

**Teaching Trip Experiences of five-year old Isabella, seven-year old Adib and nine-year old Anisa Young
By Shoaleh Young**

To make an effort is all we can do. The results may seem small at first, but the Supreme Concourse will help it grow. Our efforts create momentum. No matter what our service or activity, with the love of Baha'u'llah in our hearts we will be successful. Sharing this love with people and finding waiting souls is all we are asked to do and can do.

This was the purpose of the teaching trip from South Carolina to Texas, that we (my dad Vahid, Anisa, Adib, Isabella, and I) began on Saturday, July 7. We visited Atlanta, GA; Birmingham, AL; Jackson, MS; and cities in TX (Tyler, Dallas, Graham, and Wichita Falls).



In Atlanta, we were interviewed by Mr. Jim Wooten, a writer for the Atlanta Constitution Journal, and we shared a copy of "One Common Faith". Follow-up is still on-going.

On Sunday, in Birmingham we had a full program with presentations from the children. In the afternoon we went street teaching and taught, invited, and made friends with around 20 souls. One interesting story: while we talking to one person, a deaf man came running down the hill to meet us and to see what we were talking about. To communicate we wrote and obtained his phone number (for the deaf) to continue future contact.



Birmingham Bahá'í friends



On this trip children performed, sang songs, taught, learned and found new friends



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On Monday, July 9, we met with the Baha'is of Jackson for their holy day event and shared stories together.

On Tuesday, we had a fireside in Tyler, TX, and wonderful newspaper publicity. Significant in Tyler is the ongoing teaching efforts in everyday life for meeting people, inviting, and following-up that on-fire Baha'is, like Claudia Jones (Hurricane Katrina relocatee) are doing!

On Wednesday, the children attended a Book 7 Tutor Training at the Dallas Baha'i Center. The participants were able to practice some of the practice activities with the children, and we shared inspiring examples of how to initiate and sustain study classes.

While in Graham, we were fortunate to facilitate the junior youth curriculum "Breezes of Confirmation" for an 11-year-old Baha'i boy, and his 10-year-old friend. We had classes almost everyday and included outings to the movies, park, and pool. All but the final section of the book was completed. The boys loved the book and were able to reflect on their own lives and their potential future. During the time we were facilitating, Anisa read "Brilliant Star" to Adib and Isabella.

The weekend July 14, I joined our Local Spiritual Assembly in Evanston, IL, to meet our National Assembly. Truly this was an unforgettable meeting with unique spirit and energies, full of education and learning. At the same time in Dallas, there was an all-out reaching and teaching effort.



Friends at Dallas Bahá'í center participating in Reaching Teaching conference

A last-minute health emergency forced us to cancel the return trip via Oklahoma and Tennessee. The friends in Oklahoma City still kept the momentum going and held the meeting with other local and visiting friends arising to share action stories and steps. One interesting opportunity and learning experience was being able to

give my presentation to the friends via conference call. Thanks to technology and fast mail service they received the power point presentation and materials and were able to listen and watch! A very neat experience.....awkward without direct interaction, but a very successful tool!

Despite the long trip, sleeping in hotel beds, heat, and being tired, the teaching trip, visiting friends, sharing stories, and taking action steps were very rewarding! Next summer we hope to do it again.