

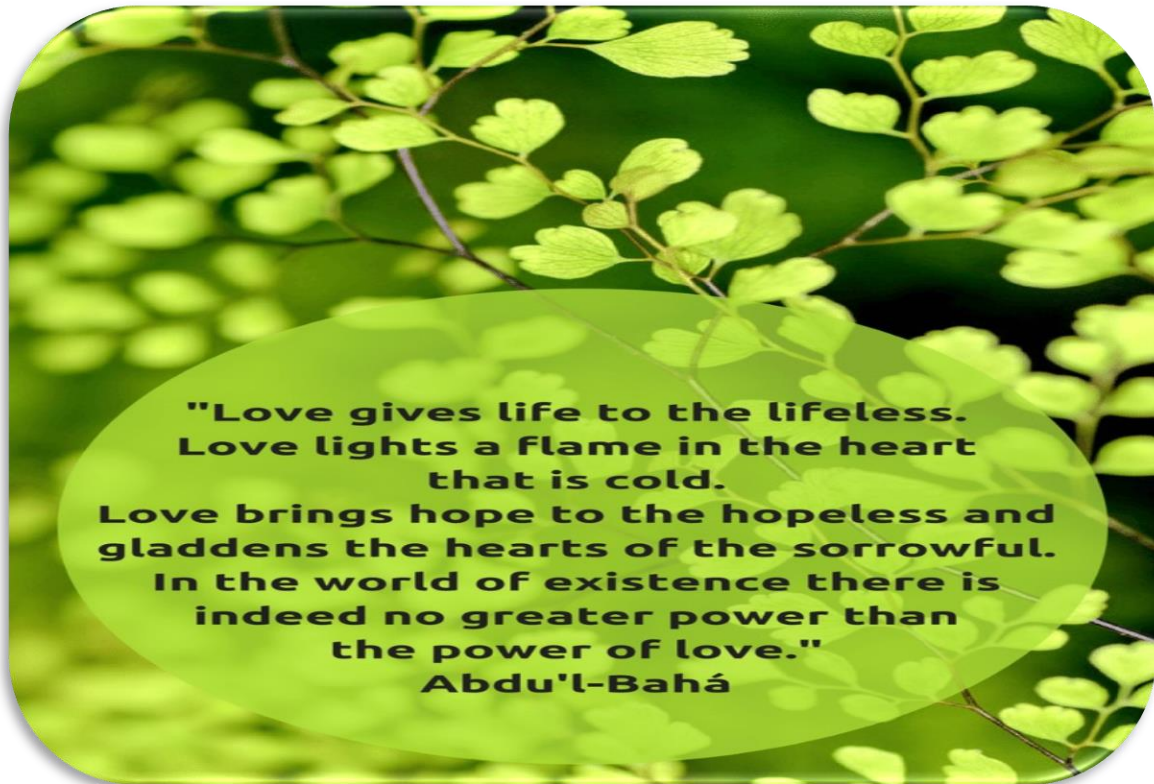


Port Alberni Nuggets

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Baha'i Quote of the Month



**"Love gives life to the lifeless.
Love lights a flame in the heart
that is cold.
Love brings hope to the hopeless and
gladdens the hearts of the sorrowful.
In the world of existence there is
indeed no greater power than
the power of love."
Abdu'l-Bahá**

Baha'i Stories:

'Abdu'l-Bahá, then only eight years old, was broken-hearted at the ruthless treatment of His adored Father. The child suffered agonies, as a description of the tortures was related in His hearing - the cruel scourging of the feet, the long miles Bahá'u'lláh had to walk afterwards, barefooted, heavy chains cutting into the delicate flesh, the loathsome prison; the excruciating anxiety lest His very life should be taken - made a load of suffering, piteous for so young and sensitive a child to endure.

All the former luxury of the family was at an end, deserted as they were by relations and friends. Homeless, utterly impoverished, engulfed in trouble, and misery, suffering from sheer want and extraordinary privations - such were the conditions under which His childhood's life was spent.

These things counted not at all whilst He was with His Father; so that the exile and the earlier days in Baghdad were happy, in spite of outside miseries. But when Bahá'u'lláh retreated into the wilderness of Sulaymaniyyih the dear child was beside Himself with grief. He occupied Himself with copying those Tablets of the Báb which had remained with them. He tried to help His dear mother, Asiyih Khánum, in her arduous tasks.

During this time He was taken by His uncle, Mirza Musa, to some of the meetings of the friends. There He spoke to them with a marvellous eloquence, even at that early age of eleven or twelve years. The friends wondered at His wisdom and the beauty of His person, which equalled that of His mind.

He prayed without ceasing for the return of Bahá'u'lláh. He would sometimes spend a whole night through praying a certain prayer. One day after a night so spent they found a clue! Very soon the Beloved One returned! Now His joy was as great as His grief had been!

Many were the gatherings of the friends on the banks of the Tigris, to which the young boy was taken by His Father. These meetings, necessarily secret, were His greatest pleasure. He drank in the teaching of divine things which were to educate the world, with an understanding of universal conceptions astounding in such a young child. So life went on; He grew into a beautiful youth, beloved by all who knew Him. -Lady Blomfield, The Chosen Highway

News and events:

Bahá'í World News Service

New Canadian parliamentary caucus looks at religion's role in society



Parliamentarians and Canada's faith communities gathered at the inauguration of a new all-party interfaith caucus for a rare dialogue about the role of faith in governance.

OTTAWA, Canada — In a rare dialogue about the role of faith in governance, Canadian parliamentarians and representatives of the country’s religious communities recently held the inaugural meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Interfaith Caucus—a new space to explore how principles and insights from religion can contribute to thinking about the challenges facing the country.

“I believe that religion defines who we are and what we value, and that democracy, which is a vehicle by which we inform change, is often guided by these values,” said Mobina Jaffer, a member of the Canadian Senate.

The recently formed all-party caucus is open to members of Canada’s elected House of Commons and appointed Senate and is organized with the support of the Canadian Interfaith Conversation (CIC), of which the Bahá’í Community of Canada is a member.

“The pandemic has produced new kinds of dialogue between government and religious communities,” said Geoffrey Cameron of the Canadian Bahá’í Office of Public Affairs. “It has made leaders more conscious of the important role religion continues to play in inspiring people to serve their society.”

Stockwell Day, former MP and cabinet minister, spoke about the power of religion to bring comfort and hope, especially in times of crisis. “The very notion of religion in our society gives us a sense that there is restraint on a leader, and that there should be some sense of humility at the possibility that there is a bigger force out there than himself or herself, or the group to which they associate.”

He continued: “If individuals have a sense of religion—that there is something greater than ourselves—that brings a sense of solace.

“And so we imagine this spread over millions of citizens within a political setting, a significant portion of whom believe there is actually a power of God out there, [who] are living with a greater sense of respect and, we would hope, love for one another.”

Participants emphasized that beyond personal inspiration, religion can make important contributions to the policymaking process.

Member of Parliament Garnett Genuis said, “There are two concepts that are of supreme importance in religion: one is love and another is truth. And those two concepts have to go together. If you have love but no sense of truth, then ... you’re not understanding what is really going on or what someone’s real needs are. And if you have a sense of the pursuit of truth, but no love in the process, that’s also clearly deficient... Love means being willing to confront serious injustice.”

Speaking with the News Service about the future of the all-party interfaith caucus, Dr. Cameron of the Bahá’í Office of Public Affairs states: “There is a need to foster new relationships among policymakers and faith communities and to frame conversations such that people can collectively advance in their thinking by exploring productive lines of inquiry, rather than framing every issue as a binary choice.”

“Underlying the contributions of the Office to the discourse on the role of religion in society,” he continued, “is the Bahá’í principle of the essential oneness of humanity. This caucus, although in its very early stages, is an expression of that principle and an example of greater societal unity.”

Youth Corner:

The Baha'i community of Port Alberni requests all the friends on the Island to encourage the young people to send their stories, artworks, and news to Port Alberni Nuggets. We do not have children or youth in our community, but we would love to be of service to them and provide a platform for encouraging their efforts.

Sharing:

Badi's sharing:



Work has started after 16 months of delay due to Covid on my project to build a home (Naz Rest Home) for the elders based on Baha'i ideas in Jaipur, India. What makes me extremely happy is that a week before work started, ABM and a friend went to discuss the details of the work of putting the fence. The villagers from my first visit knew that we are Baha'is, and this project is part of our service to humanity. This time some of the villagers were also told that there is a devotional meeting on the zoom if anyone is interested. To my delight and surprise of the friends in Jaipur, three individuals from the village attended the devotional.

To say it makes me happy is a big understatement. It shows to me that with His blessing, the Teaching of the Faith started before even one fence post was put into the ground.

I am counting the time to go and connect with villagers and especially connect with the small high school to see how we can help each other. I see them as our important partners in this project.

Please remember this project in your prayers and also check the Naz Rest Home on its Facebook page.

Poem by Tahera:

ANIS

A faith that shone in his heart so bright,
Steadfast steps and a character upright.
A devotion unparalleled, unwavering love,
An example for humanity sent from above.

Like the moth and the flame,
And the rose and the nightingale.
Inseparable from His heart's desire,
Pure from all earthly mire.

Captive in a cell he prayed and cried,
Tears of agony flowed as he wept and sighed.
Pangs of separation pierced his soul,
The Bab was his desire sole.

And lo ! Suddenly he heard His voice,
Calling him and bidding him to arise.
The cup of martyrdom with His Beloved he would share,
An answer to his ardent prayer.

He was bound and tied to the Promised One,
A bounty and privilege shared by none.
His head on His Beloved's chest like a shield,
And at that moment his glorious fate was sealed.

As bullets were rained by hundreds of guns,
Anis's blood mingled with His Beloved One.
The disciple united with His Lord,
Became one in flesh with The Most Adored.

Tahera

From the editor's desk:

Profit-Sharing: Does it Make Economic and Spiritual Sense?

Sharing the profit of any business with its employees pleases my economic side—and my mystic side. Profit-sharing makes perfect sense to me, so I am going to share my understanding from an economic point of view and a spiritual point of view, as an economist and as a Baha'i.

First of all, profit-sharing is such a generous action. It demonstrates sympathy, fairness, caring and most importantly, unity and the recognition of equality since everyone in the business has a sense of ownership when management shares profits with the workers.

The Baha'i teachings strongly support sharing profits with employees. When owners and management take care of workers, it gives them an opportunity to be of service, and of course, it is an incentive and a privilege for workers to share in their organization's profits:

"It is preferable, then, that some measure of moderation be achieved, and by moderation is meant the enactment of such laws and regulations as would prevent the unwarranted concentration of wealth in the hands of the few and satisfy the essential needs of the many. For instance, the factory owners reap a fortune every day, but the wage the poor workers are paid cannot even meet their daily needs: This is most unfair, and assuredly no just man can accept it. Therefore, laws and regulations should be enacted which would grant the workers both a daily wage and a share in a fourth or fifth of the profits of the factory in accordance with its means, or which would have the workers equitably share in some other way in the profits with the owners. For the capital and the management come from the latter and the toil and labour from the former. The workers could either be granted a wage that adequately meets their daily needs, as well as a right to a share in the revenues of the factory when they are injured, incapacitated, or unable to work, or else a wage could be set that allows the workers to both satisfy their daily needs and save a little for times of weakness and incapacity." -Abdu'l-Baha, *Some Answered Questions*, pp. 316-317.

"... the owners of properties, mines and factories should share their incomes with their employees and give a fairly certain percentage of their products to their workmen in order that the employees may receive, beside their wages, some of the general income of the factory so that the employee may strive with his soul in the work." – Abdu'l-Baha, *Foundations of World Unity*, p. 43.

One of the other benefits of profit-sharing is the reduction or elimination of strikes. Sharing the earnings creates a sense of togetherness and unity so that the workers will resist the temptation of strikes in favour of friendly negotiations. The employees will have less reason to strike, knowing that as the result of a strike, they will lose, too.

Now let's examine the concept of profit-sharing from an economic viewpoint. There have been many studies done in this field, and those studies have found benefits in terms of loyalty, productivity and taxation. Owen E. Richardson in his essay "The Advantages of Profit-Sharing Plans" breaks these down:

- *Loyalty: Loyalty significantly increases with remuneration. Employees that are offered an opportunity to participate in a profit-sharing plan invest more devotion to their position because of the direct reward associated with it. In addition, it shows the company is invested in the employees and creates a sense of parity rather than a composition of titles and ranks; employees envision themselves as transcending associate status and tend to see themselves as co-owners.*
- *Productivity: Employees invested in a profit-sharing plan begin to take ownership of the business as their work role becomes more defined by their contribution. "A plan that rewards employees with a share of the fruits of their labor draw a direct connection between work and reward," writes Stu Watson for the Edward Lowe Foundation. Productivity maintains higher levels when employees are given the opportunity to share in the profit margin they are creating through their efforts rather than being merely compensated for time on the job.*
- *Tax Benefits: Employees can use a 401k as a tax deduction tool on their personal income taxes, reducing their adjusted gross income by sheltering profit-sharing contributions in a tax-deferred plan. Contributions to a 401k are only taxed at the time of withdrawal, allowing the employee's contributions to growing tax-deferred until the funds are withdrawn or dispersed in payments.*

For those who want to study more on this subject, the Harvard Business Review recently published an interesting article called “Huawei: A Case Study of When Profit Sharing Works.”

But I’m convinced that profit-sharing’s emotional, psychological and spiritual benefits—such as unity, harmony, a happy working environment, a sense of belonging, having a common interest and a reduction of stress levels—exceed even the economic benefits.

Baha’is believe we should recognize and study these factors and eventually give them paramount importance in any economic system.

With its combination of spirituality and economics, this approach satisfies my belief that science and religion must coexist in harmony, just as the employer and employee relationship should exist in a state of harmony. If the unity of humanity is a goal for you, then profit sharing can help bring that goal much closer.

Famous quotes:



“People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
“If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
“If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.
“If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
“The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
“Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.
“For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”

— Mother Teresa

Upcoming Events:

Coming feast: **Kalimat, Words, July 12, 2021, 7 PM**

Next feast: **Kamal, Perfection, July 30, 2021**

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