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**Bahá'í Journal UK**Journal of the Bahá'í Community of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Volume 19, No.4 – September, 2002 / 159BE **LARGE PRINT** / Standard Print.Zimbabwe Expedition 2003

Announcing Zimbabwe Expedition 2003, 'Setting Zimbabwe Ablaze!'

ARE YOU interested in taking part in the Zimbabwe Expedition 2003 (Setting Zimbabwe Ablaze!)? Here is some initial information that will help you make the decision.

In August 2003, the Zimbabwe Bahá'í community will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Faith in this Southern African nation. During this month, many others whose efforts have set the flame of the Cause of God ablaze in the country will join the community of Zimbabwe. It is out of this excitement and joy characterised by great expectation of that day that a group of Bahá'ís decided to come up with this idea of Zimbabwe Expedition 2003. This idea, having been born out of this excitement and joy has specific goals and objectives to achieve. Just in the same way that the first pioneers set foot in Zimbabwe and started propagating the Cause of God with great vigour and energy, which we will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in August 2003, this same event should also be the turning point in the history of other cities of Zimbabwe where the Faith has not been fully established. Therefore, the goal is to ensure that the community of the Most Great Name is fully established in each of the towns and cities selected in the expedition.

The Zimbabwe Expedition 2003 is a Travel Teaching Project being organised by a group of Bahá'ís in Zimbabwe. The purpose of the Expedition is to proclaim and teach the Faith in the major cities and holiday resorts of Victoria Falls, Kariba, Great Zimbabwe, Bulawayo, Gweru, Masvingo, and Mutare through the use of performing arts, public speeches, music concerts, street teaching and any other forms that appeal to the people in Zimbabwe and are within the capability of the group. It is the hope of the organisers that Zimbabwe Expedition 2003 will increase awareness about the Bahá'í Faith among the general populace in Zimbabwe, encourage the local youth in the country to undertake creative teaching projects, and create opportunities that the local communities can take advantage of at the end.

The expedition also hopes to promote local and international travel teaching as a way of achieving some of the goals of the Five Year Plan.

The Teaching Trips! The Expedition will start in Harare. All the participants in the project will assemble in Harare in early July 2003. The group shall spend about a week in Harare practising and rehearsing for the trip. After that the group will be divided into different smaller groups and embark on their trips to different cities mentioned above. One group will go to Gweru and the other will go to Bulawayo, while the other two groups will go to Mutare, and Masvingo. Ten days will be spent in each of these cities after which the group in Gweru and the one in Bulawayo will assemble in Bulawayo and the group in Mutare and Masvingo will assemble in Harare. The group in Bulawayo will then proceed to Victoria Falls, and the group in Harare will proceed to Kariba. Ten days will be spent in each of these holiday resorts after which the group will start making their way back to the capital city for the events marking the 50th Anniversary of the Faith in Zimbabwe. When in

Harare, the friends will be encouraged to visit the nearby communities of Murewa, Chinamhora and Mhondoro where they can stay at Bahá'í Centres for 3 days. The participants in the Zimbabwe Expedition 2003 will be encouraged to remain in the country and take advantage of the opportunities that will emerge.

Who can participate? The organisers are hoping to organise a group of up to 50 people

Youth of 18 years and above are encouraged to participate. In order to make the Expedition as productive as possible individuals with special talents are encouraged to participate. Some essential talents needed include:

- Playing musical instruments e.g. guitar, keyboard, African Traditional drums, wind instruments etc.
- Stage acting
- Singing
- Dancing (traditional dancing included)
- Public speaking
- Sports (football, basket ball, netball, etc)

People with experience in areas listed below are also encouraged to apply:

- Dealing with Media
- Dealing with VIPs
- Teaching youth and children
- Working with civil society especially women's organisations and youth organisations
- Working with University and College students

All people intending to participate in the Expedition must apply for participation through Shingirirai Ndiya, Derek Sithole and Erick Mhiriri at the following addresses:

Shingirirai Ndiya sndiya@yahoo.com
or Zimbabwe Expedition 2003:
nsazim@mweb.co.zw

Cost: All the participants will meet their own cost of transport, food and accommodation. The details of the costs shall be sent later in the year as more investigation is made.

More information on activities in specific cities, on cost, health, travel requirements etc. shall be sent later in the year.

So apply now and do not miss out on the fun and the bounty of service in the Five Year Plan. To apply just send a simple email expressing interest in participating and the organisers will get back to you. You are encouraged to forward this to those of your friends you think may be interested.

Zimbabwe Expedition 2003, "Setting Zimbabwe Ablaze"

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