

Baha'is Dedicate House Of Worship In Uganda And Sydney, Australia

Dedication of a House of Worship in Kampala, Uganda, and Sydney, Australia, marked unprecedented growth of the Baha'i World Faith in the past year, according to Hugh Chance, secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States, in a statement to some 10,000 in this country in observance of the birthday of Baha'u'llah, prophet-founder of the Baha'i World Faith.

"It is less than 100 years since Baha'u'llah, (whose name means the Glory of God), announced his station as the promised one of all religions," Chance said. "Men everywhere sought guidance, finding they could no longer live in isolation but were being propelled by scientific advances into an international era.

"Principles offered by Baha'u'llah in the 19th century give mankind this necessary guidance. Baha'is now living in 6,000 centers around the world, and coming from vastly differ-

ing religious and racial backgrounds, live and worship God together in harmony."

Each year there are 100,000 visitors to the House of Worship in Wilmette, Illinois, and the recently-completed temples at Sydney, Australia, and Kampala, Uganda, are attracting many sightseers.

"In an age of great racial tensions, the smiling faces of peoples of all colors worshipping together harmoniously surely present a sight worthy of investigation," commented Chance.

Another House of Worship is nearing completion near Frankfurt, West Germany. Services in these Temples consist of the reading of the sacred scriptures of all the world's great reli-

gions, without a sermon or commentary.

"Although 20,000 persons were martyred in the early years of the faith," said Chance, "the number of declared Baha'is has steadily grown until today some five million of the world's inhabitants recognize Baha'u'llah as God's messenger for this age."

Even the present turbulent international situation is viewed with confidence by Baha'is, he continued. "They feel this is the necessary prelude to man's discovery that 'the earth is one country and mankind its citizens. When enough people accept this teaching, the kingdom of God on earth will surely be established," concluded Chance.