



'A Change of Time'

National Bahá'í Conference United Kingdom, Scarborough, November 2-4, 2001

The Universal House of Justice at the Opening of the Terraces on Mount Carmel stated that the turmoil and crises that afflicts humanity as it passes through its collective adolescence is paradoxically, a source of hope. The effects of the twofold processes of disintegration and integration are now more palpable than ever before.

In this 'change of time' it is with a 'new state of mind'¹ that we tread the path of systematic action, taking on the first venture of the fifth epoch – the five year plan. As the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh continues to unfold, we are called to scale even greater heights in imparting this divinely ordained vision and reality of hope to the peoples of the United Kingdom. Together, we must further advance the process of entry by troops.

With this task fixed firmly in our hearts and minds, it is with great excitement that we invite you to attend the first of the national conferences to be held during the five-year plan. The series of five conferences aim to offer the Bahá'í national community a learning experience through which vision will be sharpened, fresh inspiration drawn, and additional skills for service gathered.

The series of conferences promises to lead you through a process, a process that begins with the recognition of our love for Bahá'u'lláh, stimulates a re-dedication to individual planning, initiative and action, explores the series of steps we need to take to assist our communities to grow and finally, empowers us to attain these heights we are called to scale.

Through a soul-stirring and colourful interplay of verbal, visual and artistic presentations, this year's conference will examine why and how we have reached 'a change of time', the growth process and the five year plan, the training institute and study circles, the spiritual education of children and junior youth and their integration into community life, enhancing the devotional life of our communities, and systematic planning and action. The conference will enable "an increasing receptivity to His all-pervasive and resplendent Spirit"²

This series of conferences will also act to offer Bahá'u'lláh's vision of hope to the friends of the Faith, to exhibit and illustrate aspects of Bahá'í community life, and further, to quench seekers' "yearning for a life that satisfies the soul as well as the body."³ In recognition of the 'change of time' and the increasing receptivity to the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, we urge you to invite friends and family to attend this year's conference from 2nd to 4th November, 2001 in Scarborough.

Talieh Mann

1. The Universal House of Justice, *Ridván Message*, 2001

2. The Universal House of Justice, Letter to the Conference of the Continental Board of Counsellors, January 9, 2001.

3. (Universal House of Justice on the occasion of the opening of the Terraces)

