

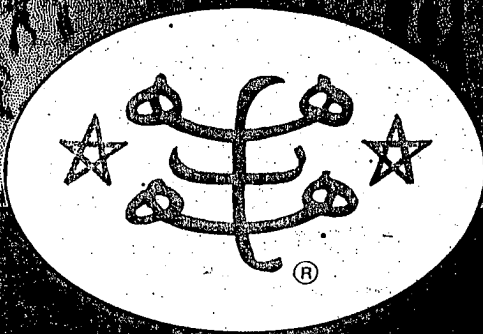
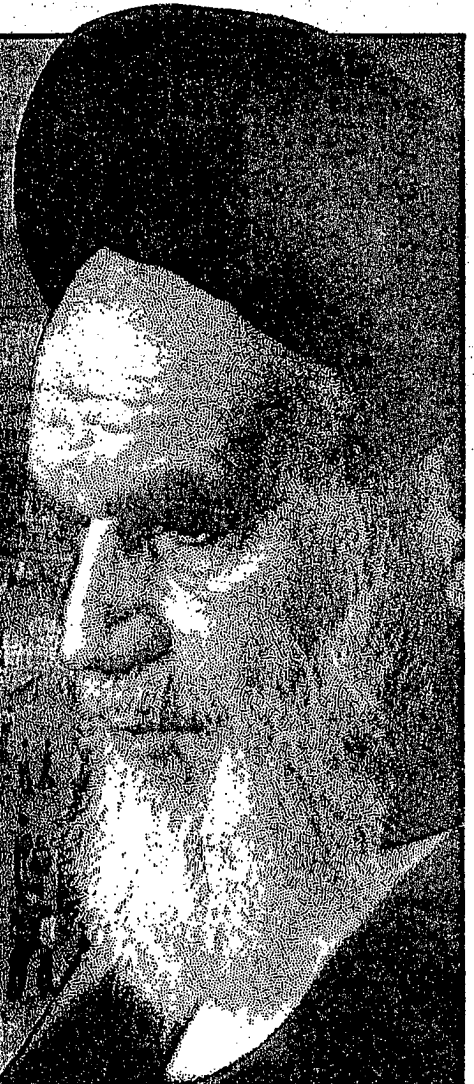
Crossroads

MAGAZINE OF RELIGION

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1983

Iran's persecution of the Bahais



Hundreds of Bahais have been killed or imprisoned since the Islamic revolution of 1978 and the installation of the Ayatollah Khomeini (above) as religious and political leader of Iran. Thousands more have lost their homes and businesses. Story, page 4.

Tampa Mayor Bob Martinez asks clergy to 'provide the care' that government cannot, page 2

After a year on the job, Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin brings calm to the Chicago archdiocese, page 6

Retired police officer, now living in Port Richey, says the rough job created a need for 'Cops for Christ,' page 8

A majority of Americans favor an amendment that would permit voluntary group prayer in public schools page 9

St. Petersburg Times

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Iran's persecution of the Bahais

American Bahais hope for the weight of world opinion to end the violence

By JEANNE PUGH
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

Schole Raoufi of St. Petersburg does not like to speak too openly about her relatives in Iran because calling attention to them could put them in prison, or worse, put them in danger of execution, she says.

They have already been subjected to harassment and denial of civil rights. So far, only one — a dentist married to Miss Raoufi's cousin — is feared dead. He was arrested by revolutionary guards on Aug. 21, 1980, and has not been heard from since.

His crime? He was a member of an auxiliary board of the Bahai National Spiritual Assembly in Tehran. As a prominent Bahai, he was a vulnerable target in the current wave of persecutions that has resulted in the disenfranchisement of thousands of Iranians and the deaths of hundreds in the past 3½ years.

The Bahai Faith was founded in Iran in 1844 and now claims more than 300,000 followers in that country and 3.5-million adherents around the world. It has won the respect of many who admire its tenets of human equality, racial and religious tolerance and the essential unity of humanity.

BUT, SINCE the faith's beginning, Bahais have been under continual attack in the land of its origin where leaders of the Shiite Muslim majority have branded it heretical to Islam. The intensity of the persecution in Iran has waxed and waned during the past 139 years, depending upon the degree of political power held by the Muslim mullahs (clergy).

Persecutions have escalated rapidly since the Islamic revolution of 1978 and the installation of the Ayatollah Khomeini as arbiter of the nation's political and religious life. Documentation supplied by Bahai leaders records a tragic litany of injustices:

- Since the fall of 1978, 151 Bahais have been killed — some were stoned, beaten or burned to death by mobs during the early days of the revolution, but most have been executed by government authorities. They have included nearly all the prominent leaders of the Bahai community and their families.

- Sixteen other Bahai leaders have disappeared after arrest or abduction from their homes or businesses, and most of them are presumed to be dead.

- More than 250 Bahais have been imprisoned for indefinite terms, either without formal charges against them or on charges that Bahai sources say are "trumped up."

- Thousands of Bahais have lost their jobs — some as a result of Khomeini's edict forbidding the employment of Bahais by government agencies, and some because of government harassment of private businesses employing Bahais. Scores of Bahai businessmen and professionals have been deprived of their livelihoods by denial of trade and professional licenses.

- Thousands have been driven from their homes by mobs incited by Muslim clergy and government agents or have seen their homes demolished or burned.

- All of the major Bahai holy places, including the House of the Bab (founder of the faith), have been demolished. Bahai cemeteries have been desecrated and, in some cases, paved over as roadways.

- Bahai children and young adults have been dismissed from public schools and colleges, and Bahai-run schools and hospitals have been closed or confiscated by the government.

- Bahai bank accounts and assets have been frozen or confiscated. Bahai farmers have lost their livestock, which has been stolen, killed or sold at public auction. Their crops have been burned.

- Bahais trying to escape the country have been denied visas, and those with valid passports have been turned back at the airports and borders. Iranian consuls around the world have been instructed to revoke the passports of Bahais outside the country and issue only travel documents permitting them to return to Iran — to face certain further harassment

and persecution.

AMNESTY International, an independent watchdog agency that monitors human rights violations around the world, has "documented proof from many sources" that these atrocities are taking place, according to Betsy Ross, a spokesperson in the agency's New York office. She said this week that Amnesty has put the Iran government at the top of its list of violators of human rights and "we don't publish anything until we have confirmation from a number of independent sources."

She added, "There is no evidence that any of the Bahais executed since 1979 have been guilty of espionage — the reason (for their deaths) is their faith," she said.

The Islamic government initially claimed that its actions against the Bahais were the result of evidence that members of the group were traitors or spies — either agents of Zionism or of "American imperialism" — and had nothing to do with religious persecution.

But, in recent months, no such pretense has been used. Bahais are told openly that, if they denounce their faith and convert to Islam, all will be forgiven. In some cases, Bahais have been offered more wealth than they have

lost if they agree to become Muslims.

Miss Raoufi, a third generation Bahai, said that such invitations are rarely accepted. Just this past June, 17 Bahais — including 10 women and teen-age girls — were hanged publicly in the city of Shiraz after refusing four times to sign statements of recantation.

Since then, 63 more Bahais, including 10 more women, have been arrested, and many of these will probably share a similar fate, Miss Raoufi said.

The pace of persecutions continues despite a rising tide of protest from governments and international agencies throughout the world.

AMONG THOSE that have issued statements condemning the Iranian action and pleading for a cessation of the persecution are: both houses of the U.S. Congress, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, the European Council of Nations, Amnesty International, the U.S. National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, and the governments of Canada, Great Britain, West Germany, Australia, Switzerland and Luxembourg.

Last month, 89 professors of Iranian and Islamic studies at colleges and universities throughout the United States — including Christians, Jews, Muslims and Bahais — signed an open letter to the Iranian government, calling the persecutions "a contradiction of all that is best in the traditions of Islam and the Iranian people."

In addition, religious leaders of all faiths and political leaders from throughout the world have appealed individually, in private and in public, to the Ayatollah Khomeini and other Iranian leaders to stop the carnage.

President Reagan issued his strongest public appeal on May 22, asking specifically that 22 Bahais then under sentence of death be spared. The June executions were carried out despite his plea.

MEANWHILE, Iranian newspapers continue to print justifications for the atrocities, including statements by judges of the revolutionary courts intimating that even harsher measures may be in store for Bahais who cling to their beliefs.

The president of the Revolutionary Court of Shiraz, quoted in a Shiraz newspaper, declared: "Before it is too late, the Bahais should recant Bahaism, which is condemned by reason and logic. Otherwise, the day will soon come when the Islamic nation will deal with the Bahais in accordance with its religious obligations, as it has dealt with other hypocrites who have appeared in more dangerous garb and have religious and satanic gatherings."

See BAHAIS, page 10



Schole Raoufi was only two years old when her family left Iran.

Her flight from religious oppression began early

Schole Raoufi, 31, is a native of Iran, cultural anthropologist and linguist who came to the United States several years ago from West Germany and is currently seeking permanent resident status as a political-religious refugee. Her situation is unique, however, because her family's flight from religious persecution in Iran began when she was only 2 years old.

She said her father, a civil engineer whose company built bridges, roads and airports for the government of the late Shah Reza Pahlavi for two decades, moved his family to Germany in 1954 during a wave of Bahai persecutions fomented by an influential Muslim mullah (priest). The mullah's preaching against the Bahais inspired mobs to plunder and loot Bahai homes, businesses and institutions. A number of Bahais were murdered, and the Bahai National Center in Tehran was taken over and vandalized by police, army and clergy.

The persecutions subsided after the shah, sensitive to world opinion and threats of economic sanctions, responded to a United Nations appeal and ordered the restoration of Bahai properties and civil rights.

BELIEVING THAT the respite was only temporary, Miss Raoufi's father kept his wife and four daughters in Germany. The family home in Tehran was retained, however, and Raoufi continued his business operations there. During "safe periods," the family traveled frequently to Iran to visit friends and relatives.

Then, in 1978, Miss Raoufi said, her father was forced to leave Iran permanently when the Islamic revolution resulted in the installation of the Ayatollah Khomeini regime. He and one of Miss Raoufi's sisters escaped from the country with only one suitcase each. Since then, all of the family's properties and business assets have been confiscated by the Iranian government, and their former home has been taken over by the gardener, maid and chauffeur who once served them, she said.

The tenuous status of aliens in Germany led Miss Raoufi to come to the United States to complete her education. She earned her B.A. degree in cultural anthropology and comparative religion from the University of California at Santa Cruz, where she also taught in the Department of Religious Studies and introduced the Bahai Faith as an accredited subject.

She is continuing her studies as a candidate for a doctoral degree in cultural anthropology, working on a dissertation based on her research into the cultural adaptation of foreign workers living in Germany and the impact of their marginal status on their children.

MISS RAOUFI came to St. Petersburg two years ago to enroll the youngest of her three sisters in St. Petersburg Junior College. Granted a temporary working permit, she has been teaching German at the University of South Florida, acting as an interpreter and selling real estate while awaiting a decision from immigration authorities about the status of her application for permanent asylum.

In the meantime, she has succeeded in helping her parents emigrate to Canada. Her two other sisters now reside in Spain and Greece.

Tolerance of Bahai Faith seen as threat to Iranian Moslems

By JEANNE PUGH
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

The Bahai Faith would seem, at first glance, to be the least likely religion to become the subject of persecution. Its beliefs are among the most non-violent, tolerant and unobtrusive of all the world religions.

But Schole Raoufi, an Iranian by birth and a third-generation Bahai, explains that the faith is viewed as dangerous by Iranian Moslems for two main reasons:

- It threatens to undermine the authority of the powerful Shiite Moslem mullahs (clergy);
- And it represents a kind of progress, both social and spiritual, that many Iranian people are not yet ready to accept.

Miss Raoufi explains that the Bahai Faith, founded in Iran in 1844, has no ecclesiastical hierarchy of ministers, priests or mullahs. Its affairs are administered by Spiritual Assemblies (committees) elected democratically at local, national and international levels. While some Bahais who are experienced and well-educated in the faith are recognized as teachers, no Bahai is accorded any special privilege or power within the community and those few serving fulltime administrative positions receive compensation only for their expenses.

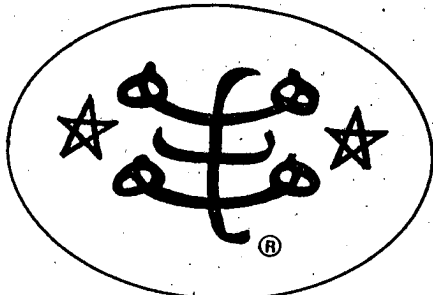
THE BAHAIS also believe in universal education, the full equality of men and women, the oneness of God, the validity of all the major religions and the equality of the races. All of these beliefs run counter to the teachings of Shiite Islam, the minority branch of the Moslem faith that is predominant in Iran.

The Shiites, more so than many other branches of Islam, view women as chattel and all members of other faiths as infidels. While acknowledging Judaism, Zoroastrianism and Christianity as root religions that paved the way for the appearance of the Moslem prophet Muhammad in the 7th Century A.D., the fundamentalist Shiites consider their religion to be the final revelation from God.

As a result, the Jewish, Christian and Zoroastrian religions have been recognized in Iran as legitimate and permitted to exist. But the Bahai Faith, which claims its prophet Bahauallah was a modern successor to Muhammad, is seen as heresy. Its tenets of human equality and universal education threaten the power of the mullahs who have for centuries lived on the largess of their followers, acquiring considerable wealth and influence.

"The mullahs do not want education because their chief purpose is to interpret the Koran (the Moslem holy scriptures) to the people," Miss Raoufi says.

MULLAH opposition to the Bahais emerged almost



Symbol of spiritual progression

Bahais believe that all prophets have been manifestations of a continuing and progressive dialogue between God and humanity. This concept is illustrated in the Emblem of the Greatest Name, or the Ringstone. Its three horizontal lines depict the three planes of existence: The World of God the Creator; The World of His Manifestations (The Prophets); and The World of Mankind. The connecting, vertical line, interseing the three, represents the Holy Spirit, which links the three planes. Two five-pointed stars represent the twin "Messengers of God for This Age" — The Bab and Bahauallah.

OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE 5501-62nd Ave. N.
Traditional Catholic Latin Mass 9:30 A.M. — English 8 & 11:15 A.M.
OLD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Pinellas Park, Fla.
Phone 347-6002

The Bahais believe in universal education, the full equality of men and women, the oneness of God, the validity of all the major religions and the equality of the races. All of these beliefs run counter to the teachings of Shiite Islam, a branch of the Moslem faith that is predominant in Iran.


immediately after the faith was first proclaimed by a 25-year-old Iranian merchant, Ali Muhammad. He announced on May 22, 1844, that he had been chosen as the herald of another prophet, or "world teacher," to be sent by God. He assumed the title of The Bab ("The Gate") and rapidly attracted thousands of followers among the Moslems who had been taught — as have been Jews and Christians — that a messiah would someday come to lead believers through a millennium of peace and prosperity.

The Bab's teachings infuriated both civil and religious leaders who initiated cruel persecutions that culminated in the public execution of the Bab in 1850. But the Bahais, as his followers were called, continued to assemble and to study his writings.

See FAITH, page 7

A litany of persecution


- Since the fall of 1978, 151 Bahais have been killed, most through government execution of prominent Bahai leaders and their families.
- Sixteen Bahai leaders have disappeared after arrest or abduction and most of them are presumed to be dead.
- More than 250 Bahais have been imprisoned for indefinite terms.
- Thousands of Bahais have lost their jobs because of government edict or harassment.
- Thousands have been driven from their homes which were demolished or burned.
- Major Bahai holy places, including the House of the Bab, have been demolished.
- Bahai cemeteries have been desecrated or paved over as roadways.
- Bahai children and young adults have been dismissed from public schools and colleges, and Bahai-run schools and hospitals have been closed or confiscated by the government.
- Bahai bank accounts and assets have been frozen or confiscated.
- Bahais trying to escape the country have been denied visas, and those with valid passports have been turned back at the airports and borders.



Roman Catholic Churches

Diocese of St. Petersburg

the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle



DIocese OF ST. PETERSBURG
Fifth Ave. North & 59th Street

Saturday Evening Masses: 4:30 and 6:30 P.M.
Sunday Masses: 6:00, 8:00, 9:30 Youth Liturgy, 11:00 A.M., 12:30 & 6:30 P.M.
Weekday Masses: Mon.-Fri. 6:30, 8:15 & 11:00 A.M., Sat. 6:30 and 8:15 A.M.
Holy Days: (same as Saturday & Sunday)
Confessions: Saturday, day before Holy days and First Fridays: 7:30 to 8:00 A.M., 3:00 to 4:00 P.M. and 7:30-8:00 P.M.
St. Jude Novena Prayer & Mass: Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
ANGELUS AND MORNING PRAYERS FROM THE DIVINE OFFICE AND ROSARY WEEKDAYS AT 7:45 A.M.
SCRIPTURAL ROSARY 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNDAY MASSES.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH 4th St. & 78th Ave. N.E., St. Petersburg
Saturday — 5:00 & 7:00 P.M. Phone 325-5783
Sundays — 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 A.M. & (12:30 P.M. Oct. 1st-May 1st)
Confessions: Sat. 4:00 to 4:45 & 7:30-8:00 P.M.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH 2101-22nd Ave. So., St. Petersburg
Sat. Eve. Mass — 5:15 P.M. Oblate Fathers
Sun. Masses: 9:00 & 11:00 A.M.
Confessions 4:30-5 P.M., Saturdays Daily Mass 8:00 A.M.

ST. RAPHAEL'S CHURCH 1376 Snell Isle Blvd. N.E., St. Petersburg
SATURDAY EVENING MASS — 5:30 P.M.
SUNDAY MASSES — 8:00, 9:00 & 11:00 A.M. & 12:30 & 5:30 P.M.

ST. MARY OUR LADY OF GRACE 4th St. & 5th Ave. So. St. Petersburg Ph. 896-2191
Mass Schedule:
Sunday and Holy Days 6, 7, 8, 9:30, 10:45 — 12:15 and 4:30 P.M.
Saturday & Eve of Holy Days 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. Mass in French 6:30 p.m. (Nov. thru April)
Weekday Masses . . . 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 A.M. & 12:10 P.M.
Sunday 2:30 P.M. Polish Mass & Confessions in Polish Sun. 2-2:30 P.M.
Confessions: Saturdays & Eve of Holy Days, 3:00 to 4:00 P.M. and after 8:00 A.M. Mass
Devotions: Novena Monday 4:00 p.m. - Friday Holy Hour 3 P.M., Mass 4 P.M.

Come Worship With Us!

TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH 4000-43rd St. N., St. Petersburg
Saturday Evening Masses 5:00 & 7:00 P.M.
Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9:00, 10:15, 11:30 A.M., 6:00 P.M.
Confessions Saturday 4:00 to 4:45 and 7:30-8:00 P.M.

ST. THERESE BYZANTINE RITE 4265-13th Ave. North St. Petersburg
Divine Liturgy Schedule
Sunday 8:45 A.M. English; 11:15 A.M. Church Slavonic
Weekday 8:00 A.M.; Saturday Confessions 4 to 5 P.M.

BLESSED TRINITY CHURCH 1600-54th Avenue South, St. Petersburg
SATURDAY EVENING MASS : 5:00 P.M.
SUNDAY MASSES: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 A.M., and 6:00 P.M.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH 7851-54th Ave. No. St. Petersburg
Saturday Masses 5:00 P.M. (Dec. thru Apr. 5 & 7 P.M.)
SUNDAY MASSES: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 A.M. & 12:30 P.M.
Interpreter for the Deaf — 9:30 Mass
Weekday Masses 8:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.
Confessions Sat. 4 to 5 P.M. — 8:00 to 8:30 P.M.
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament — First Friday of Month, 8:30 A.M. & All Day to Benediction at 6:30 P.M.

St. Paul's Church 1800-12th St. No. St. Petersburg
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: 5:30 P.M.
SUNDAY MASSES: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12 NOON & 6:00 P.M.
SATURDAY CONFESSIONS
4:30 to 5:30 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
Daily Masses: 6:30 & 8:15 A.M.
Saturday & Eve of Holy day 5:30 P.M.
Sunday Masses: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.
Holy Day Masses: 6:30, 8:30, 10:00 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.
First Friday Masses: 6:30, 8:15 & 5:30 P.M.
followed by Nocturnal Adoration until 6:30 A.M. Sat.
Confessions: 4:30-5:30 & 7:30-8:00 P.M. Sat. & Eve. of First Friday & Holy Day
82nd Ave. & Blind Pass Rd., St. Petersburg Beach, Fla.

world digest

Presbyterians in Brazil want out of U.S. group

The Presbyterian Church of Brazil has asked to be released from its ties to the former Presbyterian Church-U.S. after a 114-year association. Now that the southern branch of Presbyterianism in the United States has merged with the northern branch to become the Presbyterian Church-U.S.A., the Brazilian church "will keep the door open" for future talks, said Rev. Boanerges Ribeiro, spokesman for the Brazilian church. But it wishes to determine that the new church is "older and more mature" before reaching a new working agreement. The

conservative Brazilian church, many of whose founders were Confederates who moved to Brazil after the Civil War in order to preserve their "southern lifestyle," broke off relations with the northern church in 1972 after a policy dispute.

Moonies move into Uruguay

Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder-leader of the Unification Church, is "practically buying the country of Uruguay," according to a newsletter published by the Florida Synod, Lutheran Church of America. The newsletter reports that Moon, whose followers are known as "Moonies" in the United States, recently purchased Uruguay's third largest bank, its largest hotel, a daily newspaper and a high-rise office building in downtown Montevideo. Uruguayan journalists, it

adds, "speculate that their country may become the world center for Moon's church." The church currently maintains its headquarters in New York City and Tarrytown, N.Y.

Baptists allocate flood aid

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has allocated more than \$634,000 to its missionaries and medical teams in seven South American countries that have suffered widespread devastation as a result of floods and unusually heavy rains during the last six months. The board reports that the floods have killed 100 in Brazil and 1,000 in Peru and left about 700,000 homeless in Brazil and Argentina. Severe damage is also reported in Paraguay, Ecuador, Bolivia and Uruguay.

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inded, and asked ese... norms."

a chorus of criticism saw this as the tip of the iceberg toward denunciations in the church. It's an indicator of a crisis more serious than to others," said *ational Catholic* weekly published in

rsy, Bernardin's tone and he went after girls" flap in

to address as a women included, mainstream of the intent to address the framework of teaching." conflicts between increasingly content Bernardin with years to come.

Faith from page 5

In 1852, a small group of Babi fanatics precipitated more trouble by plotting to assassinate the shah in reprisal for the death of their leader. Discovery of the plot by the authorities led to a major campaign to erase the sect from the country, even though the main body of believers had nothing to do with the assassination plot. In the bloody battles that followed, an estimated 20,000 Babis were killed and hundreds were exiled.

Among the exiles was Husayn-Ali, the son of a Persian nobleman, who went to Baghdad and, after 11 years of contemplation and study, announced that he was the long-awaited prophet. He claimed the same divine authority as the prophets who had preceded him — Krishna, Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Jesus and Muhammad. He adopted the name Bahaullah ("The Glory of God"), and his followers became known as Bahais.

Bahaullah spent most of the rest of his life in prison. He was banished from Baghdad to Constantinople to Adrianople and, finally, to the Palestinian prison city of Akka, where he was confined for 24 years. His long imprisonment, however, gave him the opportunity to formulate and refine the concepts and laws of the Bahai Faith. He wrote more than 100 volumes that have become the "bibles" of the Bahais.

His writings, believed by the Bahais as "God-inspired" as the Koran or the Judeo-Christian Bible, proclaim that all the prophets have been manifestations of a continuing and progressive dialogue between God and humanity.

THIS CONCEPT is illustrated in one of the few religious symbols used in the Bahai Faith. Called the Emblem of the Greatest Name, or the Ringstone, its three horizontal lines depict the three planes of existence: The World of God the Creator; The World of His Manifestations (The Prophets); and The World of Mankind. The connecting, vertical line, intersecting the three, represents the Holy Spirit, which links the three planes. Two five-pointed stars represent the twin "Messengers of God for This Age" — The Bab and Baha'u'llah.

Bahaullah taught that each of the prophets has offered guidance for a particular time in history, but that none of the faiths founded by those prophets holds a monopoly on eternal truth. The ultimate truth, he said, is being revealed gradually to humankind. Yet, the message is always basically the same: That all humanity is linked together and, therefore, human beings should love one another and devise ways to live in peace with each other and in communion with the one true God.

The Bahai Faith prescribes a rigid code of moral conduct. Parental consent is required before marriage, and all marriages are monogamous. Extra-marital sex is condemned. The use of alcoholic beverages and "all other drugs that affect the mind" is forbidden. Scrupulous honesty is demanded — a factor that explains why the Bahais in Iran continue to identify themselves as believers despite enormous pressure to lie about their religious convictions.

YET THE BAHAIS do not force their beliefs on others and are cautioned not to engage in proselytization. The faith, they are taught, is a "gift" from God that should be shared but not imposed upon unwilling listeners.

Bahaullah also taught his followers to work for the

According to the Bahai Faith, all humanity is linked together and, therefore, human beings should love one another and devise ways to live in peace with each other and in communion with the one true God.

establishment of a world government in which extremes of wealth and poverty would be abolished. But he advised against participation in partisan politics, and he urged his followers to be loyal subjects of the government wherever they lived.

Finally, Bahaullah proclaimed that true religion has no quarrel with science or technology and that his followers should take advantage of all progress in these areas in order to build a better world.

Miss Raoufi believes that this last tenet has caused many of the problems for the Bahais in Iran. The mullahs, she said, have consistently resisted progress and have indoctrinated most of their followers with the belief that modern education and technical advances are against God's will.

"But you cannot make the clock stop or go backward," said Miss Raoufi. "The world is progressing both technologically and spiritually. Yet the mullahs are trying to block new ideas from coming into the country and turn it back into what it was during the days of Muhammad. Many of the people have gone along with the mullahs because the shah (Reza Pahlavi) tried to change things too quickly. A revolution of some sort was inevitable."

She continued, "I believe cultural change and cultural adaptability go hand in hand. They have to be in balance if new values and new behaviors are to be accepted. During the shah's regime, modernization came too fast and only a few of the people — those at the top — benefited. The poor people — those who could not read or write and still used donkeys to pull their carts — couldn't understand it. They couldn't understand why the shah forced women to take off the chador (long gowns and veils)."

Hence, she explained, when the mullahs began to foment rebellion, they found willing allies among the poor who felt they had nothing to gain from the modernization of the country and had become hostile to the rich and their new way of life.

THE REVOLUTION also heightened the Muslim animosity toward the Bahais, who had easily adapted to the changes because of the teachings of Bahaullah.

"Most Iranians," she said, "do not know that Bahai is now a worldwide faith. They do not know of the worldwide objections to their treatment of Bahais."

She quoted from a recent issue of the *London Sunday Times*: "The Bahais in Iran are even more alone (now) than the Jews (were) in Nazi Germany."

"But the misery in Iran is not isolated," she said. "It is affecting us in the United States directly. The rest of the world looks to the western democracies to respond to this sort of political lunacy. If Americans only knew how precious their freedom is and how easily freedom can be lost, perhaps they would do more to help the Bahais in Iran. The Bahais are a vital part of the international community."

ST. PAUL'S REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH
4545-10th Ave. N., St. Petersburg 321-4088
"Heirs of the English Reformation"
Worship — 10:45 AM & 6:00 PM; Tues. 7:30 PM

NORTHEAST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
453 - 53rd AVE. NO., ST. PETERSBURG Fred R. Schreiber, Minister
S.S. 9:30 A.M. Wor. 10:30 A.M. & 6 P.M. 521-1278

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF SEMINOLE
13272 Park Blvd. N. David Meyer, Minister
S.S. 9:30 A.M., Worship 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF LARGO
1645 Seminole Blvd., North of 688
8:45 & 11 A.M. Morning Worship
10:00 A.M. Bible School
6:00 P.M. Evening service
Ministers: R. C. Shannon,
D. Stuecher, R. E. Camblin, R. Doles

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF ST. PETERSBURG
49th ST. S. of 2nd AVE.
9:45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP
6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP
Wed. 7:00 P.M.
Mid-Week School of the Bible

Christian Science

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
253-5th AVE. N., ST. PETERSBURG
SUNDAY SERVICE — 10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL — 10:30 A.M.
WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING — 8:00 P.M.
READING ROOM — 322 First Ave. No.

SECOND CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
6099 CENTRAL AVE., ST. PETERSBURG
SUNDAY SERVICE — 10:00 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL — 10:00 A.M.
WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING — 8:00 P.M.
READING ROOM — 6001 Central Ave.

THIRD CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
6333 - 1st ST. N.E., ST. PETERSBURG
SUNDAY SERVICE — 11:00 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL — 11:00 A.M.
WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING — 7:00 P.M.
READING ROOM — 2603-9th St. N.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
6245 SEMINOLE BLVD. (ALT. 19) SEMINOLE
SUNDAY SERVICE — 10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL — 10:30 A.M.
WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING — 7:30 P.M.
READING ROOM — 6245 Seminole Blvd.
10:00 A.M. to 2 P.M. Monday thru Friday (except holidays)

Everyone is welcome at our churches and reading rooms. Child care provided for all services.