

APPRECIATIONS OF THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH

"It is a wondrous message that Bahá'u'lláh and His son 'Abdu'l-Bahá have given us. They have not set it up aggressively, knowing that the germ of eternal truth which lies at its core cannot but take root and spread."

Queen Marie of Rumania, from the Toronto Daily Star, May 4, 1926

"In a Hellenizing World early in the second century of the Christian Era the Christian Church loomed no larger, in the sight of an Hellenically educated dominant minority, than the Bahá'ís . . . were figuring in the sight of the corresponding class in a Westernizing World mid-way through the twentieth century."

Arnold J. Toynbee, A Study of History, Vol. VII

"When I find myself in Chicago and when, traveling northwards out of the city, I pass the Bahá'í temple there, I feel that in some sense this beautiful building may be a portent of the future."

Arnold J. Toynbee, Christianity Among the Religions of the World, 1957

"The Bahá'í emphasis on the unity of religions is the richest adornment of our contemporary faith. . . . The words of Bahá'u'lláh, which have become a challenge and a working formula for our time, have long been my text, 'The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens.'"

Marcus Bach, Dept. of Religion, U. of Iowa. From Message of Greeting at time of dedication of Bahá'í House of Worship, Wilmette, Illinois, 1953

"Like the early Christians, Bahá'ís live their faith. In America, they have pioneered in creating truly integrated communities. . . .

. . . Because their belief is a form of action, Bahá'ís are proving in action Bahá'u'lláh's vision: 'Ye are the fruits of one tree and the leaves of one Branch.'"

Ebony Magazine, April 1965

"The only one (contemporary religion) unambiguously and almost single-mindedly consecrated to the job of unifying mankind is the Bahá'í Faith."

W. Warren Wagar, The City of Man, 1963

"Bahá'u'lláh, in the judgment of many, possessed the tenderness of St. Francis, the courage of Socrates, the meekness of Moses, the sanity of Confucius, the missionary vigor of Mohammad, the moral majesty of Isaiah, the compassion of Buddha and the saintliness of Jesus."

"Today several millions of people throughout the world hail this person as the Hope of World Peace and the Savior of all Mankind."

Dr. David Rhys Williams, First Unitarian Church, Rochester, N.Y.,
World Religions and the Hope for Peace, 1951

"This Bahá'í Movement is the greatest light that has come into the world since the time of Jesus Christ. You must watch it and never let it out of your sight. It is too great and too near for this generation to comprehend. The future alone can reveal its import."

Dr. Benjamin Jowett, Master of Balliol, Oxford University, Quoted by
Professor Lewis Campbell, in article by Louise Drake Wright, 1906-07

WORLDWIDE STATISTICS ON THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH

I. Growth -- Worldwide growth of the Faith can be divided into five periods as follows:

	<u>Countries and Territories Opened to the Faith</u>
A. Ministry of Báb (1844-1850)	2
B. Ministry of Bahá'u'lláh (1853-1892)	13
C. Ministry of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (1892-1921)	35
D. Period of Guardianship (1921-1957)	200
E. To present (1957 -)	333
Countries opened to the Faith	
N.B. Independent countries	137
Significant territories and islands	196
	<u>333</u>

II. Number of localities where Bahá'ís reside:

A. United States	4,862
B. Worldwide	60,591*

III. Number of Administrative Bodies:

A. National Spiritual Assemblies	113
B. Local Spiritual Assemblies (as of April 1972)	14,105
C. Local Spiritual Assemblies (U.S.) (as of April 1972)	955

IV. Miscellaneous Statistics

A. Number of languages into which Bahá'í literature has been translated and published -- in excess of	501
B. Bahá'í Schools and Institutes	117
C. Sites acquired for future Houses of Worship -- over	83
D. Number of tribes and minority groups represented in the Faith -- in excess of	1,518

*As of July 1972

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