

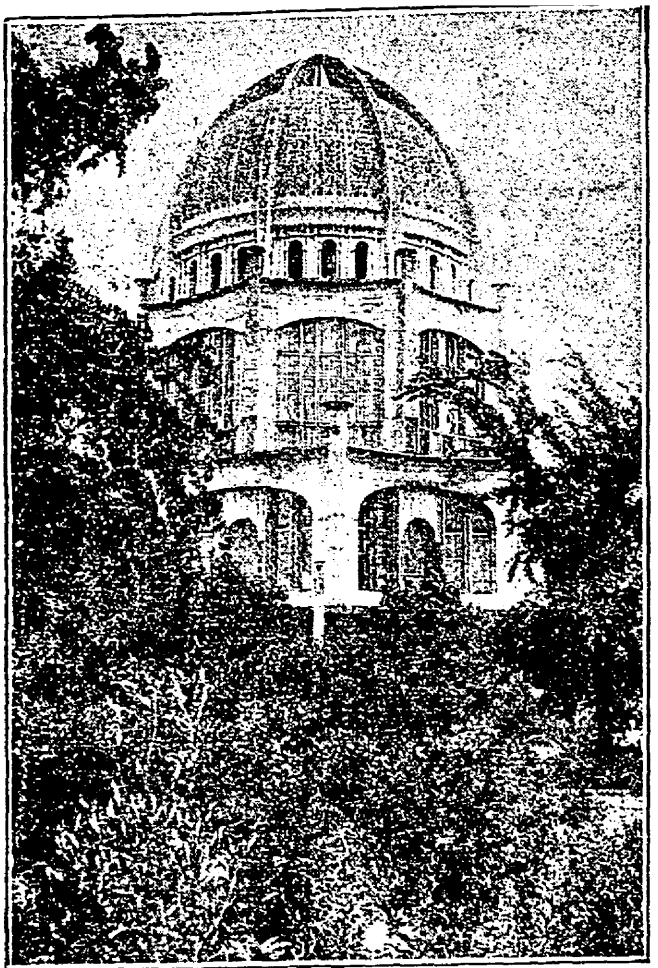
# New Book Sets Forth Growth Of Baha'i In 40 Countries

Reviewed by  
 EDITOR ROBERT S. ABBOTT

The publication of THE BAHAI WORLD, a book of 712 pages, marks another chapter in the biennial record of the Baha'i Faith. This eminently compiled and edited document registers in a sober tone, yet arresting, the activities and progress of Baha'ism in 40 countries, together with a historical expose of the primary spiritual concepts that characterize the Message of Baha'u'llah to this age.

The book bids the uninitiated to examine the tenets of this faith

this religion commands itself particularly to us blacks. We who have been the victims of persecution and isolation by the wedding of other religious philosophies to inhuman secular conceptions; by the failure of other religions to indoctrinate their followers with the ideology of oneness of mankind, and by their passive acquiescence of and their bowing to popular accents of race prejudice within their own gates, before their very altar, we should find an abiding joy, a spiritual haven for our souls in Baha'ism. For this faith has bridged the social



This magnificent temple, begun in 1930 and now nearing completion, stands, with an awe imposing splendor, on the top of a hill on a nine-acre tract on the shore of Lake Michigan in Wilmette, Ill., 14 miles north of Chicago. It represents the first notable departure in architecture since the 9th Century.

when it states that: "The existence of so many evidences of a newly revealed Faith and Gospel for a humanity arrived at a turning point in its spiritual and social evolution has likewise a profound significance for the non-Baha'i student and scholar who desires to investigate the world religion founded by the Bab and Baha'u'llah. For in these pages the reader encounters both the revealed Word in its spiritual power, and the response which that utterance has evoked during the first 90 years of the Baha'í Faith. He will find what is unparalleled in religious history, the unbroken continuity of a divine Faith from the Manifestation onward through three generations of human experience, and will be able to apprehend what impregnable foundations the Baha'í World Order rests upon in the life and teachings of the Bab and Baha'u'llah, the life and interpretation of Abdu'l-Baha, and in the development of an administrative order under the direction of the Guardian of the Faith, Shoghi Effendi."

"It is the avowed faith of Baha'is that this Revelation has established upon earth the spiritual impulse and the definite principles necessary for social regeneration and the attainment of one true religion and social order throughout the world. In the BAHAI WORLD, therefore, those who seek a higher will and wisdom than man possesses may learn how, amid the trials and tribulations of a decadent society, a new age has begun to emerge from the world of the spirit to the realm of human action and belief."

Thus we have here in succinct form the whole spiritual panorama of this world wide spiritual community. The doctrinal pronouncement of

chasms engendered by a difference in nationality, race, class and creed. It articulates mutual understanding and harmony. Thus black believers are accorded the spiritual equality of their white fellows. It has none of the artifices and surface disciplines of other faiths. It forsakes wealth, social prestige and other means of public influence.

This indispensable testament should be in the library of every home for the spiritual comfort it affords the soul, and the penetrating light it casts upon the intellect. The work consists of four sections: an outline of the history and aims of the Cause, with selections from Baha'í Sacred Scriptures; a summary of current activities in East and West; a Baha'í directory and bibliography, with the constitutions of local and national Spiritual Assemblies; references to the Faith by prominent non-Baha'is, and articles on different aspects of the teachings.

In addition to about 200 illustrations

tions of Baha'í groups and scenes of historical interest, its features are: memorials to Bahiyyih Khanum, daughter of Baha'u'llah, who died in July, 1932; genealogy of the Bab; insert map showing location of Baha'í centers; and illustrations and articles descriptive of the magnificent Temple near Chicago.

This book, published by the Baha'í Publishing Committee, New York, costs \$2.50.