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In Memoriam

These souls have recently passed to the Abhá Kingdom. Please join us in remembering them, their families and friends in our prayers.

These few brief days shall pass away, this present life shall vanish from our sight...

'Abdu'l-Bahá: Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, pp. 220-221

Dr David Kelly, Southmoor

David Kelly grew up in Pontypridd, Wales. An Oxford graduate, he specialised in agricultural science. He was chief science officer at Britain's natural environment research council institute of virology and the head of microbiology at the chemical defence establishment in Porton Down from 1984 to 1992.

Between 1991 and 1998 he played a key role in inspecting Iraqi weapons after the Gulf war, visiting Iraq on 37 occasions. He also led all the visits and inspections of Russian biological warfare facilities from 1991 to 1994 under the 1992 trilateral agreement between the US, UK and Russia. Dr Kelly became senior adviser on biological warfare for the UN in Iraq in 1994, holding the post until 1999. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by the man who led the Iraq weapons inspections for much of the 1990s, Rolf Ekeus.

Dr Kelly first learned of the Bahá'í Faith from a colleague in the United States and declared his faith in Bahá'u'lláh in 1999. He attended meetings in the USA while working there and on his return, became an active member of the Abingdon community, serving on its Spiritual Assembly until the recent boundary changes. He took great pleasure in attending devotional meetings and feasts and loved to read the prayers and writings of the Faith.

David Kelly was a courteous, highly intelligent, extremely meticulous man who was devoted to his family. He genuinely believed he was making a difference to the world through his work.

Mr Daoud (David) Ani, Oxford

Mr Daoud Ani was born in Baghdad in 1913 into a Jewish family. He became a Bahá'í along with his brother and later taught the Faith to his two sisters. He served for many years on the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Iraq. He arrived in Britain in 1973 and lived in London, Portsmouth and Oxford serving on a number of Local Spiritual Assemblies. Mr Ani was a keen historian who spent much time researching and writing about the history of the Faith in his native land. Violette and Ali Nakhjavani wrote: "The news of the passing of Daoud saddened our hearts. His memory will always be associated with his love for the Cause, his total dedication to its welfare and his consuming interest in recording and documenting Bahá'í historical events."

Malek Varaei, Bicester

Malek Varaei, who died at the age of 80, was a poet, who loved to study the Bahá'í writings and Islamic scriptures. He held regular firesides in his home in Khoramshahr where he served as secretary of the Spiritual Assembly for 25 years. At the start of the Iranian revolution in 1979, Mr Varaei's house was searched and all of his Bahá'í and Islamic books were taken from him. He was later arrested and questioned. He and his wife moved to Tehran where he was also arrested and they had their valuable possessions confiscated. In 1993, after his wife's passing, he left Iran and settled in the United Kingdom where, despite his advanced age, he tried to learn English in order to continue teaching the Cause. He will be

remembered for his sense of humour and his strong, persevering spirit.

Rustam Mavandad Mali, Stoke-on-Trent

Rustam Mali was born in Mariamabad into a Zoroastrian family. As a youth, he heard of the Bahá'í Faith from his future father-in-law. Rustam moved to Karachi, Pakistan where he worked for many years, supporting his family as well as a Bahá'í pioneer outside the country. He and his wife Bano had four daughters – Munirih, Bahirih, Farzaneh and Naderih. In 1991, Rustam and Bano settled in Stokeon- Trent where for the last two years Rustam served on a local Spiritual Assembly for the first time. He was a devoted and steadfast believer who always tried to promote harmony between people and was never heard to utter a bad word about anyone. Mrs Winifred Young, Leamington Spa Win Young, who died aged 97, was an active member of the United Nations Association. She met the Bahá'ís at UNA meetings and declared in the early 1980s. She loved to attend meetings when she could and served on the Local Spiritual Assembly. She also enjoyed meeting the Bahá'ís in South Africa when she went there to visit her son.

Mr Fuad Abbas, Newbridge

Fuad Abbas, a fourth generation Bahá'í, first lived in the United Kingdom as a student of architecture. He returned to Iraq where he worked as a translator and married his cousin. A period living and working in north Africa followed where their two sons were born. In the 1980s, Fuad returned to live in the UK. After his youngest son passed away following a kidney transplant, Fuad spent his final years translating Bahá'í literature into Arabic from English.

Steve Pierce, Swansea

Steve Pierce was a seeker who declared a year ago after reading a library book about the Faith and finding the Bahá'ís through the telephone directory. Because of his poor health, he was unable to get to many meetings but was intending to host feasts and events, when he died suddenly in his mid-40s.

August 7, 2003

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom

DEAR BAHÁ'Í FRIENDS,

We deeply sympathize in your grief over the tragic circumstances compounded by the political atmosphere surrounding the death of Dr David Kelly, a devoted member of your community. Our ardent prayers in the Holy Shrines join yours that his soul may progress throughout the divine realms and that the members of his family may be solaced through the boundless grace of God.

For obvious reasons, the press has shown particular interest in the view of the Bahá'í Faith on suicide. Our Teachings are clear on this subject and can be stated simply: The act of suicide is strongly condemned, but Bahá'ís do not adopt a condemnatory attitude toward those who commit suicide.

We hope and pray that the public arguments aroused by the conflicting issues associated with Dr Kelly's death will soon subside. Our expectation is encouraged by the prospect that the investigation of these issues that has been officially initiated will not be unduly prolonged. In whatever way, whether by request of the official investigation or of the media, members of the Bahá'í community may be called upon to provide information or comment, they will no doubt respond in a manner that upholds the principled character of our Faith. They will speak with complete truthfulness, and will not permit themselves to take sides in the ongoing public debate, eschewing all partisanship.

With loving greetings,
Universal House of Justice

DEARLY LOVED FRIENDS

The National Spiritual Assembly has been deeply saddened to learn of the death, in her hundredth year, of Ada Williams in North Wales.

Ada was a devoted believer for eight decades having embraced the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in the early 1920s. In 1948, she pioneered to Motherwell earning Shoghi Effendi's "DEEPEST LOVING APPRECIATION". Her subsequent pilgrimage and meeting with the beloved Guardian had a profound effect on her. Ada's visit to the Holy Shrines inspired her to "walk barefoot, if necessary, on every region on the planet to teach the Faith." A further pioneer move to Blackpool in 1965 was followed by years of travel-teaching at home and overseas, to places as diverse as Malta, South Africa and Canada.

Ada Williams continued to serve well into her old age with courage, devotion and enthusiasm, inspiring the friends with her unflagging spirit and love of the Cause. In the last year of her life she appeared in the video "Ordinary Heroes" and was delighted to attend the National Convention in Llandudno.

The National Spiritual Assembly assures Ada's family and friends of its loving condolences and prayers for the progress of Ada's noble soul in all the worlds of God.

With loving Bahá'í greetings
National Spiritual Assembly

October 7, 2003

The Universal House of Justice was saddened to learn from your email letter dated October 5, 2003 of the recent passing of Ada Williams, a devoted travelling teacher at home and overseas. Having embraced the Faith in her youth, she was one of those heroic souls whose self-sacrificing pioneer labours during the Six Year Plan won the high praise of the beloved Guardian. You are assured that the House of Justice will offer loving prayers in the Holy Shrines for the progress of her soul throughout the divine realms.

Department of the Secretariat



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