May fanaticism and religious bigotry be unknown, all humanity enter the bond of brotherhood, souls consort in perfect agreement, the nations of earth at last hoist the banner of truth and the religions of the world enter the divine temple of oneness, for the foundations of the heavenly religions are one reality.

-'Abdu'l-Bahá

An Introduction to the Bahá'í Faith



Interreligious Pilgrimage, Dialogue, Fellowship, & Reflection

Department of Peace Studies (DPS) and Religion, Culture, and Peace Laboratory (RCP Lab) in Cooperation with Life-Long Learning (LLL)

Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand

26 October 2022



Bienvenu!

ようこそ

Maligayang Pagdating!

Chào mù'ng

ยินดีต้อนรับ

Welcome!

willkommen

欢迎!

Benvenuto!

Program

- Introduction to the Bahá'í Faith
- Worship and Service: Baha'i Houses of Worship
- How is the Baha'i Faith organized?
- Baha'i Way of Life & Community Building Activities

BREAK (30 minutes)

Discussion: Questions and Answers

What is the Bahá'í Faith?

A brief introduction

A Few Facts about the Bahá'í Faith:

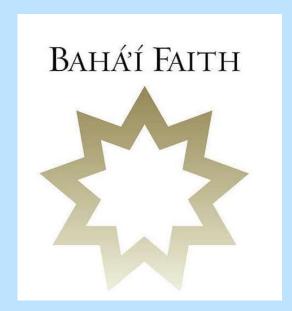
Founder is Bahá'u'lláh "The Glory of God"

Bahá'ís are followers of Bahá'u'lláh.

• The Baha'i Faith was founded 179 years ago in 1844

• The Bahá'í Faith has approximately 7 million members.

• Is the <u>second most widely distributed religion after</u> <u>Christianity</u> (Encyclopedia Britannica).





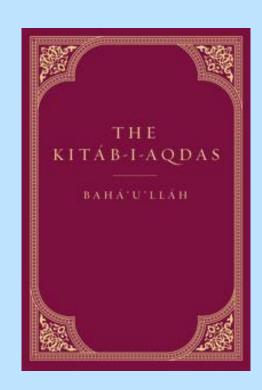
Writings of Bahá'u'lláh

The Writings of Bahá'u'lláh fill approximately 100 volumes and are in Persian and Arabic.

His Writings have been translated into 800+ languages.

"The Most Holy Book" (The Kitáb-i-Aqdas)

The main source of Bahá'í laws and practices.

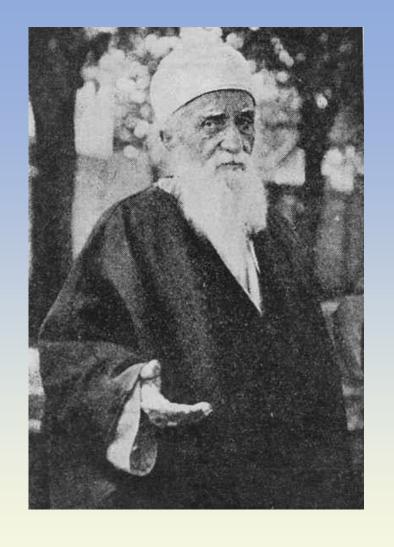


'Abdu'l-Bahá

Appointed Center of the Faith by Bahá'u'lláh

• Authoritative interpreter of Bahá'u'lláh's Writings.

Protected the unity of the Bahá'í Faith



Our Examplar: Demonstrates what it looks like to follow the teachings of Baha'u'llah.

The Oneness of God
The Oneness of religion
The Oneness of humanity



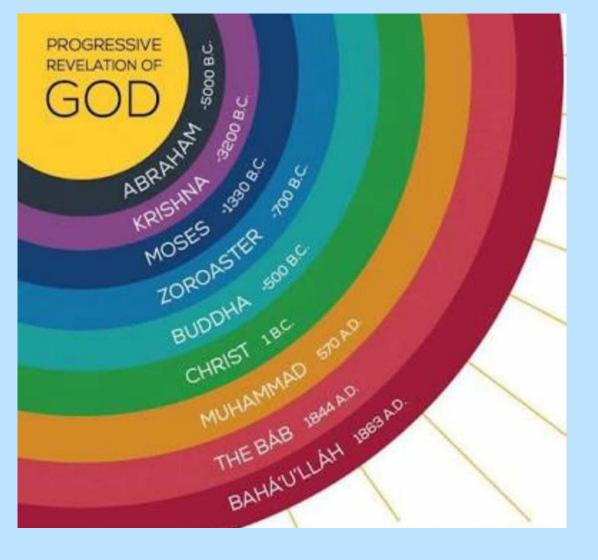
Some Teachings of the Baha'i Faith:

- Independent investigation of truth
- Equality of man and women
- Harmony of religion and science
- Universal compulsory education
- Spiritual solution to economic problems
- Elimination of all forms of prejudice
- Adoption of a universal auxiliary language
- Abolition of the extremes of wealth and poverty
- A world tribunal for the adjudication of disputes between nations
- Justice as the ruling principle in human affairs.









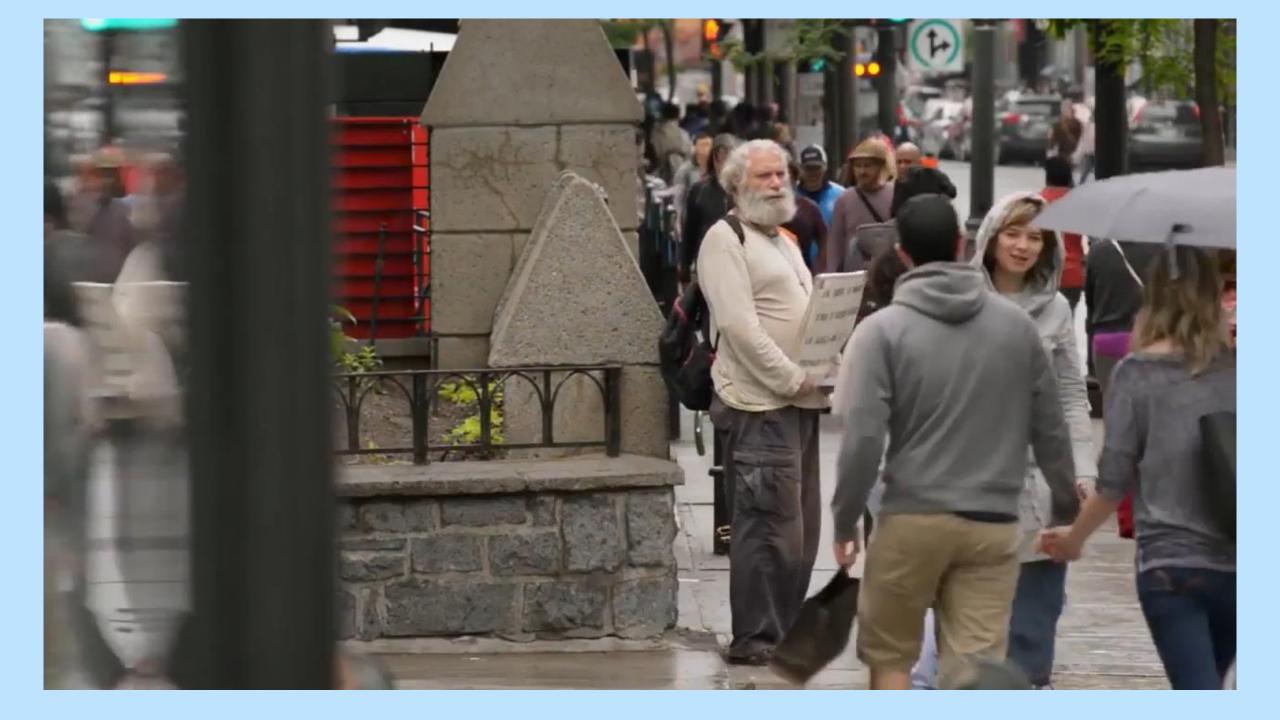
Religion is Progressive

- Spiritual Teachings: common to all religions
- Social Teachings:

change according to age and the needs of humanity

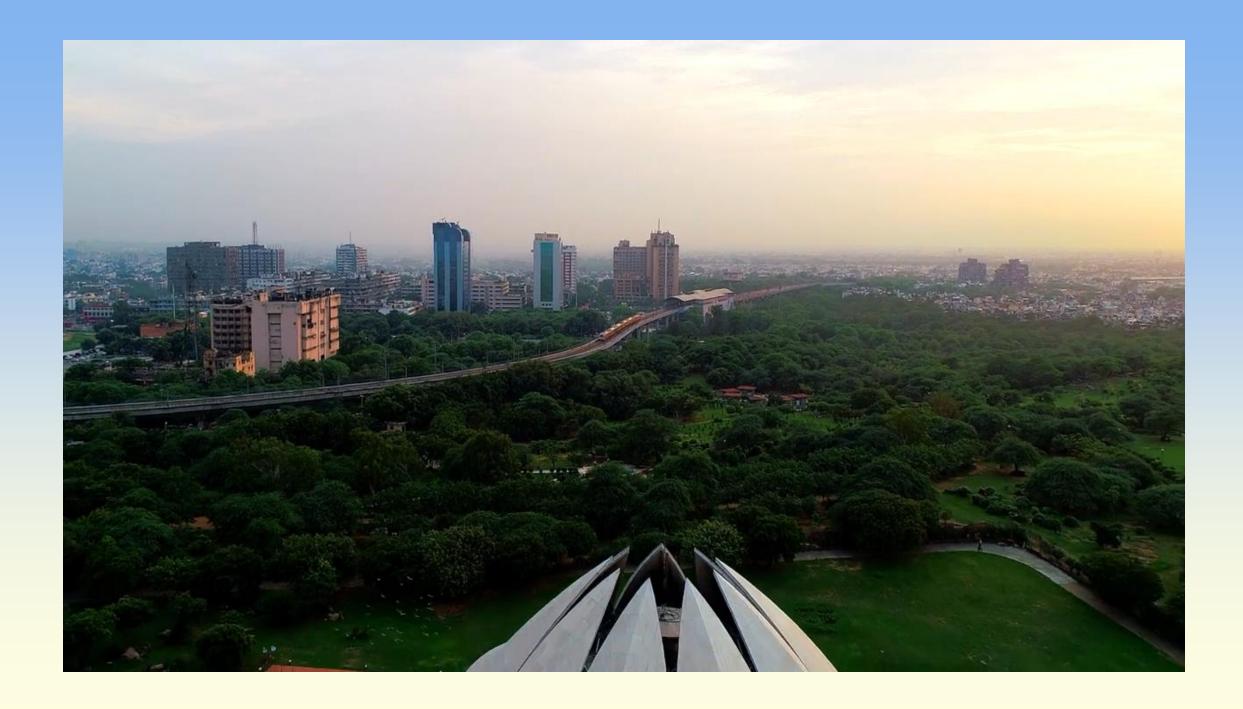
Each religion has served as spiritual stimulation expanding the level of human cooperation:

Family → Tribe → City-state → Nation → World



Bahá'í Houses of Worship





Continental Houses of Worship



How is the Bahá'í Faith organized?

Baha'i AdministrationA New System of Global Governance

- A unique feature in religion and in Baha'u'llah's revelation.
- Administration established by the Manifestation Himself.
- Unity is protected.





No individual leaders or clergy

Leadership is given to groups of 9 people

Universal House of Justice



National Spiritual Assembly



Local Spiritual Assembly



- Nineteen Day Feast (the community)
- There is no individual leader, even within the group...

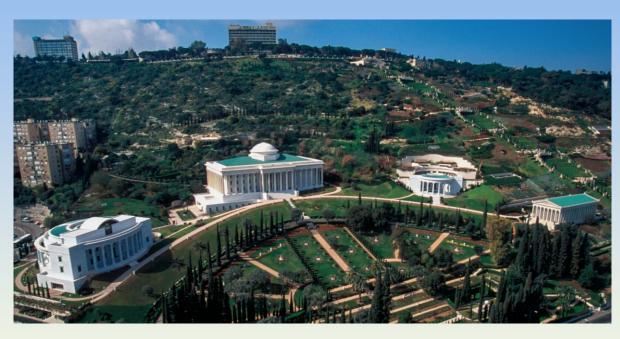


Myanmar



Thailand

Spiritual & Administrative Center Haifa, Israel - Mount Carmel:



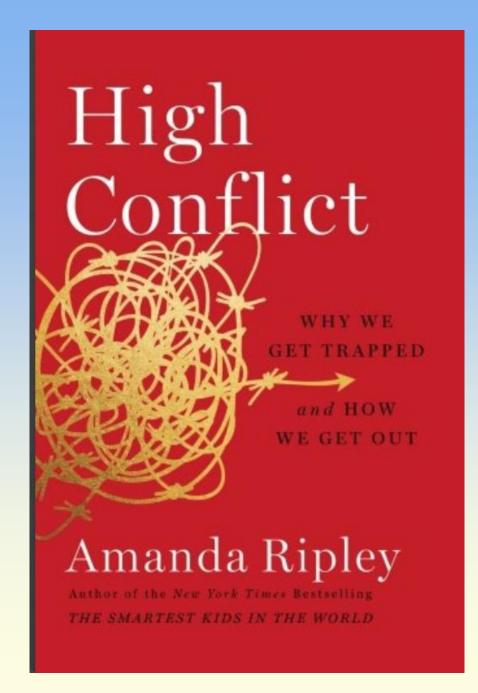




Administrative Buildings:
Seat of the
Universal House of Justice
Established by Bahá'u'lláh

Shrine of Baha'u'llah

Shrine of the Bab



Research Question by an Author:

"Are there any organizations that manage avoiding conflict effectively?"

THE ALMA & JOSEPH GILDENHORN BOOK SERIES

4/14/21

aspen institute



Amanda Ripley Investigative Journalist and Author Garrett Graff
Journalist, Author, and Director,
Cyber Initatives, Aspen Digital

Garrett Graff is an author and the Aspen Institute's Director of Cyber Initiatives & Aspen Digital.



Baha'i Way of Life



Status of the Bahá'í Faith in Thailand

- Bahá'í Faith is well known by the Government of Thailand.
- A presentation on the Baha'i Faith was made to King Rama IX in 1964.
- HRH Princess Soamsawali Kitiyakara officially opened the National Baha'i Center in Bangkok.
- "Baha'i Faith" is a religion option for National ID







The Prime Minister of Thailand sent a letter of congratulations

to the Bahá'í Community for Bicentenary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (2017)

(Coat of Arms) Message

General Prayuth Chan-ocha Prime Minister on the occasion of the bicentenary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith October 21, 2017

At the heart of every religion is the shaping of a virtuous and ethical character in its adherents, enabling them to be good members of society. It is the policy of the government to support every religion and its activities, since religion promotes good deeds and the translation of spiritual principles and teachings into action in one's daily life, and as a result, communities of people coexist in peace and tranquillity. The observance of the bicentenary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, we regard as an important religious occasion and a good opportunity for Bahá'ís to gather together and to reverently call to mind the Prophet and practise His precepts and teachings, thus elevating the spirits and living up to His standards of morality, and contributing to the unification of society as a whole. Bahá'ís, as they gather together, will demonstrate love, togetherness, and unity, thereby sustaining culture, traditions and a commendable way of life for Bahá'ís throughout this country and around the world.



สาร

พลเอก ประยุทธ์ จันทร์โอชา นายกรัฐมนตรี เนื่องในโอกาสวันครบรอบ ๒๐๐ ปี วันคล้ายวันประสูติ พระบาฮาอุลลาห์ พระศาสดาผู้ก่อตั้งศาสนาบาไฮ วันที่ ๒๑ ตุลาคม ๒๕๖๐

หัวใจสำคัญของทุกศาสนา คือ การหล่อหลอมจิตใจของศาสนิกชนผู้นับถือศาสนาให้มีคุณธรรม จริยธรรม เป็นคนดีของสังคม รัฐบาลมีนโยบายให้ความสำคัญกับการทำนุบำรุงศาสนาทุกศาสนา และส่งเสริม การจัดกิจกรรมทางศาสนา เพราะศาสนาส่งเสริมให้คนทำความดี ด้วยการนำหลักธรรมคำสอนมาปฏิบัติ ในการดำเนินชีวิตประจำวัน เพื่อจะได้อยู่ร่วมกันในสังคมอย่างสงบและสันติสุข การจัดงานรำลึกวันคล้าย วันประสูติของพระบาฮาอุลลาห์ พระศาสดาผู้ก่อตั้งศาสนาบาไฮ ถือเป็นวันสำคัญทางศาสนาและเป็นโอกาส อันดีที่บาไฮศาสนิกชนจะได้ร่วมปฏิบัติศาสนกิจ เพื่อน้อมรำลึกถึงพระศาสดาและนำพระธรรมคำสอนมาปฏิบัติ เพื่อยกระดับจิตใจให้มีมาตรฐานทางศีลธรรม พร้อมทั้งร่วมพัฒนาสังคมส่วนรวมไปสู่ความเป็นเอกภาพ อีกทั้ง บาไฮศาสนิกชนจะได้มาร่วมพบปะกัน ซึ่งเป็นการแสดงให้เห็นถึงความรัก ความผูกพัน และความสามัคคี อันเป็นการสืบสานวัฒนธรรม ประเทศและทั่วโลก

เนื่องในโอกาสวันครบรอบ ๒๐๐ ปี วันคล้ายวันประสูติ พระบาฮาอุลลาห์ พระศาสตาผู้ก่อตั้ง
ศาสนาบาไฮ ผมขอส่งความระลึกถึงและความปรารถนาดีมายังผู้บริหาร และเจ้าหน้าที่ของสมาคมสภาการกลาง
ศาสนาบาไฮ ตลอดจนผู้ที่นับถือศาสนาบาไฮทุกคน พร้อมทั้งขอให้พระบาฮาอุลลาห์ได้โปรดอำนวยพรอันประเสริฐ
ให้บาไฮศาสนิกขนทั้งหลาย จงประสบแต่ความสุข ความเจริญ และสัมฤทธิ์ผลในสิ่งที่พึงปรารถนาโดยทั่วกัน

พลเอก

(ประยุทธ์ จันทร์โอชา) นายกรัฐมนตรี

Bahá'í Way of Life: Two areas of personal attention

- Develop ourselves (our virtues & qualities)
- Contribute to development of society "an ever advancing civilization"







→ seek to bring about spiritual, social, and material progress simultaneously.

Community Building Activities and Service



Core Activities:



- 1. Children's Classes
- 2. Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program
- 3. Study Circles
- 4. Devotional Gatherings
- Social Action Projects
- Social Dialogue on concerns of society.
- Inter-Faith Activities



Hang Dong, Chiang Mai

1. Children's Classes (ages 6-11)



Yasothorn, Thailand

Help children develop a strong moral framework

and to achieve excellence in material, intellectual, and spiritual aspects of life.



Thailand









Chiang Mai Myanmar Vietnam

2. Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program (ages 12 to 15)

Program to empower participants through the development of:

- spiritual perception
- making positive life choices
- the enhancement of their power of expression
- the building of a sound moral structure



Omkoi, Thailand



3. Study Circles (over 15 years old)



Thailand, CMU Students!!!



A sequence of Study Courses with Discussion on topics such as:

- the power of prayer,
- the nature of the soul,
- life after death,
- education of children and youth
- social action and community service
- family life



Cambodia Philippines



4. Devotional Gatherings

People of all faiths and backgrounds come together to share prayers in a dynamic and sacred atmosphere and discuss development of the community.





Laos



Participation in Inter-Faith Dialogue







Refreshment Break!



Questions/ Answer Period



Videos – Search on YouTube

Light to the World

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4oHgOLZA-o&t=911s

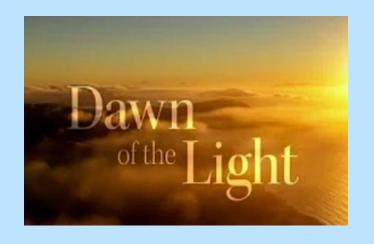
Bahá'u'lláh brought teachings for this age that represent an end to division and otherness, through which—at long last—the oneness of humankind can be realized. Discover more through accounts of people from diverse nations whose lives have been transformed by the light that Bahá'u'lláh brought to the world.



Dawn of the Light

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h9hLL3JFnI&t=60s

Around the world, people are searching for answers to life's most pressing questions. The video traces community issues in 9 countries: Tajikistan, Nepal, Chile, USA, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Austria, and Zambia. It shows how individual spiritual journeys can connect to community-building.



Exemplar

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRE8vDU_ufs

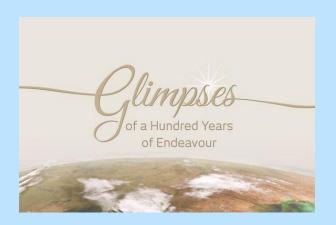
Exemplar follows the life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the profound effect He had on people both past and present. A sense of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's unique function as a shelter, a shield, a stronghold for all humanity is captured in vignettes of some of the souls whose lives were transformed for the betterment of society through their association with Him.

Glimpses of a Hundred Years of Endeavour

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MsMfnkd6_I

This film provides glimpses into a hundred years of endeavour and learning, carried out by a burgeoning Bahá'í community, and outlines the journey that has led to the community's current efforts to contribute to the emergence of a world based on the principle of the oneness of humanity.





Additional Information (see Handout)

English:

www.bahai.com

https://bahaiteachings.org/

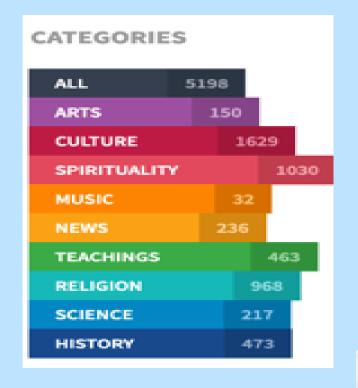
https://www.bahaiblog.net/

Thai - ศาสนาบาไฮ

http://thai-bahais.org/

http://www.bahai.or.th/

https://th.wikipedia.org/wiki/ศาสนาบาไฮ









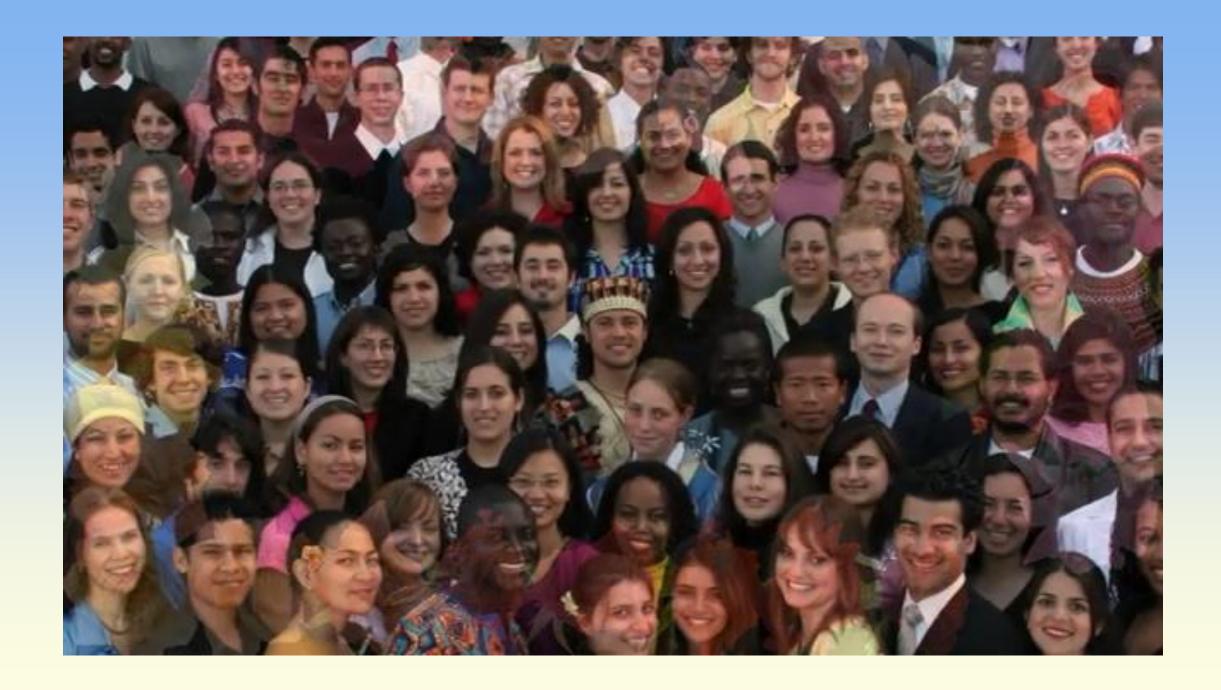


Thank you all for coming!

"Let all associate, therefore, in this great human garden even as flowers grow and blend together side by side.

Love ye all religions and all races with a love that is true and sincere, and show that love through deeds."

- Abdu'l-Bahá

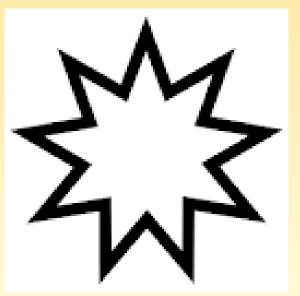




Additional Slides

Bahá'í Symbols





Finances - Contributions to the Bahá'í Fund:

- All contributions are voluntary with no pressure
- Contributions are anonymous
- Considered a bounty to contribute and it attracts blessings
- Only Bahá'ís may contribute to the Baha'i Fund