

The Published Works of the Guardian

IN THE published works of Shoghi Effendi Bahá'ís find fulfilment of their relationship to the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh. The Guardian has clarified the nature and functions of the institutions established in the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, given us new and deeper understanding of the Three Great Figures of the Faith, illumined the meaning and purpose of the individual Bahá'í life, explained the relationship of the Bahá'í Community to the earth-shaking events of our time, supplied the authentic history of the Faith down to 1944, and initiated the great national and international teaching projects which release the spiritual potency generated in the Master's Divine Plan.

Assimilation of the Guardian's successive messages is indispensable to every Bahá'í. It would be well to check the following list with the contents of your own Bahá'í library.

1. *Bahá'í Administration*. This volume represents the Guardian's letters addressed to the National Assembly and the American Bahá'í community from January 21, 1922 until July 17, 1932, the period which witnessed the development of local and National Assemblies, the Annual Convention, and the local and national Committees. Adherence to the principles expounded in this volume assures a well-ordered and progressive community.

2. *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*. This work consists of the seven extensive communications written by the Guardian between February 27, 1929 and March 11, 1936 entitled *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh: Further Considerations*, *The Goal of a New World Order*, *The Golden Age of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh, America and the Most Great Peace*, *The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh*, and *The Unfolding of World Civilization*. In this work we can realize the significance of the Master's Testament, the ultimate purpose of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, the failure of nationalistic civilizations, sectarian cultures and competitive economics, the spiritual mystery of the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and the role of North America in the evolution of peace.

3. *The Advent of Divine Justice*. This work, addressed to the Bahá'ís of the United States and Canada in the form of a letter dated December 25, 1938, is a supreme challenge to the individual Bahá'í and the entire Bahá'í community to consecrate themselves to the task of consolidating the community and teaching the Faith. It is a potent source of inspiration for achieving the goals of the Divine Plan.

4. *The Promised Day Is Come*. March 28, 1941 is the date of this work addressed to the Bahá'ís throughout the West. The Guardian relates the failure of the nations and peoples to their rejection and persecution of the Báb, of Bahá'u'lláh and of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. "To the general character, the implications and features of this world commonwealth, destined to emerge, sooner or later, out of the carnage, agony and havoc of this great world convulsion, I have already referred in my previous communications. Suffice it to say that this consummation will, by its very nature, be a gradual process, and must, as Bahá'u'lláh has Himself anticipated, lead at first to the establishment of that Lesser Peace which the nations of the earth, as yet unconscious of His Revelation and yet unwittingly enforcing the general principles which He has enunciated, will themselves establish. This momentous and historic step . . . will bring in its wake the spiritualization of the masses, consequent to the recognition of the character, and the acknowledgment of the claims, of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. . . ."

5. *Messages to America*. In this work is reprinted the letters and cables from the Guardian, published successively in *Bahá'í News*, received in America from December 30, 1939 to December 3, 1946. Among these messages are those which deal with the first and second Seven Year Plans, the completion of the Temple exterior ornamentation, and preparations for the Centennial Convention of 1944. Among them also are the powerful statements entitled "Bahá'u'lláh's Spiritual Sovereignty," "Chaos and Redemption," "The Crucible of World Conflagration," "Turningpoint in Bahá'í History," and "A God-Given Mandate."

6. *God Passes By*. Written as the Guardian's unique contribution to the Centenary of the Declaration of the Báb, *God Passes By* re-creates for us the actual scenes and events of the first hundred years of the Bahá'í Dispensation. We witness the declaration of the Báb to His first disciple, His imprisonment and martyrdom, the fate of the heroic dawn-breakers, the imprisonment and exile of Bahá'u'lláh, His revelation of books and tablets, the role of the Center of the Covenant and His journeys to Egypt, Europe and America, and the rise of the Bahá'í community throughout the world. To know this history is to live within the God-created world of reality.

7. *The Bahá'í World, Vol. XII, 1950-54*. The section entitled "Important Messages from Shoghi Effendi" (pp. 337-378), contains the Guardian's World Crusade letters giving the origin and purpose of the present Ten Year Plan, the formation of the International Bahá'í Council, appointment of the Hands of the Cause of God, and other vital messages beginning with the message to the U. S. National Bahá'í Convention in 1950. Up to the present time this is the only work containing these messages.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS
OF THE UNITED STATES.

BC# 600

"I AM MOVED TO PLEAD, AT THIS ELEVENTH HOUR"
By SHOGHI EFFENDI

"Bahá'í
Wilmette

"The gravity of the emergency facing the North American believers is unprecedented since the initiation of the Divine Plan and unparalleled in the history of the American Bahá'í Community since 'Abdu'l-Bahá's passing. No obstacle is insuperable, no sacrifice too great for attainment of supremely important objective. The eyes of her sister communities in every continent of the globe and of her daughter communities of Latin America, handicapped by a variety of adverse circumstances, are fixed upon the community of followers of Bahá'u'lláh in North American continent who are enjoying the blessings of internal peace, adequate resources, administrative experience and organizing ability for their Divinely-appointed mission, expecting them to arise and avert the reverse which would mar the splendor of their record of unexampled stewardship. I am moved to plead, at this eleventh hour, that the rank and file of the community, particularly the members resident in long-established leading strongholds of the Faith -- New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington -- issue forth unhesitatingly, determinedly, sacrifice every interest, assume positions in the forefront of the struggle and emulate in the course of the first decade of second Bahá'í Century, opening years of the second epoch of Formative Age of the Faith, exploits of their spiritual progenitors the dawn-breakers of the Heroic Age which immortalized the dawn of the first Bahá'í Century. The immediate fortunes of the Plan are precariously hanging in the balance. The three months interval is swiftly running out. My heart aches at contemplation of the possibility of failure of the stalwart community to rise to the heights of the occasion. I refuse to believe that its members, invested with unique Apostolic Mission by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, will shrink from meeting the most challenging requirement of the present hour."

"SHOGHI"

"Cablegram received February 1, 1948."

Received in Los Angeles February 3rd, 1948

BC# 601

THE FORCES MYSTERICUSLY RELEASED

ARE INCONCEIVABLY POTENT

Cablegram from Shoghi Effendi

The opening year of the second Seven Year Plan so auspiciously inaugurated is half spent. The entire American Baha'i Community, galvanized through fuller perception of the progressive unfoldment of its glorious destiny, is geared to a higher speed of organized activity, and uplifted to a new level of collective achievement. The forces mysteriously released, designed to direct the operation and stimulate the processes to insure the consummation of the second stage of the Divine Plan, are inconceivably potent. Full, rapid use of these forces, by an organized community alive to the sublimity of its mission, is imperative. The manifold agencies, local, regional, national and intercontinental, directly responsible for prosecution of the Plan are now called upon to achieve, in their respective spheres, ere termination of this current year, successes so conspicuous as shall immeasurably fortify hopes of winning, within the stimulated time, a total, decisive victory. An immediate notable increase in the number of pioneers, particularly for the newly-opened transatlantic field of service, is the supreme necessity of this challenging hour. The present trickle must at all costs swell into a steady flow of consecrated settlers and itinerant teachers, who, mindful of the Master's poignant plea, careless of their limited resources, undismayed by the somber international outlook, undeterred by the formidable character of the tasks undertaken or by the obstacles to be surmounted, will, in both the administrative and teaching spheres, arise to accomplish feats outshining the exploits immortalizing the record of American Baha'i stewardship in both continents of the New World since the inception of 'Abdu'l-Baha's Divine Plan. May the months immediately ahead be productive of results exceeding my fondest expectations.

SHOGHI

Haifa, Palestine
October 7, 1946

BC# 602

"An Enterprise Transcending Any National Institution"

A Message from the Guardian to all Believers

Announce (to) believers, through all National Assemblies, termination initial stage (of) construction (of) domed structure designed (to) embellish (and) preserve (the) Báb's sepulchre (on) Mount Carmel.

(The) two-year enterprise launched (on the) eve (of the) gravest turmoil rocking (the) Holy Land (in) modern times, involving (the) expenditure (of a) quarter (of a) million dollars, necessitating (the) transportation (and) placing (of) almost eight hundred tons (of) stone (and) marble mosaic, (was) consummated (on the) eve (of the) Centenary (of) His martyrdom. (My) soul (is) thrilled (in) contemplation (of the) rising edifice, (the) beauty (of) its design, (the) majesty (of its) proportions, (the) loveliness (of its) surroundings, (the) historic associations (of the) site it occupies, (the) sacredness (of the) Sanctuary it envelops, (the) transcendent holiness (of the) Treasure it enshrines.

My gratitude (is) deepened (by the) miraculous recovery (of) its gifted architect, Sutherland Maxwell, (whose) illness (was) pronounced hopeless (by) physicians. (I) acknowledge (the) valuable service rendered (by) Ugo Giachery, through (his) supervision (of the) work (of) shipment (of) consignments (to) Haifa.

(The) hour (is) ripe (to) undertake (the) preliminaries (for the) erection (of the) octagonal first unit (of the) superstructure, another milestone (in the) process set (in) motion sixty years ago (by) Bahá'u'lláh's visit (to) Mount Carmel. This process which gathered momentum through (the) transportation (of) His Holiness, (the) Báb's remains (to the) Holy Land after fifty years' concealment, through (the) erection (of the) sanctuary (by) 'Abdu'l-Bahá (in the) darkest years (of His) Ministry, through (the) entombment (of the) remains by Him (on the) morrow (of His) forty year incarceration, through (the) commencement (of the) construction (of the) arcade (on the) fortieth anniversary (of the) interment (of the) Holy Dust, through (the) termination (of the) parapet (on the) eve (of the) Centenary (of the) Báb's martyrdom, must be accelerated through (the) erection (of the) dome, attaining consummation through (the) emergence (of the) institutions (of the) world administrative center (of the) Faith (in the) vicinity (of) its world spiritual Center, signaling (the) sailing (of the) Divine Ark (on) God's Mountain, prophesied (in the) Tablet (of) Carmel.

(I) appeal (to) entire body (of) believers (to) seize (this) priceless opportunity (to) stimulate (the) unfolding (of) this process through generous, sustained contributions (for the) furtherance (of an) enterprise transcending any national institution whether Ḥazíra or Mashriqu'l-'Adhikár, reared (in the) past or (in) process (of) construction. (The) hour (is) propitious, particularly during (the) three year interval separating (the) Centennials (of the) Báb's martyrdom (and the) birth (of) Bahá'u'lláh's Mission, coinciding (with the) hundredth anniversary (of the) greatest holocaust (in the) history (of the) Faith, (to) repay

BC#603A

part (of the) infinite debt (of) gratitude owed its martyrs, through hastening (the) conclusion (of the) holiest enterprise since (the) dawn (of the) Revelation, interwoven (with the) ministries (of) Bahá'u'lláh, (and) 'Abdu'l-Bahá, linking (the) Heroic (and) Formative Ages (of the) Bahá'í Dispensation, cementing (the) ties binding (the) communities (of the) East (and) West (with the) World Center (of the) Faith (and) shedding imperishable lustre (on the) first (and) second centuries (of the) Bahá'í Era, which posterity will hail (as the) most befitting tribute (to the) One Who made (the) most precious sacrifice (for the) sake (of the) most sublime Faith (in) mankind's spiritual history.

(signed) SHOGHI

Haifa, Israel

July 7, 1950

The following cable was sent to the Guardian on July 8 in acknowledgment of his message: "National Assembly inspired, thrilled (by) your announcement and description (of) historic completion first stage construction (of) Holy Shrine (of the) Báb. Overjoyed, grateful (for) opportunity (given) all believers (to) contribute to further work on Báb's Shrine. Sharing your cable all National Assemblies as you instructed. Setting up Fund for Báb's Shrine with initial contribution (of) one thousand dollars from National Fund. Devoted love."

The friends are informed that contributions which they wish to make for the Shrine of the Báb should be sent to the National Bahá'í Fund and earmarked for the Shrine of the Báb.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

BC # 603 B-

"BAHA'I QUARTERLY" - Published by the NSA of the Baha'is of
Australia and New Zealand - page 7, No. 29, Oct. 1943.

LETTERS TO AND FROM THE GUARDIAN

In 1937 the practice of individual Baha'is writing to the Guardian and the confusion resulting therefrom made it necessary for the whole subject to be placed before the believers for their sympathetic consideration. A full statement, which we are glad to report was understood and observed by many of the friends, was published in Baha'i Quarterly No. 5, dated October 1937. This deals chiefly with why and when individuals should or may avail themselves of the privilege of writing personal letters to the Guardian. Space can not be spared to quote the letter, but for the benefit of new members who may not possess Quarterly No. 5, we would ask Assemblies to arrange for it to be brought to the notice of the friends at a nineteen day feast, together with this letter, which deals with another aspect of the same subject. The difficulty, which amounts to nothing short of a problem, seems to hinge on inability to grasp the plain fact that the Guardian's answers to personal letters are messages to them as individual Baha'is and carry no authority for regarding them as instructions to any other person, group or community.. In "Baha'i Procedure" 2nd edition 1942, page 12, is the statement "Whenever he (the Guardian) has something of importance to say, he invariably communicates it to the National Spiritual Assembly or in his general letters. His personal letters to individual friends are only for their personal benefit."

However, owing to frequent apparent failure to understand this instruction, the misconceptions arising became too serious to ignore, and the N.S.A. decided to refer the matter direct to the Guardian, in order to be able to place before the Australian and New Zealand friends his own answer to them. In his reply the Guardian, through his secretary, states; "Concerning individual Baha'is letters to the Guardian and his replies, the friends are free to write to the Guardian when they feel the urge to do so. However, for the believers to suppose that the Guardian's letters to them, however full of loving encouragement they may be, give them any special power or authority to go against or ignore the wishes of their local or national assembly, is to grossly misinterpret their true meaning. The Guardian has been at great pains to build up the Administrative Order, and teach the friends how to use it. How could he possibly himself act in such a way as to ignore or belittle the functions of these bodies? He often encourages believers to work, to teach, to pursue some plan they propose in their letters to him, but this does not mean a veto of the assembly's rights, or that the individual thus becomes free to ignore its authority. He trusts this will make the matter quite clear to the friends."

We have to thank the Guardian for this explicit direction which admits of no ambiguity, and which, it is hoped, will put an end to any further misconceptions as to the relationship of believers to the Guardian and to their Assemblies.

The N.S.A. feels that if all believers, in future, would confer with their assemblies about their plans and ideas for the furtherance of our beloved Faith, seeking their advice, cooperation and approval first, they could then write to the Guardian, if they so desired, with a glad spirit, in full assurance of his support and prayers for the success of their efforts. Such action would tend to minimise misunderstandings and help to make the unity we profess with our lips a living reality in our lives. Let no one be deterred by false modesty from offering service of any kind, and, on the other hand, let no servant of Baha'u'llah be 'puffed up with his own conceit', endeavoring to go his or her own way regardless of the guidance and support of the assembly. It must, moreover be remembered, that the N.S.A. is the appointed and authorized body responsible for and having jurisdiction over all Baha'is' activities in Australia and New Zealand. Should any Assembly, committee or individual fail to recognise this jurisdiction the N.S.A. cannot evade the responsibility but must under such circumstances, (which God forbid) assert its authority and require co-operative action on the part of the defaulter.

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The sympathetic understanding, the loving encouragement so generously bestowed by the Guardian on all workers for and supporters of the Faith we share with him, reinforced by the prayers and supplications he unfailingly offers on our behalf, should inspire us all to purify our motives, renew our zeal, and dedicate ourselves afresh to the tasks confronting us in these dark days. At no time in humanity's collective history has the prospect been so gloomy, the devastation so widespread and the need for the truths we uncompromisingly stand for been so insistent. The great issues confronting us are more than sufficient to occupy all our energies at this time. Let us not dissipate them nor minimise our efforts by any attitude which would tend to hinder unified action on the part of every Baha'i. While our numbers are so few and the work we are able to accomplish so inadequate, we must at all costs adhere to the principles which are the root and basis of the Administrative Order Shoghi Effendi has so painstakingly and so clearly set out for our guidance.

National Spiritual Assembly
(of Australia and New Zealand)

BC # 604 B -

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BC# 605 A

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National Spiritual Assembly
(of Australia and New Zealand)

BC #605 B-

Excerpt from a letter from Shoghi Effendi, to Seymour Weinberg
(S. Weinberg's statement appeared in the Nov. 1944 World
Order Magazine - in the section "With Our Readers,")

"The world which lies ahead of us after this war is going to be in a terrible condition, and if the believers are going to accomplish their duty and present the Divine solution to mankind, they must prepare themselves for the great tasks that lie ahead. This particularly applies to Baha'i Youth. Young men and women in the Faith must be deep and thoughtful scholars of its teachings, so that they can teach in a way that will convince people that all the problems facing them have a remedy. They must grasp the Administration so that they can wisely and efficiently administer the ever-growing affairs of the Cause; and they must exemplify the Baha'i way of living. All this is not easy... but the Guardian is always encouraged to see the spirit animating such young believers as yourself. He has high hopes of what your generation will accomplish."

Haifa, May 12, 1944

BC# 606

August 11, 1950

To the Regional Teaching Committees of the Western States
From - National Teaching Committee of the Western States
715 North Hollywood Street,
Los Angeles, 5, California.

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Let February, at the Conference Institute attended by members of all the Area National Teaching Committees, a letter was prepared and sent to the Guardian, to which he has replied under date of July 17th. Since his letter concerns our teaching work, and since the Regionals are the arms and hands of the National Teaching Committee, the members of our Committee lovingly share this message with you:

"Members of the National Area Teaching Committee

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your letter of February 27 was received and our beloved Guardian has instructed us to answer you on his behalf.

We are very sorry not to have replied before, but the dangerous illness of Dr. Maxwell and the work on the Holy Shrine have held up his correspondence.

We hope that your Committee will meet with greater success during the coming months. The completion of the first stage of the superstructure of the Holy Shrine, now offering a challenge and an inspiration to the Bahá'ís the world over; the completion of the Temple Interior, soon to be accomplished, the imminent launching of the two Latin American National Houses; the wonderful progress made in the ten goal countries - all these, combined with the very dark political aspect of world affairs must stimulate the believers in America to unite and push forward as one soul the work of our glorious Faith.

We feel you should do your utmost to call the attention of the friends to those large things, and real triumphs, and away from their personal differences and petty preoccupations. Now is certainly not the time for any man to think of himself, or busy himself with the weaknesses of his brothers; but rather, each and every Bahá'í must concentrate on the tasks ahead and be re-born in the service of Bahá'u'lláh.

With Bahá'í love,

(Signed) A. Rabbani.

(In the Guardian's own handwriting)

Dear co-workers:

I was so pleased to receive your letter and am deeply touched by the sentiments you have expressed. I wish to assure you that I will pray for the success of your high endeavours from the depths of my heart, that the beloved may guide your steps, and enable you to lend a great impetus to the onward march of our beloved Faith.

Your true brother, (signed) Shoghi. "

82200

Copied for the Regional Committees

8/11/50

James Harbert, Secretary,
National Teaching Committee for the Western States.

BC# 607

Bert Randall

COPY of TABLET addressed to SHOGHI RABBANI, October 1921
in reply to a Report about the Manchester Friends.

In the Name of God!

O Sincere Servant of the Blessed Beauty!

Your detailed letter has been received, and has been the cause of the utmost joy and gladness. Praise be to God! The loved ones are all astir and active, but prudence is necessary. You have rent the veil too widely asunder. Explain to the loved ones that the rending of the veil to such an extent will be the cause of great agitation, and the harm thereof will reach to the Holy Land. Great caution is necessary. Discourses in churches and great public gatherings are in no wise permitted as in this place enemies, within and without, are lying in wait and are bent on aggression. Prudence requires that activity should, for the present, be concealed, and carried on with the utmost moderation. Convey to the loved ones, one and all, on my behalf, the greatest longing, love and kindness. Give a spiritual message from me to Mr. Healds and say unto him: "Peruse the Gospel, how His Holiness Christ - may my life be a sacrifice to Him - says, 'Conceal it, that the pharisees may not be informed thereof.' Now the same condition prevails."

This matter is of the greatest importance. On no account let them contribute articles to the newspapers, and so long as they are not sure of any soul, let them breathe no word to him. Consider how the Freemasons have for two hundred years carried on their work, and unto this day they have not openly declared it to any soul. Not until they find a hearing ear will they speak. The loved ones too must proceed with the greatest prudence, lest serious difficulties be created. If any one should travel to the Holy Land, he must on no account declare to anyone by the way that his purpose is to visit us. The loved ones must, in the presence of strangers, speak forth simply the TEACHINGS of the Blessed Beauty and mention no word of their BELIEF concerning Him. Should anyone enquire, "what is your belief regarding the Blessed Beauty?" Let them answer: "We regard Him as the foremost teacher and educator of these later ages and Abdul Baha as the Centre of His Covenant."

BC#608

COPY.

On envelope: Mrs Helen Robinson, 1039 N. Warren St., Helena, Montana;
Re-addressed to Las Vegas, Nevada, c/o Western Union.

"Dear Bahá'í Sister:

"August 18th, 1941.

"The Guardian has instructed me to answer your letter to him of March 24, which just arrived.

"Regarding your question concerning Joseph Smith and the 'Book of Mormon'; as the Bahá'í Teachings quite clearly outline the succession of Prophets from the days of Christ as being Muhammad, the Báb, and finally Bahá'u'lláh, it is obvious that Joseph Smith is not a Manifestation of God.

"The Bahá'ís should deal with the members of all religious sects, however, with the greatest tolerance and friendliness, and try to point out to them the significance of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh to the world in this great Day. The Guardian would advise you to teach the Mormons, like everyone else, the Faith, when you find them receptive. They have many good principles, and their teachings regarding chastity, not drinking or smoking, etc. are quite similar to ours, and should form a point of common interest.

"Assuring you of the Guardian's prayers for your work in the Cause, and with loving Bahá'í greetings,

"Yours in His service,
(signed) "R. Rabbani"

"May [redacted] the Almighty bless you richly in the efforts you are so devotedly & steadfastly exerting for a better understanding of the Faith, & a more effective promotion of its interests

"Your true brother,

(signed) "Shoghi"

Copy, W.P.H. [redacted]. The End.

BC # 609

Haifa. May. 17-- 1929

My Dear Bahai Brother.

I am directed by the Guardian to thank you for your letter, and to express his pleasure over the fact that you have been able to attend the convention in Chicago. He sincerely hopes that this years convention will carry us all a great step forward and that it will create in the hearts of all the friends a new spirit of the vitality, immensity and importance of the Message of Baha'u'llah.

Shoghi Effendi was much interested in your dream, which shows remarkable spiritual insight. He was very glad to learn that your dear son was well again and that our friend Mr. Hatch was able to go with you to Chicago.

He wishes you please to assure your wife and her mother of his prayer and good wishes, with a good big share to yourself.

Sincerely in His service.
Shih Afnan.

With the assurance of my best wishes for yourself and ^{of} my prayers in your behalf.

Your True brother.

Shoghi.

*I am Mr. Duckett
his servant
this copy of the
answer to the
letter to the
Holy Land written
to Shoghi Effendi on
the train and
mailed in Evanston,
W.P.A.*

BCH# 610

32
Copy of letter received from Shoghi Effendi, dated Haifa, July 7, 1944, by Annie S. Romer, and transcribed by her in Halifax, N. S., August 28, 1944. NOTE: The letter referred to (dated May 30) was written at the request of several people gathered at Margery McCormick's, in Winnetka, at the time of the Centenary, and is in no sense a personal matter.

Haifa, July 7, 1944.

Dear Baha'i Sisters:

Your letter dated May 30th has been received, and the Guardian has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

He was very happy to hear from you, and takes this opportunity to assure you that he has deeply appreciated your teaching work, so faithfully and tirelessly carried on during these last years of the Seven Year Plan.

Regarding your question about the need for a greater unity among the friends, there is no doubt that this is so, and the Guardian feels that one of the chief instruments for promoting it is to teach the Baha'is themselves in ~~the~~ ~~the~~ and through precepts, that love of God, and consequently of man, is the essential foundation of every religion, our own included. A greater degree of love will produce a greater unity, because it enables people to bear with each other, to be patient and forgiving. You may be sure that he will remember you in his prayers in the Holy Shrines, and he hopes that your valuable services to the Faith will be spread over an even wider range during these crucial years of human need that must mark the opening of our second Baha'i Century.

With Baha'i Love,

(Signed) R. Rabbani.

In the Guardian's hand:

May the Almighty bless your constant and valued efforts, guide every step you take in the path of service, fulfil every desire you cherish for the promotion of His Faith, and enable you to proclaim its verities far and wide. Your true and grateful brother - Shoghi.

BC # 611A

Copy of a letter written to the Guardian May 30, 1944, at a request of several people at Margery McCormick's, Winnetka, Ill.

Beloved Guardians

Now that the voices chanting the words of God beneath the dome of the House of Worship have ceased, at least apparently, although doubtless they are resounding through the universe, we acknowledge our gratitude to Baha'u'llah for giving us this great blessing. We saw, clearly and unmistakably, the power of the Faith overcoming obstacles and sweeping along in spite of our human frailties and shortcomings.

It is with sincere desire to be more helpful, constructive and successful in the work during the opening year of the second century that we venture to refer to a thought which has been paramount in the minds of several of us during these significant days.

This thought is that the greatest need at the present moment, and the most necessary attribute, seems to be to attain the power on the part of teachers to create and maintain unity in the very diverse groups constituting many of the spiritual assemblies. It has been noted that a few outstanding teachers have been of such large spirit that they were able to quietly draw from the friends their higher reactions and recall them to both themselves and the teachings.

While deeply conscious that our Faith abounds in detailed Teachings for deepening our inner lives and becoming channels for the Holy Spirit— and realizing also that the work is the work of that Holy Spirit and not our work; yet we would like to ask humbly if there is any suggestion or technique, to be learned in order to bring about the result in our groups, or is this capacity to be attained through our own spiritual development to the point where we become channels for that universal spirit. Anything you could find time to give us on this all-important point and universal need would be most gratefully received. The great task which lies ahead of us is just this - to attain the true unity which, as 'Abdu'l Baha said - "Attracts the confirmations."

With gratitude for all the power and strength and guidance which you have so generously bestowed upon us all, and with sincere love to Ruhyyih Khamis and the prayer that all of us may arise now at the beginning of a very fateful hour in history to give to our beloved Faith a selfless and effective service and devotion, which will carry it forward swiftly and securely during the months ahead, I am,

Humbly and devotedly,
and with sincere appreciation,

Faithfully yours,

BC # 611B-

The beloved of the Lord and the hand-maids of the Merciful
throughout the Continent of America:

Dear friends:

I return to the Holy Land with an overpowering sense of the gravity of the spiritual state of the Cause in the world. Much as I deplore the disturbing effect of my forced and repeated withdrawals from the Field of Service, I can unhesitatingly assure you that my last and momentous step was taken with extreme reluctance and only after mature and anxious reflection as to the best way to safeguard the interests of a precious Cause.

My prolonged absence, my utter inaction should not however be solely attributed to certain external manifestations of inharmony, of discontent and disloyalty--however paralyzing their effect has been upon the continuance of my work--but also to my own unworthiness and to my imperfections and frailties.

I venture to request you to join me in yet another prayer, this time more ardent and universal than before, supplicating with one voice the gracious Master to overlook our weaknesses and failings, to make us wobthier and braver children of His own.

Humanity, through suffering and turmoil, is swiftly moving on towards its destiny; if we be loiterers, if we fail to play our part surely others will be called upon to take up our task as ministers to the crying needs of this afflicted world.

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 world-wide 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 Abha 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 Baha'u'llah.

Looking back upon those sullen days of my retirement, bitter with feelings of anxiety and gloom, I can recall with appreciation and gratitude these unmistakable evidences of your affection and steadfast zeal which I have received from time to time, and which have served to relieve in no small measure the burden that weighed so heavily upon my heart.

B# 612A

I can well imagine the degree of uneasiness, nay of affliction, that must have agitated the mind and soul of every loving and loyal servant of the Beloved during these long months of suspense and distressing silence. But I assure you such remarkable solicitude as you have shown for the protection of His Cause, such tenacity of faith and unceasing activity as you have displayed for its promotion cannot but in the end be abundantly rewarded by Abdu'l-Baha, who from His station above is the sure witness of all that you have endured and suffered for Him.

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 centres of activity, upholding and promoting their interests with complete unanimity and contentment, with perfect understanding, genuine enthusiasm, and sustained vigour. This indeed is the ine joy and yearning of my life, for it is the fountain-head from which all future blessings will flow, the broad foundation upon which the security of the Divine Edifice must ultimately rest. May we not hope that now at last the dawn of a brighter day is breaking upon our beloved Cause?

(signed) SHOGHI.

Haifa, September 24, 1924.

This letter was received by the National Spiritual Assembly at 169 Christopher St., New York City, on October 9th., and published for the Baha'is of the United States and Canada.

BC # 612 B-

965 Schumacher Drive,
Los Angeles, 36, Calif.
October 11, 1944

Mr. Willard P. Hatch, Secretary,
Baha'i Spiritual Assembly of Los Angeles,
4367 West 8th Street,
Los Angeles, 5, California.

Dear Mr. Hatch:

A few days ago Mrs. French received the first reports of the Centenary Conventions and celebrations from England and from India and Burma. A little earlier our Committee received the news of the Centenary in Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania.

As I was studying these reports it seemed to me that many of the friends would find them equally inspiring, and would perhaps enjoy them even more now, while we are all still so uplifted by our own recent celebrations, than to wait until Volume X is published.

I asked Mrs. French if there could be any instruction of which I was not aware, that would make it inadvisable to share some of these things with the friends at the Feast. Quite the contrary, Mrs. French believed to be the Guardian's wish - since he is eager for the friends to know more of each other's work.

If the Assembly feels that the friends would be interested in a brief picture of these other Baha'i communities, I should like to try to tell them a little of the pioneer work and the celebrations that have been carried out in these sections of our world-wide Faith, at the coming Feast of Knowledge.

Will you let me know whether or not this suggestion meets with the approval of the Assembly?

With cordial Baha'i greetings to you and the other members of the Assembly.

Sincerely yours,

M. H. Songzgen

BC# 613

Copy of letter received from Shoghi Effendi, dated Haifa, July 7, 1944, by Annie S. Romer, and transcribed by her in Halifax, N. S., August 28, 1944. NOTE: The letter referred to (dated May 30) was written at the request of several people gathered at Margery McCormick's, in Winnetka, at the time of the Centenary, and is in no sense a personal matter.

Haifa, July 7, 1944.

Dear Baha'i Sister:

Your letter dated May 30th has been received, and the Guardian has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

He was very happy to hear from you, and takes this opportunity to assure you that he has deeply appreciated your teaching work, so faithfully and tirelessly carried on during these last years of the Seven Year Plan.

Regarding your question about the need for a greater unity among the friends, there is no doubt that this is so, and the Guardian feels that one of the chief instruments for promoting it is to teach the Baha'is themselves in classes and through precepts, that love of God, and consequently of man, is the essential foundation of every religion, our own included. A greater degree of love will produce a greater unity, because it enables people to bear with each other, to be patient and forgiving. You may be sure that he will remember you in his prayers in the Holy Shrines, and he hopes that your valuable services to the Faith will be spread over an even wider range during these crucial years of human need that must mark the opening of our second Baha'i Century.

With Baha'i Love,

(Signed) R. Rabbani.

In the Guardian's hand:

May the Almighty bless your constant and valued efforts, guide every step you take in the path of service, fulfil every desire you cherish for the promotion of His Faith, and enable you to proclaim its verities far and wide. Your true and grateful brother - Shoghi.

BC# 614 A

Copy of a letter written to the Guardian May 30, 1944, at a request of several people at Margery McCormick's, Winnetka, Ill.

Beloved Guardian:

Now that the voices chanting the words of God beneath the dome of the House of Worship have ceased, at least apparently, although doubtless they are resounding through the universe, we acknowledge our gratitude to Baha'u'llah for giving us this great blessing. We saw, clearly and unmistakably, the power of the Faith overcoming obstacles and sweeping along in spite of our human frailties and shortcomings.

It is with sincere desire to be more helpful, constructive and successful in the work during the opening year of the second century that we venture to refer to a thought which has been paramount in the minds of several of us during these significant days.

This thought is that the greatest need at the present moment, and the most necessary attribute, seems to be to attain the power on the part of teachers to create and maintain unity in the very diverse groups constituting many of the spiritual assemblies. It has been noted that a few outstanding teachers have been of such large spirit that they were able to quietly draw from the friends their higher reactions and recall them to both themselves and the teachings.

While deeply conscious that our Faith abounds in detailed Teachings for deepening our inner lives and becoming channels for the Holy Spirit— and realizing also that the work is the work of that Holy Spirit and not our work; yet we would like to ask humbly if there is any suggestion or technique, to be learned in order to bring about the result in our groups, or is this capacity to be attained through our own spiritual development to the point where we become channels for that universal spirit. Anything you could find time to give us on this all-important point and universal need would be most gratefully received. The great task which lies ahead of us is just this - to attain the true unity which, as 'Abdu'l Baha said - "Attracts the confirmations."

With gratitude for all the power and strength and guidance which you have so generously bestowed upon us all, and with sincere love to Ruhyyih Khanum and the prayer that all of us may arise now at the beginning of a very fateful hour in history to give to our beloved Faith a selfless and effective service and devotion, which will carry it forward swiftly and securely during the months ahead, I am,

Humbly and devotedly,
and with sincere appreciation,

Faithfully yours,

BC# 614 B-

SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHAI'IS
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

556 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois.

April 9, 1947

Mrs Jessa Herbert, Secretary,
Southern California Regional Teaching Committee
5372 Templeton Street,
Los Angeles, 32, California.

Dear Mrs. Herbert:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 5, relative to the request of the Santa Barbara friends for information about the use and meaning of the terms "Allah-u'-Abha, and "Ya-Baha'ul-Abha ."

We are asking the Guardian's permission to publish in Baha'i News a letter he wrote explaining the use of "Allah'u'Abha." It is not used at the end of prayers and the Guardian does not advise its use in public here in the West. "Ya-Baha'u'l-Abha" means the same thing, but is the form of Greatest Name used in the obligatory prayer. It is not like an "Amen."

The "Allah-u-Abha" form is the one used as a greeting in the Orient.

Faithfully yours,

Harace Melley,
Secretary.

BC # 615

copy: of letter received from the Guardian, January 11th, 1950

Mrs. Barbara Dean Davenport
December 20, 1949
Haifa.

Dear Baha'i Sister:

Your welcome letter of November 20, has been received and our beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He is delighted to have you and your husband out there in Japan, and will pray that the way may open for you to remain there for some time to come. You can be of great assistance to the friends there as of support to dear Robert Imagire who has accomplished so much already.

By all means, if there is any danger of your being relieved in the near future of your tour of duty, try to get into some other work and remain out there. The Guardian is very anxious that you should do so, as your presence can be of the greatest help to the Faith there. He hopes that Agnes Alexander can soon arrange to join you.

Regarding your question: The title 'Hidden Words' was given by Baha'u'llah because there is a tradition in Islam, that Fatimah, Muhammads daughter grieved greatly over the Martyrdom of her son, and God sent Gabriel to speak encouraging words to her, These words were 'hidden' only she having heard them, and in these latter days the Promised One has recalled them, thus fulfilling a tradition.

With warmest greetings from the guardian to all the Baha'is there,

P.S.

He urges you to encourage the friends to observe our Baha'i laws and ordinances deepen themselves in the administration, and realize they are followers of a Faith - not a mere movement.

Yours in the Faith.

R.Rabbani.

in the Guardians' own handwriting:

May the Almighty bless and guide you in your meritorious activities, enable you to extend their range, and render memorable services to His Faith and its institutions,

your true brother

(signed) Shoghi

BC # 616

HAIFA
October 25, 1933

Dear Baha'i Sister:

The Guardian wishes me to acknowledge on his behalf the receipt of your welcome letter dated Sept. 9, 1933, as well as the enclosed circular letter you have specially written for distribution among the believers. He hopes that the National Spiritual Assembly will approve of its circulation among the friends and will thereby give you opportunity of impressing them with the paramount importance of the racial problem in the States.

Your letter will, undoubtedly, touch every thoughtful and sincere reader, as it is not only convincing and powerful, but full of inspiration, of hope and encouragement. The Friends must realize that upon the complete abolition of racial prejudice, if not in the entire American Continent, at least among themselves, must depend the success of their efforts for the spread of the Message. Without total unity of consciousness, they can never be able to attain the goal which the Master and our beloved Guardian have so emphatically and so repeatedly summoned them to attain. May your letter awaken them to their manifold obligations and responsibilities to the Cause, and may it serve to create among them that unity of purpose and of means so essential to the safe and speedy development of the Faith.

With the assurance of his best wishes and of his fervent prayers on your behalf and on behalf of Mr. Oglesby.

Yours in His Service,
H. Rabbani

May the Beloved assist you in your efforts to extend the scope of your activities and enable you to attain your heart's desire in your devoted and persistent services to the Abha Threshold,

Your true brother
Shoghi

BC# 617

LETTER FROM THE GUARDIAN TO ADRIENNE ELLIS AND EVA FLACK

Haifa, March 17th, 1943

Dear Baha'i Friends:

Your most welcome letters, one dated Nov. 17th from Adrienne Ellis and the other Nov. 13th, from Eva Flack, arrived safely, as well as the photos. As you are working together as sisters and obviously so close to each other, I am writing you one answer.

He was very pleased indeed to read, some time ago, in the minutes of the National Teaching Committee, which he receives, the report of your determination to arise and teach the Faith in pioneer fields in the South. Since then he has heard from other sources of your visits in various centers, and he greatly values both the work you are doing and the spirit in which you have undertaken it.

All over the world the forces of prejudice are kindled, as if they would burn their brightest in defiance of the new order of oneness of mankind which Baha'u'llah has brought. The Baha'is face a tremendous task but a task in which they know they will be victorious. They must demonstrate among themselves that they have done away with all sense of the false barriers which hitherto have kept men apart; then others will believe them and look to them for guidance. This requires true dedication and effort on the part of both the colored and white believers. They each have much to learn and much to overcome, as you both so dearly (clearly!) realize.

He was delighted to hear that a Spiritual Assembly will be formed in North Carolina this spring, and he hopes all the friends will exert their utmost to make it a nucleus of love, harmony and true Baha'i conduct.

The Cause is so much greater than those comprising it. We must all learn to help each other to become ever more perfected Baha'is in both deed and ~~word~~. He hopes you both will greatly contribute to the life and activities of this new and important community, and do all in your power to create an atmosphere of love and faith amongst the believers.

The Negro Baha'is have much to contribute to the Cause. They are a deeply spiritual people with a great capacity for faith, and possess both patience and loyalty. He is very happy to see the way they are increasingly assuming their share of Baha'i responsibility and rising to dedicate themselves to the Cause of God in this day.

You may be sure he will often remember you both in his prayers at the Holy Shrine, and supplicate for you rich blessings in your new and noble service to the Faith. He will also pray for your relatives to be blessed and guided in every way.

With warm Baha'i love,

R. Rabbani.

(Footnote in the hand-writing of our Beloved Guardian)

Dear and valued Co-workers:

BC# 613A

I am deeply impressed by the spirit which you have mani-

COPY

Haifa
June 19th
1943.

Dear Baha'i sister,

The Guardian has instructed me to answer your letter to him dated May 12th.

He is delighted to hear that your arduous and noble work is at last finished, and that you have been able to obtain the approval of the American Esperanto Academy. This book will no doubt be of great service to the Cause, providing as it does such a unique record of heroism and faith in a language which can reach people in many places where the English version would not be of use.

You must indeed feel proud and grateful over not only your accomplishment of this task, but the wonderful way God hasblessed and assisted your work. The Guardian is delighted at the successful completion of this book.

Although the Guardian is always pleased to have the Western friends learn Persian, he feels that you are so specially fitted for work in Esperanto and with Esperantists, that you should not waste your time in trying to acquire a knowledge of Persian. The Esperantists are, many of them, very close to the Faith in spirit, and he would like you to go on teaching and interesting them in as many ways as you can.

He will pray that your health may be protected and Baha'u'llah strengthen you to render many more valuable services to His Faith. He will also pray for Mrs. Quinlan's complete recovery.

With warm Baha'i love,

R. Rabbani.

Assuring you of my deepfelt appreciation of your manifold services to our beloved Faith, & of my special & fervent prayers for their extension & consolidations,

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi.

BC # 619

Shoghi's Diary Nov. 6-9th. 1920.

When Dr. Esselmont remarked that if the material language was known too it would have been preferable, the Master said that the Arab says! She glanced furtively from fear of her relatives and folks and while she did not speak yet an expression showed in her eyes. Then I ~~XXXXXX~~ was assured that her look spoke O dear friend of mine!

At present the Blessed Beauty has flung all doors open to the face of His friends. He has bestowed upon them a sensation of which other souls are deprived. At a time when everybody is hopeless and in the midst of despondency, the friends are assured and glad. Every instance if a person is brought under a drawn sword, he will doubtless feel agitated and sad but the friends of God under a drawn sword are glad and grateful. Even one of the ~~the~~ believers during the hour preceding his martyrdom declared loudly that His Holiness Christ says that the body is grieving but the soul is glad, but I say that the body is glad and the soul is gladdened. The asker me later on ~~XX~~ how it was possible for this martyr to say that 'My body is glad' when Christ says that His is grieving. How can this be explained? I told them to request its explanation from the missionaries who all in their turn acknowledged their inability and failure to explain it.

I said, consider! The body of His Holiness Christ had a right to be grieving for such a big magnificent soul, Divine in its nature, such as that of Christ was to be separated from such a mortal body. This globe should grieve when such a resplendent light is taken away from it. The soul of Christ is undoubtedly different from a human soul. The martyr's body must be glad and happy for it is freed by the parting of the soul, is detached from this human soul (body). But the Divine gladness has gladdened and stirred the body and soul of this martyr and the body having felt its full effect is gladdened and stirred by it. But on the other hand Christ's soul, being purely Divine was to be separated from His earthly body and great is the difference that lies between a human and a Divine soul".

Shoghi's Diary Nov. 28-30, 1919.

The Sacred Cause is so powerful that in the path of GOD even degradation is considered conducive to glory. Consider! Is there any humiliation more abject than execution, pillage of property, captivity of women and children and their dispersion in the waterless wilderness of Karbala? Can any lower degradation be conceived? Yet consider how at present this degradation has been converted for the Prince of Martyrs-- may the life of the people of the world be his sacrifice-- into imperishable glory; while Yazeed and Valeed who outwardly were of the Beloved ones and were occupying the throne of majesty yet in reality were subject to everlasting shame and degradation. At present every day millions quench their thirst by the call of that Prince who who calling for water said: "I am thirsty", the poor and the indigent are satisfied by partaking of a most delectable food, orphans are cared for, the disabled are supported but on the other hand the names of Yazeed and Valeed are execrated, vilified and their shame is ever increasing. It has therefore been made evident and manifest that the friends of God are so dear and beloved that no degradation awaits them and no change in their condition can be affected. If all the people of the world join hands and desire to vilify them they will un-
willingly fall for outwardly the utmost humility consists in martyrdom but this is the cause of everlasting glory. It is clear therefore that His Highness the True One has not created degradation for His friends and a thing that has not been created by God, who can bring it to existence? In brief depend ye upon the infinite bounty of God and advance from day to day along the path of ideal progress and spiritual perfections, merciful bounties and Divine Guidance.

(Shoghi)

BC # 620

The Guardian's Appeal

(The) most great convulsion envisaged by (the) Prophecy from Isaiah to Bahá'u'lláh, catastrophic in violence, planetary in range, (is) assailing at long last, (the) predominating nations (of the) Asiatic (and) American continents. (The) leading Power (of the) Western Hemisphere which, together with sister republics, Bahá'u'lláh's ringing call significantly summoned in His Most Holy Book, (the) object (of) 'Abdu'l-Bahá's tender solicitude (and) ardent prayers, (the) center of His hopes, (the) recipient (of) His promises (and the) beneficiary (of) His blessings, (has been) suddenly though not unexpectedly plunged (into the) crucible (of) world conflagration. Purged, tested, galvanized, coalescing with its sorely-tried sister nations (the) world over, (the) great Republic (of the) New World, (the) enviable paragon of system heading (the) World Order (of) Bahá'u'lláh, must assume through adversity its pondering share (of) responsibility (to)

lay down, once for all, broad, worldwide, unassailable foundations: (of) that discredited yet immortal System. Though (the) immediate future be dark, critical (and) fraught (with) anguish, (I) feel it my bounden duty (to) appeal (in) this hour as never before (to the) Trustees of Bahá'u'lláh's priceless Revelation, whether teachers or administrators, individuals or Assemblies, North (or) South, white (or) colored, young (or) old, (to) refuse at all costs (to) surrender (their) solemn spiritual responsibilities, refrain (from) relaxing (their) teaching efforts, determine never (to) slacken (their) sacred task (of) building (the) institutions whose progress destiny (has) indissolubly linked with (the) fortunes (of the) most disastrous, most challenging, most pregnant period (of) human history.

(Signed) SHOCHI KABBANI

Cablegram received December 13, 1941.

Issued by the
National Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of the United States
and Canada.

BCH 621

Publication of Letters From the Guardian

For a number of years the National Spiritual Assembly has published in *Bahá'í News* only such excerpts from letters written by the Guardian to individuals as the Guardian has specifically permitted. The NSA feels that the same principle applies to the publication of the Guardian's letters to individuals in local and regional news letters.

Will's Naming the NSA As Beneficiary

Believers wishing to provide a bequest for Bahá'í use will find a form of bequest on page 21 of the revised edition of *Bahá'í Procedure*. The believers who draw up wills naming the National Assembly as beneficiary are requested to send a copy to the National Office for the records.

Braille Transcriptions

The Committee on Braille Transcriptions has received five orders and a number of interested inquiries for the second edition of the Braille "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era." Copies are being placed by friends in Libraries of New Orleans, Houston, and Albuquerque.

For information about the Esslemont book and also the Iqán, in Braille, address Miss Ella Quant, Chairman, 1089 Glenwood Blvd., Schenectady, N. Y.

Will the friends in the various Centers who have borrowed Braille books from the Bahá'í Braille Reserve Library in Cleveland, Ohio, for blind contacts in their respective localities, ascertain as soon as possible whether these books are being used by the blind? If no longer in use, kindly return to Mrs. Mayme Jackson, 9615 Shakespeare Parkway, Cleveland, Ohio.

Some of these Braille books have been out on loan for three years, and our supply of available Braille Bahá'í pamphlets and booklets is being depleted.

ELLA C. QUANT, Chairman

Temple Library and Sales Committee

The friends are informed that a new Temple card is now available,



Mathew Kaszab, Bahá'í pioneer to Nicaragua, with some members of the group he formed in Managua.

with the "reflection picture" of the House of Worship on one side, and the nine texts of Bahá'u'lláh on the other. Orders will be filled at the rate of 100 for \$0.75, postpaid. Address orders to the Committee through H. E. Walrath, Chairman, 4639 Beacon Street, Chicago.

Announcement is also made of a new Temple picture, a printed reproduction of Carl Scheffler's etching—type pen and ink drawing. The illustration itself measures 10" by 10", while the paper mounting measures 15½" by 14". Suitable for framing. Price, postpaid, 25c. Order through Mr. Walrath.

In Memoriam

Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the bearer of gladness. It confereth the gift of everlasting life.—BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Miss Gwendolyn McReynolds, Colorado Springs.

Mrs. Carrie McGriff, Lima.

Mrs. Muriel McComb, Glenwood Landing, N. Y.

Mrs. Lillian McClellan, Cleveland.

Enrollments and Transfers

Enrollment of new believers reported by local Assemblies:—

Milwaukee, two. Boston, two. Berkeley, four. Oakland, two. Portland, one. West Chester, one. Toronto, one. Evanston, one. San Diego, one. Wilmette, one. Flint, one. Cleveland, one. Salt Lake City, one youth. Binghamton, one. Vancouver, one.

Enrollments by transfer reported by local Assemblies:—

Toronto, one. Lima, one. Los Angeles, one. Chicago, one youth.

Enrollment of isolated believers in March—twenty-eight.

The Guardian's Answers to Questions

With the Guardian's consent, the following explanations made by him to questions submitted by the late Francis A. Kelsey are published for the information of the friends.

1. Regarding the passage beginning with the words "Knowledge consists of twenty-seven letters ... " this should not be interpreted

Be # 622 A

Wm. ...



Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Port au Prince, Haiti, newly established April 21, 1942. Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Blackwell, pioneer teachers who developed this Bahá'í Community, are both in the picture.

literally. It only indicates the relative greatness of superiority of the new Revelation.

2. The fundamentals of all Divinely-instituted religions cannot be rigidly classified. No definite or exhaustive list of them can be set up, as we have no means of ascertaining that what we consider to be those fundamentals are common to all such religions.

3. The declaration of the Báb took place on May 22nd after sunset, and as the Bahá'í day starts and ends with sunset, the feast of the Declaration is celebrated on May 23rd and not the 22nd.

4. Regarding the date of the birth of Jesus Christ; 'Abdu'l-Bahá's statement on the subject should be considered by the Bahá'ís as the standard, and as the basis of their calculation.

5. There is disagreement among Oriental scholars relative to the exact date of the birth of Muhammad. You should refer to authorities on the subject such as Sale, whose translation of the Qur'án has become almost classical.

6. Bahá'u'lláh was born at dawn.

7. The Báb was born before dawn.

8. 'Abdu'l-Bahá has given no explanation regarding the 500,000 years period of the Bahá'í cycle. Individual believers are free to work out for themselves the explanation they desire, so long as they do not impose their views on others.

9. Inherited characteristics of the soul are not innate, while the inherent ones are innate and not acquired. The inherent characteristics of the soul derive from man's own nature.

10. There is no authority for the statement which is alleged to have been said by 'Abdu'l-Bahá to the effect that cancer is a spiritual disease. The saying is quite unauthorized, and should not be circulated.

11. Jesus' name has never been confounded with that of Joshua. The two have always been considered as quite distinct.

12. Yes, the Guardian considers "astrology," which is a pseudo-science, as for the most part "nonsensical," as it is mostly made up of superstitious beliefs and practices.

13. There is no objection in principle to an Assembly being re-elected, whether in toto or in part, pro-

vided the members are considered to be well-qualified for that post. It is individual merit that counts. Novelty, or the mere act of renewal of elections, are purely secondary considerations. Changes in Assembly membership would be welcome so far as they do not prejudice the quality of such membership. Once Assembly elections are over, the results should be conscientiously and unquestionably accepted by the entire body of the believers, not necessarily because they represent the Voice of Truth or the Will of Bahá'u'lláh, but for the supreme purpose of maintaining unity and harmony in the Community. Besides, the acceptance of majority vote is the only effective and practical way of settling dead-locks in elections. No other solution is indeed possible.

14. 'Abdu'l-Bahá gives no reason whatever why Friday has been chosen as the day of rest in the Bahá'í calendar. He just affirms it.

15. The belief according to which Judah represents the Jews, and Israel the Chosen People, is erroneous.

16. The Teachings throw no light on the question as to what because of the ten tribes of Israel or whether they were absorbed into some other nation or not.

17. Also no reference is to be found in the Bahá'í Teachings regarding the pyramid of Cheops, and as to its being considered a monument of prophecy.

18. This statement which 'Abdu'l-Bahá is alleged to have made is absolutely unauthorized and should be disregarded. (Question was: 'Abdu'l-Bahá is alleged to have said that Bahá'u'lláh was the seventh in order of the Universal Manifestations; that Jesus was the sixth, that Melchisedek was the fifth and that the four prior to them are unknown.)

19. The separation of sheep from the goats is purely figurative, i.e., the faithful from the unfaithful.

The Bahá'í World Community

I. News From Iran

The flow of eager Iranian pilgrims to and from Haifa has imparted a new life to the gatherings and activities of friends in this country. The spiritual refreshment so abundantly manifest in their faces, the life-giving messages of encouragement that

(Copy of letter to Sheghi Effendi-from Sepharenia Aeki)

Geyserville Calif.
Aug. 14th.1927

Dear Sheghi Effendi;-

This letter was suggested by Leroy Ieas, and although I am anxious to write, I am a little nervous about it.

I might tell you about the Summer-School, for we are interested in it and my family has attended every meeting so far.

The sessions were all beautiful and what is more important convincing, so now seven of our family are confirmed believers. I went say we have become Baha'is, for we were born that, having a Japanese father and American mother.

We have never experienced such happy days as these and I shall be sorry when they are ended, for we have never met so many lovely people at one time before. Since we have few friends in Geyserville, we are ~~###~~ the more affected by our Baha'i friends who have come here from all up and down the coast.

As we had received insufficient instruction in the Principles, before the school started, we were not seriously interested. During one of these mornings dear Mrs Waite had charge we had a wonderful, never-to-be-forgotten experience. The whole room seemed permeated with a deep spiritual feeling, and as Mrs. Waite went on speaking, I experienced a true Faith, for the first time I believed with all my heart and soul, we all did, and no one had to be assured of our conviction, for Mrs. Besch exclaimed- "Oh! you believe! I can see it." This was after Mrs. Waite's talk on the Station of the Manifestation, and then Mrs. Waite said that she felt "as though Abdu'l Baha had had charge all the time." There are eight of us, and now we are practically a whole Baha'i family, for although my father does not admit it, he is one at heart.

This letter is longer than I intended so shall close immediately, with love from us all,

Your sincere friend,

(Signed) Sepharenia Aeki.

Sepharenia was just 17 years old then. I called her my "Lotus-Blossom", because of her exquisite nature, and deep spirituality and my joy is unbounded that it was my blessed privilege to bring this rare, and fragrant soul into the Kingdom, and all of the friends knew from her beautiful poems, a gift that came to her after becoming a believer, ~~how~~ how much she already means to the Cause, especially, of her Japanese-American parentage. All of the other members of the family are equally gifted and truly remarkable and will I am sure do great work for the Cause in many ways. GOD bless and bless them.

Shahnaz.

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