

## **A Presentation on the Baha'i Faith**

The Baha'i Faith is a world religion whose purpose is to unite all the races and people of the world in one universal Cause and one common Faith. Baha'is is about 6 millions in the world who have been spread in 300 countries during 166 years.

### **Baha'i history**

The Baha'i Faith started in 1844 by a young merchant in the name of the Bab at the age of 25 from Iran. His mission was to prepare people for coming of a great spiritual educator for this age, Baha'u'llah the Glory of God. Many Clergy accepted Him and had been martyred by the authorities in Iran. Bab also martyred at the age of 32. Baha'is are the followers of Baha'u'llah who announced His mission 9 years after the Bab in 1853 as the Promised One of all Ages. He was arrested and banished from Iran to Iraq and from Iraq to Turkey and from Turkey to Akka and Haifa which in that time was part of Ottoman Empire and now known as Israel, where He passed away after 40 years of imprisonment.

### **Baha'is believe in:**

- 01 Oneness of God. There is only one God who has created humanity and reason of His creation was Love.
- 02 Oneness of religion. All the religions have come from one source
- 03 Oneness of mankind. All the people of the world are the children of one God
- 04 Equal opportunity between men and women
- 05 Independent investigation of truth. It means religion is not heritage in Baha'i Faith. Children have the opportunity to choose their religions at the age of 15
- 06 Harmony between science and religion
- 07 Universal compulsory education
- 08 Spiritual solutions to economic problems
- 09 Elimination of prejudice of all kinds
- 10 A universal auxiliary language
- 11 Universal peace upheld by a world federation
- 12 Unity of Mankind

### **Guardianship**

Baha'ullah the Founder of the Baha'i Faith appointed His son Abdul-Baha as His successor. Abdu'l-Baha visited the United States and Europe and spread the Baha'i Faith in these countries. He appointed his grandson Shoghi Effendi Rabbani as his succour who had his education in Oxford University. Shoghi Effendi passed away in London in 1957 and was buried in New Southgate Cemetery in Barnet. This is a law in the Baha'i Faith that a body should not carry more than one hour distance to the burial place, so anybody who dies in a town should be buried in that town.

### **Baha'i calendar**

The Baha'i calendar is 19 months and each month is 19 days. 19 months multiply 19 days is equal of 361 days. Four other days up to 365 days in a year has been allocated for charities.

### **Baha'i Fast**

The Baha'is have fast on the last month of the year which is 19 days from 2<sup>nd</sup> of March to 21<sup>st</sup> March, which they don't eat from sun rise to sunset for 19 days. Then on 21<sup>st</sup> March they celebrate the Baha'i New Year.

### **Prayers & meditation**

Prayers and meditation is very important in the Baha'i Faith. Baha'is do not have a special place of worship in town, they pray at their home but they have Baha'i temples in each continent. Baha'is get together in each community on the first day of each 19 days and have devotional, news of the community and social part.

### **Baha'i Administration**

In each town where the Baha'is are more than 9 people, they will elect 9 people among themselves on 21<sup>st</sup> April to run the local Baha'i community for one year. The same in each country, Baha'is elect 9 people among the Baha'is in the Country in order to run the National Baha'i Community. Also for the world, 9 people have been elected by the Baha'is in the world to run the World wide community for 5 years. These elections are secret and are not on propaganda.