

The Spread of the Bahá'í Faith around the World

The beginning

Bahá'í Geography 1
Teaching the Bahá'í Faith

The spread of the Bahá'í Faith

The Bahá'í Faith has brought God's Word for today, with its central message of the oneness of humankind. The world has globalised in synchrony with the Faith. On the day of the Declaration of the Bab, 23 May 1844, the first telegraph message was sent in America: "What hath God wrought", marking the beginning of technologies of communications and transportation to unite the world physically.



Telegraph

The spread of the Bahá'í Faith

The challenge for the new Faith was to bring its message to every human being on the planet, and so unite it spiritually. Slowly at first, and then with increasing speed, it has become the second most widespread religion in the world after Christianity, which was spread by colonization.

Teaching the Faith

Through the potency of the Name of the Best Beloved, invite thou the receptive souls unto God's holy court, that perchance they may not remain deprived of the heavenly Fountain of living water. He is in truth the Gracious, the Forgiving.

(Bahá'u'lláh in “*Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*”)

Countries opened to the Faith

The Báb (1819-1850), the forerunner of the Faith who announced the coming of “Him Whom God shall make manifest”, arose in Persia in 1844, and His faith also spread to Iraq by the time of His Martyrdom in 1850.

Period of the Báb 1844-1850

Iraq

Persia (Iran)

Countries opened to the Faith

The Prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892), also came from Persia (now Iran), but was exiled to Iraq, Turkey and finally to the prison-city of Akka (now in Israel). During His ministry, the Bahá'í Faith reached 13 additional countries.



Bahá'u'lláh's prison in Akka

Countries opened to the Faith

Bahá'u'lláh's Ministry 1853-1892

Adhirbayjan

Armenia

Burma (Myanmar)

Egypt

Georgia

India

Israel

Lebanon

Pakistan

Sudan

Syria

Turkey

Turkmenistan

Teaching the Faith

Gird up the loins of thine endeavor, that haply thou mayest guide thy neighbor to the law of God, the Most Merciful. Such an act, verily excelleth all other acts in the sight of God, the All-Possessing, the Most High.

(Bahá'u'lláh in “Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh”)

Teaching Plans

It is through teaching the Faith that a religion spreads from person to person, and through them from country to country. Bahá'í geography traces how countries and islands have been opened to the Faith, and tells some of the stories of the wonderful teachers, or pioneers, who first went there. This was a conscious process directed by teaching plans, first by 'Abdu'l-Bahá until 1921 with his *Tablets of the Divine Plan*, then in the teaching plans of the Guardian, Shoghi Effendi (1921-1957), and now by the Universal House of Justice since 1963.

Teaching the Faith

By the righteousness of God! Whoso openeth his lips in this Day and maketh mention of the name of his Lord, the hosts of Divine inspiration shall descend upon him from the heaven of My name, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

(Bahá'u'lláh in “Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh”)

Bahá'í Geography

Through Bahá'í geography, we can learn both about the rich diversity of lands and peoples around the planet, and about the qualities and sacrifices of the teachers who took the Bahá'í Faith there. We shall look at 'Abdu'l-Bahá's *Tablets of the Divine Plan* that listed all the states and provinces, countries and islands to which the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh with God's Word for today should be taken.

Teaching the Faith

*Be unrestrained as the wind, while carrying
the Message of Him Who hath caused the
Dawn of Divine Guidance to break.*

(Bahá'u'lláh in “Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh”)