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In Memoriam

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Therefore, do the lovers of the Abhá Beauty wish for no other recompense but to reach that station where they may gaze upon Him in the Realm of Glory, and they walk no other path save over desert sands of longing for those exalted heights.

(Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, pp.183-184)

THESE SOULS have recently passed on to the Abhá Kingdom. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers. We send our sincerest sympathy to those families and friends who have been bereaved.

Lina Smithson, Santiago

Lina Smithson, who has died aged 89, heard of the Faith in Chile's southernmost city, Punta Arenas, to which Shoghi Effendi had given special importance. In 1945 she became its first believer. For 24 years Lina was an active member of the Croydon Bahá'í community in London and served on its Assembly. In 1989, she returned to Chile to live close to her family. She remained active till the end of her life, was a keen reader of the Bahá'í Journal and was happy to participate in study circles shortly before her passing.

Ian Menzies, Woldingham

Ian Menzies was an enthusiastic young man who spent his working life tending plants. After hearing of the Faith, he quickly recognised Bahá'u'lláh and declared in July 1995. Soon after becoming a Bahá'í, Ian was diagnosed as having cancer of the tongue, which, despite a number of operations, spread to his throat. He worked for a number of garden centres in southern England and would have loved to serve in the gardens in Haifa. It was not to be. He passed away peacefully in hospital on September 22 at the age of 34. Ian had an extraordinarily radiant soul and faced his illness with incredible strength and an inspiring attitude. Despite hardly being able to speak, his community were always moved by the devotion with which he read aloud the writings and prayers at Feast.

April Cahill, Coventry

April Cahill heard about the Bahá'í Faith at work and was given a book to find out more. She put it on a shelf intending to read it one day. One Christmas, a number of her bookshelves came off the wall and every book ended up on the floor or on its side except one, which was the Bahá'í book she had been given. She took this as a sign and read it quickly. She registered in April 1992. April had great enthusiasm and drive but her life was very challenging as she had to care for her husband and her son, both of whom had problems. Nevertheless she was keen to support any gathering which brought religions closer together and built strong bonds with the Quakers. She tragically drowned while on holiday in Wales.

Shamsolmoluk Alae, Eastbourne

Mrs Shamsi Alae was born in Kashan in 1921 to a Muslim father and Bahá'í mother. She pioneered to Ahvaz in the south of Iran after her marriage, but later returned to Teheran. Mrs Alae loved to serve the friends. One of her tasks was to serve refreshments for Iranian pilgrims when they met for a briefing before heading for Haifa. She was also a member of the Remembrance Committee organising meetings to commemorate the early heroes of the Faith. At the 1970 convocation she travelled in Eastbourne with her sister, Aline, and

faith. After the 1979 revolution, she settled in Eastbourne with her sister. A kind and hospitable soul, she continued to enjoy hosting the Feast and steadfastly remained at her pioneer post, despite ill health, when a move closer to family in London could have made her life easier. More than 50 of her non-Bahá'í friends were among the mourners at her funeral. As a result of her passing, Eastbourne has been able to acquire cemetery land for other believers in the future.

Khodarahm Payman, Indonesia

Mr Khodarahm Payman and his wife were pioneers to Indonesia in the years prior to the Ten Year Crusade. His many decades of outstanding service to the Faith included membership of the Continental Board of Counsellors for South East Asia, Trustee of the Continental Fund and deputy member of the Regional Board of Huqúqu'lláh. The Universal House of Justice has requested memorial services to be held in his honour in Indonesia and at the New Delhi House of Worship.

Jamileh Ma'ani-Hessari, Randalstown

Mrs Ma'ani-Hessari was born in 'Akká in the House of Abbud, during the ministry of Shoghi Effendi. She came from a distinguished Bahá'í family – her great-grandfather was a martyr in Baghdad having been among the original band of followers who left Persia with Bahá'u'lláh. Jamileh was given her name by the Greatest Holy Leaf. She returned to Iran during the years of the Second World War at Shoghi Effendi's request. There, she married and had six children. The family arrived in the United Kingdom in 1977 and pioneered to Cornwall. As she got older, Mrs Ma'ani-Hessari reluctantly left her pioneer post to join her family in Northern Ireland. She was an outstanding personality who will be remembered for her devotion to the Faith, her humility and her firmness in the Covenant.

Mr Djahangir Momtazi, Barnet

Mr Momtazi's father attained the presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1920 at the age of 24 and published an account of his pilgrimage. The whole family including Djahangir were among the first pioneers to Japan. Mr Momtazi worked as a financial advisor for Bank Melli in Iran and later formed a bank in partnership with some other colleagues. He and his family settled in Stevenage after the Iranian revolution in 1979. His last years were spent in Barnet where he served on the Spiritual Assembly for a number of years.

William Quick, Poole

William Quick, who has died at the age of 84, declared three years ago after a long friendship with his Bahá'í neighbours Michael and Sally Tempest. His poor health and small pension prevented him from attending too many events but he never failed to make his sacrificial contribution to the Fund on the first day of every month. He will be remembered as a kind, humble and gentle man.

Pamela Simmons, Isle of Wight

Pamela Simmons, who has died suddenly in Lake, Isle of Wight, became a Bahá'í in Surrey through her friendship with Edgar and Pearl Boyett. She moved to the Isle of Wight eight years ago with her husband. Pamela was a keen cyclist and dancer.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

PASSING OF JOHN REEVE

Belatedly but heartfelt, I wish to thank everyone who sent loving tributes to my beloved John, and for your prayers and condolences to the family.

I would also like to thank all those who sent donations to the National Spiritual Assembly and the Tierra Santa Orphanage at BASED-UK.

He would have been so happy that so many of you were able to come to the funeral and memorial to say “au revoir”. Apologies for being so late in saying thank you, we send our love to you all.

Warmest Bahá'í love.

