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LARGE PRINT / Standard Print.Letters

Letters to the Editor



Dear Friends,

LIBRARY BOOKS

It is timely now to ensure our local libraries have Bahá'í books in their current catalogue. Worth checking, if you haven't done so recently, and making a gift of some, if need be. Just a little reminder too, that occasionally taking out these books ourselves on loan, will ensure they stay in the current catalogue system.

Yes, we all know that many people now get their information from the Internet, but there are still a lot of us who love to hold and browse a book at leisure. I myself originally learnt the basic facts about the Faith from library books. We need to ensure the public also have ready access to the true facts and the healing power of the Word of God.

Sue Brice

Dear Friends,

HOST UK

Abdu'l-Bahá asks us to "be kind to strangers... help them to feel at home; find out where they are staying, ask if you may render them any service; try to make their lives a little happier" and our family have just discovered a very useful agency to help us carry out Abdu'l-Bahá's wishes. There are thousands of overseas students in the UK at anyone time, of all ages and nationalities. Many of them don't have any close contacts here so it is hard for them to learn about domestic life, or visit other parts of the country.

The agency "HOST UK" puts together would-be guests and would-be hosts in a careful and well-organised way. Hosts can offer just a meal and evening if they live near a university, or, more commonly, a weekend. For those who need it, it is possible to claim £10 per night per guest, so being hard up need not prevent you from having the pleasure of entertaining an interesting person from another culture.

We just had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend with our visitor - a young man from mainland China - and I can safely say we all learned a lot while we enjoyed ourselves. Our guest's visit fortunately coincided with a Bahá'í picnic so he got a taste of our community life. He assured us it was the best weekend of his life – how wonderful that we, (or you), can so easily spread a little happiness! When we asked him how long he waited for an offer of hospitality, he told us six weeks, but he added that there were many who were still waiting.

We can't all go pioneering but we can build friendships around the world without leaving home to do it.

HOST UK's address is: 1 Ardleigh Road, London

Happy Hosting!

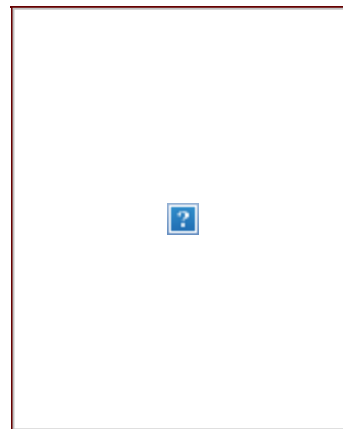
Rose and Graham Norgate

Dear Friends,

ARTS FROM THE HEART

The study circle portal assists us to immerse ourselves in the ocean of the Word of God; leads us to discover the gems of inestimable value within us, provides insight into spiritual mysteries; imparts knowledge of the Bahá'í Faith and helps us to develop skills for specific acts of service.

The unique resultant fellowship and love enriches and perfumes the atmosphere of study circles and the artistic element of study circles creates an immeasurable spirit, consolidates our understanding and helps us to search deeper in our soul and in our spiritual journey.



Ruth Bradley

I would like to share with you a poem entitled "The Light of His Face" which was presented at the study circle by Ruth Bradley one of the participants of Book Two in Dronfield.

Ruth is very deepened in the Faith and her continued presence in the study circle and in all other activities is the source of inspiration and encouragement to all.

Helen Agahi

The Light of His Face

I tremble with fear at Your nearness,
And my feeble vision grows dim,
Your power shakes the universe,
How can I escape its beam?

Yet You tenderly touch the cheek of a
Child,
Restoring its health and vigorous play,
Or patiently watch the growth of a
nation,
Chained to its pride and pompous
display.

What can I do in my ignorance,
With a lamp flickering barely alight?
But turn to Your love, and your wisdom,
Imploring Your gifts to quicken my
sight.

In Your love You created our spirit,
In Your wisdom You gave us free choice,
To return to Your Kingdom of oneness,
Or see only this desert of dust.

Our belief means we need Your assistance,
In order to journey home,
If we constantly turn to Your presence,
We can surrender our will to Your own.

Then a sweet fragrance steals over us,
And we hear a voice deep within,
Saying, "Forget all your pride and your
ignorance,
You have come home, now your life will really
begin".

BJUK welcomes letters on any topic of general interest, which may be printed at the Editor's discretion. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the National Assembly or the Editor.

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