

Sustained Encouragement

Foster the spirit of loving encouragement and support to Bahá'í families; celebrate the efforts of children, youth, and adult Bahá'ís.

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, *Five Year Plan 2001-2006*,
Spiritual Mission for Bahá'í Communities, Page 10

***spirit of loving
encouragement
and support to
Bahá'í families***

Foster patterns of loving encouragement to all people and to the Bahá'í institutions.

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, *Five Year Plan 2001-2006*, Adults, Page 9

***to all people and
to the Bahá'í
institutions***

In every avenue of service, the friends need sustained encouragement. ... Fear of failure finds no place. Mutual support, commitment to learning, and appreciation of diversity of action are the prevailing norms.

The Universal House of Justice, letter to the Conference of the Continental Boards of Counsellors,
January 9, 2001, Paragraph 9

***the friends need
sustained
encouragement
Mutual support***

The maintenance of a climate of love and unity depends largely upon the feeling among the individuals composing the community that the Assembly is a part of themselves, that their cooperative interactions with that divinely ordained body allow them a fair latitude for initiative and that the quality of their relationships with both the institution and their fellow believers encourages a spirit of enterprise invigorated by an awareness of the revolutionizing purpose of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation, by a consciousness of the high privilege of their being associated with efforts to realize that purpose, and by a consequent, ever-present sense of joy. In such a climate, the community is transformed from being the mere sum of its parts to assuming a wholly new personality as an entity in which its members blend without losing their individual uniqueness. The possibilities for manifesting such a transformation exist most immediately at the local level, but it is a major responsibility of the National Assembly to nurture the conditions in which they may flourish.

The Universal House of Justice, letter to The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States,
May 19, 1994, Paragraph 35

***quality of their
relationships with
both the institution
and their fellow
believers encourages
a spirit of enterprise
... In such a climate,
the community is
transformed***

The friends should be helped to overcome their problems, deepen in the Faith, and increase their unity and their love for each other. In this way you will find that your work goes ahead speedily, and that the National Body is like the beating of a healthy heart in the midst of the Community, pumping spiritual love, energy and encouragement out to all the members.

Shoghi Effendi, *High Endeavors*, Page 35

***the National Body
is like the beating
of a healthy heart
in the midst of the
Community***

By looking for the good in others, by praising and encouraging our fellow believers in their endeavours, by acting mercifully and lovingly towards them, forgiving instead of insisting that they be brought to justice because we feel they may have wronged us, by trying all the time to purify the motives of our conduct in the hope that our services will be acceptable in the sight of Bahá'u'lláh, and by constant prayer that He may forgive our shortcomings and aid us to radiantly, patiently and selflessly promote the vital interests of our Cause, we can become the sources of unity in the community and instruments in the hands of the Almighty to use according to His Will and Purpose.

The Universal House of Justice, letter on its behalf, Dec. 25, 1983, in *Behold Me: Bahá'í Writings on Unity*, Page 88, No. 197

By looking for the good in others ... purify the motives of our conduct ... we can become ... instruments

Our beloved Master who showered, through His visit and His messages to you, so much love and encouragement and so many blessings, is watching over you from on high, ready to sustain your efforts and lead you on to victory.

Shoghi Effendi, *Light of Divine Guidance* Vol.1, Page 131

Our beloved Master ... showered ... so much love and encouragement

Shoghi Effendi would like you also to make all your effort to increase among the friends the spirit of unity and co-operation and to encourage the young believers to come into closer contact with the older generation of friends; so that through this harmonious co-operation the Cause may be given a further chance to develop and expand. The Faith needs both the experiences and the wisdom of age as well as the enthusiasm and energy of youth. When all these qualities are harmoniously combined great results will be achieved.

Shoghi Effendi, letter on his behalf to an individual believer, Aug. 8, 1933

make all your effort to increase among the friends the spirit of unity and co-operation ... encourage the young believers

Embrace seekers and new believers and lovingly encourage disaffected Bahá'ís.

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, *Five Year Plan 2001-2006*, Page 10

lovingly encourage

It is very discouraging to find inactive and unresponsive believers; on the other hand we must always realize that some souls are weak and immature and not capable of carrying on an active administrative burden. They need encouragement, the love of their fellow Bahá'ís, and assistance. To blame them for not doing more for the Cause is useless, and they may actually have a very firm belief in Bahá'u'lláh which with care could be fanned into flame.

If some of these isolated and inactive people gradually turn to other work than the Cause we should not always blame them - they probably needed more help, more stimulating, more teaching and Bahá'í comradeship than they received.

Shoghi Effendi, letter on his behalf to an individual believer, Apr. 25, 1947, in *Lights of Guidance*, Page 84

some souls ... need encouragement, the love of their fellow Bahá'ís, and assistance

The real secret of universal participation lies in the Master's oft-expressed wish that the friends should love each other, constantly encourage each other, work together, be as one soul in one body, and in so doing become a true, organic, healthy body animated and illumined by the spirit. In such a body all will receive spiritual health and vitality from the organism itself, and the most perfect flowers and fruits will be brought forth.

The Universal House of Justice, Sept. 1964, *Wellspring of Guidance*, Pages 38-39

The real secret of universal participation

Let him not wait for any directions, or expect any special encouragement, from the elected representatives of his community, nor be deterred by any obstacles which his relatives, or fellow-citizens may be inclined to place in his path, nor mind the censure of his critics or enemies. "Be unrestrained as the wind," is Bahá'u'lláh's counsel to every would-be teacher of His Cause, "while carrying the Message of Him Who hath caused the dawn of Divine Guidance to break."

Be unrestrained as the wind

Your letters are always a source of inspiring joy and stimulating encouragement to me. You are destined to achieve great things for our beloved Cause and my constant prayer is that your vision may be clear, your purpose unshaken, your zeal undiminished, your hopes undimmed. Let not obstacles and disappointments, which are inevitable, dishearten you and whenever you are faced with trials recall our Beloved's innumerable sufferings. You certainly occupy a warm and abiding place in my heart.

Shoghi Effendi, *Letters to New Zealand*, Page 21

***disappointments,
which are inevitable,
dishearten you***