

# REGIONAL BAHÁ'Í COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

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June 3, 2016

To all believers in the South Central Region for the Feast of Núr

Dearly loved Friends,

It is with hearts full of joy and gratitude that we are writing to you. The South Central Council is overjoyed to share with you that our region has won all its goals during the Plan that just ended, and we are more ready than ever for the new global Five Year Plan, which began at Ridván 2016.

In the words of the Universal House of Justice, "We see a community fortified with the gifts of strength and hard-won experience that come from two decades of unremitting effort focused on a common aim: a significant advance in the process of entry by troops." And that "All that the followers of Bahá'u'lláh have learned in the last twenty years must culminate in the accomplishments of the next five."

It is in this spirit and in response to the call of the House of Justice that the Regional Council, in collaboration with our Continental Counselor, the Auxiliary Board members, and the regional training institute, has planned 11 regional gatherings, 8 of which have already taken place. The goal of these gatherings is to help prepare the protagonists of the Plan to embark with greater readiness on the last Five Year Global Plan called for by the House of Justice, which will culminate in April 2021, at the end of the first century of the Formative Age.

In addition to these gatherings, the regional training institute, as the engine for growth, is holding several seminars in our region to train effective tutors and raise up new resources in order to advance the provisions of the Plan. More information is available on their website, [www.southcentralrti.org](http://www.southcentralrti.org).

Numerous stories are coming to light, which can inspire and kindle our hearts. In one of the rural clusters in our region, a Bahá'í family moved to a smaller city in Texas and began reaching out to meet their neighbors. They focused on developing genuine friendships with a few families and started inviting the parents, junior youth, and children to lunch or sometimes dinner at their home, and they also went on home visits, which led to conversations about the condition of the world and the concern for their children's well-being. As their friendships with these families advanced, they brought up the idea of starting a children's class and a junior youth group as a safe haven which would help their children make good choices and instill in them spiritual values. In a process that unfolded organically, they gradually began a fireside, devotional gathering, and a Ruhi Book 1 study circle in their home, which everyone eagerly looked forward to attending. After a few months, this same family decided to reach out to an adjoining cluster and help the believers there to start visiting their neighbors and initiating friendships. They assisted with starting a Book 1, which has resulted in one declaration, and now resources are being raised up from the local population to advance the process of growth.

In order to help win the goals of this new Five Year Plan, the Council is earnestly inviting the friends in our region who are able to either serve as homefront pioneers or become a mobile resource and travel to nearby clusters to make home visits, or perhaps host a devotional gathering, start a fireside, tutor a study circle, teach a children's class, or animate a junior youth group. If you are able to serve in these ways, even for a few months this summer, please send an email to [secretary@rbcs.usbnc.org](mailto:secretary@rbcs.usbnc.org).

The Universal House of Justice in its Ridván 2016 message states,

This is the last in a series of consecutive Five Year Plans. At its close, a new phase in the evolution of the Divine Plan will open, set to propel the community of Bahá'u'lláh towards the third century of the Bahá'í Era. May the friends of God in every country appreciate the promise of these few years ahead, which will be rigorous preparation for the even mightier tasks yet to come. The present Plan's broad scope enables every individual to support this work, however humble one's share. We ask you, cherished co-workers, adorers of Him Who is the Best-Beloved of the worlds, to spare no effort in applying all you have learned and every God-given ability and skill you possess to advance the Divine Plan into its next essential stage.

The Regional Council is praying ardently that your devoted services and focused commitment to the provisions of the Plan will yield abundant fruits, as we begin the new Five Year Plan.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

REGIONAL BAHÁ'Í COUNCIL of the SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

Regina Rafraf  
Secretary