

Disciples Of Baha'i Close 4-Day Meet

The annual Baha'i convention which closed a four-day session last Sunday, brought to Chicago a total of 171 delegates representing 78 cities in the Western Hemisphere.

Mrs. E. R. Mathews of Colorado Springs, Col., chairman of the newly organized inter-American committee thrilled the delegates at the Baha'i House of Worship with her recital of successful attempts to spread the Baha'i faith throughout 20 nations of South America.

Emerge From Darkness

More than eighty years ago, when East and West alike were struggling to emerge from darkness of materialism and unbelief, the Baha'i Cause arose with its assurance of a New Day.

On May 23, 1844, a radiant youth of Persia, known as the Bab (Door of the Spirit) proclaimed His mission of heralding the coming of a mighty educator who would quicken the souls, illumine the minds, unify the consciences and remold the customs of mankind. After six years of heroic steadfastness and ardent teaching, by which the Mohamman world was rent in twain, the Bab became a victim of fanatical persecution and was publicly martyred at Tabriz, July 9, 1850.

Foundation Was Laid

Upon this preparation the foundation of the Cause was laid by Baha'u'llah (Glory of God), whose universal principles of personal and social regeneration were revealed under conditions of cruel oppression unequalled in the annals of religion. Baha'u'llah died in 1892. From then on his message has been slowly penetrating to all parts of the world.

At the present time the unity of the Baha'is and the integrity of the ideals of Baha'u'llah is maintained by Shoghi Effendi, grandson of Abdu'l-Baha and Guardian of the Cause. One of the basic tenets of Baha'i faith is oneness of mankind.

The convention opened with a banquet at the Auditorium hotel. Among the speakers who addressed the Amity meetings were: Dr. Isemu Tashiro, philanthropist; Dr. Philip Seman, director of the Jewish People's Institute; A. L. Foster, Executive Director of the Urban League; Mrs. Wendell Green of the League of Women Voters; Dean Charles W. Gilkey of the University of Chicago Chapel; Prof. P. R. Hershey of Northwestern university; Dr. Gung Hsing Wang, former vice Consul of China and the Rev. F. A. Laxmana, Director of the Filipino Community center.