioneers in the Valdivia-Loncoche-Osorno area of Chile, where the goals have been set up.

No report on this convention would be complete without comment on the humble devotion shown by the Bolivian Indian believers in such expressions as: "Brothers, in our community we pray for all the assemblies, and we try to live together with open hearts."

Those elected to serve on the National Spiritual Assembly for the coming year are: Roberto Cazcarra, Salvador Torma, Athos Costas, Joe Mielenik, Fabienne Guillen, Ellen Sims, Roque Centurion, Alejandro Reid, and Carlos Martinez.

—ELLEN SIMS

BRAZIL, PERU, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, AND VENEZUELA

Nineteen delegates had the privilege of attending the Third Convention of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. The Baha’is of Lima and Callao, Peru, hosts of the convention, graciously offered the hospitality of their homes to all delegates and visitors. The beautiful Hazratu’l-Quds in Lima provided ample rooms for public meetings and convention sessions, as well as a special spiritual atmosphere.

Continuing the custom of other years, there was a two-day school preceding the convention for the purpose of getting better acquainted, and to contribute a deeper understanding of the Teachings of our Faith. One period of the school program was given over to Irvin Thomas, who had just returned from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

On the opening day of the convention, the message from the Hands of the Faith was read, giving the global victories won and the challenge, in words that we pray will be unforgettably engraved on every heart, the urgency to complete the Ten-Year Plan that our beloved Guardian left with us.

A special call was made for Bahá’ís to leave the communities where they could be spared, in order to go where goals had not yet been completed. It was recommended that national teaching committees of the five countries in this territory guard with vigilance the newly-formed assemblies and groups through the stimulus of a constant flow of teaching materials and visitors.

Though Brazil and Peru have met their goals as to the number of assemblies designated by the Guardian, there is always the ever-present need of fortifying and deepening them. One of the most urgent calls was made for pioneers to go to Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela to form the necessary assemblies.

In response to this call, three families and ten individuals offered their services. It was also announced that three members of the outgoing National Assembly were going to goal areas, two to remain in the territory of the national regional assembly of the northern part of South America, and one to transfer to the southern part.

One of the outstanding accomplishments of the past year is the purchase of the Hazratu’l-Quds of Caracas, Venezuela, thus completing one of the most difficult goals of the Crusade. The documents of the future Temple of Colombia were signed in March 1959. The land for the Temple in Brazil was donated by Mrs. Leonora Armstrong, and the site for the Temple in Ecuador has been purchased. Only two sites remain to be purchased.

The contribution of a tract of land by Muriel and Edmund Miessler has been given to the future National Assembly of Brazil to be used as a summer school. Mrs. Armstrong has given a tract of land in the name of the Local Assembly of Rio that will be
transferred to the future National Assembly of Brazil. A plot of land was also donated by Heshmatullah Mehrain to the Local Assembly of Curitiba, Brazil. The Bahá’ís of Callao, Perú, are buying land for a future Center.

The newly-elected National Spiritual Assembly includes: Margot Worley, Dorothy Campbell, Gayle Woolsen, Edmund Miessler, Cyrus Monadjemi, Mercedes Sanchez, Djalal Eghrari, Rangvald Taetz, and Jamshed Meghnat.

—Eve Nicklin

Canada

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Canada for 1959-1960, elected at the annual convention, includes the following: L. G. Gardner, chairman; Rowland Estell, vice-chairman; Harold Moscrop, treasurer; Peggy Ross, secretary; Mrs. Audrey Westhauser, acting secretary; and Fred Graham, Miss Winnifred Harvey, Hartwell Bowsfield, and Allan Raynor.

Iberian Peninsula

The Third Annual Iberian Convention was held in the Hazrat’l-Quds in Madrid, Spain, on April 24-26, with the attendance of seventeen of the nineteen delegates representing the ten local spiritual assemblies. Two absentee votes were sent by mail. Two visitors from other communities were Senor Salem, vice-chairman of the Local Assembly of Ceuta, Spanish Morocco, who, during the session, recited the Tablet of Ahmad in the original Arabic; and Senor Candido Mateos Marina, the first believer in the town of Bejar, near Salamanca. Senor Mateos had been received as a believer only the day before, and great was the joy at welcoming this new member of the Bahá’í family.

Charles Monroe Ioas, member of the Auxiliary Board of the Hands, and chairman of the out-going National Spiritual Assembly, was elected permanent chairman of the convention, and Don Luis Ortuno Puche, its secretary.

As the convention message had not yet arrived from the revered Hands in Haifa, the great and urgent message of November 30, 1958, was read to the assembly, and at a later session its points were discussed and pondered.

The Teaching Report showed the dramatic result of an intensive spiritual effort in Portugal, with the sudden and unexpected bursting into life of a new local assembly in Portimão, fruit of two slow years of work by two Portuguese pioneers, Lydia and Armando Boucas, and the recent help of visiting instructors, most important being the fifteen-day stay of the Tifton sisters of Spain.

Although Spain had already reached its goal of eight assemblies, true to its promise, it has not stopped at these, but has produced a ninth local assembly this year at Hospitalet, near Barcelona. A temple site is still to be bought, and the difficult task of achieving the legalization (incorporation) of the Faith is still incomplete.

In spite of having to deprive some believers of the voting right, the number of believers on the Peninsula is 224. This year twenty-eight persons became believers in Spain, and ten in Portugal, making a total of thirty-six. The number of local assemblies in Spain is nine; Portugal three, with five more needed to reach its goal of eight. The number of groups in Spain is four; there are none in Portugal. The number of isolated believers is seven in Spain, two in Portugal.

A noteworthy effort, which is attracting new believers in Tarrasa, near Barcelona, is the formation of a Bahá’í choral group by Juan LleUART Casa, who has set verses and prayers to music and trained some thirty

friends, the number of Bahá’ís there being forty-two. Several members of this Bahá’í choral group were present at the convention, and lent a much enjoyed musical note to the sessions.

On the afternoon of April 24, the members of the Third Iberian National Assembly were elected with the following result: Charles Monroe Joas, chairman; Francisco Salas, vice-chairman; Luis Ortuno, secretary; Sara Tiffon, recording secretary; Isidro Torrella, treasurer for Spain; Angelo Silva Carneiro, treasurer for Portugal; and Jose Lopez Monge, Romon Escartin, and Virginia Orbison.

During the Convention several important points were brought out and clarified, among these being the fact that the Bahá’ís must carry out the beloved Guardian's emphatic directives in regard to Bahá’í marriages, and the non-baptizing of Bahá’í children, even though such procedure might bring inconveniences upon the families who faithfully observe the laws of their Faith, thus cleaving forever the old order from the New. Some time was also spent on a discussion of the difference between Covenant-breaking and the various reasons for the removal of names from the voting lists. It was brought out that protection of the Faith is of primary importance.

The annual reports showed a real increase in the tempo of the teaching work, it being felt that the beloved Guardian is aiding from the Abhá Kingdom, and the Concourse on High is opening doors and making safe the path. The prayers of the revered Hands of the Faith and the visit of one of the distinguished members, Dr. Ugo Giachery, last January; the stimulus provided by the various summer school sessions and special teaching projects; the increased travelling and visits by the believers to various points of the Peninsula—all this has brought into being a deeper feeling of responsibility and the assurance that somehow the efforts of those who are devoting their time, means, and energy to the goals of the Ten-Year Plan will see all of these reached through the spiritual dynamics engendered by the Guardian's prayer for the believers of the Iberian Peninsula written by his own hand:

"That they may prove themselves worthy of their high calling, that they may excite by the quality and range of their achievements, the admiration of their brethren in all the continents of the globe, that they may hasten, by the very nature of their exertions, the advent of the day when they will have entered upon a still more exalted stage in their collective advancement on the high road of their destiny."

—Virginia Orbison

France

"UNDER PROTECTION OF OUR BELOVED GUARDIAN, SECOND BAHÁ’I CONVENTION FRANCE CONVENED APRIL 25. TWO AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS, 17 DELEGATES, ALL COMMUNITIES PRESENT. A SPIRIT OF DEVOTION AND ENTHUSIASM PERVADES THIS MEMORABLE GATHERING AIMING ACCOMPLISHMENT REMAINING GOALS OF CRUSADE IN FRANCE."

This cable to the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land conveyed the spirit evoked by the annual convention message from the World Center of the Faith, which contained the news of the many victories won in the great World Crusade in its sixth year, rejoicing the hearts of the friends.

Consultation focused on the ways and means by which France could help with the teaching needs of Europe, to aid in the accomplishment of the Crusade goals, by extending pioneer assistance, circuit teaching help, audio-visual material, and literature.

Mr. Navidi, Auxiliary Board member from Monte Carlo, appealed to each Bahá’í to make every effort possible, during the next three years, to fulfill the wishes of the Guardian for the propugation of the Faith. He pointed out that the failure of one country to achieve its goals was now the failure of all.

M. Pettit, secretary of the National Assembly, read the annual report of the collective activities of France during this first year of its stewardship. The achievement of the Crusade goal for the incorporation of

![Seventh Annual Convention of the Baha'is of Italy and Switzerland, held at the Haqiratu'l-Quds at Bern, Switzerland, on April 25-26, 1959.](image)
the National Assembly, and the transfer of the deed of the Haziratu'l-Quds to that body, now in process, as well as the circuit teaching help which had been extended the various communities, especially the three circuits of Jean Sevin, were the highlights of the report.

A large map of France indicated the present status of the Faith: seven assemblies, ten groups, and twenty isolated believers, with a membership of seventy-six French believers, thirty-eight Persian, twenty-eight American and eleven of other nationalities, and with nine new Bahá'ís enrolled during the year.

These reports were followed by the election of the new National Spiritual Assembly. Those chosen, and their officers, are: Joel Marangella, chairman; Sara Kenny, vice-chairman; Chahab 'Alá'i, secretary; Jacques Sognomonian, treasurer; Lucienne Migette, recording secretary; and Monir Derakhchan, Francois Petit, Florence Bagley, and A. M. Barafroukhteh.

Twelve national committees were called on for reports of their activities during the year. National Teaching Committee Secretary Alice Bernard reviewed the many teaching activities, and the Translating and Publishing Committee reported several new French translations of Bahá'í literature.

Mrs. Dreyfus-Barney, with a radiance and charm undimmed by the years, gave the friends word-pictures of Haifa and 'Akka when 'Abdu'l-Bahá was there. She spoke of her first visit to Haifa in 1901, and later of the early days of the Faith in France.

With such changes in the space of fifty years, in the progress of the Faith, it was clear that these next four years of the Crusade would also bear witness to the power of the Word of God in hastening the establishment of His Kingdom, through the achievement of the goals set for us by our beloved Shoghi Effendi.

—AMELIA BOWMAN

Northeast Africa

On April 27, 1959, delegates representing nine territories of Northeast Africa assembled at the National Haziratu'l-Quds in Cairo, Egypt, to discuss Bahá'í affairs at their four-day annual convention.

The goals under the Ten-Year Crusade, as well as those under the Seven-Year Plan and the subsidiary goals, were all surveyed at full length. It was observed that there had been marked progress in some areas, but others were slow in developing.

The penitent looks of the members of the convention made one conscious of the fact that unless there is a greater upsurge of gigantic energies in the field, for the limited period of our active service as we press forward toward our goals, we are liable to be deprived of the privilege of following in the train of those who have been chosen as the standard-bearers of Bahá'u'lláh under the wise leadership of our most beloved Guardian.

It was, therefore, recommended that the Tablet of Ahmad be chanted, with a pause of three-minutes' silence for meditation and supplication with all hearts attuned to the Abhá Kingdom, so that the convention deliberations yield the tangible results envisaged under the Divine Plan of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

The convention was elated with the glad-tidings of the official recognition of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Asmara, Eritrea, as a religious body. Persecution, the arrest of friends, and inquiries by public security forces made the responsible authorities realize that the Bahá'ís had nothing to do with politics. The Central Government circulated this fact to all division officers in Eritrea.

The discussions, all through the convention, revolved around the orbit of the challenging words of Rúhíyyih Khánum: "The strength of the Bahá'ís is in each other. We feel lonesomeness except in meeting together, when our hearts are consoled. We love Shoghi Effendi now more than ever, and we find our happiness in doing something to please him."

The incoming National Spiritual Assembly was elected, and constituted as follows: 'Abdul Rahim Yazdi, chairman; Husein Amin Bikar, vice-chairman; Tewfik Muhammad 'Ali, secretary; Subhi Elias, treasurer; Mirza Badi Bushrui, assistant secretary; and Jamsheed Munajjim, Dr. Rawshan Yazdi, Seeyid Muhammad Azzawi, and Iskandar Hanna.

—BADI BUSHRI

Annual Convention of the Bahá'ís of France, held at Paris at the National Haziratu'l-Quds.
India

Our convention this year was unique in many ways. We were allotted ninety-five delegates from India only, with fifty-four delegates attending from all corners of the nation.

India as a country has been blessed with its variety of people, and this was greatly manifested among the participants who belong to different states and come from all walks of life: a gathering that was truly representative of the peoples of India. To crown it all, the Bahá’í spirit of consultation was maintained throughout, which added to the beauty of such an important gathering.

We were fortunate to be graced by the presence of our revered Hand of the Cause Tarázu’lláh Samandari, and our dear friend I. K. B. Bakhtiari, member of the Asian Auxiliary Board, at our Post-Convention Teaching Conference. They gave us valuable information about the formation of the National Spiritual Assembly of Burma at Rangoon, and stressed the need of greater efforts in trying to win the goals of our beloved Guardian’s Ten-Year Crusade.

The significance of the Feast of Ridván, “The King of Feasts,” and the need to celebrate the twelve days of Ridván in a most befitting manner was explained by Mr. Samandari in detail. He pointed out that all these twelve days should be considered as a spiritual springtime; we should feel elated and allow the divine blessings to work through us.

He particularly brought home to us the need for Indian women to rise up in greater numbers, and help spread the Cause with a renewed effort amongst the awaiting masses.

The conference ended with a keen note of enthusiasm, and there was a general eagerness among the participants to get back to their respective centers, to share their profitable experiences with those at home, and to strike out with renewed vigor in spreading the Teachings of our beloved Cause.

—India Bahá’í News Bulletin
Visit to Temple Site Highlights Australian Convention

On May 3, 1959, Baha'is who were attending the Annual Convention in Sydney, Australia, visited the site where the Mother Temple of Australia is now being constructed. In the photograph below, the friends are shown as they inspect the progress of the building.

In the picture above, the Baha'is are gathered in front of the Sydney Haziratu'l-Quds on May 2, scene of the convention, encircling Hands of the Cause Clara Dunn (in chair) and H. Collis Featherstone (to her left).
Northeast Asia

The Third Annual Convention of the Bahá'ís of Northeast Asia (Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao) was held in Tokyo from April 24 to 26, 1959. The meeting place, which had just been completed and opened a few days previously, as if in preparation for the convention, was the lovely Toshi Center, built by the Japan Association of Mayors as a national headquarters, and one of the most beautiful and modern public buildings in this rapidly-growing international metropolis.

Following devotions in Japanese, Chinese, Iranian, and English (due to tensions in the world of international politics, none of the Korean friends were able to attend), the convention was organized on the first morning with the election of William Maxwell of Seoul as chairman, and Mrs. Barbara Sims of Tokyo as secretary.

The spirits of all present were uplifted, and the tone of the entire convention period was set, by the reading of the inspiring and challenging message from the Hands of the Faith in Haifa. Although it had not been received soon enough for a Japanese translation to be prepared before the convention opened, some of the most thrilling sections reporting victories attained were given impromptu translation on the spot so that all the friends present could participate simultaneously in the spiritual exhilaration. A reply was voted, expressing appreciation for the Hands' message, and the newly-strengthened determination of the pioneers to remain at their posts.

In the Annual Report of the outgoing National Spiritual Assembly, some of the highlights were as follows:

1. The incorporation of the National Spiritual Assembly of Northeast Asia was completed in February 1959, thus fulfilling one of the goals of the Guardian's Ten-Year Plan and of Northeast Asia's subsidiary Six-Year Plan.

2. Four new local assemblies were formed on April 21, 1959: Ashiya, Nagasaki, and Sapporo, Japan; and Chonju, Korea. The formation of the Nagasaki Local Assembly consummated the Guardian's special hope that the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in particular, should be afforded the bounty of receiving the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. (The Hiroshima assembly
had been established previously.)

3. Translation and publication of pamphlets and writings into Japanese, Korean, and Chinese continued. The outstanding publication of the year was Paris Talks in Korean. The Bahá’í Geppo, or Northeast Asia news letter, was published every other month in Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and English editions.

4. Summer schools were held in 1958 in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan.

5. The first Bahá’í burial ground in this area was acquired in Ashiya, through the efforts and donation of one of Iranian pioneers.

6. A suitable Temple site has been found after long search, and negotiations are now under way which it is hoped will result in its purchase.

During the course of the convention, pledges were received insuring the establishment of three new Centers: for Hiroshima and the new community of Sapporo, by one of the Iranian pioneers; and for the new community of Nagasaki, by an American pioneer.

On April 26 the message from the Hands was explained in Japanese, and lively discussion ensued on this, together with remaining committee reports and recommendations to the new National Assembly. The convention closed with an opportunity for every friend present, whether a delegate or not, to express his feelings briefly; and the spirit of unity, harmony, and renewed dedication was so strong that no one remained unmoved by this tangible evidence that this infant community of Northeast Asia was ready to press on to victories which could hardly have been imagined even five short years ago.

Joy Hill Earl

Proclamation of Faith in France
Gains Great Impetus in Recent Months

The teaching in France has received a great impetus with the return visit of Jean Sevin, pioneer to the Tuamotu Islands and the only native Bahá’í who went out from France to answer the Guardian’s call for pioneers in the virgin territories at the beginning of the Ten-Year Crusade.

Because France had so few active native believers at this time, a few strongly advised him against going, but in response to Jean’s request for advice from our beloved Guardian, he was told that the work he could accomplish in France could not compare with what he would be doing for the Cause by pioneering in a virgin territory. Later the Guardian wrote to the Paris Assembly, promising them that his pioneering would prove to be a bounty for France.

Many of the believers in France felt that this meant that the sacrifice of one of its few native French believers to the pioneering work would enable France in her turn to meet her goals. With the arrival of a large percentage of the fifty American pioneers that the beloved Guardian had requested for France, as well as the pioneers from other countries, France is one of the European countries which is near to meeting all its goals of the Crusade.

The bounties in this Faith are usually doubled, and the case of Jean Sevin proves it once more. He returned with a large number of beautiful slides of Tahiti...
and the islands. He took advantage of his stay to inform himself of the daily life, customs, and history of the natives, and therefore, under such titles as "Polynesia and the Dawn of a New World," and "Colored Slides of Tahiti" followed by a talk on "The Bahá'ís of Tahiti," he was able to attract large crowds in many cities to hear about the French colony and the Bahá'í Faith. The first half of Jean's program was devoted to showing slides and talking about Tahiti and the Polynesians, and the second half was devoted to giving the Message of Bahá'u'lláh, and the need of the islanders for these Teachings. His profound knowledge of his subject and excellent presentation enabled him to hold the attention of his audience throughout. Thus for the first time in France, the Faith has been widely proclaimed this year.

Opportunities appeared miraculously many times, and the National Teaching Committee quickly took advantage of them. A girlhood friend of a Bahá'í from Chateauroux offered to organize a meeting in Toulouse, and during ten days of the busy Christmas season, had posters printed and placed, advertised in the newspapers, sent personal invitations, and attracted an audience of 300 persons, one of whom had been looking for the Bahá'ís for six months. A pioneer has since moved to this progressive city to continue the work begun there.

The National Teaching Committee asked the only Bahá'í in Menton, an old lady new in the Faith whose sight is very bad, to arrange a meeting for Jean. She felt it was hopeless until she read in Baha'i Trust that this border city, with a warm and responsive audience of Baha'is nearby. With the aid of believers from Nice and Monte Carlo, a local theater was rented, and the largest and most successful meeting took place in this small seaside border city, with a warm and responsive audience of 400. At the request of some of those present, regular firesides are being carried on with the help of neighboring Bahá'ís.

All of the meetings brought excellent publicity, usually after personal interviews by the local newspapers, and often mentioning the Faith favorably. The best publicity appeared in Perigueux, where the only Bahá'í arranged two smaller but very successful meetings for Jean, and the local paper gave not only an excellent brief summary of the Teachings, but the address and time of a follow-up meeting. This comparatively new believer also arranged a moderately successful meeting at Bordeaux at the request of the National Teaching Committee.

Another new French believer came all the way from Nice to arrange a public meeting in Nancy, her former home and a goal city chosen by our beloved Guardian. This attracted an audience of more than sixty persons, including one who had heard of the Faith from Mrs. May Maxwell, Rúhiyyih Khánum's mother, years ago.

These are just a few of the meetings which were arranged for Jean Sevin, who worked indefatigably, traveling constantly from one city to the next during the months of his stay in France. He also made circuits in the neighboring countries of Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland.

Mr. Sevin summed up the results himself when he said, "If I had remained in France, I might have given the message to a dozen persons in the last five years, but because I went pioneering I have been able to give the message to more than 3000 in a few months."

The Bahá'í community of France has been especially blessed in having this impetus to the teaching work come to it during its first year as one of the national pillars in the Bahá'í Administration.

—FLORENCE BAGLEY

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**Restate Guardian's Directive to NSA's**

**To Report Achievements to "Bahá'í News"**

Some years ago Shoghi Effendi expressed his hopes concerning the international development of the U.S. Bahá'í News, stating his desire that it would "become the foremost Bahá'í journal of the world." (Bahá'í Administration, page 82.) The coming of the World Crusade and the International Ten-Year Teaching Plan further enlarged the world-wide scope of this journal, making it responsible for the summary of events marking the progress of this Plan as well as providing a stimulus to the achieving of these goals.

On October 20, 1957, the beloved Guardian wrote to the Bahá'í News Editorial Committee, and included a statement that he was taking steps to see that "more international news, fresh from the bodies concerned" would reach Bahá'í News. He gave instructions accordingly, so that the following letter was sent on his behalf by Leroy Ioas, on November 25, 1957, a few weeks after his passing:

"To all National Spiritual Assemblies:

Dear beloved friends:

"The beloved Guardian has instructed me to write you the various National Assemblies throughout the world, in order to inform them that the American Bahá'í News is in a position to print the news of

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**U. S. Bahá'í Summer Schools**

**Geyserville Bahá'í School, June 21 - Sept. 6**

Rates from $22.00 to $37.00 weekly for adults, $10.00 to $14.00 for children from 2 to 14 years. Write for information and reservations to: Geyserville Bahá'í School, Geyserville, Calif.

**Green Acre Bahá'í Institute, July 3 - Aug. 31**

Rates from $35.00 to $45.00 weekly for adults, $11.00 to $20.00 for children up to 14 years. Write for details and program to: Mrs. Irene Miniutti, Green Acre Bahá'í Institute, Eliot, Maine.

**Davison Bahá'í School, July 20 to Sept. 4**

Rates from $3.50 to $4.25 per day for adults, $2.00 to $3.25 per day for children up to 15 years. Write for details to: Mrs. Dorothy Hoffman, Registrar, Davison Bahá'í School, 3208 South State Road, Davison, Mich.

**Blue Ridge Bahá'í School, August 22-28**

Rates from $38.50 to $52.00 for adults for the seven days, half prices for children. Write for details to: Mrs. Harold Bowman, 4012 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, Md.

**Southwestern Bahá'í School, Aug. 29 - Sept. 5**

Rates: $35 for the season for adults, $20.00 each for children. For information write to: Mrs. Allen Squires, 6941 Lakeshore Drive, Dallas, Texas.
A group of students at a previous year’s Blue Ridge Bahá’í Summer School, Blue Ridge, N. Car., earnestly preparing for their seminar, on the pleasant lawn of the hotel where the school is held. Sessions at Blue Ridge this year will be held from August 22 to 28. Further information may be obtained from the Registrar, Mrs. Harold Bouman, 4512 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, Md.

activities in other countries.

““This Bahá’í News is widely circulated throughout the Bahá’í world and thus would give wide publicity to any activities and successes which are achieved by the friends in all parts of the world.

“The beloved Guardian requests that each National Spiritual Assembly appoint a special committee to see that regular, and quick, reports of important activities being conducted in the area under their jurisdiction be sent to the Editors of the American Bahá’í News.

“This information should include news of the progress of the World Crusade, also the progress of subsidiary plans of the National Assembly in its own area. Also photos should be sent of any important Institutions that are established in the Faith.

“The Guardian attaches the utmost importance to this important matter and therefore hopes that your Assembly will take prompt action and appoint an efficient committee to carry forward this most important task.

“With loving Bahá’í greetings, I am

Faithfully yours,

(signed) Leroy Iloas

“P.S. This is one of the few letters I received instructions from the Guardian to write shortly before his ascension.”

Hand’s Convention Message Reveals Lack of Reports

A careful perusal of the recent convention message from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land reveals that many important events of the past year were never received for publication in Bahá’í News. Although it is understandable that some communities are unable to publish detailed accounts of certain events, a majority of these reports were apparently omitted through oversight.

It is therefore earnestly hoped that each National Spiritual Assembly, including the newly established ones, will follow the directive of Shoghi Effendi in ap-
showing two believers seated in the Temple gardens. The interview dealt with the basic teachings and administrative principles of the Faith.

People and Places, September 1958, a magazine distributed through DeSoto dealers, is illustrated with a two-page spread showing the Temple, interior of the dome, and an internal and external view of the House of Worship. The text is apparently based on the book written by Allen McDaniel.

Norman Cousins, editor of Saturday Review, wrote the editorial entitled "Is God a Christian?" in the issue of February 28. "If we seek to do is to utilize the spiritual resources of men in meeting their problem at its largest, then those resources would have to come from Christian and Jew, from Moslem and Hindu, from Buddhist and Taoist, from Confucian and Baha’i."

Chicago Daily News of March 7, devoted a half-page to a large colored illustration of the "Great Dome Shrine of Báb... the first thing to catch your eye as you approach the city." The subtitle is "Wilmette Temple has a 'Sister' in Haifa." The accompanying text reports an interview with Ruhíyyih Khánum on the spread of the Faith during the World Crusade.

Greensboro (N.C.) Daily News for March 5 reported the pilgrimage to Haifa to be undertaken by a local Baha’i, Kimball Kinney. The article is illustrated with a portrait of Mr. Kinney and a picture of the Baha’i Archives on Mount Carmel.

A New York paper published in the German language reports on the showing of a film entitled "Israel Today" in Carnegie Hall, with oral comments by Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr. "The film showed pictures of Jerusalem, Haifa, Beersheba, the country of Abraham with its hyper-modern new buildings, the Dead Sea, Tiberias, Convents of Nazareth... the enchanting gardens of the Baha’is on Mount Carmel in Haifa... and much more."


The Milwaukee Sentinel on May 2 featured an article headed "Racialism Works in Hawaii," based upon an interview with the members of the Albin Kubala family who returned after five years of pioneering in Hawaii in order to attend the annual Convention.

The Jewish Digest, a monthly magazine, in its March issue published a condensation of "Baha’i Calls Israel Home" by Carl Alpert. "Half way up the slope of Mount Carmel, and separated by the beautiful Persian gardens from the surrounding residential district of Haifa, is the magnificent golden domed Shrine of the Baha’i Faith."

Baha’i Publishing Trust

New Printing — New Format

Basic Facts of the Baha’i Faith. This most widely used item, written by the late Dr. Wm. Kenneth Christian, has recently been reprinted and made into a twofold leaflet, similar in format to One Universal Faith, and Pattern of Future Society, and printed in blue ink on white stock. Although most prices remain the same, it has been necessary to increase the 1,000 quantity price.

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Minimum Mail Order, $1.00

Baha’i Publishing Trust, 110 Linden Ave., Wilmette, Ill.

Calendar of Events

FEASTS
July 13—Kalimát (Words)
August 1—Kamál (Perfection)

HOLY DAY
July 9—Martyrdom of the Báb

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
July 24-26

Baha’i House of Worship

Visiting Hours
Weekdays
10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (Entire building)
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays
10:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Entire building)
5:00 P.M. to 9 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Service of Worship
Sundays
3:30 to 4:10 P.M.
Gardens of the Shrine of Baha'u'llah at Bahji

View of the gardens at the Shrine of Baha'u'llah from the Mansion. The new garden extensions, where the Covenant-breakers' building formerly stood, are in the foreground.

Entrance to the Shrine of Baha'u'llah at Bahji. At the left are the garden extensions.
WORK has now started on the dome of the Kampala Temple and, with the ribs in place, it is possible to see the general shape of the building.

Below the dome, the solid concrete shell, reinforced with steel, with solid block in-filling, is complete. No wood is used anywhere in the structure, even the tiles being laid in mortar on the reinforced concrete roofs.

The dome, structurally designed in the form of a steel basket which carries the concrete, consists of six-inch reinforced concrete at the springing, or base of the dome, diminishing to a thickness of four inches at the top. The dome is being cast in-situ, with about a three-inch depth of well-tamped concrete laid at a time; as each three-inch section hardens, the next section is poured, so that the whole structure is self-supporting as it goes up.

Concealed electrical conduit has been installed throughout for future lighting when electricity is available.

The dome of the Temple will be covered in tiny, pale green glass mosaic, which will shimmer in the African sunlight, and the roofs will carry glazed pantiles of a similar colour. From the dome down to the higher of the two roofs the finish of the building will be in smooth
precast stone, but below that the finish will be of plaster. This has been arranged in order to obviate the erection of expensive scaffolding in the future, which would have been necessary had a rougher, cheaper finish, requiring frequent cleaning, been used on the upper part of the building. The cleaning of the Temple below the roofs will be a much simpler operation.

Plans are progressing on the caretakers' house and service buildings, which are situated quite close to the Temple. These auxiliary buildings will not be visible from the Temple for they will be surrounded by trees and hedging.

Plans have been set in motion for the landscaping of the Temple grounds which, when finished, will be extremely beautiful. A great deal of work and consultation has gone into the preparation of these plans, and an expert has been consulted. The Temple is to be surrounded by a thirty-foot swathe of grass, unbroken by paths or flower beds, and around which will be built a low wall upon which people may sit. In the future it is envisaged that, beyond the wall, avenues of trees and shrubs will ray out from the nine entrances, each treated in a different way, with particular attention being paid to that facing towards Haifa.

The rest of the plot will be treated as park land, with shady trees and lovely flowering shrubs, so that the Temple and its surroundings will be a place of beauty for the joy of all who visit it.

Announce Identification of Remains of Cousin of the Báb

(Cable from the Hands of the Faith Residing in the Holy Land)

ANNOUNCE WITH PROFOUND GRATITUDE FUL-FILLMENT ONE (OF THE) MOST DIFFICULT GOALS (OF THIS) BELOVED GUARDIAN’S WORLD CRUSADE, IDENTIFICATION (OF THE) REMAINS (OF THE) COUSIN (OF THE) Báb, SUCCESSFUL TRANSFER (TO) CEMETERY, EVIDENCE (OF THE) UNFAILING GRACE OF BAHÁ’U’LLAH VOUCH-SAFED (TO) HIS FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS. SHARE JOYFUL NEWS (WITH) HANDS (AND) NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES.

June 15, 1959

(Signed) HANDSFaITH

Port Victoria Baha’is Achieve Incorporation of Assembly by Special Legislation

In June 1956, the Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Port Victoria, Seychelles, adopted a subsidiary one-year plan, one of the goals of which was to incorporate the Assembly. This was ratified by the National Assembly and a letter of introduction and a copy of local assembly by-laws was sent from the National Assembly lawyers to a Mr. Thomas, Barrister-at-law, Port Victoria, who subsequently took a great deal of personal interest in the project. From the moment that Mr. Thomas was briefed in January 1957, it was clear that nothing less than a special ordinance would need to be passed by the Legislative Council through the Government of Seychelles. This became known as "An Ordinance for the Incorporation of the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Port Victoria (Seychelles)."

Mr. Thomas, a former Attorney-General of Seychelles, discussed the proposed bill with the Attorney General, consulted appropriate government officials, and drew up a draft based on the American by-laws approved by the beloved Guardian. Literature was freely given to interested officials. The initial fees for Mr. Thomas were raised by local contribution.

An effort was made to introduce a clause into the bill to facilitate the incorporation of other local assemblies, as and when they were formed. Simultaneously, investigations were made into the recognition of the Bahá’í Marriage Certificate.

In the early stages, it was Mr. Thomas’ desire to introduce a very short, simple bill, similar in form to that incorporating the Roman Catholic Mission, and omitting the main Bahá’í beliefs and the nature of the local relationship to the National Assembly and the Guardian. Mr. Thomas argued that these details could go in the by-laws and need not form part of the legislation, and by introducing a short bill along the lines already accepted by the Legislative Council, a quick and easy passage through all its stages might easily result.

The Local Assembly could not accept this, and insisted on the inclusion in the ordinance itself of the major tenets of the Faith. Again and again the lawyer maintained his arguments that lengthy legislation, which included matters of doctrine and administration, would meet with difficulties in Legislative Council and that once a law was passed recognizing the assembly as being the corporate body of a religious community, the assembly would be empowered to administer its affairs according to Bahá’í belief and practice. All the details were finally included in the draft Bill, which had become a most comprehensive document.

Petition Addressed to Governor

On May 25, 1957, a petition was addressed to His Excellency the Governor of Seychelles, praying for legislation. The petition noted the worldwide nature of the Faith and its principle of obedience to Government; it referred to the Canadian incorporation and the incorporation of the religious bodies in Seychelles. With the petition was a draft of the Bill and two volumes of The Bahá’í World.

Due to the comprehensive nature of the bill and the then strong Roman Catholic composition of Legislative Council, opposition was expected. Difficulty was, however, even encountered in approaching a member of Legislative Council to sponsor the Bill.

The Governor accepted the petition and passed it to the Attorney General who acknowledged receipt, saying that it was receiving the attention of the Government. On June 1, 1957, the Governor wrote through the Acting Secretary to the Government, informing the Local Assembly that the bill should be introduced by
an unofficial member as a Private Bill, and also stating that no similar legislation had been considered by Legislative Council under its present constitution, which dated from 1948.

Then followed a delay of some months due to the dissolution of Legislative Council and re-election. Only after the new Legislative Council was duly elected was a serious study made of the standing rules of Legislative Council as they applied to Private Bills. The Clerk of the Council then demanded a fresh petition signed by the nine members of the Local Assembly. “Leave to proceed” with the bill was presented to the first meeting of the tenth session of the Fourth Legislative Council on August 6, 1957. All members of the Council, elected and nominated, were present and the hall was filled to capacity with notable citizens, heads of the Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Seventh-Day Adventist missions, diplomats, and senior government officials. The promoters of the bill were allowed to proceed after the petition was read and a majority voted in favor. There were a few abstentions and but one negative vote at this stage.

Shortly after this, the bill was published in a “Notice of Motion” sent to the Clerk of the Council. About the same time, a certain well-known citizen was speaking against the Faith and branding the Bahá’í community as communists.

The Attorney suggested that, as the Faith was not known among the members of Legislative Council, they might all be given an authoritative statement. A number of copies of The Faith of Bahá’u’lláh by Shoghi Effendi were sent for this purpose.

When the proceedings of the meeting of Legislative Council were published on August 10 in Le Seychellois, the opposition of Dr. (Mrs.) Stevenson Delhomme was recorded in detail. This prominent lady, wife of the French Consul, is also chairman of the Victoria District Council, and by her opposition gave much publicity to the petition and to the Faith. Great public interest was aroused and this was the first time since its introduction to the islands that the Faith was mentioned in the press.

The bill was printed and published by August 21, 1957, and subsequently printed three times in the official Gazette.

Preamble to the Bill Required

The first major difficulty was encountered when the bill was passed for the first reading, but before its second reading the Government had a special meeting to consider it, and it was found that according to Standing Rules and Orders of Legislative Council and traditions of Parliamentary procedure, such a bill required a preamble defending every clause of the bill and giving comprehensive information about the doctrines, beliefs, and intents of the Faith. The Government also objected to the clause which facilitated the incorporation by proclamation of each local assembly that in future came into existence.

While this delay occasioned considerable apprehension in the hearts of the Seychelles friends, it is seen in retrospect as a most advantageous step, for the preamble, which was then drafted and added to the bill, and which had to be published in full, drew added attention to the tenets of the Faith.

As the preamble raised some technical discussions within Government itself, it was not possible to introduce the amended Bill to the December session of Legislative Council, and it was deferred until March 1958, and was again published as a supplement to the Gazette.

During June 1958, the attorney, Mr. Thomas, visited Kampala and was entertained at tea by the National Assembly secretary, a personal contact which helped to clarify some details.

Legislative Council did not meet again until September. The bill was read but did not get through a second reading. Dr. (Mrs.) Stevenson Delhomme made the only speech—it was a most misleading statement—and a five to five vote was taken. The President did not exercise his vote, so the bill failed to get a majority.

The Local Assembly then went into action: a) the National Assembly was advised, with a copy of Mrs. Delhomme’s speech; b) letters of thanks were written to those who voted in favor; c) a letter was sent to the Governor, answering all Mrs. Delhomme’s allegations, quoting extensively from Bahá’í Writings, and seeking advice from His Excellency as to the next step.

The letter to the National Assembly was delayed in the post, but the following actions were taken: a) to call on the Local Assembly to take no step without consultation with the attorney; b) to ask the British National Assembly to write to the Governor; c) ourselves to write an appeal to the Governor; d) to send a statement on the Faith for submission to the local newspaper.

Again, due to postal delay, the advice to the Local Assembly was late. They had already received a reply from the Government, dated October 22, which asked for such information as names and dates of arrival of first pioneers to Seychelles; total numbers in Seychelles and what proportion were local people; relationship to the National Assembly and what disabilities or inconveniences were suffered by the community as a result of its not being legally incorporated.

The Local Assembly replied in detail, and on November 29, the Governor replied through his private secretary “that the legal position has now been con-
submitted and would do all he could to see that it now first time and Mr. Bailey moved that the Standing Council again eighteen months after receipt of the original petition. The motion was carried six to four, and the official members voting as they felt inclined, seeing no objection to the bill on grounds of policy. He then criticised the objection of the only member who ever spoke against the bill, saying “I completely fail to see how any of these objections carry any weight at all on grounds of public policy.” Following with a brief statement on the aims of the Faith and listing the basic principles, he continued with an appeal to the members to keep aloof from prejudices and not deny the Bahá’ís the privileges already granted in law to the Roman Catholics and Seventh-Day Adventist missions. He ended his thousand-word speech “We, with our individual beliefs, can surely afford to be tolerant in this particular matter; let us be so, please, and so allow this Faith legal status in Seychelles.”

The motion was most ably supported by H. C. Gontier who, in rising to second it, referred to what he had studied in *The Bahá’í World* 1950-54, and called upon members to observe the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, quoting articles 17 and 18. The voting was then seven to four in favor, the bill was read a second time, and then referred to a Select Committee.

The paper *Le Seychellois*, having refused to publish a statement on the Faith, was obliged to publish a verbatim report of Legislative Council proceedings. The Select Committee met four times, made certain amendments with which the Local Assembly representatives concurred, but could not reach a decision on the most important Clause 3, which outlined some of the basic tenets of the Faith. While one faction wanted to see it deleted and the material drafted into the by-laws, the other side supported the Bahá’í view that it was of the greatest importance. The Committee therefore referred the amended bill, with the Clause still included (as Clause 4), to the Council. Order of the Day, No. 4 of 1959, February 27, 1959, carried the item: “The Secretary to Government to move that the bill entitled Bill of an Ordinance for the Incorporation of the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Victoria, Seychelles, be referred to a Committee of the Whole House.”

In presenting the report of the Select Committee, the Attorney-General, speaking against the inclusion of the controversial Clause 4, said: “No legislation is required for any religious body to administer its own religious affairs. This is an internal matter for the religious body itself. Legislating for such religious matters would create a precedent and would place the religion concerned in the category of a state religion, a kind of established church. Evidence has been given before the Select Committee that legislation is not necessary for the formation of a Spiritual Assembly but that legislation is necessary for the Assembly to have certain legal rights. As a matter of fact the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Victoria has been in existence for four years and has been functioning during that time as a religious body without legislation.”

“Before closing my remarks, in fairness to the promoters of the bill and as Chairman of the Select Committee, I should draw the attention of this House to the statement made by the promoters when Clause 4 was being discussed in Select Committee. They said they would not find it possible to carry on with the bill if Clause 4 were deleted.”
Mr. Bailey Replies to Attorney General

In reply to the Attorney-General Mr. Bailey, in a speech of almost 900 words, demonstrated the reasons why all clauses should be left in the bill, and that already the Bahá'ís had made big concessions. He drew attention to the worldwide pattern of local assembly incorporation, and said:

"Paragraph (e) restricts the powers and jurisdictions of a local assembly as granted in the revealed writings of the Founders of the Faith; its importance for inclusion is self-evident.

"Paragraphs (f) and (g) are equally important as they empower the local assembly to do all necessary, proper, and advantageous acts to promote the complete and successful administration of the corporate body, and at the same time it is binding on it that the spiritual and administrative relationship with its National Assembly of East Africa must be maintained, as this is a guiding principle of Bahá'í administration all over the world.

"From this it is clear that Clause 4 not at all only expresses beliefs and doctrines, but essential administrative principles, and it is very necessary to have this clause in the law so that the purposes and objects of the Faith shall be known to all, and not merely to appear as it would in the objects and reasons of a normal government-sponsored Bill given at the end only, and to be lost sight of when such a Bill becomes law."

This he summarized by quoting the Guardian in the passage: "To disassociate the administrative principles of the Cause from the purely spiritual and humanitarian teachings would be tantamount to a mutilation of the body of the Cause, a separation that can only result in the disintegration of its component parts, the extinction of the Faith itself."

After this it was put to the vote that Clause 4 stand as part of the bill and the voting was six to five in favor. All other clauses of the bill were voted upon and carried; the bill was read a third time and carried by seven votes to four.

It then required but submission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in London and signature by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Port Victoria wrote: "We believe that this is the first time in Bahá'í history that, in the case of a local assembly, incorporation has taken place through specific legislation."

The National Assembly cabled Haifa, and receiving the following reply: "CONVEY FRIENDS SEYCHELLES QUOTE DELIGHTED IMPORTANT VICTORY APPRECIATE STEADFAST SERVICES."

The crowning joy was the receipt by the Local Spiritual Assembly of the Seychelles Ordinance No. 12 of 1959 dated April 27, 1959. "An Ordinance for the incorporation of the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Victoria, Seychelles," accompanied by Proclamation No. 13 of 1959 from the Governor of Seychelles.

American Hands of Cause Fill Vacancy
on Auxiliary Board for Protection

With the lamentable passing of Jesma Herbert, a vacancy was created on the Auxiliary Board for Protection, and the Hands announce that Amoz E. Gibson has been appointed.

The American Hands take the occasion to express their grateful appreciation of Mrs. Herbert's years of ardent and fruitful service as a member of that Board. Her services to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, indeed, over a long period, evoke admiration and esteem on the part of the entire American Bahá'í community.

Mr. Gibson, known to and admired by Convention delegates and visitors during recent years, has been pioneering among the Indians in Arizona.

-CORINNE TRUE
WILLIAM SEARS
HORACE HOLLEY

Two views of the group at the ceremony dedicating the Temple site of Alaska, located near Anchorage. This service was reported in Baha'i News for July in the Alaska Convention story.
Second All-Indian Assembly Formed in Jankohuyo, Bolivia

In the village of Jankohuyo in Cancha Blanca (White Field), Departmento Potosí, Bolivia, the community of twenty-four believers elected their first local assembly on April 21, 1959.

About two weeks previously, from April 3 to 6, all work had been suspended for intensive study on the spiritual and administrative aspects of the Faith, given by Athos Costas, secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay; and by Eustanislau Alvarez, chairman of the National Indian Teaching Committee. That Indian school had confirmed twelve more believers, with three villages represented: Sakaka, Huancota, and Jankohuyo. The visitors left promising to return for the formation of the first local assembly there.

The story of the election of that assembly tells of a race against time and obstacles. As Sr. Alvarez had to return to La Paz for the election there, Sr. Costas was left alone, with no knowledge of either the Quecha or Aymara Indian languages, to try to return by the prescribed date.

His account is one of endless frustrations. Briefly, his return trip started on April 15, as he waited vainly for a whole day in Orure for an interpreter and guide. He had to start out alone the next morning on the only bus which would take him partway to get him there on time.

Staying overnight at Sakaka, again no guide could be found, nor anyone who knew Spanish, so early the next morning he started off for Chire, where he left the bus with knapsack on back to cross unknown mountains and terrain. That day he walked eighty kilometers, climbing and descending mountains until it was pitch-black night. An Indian child he had tried to talk to had burst into frightened tears at the stranger; an Indian youth had been able to say only “Yes, no, good morning” in Spanish; later several Indian farm laborers at the foot of a mountain through gestures gave contradictory and confused directions.

From midnight to daybreak he tried to sleep on the ground between two mountains, restlessly tossing while worrying about his mission, and recalling the warning that scorpions, poisonous snakes, and wild foxes abounded in that zone. He can still visualize himself precariously clinging to the mountainside as a condor circled and swooped about him as he called out The Greatest Name for protection.

Finally, at dawn, he realized that he had gone almost in circles for days on his solitary trip, and he decided to go back to Sakaka for help.

By then he was extremely fatigued, and had forced himself almost beyond his strength. He later said: “All during that trip, while eating, sleeping, and walk-

Even the llamas decided to make friends with Athos Costas, on his teaching trip. Bolivian Indian believers depend upon the llamas for their livelihood.

Group of Indian believers of Sakaka, Bolivia. At the right is Crisologo Montesinos, an eighty-year-old rural school teacher.
ing, in the depth of my being was raised a constant supplication to God to help me in this service to His Cause.

His story includes the finding, briefly, of an Indian believer, Patricio, whom he lost sight of in the milling groups on market day in Sakaka. He had walked for hours around the plaza, hoping to catch a glimpse of Patricio crossing the central square. That night, a Sr. Coca offered to accompany him, after having previously refused.

On the next morning, April 20, they started out with three little burros in tow. Again came the same mountain climbing, and finally on a height Jankohuyo could be seen far below. “My emotions were indescribable,” Sr. Costas related.

With a joyous welcome, the believers suspended all work for further study classes on the administrative and spiritual bases of the Faith, as well as details on the character of Bahá’í elections. Then, with sacred readings and prayers, the election of their first assembly took place “in an atmosphere full of spirit and emotion.”

To add to the happiness of that date, two Indians from Urimarca were present, who asked that a Bahá’í would come to give intensive study classes in their village, “as there were eighty Indians there who wished to enter the Faith.”

A little eighty-year-old rural school teacher, Crisologo Montesinos, had been waiting eagerly to enroll in the Faith after having used Bahá’í prayers daily from Communion With God, in which he said he had found “his highest inspiration.” He was the only person in the Sakaka region who could read.

The National Assembly secretary’s report closed with these words: “Those Indians are highly humble, affectionate, and spiritual. Again, and even more so than before, I can say that Bolivia is like Africa ... detached pioneers are needed, bestowing all their love and faith, their Bahá’í knowledge, their human understanding, and their loving consideration.”

During the coming year, Sr. Alvarez will live among and teach the Indians for a five-month period, while Andrés Jachakollo will devote the entire year as a pioneer among his Indian brothers. A young Indian believer, Sabino Ortega, chosen by the outstanding Indian pioneers themselves, will spend several months for teacher training in Santiago, Chile, and will return to teach the children of these villages, as well as diffuse the Faith in Bolivia, a country that has over two million Indians.

—Ellen Sims

National Assembly Members for Australia, Burma, Italy-Switzerland Announced

Officers and members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Australia for the Bahá’í Year 116 are: H. C. Featherstone, chairman; W. J. Rodwell, vice-chairman; N. P. L. Walker, secretary; N. Bluett, treasurer; and P. J. Khan, J. Heggie, Miss T. I. Perks, P. B. Bird, and E. S. C. Bowes.

On April 25, 1959, the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Burma was elected as follows: U Ba Sein of Toungoo, president; Daw Hla Hla of Mandalay, vice-president; S. G. Murtaza Ali of Rangoon, secretary; U Ko Ko Gyi of Rangoon, assistant secretary; Sháh Alam Chowhuri of Rangoon, treasurer; U Doolman of Daidanaw; U Hamid of Rangoon; Daw Thong Khin of Mandalay; and U Thein Pe of Daidanaw. A photograph of this newly formed Assembly appears in the July issue of Bahá’í News on page 11. All nineteen of the elected delegates attended the convention, as well as a large number of Bahá’ís from the different centers in Burma.

Members of the Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assembly, elected at the Seventh Annual National Convention at Bern held on April 25-26, 1959, include Dr. Ugo Giachery, Fritz Schaer, Dr. Alexander Bausani, Anna Kunz, Fritz Semle, Dr. Walter Ott, Mona Haenni, Elsa Steinmetz, and Marian Little.
The Fourth Inter-American Indian Congress was held in the city of Guatemala May 16-25, 1959, with delegates and observers from the United States, Central and South America, and the Antilles, totaling approximately 150 persons, and including directors of various National Indian Institutes, representatives of the Inter-American Institute in Mexico, social workers, anthropologists, language experts, and prominent Indians from Panamá, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and the United States.

In the latter delegation were Paul Jones and Clarence Wesley, chiefs of the Navajo and Apache tribes, respectively. Educators and representatives of international organizations, such as O.I.T. and UNESCO, also participated. The Bahá'í observers were the only official representatives of any religious group.

The Government of Guatemala acted as host, and President Ydigoras officially opened the congress and sponsored a reception.

Three official Bahá'í observers (Mrs. Louise Caswell, Mrs. Dee Worth Lamb, and Artemus Lamb) were privileged to attend through the sympathetic bond for the Faith which had been established with the Director of the Indian Institute of Guatemala, Juan de Dios Rosales. He has devoted indefatigable energies to dedicated, loving service to the Indians, and is deepy searching for ways to further their interests. One other Bahá'í of Guatemala, Máximo Enrique Chávez, also acted as observer, but for the University of San Carlos, Guatemala.

Deeply aware of their great privilege and responsibility, the Bahá'í observers adopted the policy of free and friendly association with all participants in the Congress, without making mention of the Faith except when asked directly. The Indians obviously felt the Bahá'í spirit, voluntarily seeking them out constantly, as naturally as children seek their father.

The atmosphere of the fourth congress was one of unusually deep sincerity, abnegation, and a sincere searching for ways to right the wrongs suffered by the Indians. There was a generally widespread disquieting realization of the defects of our so-called "civilization," and recognition of the noble qualities of our long-suffering brothers, and their great spiritual and moral contributions to past civilizations when given their opportunity. Both Indians and non-Indians appeared to be making great sacrifices for the congress. Many times the thought was expressed that what was needed most of all was a correction of the "non-Indians."

The observers established very friendly, even intimate, relations with the San Blas Indians, who offered their assistance in every way possible, and gave suggestions as to the proper way to introduce the Bahá'í Faith to their twenty-three Indian tribes. Official permission must be obtained from their governing council for the entry of any religious teaching, and through invitations issued to visit them, it is hoped...
to make this official presentation in the very near future through the coordinated efforts of the National Spiritual Assembly of Central America and the Panamanian Teaching Committee.

Another contact is a member of the National Assembly (governmental body) of Panama; another is a member of the Chiriquí tribe, and most anxious to know the Bahá'ís in his locality. It was possible to give the Message to both Mr. Jones, the Navajo chief, and to Mr. Wesley, the Apache chief. Mr. Jones was also given a brochure in English-Navajo. Both asked many questions and were very impressed with the fact that there are no priests, pastors, or paid workers in the Bahá'í Faith.

The Bahá'í pamphlet in Maya-Quiché Indian dialect and Spanish was also presented to the two Indian representatives from Quezaltenango, at their request. The Director of the Indian Institute of Bolivia, after hearing an exposition of the Bahá'í Faith at luncheon one day, said, "I want to join this movement."

The Secretary of the Indian Institute of Guatemala said, after having read some literature: "You are giving me a problem. My entire thinking is being completely revolutionized."

A most careful follow-up is being arranged with all the names, either through their respective national spiritual assemblies, or the teaching committees of their countries. In Guatemala itself a great number of people of capacity are interested, including both the Director and Secretary of the Indian Institute, who are actively reading and studying.

There have been three former Inter-American Congresses, the first held in Pátzcuaro, Mexico; the second in La Paz, Bolivia; the third in Cuzco, Peru. The next, or fifth, will be held in Ecuador in 1963. This fourth congress, held in Guatemala, is the first in which Bahá'ís have participated.

To the observers, the spirit of Bahá'u'lláh is obviously working on a large scale in the Americas, and a new era of understanding and collaboration in the work with the Indians appears to have opened up with this fourth congress.

Third Benelux Convention at Brussels
Stresses Importance of Deeds

Fifty-one Bahá'ís from Holland, Luxembourg, and Belgium assembled in the Conference Hall of the Hague, Brussels, for the Third Benelux Convention, April 25-26, 1959. Roll-call of the delegates revealed thirteen present. The secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly received votes from the six absent delegates, making a total of nineteen votes.

The Convention chairman introduced our two Auxiliary Board Members, Louis Henuget (Teaching) and Jan Sijsling (Protection). Louis Henuget, addressing the Convention, called our attention to the words of Dr. Ugo Giachery spoken at the meeting of the Hands of the Cause and the Auxiliary Board Members, held in Brussels last December.

"The Hands of the Cause," said Dr. Giachery, "are very concerned over the progress of the Global Crusade. The year 1959 is a very crucial one. This Cause must go forward and it can only go forward because of the sacrifice of every believer. The Cause of Bahá'u'lláh will go down if we fail. This brings us to one essential point—Individual Teaching. In order to achieve the goals set for the Global Crusade, 394 assemblies must be established before 1962."

Continuing, Mr. Henuget said that for the Benelux countries the goal is three national spiritual assemblies by 1963, one each for Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg. "This is a 'divine task' we have before us. We, with our weaknesses and frailty, must accomplish it. It depends on us. We must create a "divine institution." If we are not able to form these national spiritual assemblies, then the Universal House of Justice will not be established and the Cause will be retarded because of our failure. Our next Convention must be a convention, not of promises, but of action and results. This thought we must keep in mind every day throughout the coming year."

Jan Sijsling, in addressing the Convention, pointed out that modern man is no longer interested in words but in deeds. There is much quarreling and gossiping and so much poor organization to be found everywhere. Bahá'ís must be an example. There is protection for all of us, and that is in the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. From these teachings we can learn the great lesson of self-discipline. We can improve our own behavior if we faithfully follow the laws and ordinances given by Bahá'u'lláh. The results will soon come, and then we shall begin to attract others so that next year there will be many more delegates from new assemblies. If we truly love our Faith we shall protect it.

Hearing the magnificent message from the Hands of the Cause of God was the high point of the Convention. Mr. Henuget then summarized this Message and emphasized its important parts.

In summing-up the discussion on teaching work, Jan Sijsling said that it is easy to obtain material goals, but much more difficult to achieve those of a spiritual
nature. We need more faith. We need financial support. The plan given in the message from the Hands of the Cause is quite drastic. It is interesting to note the natural capacities of these two nations, Persia and the United States. The Persians are giving financial support. It is natural for them to give and give, they have such generous hearts. The Americans, in turn, are asked to give the work.

Having recently returned from a business trip which included the United States, Mr. Sijsling observed that the American Bahá'ís seemed more open, more earnest; for most of them the Bahá'í Faith is their life, it is natural for them to pioneer. Speaking of organization and teaching, both are necessary, said Jan, but leave those who have the capacity to teach free to do this important work and do not bog them down with committee work.

The closing remarks of the chairman, Madame Lea Nys, brought clearly to us all our great responsibility as Bahá'ís. In the Bible, said Madame Nys, there is a parable explaining that when the master of a piece of land was going away he asked his inheritors to take care of the land and make it prosperous. We as Bahá'ís have our own Master, Bahá'u'lláh, Who has entrusted the whole earth to His disciples so that they bring prosperity to it. His dominion is the soil of the hearts. Therefore we are inheritors of this earth. Moreover Bahá'u'lláh has left to us the "sceptre du pouvoir"—His Covenant and His World Order. We have inherited also His Crown of Glory with all its jewels and pearls, His principles and wonderful teachings. We are more privileged than any other inheritors of the past because we have those three things which make one whole great future of this earth. We cannot leave this precious heritage without fruit.

The powers on high, the three great figures of our Faith, the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and our beloved Guardian are watching us from the Abhá King-
dom. What could bring more happiness to them and to our devoted Hands of the Cause, who are making every effort in the Holy Land and all over the world to help us, than for them to witness this great spiritual conquest of the hearts of humanity thereby making a better and more harmonious world.

—Honor Kempton

Latin Believers Arise to Pioneer at Central American Convention

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, was the scene for a moving and forward-looking Ninth Annual Convention for the Bahá'ís of Central America, Mexico, and Panama on April 23 to 27, 1959.

Twenty-three delegates and numerous believers representing Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico met in what might well be the commencement of a dearly-needed, fourth-phase dramatic surge of activities and victories in this World Crusade.

The recent visit of Hand of the Cause Dr. Ugo Giachery had deeply prepared the believers to face the problems and tasks before them. His presence had evidently left a deep impression and had taught a valuable lesson, for both the spirit and fruits of the convention made it a truly unprecedented one.

Following a deeply-consecrated devotional period, the convention got under way with the election of Esteban Canales as chairman, and Salomon Escalante as secretary. Of outstanding interest was the reading of a letter by Dr. Giachery which defined the needs of the territory, and served as a stimulus to guide the deliberations of the convention.

Mrs. Katherine McLaughlin, member of the Auxiliary Board and secretary of the Western Hemisphere Teaching Committee, proved invaluable with illuminating commentaries regarding the contents of the letter, and, indeed, throughout the convention. Essentially this letter underscored the need for the Latin believers to arise and take the initiative, and that the spirit of love in the Faith must dominate administrative activities as well as our own lives.

Much of the consultation centered around three points: (1) Individual conversion, (2) Multiplication of centers, and (3) Contributions to the Fund, which would enable the believers to aid in the Temple construction in Frankfurt, Kampala, and Sydney, and to meet the needs here.

A dramatic call was directed to the native believers to arise as pioneers now that Latin America must play so vital a role in the Divine Plan. Responding to this call were seven dedicated Latin friends, a very moving fulfillment of one of the beloved Guardian’s dearest hopes, that the Latins would arise spontaneously.

Upon reading the message directed by the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land to all the conventions, it was learned that the seven countries of this territory must form their national assemblies in 1962.

The emergency goals here are the establishing of four local assemblies in Honduras, and one in Nicaragua. No existing assembly can be lost, and all those lost must be re-established. Should one country of the territory fail to achieve its national assembly, the others could form theirs. This creates a feeling of “all for one and one for all,” and keeps our vision from being limited only to our own country.

The newly elected National Spiritual Assembly consists of these members and officers: Esteban Canales, chairman; Luis Bouche, secretary; James Facey, treasurer; and Harold Murray, Artemus Lamb, Salomon Escalante, Armando Fonseca Duval, Edris Rice-Wray, and Donald Witzel.

With all the believers returned home renewed, resolved, and unified in a measure that exceeded expectations, it was felt that the greatest tangible result was the touching arising of such dedicated Latin friends to pioneer, some at great personal sacrifice.
Twenty-Three States Report Successful Race Amity Day Meetings

Speaker’s panel at the Race Amity Day meeting sponsored by the Duluth, Minn., Bahá’ís: William Maupins, representing the NAACP of Duluth; Dr. Robert Wolff, Bahá’í moderator; Francis LeQuier, American Indian; Mrs. Rodney Larson, Hawaiian; and Curt Ewing, Negro Bahá’í of Excelsior, Minn.

Race Amity Day meetings on June 14, 1959, have been reported from Florida, Delaware, North Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, Idaho, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Utah, Oklahoma, Maryland, Kentucky, Colorado, California, Ohio, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, New York, and Washington.

The Bahá’í Interracial Teaching Committee states that, in almost every report received, the publicity (displays, radio, television, and newspaper coverage) and the Race Amity Day meetings were excellent.

Public meetings, generally, did not bring as great an attendance as did such functions as teas, dinners, and picnics. One community reported that last year seventy-five people attended a dinner, and this year the meeting, without a dinner, only drew forty-five persons.

In communities where invitations were sent out there seemed to be a greater response in attendance. The warm, personal, and human aspects seemed to bring more response. A great many of the seekers seem to be coming from the college level. Wilmington and Brandywine Hundred, Del., Assemblies reported that they held two follow-up meetings which brought forty-nine people. An isolated believer (a mother of five children) in South Dakota could not hold a meeting, but prepared a display which was shown in the public library for two weeks, and she writes that she uses baby sitters of different races in order that her children may know and love all races.

In some areas considerable progress was noted with respect to the increase of Negroes and non-Bahá’ís who attended these meetings. Some of the topics used were: "Interrelated Worlds of God," "Race Amity, the Key to Social Justice," "Foundations of Racial Amity," "Race Unity: America’s Security," and "Race Unity, The Pathway to World Peace." We were especially grati-

Picnic following the panel discussion program for Race Amity Day at Duluth, Minn. The gathering included thirty-two guests, among them Negroes, American Indians, Filipinos, Japanese, and Hawaiians.
Baha'is in Tennessee are very pleased with the Negro response to the Faith and to the Race Amity meetings. Nashville held a panel discussion led by a Baha'i and a non-Baha'i. Fifty-two persons were present, and twenty-nine were non-Baha'is. The topic was "World Brotherhood—Spiritual Ideal or Expediency?". There was a large turnout of Negroes, which was particularly encouraging. Sixteen people asked for further study, and this was followed up by this community. It is especially encouraging to read this kind of report coming from the south.

Louisville, Ky., reports that they had two speakers, one white and one Negro, who have traveled together, and they feel that more of this should be done to promote Race Amity in the south. Charlotte, N.C., had an unusually good response in the number of Negroes and youth who attended their meeting, held in a Negro church where they showed slides, "Palestine, Holy Land of Four Faiths." They were so well received that they have been asked to show the slides to the Bible Classes in this church.

Boise, Idaho, held a picnic dinner which attracted fifty souls. Their program was brief, though effective in terms of interest and contacts. A prayer was read, then words from the Baha'i World Faith; and some of the words of the beloved Guardian.

The friends of Quincy, Ill., held a two-day meeting which drew an unusually large group of non-Baha'is. A travelog was shown on the first day, which drew a crowd of 120 people, 100 of whom were non-Baha'is. On the second day a Youth Symposium and picnic were held, with a total of fifty people, and thirty were non-Baha'is. This kind of response is most heart-warming to us all.

Fargo, N. Dak., Baha'is observed Race Amity Day with a talk at the Baha'i Center by a visiting believer who is a teacher at the Fort Totten Indian School. Royal Oak, Mich., presented a panel discussion; speakers included John Lopez, Mexican, Ellis Brown, Negro School teacher, and Mrs. Lois Nachman, a Baha'i. This was an inter-community meeting, with Ferndale, Oak Park, Royal Oak Township, and Royal Oak participating. Invitations were sent to a selected list by these communities.

A picnic was given by Baha'is of Stockton, Calif., attended by forty-seven persons. A talk by William Hathorn, member of the Stockton Assembly, stimulated a lively discussion among the guests, and their many questions were satisfactorily answered.

New York City's observance of Race Amity Day received publicity in four newspapers that totalled over 4,000,000 circulation. The meeting, at the Baha'i Center, attracted eighty persons, with Negro and other minority groups making up half of the attendance.

A panel discussion was given in the YMCA hall on June 6 by the Burbank, Calif., Baha'is. Four faiths, Baha'i, Jewish, Hindu, and Christian, were represented by the speakers. Over eighty persons attended this Race Amity meeting.

Taking advantage of the presence of Miss Elsie Austin in their city at the time, the Baha'is of St. Petersburg, Fla., moved their observance of Race Amity Day forward one week. Their report states that Miss Austin addressed an audience of sixty-five on the evening of June 2, after which the National Council for Negro Women entertained her and the Baha'is at a reception and banquet at their headquarters. The day preceding the public meeting, Miss Austin visited a number of Negro leaders, and was taken on a tour of the city by the founder of the organization. Photographs were taken at the meeting for the Negro section of the local newspaper and excerpts from her talk were requested for incorporation in the newspaper's report of the meeting.

The Local Spiritual Assembly writes: "The whole period of Miss Austin's visit was vitalizing and helped us to enlarge our understanding of and friendship with all peoples."

—INTERRACIAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

Baha'i Press Service Reports on Publicity

The National Baha'i Press Service, in observance of Race Amity Day, made the following promotional material available to the friends: display posters in four colors, newspaper matrices of the poster design suitable for advertising, publicity releases, and copy with layout for advertisements.

The Press Letter, several months in advance, urged the friends to observe this special event and to avail themselves of the suggestions and assistance of the Interracial Teaching Committee.

At the request of the Baha'i Press Service, the National Reference Library Committee compiled quotations on the theme of "the oneness of mankind" suitable for reading at public observances, and these were offered to the friends through the Press Letter.

In addition to sending releases to the Baha'i press representatives, all leading Negro papers received copies of the releases, as well as the Associated Negro Press, the United Press International, and the Associ-
Some 2,000 pieces of mail were handled for this event.

Two hundred seventy-eight Race Amity Day posters were sold, and thirty-two Race Amity Day mats. Two weeks after the event took place, we can report having received publicity in twenty-eight states, representing seventy-four communities. We have received 132 individual press items.

The total circulation was 12 million, and column inches totalled 700.

-BAHA’I PRESS SERVICE

Attain First Recognition

of Bahá’í Marriage in Spain

An historic victory for the Bahá’í Faith has been achieved in Spain, with the first civil registration of a Bahá’í marriage.

Every effort had been made previously by the couple, Antonio Jiménez Gutiérrez and Parvin Vahid Teherani, to procure a civil marriage, as theoretically this is permissible. However, they found it impossible to attain, and went to Tangiers, Morocco, where they tried to obtain a civil marriage. Here they also failed, but had a Bahá’í marriage ceremony which they intended to be content with, and were prepared to suffer the consequences. This marriage was performed by the Local Spiritual Assembly of Tangiers.

When they returned to Murcia, where Antonio is employed in a bank, it came to the attention of the authorities that they considered themselves married, but according to the views of the police they were living “in concubinage.”

The newly married couple then began again to make petitions for a civil registration of their marriage. There then occurred a matter of great historical importance, for after much difficulty and discussion, the authorities finally granted them permission to have the civil registration of their marriage, thus making it legal to the State, if not to the Church.

This makes the marriage of Parvin and Antonio the first case in Spain of the legal recognition and registration of a Bahá’í marriage, and is the reward of obedience and constancy in the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh.

The Bahá’í ceremony took place on April 22, 1959, and the civil ceremony and registration took place in Murcia on May 14, 1959.

U.S. Sales Committee Members Retire from Service

Members of the Bahá’í community throughout the world who have been faithfully served for many years by Harry E. Walrath, chairman of the Bahá’í Sales Committee of the United States, will be sorry to learn that he and Mrs. Walrath have moved away from the Temple area and will no longer be able to continue filling orders for ringstones and other special items handled by that committee. Two of the other members who have served almost as long have been ill for several months.

The newly-appointed committee will make every effort to give the same prompt attention to orders. Until further notice, all orders for items handled by the Bahá’í Sales Committee should be addressed as follows: Bahá’í Sales Committee, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Plan Western Canada Summer School

A Western Canada Bahá’í Summer School will be held at Banff, Alberta, Canada, on August 23 to 30, 1959. Further information may be obtained from Miss Sylvia Plotkin, 2125 16A Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Bahá’í Group of Sam Neua, Laos, in April 1959.
Many Countries of the World Represented


First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Valencia, Spain, formed on April 21, 1959.


First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Rogers, Ark., formed on April 21, 1959.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Bredward County, Fla., formed on April 21, 1959.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Sintang, Kalimantan Barat, West Indonesian Borneo, formed on April 21, 1959.
by Newly-Formed Local Spiritual Assemblies

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, formed on April 21, 1959.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Pendleton, Ore., formed April 21, 1959.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Antelope Judicial District, Calif., formed on April 21, 1959.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Tulungagung, East Java, Indonesia, formed on April 21, 1959.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Phu Xuan, Nha Be district, South Vietnam, formed on April 21, 1959.

The Education of Youth and Our Twentieth Century Dilemma

By Habib Taherzadeh

What is education? Education means the development of human faculties through training and instruction so that the individual may be fit to lead a happy and useful life. Education has two aspects, one moral, the other intellectual.

Moral education aims at building and purifying personal character. It directs and motivates human behavior. It is the essential factor for the advancement of human evolution. It prepares the ground for acquiring spiritual perception. It is the foundation of life.

Intellectual education, on the other hand, consists of acquiring knowledge and ability to adapt ourselves to the environment in which we live. It develops and refines our mental faculty. However, it is a blind instrument. It may be applied either for construction or destruction, for the elevation of mankind or for its degradation.

That is why the prophets lay so much emphasis in their ethical teachings on the need for moral training and the refinement of human conduct. Their object is to awaken and nourish the soul within us as a prerequisite of spiritual consciousness and as a step forward towards human evolution.

Unfortunately, in our modern life little attention is paid to moral education. Parents often neglect this vital duty of character formation and feel satisfied if their children observe certain superficial manners and keep up appearances in their social life. There is no deep down moral impulse to inspire and motivate their conduct.

Much less can be expected nowadays from school teachers in the way of moral education, since they consider themselves to be solely concerned with the intellectual training of children.

Our modern education is highly secularized. It has little to offer in the way of a philosophy of life and neglects those values and abstract properties inherent in human nature. It deals entirely with the study of the sciences of inert matter and the material side of life. Consequently this systematic development of material knowledge has led, within less than a century, to the phenomenal triumph of science and technology—a thing unprecedented in human history and experience.

Today machinery on a vast and new scale has revolutionized industry, creating a world of potential plenty and comfort. We have almost abolished time and distance. Our medical science has made an enormous stride in eliminating disease and in improving public health and hygiene. Our scientists have penetrated far into the depths of space. They have discovered the stupendous power of the atom, which is now available both for beneficial and destructive application.

What effect has the impact of modern life and civilization produced on human beings? What consequences have these momentous changes in the conditions of human life brought about? Do the acquisition and employment of the fruits of industry constitute a veritable advance in the course of human evolution? What is the price demanded for all those lavish and glittering gadgets that science has placed in our eager but clumsy hands? The answer to all these questions reveals a grim reality that would sound alarming to many of us. Yet the plain fact is that the same mighty impulse which enabled us to attain to such a high level of material progress has produced a paradoxical reaction which is exerting a baneful influence on the non-material aspects of our life. It has actually tipped the scales against us, and is driving us slowly down the path of degradation, simply because we have neglected the laws of our nature, because we have lost our sense of balance, because we have ignored the fact that material progress, if unaccompanied by a corresponding development in the moral and spiritual aspects of life, will eventually prove a source of evil and lead to human degradation.

"The civilization," is Bahá'u'lláh's grave warning, "so often vaunted by the learned exponents of arts and sciences, will, if allowed to overstep the bounds of moderation, bring great evil upon men... If carried to excess, civilization will prove as prolific a source of evil as it had been of good when kept within the restraints of moderation."

The question is: Are men really degenerating? A cursory glance at the world's advanced communities would reveal that in spite of the enormous progress made in the field of education, the intellectual standard, the mental caliber of the masses, remains very low indeed. We notice that multitudes of modern individuals are afflicted by a mental weakness, by nervous and degenerative diseases for which there seems to be no effective cure.

Meanwhile cases of crime, robbery, violence, delinquency, immorality, lawlessness, and terrorism have assumed alarming proportions. Our arts, our music, our literature—the fairest fruits of human intellect—have lost their true value and have been excessively vulgarized. Marriage ties and parental relationships, which constitute the warp and woof of human society, are being steadily relaxed. Modern people have become indifferent towards all those conceptions of decency and morality that at one time held sway over the hearts of men and directed their thoughts and actions.

All these vices, excesses, mental disorders, and disconcerting frustrations are but the outward signs of an internal affliction—the affliction of the soul. We
are so hypnotized by the brilliant display of new gadgets, the vulgar attractions and pursuits of our time, that we seldom realize that the soul within us is atrophying, owing to insufficient nourishment.

We are being chastised for transgressing natural laws, for trespassing the bounds of moderation. We reluctantly note that man, who had gained mastery over matter, has fallen prey to his own lower nature and become a slave to his own handiwork. This grievous situation constitutes the real dilemma of the twentieth century.

What is the outlook for the younger generation? What is the position of youth in this challenging period? They find themselves in a world out of touch with God, and out of harmony with the exigencies and problems of the new life that science and industry have thrust upon us. They find school education lacking that creative impulse which is required to guide the behaviour of the individual, and unable to give a clear conception of the role he has to play in this new world in which human power and its scope are so greatly increased. They find doctrines that are inconsistent with reason and the established facts of science.

This sad situation prompts many young people of today to cut themselves off from the idea of God and religion, and to adopt a sceptical attitude with no genuine faith at all. In vain they search around them seeking a substitute for faith to fill the void and soothe the aching soul within. They try evasive doctrines and philosophies, and pernicious ideologies, only to find them hollow and unsatisfying. They turn to scientists, statesmen, and the so-called leaders of thought for enlightenment, only to be disillusioned.

Our youth are likely to grow desperate and dissatisfied. They find no calming influence, no soul-uplifting power, to direct their steps towards lofty and constructive goals. Thus it would seem a natural consequence that their sensitive subconscious minds should revolt in protest against the perversity and hollowness of our present way of life and should seek such gratifications that will at least momentarily relieve their sense of frustration.

This is the sad fate that our decadent social system presents to youth the world over today. There is no doubt that the effect of this grievous situation on the morals and psychology of the younger generation has been catastrophic.

How are we going to tackle the problem of child education? How are we going to train our children according to those lofty standards of Bahá’í conduct set up by Bahá’u’lláh and exemplified by the life of our Master, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá? Obviously we cannot bring our children up in a sort of egg-shell. We cannot isolate them from the rest of the world, of which we are all a part. We cannot shut them off from the gay but illusive social life that flows ceaselessly at our doors. Little, too, can we expect in the way of character training from our institutions of learning.

The Bahá’í Faith regards parenthood as a divine privilege, and at the same time imposes a colossal responsibility on it that cannot be shirked on any pretext whatever. A single child whose conduct is noble, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá says, is far superior to thousands of ill-mannered ones; the former would prove itself the crowning pride of a generation while the latter would be a source of shame and misery.

He further points out that this sacred and delicate task can in no wise be effectively fulfilled unless the parents set up, through the dynamic force of their own characters and conduct, through loving self-dedication, such a shining example that it will shed ample light of moral guidance on the path their children are destined to tread. This is the essence of His exhortation and constitutes the bedrock of character training.

Educators, as well as parents, ought to bear in mind that they should not remain content with gestures of morality, with a mere observance of a set of conventional codes of behaviour, which have no real value whatever. Rather they should aim at instilling noble virtues and qualities into their children’s natures, so that their thoughts and deeds, their whole attitude towards life, become the expression of the inner improvement; so that thus they may be able to lead happy lives far removed from the frivolous and sordid satisfactions of our age.

Let the following moral precepts gleaned from the writings of Bahá’ú’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá guide our steps towards the lofty goal of moral evolution, the attainment of which would usher in the Golden Age of human maturity and the dawn of Divine Civilization on this planet:—

"The companions of God," Bahá’ú’lláh declares, "are, in this day, the lump that must leaven the peoples of the world. They must show forth such trustworthiness, such truthfulness and perseverance, such deeds and character that all mankind may profit by their example."

"Be ye the stewards of God amongst His creatures," He in another passage admonishes men, "and the emblems of His generosity amidst His people. Let your eye be chaste, your hand faithful, your tongue truthful, and your heart enlightened."

"Be generous in property," is yet another counsel, "and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbour, and look upon him with a bright

United Nations Day
October 24, 1959
A Special Event for Proclaiming the Bahá’í Faith to the Public
Sponsored by the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly

Theme:
United Nations for a United World

Suggested Publicity Materials:
Press Release from Bahá’í Press Service
A Pattern for Future Society from Bahá’í Publishing Trust

Reports:
Newspaper clippings from U.S. communities are to be sent immediately to Bahá’í Press Service. Written reports and photographs for publication in Bahá’í News are to be sent as soon as possible to the Bahá’í News Editorial Committee.
and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answer to the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgement, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light and a herald to everyone who is distinguished in the kingdom of God. Be truthful. Be hospitable. Be reverent. Be humble." "Beware lest ye offend any heart," is 'Abdu'l-Bahá's admonition, "lest ye speak against anyone in his absence. Be no cause of grief to anyone. Be silent concerning the faults of others. Be kind to all men and treat your enemies as your friends. Direct your whole effort towards the happiness of those who are dependent. Bestow food upon the hungry, clothe the needy and glorify the humble. Be a cause of healing for every sick one, a comforter for every sorrowful one, a pleasant water for every thirsty one, a heavenly table for every hungry one, a star to every horizon, a light for every lamp, a herald to everyone who yearns for the kingdom of God. Be truthful. Be hospitable. Be reverent. Be humble."

Alexandria Youth Committee Issues

Impressive Baha'i Calendar

An impressive Bahá'í calendar has again been prepared by the Youth Committee of Alexandria, Egypt, and published by the Local Spiritual Assembly. The calendar is prefaced by an explanation of the Bahá'í calendar, adapted from Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era, printed in English and Arabic. Then follows the calendar proper, with a cleverly-conceived combination of Gregorian and Bahá'í months within a single ruled box. At the back of the calendar is a listing of all Bahá'í anniversary and Feast days, also in the English and Arabic languages.

NEWS BRIEFS

The Local Spiritual Assembly of Nagpur, India, has been registered under the government's Societies Registration Act, thereby achieving a goal of the Ten-Year Crusade.

A member of the Birmingham, Ala., Bahá'í community has given a book review of Dr. A. Powell Davies' The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls before several clubs, Sunday school groups, and other organizations. Bahá'ís will find the Scrolls themselves shed much light on pre-Christian Palestine, and show close parallels with pre-Bahá'í Persia.

Calendar of Events

FEASTS
August 20—Asmá' (Names)
September 8—'Izzat (Might)

U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
September 4, 5, 6, 7

Baha'i House of Worship

Visiting Hours
Weekdays
10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (Entire building)
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Sundays and Holidays
10:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Entire building)
5:00 P.M. to 9 P.M. (Auditorium only)

Service of Worship

Sundays
3:30 to 4:10 P.M.
Scenes from the Holy Land

The Most Great Prison, showing the cell where Bahá'u'lláh was incarcerated: the two windows on the upper floor at the right hand side.

The Most Great Prison at 'Akka, photographed from the moat where the believers used to wave their handkerchiefs to Bahá'u'lláh, when they had travelled all the way from Persia but could not see Him.

The three terraces enclosing one side of the Haram-i-Aqdas. The highest, or third terrace, was built in accordance with the Guardian's instructions after his passing.

Part of the Haram-i-Aqdas, from the top of the new third terrace.
The International Archives Building, with the Shrine of the Bab in the distance, taken from the Archives Building gardens.

International Archives Building and the newly-constructed gate to the Arc and Archives gardens.

The Arc gardens, taken from the International Archives Building.
The International Archives Building and the Shrine of the Báb, taken from the Arc gardens.

The International Archives Building, taken from the Shrine gardens.

The International Archives Building.
The Condition of Victory

Closing Remarks at the 1959 U.S. Convention
by Horace Holley, Hand of the Cause

Any of us who leave this Convention with the conviction that teaching and pioneering, while really magnificent projects, are not for us—those who have that inner condition will inevitably find that the conditions of the world are so arranged as to make the realization of these projects not only difficult but practically impossible.

We find every good reason to agree with ourselves, for example, that we simply can't pioneer—conditions make it impossible.

On the other hand, any who leave this Convention on the level of faith, with the pure intention, desire, and passion to serve Bahá'u'lláh by intensive teaching or by pioneering, no matter what conditions confront us at this time, they will inevitably change so that our faith will be justified.

This is the mystery of the world—that events, circumstances, and influences are so intermingled that they prove any thesis we wish to demonstrate.

There is a level on which the World Crusade was accomplished at the time it was announced. That is the level of the Will of God—the level we attain in a condition of pure faith.

Let us make the supreme effort to go forward, not thinking of our personal circumstances, our health, our degree of wealth or lack of it, our family circumstances or our business responsibilities. Let us not think of any of these conditions, but rather let us take into our hearts the spirit of the victory of the Manifestation of God, keep it there pure and undefiled, and go forward step by step on the path of victory.

Independent Investigation of Truth

"We must not look for truth in the deeds and actions of the nations; we must investigate truth at its Divine source and summon all mankind to unity in the reality of self." (PUP p. 81)

The universal religion of Bahá'u'lláh was presented to the west as the consummation of the independent investigation of truth. When 'Abdu'l-Bahá travelled through Europe and America, the western peoples had already achieved a large measure of that independence. For example, the mathematician was no longer conditioned by magic and superstition in dealing with numbers; the citizen emerged from the feudal association of kings and rulers with a divine will; and an increasing majority of religionists were unwilling to identify the power and authority of God with any man-made institution.

It was at this critical stage, between two irreconcilable concepts of the nature of society, that 'Abdu'l-Bahá unveiled the light of universal truth. On the one hand the individual surveyed the world into which he had been born—the world of ancestry and tradition; on the other he perceived a world in the process of creation—a world in which his personal responsibility had vastly increased. What the Bahá'í Message offered him was a final freedom—a spiritual freedom to rise above tradition and accept what was revealed by the new source of illumination.

"The knowledge of the Reality of Divinity is impossible and unattainable, but the knowledge of the Manifestations of God, for the bounties, splendors, and the divine attributes are apparent in them. Therefore as man attains to the knowledge of the Manifestations of God, he will attain to the knowledge of God. . . . Blessed are those who receive the light of the divine bounties from the enlightened dawning-point!" (SAQ p. 257)

Without knowledge of the will of God and the true nature of man, the people born into this age of mental and social freedom fall into the abyss of worship of material things or worship of the state.

"Ponder a while. What is it that prompted, in every Dispensation, the peoples of the earth to shun the Manifestation of the All Merciful? . . . . It is the veil of idle imaginations which, in the days of the Manifestations of the Unity of God and the Day Sprins of His everlasting glory, hath intervened, and will continue to intervene, between them and the rest of mankind. For in those days, He Who is the Eternal Truth manifested Himself in conformity with that which He Himself has purposed, and not according to the desire
and expectations of men.

"Consider the Dispensation of Jesus Christ. Behold, of all the learned men of that generation, though eagerly anticipating the coming of the Promised One, have nevertheless denied Him. Both Annas, the most learned among the divines of His day, and Caiaphas, the high priest, denounced Him and pronounced the sentence of His death." (GL pp. 82-83)

Therefore we attain independent investigation of truth when we recognize Baha'u'llah as the Manifestation, and accept His Teachings. Our independence is fulfilled in that recognition and acceptance. The Bahá'í who, after accepting the conditions of membership in the Bahá'í community, consciously or unconsciously insists upon his right to make an "independent investigation of truth" in matters already covered in the Teachings or by the decisions of a local or national assembly, has fallen into grievous error. In the Cause of God independent investigation of truth is not a sanction for self-will, but a recognition of the value of obedience to higher will. As the Teachings state, true freedom comes from obedience to the Will of God.

—U.S. National Spiritual Assembly

Questions on Marriage, Guardian's Prayers
Answered by Hands of Faith in Holy Land

Replies received from the Hands of the Faith residing in the Holy Land to two questions submitted by the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly are quoted here for the information and guidance of the American believers.

The first, dated April 27, 1959, answers the question as to whether membership in the Faith can ever be restored to believers who have been deprived of their voting right because of violating the Bahá'í marriage laws regarding marriage. It reads:

"Regarding your question whether an individual deprived of the voting right because of breach of the Bahá'í marriage laws can ever apply for restoration of voting membership, the general principle applied by the beloved Guardian in such cases was that the mistakes must be rectified, even to the extent of divorce and remarriage according to the Bahá'í laws."

This instruction must surely impress upon all the believers the supreme importance of obedience to the laws governing the marriage of Bahá'ís.

The following is quoted from a letter from the Hands of the Faith dated July 9, 1959, answering the request that is frequently received for translations of prayers by Shoghi Effendi which are in the possession of Persian Bahá'ís coming to this country. It states:

"The beloved Guardian wrote some time ago that the Western Bahá'ís had sufficient prayers in the translations which had been made of Bahá'u'lláh's and 'Abdu'l-Bahá's prayers, and his own prayers should not be translated or published."

—U.S. National Spiritual Assembly

Importance of Sacrifice in World Crusade
Stressed by Mr. Samandari on India Tour

Following the Post-Convention Teaching Conference held in New Delhi, India, on May 1 to 3, reported in July Bahá'í News, Hand of the Cause Táhirih Samandari visited several cities in India where he gave public talks on the Faith and met with the Bahá'í friends. An extract has been taken from the Bahá'í News Bulletin of India concerning his appearance with the friends in Bombay:

"Mr. Samandari in detail explained the great importance of the remaining four years of the Crusade. He very clearly stated that whatever services we Bahá'ís want to render to the Cause, must be done

Bahá'ís gathered at the Temple site near Tunis during the annual convention of Northwest Africa.
during these years, and this is the time for a complete sacrifice. He warned friends that a very great catastrophe is awaiting humanity. We do not know when and in which form it will be, but before it is too late for all of us, let us arise and, forgetting everything, sacrifice whatever we have for the success of the Divine Plan. After four years, i.e. in 1953, if we would be alive on this earth, God is sure to compensate for all our sacrifices made in His Path. But, God forbid, if we would not serve the Cause as we should have done, our lives would be miserable even if we would be alive after that period. These are the years of our test, and everything depends on our sacrifice during these critical four years.

Bahá’ís from all over the world look to this revered Hand of the Cause with love and admiration. Though having attained a very advanced age, Taráqu’lláh Sámanábrí has travelled through many continents since the inception of the World Crusade, inspiring and admonishing the friends, with great vigor and appeal, to teach, pioneer, and win their share of victories for the Cause of God. He is a precious link with the Heroic Age of the Faith and the appearance of the Manifestation, for he was privileged to know Bahá’u’lláh and to look upon His face.

Two NSA-Sponsored Conference Series
Stimulate, Unify American Bahá’ís

When the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States launched its intensive homefront campaign on August 1, 1958, it announced that among the activities which the National Assembly itself would undertake would be carefully-planned conferences from time to time, to discuss with as many believers as possible the progress of the three underlying objectives of the campaign, namely “spiritual reinvigoration, administrative expansion, and material replenishment” of the American Bahá’í community.

Accordingly, the first series of such conferences was held simultaneously the last weekend of October 1958, at which the American Hands of the Cause, members of the Auxiliary Boards, and members of the National Spiritual Assembly met with some 2,200 believers in thirty-eight different cities, to explain the various aspects of the campaign and how each believer could relate himself to it.

To follow-up the call for “spiritual reinvigoration,” the National Assembly has already mailed to every believer in the United States four outlines for individual and group study and discussion on the following subjects: “What Every Bahá’í Should Know” (1) about the Covenant and (2) about Bahá’í Administration, and “The Bahá’í Way of Living;” (1) Our Inner Life and Private Character and (2) the relationship of the Bahá’í to others, in his own community and in the civil community in which he resides. Results are already apparent in the upsurge of teaching activity and the reduction in the number of personal and local problems coming before the National Spiritual Assembly. Additional outlines are planned to eventually cover all aspects of teaching activities, including individual and collective techniques for attracting and winning new souls for the Faith, looking forward to “mass conversion.” In this connection all national teaching and service committees have been requested to gear their work directly to the homefront campaign during the next several years.

The second series of National Assembly-sponsored conferences took place on June 27 and 28, 1959, in twenty-seven localities. Again these were conducted by the Hands of the Cause, members of the Auxiliary Boards, and members of the National Spiritual Assembly. In spite of the fact that the dates conflicted with other important Bahá’í events, such as the opening of some of the summer schools, some 1,600 believers were present.

The theme of these latest conferences was “This Crucial Hour,” which was also the central theme of the message to the 1959 conventions from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land. Particular emphasis was given to the call of the Hands for a “second glorious all-conquering army of pioneers” to open new cities, towns, and villages essential for the formation of the remaining independent national assemblies in Europe and Latin America, and for the raising of promising groups on the homefront to “firmly grounded, well informed, actively functioning communities.”

How the individual could best play his part was seriously considered in light of the fact that “upon the successful conclusion (of the remaining goals of the
Ten-Year Plan) depends the ultimate triumph or failure of the entire Crusade," which "constitutes no less than the bedrock for future activities for centuries to come."

Underlying all suggestions for the acceleration of teaching work was awareness that "the sands of the Crusade are rapidly running out and with them each one's own great personal opportunity, never to recur." In order that everyone might find his particular niche of service, five areas of individual action were outlined: (1) to pioneer outside the United States; (2) to assist another to go by supporting the deputation fund, or by moving to another locality where a potential pioneer is detained lest his leaving will jeopardize the maintenance of the assembly status; (3) to bring in new believers; (4) to map out and launch his own personal teaching program in accordance with the instructions of Shoghi Effendi as set forth in The Advent of Divine Justice (pages 42-44); and (5) to strengthen the entire American Bahá'í community by participating wholeheartedly in the homefront campaign of deepening in the fundamentals of the Faith, and by teaching.

There was much consultation also on the challenge facing the local spiritual assemblies, and their direct responsibility for arousing and aiding each member of the community to participate directly in one or more aspects of the World Crusade. The great responsibility and privilege of every existing Bahá'í group in achieving assembly status no later than Ridván 1961 was also emphasized, and many suggestions were made as to how neighboring assemblies and individual believers could help.

The afternoon session of each of the conferences was left open for the friends to ask questions about administrative principles about which they needed clarification, including assembly and individual responsibility with respect to the application of the obligatory laws, and the relationship of individuals to the local assembly and to the national assembly.

The seventeen conference leaders, most of whom conducted two meetings, are unanimous in their feeling that these two series of conferences have had a great unifying effect upon the American Bahá'í community; that they have brought the friends closer to the National Spiritual Assembly, and that all have a greater understanding of their individual and collective spiritual responsibilities and privileges in bringing the World Crusade to a triumphant conclusion.

This feeling is substantiated by many letters from host communities and individual believers, expressing appreciation of the inspiration and benefit they derived from the conferences and urging the National Spiritual Assembly to schedule further meetings of the same type in even more centers. Consideration is being given to at least one more series during the current year, and in the interim to call several in scattered areas which could not be included in the June series.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Public Schools of Two U.S. Cities Give Recognition to Bahá'í Holy Days

The Local Spiritual Assembly of Dayton, Ohio, reports that the Dayton public school system has informed the Assembly that Bahá'í children may be excused from classes on the Bahá'í Holy Days. This permission was granted in September 1958.

The school authorities of the John B. Day School in Princess Anne County, Md., have also given permission for Bahá'í children to remain away from school on these days.

Bahá'í Cemetery Plot Granted in Brisbane

The Brisbane, Australia, City Council has granted to the Bahá'ís a plot for a burial ground, the Australian Bahá'í Bulletin has reported. This plot, which is for the exclusive use of the Bahá'ís, includes an area of about one-quarter acre, sufficient for fifty-two graves.

Delegates and visitors to the Third Annual Convention of the Bahá'ís of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela held at Lima, Peru, on April 23 to 25, 1959.
Faith of Baha’u’llah Reaches

TEACHING work in the Southern Cameroons, Africa, is being intensified this year more than ever before, Enoch Olinga, Hand of the Cause for Africa, has revealed. Many travelling teachers are busily engaged in the fields of mass conversion and mass consolidation, which entails journeying into the most remote areas of the territory through very dense and unsafe forests.

The following excerpts, taken from a letter from a devoted travelling teacher, Sampson Fochak of Mamfe District, reveals the rare spirit which seems to animate and guide these valiant battlers against the dark forces of superstition, ignorance, and unbelief:

"...Since the day my family released me to undertake traveling teaching, I have not remained home for a single day. The journey with Peter Oben Etchi has lasted two weeks, and we were able to open four new centers. I intend to open as many new centers as is possible within a short space of time. My next missionary journey will last two months, and I shall by all means visit places like Taiyor, Ekpan, Efumbe, Nyenaba, Basall, Bangang, Nkong, Mambo, and Ebenesoka. These villages are very remote, and are separated
Remote Villages of West Africa

by great distances, indeed.

"I am really trying my very best, and with the greatest hope and trust in the Faith I love most, to open many, many centers, if Bahá'u'lláh Himself will grant me the strength. I shall not, and I do not hope to, be tired of this great undertaking of opening new centers to this great Faith. However, I want to stress that by my mentioning this I do not intend to display pride. Bahá'u'lláh knows this. The truth is, I have devotedly tendered my mind, my spirit, and my entire being for the wide spread of our Faith, and I hope and pray that I shall be enabled to withstand every trial, difficulty, and ordeal in His Service. As you know, we all are praying and working hard for the rapid progress of our Faith, so that it may reach all the virgin areas before the conclusion of the sacred Ten-Year Spiritual Plan of our beloved Guardian. For this reason I intend to extend my journeys to Bangwa . . .

"Every day and every night we are engaged in spiritual communion and prayer. Our thoughts and prayers are for all those that are now laboring in the same field of His Service . . ."
Carib Indians on Dominica Island

Receive Bahá’í Message for First Time

The Bahá’í Message was given for the first time to the Carib Indians on the island of Dominica, West Indies, on May 7, 1959, by Donald Corbin, pioneer to Grenada Island.

Mr. Corbin’s experiences there are related in the following excerpts from his report:

On my way to the Dominican Republic for the International Bahá’í School, I asked the stewardess to be sure that I knew when we passed by the island of Dominica (pronounced Domin-ee-ka in the West Indies). Just as we approached the island, she said the pilot had invited me to the cockpit so that I could get a better view of it as we passed. My whole purpose was to say special prayers, so that on my return island-hopping trip including Dominica, the doors would open enabling me to talk to the Caribs. From the information secured here in Grenada it was not known as to how I would be able to approach them, much less the Chief himself, and I had been given several names to work through.

On my arrival on May 5 in Dominica I seemed to be confused as to how to approach this important matter. . . . and felt I should go a little easy with the Bahá’í work, as I was informed that the island was 98% Catholic and tightly controlled. On the way from the airport to the capital city of Roseau we passed by the entrance to the Carib Reservation, and I told the taxi driver I was particularly interested in the Carib Indians.

He then opened up with a lot of information about them, and from this I decided that the best approach was to go directly to the Chief himself, unannounced. I arranged for a taxi and a guide to take us through the mountains. The following day, May 6, I was still undetermined whether it would be that day or the following day, Thursday, May 7. As it worked out, the taxi driver was unable to be with me the whole day Wednesday, so I told him we would leave early on Thursday morning and take all day if necessary.

On Thursday, May 7, the taxi driver, guide, and myself set out for the reservation. We had to leave the car on the highway and walk six miles over, up, and down in the Dominican mountains to reach the reservation. Enroute we found out that the Chief (known as the King by his people) was probably around 100 years ago a new light appeared in the world to bring peace, love, and true unity to the world; that the Bahá’í Faith is a world faith with world unity as its goal; that the Bahá’í Community was already a world community functioning in every part of the globe.

The matter was not referred to again, but I did sign his guest book and quoted “Blessed is the spot” by Bahá’u’lláh, so that there would be an official record of the visit.

He showed me his scepter and mantle of authority, and gave me a color picture of himself. The thought that went through my mind when talking to him was what would he do with this Message? He said, “You know, sometimes the priest doesn’t get here and I hold the meetings, and often 100 come to listen to me.” So I felt that the Message would be passed on to some of his people.

This is the only Carib Reservation in existence and there are about 900 on it, 100 of whom are pure Carib, the others mixed. The Chief himself is mixed. I have promised to return and take him fishing and talk to the school children on various subjects. I also promised his wife that Doris would make her a nice dress and send it to her.

The Caribs receive no support from the Government as it is an autonomous state and the Chief rules with a Council, which is elected. The Caribs live mostly on
their own food products, and their main source of income is their banana crop. When the banana boat is in all the people, men, women, and children, carry the banana stocks on their heads up and down these same mountain roads which we took. He asked me to send him a West Indian cookbook.

The island itself is the most primitive of the West Indies, and is really under-developed. An air strip is now under way, so in a few years, as it develops its tourist trade, it will become an important island. It is, by the way, the only island that remains green the year around, having 366 rivers, one for each day, and the mountains are true rain forests, very lush. The main hotel, for example, contains only nine rooms, and the Government is anxious to develop the mountainous areas, selling land at ten and five shillings per acre. Although the official language is English, the street language is that of Patois.

Back in Roseau I met my friend, the newspaper reporter (contacted on Wednesday); I presented him with Baha'i literature and we had a nice little talk. He has asked that I send him more books to read and admitted that he was really open to the Message. It was a thrilling experience and the seeds planted with this ethnic group must surely grow.

Dr. Grossmann Speaks on Faith
In Many Towns of Finland, Sweden

During the month of May Hand of the Cause Dr. Adelbert Mühlschlegel visited many places in Finland and Sweden on behalf of the Faith, talking to interested people individually, and speaking at public meetings. The following information has been taken from a report in the German Bahá’í-Nachrichten:

On May 11 Dr. Mühlschlegel met with several people in Hyvinkää, a goal city of Finland where some teaching work has been done by the friends in Lahti. A meeting arranged in Tampere, an industrial city of Finland, publicized with advance newspaper articles, drew sixty people on May 17.

Another sixty people attended the meeting held in Lahti, and two reports were published in the newspapers. Dr. Mühlschlegel also spoke to thirty-five twelve-year-old children on the following day.

While in the Lahti-Tampere area, the revered Hand of the Cause met with a number of individuals, including an Esperantist who was happy to meet a German Esperantist; and the granddaughter of Dr. Forcl, who had received a Tablet from 'Abdu’l-Bahá.

On Sunday, May 24, a number of friends drove ten kilometers from Tampere to visit a man who lived with his wife and three sons in a very humble, tiny house with almost no furniture but very neatly kept, and who was earnestly studying Gleanings and using the prayers of Bahá'u'lláh daily in his desire to grasp the full significance of the teachings.

Driving north from Tampere, other points of contact were Lahti and Oulu in Finland. From there the party went to Haparanda and the university town of Uppsala, a goal city, in Sweden, arriving at the Ḥāżiratu’l-Quds in Stockholm on May 31.

Study Approach to Five Types of People
at Second Annual Alaska Summer School

The Second Annual Alaska Summer School was held in Juneau July 4 to 10, 1959, with forty-seven registered for the class sessions. They came from Fairbanks, Tanana Valley, Matanuska Valley, Anchorage, Spenard, Seward, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka, Barrow Island, Juneau, and Douglas. Canada was represented with Bahá'ís from Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Teachers and visitors added New York City; West Hartford, Conn.; Chicago, Ill.; Tacoma and the Seattle, Wash., areas to the localities represented.

The school committee, composed of Thomas Haisler, chairman; Marian Johnson, secretary-treasurer and registrar; Donald Anderson, Herbert Johnson, Glenn Moul, and Robert Moul, arranged to have a display

Bahá’ís gathered at Green Acre Bahá’í Institute, Eliot, Maine, on July 5, 1959, following a talk on “The Divine Institutions of the Bahá'í Faith” by Hand of the Cause William Sears.
sign on the top of the bus which met Bahá’ís at the ferry port and the airport that read: “Bahá’í Summer School.” A desk was placed in the airport waiting room, announcing information and registration for the school. It was seen by hundreds of people arriving Saturday from all over the United States for the statehood ceremonies, and Bahá’í literature was also available there for those who requested it.

School sessions, which began Monday morning, included the following courses: Robert E. Moul, chairman of the Alaska National Assembly, gave a comprehensive account of “The Ten-Year Crusade and Alaska’s Six-Year Plan,” which provided excellent background material for new believers as well as a review for older believers. He traced the dramatic spread of the Faith since ‘Abdu’l-Bahá revealed the Tablets of the Divine Plan in 1916 and 1917. An excellent account of the history and development of the Institution of the Hands of the Cause was also given by Mr. Moul.

Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh of New York City, member of the Auxiliary Board appointed by the American Hands, conducted a course in “Deepening the Spiritual Life,” basing her material on Bahá’í World Faith, Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh, and Prayers and Meditations. Subjects discussed were “God’s Relation to Man” and “Man’s Relation to God.” It was recommended by Mrs. Mottahedeh that the believers learn one of Bahá’u’lláh’s Hidden Words each week and meditate on it all week. The last class period was devoted to a study of prayer.

Mrs. Betty Araujo from Yakima, Wash., led a well-planned workshop on “Teaching Techniques.” The student body was divided into five groups, with each group assigned a type of individual whom they would try to interest in the Faith. The groups themselves decided if they would function as a fireside, teaching committee, or appoint one person to present the ideas of the group. Subjects assigned were: the materialist, the humanist, the religious man, the mystic, and the practical man. Mrs. Araujo mentioned some of the qualities Bahá’ís must have to teach—humility, logic, wisdom, purity of heart, faith in the power of the Cause, and honesty with ourselves in a sincere desire to teach the Faith and not display our own ego. She urged a thorough study by each Bahá’í of The Advent of Divine Justice by Shoghi Effendi, particularly the section on Teaching Requirements, pages 37-48.

Mrs. Helen Wilks, who has taught many sessions at Geyserville School, and who is the Supervisor of Teenagers with King County Juvenile Court in Seattle, gave a most instructive course on “The Philosophy of Bahá’í Education,” as a basis for teaching children and youth. She emphasized that Bahá’u’lláh has told us teaching and learning are obligatory, and not of our choice. The object of our classes should be to teach the child to search, to think, and to choose. We can derive comfort in knowing that the Bahá’í teachings are like a compass—they point the way. Teachers and parents should set a goal and the tools will be found. Handicrafts, music, dramatics, art, and stories have a place in arousing a desire to learn.

Mrs. Wilks pointed out the importance of preventing unhappiness and disobedience in children, and reminded that on the question of discipline children will respect and obey if parents and teachers reflect the Bahá’í teachings in their lives.

Ellsworth Blackwell of Chicago, member of the National Assembly of the United States, gave an instructive course on the book Christ and Bahá’u’lláh, written by the late George Townshend, Hand of the Cause. He stated that if people will accept the reality of Jesus they can accept the reality of Bahá’u’lláh. Using the Kitáb-i-’Itiqad as the source of reference, the class was asked to look up the meaning of passages and terms from the Bible. In closing, Mr. Blackwell said that one Bahá’í can change a whole country by taking the Bahá’í teachings to it; but we should remember that we aren’t doing it—we are only a channel for the Spirit.

Other Events

A public meeting was held one evening on the topic, “The Fine Art of Being Human,” with Mildred Mottahedeh as speaker. Slides of Alaska were presented by Evelyn Huffman, secretary of the National Assembly of Alaska. Added to these events were periods of recreation, sightseeing to Mendenhall Glacier and other points of interest, and the happy fellowship that is so much a part of summer school activity.

Bahá’í Philosophy of Education Explained by U.S. Child Education Committee

In 1956 the U. S. National Bahá’í Child Education Committee sponsored a Teaching Seminar designed to acquaint Bahá’í teachers with more effective methods of teaching. Members of the committee, and teachers of the Sunday school classes at the Bahá’í House of Worship in Wilmette attended this seminar.

Professional teachers with public school experience were the discussion leaders. The challenge was made by a non-Bahá’í teacher that we were indoctrinating in the most reactionary way.

Carl Scheffler, at a later evaluation meeting, pointed out that the principle of the independent investigation of truth is the cornerstone of all education, according to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. As references to this, two passages from Bahá’í Word Faith were cited: page 228, “The first teaching of Bahá’u’lláh is the investigation of reality”; and page 240, “God has endowed man with intelligence and reason, whereby he is required to determine the verity of questions and propositions.”

Out of the ensuing consultation the idea of a new approach for our new teaching began to develop.

The goal of the Bahá’í teacher is to discover ways to prove the unity of all existence; to teach the purpose of man’s existence, which he understands through the authority of the Bahá’í Writings to be to know and to worship God; and to show how man may attain this.

Our example of how to teach is ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Who always taught of spiritual reality through physical evidence.

It is apparent that this philosophy of education cannot be offered in the form of a document. It is not a stereotyped plan, or a collection of material, but rather an attitude expressing the teacher’s understanding of the principle of the independent investigation of truth—divine unity.
Our Heritage of Baha'i Literature

When Baha'is today survey the published literature of their Faith, they find themselves confronted with a treasure house of books and pamphlets in the English language. Nearly two hundred items are currently available to them! These range from the Creative Word itself revealed by Baha'u'llah, to innumerable books and pamphlets that introduce and explain the teachings from many viewpoints to meet varying needs. This sizeable list of published and available works is not equaled in any other language in the world—not even in the tongue of the Revelator and Founder of the Faith.

Certainly any student, approaching the literature of this new world Faith for the first time, must be astounded at the extensive library of materials that are available for study and research. There are other religious bodies in America, with a considerably larger following, who do not have as comprehensive a catalog of literature. Compare this with the early days of the Faith, nearly sixty years ago, when the believers in America exchanged a few copies of typewritten prayers and tablets, using whatever available translating facilities they had at the time!

This was the situation in the early 1900's when the Faith was being introduced into the United States. Gradually, a few printed leaflets were added. A Board of Counsel was formed in New York around 1904 and a Baha'i Publishing Society was organized in Chicago prior to 1908, but as yet there was no centralized authority for approving, producing, and distributing the literature. In these first years individual Baha'is sometimes published pamphlets or books in an effort to make the Cause known. Then came the journeys to visit 'Abdu'l-Baha and the published accounts of these events. Each of these efforts represented a stage of growth and development in the literature of the Faith.

The Guardian Brings New Phase in Publishing

In the early 1920's the publishing work in America took a big evolutionary step forward. With the coming of the administrative order under Shoghi Effendi's guidance, the National Spiritual Assembly established the Baha'i Publishing Committee so that Baha'i literature could henceforth be efficiently and economically produced and distributed, and the authenticity of all literature be maintained. Functioning originally in New York City, the Publishing Committee was later transferred to the national administrative headquarters in Wilmette at the Guardian's request.

Shoghi Effendi wrote in 1923: "Vital issues, affecting the interests of the Cause . . . such as the matter of translation and publication . . . must be under the full jurisdiction of the National Assembly." (Baha'i Administration, 40) He cites an example of the Master, Who, after having corrected a translation Himself in His own handwriting, nevertheless submitted it to a Spiritual Assembly for approval. 'Abdu'l-Baha said, "This is so that things may be arranged in an orderly manner, for should it not be so anyone may translate a certain Tablet and print and circulate it on his own account." (Baha'i Administration, 23)

Shoghi Effendi, pointing to this instance, further emphasizes this as a "clear indication of the Master's express desire that nothing whatever should be given to the public by an individual among the friends" that had not been submitted and approved. "Not only with regard to publication," he writes, "but all matters without any exception whatsoever . . ."

At this time the National Assembly also appointed a Reviewing Committee to assist in maintaining accuracy in works scheduled for publication.

It is therefore clear that the National Spiritual Assembly is fundamentally responsible for all materials produced and distributed throughout the national community, and that in the case of literature the Baha'i Publishing Trust, which came into being at the direction of Shoghi Effendi, is the central agency. Moreover, each local assembly or group, school or national committee, has a responsibility to keep informed and to use its facilities only for such items as have been approved and to follow this basic procedure delineated.
by the Guardian over thirty-six years ago and in effect ever since. Bahá’í publications are announced in Bahá’í News, listed in the Literature Catalog, or announced by direct mail to the communities, either by the Trust or occasionally by the National Assembly. Thus every believer can and should be fully informed.

The above procedure does not inhibit or thwart any individual from purchasing independently such books as he wishes from commercial bookstores and agencies, including books that contain material on the Bahá’í Faith, but he does not impose these materials, or his personal ones, upon the Bahá’í community.

Neither does it prevent a Bahá’í from publishing books or articles with non-Bahá’í publishers, provided any Bahá’í material in them has the Reviewing Committee approval to assure an accurate presentation of the Faith.

Shoghi Effendi’s Translations and Approvals

The English translations of the Bahá’í writings made by Shoghi Effendi are an invaluable gift to the Bahá’í world. These have also become the basis for translations into many other languages. Cleanings, The Kitáb-i-Áqím, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, Prayers and Meditations, The Dawn-Breakers, these and other works, indelibly rendered in English by the Guardian’s own hand, were among the first fruits of his Guardianship. Then came his own writings: The World Order of Bahá’u’lláh, The Advent of Divine Justice, The Promised Day is Come, and his matchless God Passes By. All of these were sent to the National Spiritual Assembly of the U.S. for their initial publication through its Publishing Committee, and were produced in their entirety as specified by him. Sometimes even details of format, arrangements of photographs and other aspects of design, as in The Dawn-Breakers, received the attention of Shoghi Effendi in his desire to make the editions do justice to their content. Thus the American believers were accorded a special privilege and responsibility in the initial publication of these volumes.

Many works, previously accepted as authentic, were examined and found by Shoghi Effendi not to be entirely accurate and were later discontinued. One example of this is ‘Abdu’l-Bahá on Divine Philosophy, which the Guardian stated did not represent an accurate account of the Master’s words. On some works he requested and approved a new translation, as in the case of The Secret of Divine Civilization, which replaced the earlier Mysterious Forces of Civilization. Many prayers had found their way into early compilations, which he found not to be the authentic writings of Bahá’u’lláh or ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and were eliminated entirely from future printings; others were gradually retranslated.

One thing is certain—the Guardian did not halt in this painstaking work until the believers had in their hands an accurate and authentic rendition of the Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh, and until the Bahá’í teachings were authentically presented and abundantly available to them. Thus came into the English language a storehouse of the sacred literature of the Bahá’í Faith, far exceeding in scope and volume the scripture of any previous religious dispensation.

Because of the Guardian’s directives, his years of effort spent upon the literature, and the initial responsibility given to them for producing these works, the National Assembly of the U.S. has a special obligation, not only in trying to maintain these standards in all materials issued by the Publishing Trust, but in all materials approved for distribution through its channels regardless of where they were originally published. There is also a recognized need for careful reviewing of materials, based upon these principles, to be carried on universally in the Bahá’í world in regard to publishing.

Wide Assortment of Teaching Literature

Building upon this foundation of authentic sacred and basic texts, there has come into existence a catalog of nearly one hundred and fifty additional titles—books, pamphlets, study outlines, and teaching aids—assisting the believers in assimilating the teachings and conveying them to others. Surveying these items, we find that many different committees and individual Bahá’ís have contributed their talents to the preparation of these various titles. They represent careful consultation and consideration of all suggestions that come from local assemblies, national committees, and state and national conventions where the believers have expressed their wishes concerning materials most urgently needed, and in relation to funds available to produce them.

They are continually being revised or replaced to keep a currently effective list. However, in spite of all this, it is not possible to please every individual taste or demand. To do so would be to unduly extend the literature which the Guardian himself warned against. It could also jeopardize the self-sustaining operations of the Bahá’í Publishing Trust, which was established in 1955 as a World Crusade goal.

Sometimes a manuscript for a pamphlet or book that is well prepared must be rejected or indefinitely tabled for the above reasons, or because it does not represent any urgent need in the literature. Considering the present-day scope of our literature, undoubtedly what every believer needs most to do is to become more thoroughly acquainted with it and to become keenly aware of all of the opportunities available for
produced and established the Faith in America with their ors.

The request of

of one of us to

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Word.

ties and privileges for leading others to the Creative World.

book to that Word. This treasure house is open to each

It

aid."

World Crusade, now past the halfway mark, moves toward its closing years with its responsibilities and privileges for leading others to the Creative Word. Our literature is much more than a “teaching aid.” It is the Creative Word itself, as well as a guidebook to that Word. This treasure house is open to each one of us to prepare ourselves to teach, and to offer the guidebook to others.

(This article was prepared by the Managing Director of the Baha'i Publishing Trust of the United States at the request of the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly.)

-EUNICE BRAUN

Birthday of Bahá’u’lláh

November 12

A Special Event for Proclaiming the Baha’i Faith to the Public

Sponsored by the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly

Theme:
The Promised One of All Religions

Suggested Publicity Materials:
- Press release from Baha’i Press Service
- The Mission of Bahá’u’lláh from Baha’i Publishing Trust

Reports:
- Newspaper clippings from U.S. communities are to be sent immediately to Baha’i Press Service.
- Written reports and photographs for publication in Bahá’í News are to be sent as soon as possible to the Bahá’í News Editorial Committee.
the Pines is indeed a place wherein God's Word is literally proclaimed from the mountain top.

The people who attend the services come from far and wide, not only to see the cathedral itself, but to listen to the services. This year nearly 500 attended the Bahá'í service, and afterward approximately 1,500 pieces of literature were distributed.

The speaker this year was Dr. Firuz Kazemzadeh, a member of the faculty of the Yale University history department. His subject was "The Oneness of Mankind." Mrs. Juliette Meade, secretary of the New England States Area Teaching Committee, acted as chairman and read from the Bahá'í Sacred Writings, including the Master's prayer for all nations. Mrs. Ruth Silva was the soprano soloist, and the organist was Mrs. Marian Craig, a non-Bahá'í.

The printed programs given to each person attending the service carried a quotation from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh.

**Bahá'í Publishing Trust**

**Know Your Bahá'í Literature.** By Eunice Braun. This study course on Bahá'í literature has five sections, as follows: (1) Classification of Bahá'í Literature, with a portion on authentic texts and translations, a listing of many obsolete and unauthentic titles, and reasons why they are so classified; (2) Purpose and Use of Bahá'í Literature, with an analysis of teaching and deepening literature; (3) Literature Service in the Local Community, with suggestions for stimulating wider knowledge and use of the literature by every Bahá'í, and also covering the basic principles that apply to distributing literature; (4) The Bahá'í Publishing Trust, its aims, functions, and needs as an institution of the Faith; (5) Workshop Supplement, with questions and projects to stimulate knowledge and action in every individual's relationship to Bahá'í literature. 40 pages, 6¼ x 11.

Attractive, photo-illustrated cover, printed black and red on white.

(Per copy ........................................ $ .75)

**Double-Purpose Mailing Card Now Available**

Mailing Cards. These double mailing cards serve many needs. Mailed as postcards, there is a return postcard attached with spaces for the recipient to check whatever services he desires, as follows: (1) to receive (or continue to receive) literature; (2) to be informed of public events; (3) to receive an invitation to Bahá'í firesides. (This return postcard should be addressed to the local Bahá'í address and stamped, for convenience of the person receiving it.)

**Calendar of Events**

**FEASTS**

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<td>September 8</td>
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**BAHÁ'Í PROCLAMATION DAY**

September 20—Theme: America's Spiritual Destiny

**U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**

September 4, 5, 6, 7

October 9, 10, 11

**Baha'i House of Worship**

**Visiting Hours**

**Weekdays**

10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (Entire building)

7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (Auditorium only)

**Sundays and Holidays**

10:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Entire building)

5:00 P.M. to 9 P.M. (Auditorium only)

**Service of Worship**

**Sundays**

3:30 to 4:10 P.M.
Homefront Goal Requires Fifty New Local Assemblies This Year; NSA Lists Preferred Cities for Concentrated Teaching Activity

The homefront goal for the United States in the World Crusade is 300 “firmly grounded, well informed, actively functioning communities” by 1963. This requires the American Bahá’ís to bring into being fifty additional local spiritual assemblies in April 1960 and fifty more in April 1961, in addition to holding all those now in existence.

Such an achievement will leave but two brief years (1961-1963) in which to consolidate these new communities and to concentrate on the large task of bringing the Faith to the masses. Your National Spiritual Assembly is convinced that this can be done if every believer will arise at once and make teaching the Cause “the head corner-stone” of his Bahá’í life.

Order is the keynote of the Cause of God; thus we must approach this tremendous task in an orderly manner. The National Spiritual Assembly, after careful study and consultation with the American National Teaching Committee, has compiled the accompanying list of “preferred goals” on which intensive teaching assistance will be concentrated this year, with the aim of raising them to assembly status by next Ridván.

These particular groups have been chosen because, for the most part, they have a membership of five or more adult believers, are functioning in a unified manner, and have effective, sustained local teaching activities in progress.

The services of Auxiliary Board members, circuit teaching, extension teaching on the part of nearby local assemblies, and settlers will augment the efforts being made by the groups themselves. Also, the area teaching committees will lend all possible assistance to the larger groups that are already very near assembly status and to the smaller ones that may qualify for inclusion in the “preferred list” next year.

Here then is our specific goal—our great challenge in homefront teaching this year: to raise at least fifty groups to assembly status by Ridván 1960, whether on the “preferred list” or not! Which fifty will they be? This will be determined by the groups themselves, by the degree of their own unified, intensive teaching efforts, and their response to the services offered them by the American National Teaching Committee, their area committees, and neighboring local spiritual assemblies.

They cannot depend wholly upon settlers because of the priority needs for pioneers in Latin America and Europe. Furthermore 175 of the existing Bahá’í communities have fewer than fifteen members, the minimum required to safeguard their own assembly status. The main sources of pioneers and settlers for all purposes are the few large communities and the isolated Bahá’ís. The National Spiritual Assembly appeals to the believers in both of these categories to arise now and settle in a goal city.

In connection with moving, the National Spiritual Assembly pleads with the friends not to leave a preferred goal or small Bahá’í community without first consulting the National Assembly or the American National Teaching Committee. Even if a move becomes necessary for business or health reasons, please make the facts known before leaving, and if there is any freedom of choice as to location, please do give first consideration to the goal cities.

The National Spiritual Assembly has made the American National Teaching Committee responsible for the movement of settlers on the homefront; therefore all offers, as well as requests for settlers, are to be addressed to that committee in care of its secretary, Mrs. Velma Sherrill, 411 N. 7th Street, Suite 1311, St. Louis 1, Mo.

In January the National Spiritual Assembly will review the progress that has been made in all groups. How many will be “promising assemblies” by that time? It is possible that, based upon their own unified teaching efforts, others will be added to the “preferred” list to receive intensive assistance during the balance of the Bahá’í year.

Dear friends, this may seem a formidable task in light of the slow progress we have made in the past, but never before have we had the opportunity to mobilize so many forces and so much assistance for our own homefront objectives. Let us not dwell upon our past weaknesses and frailty, but rather recall the words of the Báb to the Letters of the Living: “... Fix your gaze upon the invincible power of your Lord, your God, the Almighty ... Arise in His name, put your trust wholly in Him, and be assured of ultimate victory.” Let us remember, too, the words of the beloved Guardian: “... we are in this day the chosen instruments of God’s grace, ... our mission is most urgent and vital to the fate of humanity, and fortified by these sentiments, arise to achieve God’s holy purpose for mankind.” Finally, let us take heart from these
loving passages from Shoghi Effendi’s letter written to the American believers on July 19, 1958 (“Inestimable Prizes within our Reach”):

“The history of a century-old Faith eloquently leaves witnesses to ... unnumbered successes won, in both the Apostolic and Formative Ages of the Bahá’í Dispensation, in circumstances even more challenging than those which the American Bahá’í Community now finds itself.

“So magnificent a victory ... at such a time, in a country so vitally affecting the immediate destinies of mankind, singled out to play so predominant a role in the unification and spiritualization of the entire human race ... will, no doubt, exert not only a profound influence on the ultimate destinies of an entire nation and people, but will galvanize, through its repercussions, the entire Bahá’í world.”

“That the American Bahá’í Community may, in this one remaining field, where so much is at stake, and where the needs of the Faith are itself.

—their triumph, is a prayer which... the unification...galvanize through its repercussions...Bahá’í world.”

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

### Preferred Goals for 1959-1960

**California**
- Bakersfield
- Burlingame
- Healdsburg Judicial District
- Hermosa Beach
- La Mesa
- Redondo Beach
- San Leandro—Hayward Judicial District
- San Rafael
- Saratoga
- Ventura
- Whittier Judicial District

**Colorado**
- Suburban Colorado Springs
- Colorado Springs

**Connecticut**
- Hartford

**Florida**
- Dunedin
- Sarasota

**Georgia**
- Augusta

**Idaho**
- Lewiston Orichards
- Pocatello

**Illinois**
- Elmhurst
- Melrose Township
- Park Ridge
- Peoria Heights
- Richwood Township

**Massachusetts**
- Cambridge
- Falmouth
- Ipswich

**Michigan**
- Highland Park
- Niles

**Montana**
- Billings
- Great Falls
- Missoula

**New Hampshire**
- Concord
- Hanover
- Portsmouth

**New Jersey**
- Englewood
- Springfield

**New Mexico**
- Roswell
- Santa Fe

**New York**
- Buffalo
- Huntington Township
- Niagara Falls
- North Hempstead Township
- North Dakota
- Fargo
- Ohio
- Cleveland Heights
- Toledo
- Rhode Island
- Providence
- South Carolina
- North Augusta

**Tennessee**
- Chattanooga
- Texas
- Austin
- Odessa
- Utah
- Provo
- Vermont
- Burlington

**Virginia**
- Verona
- Washington
- Everett
- Monroe
- Snohomish County, First Commissioners’ District
- Spokane County, Central Commissioners’ District

**Wisconsin**
- Greenfield
- Manitowoc

### Anonymous Communications

Some individual, apparently a member of the Bahá’í community, is sending throughout the country an anonymous typewritten statement calling for an investigation of the fact that no picture of a “Black African Local Spiritual Assembly” has appeared in Bahá’í News, and inquiring whether Bahá’í books are being translated to qualify African Negroes for membership in local spiritual assemblies.

This communication is entirely erroneous as to fact, and moreover has been issued in direct contravention of the directive published in Bahá’í News many years ago by the National Assembly to the effect that anonymous communications are in opposition to the spiritual and administrative nature of the Bahá’í Faith, and therefore are to receive no attention.

It is not necessary for any local assembly to report such communications to the National Assembly, unless they can also report the name and address of the sender. The Bahá’í membership status of the sender of the present communication will be subject to question if the National Assembly becomes aware of him or her.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

### Hand of Cause William Sears to Speak in Ten States During September, October

Hand of the Cause William B. Sears will carry out the following schedule of visits during September and October:

- **Spokane, Wash.** (Sept. 15)
- **Seattle, Wash.** (Sept. 19-20)
- **Portland, Ore.** (Sept. 22)
- **Reno, Nev.** (Sept. 24)
- **San Francisco, Calif.** (Sept. 26-27)
- **Fresno, Calif.** (Sept. 29)
- **Bakersfield, Calif.** (Oct. 1)
- **Los Angeles, Calif.** (Oct. 3-4)
- **Phoenix, Ariz.** (Oct. 5)
- **Las Vegas, Nev.** (Oct. 7)
- **Salt Lake City, Utah** (Oct. 10-11)
- **Denver, Colo.** (Oct. 13)
- **Albuquerque, N. Mex.** (Oct. 15)
- **Dallas, Texas** (Oct. 17-18)
- **Jackson, Miss.** (Oct. 19)

Where only one date is given, Mr. Sears will speak to the Bahá’ís only. Where his visit extends over the weekend, a public meeting for Bahá’ís and contacts is to be scheduled for the Saturday evening. The friends in the area surrounding these localities are urged to attend these meetings, which are arranged at the specific request of the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

### Distribute “Bahá’í Directory” Part II

With this issue of Bahá’í News each American Bahá’í will receive Part II of the annual Bahá’í Directory. We regret that it is so late, but there was unusual delay this year in receiving the acceptances from individuals appointed to the committees and the reports of the election of committee officers.
The friends are urged to make use of this directory for information about the services available to them from the various committees. The last page lists the committees that distribute teaching materials. All requests for these materials should be mailed directly to the committees and not to the National Spiritual Assembly. Also, please watch Bahá’í News for announcements of new materials that these committees have to offer from time to time.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Many Bahá’ís Respond to Plea for Pioneers;
More Volunteers, Contributions Needed

The U.S. National Spiritual Assembly and the intercontinental teaching committees are very grateful for the number of believers who have already responded to the appeal of the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land for Bahá’í pioneers and settlers “to reinforce and bring to assembly status those groups which are . . . the most promising nuclei for new assemblies . . . as prerequisites for the election of their national spiritual assemblies.” A more complete report on the number of volunteers, and the areas in which they have settled, will be published in the next issue of Bahá’í News.

In the meantime every possible effort is being made to get approved pioneers to their posts with minimum delay.

There is still an urgent need for more volunteers, especially for Latin America and the homefront. A number of believers have been assigned posts, but cannot leave until they have been replaced in their communities, which might revert to group status without replacements.

A gratifying number of contributions, large and small, has been received for the joint deputation fund, but much more is needed to prevent the possibility of having to hold back pioneers because of lack of funds.

Your National Spiritual Assembly will endeavor to keep you informed frequently on the progress of the pioneer work.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

New UN-Bahá’í Teaching Program Kit
To Be Distributed by U.S. UN Committee

A new type of United Nations-Bahá’í study and teaching program will be distributed to all U.S. local spiritual assemblies and some groups early in September by the U.S. Bahá’í United Nations Committee.

It is a kit of six separate sessions on aspects of the United Nations, with parallel Bahá’í teachings on each of the subjects. Appropriate UN literature will be included in the kit for further study, discussion, and reference.

This material can be used (1) as a series of six fireside programs; (2) as a panel discussion, with each panelist taking one of the subjects and the moderator using the parallel introductions; or (3) as a public lecture, by gleaning the highlights from each of the six sessions and the introduction. It can also be adapted in many other ways to suit local conditions.

The lessons of this kit are printed on standard loose-leaf sheets for insertion in a binder for permanent use. As the committee compiles additional sessions on other aspects of the UN and parallel Bahá’í teachings, these may be added to the binder.

This UN-Bahá’í kit contains ample material for use in the observance of United Nations Day on October 24, and Human Rights Day on December 10.

When the kit is received, the committee suggests that a thorough study be made at once, in order to determine how it may be used, particularly in connection with these two important special events for proclaiming the Bahá’í Faith to the public.

National Youth Committee Announces
Theme for Year’s Youth Program

The National Bahá’í Youth Committee has announced that the theme for the youth program for this year is “Youth, the Vitalizing Agent in the New World Order.”

The first National Bahá’í Youth Conference will be held in twelve areas of the United States on October 25-26, 1959. Topic for these meetings will be “The Function of Youth in the World Crusade.”

Conference cities will be chosen by the area youth committees. The National Bahá’í Youth Committee will send an agenda and program suggestions to these area youth committees in the near future.

New Radio Script Ready for Distribution

The Radio Service Committee announces publication of a new script entitled “God’s Plan For A United World.” This is a Bahá’í program in the form of a panel presentation, with three readers. Because of its fundamental beauty, power, and effectiveness, it could be used for many purposes such as a public meeting, a radio or a television program. It could also serve as a pattern for programs on other subjects, and for other needs and situations. The cost is 35 cents a single copy, or three for $1.00. A minimum of three copies would be needed for presenting the panel. Order from Mrs. Charlotte Keefrey, secty.; 2416 Waunona Way, Madison 5, Wis.

Press Service Requests Publicity Clippings

Would you like to save the Bahá’í Fund $600.00? You can, by sending in one copy of every clipping of publicity and advertising as they appear in your local papers to the Bahá’í Press Service, 434 Thomas Ave., Rochester 17, N.Y. Otherwise this committee will be obliged to subscribe for the services of a commercial clipping house at this price.

If you are not on the Bahá’í Press Service mailing list, and wish the promotion material for observing the special events, please write them immediately. Why not take this opportunity to appoint a press representative to receive their service regularly?
Baha'i Directory Changes

Arizona
- Phoenix: Mrs. Nancy Phillips, 736 Encanto Dr., S.E.

Northern Illinois
- Oak Park: Mrs. Virginia Conner, 189 N. Marion St.

Michigan
- Detroit: Miss Helen Gaines, 4058 Scotton, Z. 10

Western New York
- Jamestown: Mrs. Sarah Vullo, 85 Lister St.

Ohio
- Dayton: Mrs. Fannie L. Powell, 322 Lookout Ave., Z. 17

Virginia
- Arlington: Mrs. Ruth Ford, 4707 N. Carlyln Spring Rd.

Address Changes & Corrections

Massachusetts
- Boston: Mrs. Mary Lou Moore, 4 E. Brookline St., Z. 18

Oregon
- Salem: Mrs. Katherine Chambliss, 105 Church St., N.E.

Texas
- Galveston: Mrs. Patricia Conger, 706 Broadway
Birth of the Bab, October 20, 1819

The Bab, whose name was Siyyid 'Ali-Muhammad, was born in the city of Shiraz, on the first day of Muharram, in the year 1255 A.H. (October 20, 1819). He belonged to a house which was renowned for its nobility and which traced its origin to Muhammad Himself. The date of His birth confirmed the truth of the prophecy traditionally attributed to the Imam 'Ali: "I am two years younger than my Lord." Twenty-five years, four months, and four days had elapsed since the day of His birth, when He declared His mission. In His early childhood He lost His father, Siyyid Muhammad-Rida, a man who was known throughout the province of Fars for His piety and virtue, and was held in high esteem and honor. Both His father and His mother were descendants of the Prophet, both were loved and respected by the people. He was reared by His maternal uncle, Haji Mirza Siyyid 'Ali, a martyr to the Faith, who placed Him, while He was a child, under the care of a tutor named Shaykh 'Abid. The Bab, though not inclined to study, submitted to His uncle's will and directions.

Shaykh 'Abid, known by his pupils as Shaykhunâ, was a man of piety and learning. He had been a disciple of both Shaykh Ahmad and Siyyid Kâzîm. "One day," he related, "I asked the Bab to recite the opening words of the Qur'ân: 'Bismi'llahi'r-Rahmânî'r-Rahîm.' He hesitated, pleading that unless He were told what these words signified. He would in no wise attempt to pronounce them. I pretended not to know their meaning. 'I know what these words signify,' observed my pupil; 'by your leave, I will explain them.' He spoke with such knowledge and fluency that I was struck with amazement. He expounded the meaning of 'Allâh,' of 'Raḥmân,' and 'Raḥîm,' in terms such as I had neither read nor heard. The sweetness of His utterance still lingers in my memory. I felt impelled to take Him back to His uncle and to deliver into his hands the Trust He had committed to my care. I determined to tell him how unworthy I felt to teach so remarkable a child. I found His uncle alone in his office. 'I have brought Him back to you,' I said, 'and commit Him to your vigilant protection. He is not to be treated as a mere child, for in Him I can already discern evidence of that mysterious power which the Revelation of the Sâhibu'z-Zamân alone can reveal. It is incumbent upon you to surround Him with your most loving care. Keep Him in your house, for He, verily, stands in no need of teachers such as I.' Haji Mirza Siyyid 'Ali sternly rebuked the Bab. 'Have you forgotten my instructions?' he said. 'Have I not already admonished You to follow the example of Your fellow-pupils, to observe silence, and to listen attentively to every word spoken by Your teacher?' Having obtained His promise to abide faithfully by his instructions, he bade the Bab return to His school. The soul of that child could not, however, be restrained by the stern admonitions of His uncle. No discipline could repress the flow of His intuitive knowledge. Day after day He continued to manifest such remarkable evidences of superhuman wisdom as I am powerless to recount." At last His uncle was induced to take Him away from the school of Shaykh 'Abid, and to associate Him with himself in his own profession. There, too, He revealed signs of a power and greatness that few could approach and none could rival.

The days which the Bab devoted to commercial pursuits were mostly spent in Bushhr. The oppressive heat of the summer did not deter Him from devoting, each Friday, several hours to continuous worship upon the roof of His house. Though exposed to the fierce rays of the noontide sun, He, turning His heart to His Beloved, continued to commune with Him, unmindful of the intensity of the heat and oblivious of the world around Him. From early dawn till sunrise, and from midday till late in the afternoon, He dedicated His time to meditation and pious worship. Turning His gaze towards the north, in the direction of Tihârn, He, at every break of day, gazed, with a heart overflowing with love and joy, the rising sun, which to Him was a sign and symbol of that Day-Star of Truth that was soon to dawn upon the world. As a lover who beholds the face of His beloved, He gazed upon the rising orb with steadfastness and longing. He seemed to be addressing, in mystic language, that shining luminary, and to be entrusting it with His message of yearning and love to His concealed Beloved. With such transports of delight He greeted its beaming rays, that the heedless and ignorant around Him thought Him to be enamoured with the sun itself.

—The Dawn-Breakers, page 72-76, 77-79
Construction Progresses on Australian House of Worship

The Australian Bahá’í House of Worship near Sydney as it looked on July 18, 1959.

Construction of form work for walls from the gallery roof to the level of the base of the dome.

Opposite: The gallery roof, showing one of the nonagonal-shaped bases for small domes above niches between doorways, and showing reinforced iron for position of cornice. Right: details of cornice and aggregate.

Opposite: Entrances to the Temple, showing newly-placed cornice at the top of the wall, and some of the form work for the wall from the gallery roof to the dome.
German Bahá'ís Meet Ruḥiyyih Khánum
On Her Visit to Frankfurt, Stuttgart

In June the National Secretary in Frankfurt received the information that 'Abdu'l-Bahá Ruḥiyyih Khánum would visit Germany in July. Details of the visit were discussed with Ruḥiyyih Khánum by the German representatives during the conference of the European Hands in Copenhagen, and her arrival in Germany was set for July 11. In addition to the consultation with the National Spiritual Assembly, she wished to visit the Frankfurt and Stuttgart communities. Meanwhile the news of the visit of Ruḥiyyih Khánum spread like wildfire and many friends expressed their wish to see her. After the two Local Spiritual Assemblies of Frankfurt and Stuttgart had discussed the program for the visit, a notice was sent to every believer in the jurisdiction of the National Spiritual Assembly, as well as to the secretaries of the European sister assemblies. At noon on July 10 a group of the friends gathered at the Frankfurt-Rhein/Main airport to greet Ruḥiyyih Khánum.

Saturday morning, July 11, Ruḥiyyih Khánum came to the meeting with the National Spiritual Assembly in the Haţıratu'l-Quḍa to discuss tasks of the Ten-Year Plan. The consultation lasted until late afternoon.

It had been arranged that Ruḥiyyih Khánum was to be the first to enter the large hall in the Zoo building in which the evening meeting was to be held, because she wished to greet all the friends who had come from near and far. She stood at the entrance of the hall and exchanged greetings, sometimes in German with her old German friends of former visits, or new German friends, or in Persian or in English. At long, decorated tables the friends took their places for the dinner. After a brief but warm greeting on behalf of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Frankfurt, Ruḥiyyih Khánum arose to address all the friends. She spoke in English, which was translated into German and then into Persian.

Ruḥiyyih Khánum began to speak of the Covenant, the great Covenant which God made with His people through His Prophets and of the lesser Covenant which Bahá'u'lláh made with His followers which is destined to usher in the time when “the earth will be the footstool of God” and for which our present service and our Ten-Year Plan are paving the way. She recalled the terrible blow which the Bahá'í world received through the unexpected passing of our beloved Guardian, truly the worst blow that could have been struck, which, as she said, many would probably never recover from. And yet, she continued, we have many reasons to be thankful because the unity of the Bahá'í world remains secure. So firmly did our Guardian lay the foundation of this world community, because he, in truth, after the passing of the Master, was the master builder. The Ten-Year Plan, she said with great warmth, is the heritage left to us by the beloved Guardian, and to serve this plan means to grasp the unrecurring last opportunity to fulfill a task which he laid upon all of us, which was so dear to his heart and whose realization through the friends constituted the joy of the last years of his life. This Plan is the responsibility of every single Bahá'í whose faith, whose willingness to sacrifice and whose deeds will bring about its realization which the institutions of the Faith can only guide, further, and regulate.

On Sunday Ruḥiyyih Khánum came for an hour to Stuttgart where about 250 of the south-German friends were gathered and were celebrating the Nineteen-Day Feast. The visit to the Temple site, a conference on the next steps to be taken, as well as the drive from Frankfurt to Stuttgart on this hot day, were a considerable strain on her. Without taking time for rest or recuperation, Ruḥiyyih Khánum hurried to the waiting friends. As in Frankfurt, her address dealt with the unfolding and fulfillment of the Ten-Year Plan.

The most important task of the German community, the building of the Mother Temple of Europe, it was hoped, could soon begin and be prosecuted with all speed. For this the financial support of the friends was needed. The second great goal, the establishment of twelve local spiritual assemblies could be accomplished with the aid of forty-four Persian students, young German believers, and the older ones, those having independent incomes. Naturally, the middle-aged should also make efforts to settle; where the sacrifice is greater, the reward will be richer. However grateful the German friends may and should be to their Persian brothers and sisters for the help they have given in the teaching work, and would give in the future, never would the German friends permit that tasks specially given them by the Master and by the Guardian would be carried out by other friends, but they would remember the great expectations entertained for them and attack the task energetically and promptly.

Her appeal to the German friends to arise in the
Ten-Year Plan rang out with the cry with which the champions of the Faith in Sháykh-Tabārsí girded themselves for the last sacrifice—"Mount your steeds, O Heroes of God!"

In Stuttgart it would not have been possible to greet all the friends in the beginning because it was expected to be necessary to clear the hall at 22 o'clock, but later it was found possible to extend the time to 23 o'clock, and a recreation period was arranged during which Ruḥiyih Khánum insisted upon greeting the friends. The meeting closed with thanks and prayers.

—BAHÁ'Í-NACHRICHTEN

Ruḥiyih Khánum Attends June Conference in Copenhagen Sponsored by Hands of Cause

The European Hands of the Cause invited the national assemblies of Europe and the Auxiliary Boards to a work-conference in Copenhagen. It was a great and happy surprise for all participants to have Ruḥiyih Khánum take part. Five Hands of the Cause and about twenty-eight friends met for the work-conference. The hours of consultation, interrupted only by the meals which the friends took together, and the travel to and from the meeting place, were hardly sufficient for the exchange of experiences, consultation and recommendations. It was again made evident how very much Europe has grown into a unit. The opportunity, through Ruḥiyih Khánum, to get into close touch with the thoughts of the Hands in Haifa, was particularly valuable and the real purpose of Ruḥiyih Khánum’s participation in the conference.

On Sunday evening many of the Danish friends came to the center, since they had there the pleasure and privilege to be with Ruḥiyih Khánum and to meet the other Hands of the Cause and the friends who had come from Belgium, Germany, Finland, Holland, Italy, Norway, Austria, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Spitzbergen. Ruḥiyih Khánum told stories from the life of the Guardian, of his sacrifice, the tasks undertaken by him and the unremitting and untiring activity with which he followed these things to their realization and completion, and she told how happy she was at the achievement of every goal of the Ten-Year Plan and with how much sadness she struck from his list goals that were relinquished.

—BAHÁ'Í-NACHRICHTEN

El Salvador Gov’t. Assures Bahá’ís of Freedom to Teach in Rectifying Expulsion of Pioneer

The Bahá’í Faith has been officially presented to the President of the Republic of El Salvador by the National Spiritual Assembly of Central America, Mexico, and Panama. This unusual event in Latin America was made possible through the efforts to resolve a very difficult matter in which a devoted Bahá’í pioneer was deprived of his permission to remain in that country due to false reports and accusations reported to its government by enemies of the Faith.

Last April Artemus Lamb, pioneer and member of the National Assembly of this territory, was forced to leave his post in El Salvador on order of the Salvadoran Government. No reason was given at that time for the attitude of the authorities, but after much investigation and legal activities it became evident that this pioneer was made the target of several serious accusations devised by certain vested groups. Partly due to legal procedures and partly to the prayers and efforts of the believers themselves, an investigation was eventually made by the Salvadoran Government which completely exonerated Mr. Lamb and the Bahá’í community from any doubt as to their conduct, honor, and principles. It was then made possible for the National Spiritual Assembly of the territory, represented by its chairman, Esteban Canales, to effect an official visit to the executive offices of the Salvadoran Government with some very positive results.

The president of El Salvador, Colonel José María Lemus, having reviewed this case, authorized the Secretary-General, Major Rubio Melado, to discuss it thoroughly with the representative of this National Assembly and to say in the name of the President and the Government of El Salvador that not only has the name of Mr. Lamb and the Bahá’í community been completely cleared from any doubt as to the accusations, but also that the Bahá’ís of El Salvador can be assured of complete security and freedom to realize their activities as the government and the constitution uphold liberty of creed and worship.

The long interview with the Secretary-General was sustained in an atmosphere of great cordiality, and Sr. Canales took the opportunity to present a portfolio containing a beautifully embossed printing of Bahá’u’lláh’s Message to the Presidents of the American Republics, together with some well-selected literature on the Faith. This was duly presented to the President and was received with much respect and gratitude. A gift in return was presented to Sr. Canales.

Several other high officials of the Government showed their sympathy to the case and to the Bahá’ís, who were alert to see the significance of some related events of the same day, July 13: At the very hour that the Secretary-General was discussing the matter with our representative, the President was receiving the official visit of Mrs. Golda Meir, Foreign Minister of the State of Israel. Also, a devoted Salvadorian believer, Srta. Amanda Mena, who had asked for an audience a month earlier, received her appointment for the very afternoon. In her interview the President reiterated that which the Secretary-General had told Sr. Canales, and added that he had the highest personal regard for Mr. Lamb and for the Bahá’ís, and that the Bahá’í Teachings are indeed very attractive to him.

Although there are still matters pending due to the vigilant jealousy of certain enemies of the Faith, who have unwittingly made possible this unexpected victory, the evidence is clear that Bahá’u’lláh works His blessings and victories so often in the mysterious ways of difficulties and obstacles.

Correction

In Bahá’í News for July, page 2; third paragraph, first line should read "The Guardian’s successive letters from January 1922."
North American Esperanto League Congress
Gives Friendly Recognition to Faith

Miss Roan U. Orloff, who attended the Seventh Congress of the Esperanto League for North America as the official representative of the Bahá'ís of the United States in St. Louis, Mo., July 9-12, 1959, reports that she and the three other Bahá'ís who were present were received in a spirit of real friendliness and appreciation by the delegates. This congress was also the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Zamenhof, founder of the Esperanto language.

Evidence of the growing interest in Esperanto as a possible universal language was manifested by the impressive posters which were officially issued by UNESCO, and which provided a colorful background for the Esperanto literature on display. A section on religion included Bahá'í literature, and the Faith was mentioned in a very kindly manner by the guest speaker at the public meeting, Dr. Faruk S. Abuzahab.

The Bahá'í delegates were particularly pleased to meet a representative from Washington, D.C., who told them of his meeting with ‘Abdu’l-Bahá when He visited that city in 1912. All of the Bahá'ís in attendance took advantage of every opportunity to give the Message of Bahá'u'lláh and to answer questions about the Faith.

Bahá'ís of Three Countries Attend
First Addis Ababa Summer School

The first Bahá'í summer school in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was held on May 2 to 8, 1959. On the opening day a cable was sent to Hand of the Cause Musa Banání, announcing this happy event and asking prayers for its success.

Three days later a cabled reply was received and read to the audience; it filled the hearts of all present with great joy and happiness:

"Congratulations memorable achievement school. News conveyed Holy Land, following response just received, quote convey loving greets attendants historic opening school, assure prayers shrines success vital teaching work. Hands faith, unquote. Love, Banání."

Six days were devoted to study classes, lectures, and film shows in morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. One day was allotted to a picnic outside the city, arranged by the Bahá'í Youth Committee.

On the afternoon of May 2, coinciding with the Twelfth of Ri'Án, a Feast was arranged.

The average attendance during the school sessions was twenty-five, and included many Bahá'ís of Addis Ababa and their non-Bahá'í friends and Bahá'í youth from the neighboring towns of Nazareth and Jimma.

Friends and pioneers from other centers who responded to the invitations, and by their presence and material and spiritual contributions helped make a success of this first Bahá'í summer school, included Dr. Mesbah, Dr. Farhoumand, Dr. and Mrs. Niederriter from Asmara, and Dr. M. Samandari from Mogadiscio.
Rama Cay Indians of Nicaragua Warmly Receive Baha'i Message

ON THE tropical eastern coast of Nicaragua, situated at the southern end of a long lagoon, lies the refreshing and remote island home of the Rama Cay Indians. Nestled amid a myriad of tropical flowers and fruit-bearing trees, these people carry on a quiet and humble existence in groupings of stick and palm frond shelters. The only imposing edifice is the frame church house of a centuries-old Protestant group that constitutes the sole center of their religious life.

Much to the advantage of an on-marching world religion, these clean souls, through contact with missionaries, speak a simplified English, and are acquainted with the basic teachings of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Of further aid, the Protestants have always retained a clear distinction between civilized people and "whatever Indians are."

In pursuance of a call on the part of the beloved Guardian, "to stimulate the process of the conversion of both the Negroes and the American Indians," incorporated in the subsidiary Six-Year Plans given to the four Latin American interim regional spiritual assemblies in 1957, the Nicaraguan National Teaching Committee has sponsored a plan during recent months to open the Faith to Rama Cay in a series of weekend trips by the resident pioneer in Bluefields, Hooper Dunbar.

After spending the first weekends making friends, taking pictures of the many families who had never been photographed before, and being a guest in their homes and at their tables (the typical food served was smoked raw fish, boiled green bananas, rice, and fruits), an opportunity came through friendly contact with the lay pastor of the church to address the Indian congregation at their Sunday service.

The theme decided upon was "Spiritual Rebirth and the Oneness of Religion." Emphasis was also given to the fact that this day holds a great blessing for the original inhabitants of the Americas, based upon the statements of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

At the close of the meeting, all present arose and shook hands with their new "brother," in the words of the pastor. From this precious event, the doors of close association have been opened between the Bahá'í pioneer and the Rama Cay people.

What a joy it is to report that some of these stick walls are now adorned with pictures of the Bahá'í House of Worship, that several of these hearts are now reciting the prayer-verses of Baha'u'llah, and that the Message of God is reaching more of those who, through the Divine Teachings, to quote the Master, "will become so enlightened that the whole earth will be illumined."

—HOOPER DUNBAR

Rama Cay, Nicaragua, Indians visited by Hooper Dunbar on his teaching trip.
Five New Groups Founded Among Bolivia

THIRTY-ONE new Indian believers declared themselves in the Potosi region of Bolivia during the month of June, the National Spiritual Assembly of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay has announced.

Five new groups have been established: in Chaltuiri, Totorani, Janko Jaque, Pichata, and Jaka Chullpa; isolated centers have been founded in Kea Kea, Incuhuyo, and Jakahuma.

These developments are a further confirmation of the comments of Athos Costas, secretary of this National Assembly, following his visit to Bolivia in April (BAHA’I News, August):

"Those Indians are highly humble, affectionate, and spiritual... detached pioneers are needed, bestowing all their love and faith, their Bahá’í knowledge, their human understanding, and their loving consideration."

Estranisau Alvarez, chairman of the National Indian Teaching Committee, made the teaching trip in April with Mr. Costas, and has returned to Departamento Potosí for a five-month period. He, with Andrés Jachakollo, the native Indian pioneer, is responsible for confirming these new believers.

A vivid picture of the hardships experienced by Mr. Alvarez in his trips through the Bolivian Andes is recorded in his report to the National Assembly:

"We had to climb the loftiest Andes, which touched the sky, by narrow, perilous paths... there were moments when my feet could not take a single step forward, with the lack of water and a blazing winter sun which burned the skin, but gave no warmth.

"Only God could give me the physical resistance which is a privilege of the Indian. I had read a novel calling these Bolivian Indians the "race of bronze," but their strength is as a race of steel.

"We had to walk for hours, wading in icy winter water to the knees, in serpentine mountain streams. That was the only way to reach one place. Jaka Chullpa, where no missionary has ever gone."
Three Isolated Centers
Indians Since Last April

"The tall new believer in Inchuhuyo was a Christian evangelist for twelve years, and a teacher in the Indian villages, a Bahá'í of promise."

On July 9 the newly-formed all-Indian community of Jankohuyo had an impressive all-day memorial for the Bab. Although it was their busy harvest period, work was suspended for the day.

The entire morning was devoted to re-telling the story of the Bab's life, and of His martyrdom. Then the women of the community prepared food for all the Bahá'ís, including guests from other Bahá'í groups nearby.

In the early evening, overcome with emotion over the loss of the Bab, the Indians interpreted their own lamentations for Him on their plaintive-sounding wind instruments, the "Jula Jula," kneeling in reverence as they played for their Lord, the Bab.

Can there be any greater illustration of the spiritual readiness and understanding of our Bolivian Indian brothers than this? "Detached pioneers are needed."

Estanislao Alvarez, member of the National Indian Committee for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, crossing a mountain stream on his teaching trip through Potosí Province in Bolivia.

Baha'is of Jankohuyo in a dance of lamentation, playing the plaintive-sounding instrument "Jula Jula" in remembrance of the Martyrdom of the Bab on July 9, 1959.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Jankohuyo, the second all-Indian assembly in Bolivia, formed on April 21, 1959.
Inspiring Talks, Review of Crusade Goals
Featured at Third Annual Nicaragua Congress

On August 1, 1959, believers from all of Nicaragua attended the third annual Teaching Congress at the Haikatu'l-Quds in Managua. The purpose and theme of this congress was to further deepen the friends in the “Spiritual Verities of the Bahá’í Faith,” to better fulfill the aspirations and goals of our beloved Guardian as manifested in the World Crusade.

After a few opening words by Chairman Pable Pérez, representing the Nicaraguan Teaching Committee, Hooper Dunbar gave an inspiring address on “The Ocean of Revelation,” outlining the major works of Bahá’u’lláh and their contents.

This was followed by interesting presentations by two new Bahá’ís, who are members of the National Teaching Committee. Orlando Ponce spoke on “Spiritual Tests” and Charles Miranda gave an uplifting address on “The Spiritual Springtime.”

In the evening Donald Ross Witzel spoke on the spiritual station of the Institution of the Hands of the Cause, illustrating his talk with a resume of the lives and experiences of Louis Gregory, the first Negro Hand of the Cause, and Siyyid Mustafa Rumi of Burma.

On Sunday morning a series of interesting classes held the attention of the friends. Julio César Hernández spoke on “The Reality of Man,” depicting the real spiritual value and purpose of humanity as a creation of God; Humberto Guevarra spoke dynamically on “The Presence of God,” in which he clearly cited Bahá’u’lláh and non-Bahá’í authors in their similar explanations on how to reach and practice this spiritual goal; and Miss Creadell Haley presented “The Bahá’í Attitude on Politics and Military Service,” a theme so necessary in Latin America today.

Armando Fonseca closed the congress after reviewing the uncompleted goals of the Ten-Year Plan. Afterward, the committee sponsored a banquet that was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Bahá’ís and friends of Montevideo, Uruguay, at a fireside held during the teaching trip of Senorita Yolanda Pizarro, a Chilean Bahá’í in July 1959 (holding the Greatest Name). William Sears, Jr., and Fred Schechter are newly-arrived pioneers from Africa.

Anytown, Arizona, An Annual Youth Workshop.
Includes Study of Bahá’í Teachings

Anytown, Arizona is a human relations workshop for high school youth of diverse religious, social, racial, national, and economic backgrounds, held annually in the pine woods of northern Arizona. Anytown, Arizona has been in existence for three years; during the last two, several Bahá’ís, by invitation of the Advisory Board, have taken an active part.

This year Alton Thomas, director of the Phoenix Urban League, and Mrs. Nancy Phillips of Phoenix were two of the twelve advisors at camp, and Bob Phillips was one of the counsellors, who are chosen from the graduating classes of Arizona high schools.

Bahá’í public meeting held at Ibung Town, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippine Islands, on June 20, 1959.
More than ever before, the Bahá'í Faith was made an integral part of the program, through the listing of a representative in the Anytown brochure, by active participation in an afternoon question and answer period purely on religious subjects, and by a Bahá'í worship service in the outdoor chapel. This was patterned after those held in the Bahá'í House of Worship, and was accompanied by an explanation of the Bahá'í teachings on worship.

On these occasions, and throughout each day and evening, questions on the Faith came eagerly and spontaneously from the Anytowners. One hundred of the 140 present asked for literature, and subsequently twenty of the Phoenix group have attended a youth fireside in the Phillips home.

The Anytown program has become tremendously popular with Arizona youth. To the Bahá'í participants it seems to offer an ideal environment in which to demonstrate and speak of the Faith to receptive young people and adults.

Radio Broadcasts, Newspaper Publicity

Promulgate Faith on Kauai Island

The recent visit of Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh to the Hawaiian Islands opened the way for a further proclamation of the Faith on the outer islands. The forty-five hours she was on the island of Kauai enabled the Bahá'ís to schedule a public meeting and a fireside.

Invitations to 255 people representing a wide variety of businesses, professions, and cultural interests were
sent out, a reasonable number in view of the population of less than 28,000. The Honolulu newspapers and the Kauai weekly paper gave excellent publicity, both before and after Mrs. Mottahedeh's visit to Kauai.

Although attendance at the public meeting on Saturday evening, July 18, in one of the public schools was disappointing, the resulting publicity was of inestimable value. The manager of the local radio station was present, and recorded Mrs. Mottahedeh's lecture, "Building a World Commonwealth."

The following morning a digest of the talk was given on the All-Island newscast, and later in the morning the talk was broadcast in its entirety. The manager received so many favorable calls that he decided to rebroadcast the recording at a later and better time, which he did the following Thursday evening.

The Sunday evening fireside was better attended, and was followed by a lively and penetrating discussion of the Bahá’í Faith.

Navajo Reservation Bahá’í Activities

Include Wedding, Many Fellowship Meetings

The weekend of May 29th to 31st was considered by the Bahá’ís on the Navajo reservation in Arizona to have been blessed by two events: the first was the wedding of Miss Sadye Joe and Vincent Vincente at the Gallup Bahá’í Indian Center on May 29. A member of the Navajo Reservation Bahá’í Group at Pinon Rock, Ariz., the bride is the first member of this tribe to be enrolled in the Faith.

Later the same weekend, Bahá’ís and friends gathered at Dodson Reservoir, near Tuba City on the reservation, for two days of fellowship, prayer, and consultation. Attending were Bahá’ís from Pinon, Window Rock, Tuba City, Flagstaff, and a number of Navajo friends, not Bahá’ís. The correspondent of the Tuba City Bahá’í Group wrote, "As the sun rose Sunday morning so did our prayers and the chant of the Greatest Name."

Monthly meeting for the reservation Bahá’ís and friends for June took place on the 20th and 21st at Window Rock, with good attendance, fellowship, and consultation. The July gathering was held near Flagstaff on the weekend of July 4 and 5, during the time of the All-Indian Pow Wow, which attracts Indian families from many southwestern tribes. This Bahá’í camping social attracted 65 Bahá’ís and friends from all over Arizona, and some from New Mexico and California.

National Youth Committee Conducts Workshops for Junior Youth at Davison Bahá’í School

Four workshop classes for junior youth were sponsored by the National Bahá’í Youth Committee on July 25-26 at Davison Bahá’í School, Davison, Mich., as a part of the Junior Youth Sessions from July 20 to 31.

Two class periods on "God, His Divine Messengers, and Man" were conducted by Miss Joanna Thomas of Wilmette, Ill. Dan Jordan of Chicago, Ill., presented a class on 'Abdu’l-Bahá. Both speakers jointly conducted the final class period on "Bahá’í Administration" and "The Functions of the National Bahá’í Youth Committee."

Organized games and community singing provided activity for the twenty-five junior youth that attended the workshop classes.

Alexandria Host to Second Summer School

The second Bahá’í summer school sponsored by the National Assembly of Northeast Africa was held in
First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Penang, Malaya, formed on April 21, 1958. Front Row: Mrs. Keong Hean Kok, Miss Lily Janz, Mrs. Shantha Sundram, and Mrs. Myra Ong Hak Lim. Back Row: Ong Kim Seng, Chew Swee Seng, Dr. C. J. Sundram, N. Jagatheesan, and Dr. P. K. Rao.

August at the Haziratu’l-Quds in Alexandria, Egypt.

The class sessions concentrated on a study of Bahá'í laws and ordinances; The Kitáb-i-Iqan, Bahá'í Administration, and courses on teaching the Faith. Special talks were scheduled for evenings, with Monday night open for guests and a question period. A special day was assigned to the children who included a short play on the unity of races in their program.

Know Your Bahá'í Literature

"Great Themes of Life"

This small volume can be read quickly, but nevertheless gives a clear, well-rounded view of the relationship of the Bahá'í Revelation to many of the most familiar passages from the Old Testament, and particularly the New Testament. Each chapter is based upon a familiar quotation from the Bible, beginning with a portion of Biblical scripture that sets the theme for the dissertation that follows.

The first chapter tells the story of the coming of the Messenger of God for this day as the fulfillment of the words of Jesus, "when He, the Spirit of truth, is come . . . " The next takes up Old Testament prophecies of the coming of the Lord of Hosts, of the time when God will "turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one consent." It speaks of the Everlasting Covenant of God and of the renewal of that Covenant.

A chapter on The Oneness of Mankind brings the

Over ninety Bahá'ís attended the fourth annual Iowa Bahá'í Institute on June 27-28, 1959, at Wesley Woods, a Methodist camp near Indianola.
teachings of Jesus on man's relationship to man into its fulfillment in Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation, with a challenge for personal decision and action. The World is Our Country discusses the problems of church unity among various Christian sects, as well as among the religions of the world, broadening the reader's viewpoint on the subject of religious unity. The final chapter presents the challenge that Jesus brought in His day as being repeated today in the coming of Bahá'u'lláh.

Each chapter was originally a lecture given in a Congregational church in Australia by Eric Bowes, an Auxiliary Board teacher, who was invited to give these talks by the minister during five Sundays in his absence. They are simply presented, in such a clear and direct manner that the Message of Bahá'u'lláh cannot fail to penetrate the understanding of the average Christian layman. Bahá'ís have long asked for a book of this type, and Great Themes of Life answers that need. The introduction by Horace Holley, and two photographs of the Shrine of the Báb and of the Temple in Wilmette further enhance the book. Bahá'ís who themselves do not have sufficient knowledge of the relationship of Biblical teachings and the Bahá'í Faith can also take a step forward in their understanding by reading this book. It is clothbound and jacketed. (Available from the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, at $1.50.)

**BAHÁ'Í IN THE NEWS**

"The Faiths That Compete for My Loyalty," by Dwight E. Stevenson, is a pamphlet issued by the Board of Education and Publication of the American Baptist Convention. Revised Edition, 1958. Under the title "American Manifestations of Islam" the author gives a very accurate summary of the Bahá'í teachings except that Bahá'u'lláh is described as brother to the Báb, and the fanatical uprisings instigated by Moslem leaders against the Bábís are attributed to the fanaticism aroused by the Báb and His followers.

In the question box conducted by William N. Enoch in the Lutheran Standard dated April 11, 1959, there is a statement prepared under the heading "What is the Bahá'í Religion?" After stating a few historic facts about the Báb, the author says: "But the all-important truths concerning man's origin and destiny have been revealed to us by our Maker in His holy word. There and there alone (i.e. in the Christian Gospel) we find the fundamental truths concerning man himself."

A reprint of the Hon. Lester Holtman's remarks in the House of Representatives Monday, March 2, 1959, includes extracts from We Believe in Prayer by Lawrence M. Brings. A prayer revealed by Abdu'l-Bahá is cited in full.

**Lutheran Youth** for August 16, 1959, carries on its front cover an illustration of the Bahá'í House of Worship, and inside a photograph of a group attending Blue Ridge Conference. The Bahá'í religion is

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Rembang, Central Java, Indonesia, formed on April 21, 1959.

Baha'i book exhibit by the Kirkland, Wash., Bahá'ís on display for three weeks in May as part of widespread publicity for three public meetings to attract new seekers. Large posters placed in three leading food stores and 100 mailing pieces of literature were also part of the campaign. The books in the exhibit were changed each week.
Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of South Bend, Ind., for 1959-1960, incorporated on May 26, 1959.

presented as "The World’s Largest Merger," and the Bahá’í teachings are described as an intellectual creed. "It is not Christian, and never will be, for it denies the very essence of the Christian Faith—that a merciful God sent His Son, who purchased and redeemed us from sin with His holy and precious blood."

Beacon Rocket, employee bulletin of Hercules Powder Company, in its July 10, 1959, issue published a picture of Dr. John Taylor, described, among other connections, as a member of the Bahá’í World Faith.

The Curtis Courier, a commercial bulletin, in August 1959 devoted its inside front cover to a photograph of the Bahá’í Temple, described as "An outstanding subject for tourists’ snapshots."

Chicago Daily News, Thursday, August 6, 1959, illustrated the Temple gardens: "Gardens surrounding the Bahá’í House of Worship... Wilmette, are now at the height of their annual bloom."

The Fargo Forum and Moorhead Press, July 4, 1959, printed the "Prayer for America" in connection with the weekly notice of the Bahá’í public meeting.

A column in Bergen Evening Record of Hackensack, N.J., entitled "It was Today," on July 9, 1959, included a reference to the martyrdom of the Bab on July 9, 1850.

The Gold Coast World, Gulfport, Miss., June 12, 1959, published on page 2 under the heading "Spiritual Guidance" an article on the Supreme Manifestation by Robert M. Stoakley.

The Hamburg Sun and Erie County Independent, Thursday, June 25, 1959, reported that on account of her many services to the former Thomas Indian school and to brotherhood in general, Mrs. Harry E. Pringle was adopted by the Fox Den of the Sak and Fox tribe in ceremonies on the Cattaraugus Reservation on June 20.

Peter Khan, a student in Sydney University, contributed an article on the Bahá’í Faith under the heading "Other Religious Groups," in a small magazine entitled Witness published under date of March 1959 in Sydney, N. S. W. This article is a brief but very attractive and accurate summary of the Bahá’í history and teachings.

The Buenos Aires Clarian, a leading Argentina newspaper, published in the March 29, 1959, Sunday supplement an excellent three-quarter page article on the Bahá’í Faith, illustrated with a picture of the Master, the Frankfurt Conference, and drawings of the African and Frankfurt Temples.

The Shreveport Sun, Sunday, July 4, 1959, published an article on the series of lectures delivered by E. Musette Christian on a lecture tour through several southern states. The article presents many interesting details of her life, including classes conducted at the Davisun Bahá’í School since she became a believer in 1938.

An illustrated report of the marriage of Sue Williston and Khalil Akhtar-Khavari conducted in the Foundation Hall of the Bahá’í Temple appeared in the Milwaukee Journal of June 9, 1959. One illustration showed the bride and groom standing before the two Bahá’í witnesses, one of them in the garden outside the Temple, and the third was a view of the Temple auditorium with the bride and groom and Bahá’í guests in

UN Human Rights Day
December 10, 1959
A Special Event for Proclaiming the Bahá’í Faith to the Public

Sponsored by the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly

Theme:
Human Rights—Justice For All

Suggested Publicity Materials:
Press Release from Bahá’í Press Service
Faith for Freedom from Bahá’í Publishing Trust

Reports:
Newspaper clippings from U.S. communities are to be sent immediately to Bahá’í Press Service.
Written reports and photographs for publication in Bahá’í News are to be sent as soon as possible to the Bahá’í News Editorial Committee.

First Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Alor Gajah, Malaya, formed on April 21, 1959.
meditation and prayer after the marriage. The article also outlined the teachings of the Cause.

An Israeli booklet entitled Vacation in Israel contains an aerial view of Mount Carmel and the Bay of Haifa, with the Shrine of the Bab prominently shown in the foreground.

A publication of the Lumberman's and Manufacturer's Mutual of Wisconsin is illustrated with views of unusual chapels and churches found throughout the United States. The series includes the Bahá'í Temple.

**Bahá'í Publishing Trust**

**30 Teaching Pamphlets in Handsome Portfolio**

A handsomely-designed portfolio has been prepared to contain one copy each of thirty individual pamphlets. Here is an opportunity not only to get acquainted with the variety of inexpensive teaching materials available for use at firesides and in personal teaching, but also to display them in an attractive manner.

They can be set up "tent-fashion" in a community center or at a fireside, are easy to carry when traveling, and something in which to proudly present literature to others. Some of the pamphlets are old favorites, others are new, all are currently in use. New pamphlets will be added from time to time. The portfolio can be replenished later with any items of individual choosing.

The portfolio has an eye-catching but dignified global design, with large letters stating: "Bahá'í World Faith—Literature Portfolio" on the front. Bahá'í principles and a quotation in large print are visible when the portfolio is opened, or set up tent-fashion. The back has spaces for filling in names if presenting it as a gift, and carries the quotation "The gift of God to this enlightened age, etc." Closed size is 9 x 12, printed in two colors on colored heavy cover stock. All sample pamphlet kits (previously sent out without any special container) are now enclosed in these new portfolios, with the price remaining the same.

Sample Pamphlet Kit

(30 titles in new portfolio) ........ $2.50

**Portfolios Available Without Pamphlets**

The literature portfolio described above can be purchased separately without any pamphlets contained in it. These are excellent for prestige presentation of literature. You can choose the pamphlets and brochures most suitable to the presentation, fill in the "Presented to" and "From" spaces on back, and mail it in a brown manila envelope, 10 x 13. (When ordering without any pamphlets enclosed be certain to order only as Literature Portfolio.)

- 5 Literature Portfolios (minimum order) ....... $1.50
- 25 Literature Portfolios ....................... $6.50

Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 110 Linden Ave., Wilmette, Ill.

**Calendar of Events**

**FEASTS**
October 16—Ilm (Knowledge)
November 4—Qadrat (Power)

**HOLY DAY**
October 20—Birth of the Bab

**UNITED NATIONS DAY**
October 24—Proclamation Event: United Nations for a United World

**U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**
October 9, 10, 11

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**Bahá'í House of Worship**

**Visiting Hours**

**Weekdays**
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Auditorium only)

**Sundays and Holidays**
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Entire building)

**Service of Worship**

Sundays
3:30 to 4:10 p.m.

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**National Bahá'í Addresses**

Please Address Mail Correctly!

**National Bahá'í Administrative Headquarters:**
530 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Ill.

**National Treasurer:**
112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.

**Make Checks Payable to: National Bahá'í Fund**

**Bahá'í Publishing Trust:**
110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.

**Make Checks Payable to: Bahá'í Publishing Trust**

**Bahá'í News:**
Editorial Office: 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.
Subscription and change of address: 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Ill.

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**Bahá'í News** is published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States as a news organ reporting current activities of the Bahá'í World Community.

Reports, plans, news items, and photographs of general interest are requested from national committees and local assemblies of the United States as well as from national assemblies of other lands. Material is due in Wilmette on the first day of the month preceding the date of issue for which it is intended.

**Bahá'í News** is edited by an annually appointed Editorial Committee. The Committee for 1959-60: **International News Editor,** Mrs. Enice Braun; **National News Editor,** Miss Charlotte M. Linfoot; **Managing Editor,** Richard C. Thomas.

**Editorial Office:** 110 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.

Change of address should be reported directly to National Bahá'í Office, 112 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A.
Garden of Ridván and Shrine of Baha’u’llah in the Holy Land

Shrine of Baha’u’llah at Bahji, showing the room where the Most Sacred Remains rest.

Garden of Ridván in the Holy Land. Baha’u’llah used to sit where the flower pots are shown.
"The Revelation Which, From Time Immemorial . . ."

LAUDED and glorified art Thou, O Lord, my God! How can I make mention of Thee, assured as I am that no tongue, however deep its wisdom, can befittingly magnify Thy name, nor can the bird of the human heart, however great its longing, ever hope to ascend into the heaven of Thy majesty and knowledge.

If I describe thee, O my God, as Him Who is the All-Perceiving, I find myself compelled to admit that They Who are the highest Embodiments of perception have been created by virtue of Thy behest. And if I extol Thee as Him Who is the All-Wise, I, likewise, am forced to recognize that the Well Springs of wisdom have themselves been generated through the operation of Thy Will. And if I proclaim Thee as the Incomparable One, I soon discover that they Who are the inmost essence of oneness have been sent down by Thee and are but the evidences of Thine handiwork. And if I acclaim Thee as the Knower of all things, I must confess that they Who are the Quintessence of knowledge are but the creation and instruments of Thy Purpose.

Exalted, immeasurably exalted, art Thou above the strivings of mortal man to unravel Thy mystery, to describe Thy glory, or even to hint at the nature of Thine Essence. For whatever such strivings may accomplish, they never can hope to transcend the limitations imposed upon Thy creatures, inasmuch as these efforts are actuated by Thy decree, and are begotten of Thine invention. The loftiest sentiments which the holiest of saints can express in praise of Thee, and the deepest wisdom which the most learned of men can utter in their attempts to comprehend Thy nature, all revolve around that Center which is wholly subjected to Thy sovereignty, Which adores Thy Beauty, and is propelled through the movement of Thy Pen.

Nay, forbid it, O my God, that I should have uttered such words as must of necessity imply the existence of any direct relationship between the Pen of Thy Revelation and the essence of all created things. Far, far are They Who are related to Thee above the conception of such relationship! All comparisons and likenesses fail to do justice to the Tree of Thy Revelation, and every way is barred to the comprehension of the Manifestation of Thy Self and the Day Spring of Thy Beauty.

Far, far from Thy glory be what mortal man can affirm of Thee, or attribute unto Thee, or the praise with which he can glorify Thee! Whatever duty Thou hast prescribed unto Thy servants of extolling to the utmost Thy majesty and glory is but a token of Thy grace unto them, that they may be enabled to ascend unto the station conferred upon their own inmost being, the station of the knowledge of their own selves.

No one else besides Thee hath, at any time, been able to fathom Thy mystery, or befittingly to extoll Thy greatness. Unsearchable and high above the praise of men wilt Thou remain for ever. There is none other God but Thee, the Inaccessible, the Omnipotent, the Omniscient, the Holy of Holies. (1)

Beloved Friends:

Certain passages in Gleanings seem to express the essence of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh. In them are concentrated truths which penetrate the dry husk of ritual and tradition and disclose the very purpose of man's creation.

The reading and rereading of these passages by the individual Bahá'í tend to create the "new mind and the new heart" distinguishing believers from the worldly. To love them and to turn to them in solitary devotion at frequent intervals can be regarded as a supreme privilege during these years of the World Crusade. This suggestion does not represent a new and different type of community study but rather a means of fulfillment offered the seeking soul.

Therefore the U.S. National Assembly is happy to reprint these passages in a convenient form so that each believer can determine for himself the degree of spiritual longing not fulfilled in community study, consultation or action. In submitting the following excerpts the Assembly has no thought of requesting reports to any administrative body. May the believer's own increasing sense of joy and understanding mark his progress on the path to God.

—U.S. NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
THEREVEALATIONwhich,fromtimeimmemorial, 
hath been acclaimed as the Purpose and Promise 
of all the Prophets of God, and the most cherished 
Desire of His Messengers, hath now, by virtue of the 
pervasive Will of the Almighty and at His irresistible 
bidding, been revealed unto men. The advent of such 
a Revelation hath been heralded in all the sacred 
Scriptures. Behold how, notwithstanding such an 
announcement, mankind hath strayed from its path 
and shut itself from its glory.

Say: O ye lovers of the One true God! Strive, 
that ye may truly recognize and know Him, and observe 
befittingly His precepts. This is a Revelation, under 
which, if a man shed for its sake one drop of blood, 
myriads of oceans will be his recompense. Take heed, 
O friends, that ye forfeit not so inestimable a benefit, 
or disregard its transcendent station. Consider the 
multitude of lives that have been, and are still being, 
sacrificed in a world deluded by a mere phantom which 
the vain imaginations of its peoples have conceived. 
Render thanks unto God, inasmuch as ye have attained 
unto your heart's Desire, and been united to Him Who 
is the Promise of all nations. Guard ye, with the aid 
of the one true God—exalted be His glory—the integrity 
of the station which ye have attained, and cleave to 
that which shall promote His Cause. He verily, 
enjoineth on you what is right and conducive to the 
exaltation of man's station. Glorified be the All-Merciful, 
the Revealer of this wondrous Tablet. (2)

THIS IS the Day in which God's most excellent 
favors have been poured out upon men, the Day 
in which His most mighty grace hath been infused 
into all created things. It is incumbent upon all the 
peoples of the world to reconcile their differences, 
and, with perfect unity and peace, abide beneath the 
shadow of the Tree of His care and loving-kindness. 
It behoveth them to cleave to whatsoever will, in this 
Day, be conducive to the exaltation of their stations, 
and to the promotion of their best interests. Happy 
are those whom the all-glorious Pen was moved to 
remember, and blessed are those men whose names, 
by virtue of Our inscrutable decree, We have preferred 
to conceal.

Beseech ye the one true God to grant that all men 
may be graciously assisted to fulfil that which is 
acceptable in Our sight. Soon will the present-day 
order be rolled up, and a new one spread out in its 
stead. Verily, thy Lord speaketh the truth, and is the 
Knower of things unseen. (3)

THIS IS the day whereon the Ocean of God's 
mercy hath been manifested unto men, the Day 
in which the Day Star of His lovingkindness hath shed 
its radiance upon them, the Day in which the clouds 
of His bountiful favor have overshadowed the whole 
of mankind. Now is the time to cheer and refresh 
the downcast through the invigorating breeze of love 
and fellowship, and the living waters of friendliness 
and charity.

They who are the beloved of God, in whatever 
place they gather and whomsoever they may meet, 
must evince, in their attitude towards God, and in 
the manner of their celebration of His praise and glory, 
such humility and submissiveness that every 
atom of the dust beneath their feet may attest the 
depth of their devotion. The conversation carried 
by these holy souls should be informed with such power 
that these same atoms of dust will be thrilled by its 
influence. They should conduct themselves in such 
manner that the earth upon which they tread may 
ever be allowed to address them such words as these: 
'I am to be preferred above you. For witness, how 
patient I am in bearing the burden which the husband­ 
man layeth upon me. I am the instrument that con­ 
tinually imparteth unto all beings the blessings with 
which He Who is the Source of all grace hath entrusted 
me. Notwithstanding the honor conferred upon me, 
and the unnumbered evidences of my wealth—a wealth 
that supplanteth the needs of all creation—behold the 
measure of my humility, witness with what absolute 
submissiveness I allow myself to be trodden beneath 
the feet of man....'

Show forbearance and benevolence and love to one 
another. Should any one among you be incapable of 
grasping a certain truth, or be striving to comprehend 
it, show forth, when conversing with him, a spirit of 
extreme kindliness and good will. Help him to see 
and recognize the truth, without esteeming yourself to be, 
in the least, superior to him, or to be possessed of 
greater endowments.

The whole duty of man in this Day is to attain that 
share of the flood of grace which God poureth forth 
upon men. Let none, therefore, consider the largeness 
or smallness of the receptacle. The portion of some 
might lie in the palm of a man's hand, the portion of 
others might fill a cup, and of others even a gallon­ 
measure.

Every eye, in this Day, should seek what will best 
promote the Cause of God. He, Who is the Eternal 
Truth, beareth Me witness! Nothing whatever can, in 
this Day, inflict a greater harm upon this Cause than 
dissension and strife, contention, estrangement 
and apathy, among the loved ones of God. Flee 
them, through the power of God and His sovereign aid, 
and strive ye to knit together the hearts of men, in His 
Name, the Unifier, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Beseech ye the one true God to grant that ye may 
taste the savor of such deeds as are performed in His 
path, and partake of the sweetness of such humility 
and submissiveness as are shown for His sake. Forget 
your own selves, and turn your eyes towards your 
neighbor. Bend your energies to whatever may foster 
the education of men. Nothing is, or can ever be, 
hidden from God. If ye follow in His way, His incal­ 
culable and imperishable blessings will be showered 
upon you. This is the luminous Tablet, whose verses 
have streamed from the moving Pen of Him Who is 
the Lord of all worlds. Ponder it in your hearts, and 
be ye of them that observe its precepts. (4)

(1) Gleanings From the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh p. 3-5
(2) P. 5-6
(3) P. 6-7
(4) P. 7-9
"Rejoice Announce Attainment Difficult Important Goal"

Message from the Hands of the Cause
Resident in the Holy Land

Rejoice announce attainment (of) difficult, important goal (of) Guardian's World Crusade through removal, after lapse (of) over one hundred years (of the) remains (of) Mirzâ Buzurg, father (of) Bahá'u'lláh, and loving, befitting reinterment (with) Bahá'i burial (in) ground (in the) vicinity (of the) Most Great House (i.e.,) Baghdad. Share (message) (with) Hands (and) national assemblies.

—HANDSFaITH

Haifa, October 9, 1959

Pilgrim's Gifts to World Center

The U.S. National Spiritual Assembly calls the attention of the friends of the following request received from the Hands of the Faith in Haifa:

"At the beginning of the season of pilgrimages, the Hands residing in the Holy Land wish to request the friends who will visit the Sacred Shrines, and the believers generally, to refrain from bringing or sending food or other gifts for the World Center. No shortages exist in Israel, and we feel the friends can better express their loving thoughts through contributions to the all-important work of the Ten-Year Plan so dear to the heart of our beloved Guardian."

Bahá'í International Community Status
With United Nations Defined

In order to clarify the Bahá'í position internationally with the United Nations, the friends are asked to take note of the following information:

In connection with the United Nations the Bahá'í International Community represents the national spiritual assemblies all over the world. In order to have a clear differentiation from the International Bahá'í Council in Haifa, the branch of the work with the United Nations is called Bahá'í International Community. Some reports have appeared lately in the Bahá'í News listing us as the International Bahá'í Community, and this makes for confusion with the Council in Haifa. The friends are asked to be sure to use the name "Bahá'í International Community" when speaking of our international relationship with the United Nations.

The Bahá'í International Community is accredited to the United Nations' Office of Public Information. We have a permanent international observer who attends briefing sessions at the UN Headquarters in New York and other functions called for non-governmental organizations. When conferences of non-governmental organizations are called, each of these organizations, including the Bahá'í International Community, can send delegates.

Some Bahá'ís have asked why it is that sometimes we refer to our "observers" and at other times to our "delegates." We have both international and national observers at the United Nations. To conferences of non-governmental organizations in which our "Community" is invited to participate, we send the number of delegates allowed. These delegates may or may not include our permanent observers, depending on where the conference is being held.

As an accredited organization, we can also send observers to audit any conference given by the United Nations, but in this case they are there merely for the purpose of observing the proceedings and not participating in the discussions. This is the procedure we used at Addis Ababa when the United Nations called a conference of government officials to consider the economic development of Africa. In this case, we could not, of course, have delegates since they were all government officials, but we could send observers to the meeting. The friends have read the report of the results in Bahá'í News.

The United Nations is a very complicated structure, and we realize that it is not easy to understand our relationship to it. Therefore, this explanation is given so that the friends of the future can understand the reports submitted from different parts of the world.

—Malded Montazeri, Accredited Representative to United Nations for the Bahá'í International Community

Central America NSA Heralds Reign of "New and Powerful Spirit" in Area

So great was the unity and spirit that reigned at our Ninth Annual Convention, that a new and powerful life-giving spirit now reigns in our Territory. So powerful is the wonderful spirit generated at our Annual Convention that more than twenty native believers have become pioneers to serve in their native countries or in other countries of the territory.

The determination of the delegates and others attending the Convention was so firm and definite, that their solemn promise was "never to rest, never to fail" until all goals given by our Beloved Guardian in the Ten-Year Plan of the World Crusade be accomplished; until each of the twenty-four existing local assemblies in our territory be duly consolidated and function vigorously as Divine Institutions; until the five..."
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Sr. Else Cazcarra, Auxiliary Board member, during her visit to the Vilakollo, Bolivia, Indian community in July 1959.

local assemblies (four in Honduras, one in Nicaragua) be established; until the Local and National Funds be truly maintained, and until the seven national spiritual assemblies be simultaneously established in each of the seven countries in Central America.

This is the new and powerful spirit that reigns in our territory, and this is the spirit which moves our new National Spiritual Assembly of Central America, Mexico, and Panama. This is the greatest encouragement that we can send to all our dear brothers in other territories of the Bahá'í World Community, and most especially to the World Center of our Beloved Faith.

—NOTICIAS BAHA'IS

Alexandria, Egypt, Attains Crusade Goal with Purchase of Haziratu'l-Quds

At the dawn of an August morning in 1868, Nabil, author of The Dawn-Breakers, in a little prison cell situated on a rocky shore of Alexandria contiguous to the lighthouse that guided the ships to the harbor, uttered his morning prayer, supplicating for assistance in the unique mission of guiding the people to the haven of the world order of Bahá'u'lláh.

The beacon light on shore nestled miraculously on an Austrian Lloyd steamer anchoring in the harbor within the sight of the inmates of the prison cell, including Nabil. On board this very ship was the Blessed Beauty, accompanied by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, members of the family, and about four score of the faithful followers. They were bound, by order of the Sultan of Turkey and the Khalif of Islám, northward to the penal colony of 'Akka. Within this spiritual nebulae about ninety years ago, the nucleus of a Bahá'í community started emerging in Alexandria.

The pivot around which Bahá'í activities revolve being a Haziratu'l-Quds, the friends in Alexandria started contributions about a year ago to acquire a property as a Bahá'í endowment, thus achieving a goal under the Ten-Year Plan and at long last getting rid of the arduous task of renting premises for the usual Bahá'í meetings. Through the confirmation of Bahá'u'lláh and the guiding force of the beloved Guardian, this subsidiary goal has been realized. The preliminary contract for the acquisition of a building to serve as the Haziratu'l-Quds was drawn up and signed on July 31, 1959.

—BAHI BUSHERI

First International Youth Summer School Attracts 800 Students From Many Countries

The first International Bahá'í Youth Summer School, a significant development in youth activities, was held in Echternach, Luxembourg, on August 1 to 11, 1959.

Over eighty youth participated, representing many countries of Europe and many languages. A difficulty arose in the time-consuming translations of the talks and discussions into German, English, and French, and the necessity for a universal language became more than ever evident.

Special gratitude was expressed to Dr. Hermann Grossmann, Hand of the Cause, who conducted the discussions at all the sessions.

Speakers, besides Dr. Grossmann, included Dr. Boborg Hemmati (Germany), Earl Pickens (Sweden), Günther Haug (Austria), Sigrid Bauer (Germany), Ian Semple (England), Fernand Radar (Belgium), Rohsan Ghadimi (Belgium), Jerry Bagley (Italy), René Steiner (Germany), M. Pickens (Sweden), Lisa Becker (Germany), Ursula Kohler (Austria), and Paul Adams (Spitzbergen).

The subjects included an examination of the materialism of our age, the need for religion, the United Nations, and prayer. Talks on the Bahá'í Faith embraced the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, the Universal House of Justice, the Guardianship, the Hands of the Cause, and the Auxiliary Boards.

Hand of the Cause Dr. Hermann Grossmann (center) with youth attending the first International Bahá'í Youth Summer School in Echternach, Luxembourg.
NOT FAR from the heart of Port Vila, administration center of the New Hebrides group, a new Bahá'í property stands in a commanding, elevated position on the crest of one of the small hills which form a backdrop to the ranging, tropical township of Port Vila, and overlooking both the town and its picturesque harbor.

November 1958 saw the fulfillment of the dreams and vision of one of Bahá'u'lláh's Knights and pioneers, a dream inspired at the outset of the Ten-Year Crusade and followed untiringly during five years of selfless service, in the completion of the Bahá'í School building at Port Vila, New Hebrides.

One of the first of its kind in the southern Pacific area and, we may confidently hope, the forerunner of many similar institutions throughout the globe as the Light of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation diffuses its regenerating influence, this school building, inspired by the loving encouragement of the beloved Guardian, nurtured by his constant guidance and prayers during its nascent years, was set in motion by his recognition in his last Ridván message to the Bahá'í world, of the Núr School of Port Vila, as an additional goal achievement of the Ten-Year Crusade. As with so many of the achievements of our Faith, this school owes its entire being to the penetrating foresight, to the wisdom and guidance, to the sacrifice of beloved Shoghi Effendi.

Plans advanced by the Asian Teaching Committee of the National Assembly of Australia and a generously supported appeal for funds in October 1957, resulted in the purchase of the Bahá'í property in March 1958, and the erection since of the building, to serve a dual purpose as Bahá'í School and Hazíratu'l Quds, as well as residence for the pioneer, Mrs. Bertha Dobbins.

The new building, a prefabricated steel-frame structure with asbestos cement walls, was shipped from Australia last June, and its erection commenced on June 29, three New Hebridean and two Australian believers sharing in the privilege of its initial construction. Soon offers of assistance were pouring in from many local residents, whose respect and admiration for the pioneer has engendered a comparable respect for the Faith and its ideals. Technical advice and needed tools were readily forthcoming, and at every turn the normal problems met in such a task, though amplified by the isolation of the islands, seemed to dissolve under the pervading atmosphere of guidance; truly God does "assist all those who arise to serve Him."

Many have shared in the fulfilment of this project, from the initial donation which stirred the idea, to the final cleaning up by the school children themselves. Now completed, the school building stands as silent testimony to the loving efforts and sacrifice of many. By no means the least of these have been the efforts of the New Hebridean believers themselves, aware as they are of the tremendous impetus the new building will be to their own teaching activities, and of its import and significance in the spiritual history of these islands. Truly the work of the building has been largely a New Hebridean contribution and a responsibility and privilege which the native believers, them-
Light to the New Hebrides

Starting work on the Nur School.

But the story of this school goes back beyond this—back to the early days of the Ten-Year Crusade. First of the Australian pioneers to enter her goal and among the first group to leave Australia for the Pacific islands under the Crusade, this Knight of Bahá'u'lláh spent many months in settling in, months with their joys and difficulties, until, lead by that Divine Hand Whose guidance has been felt by all pioneers, she was generously offered the lease of a small cottage by a local Chinese merchant, Chung Yuen (Wu Yut), whose daughter, Wu Yut Sim, later became the first Chinese youth believer in New Hebrides.

The home immediately became "Nur Cottage," and the venue for an increasing number of seekers and enquirers, particularly amongst the native peoples of Port Vila and from the far flung islands of the group. So widely did this new Message become known in these early days as to set a pattern of growth peculiar to this group, and which surely will have far-reaching effects in future years. Of the nineteen believers in New Hebrides, only ten, including youth believers, reside in or near Port Vila. Others, coming to Vila from the outer islands of this 400-mile-long group, have learned of Bahá'u'lláh's Message, been warmed by His Love, embraced His Faith, and then returned to their home islands, each to spread further the glad tidings. Some of these live on Aneityam, southernmost island of the group whose language translation is an ac-
accomplished goal of the Ten-Year Crusade; others on Erromanga and Futuna, also islands south of Vila. Other seekers have carried the Teachings to northern islands, where a second language translation, Tongan, has recently been completed, an addition to Crusade goals.

Children came too, attracted by the spiritual warmth that radiated from this humble cottage. And from this, in small groups of native and Chinese youngsters, wishing to learn English and eager for education of any kind, has grown Nur School, or the Baha'i School as it is now widely known in Port Vila.

Of this school, the Guardian in his Convention message, Ridván 1957, said: "... the founding of the Baha'i schools in the New Hebrides Islands, in Mentawai Island and in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands... proclaim, in no uncertain terms, the splendid initiative and the dynamic power of the faith of the bearers of the Gospel of the New Day..."

At the close of last year when Mrs. Dobbins, relieved at her post by Bill Washington, returned home to Australia after four years for a long-needed and overdue rest and to attend the Intercontinental Conference in Sydney, the school had grown to an enrollment of thirty-two pupils and is now recognized as a school by the local government authorities.

Long before the new building was projected, and increasingly since, the school had been firmly established in the minds of the local people and in the hearts of those whom it directly serves. It is an achievement of which Baha'is can be justly proud, an achievement of human devotion and effort, and of human trust and love in return; an achievement which our beloved Guardian referred to in his last Convention Message and has spoken of in glowing and enthusiastic terms to pilgrims.

The school has played a major role in establishing the Faith here in the New Hebrides, and the respect and admiration which it has drawn from the local residents is, of course, reflected to a large extent on the Faith itself. Even those inclined, in their spiritual blindness, to oppose the claims of our Faith, cannot but recognize what it has achieved in this school and respect its sincerity of purpose and the devotion with which it inspires its adherents.

Comprising mainly New Hebridean children, drawn from three villages near Port Vila, a few Chinese, New Zealand, and Australian children, the school embraces ages from five to fifteen years. The advanced class of six students will this year commence on their final matriculation course—one of five years that will take them to university entrance standard. The ages of this class range from twelve to fifteen years, somewhat older than would be found normally in other schools.

But this is by no means a 'normal' school. The achievement of the children and their much-loved teacher can perhaps be more readily assessed, when one bears in mind that they are being educated in a foreign language, English, a tongue whose words four years ago might have been counted on the fingers, just those few expressions that may have been picked up in this bi-lingual (French-English) island. And yet, in these few years, the children have mastered sufficiently the English language to catch up on several years of lost education; even now their conversation while at play is largely in their own native language, while their English lessons are spoken only with that extra effort of thought demanded by a newly-learned tongue.

Apart from providing an excellent teaching medium for the Faith itself to both parents and children—the school's curriculum embraces a standard of education aimed to correspond with Australian department examinations. It has shown the native peoples the vast gulf existing between the education of the outside world and that education to date available in the islands. Its influence can be gauged by recent moves in nearby villages and other islands of the group to establish their own government schools. The crying need of the people here is for education, and with the recognition of this need, the native peoples are awakening to their own tremendous potential.

Many recognize that Port Vila has awakened from its habitual, tropical sleepiness, but very few as yet dimly suspect the real cause, that tremendous force of Baha'u'llah's Revelation, liberated in these islands by the devotion and untiring service of the pioneer, under that vast spiritual crusade of our dearly beloved Guardian.

—Asian Teaching Committee
of N.S.A. of Australia
Over 130 Guests Attend Public Meeting
Sponsored by Seoul, Korea, Bahá'ís

The Bahá'ís of Seoul, Korea, recently held their largest, and possibly most successful, public meeting. Scheduled on July 11 at the Korean Government's Central Information Center auditorium, the meeting attracted over 130 guests, many of whom had to stand.

Dr. David Earl, who was in Korea from Tokyo on an eight week teaching assignment for the University of Maryland, was the principal speaker. His talk, entitled “The Coming World Civilization,” attracted wide interest by newspaper stories and advertisements. Notice of the address was also posted on numerous government bulletin boards in the city. The press, business, government, and education was represented in the audience. (Only one woman, a Bahá'í, was present.)

After the hour-long lecture, with interpretation, more than sixty persons remained for a lengthy question and answer period. Underestimating the crowd, the Bahá'ís brought an insufficient amount of literature which was immediately snapped up.

Use of the auditorium located in the Information Center in downtown Seoul was promised to the Local Assembly chairman “anytime you need it in the future” by the chief of the Information Center.

Honolulu Assembly Distributes Bahá'í Books to Isolated Coast Guard Ships in Pacific

An excellent opportunity to distribute Bahá'í books to isolated Coast Guard installations in the Pacific Ocean has been reported by the Library Committee of the Honolulu, Hawaii, Local Spiritual Assembly.

Through Commander Anthony Flatt, Commandant of the area, and Captain Reynolds, Personnel Officer, the Honolulu Bahá'ís learned that there are twenty-six loran stations in the Pacific, each with a crew of from twelve to sixteen men, and that they are hungry for reading material. In addition there are ten major Coast Guard ships whose crews would also be happy to accept books.

As a result of this information, the Honolulu Bahá'ís are donating to each of the loran stations a copy of Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era and Great Themes of Life. To the ten major ships they are sending Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era and Prescription for Living.

The tour of duty for the men at the loran stations is from twelve to eighteen months. By making Bahá'í books available as a permanent part of their libraries, it will be possible to bring the Faith to the attention of many individuals.

Extensive Publicity, Well-Attended Meetings Attained for Board Member's Los Angeles Visit

Excellent press coverage and well-attended meetings resulted from the preparations made by the Teaching Committee of the Los Angeles Local Spiritual Assembly for a visit to Los Angeles, Calif., by Auxiliary Board member Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh on August 3 and 4. Five members of the Los Angeles Bahá'í community and two from Beverly Hills participated with Mrs. Mottahedeh in a lively press conference the first morning, in which she discussed both the Bahá'í Faith and her activities as a Bahá'í observer and member of the executive committee of the Non-Governmental Organizations accredited to the United Nations.

On the first evening Mrs. Mottahedeh spoke to more than 150 Bahá'ís in the Los Angeles Bahá'í Center about the teaching activities in various parts of the world, including the homefront. On the following evening, August 4, she addressed a gathering of 174 individuals (74 of them non-Bahá'ís) on “World Search for a Common Denominator.” Great interest was shown by the entire audience. The library committee had literature on display, as well as for free distribution and for sale, and lists of firesides in the Los Angeles area were distributed to those wishing further information about the Faith.

Two Bahá'í Summer Schools Are Held in Greater Antilles

Left: First National Conference and Summer School held at Havana, Cuba, from July 29 to August 1, 1959. Right: Santiago, Dominican Republic, Summer School, held from July 31, to August 2, 1959.
South Pacific Area
Moves Ahead in the
World Crusade

Resolute Pioneer Establishes New Solomon Islands Group

It was not long after Collis Featherstone, Hand of the Cause, visited the Solomons, that Hamuel from Hau Hui came to the Center to hear more about the teachings of Bahá’u’lláh. He was interested right from the start, and we gave him literature to take back with him. Later we wrote how much he enjoyed it and was interested in becoming a Bahá’í. He came once more to Honiara and we gave him the fundamental verities of the Faith and The Bahá’í Community to read. He later signed his card and wrote of others wanting to become Bahá’ís. John Mills visited Hau Hui for a day and spent more time with him. Hamuel expressed the great need for sustained teaching work.

The neighboring area of Su’u had also been contacted by Hamuel, as he is a government dresser and has a wide area to cover. Many of the people of Su’u are called heathens, not belonging to any church and holding native customs. These people have written in and sent two representatives, Hohanemae and Michael, asking that a school be opened and a teacher sent, and that they were willing to give some land for this (it is difficult to give land in the Solomons as many of a line have to give consent to the government).

On June 25 I left Honiara and arrived in Auki, Malaita, the following day and was met by John Mills and Laurie Lake, who were about to complete building the bakery and theater. Auki is the government center where Ruhangis and John are going to live as soon as they find accommodations. The next day, John arranged for a native cutter boat to take us up the coast to Hau Hui, about eight hours by sea. It appeared that we arrived at the same time as the District Commissioner and the agricultural officer Hamuel, who owns the land on which the village of Hau Hui is built, was quite busy. As practically the whole village is of the South Seas Evangelical Mission Church, we thought of a good idea to teach the women and those interested, some cooking and baking as well as talking about the Faith. An outstanding member of that community, Mr. Jabin, expressed to John the wish to know more about cake baking, as he has a little bakery in his home and the only stove in the village. I came prepared with flour, sugar, etc.

They offered me the little guest Leaf House to stop in during my stay. Hamuel said that his daughter would be my companion while there. She is a lovely, young, accomplished girl, who completed a study course in midwifery and first aid, and was a great comfort to me while there. They have a charming village, a little dispensary and a house for maternity care. The river runs through the center of the village and the water is piped from the mountain stream. The grass growing so neatly, the people busy with their gardens, give this village an air of progress, much above the average village in the Solomons. This is in no small part due to our Bahá’í brother Hamuel.

In the morning we baked scones and cakes, and that evening Hamuel and family and Lazurus came to the guest house and we had a talk on the Faith. The following evening was the Feast, and I arranged for a chicken dinner to be held at the Hamuel home. This was nicely prepared by Mrs. Hamuel and daughters. Hamuel’s large family, neighbors, and friends came and later we spoke about the Faith. Hamuel translating into the Are Are language. The next day three came to Hamuel and said they wished to become Bahá’ís. For nearly two days we continued teaching the Faith. The last morning, Friday, nine lovely souls came into the Bahá’í family, including Hohanemae from Su’u.

It is wonderful to know that Ruhangis and John will be established in Malaita, making it much more accessible to visit this community and to strengthen them in the Faith. Hamuel has expressed a wish to give a portion of his land to have a Bahá’í school built. In the Su’u district they also want a school, but think that now with a community in Hau Hui, this would be the better place and the Su’u people could send their children to that school.

Before leaving I instructed them in the formation of a Bahá’í group by electing a chairman, secretary, and treasurer. Hamuel also spoke to me about the need for erecting a Ḥázíratu’l-Quds, as his home, which has a store in it, is a busy house and at the Nineteen-Day Feasts it would be hard to keep out the non-Bahá’ís. I encouraged him in this and gave a donation of £5.0.0.

We will have to send them Feast readings, and they want a simplified study course, a dictionary, and material for children classes. Since my return home and consultation with the Island Teaching Committee, we have sent them children’s books (The Deum-Breakers, A B C Book, Song Book, Child’s Prayer Book) Hidden Words, a picture of the Master, the Greatest Name, a Bahá’í calendar, a dictionary, Bahá’í World Faith. Bill Lang is sending them Feast readings for the next four Feasts.

Transportation and mail is a problem here. We ar-
IARX'I NEWS

range to have the mail sent to Bonani, a large plantation about two hours away from Hau Hui, where the chief of the village sends a messenger by foot to Hau Hui. Harmel is expecting to have an engine built for his ship by the people of Hau Hui, facilitating his getting around.

—Gertrude Blum

Left: Hazrat-i-Quds of Tuarabu, Abaiang. This is the house built for Roy and Elena Fernie, and given by Elena, upon her departure, to the Local Spiritual Assembly of Tuarabu. Right: The Translating Committee of Betio, Tarawa. This community translates into Gilbertese. Below: Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Betio, Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, formed on April 21, 1955.

Gilbert and Ellice Island Pioneers Establish Schools, Centers

IN NOVEMBER 1953 Roy and Elena Fernie of Panama Canal Zone answered the call for pioneers in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands and embarked on their long journey across the Pacific Ocean, arriving at their post on March 5, 1954. (See Bahá'í News, June 1954.) The island of Abaiang was selected to be their home, and within four weeks plans were begun for establishing a non-denominational school on the same property leased for the building of their home.

Although they did not teach the Faith openly at first, the kindness, justice, courtesy, and love which these pioneers showed for their fellow men attracted the people of the island, and they were able to teach a few. It was a momentous occasion indeed when, in June 1954, Peter Kanare became the first native Bahá'í.

By September there was a staff of nine young men who, desiring to become teachers, worked and studied in order to attain their goal, building a permanent house for the Fernies as well as a school building. But by this time opposition and difficulties beset them, and they were finally forced to vacate this property, find another, and move the unfinished buildings. In June 1955 Peter was banished to another island as a result of these difficulties. On the day he was to leave a representative group of natives of the village of Tuarabu, deeply moved by the example of this believer, came to the Fernie home at three o'clock in the morning, stating that the entire village wanted to be Bahá'ís.

Now the teaching of the Faith was no longer suppressed, and Roy and Elena had eager audiences wherever they went. In September 1955 three hundred people on Abaiang gave their names to the government, stating they were Bahá'ís.

However, the difficulties were not ended. In November 1955 Roy Fernie was deported to Honolulu, and Elena remained alone several months, endeavoring to satisfy the spiritual hunger of the Gilbertese people. Every effort was made by the Asia Teaching Committee of Central America to find assistance, but now the Guardian sent word that no one else was to go to the Gilbert Islands for the time being.

In April 1956 the Faith was established in ten villages, three of them (Tuarabu, Tebero, and Kuria) having local spiritual assemblies. Although the government did not recognize Bahá'í marriage, a young couple, after having a civil ceremony, celebrated a Bahá'í ceremony which made a great impression on both Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís. Already the Local Spiritual Assembly of Tuarabu, Abaiang, had been registered with the government under "The Religious Bodies Registration Ordinance," and the Education Department of the Colonial Government had approved Elena and two native Bahá'ís as teachers for a village school, the first non-denominational school on Abaiang.

By this time the Guardian said someone could now go to the Gilberts to assist Mrs. Fernie. Mrs. Frances Hel- ler from the United States answered the call, receiving a glorious reception from the natives on her arrival on February 8, 1957. She picked up the work begun by the Fernies and carried on teaching, confirming, and consolidation until she became ill and was hospitalized for...
some weeks. Although her health did not permit her to return to Abaiang, Mrs. Heller remained on the island of Tarawa until another could come to take her place, and by doing so was able to establish the first local spiritual assembly in the village of Betio on Rídván 1958.

Upon her retirement from her position in the Panama Canal Zone in June 1958, Miss Mabel Sneider, who had served on the Asia Teaching Committee of Central America and had been greatly interested in the progress of the Faith in the Pacific goals, set out for the Gilberts, arriving in October. She and Mrs. Heller soon decided that if the Faith were to be taken to all of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, it was important to establish pioneer headquarters on the island of Tarawa. In cooperation with the wishes of the government, the village of Bikenibeu was chosen, since it is the site of a secondary school for boys and a teacher training college, as well as the future location for a secondary school for girls. In this village also is the colony hospital where nurses are trained and later go to the various islands.

The Ḥazíratū'l-Quds was completed in April 1959, a small native-type of Gilbertese house. The pioneer's house of prefabricated metal, shipped from England, will soon be erected. In the village of Betio, Tarawa, a small guest house for pioneers and visiting Bahá'ís is being built, to be followed soon by the local Ḥazíratū'l-Quds. The Faith is being registered in the entire Gilbert and Ellice Colony under the "Religious Bodies Registration Ordinance," and as soon as an island has fifty adult believers and a local assembly it may also be registered.

There being no transportation available, none of the delegates from the Gilberts could be present at the formation of the first Regional Spiritual Assembly of the South Pacific, therefore they voted by absentee ballots. Joe Russell, however, who was enroute to the Gilberts from the United States, was able to attend and bring a report of the convention when he arrived on May 8, 1959.

Two summer schools are to be held the latter part of 1959—one on the island of Betio and the other on Abaiang. Every encouragement is being given the native believers to arise to carry the Faith to all the twenty-five islands in the group, and thus to reap the benefit and glory of being the future pioneers.

—Regional Spiritual Assembly of the South Pacific

University of Chattanooga to Include Faith in Comparative Religions Course

The Bahá'í Faith will be taught at the University of Chattanooga in Tennessee this year as a part of the course on Comparative Religions.

This came about through the efforts of two members of the local group, Thomas L. Thompson and Stuart Bruce Duboff, who prepared for the instructor of this course a typed report, several pages in length, setting forth the vital statistics of the Faith. The focus of this report was entirely upon the reasons why the Bahá'í Faith needs to be viewed as a religion rather than a sect. No attempt was made to persuade the reader of the Faith's truth; in fact, anything of a subjective nature was scrupulously avoided.

This report was presented personally to Joe Elkins, instructor of the Comparative Religion course, with the explanation that since the Bahá'í Faith is a growing concern, both numerically and geographically, the local Bahá'í group felt a responsibility to acquaint him with its facts and its status, so that he would be able to answer accurately and completely any questions which might be put to him by his students.

The instructor's first reaction was to be impressed that such a full report had been prepared especially for him. Then, after reading the paper, he himself volunteered the information that Bahá'ís deserves inclusion in a comparative religion course, that he plans to incorporate it in his own curriculum this year, and to devote two or three days to it at the end of the current semester. He stated, too, that he would appreciate a member of the Chattanooga Bahá'í Group's appearance as a speaker to his class.

—Anne Brien
Burma Elects First National Assembly

These photographs of the first annual convention of the Bahá'ís of Burma give an unusual graphic report of the formation of a new national assembly, to become another pillar in the Administrative Order of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh.

Top left: U. Ba Sein, newly-elected chairman of the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Burma, reads instructions from the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land.

Top right: Hand of the Cause, Tarázú'lláh Samandari seated with delegates to the convention. In the second row, center, is I. K. B. Bakhtiar, member of the Asian Auxiliary Board.

Center: Newly-declared Bahá'ís attending the convention.

Bottom left: The first fireside held at Moulmein, Burma, in July 1958 at the home of pioneer Keith De Foe (at right), one of the preparatory steps leading to the formation of the National Assembly.

Bottom right: The Burma Convention in session. The blackboard lists the results of the election of the National Spiritual Assembly.
First Benelux Summer School Addressed
by Hand of the Cause Paul Haney

On July 25, 1959, about thirty friends from Holland, Belgium, and France poured into little, friendly, medieval Vianden in the northeast section of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, where they were welcomed by the Luxembourg believers, among them a recently arrived Persian family, to attend the First Benelux Summer School.

After going to their assigned rooms or putting up their tents, all gathered for dinner in the large dining room of the Hotel Victor Hugo. After dinner all went to the school near the hotel, which the city council had graciously permitted us to use. The auditorium was on the third floor, but nobody seemed to mind climbing the stairs, as this quiet location with a beautiful view of the countryside and the skies contributed much to the atmosphere of the summer school.

The chairman of the Benelux Summer School Committee, Miss Suzette Hipp, welcomed the friends, expressing the hope that this school would bring inspiration, unity, and rededication to fulfill the goals ahead. Thereupon Louis Henuzet, member of the Auxiliary Board, brought us the greetings of the Hands of the Cause, who in spirit are always with us, whereas Paul Haney would come in person at the end of the school. Dr. Grossmann, Hand of the Cause from Germany, sent his special good wishes. Greetings from the European Teaching Committee, assuring us that their loving thoughts and prayers would be constantly with us, were read and a committee was immediately appointed to send a cable to the Hands of the Cause in Haifa, and a letter to the European Teaching Committee.

The program of the summer school had as its overall theme “Rededication,” starting with the spiritual prerequisites and ending with the goals ahead. The punctuality and also the large attendance of all, and the untiring interest shown was probably due to the long free afternoons, which provided ample opportunity to get together for a quiet talk, for a swim, to hike or to ride.

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It was a happy crowd of believers who spent such beautiful inspiring days together, and their thoughts often went to the friends at home who could not share this joy and happiness. Nevertheless, by the end of the week the number of believers reached sixty plus ten children, among them two large Persian families from Nice and a Persian family of three who decided to settle in Luxembourg. One of the outstanding characteristics of this first Benelux summer school was indeed the attendance and participation of so many of the Persian friends which contributed so much to the success of the school and brought a better understanding and greater unity between the East and the West.

Actually all the friends contributed to its success, whether taking care of the physical arrangement, as speaker or translators.

Courses Offer Rich Spiritual Fare

Here is a brief outline of the program. Sunday: “Why and How to Pray.” Mr. Ghadimi gave an excellent introduction explaining this “conversation with God,” stressing especially the “listening part.” Honor Kemp­ton followed with a beautiful selection of quotations from the Holy Writings. In the evening session the consultation was continued, and questions on “Christian Subjects” answered.

Monday: “Why and how to deepen our knowledge of the Teachings” was introduced by Arnold van Ogtrop in French and English. “The Seven Valleys” was discussed in the evening by Dr. Kamran, who explained the history and various teachings of the Sufi, how and why Bahá’u’lláh wrote this work to their highest chief. Then Dr. Kamran pointed out the vehicles, conditions, and characteristics of this first Benelux summer school was indeed the attendance and participation of so many of the Persian friends which contributed so much to the success of the school and brought a better understanding and greater unity between the East and the West.

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Tuesday: “Being a Bahá’í” was introduced by Dr. Hans Teufel’s German translation of the chapter “Spiritual Prequisites” of The Advent of Divine Justice. As German was not one of the official languages he translated it into French, had it properly reviewed, and printed. Part of the Dutch translation was also available and the rest will follow soon, so that our countries will have the benefit of having these precious and important pages in their own language. After Dr. Teufel’s introduction based on these pages, Mrs. Genie Sijsling pointed out the many difficulties one experiences in trying to be a real Bahá’í. Genie gave in simple language, which went straight to the heart, a deeply spiritual talk on the practical side of being a Bahá’í, really a heart-rendering example of “walking the spiritual path with practical feet.” In the evening we had the joy of listening to Mr. Samli, who told stories from the lives of the Founders and heroes of our Faith. Many felt that these first two days could not be surpassed, but the following were indeed just as rich.

Wednesday: “A Bahá’í amongst Bahá’ís” was introduced by Amelia Bowman giving us the signs of immaturity and the way they could be changed into mature habits and attitudes so that we can become real unifiers. Jan Sijsling thereupon explained more in detail the activities of every believer in the Administration.

In the evening Dr. Teufel gave a short talk on the
Bahá'í Faith in German, and Mr. Nys showed slides from Persia, the Shrines, and the Bahá'í Temple in Wilmette. The public was invited, and thirty posters were distributed by the Bureau d'Initiative but none could be discovered hanging, and those we put up at the school had disappeared the next morning.

Thursday: "Rededication" was the theme. Mrs. Marion Little opened this session by speaking on service, the source of spiritual growth and of joy and happiness. The progress of the Faith depends on sacrifice. Its history shows always this pattern: crisis, suffering, victories. Mrs. Amelia Bowman then showed us a visual picture of the development of our Faith: slowly in the beginning but with ever-increasing speed and extension so that now we have thirty-one national spiritual assemblies. In the three remaining years however, thirty new national assemblies, of which eleven are in Europe, must be established. These can only be built with devotion and sacrifice, sacrifice of self in order that we may become divine instruments. Honor Kempton gave a few thrilling examples of sacrifice of the Holy Family and of our beloved Guardian.

In the evening Paul Haney, Hand of the Cause of God, and his wife Margery Haney were heartily and gratefully welcomed. After a beautiful greeting to the assembled friends by Mr. Haney, the program of "Questions and Answers" started, in which Mr. Haney was kind enough to take a valuable part.

Friday: "The Global Crusade" was discussed by Louis Henuzet, who gave a short review of the previous program centered on the individual. Now we had come to the second phase: "The Divine Plan." Mr. Henuzet explained its origin and development up until today, explaining the institutions established by Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and Shoghi Effendi, and calling for the spirit of sacrifice of Badašt to fulfill the last and vital goals.

This intensely interesting morning was followed by the Feast of Perfection, and indeed it was a perfect evening, arranged by the Dutch community. Over sixty friends shared this deeply spiritual experience. Prayers and readings were said in French, Dutch, English, and German, and chanted in Persian. Mr. Haney addressed us during the administrative part and the Dutch friends were hosts at the social part of the Feast.

Paul Haney Speaks of Guardian

Saturday "Shoghi Effendi, the first Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith," was the theme. Mr. Haney brought our beloved Guardian still closer to us. Contemporaries cannot understand his station, therefore we should turn to what 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote about the Guardian, not what the Guardian wrote about himself. Many people think that the Guardian just prayed and the spirit flowed easily through him. No, all his work demanded sacrifice. He indeed gave his life! Why the Guardian was taken from us will remain a mystery, but for him we know that it was a blessed release from the overpowering burden he carried. The essence of Faith is to believe that the Guardian did not leave the world one moment sooner than God willed.

"The Institutions of the Hands of the Cause and the Auxiliary Board" was explained by Louis Henuzet, who showed clearly how the Guardian had given us all the instruments to protect the Cause and to guide us to fulfill the Global Crusade.

On Saturday evening Mr. Haney and Mr. Henuzet continued to answer questions, one of which was asked three times during the summer school, namely, the Codification of the Aqdas. This means, said Mr. Haney, the collection of all writings pertaining to the Aqdas, not just one volume, and then the assembling of them. Furthermore, he stressed that we should be satisfied in the West with the laws we are asked to obey and not to seek more information from the Persian friends. The Persians, on the other hand, should not try to impose upon the Western believers the laws of the Aqdas which only they are obliged to obey. We should check our curiosity and put all our energy into obeying those laws and ordinances the Guardian said we could and should obey.

With hearts full of thankfulness for this wonderful week of prayer, study, consultation, and being together, and strengthened by the abundant love and unity we experienced, we bade farewell to Paul and Margery Haney. The school was closed that same Saturday evening, wholeheartedly confirming the words addressed to the Hands of the Cause in Haifa: "Grateful for presence of Hand of the Cause Paul Haney. Sixty friends at Benelux Summer School recognizing urgency of tasks, pledge rededication for fulfillment of the Crusade. Supplicate your prayers at the Holy Shrines."

—RITA VAN SOMBEKE

Bahá'í Burial Ground Purchased in Western Samoa

Purchase of six plots in the non-denominational government cemetery as a Bahá'í burial ground has been reported by the Local Spiritual Assembly of Apia, Western Samoa. This is the maximum area allowed to each family, and all that could be afforded at the moment.
Formation of Whitehorse Local Assembly
Climaxes 43 Years' Teaching in Yukon

On April 21, 1959, the first local spiritual assembly of Canada's Yukon Territory, a World Crusade virgin goal, was formed by joint declaration in Whitehorse, the Territory's capital city.

In the summer of 1918, the very year 'Abdu'l-Baha revealed the first of His two historic Tablets of the Divine Plan to “the believers of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful in . . . the Dominion of Canada,” which specifically mentioned the Yukon as a place where “the believers of God must become self-sacrificing and like unto the candles of guidance become ignited in the provinces of Canada,” Mrs. Susan Rice travelled all alone to the Yukon and Alaska, leaving believers and interested inquirers at Fairbanks in Alaska and at Whitehorse and Dawson in the Yukon (Star of the West, Vol. VII, p. 162).

Three years later Mrs. Emogene Hoagg, responding to the same Tablets as well as to a cablegram of confirmation from 'Abdu'l-Baha, sailed from San Francisco with Miss Marian Jack for Alaska and the Yukon. They reached St. Michael at the mouth of the Yukon River on July 26, 1919, and continued by riverboat to Fairbanks, Dawson, and Whitehorse, actively teaching at many places (The Bahá’í World, Vol. X, p. 522).

A fourth early pioneer Bahá’í teacher in the Yukon was Orcella Rexford, who in the summer of 1922 entered the Territory from the south along the gold rush trail of 1898, gave talks on the Faith to her fellow-passengers aboard one of the old stern-wheeler riverboats, lectured to 550 people at the gold-rush capital of Dawson, and received many fine articles about the Faith in the Dawson Daily News. Writing in The Bahá’í World, Vol. IX, p. 919, she told of meeting many people who recalled having heard of the Message through Mrs. Hoagg and Miss Jack, but was disappointed not to find any who had embraced the Faith, “owing to the fact that these teachers could not remain long enough to deepen the consciousness of their listeners,” and added hopefully, “but some day others will follow in the footsteps of the pioneers, and nurture these seeds sown through love and sacrifice.”

First Pioneer Settlers Arrive

Many Bahá’í travellers to and from Alaska no doubt sowed further seeds in the Yukon over the years since 1922, but it was not until September 23, 1953, that the first World Crusade pioneer settlers arrived in the Yukon. At that time Ted and Joanie Anderson came from Chicago, his health being poor and employment opportunities being very limited. They prayed for many hours during those first few days, and within a week found a home and a job. After the first long, cold, and