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Townshend International School

Summer Programme at the Townshend International School

THE TOWNSHEND International School's new buildings have been designed to cater for Bahá'í and other summer residential programmes, which are intended to help cover the costs of the building and the running of the school.

This summer's projects included a Bahá'í programme of three weeks, each week being a separate series of seminars and meetings based on the Bahá'í teachings, and aimed at personal spiritual development. But, unlike many typical deepenings on this theme, these seminars applied the teachings to practical aspects of human life, and were attended and well received by friends of the Faith as well as Bahá'ís.

The courses addressed "life management skills", applying spiritual principles to the organisation of our daily lives. Other seminars concentrated on "Education and the Family". Deepenings also involved music, singing, dance, mime, and the art of photography.

Russ and Gina Garcia, the worldrenowned Hollywood writers and singers of music, added their special touch each week by encouraging participants to sing together, practice some numbers on the theme of the Seven Valleys and finally put on an informal performance at the end of each week.

Jean Marie Bottequin, a psychologist living in Munich in Germany, coached others in the science of body language, and through the enhancement of the consciousness of our own body movements, enabled participants to experience the expression of miming and to perform in front of others. He also led another course on photography, which proved to be highly popular.

Children had the opportunity of involving themselves in art activities, prepared by an artist using the school's resources and art rooms.

Although I only attended the first week, participants of all of the three weeks of activities agreed that they came away from the programmes with feelings of exuberance, joy and self-fulfilment. The positivity and unity created at the sessions reached an extent never initially anticipated by the organisers. More programmes of spiritual enrichment are planned for next year, using the fine and very suitable facilities of the Townshend School. If you are interested in finding spiritual fulfilment set in beautiful and comfortable surroundings, contact the school about next year's programme.

With loving greetings,
Greg Akehurst-Moore

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