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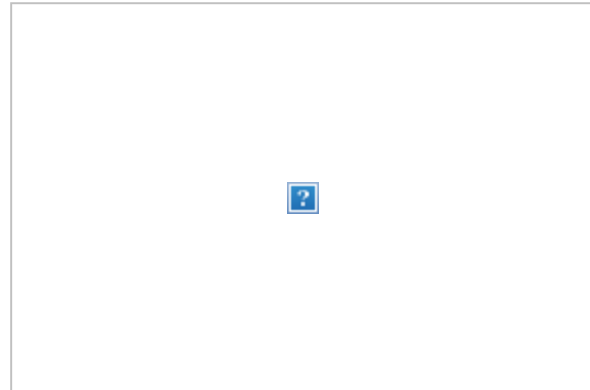
 LARGE PRINT / Standard Print.In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Death proffereth unto every confident believer the cup that is life indeed. It bestoweth joy, and is the bearer of gladness. It conferreth the gift of everlasting life.

Bahá'u'lláh: Gleanings, p. 344

These souls have passed on to the 'Abhá Kingdom. We send our sincere condolences to those families and friends who have been bereaved.



George Bowers with Amatu'l Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum inspecting the tiles on the Shrine of the Báb

George Bowers, Hope

George Bowers, who passed away on the 9th day of Ridván, grew up in a large Roman Catholic family but wanted little to do with organised religion. After World War II, during which he served in the Royal Navy, he married his teenage sweetheart Elsie and devoted his energy to establishing his own painting and decorating business. Early in 1962, his neighbour Lou Turner showed him a Bahá'í pamphlet she had been given. George read the list of principles and said, "I've been looking for this all my life". Both he and Elsie declared on July 1, 1962 at the home of Madeline and Bill Hellaby.

George was soon serving on the Liverpool Assembly and on the Irish Teaching Committee. In 1963, his parents declared. His father died the following year but his mother at the age of 69 pioneered to the Irish Republic. In 1967, George was elected to the National Spiritual Assembly and went to the 2nd International Convention in Haifa. The next few years were spent travelling around Britain where George was wellloved for his warmth and humour.

In February 1975, the Bowers joined the staff at the Bahá'í World Centre. George set up the Works Department maintaining Holy Places and Elsie was his secretary. They spent twenty years serving in Haifa seeing the staff grow from 60 to more than 700. George moved on to acquiring new properties for housing the staff. In 1994, they returned to the UK. George was actively involved in the establishment of the Ernest Miller Centre in Liverpool and continued to travel as an assistant to the Auxiliary board member. He was teaching right until his last days, telling all the medical staff and patients at the hospital and hospice of his beloved Faith.

John Reeve, Brighton and Hove

John Reeve, who died on April 23 at the age of 85, was with his wife Sylvia, the backbone of the Brighton and Hove community for more than thirty years. Until he was 70, John ran the family motor-bodies repair business. In 1963, a local Bahá'í - Mary Kouchekezadeh - brought her damaged car into the garage and John noticed a Bahá'í car sticker in the back window. Anxiously concerned about the threat of nuclear war and the safety of his family, John had been actively searching for a cause that could be the focus of differing viewpoints and establish peace. He declared on his 48th birthday on October 1, 1964 and became a staunch advocate of Bahá'í car stickers for the rest of his life! John's wife Sylvia declared the following year. In April 1965, John was elected onto the Brighton Spiritual Assembly. He served on it for more than three decades. He was often a delegate to National Convention and managed the national audiovisual service, searching worldwide for posters

postcards, cassette tapes and other items to proclaim the Faith. John and Sylvia travelled widely around the southeast, sometimes driving for hours after work to screen films – such as the Green Light Expedition – for communities, and give firesides. Throughout his entire Bahá'í life, John never hesitated in proclaiming the Faith, mailing out leaflets and writing letters to anyone he thought might be interested. He also dedicated long hours to looking after the Brighton Bahá'í Centre and its garden. John always claimed not to be a spiritual man but he will be remembered as a tireless teacher and selfless servant of the Cause, as well as a hugely generous benefactor to the community and individuals.

Dr Ataullah Sabet, Hemel Hempstead

Dr Sabet was born in Tihrán in 1909. His father was a merchant who became a Bahá'í after witnessing the beheadings in Isfáhán of the two brothers known as the King and Beloved of Martyrs. He too suffered torture and imprisonment and his home was ransacked. The young Ataullah and his twin brother were educated at the Franco- Persian and Tarbíyat schools. Ataullah obtained a degree in agriculture and studied as a vet while in the army, later training as a medical doctor. He served in various army hospitals across Iran and reached the rank of Colonel. Retiring from the Army, he went on to spend a further 20 years practising medicine preferring to work in villages and small towns in order to be able to spread the Faith. He became a member of each local spiritual assembly wherever he worked. His patients knew he was a Bahá'í and he would often try to explain to them concepts of spiritual health. He also declined to take payment from patients who he knew could not afford it.

After the 1979 revolution he fled Iran, leaving behind everything he possessed. During the past two decades in England, he spent his time eagerly hand-copying Bahá'í

Rollo Allen, Brecon

Rollo Allen, an indigenous Welsh believer, declared two years ago following the passing of his beloved wife Ivy who had been a Bahá'í since 1981. For those two decades, Rollo had been a great friend of the Faith, attending meetings and supporting Ivy in her activities. After her death, Rollo felt compelled to declare his faith in Bahá'u'lláh and remained a devoted believer until his passing.

Doreen Evans, Folkestone

Welsh-born Doreen Evans's biggest regret was that she didn't find the Faith earlier in life. By the time she declared ten years ago at the age of 86, she had spent years earnestly seeking the truth. Doreen was a strong-willed and fearless woman who once a Bahá'í never hesitated in sharing the message with friends and family. She happily hosted many meetings in her home.

Wes Huxtable, Sawbridgeworth

Wes Huxtable, who died aged 70 on October 20, 2001, became a Bahá'í in Toronto at the age of 19 after being taught by Gerry Robarts. From then on, his life was dedicated to serving Bahá'u'lláh, usually aiding in the formation of communities or Local Assemblies in areas lacking Bahá'ís. Upon completing a degree in commerce, he passed the Canadian Trade Commissioner's exams and accepted a post as a diplomat and trade commissioner for the Canadian Government. His first posting was in Singapore, then Ottawa, New York, Dublin, Sao Paulo, Detroit and Glasgow. Wes continued his love of travel teaching throughout Scotland. In 1983, Wes completed an American degree in Law. In 1985, he took early retirement from the Canadian Government to remain in the UK. He later worked at City University in London and Quebec House before retiring to Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire. Wes loved to teach and to assist others in service. He was instrumental in helping his brother Cliff to pioneer to St Helena, got timber supplied there and worked for the Government of St Helena as an adviser. books and Persian literary works as gifts for friends and family. He was engaged in this pursuit right up until one week before his passing. He and his wife, Tayebeh, were married for 62 years.

Mr Muhamad Amin, High Wycombe

Mr Muhamad Amin, who has died at the age of 79, was descended from one of the first Bahá'ís of Pakistan. A highly educated man, he trained first as a civil engineer and then as a barrister. He moved to High Wycombe during the 1950s and became well-known among the Bahá'í community. A great proponent of the Faith, he spent his time teaching and

the Pakistani community. After the passing of Shoghi Effendi, he spent a long period away from the Faith but was happy to return to the community six years ago.

James Coady, Motherwell

James Coady, a long-standing member of the Motherwell community since the 1950s, passed away on May 9. He was a humble man whose devotion to the Faith inspired his actions for fifty years.

Marjorie Giorgi, Aberdeen

Marjorie Giorgi was referred to by the Universal House of Justice as a “devoted handmaiden of the Cause... Her years of service as a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of Switzerland, international travelling-teacher and pioneer will be long remembered.” Marjorie declared her faith in Bahá’u’lláh after emigrating to the USA in the 1940s. It was not until she was widowed in 1959 that she was able to answer the Guardian’s call for pioneers to Europe. She and her two young daughters settled in Neuchatel, Switzerland. Language was a problem and life was not easy. Their greatest joy was attending the Swiss Summer and Winter Schools. In 1962 they moved to another small town. By now Marjorie’s daughters were fluent in French and could help translate. The following year Marjorie remarried and moved to a larger town nearby, where there were a few other Bahá’ís. Eventually the first Local Spiritual Assembly was formed – a mixture of Swiss believers and American pioneers. The community came to life – several Persian families moved in, and Marjorie held weekly children’s classes.

Marjorie was elected to serve on the National Spiritual Assembly of Switzerland and did so with great enthusiasm. Soon after Marjorie and her husband moved to Inverness where she served on the Local Spiritual Assembly. Marjorie travelled all over the Scotland and also visited the Faroes and Iceland. In 1985 she underwent surgery for cancer of the colon. She recovered and set up cancer support groups for patients all over the north of Scotland. When her husband passed away, she moved to Orkney, and managed the Bahá’í Centre there for a period.

After attending the Bahá’í World Congress in New York in 1992, Marjorie returned to Elgin, until her health deteriorated to a point where she needed to be close to her family in Aberdeen. She struggled to keep active and the Aberdeen community often moved meetings to her house.

Maureen Sier writes, “At 17 I stumbled upon a Bahá’í exhibition at a local hall in my hometown of Elgin. Marjorie had travelled from her home in Inverness and then waited patiently for someone to show interest in her beloved Faith. Within minutes, I felt moved by what I was reading – Marjorie’s spiritual antennae noted immediately my reaction and she approached me and started to talk.

Over the next few weeks, we met often as Marjorie patiently nurtured in me the gift of faith. Marjorie invited me to a summer school in Inverness. I had no idea what a summer school was but Marjorie’s enthusiasm and reassurances encouraged me and in 1976 I found myself surrounded by a mass of hugging humanity. That was 26 years ago. A wonderful 26 years full of physical and spiritual journeys – journeys that I know began with the seed planted and patiently nurtured by Marjorie. I am so so thankful for Marjorie’s love and dedication to the Faith and I know the journey she is now on will be just like Marjorie – full of faith and light and love.”

