



LARGE PRINT / Standard Print.

Letters

Letters to the Editor



Dear Friends,

HISTORIC SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

On May 18, 2003, I had the enormous bounty to represent the Bahá'í Council for Scotland at a very historic occasion. For the first time, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland received representatives of the non-Christian faiths of Scotland.

As the only ethnic Scot in the faiths' group and one who was brought up in the Church of Scotland it was particularly poignant for me. After this address, it was very encouraging to hear the new moderator, Professor Iain Torrance congratulate the outgoing moderator, the Right Reverend Dr MacDonald, on his interfaith work and state that this work was exceptionally important for the church. To cap an exhilarating evening, Dr MacDonald mentioned to me as I was taking my leave, that he felt that we had witnessed an historic moment. It is surely relevant to point out that relations between the Bahá'í Community and the Church of Scotland have developed at a much faster pace since the presentation of the Message to the Worlds Religious Leaders to Dr MacDonald in June 2002.

Allan Forsyth

Dear Friends,

FIRST DECLARATION IN CAMBERLEY

Last night, May 31, 2003, we were blessed to see the history in the making by witnessing our first ever local Bahá'í declaration in Camberley.

Philip, who is nineteen years of age, first met some Bahá'ís in China, in September 2002. The friends in China had told him that "no matter where you come from, there are bound to be some Bahá'ís living near you. Go and find out more about us". They were so right. Philip and his family live about 10 minutes walking distance from us in Camberley. So Philip and his father have been coming to our devotional meetings since then.

Taken by the spirit present in these meetings, together with other teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, he needed a small nudge to make his decision to join this global Family.

Shayan, a local Bahá'í youth who was close to celebrating his fifteenth birthday, had also been thinking about declaring. He called Philip last week and told him that on his birthday he was going to reconfirm his belief in Bahá'u'lláh and would Philip want to do the same at the same time "so we both declare and enter the Faith together?"

Philip replied, "Actually I have been thinking about it, so yes, let's declare together." And so they did.

It is amazing that someone has to travel 10,000 miles to China to hear about the Faith and be impressed by its teachings where there are so many local Bahá'ís!

So, friends, Philips are everywhere, lets hope they don't have to go 10,000 miles to find us. Having the core activities open to all, as the portal to entry by troops, is one of ways that these searching souls can be found.

Yá-Bahá'u'l-Abhá.
Foad Rahimi

Dear Friends,

ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED BAHÁ'ÍS

We are now ready for members and would invite you to join. Our services include:

1. Care line
2. Advice line
3. Social gatherings
4. Fund-raising
5. Awareness days

Please contact ADB Melfyn Dean at melfyndean@youemail.com.

Dear Friends,

PASSING OF RUSTAM MALI

On behalf of my mother and sisters I would like to thank everyone who attended my dear father's funeral, and for your prayers and special messages of condolences.

Many thanks also to those who sent kind donations to the National Spiritual Assembly.

Warmest Bahá'í Love,
Naderih Mali

Dear Editor,

I CALL IT A MIRACLE

I had been asked for the fourth time to give a talk on the Bahá'í Faith to the sixth form at the school where I teach A level Physics as well as GCSE Science. I set up an exhibition and the theme of my talk was, "Peace and how it can be achieved". There were about 100 students with their tutors. They then had an hour to discuss a number of questions regarding peace and then went to different rooms in groups of eight. I took care of two groups and their discussions were so rewarding. I really enjoyed what they had to say.

The miracle was that so many of them came forward and told me that they enjoyed the talk: this does not usually happen in schools! There was also an exhibition set up in the sixth form about the Faith. Since the anniversary of the martyrdom of the Báb has started this evening, I thought I would email you this good news.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
Shahla Farzaneh-Far

Dear Friends,

CALLING ALL STUDENTS ...

... who are coming to either Leicester University or De Montfort University this Sept/Oct.

Please can you contact Jan MacDonald by email on: janmacdonald@supanet.com to let us know you are coming, so we can send you the Events Calendar for the Leicester area.

<p>BJUK welcomes letters on any topic of general interest, which may be printed at the Editor's discretion. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the National Assembly or the Editor. Editor: Patrick Morrissey, e-mail: journal@bahai.org.uk, fax: 0870 136 3730</p>
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