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Committee for International Pioneering and Travel Teaching

WE HOPE YOU managed to spend at least a few minutes at the Unit Convention on developing your Area's foreign policy about sending out international pioneers and travel teachers. Please make this a permanent item at your Area review meetings.

The UK Five Year Plan scoreboard for the Universal House of Justice goals of 500 travel teachers and 150 pioneers currently stands at 140 and 50 respectively. While we are about on target with the travel teachers, the committee is a bit worried about the slow down in the number of pioneers coming forward.

Remember you can qualify as a pioneer with as little as a three month stay in your pioneer post. The enormous privilege of being counted amongst the illustrious company of "they who have forsaken their country in the path of God..." is within touching distance. (Quotation from *Messages from the Universal House of Justice 1963-1986*, #121.5a.)

Don't forget that the Philip Hainsworth Campaign Five Year Plan Goals are: Bosnia & Herzegovina; Corsica; Croatia; Cyprus (Southern); Faroe Islands; Macedonia; Malta; Slovenia; Kosovo; Montenegro; Serbia; Vojvodina.

We thought it reasonable to aim for 10 pioneers and 20 travel teachers per year to these countries. So far, we know of two valiant pioneers and 31 travel teachers who have arisen to meet the challenge in 18 months.

We urge you to look at the CIPTT website for information on the needs of each place but less visited places in the campaign to date are Corsica, Faroe Islands and most of the Balkan states. Short pen pictures of the needs of two places now follow:

CORSICA – French speakers preferably. Urgent need for mature, short and long-term pioneers and travel teachers who can help build systematic approaches to the processes of expansion and consolidation through the introduction of the institute process. Such efforts would be supported by the National Spiritual Assembly of France which currently has responsibility for the development of the Faith in Corsica. Couples and families able to foster community development by opening their homes would be of great assistance. Most effective would be pioneers who could be self-supporting by maintaining a small personal business or who are financially independent, such as retired couples. A very small number of Bahá'ís reside in a few towns on the island – Ajaccio, Bastia, Borgo, and Port-Vechio. The capital city is Ajaccio (population 55,000). The weather is Mediterranean, warm, and most days are sunny, but winters can be cold and there's generally snow on the highest peaks until June. Total population 246,000.

MACEDONIA – Pioneers experienced with the Institute process to assist in strengthening local communities by initiating small study circles and devotional meetings. Other pioneers needed to assist with establishing children's classes, train children's class teachers, help with deepening, and open new areas to the Faith. Pioneers, particularly couples, who could open their homes for firesides and help facilitate and support activities for youth and children would be of great assistance. Landlocked in southeastern Europe, capital City Skopje. Climate warm dry summers and autumns relatively cold winters with heavy

snapp. Climate change, by summer and autumn, relatively few hours from heavy snowfall. Population 2,007,000. A mountainous country covered with deep basins.

You can begin to see a bit of a pattern to the needs of our sisters and brothers in the Faith in these countries. With some skills in the three core activities of the Plan (Ruhi books 1 to 3 and the branch course on Devotional Meetings), a bit of financial independence for at least 3 months and, if you are also a couple or a family, you are the very thing they have been waiting for! Don't moan you singles, they will be happy to see you as well if you set up home!

Peymane, our secretary, is off to the far east for December/January, so, from November up to the end of February, please redirect your emails for the CIPTT to: Paul Bellamy at pbellamy999@hotmail.com.

Office of Huqúqu'lláh

Please make specific queries and requests for deepening programmes to the Representatives covering your area at their home telephone numbers listed below.

Post, payments and general enquiries can be directed to the Office of Huqúqu'lláh, 3rd Floor, Bridge House, 97-101 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1DR
Tel: 01732 373769, Fax: 01732 373751, Email: huquq@bahai.org.uk

Cheques should be made payable to: NSA of the Bahá'is - Huqúqu'lláh

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Office of Public Information

Religion and Development at the Crossroads: Convergence or Divergence?

THIS IS the title of the statement by the Bahá'í International Community to the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

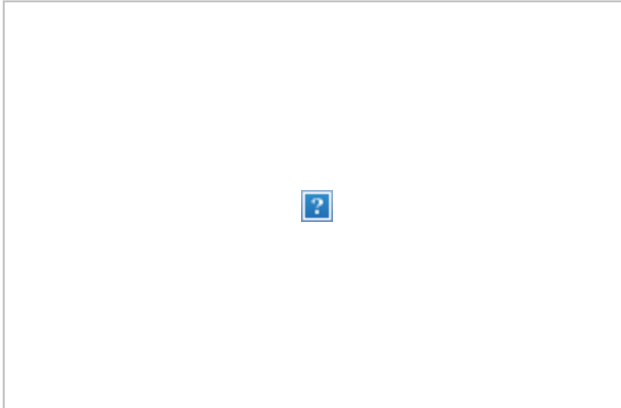
It addresses powerfully some of the key issues concerning people and society today, and is particularly interesting in the light of the recent Message to the World's Religious Leaders (as well as the document "Turning Point for All Nations").

The statement has been made available on the BIC statement archive on the Web and in other ways but to help further its well-deserved spread the Office of Public Information in the United Kingdom has prepared a copy in European style and formatting.

This is available electronically as a PDF file from opi@bahai.org.uk (or in hard copy from the Office). It has also been posted to the Website of the UK Bahá'í Agenda 21 Project, accessible via the OPI Webspace at www.bahai.org.uk/opi/intro.htm.

Press Cuttings Please remember to send a copy of all press coverage you obtain for the Faith. (With the notes of the message to the world's religious leaders...)

Wellesbourne Unity Campaign



Youth at the Wellesbourne market stall

AS A RESPONSE to Ruhi Book 6 (Teaching the Cause) of the intensive summer campaign three youth from the Midlands decided to organise a teaching campaign in their local area. After consulting with an Auxiliary Board member and a member of the Bahá'í Council for England, plans to hold social activities grew into a small scale teaching campaign.

The youth invited the people of Wellesbourne (a village in Warwickshire four miles from the

historic town of Stratford Upon Avon) to consider the importance of global unity, beginning with unity in the neighbourhood. The campaign included two tranquillity zones on the themes of "unity in diversity" and "unity in action" and the readings were selected from various religions. To enhance the unifying atmosphere visual arts and tranquil music were used. These were followed with an amazing cultural dance relating to the theme of unity in diversity.

Additionally a children's workshop took place on exploring world citizenship through the use of the arts. In order to publicise the event, posters and flyers were distributed in houses, articles in the newspapers were published and the Midlands radio station (fm102 the bear) interviewed one of the co-ordinators and asked about the campaign and whether it was intended to coincide with the earth summit in Johannesburg and 9/11.

They were very interested to find out more, so a group of youth travelled to the office and provided a copy of the flyers as well as talking more in depth about the campaign.

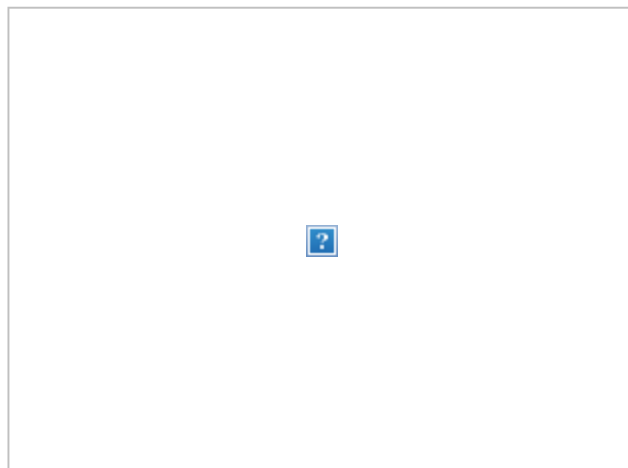
This teaching campaign, one of the fruits of the summer 2002 intensive Ruhi campaign, has contributed to a long term process of organic growth in the Midlands area. The wisdom of the principles governing teaching campaigns, as highlighted in Ruhi books 3 and 6 became more evident as they were applied in practical situations. The importance of sequential planning, deepening and reflecting helped all to understand the process of systematisation.

All those involved felt energised and motivated by the experiences shared, even if it meant getting up at four o'clock in the morning to queue up at the market. Many valuable lessons and skills have been acquired and learnt throughout this teaching campaign. The co-ordinators would like to take this opportunity to thank all the participants and the local communities that supported the campaign. You know who you are!

For those interested to know further about the campaign, a detailed report is available from the co-ordinators. You may contact the co-ordinators via email:

Rebecca Eyton: beyton@hotmail.com

Hediyeh Golmohamad: hedi33@hotmail.com, Negin Mali: negin.mali@hotmail.com



The children's workshop

