



Fall 2008 Story Ideas



BAHÁ'Í FAITH

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

As we head into the U.S. presidential election in November, the Bahá'í electoral model offers a fascinating faith perspective on how to avoid the corruption and divisiveness of the partisan system. Bahá'ís have no clergy and instead administer their community through a unique model of democratic elections—without nominations, candidacies, campaigning or electioneering. For a local angle, Bahá'ís in every part of the country will be holding elections this October to select delegates to the annual Bahá'í National Convention. Chicago Public Radio highlighted the Bahá'í electoral model in its coverage of the 100th U.S. Bahá'í National Convention, held in May 2008. (see <http://bahai.us/WBEZ-election-story>)

PEW SURVEY

The 2008 Pew Survey on religion found that 70 percent of Americans believe that a different religion can offer a path to salvation. The Bahá'í concept of progressive revelation is a natural extension of this belief: Where else but in the Bahá'í Faith can you find former Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists and others who have fully recognized the validity of each other's holy books and reached a common understanding of God's plan for human salvation?

MAJOR BAHÁ'Í HOLIDAYS

The most important Bahá'í holidays occur between March 2 through May 23, with 19 days of fasting, commemorations, and elections of local and national assemblies.

IRANIAN BAHÁ'Í REFUGEES IN THE U.S.

In hundreds of towns and cities around the country, Iranian Bahá'í refugees are rebuilding their lives after fleeing from persecution in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In Iran, Egypt and throughout the Middle East, the treatment of Bahá'ís has become a litmus test for civil and human rights in general, a key element for Americans concerned about that troubled region.

PILGRIMAGE/UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Bahá'ís from around the country make pilgrimage to Bahá'í holy sites in Israel, which were declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites in July 2008.

"HOME CHURCH" MOVEMENT

Fitting in with the move toward house churches and small-group worship is the Bahá'í Faith's "do it yourself" nature. Each believer is encouraged to host prayer gatherings, small-group study circles and faith-based service projects in his or her home.