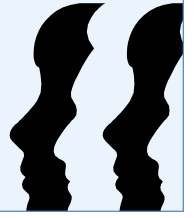




## Interfaith Unity Feast

1556 Bell Road - Nashville, TN

*We are drops of one ocean, leaves of one tree.*



### Children and Education

- **Welcome — Karen Streets-Anderson**
- **Powerpoint: Children & Education**
- **Interfaith Prayers**

#### *Bahá'í Prayer*

O God! Educate these children. These children are the plants of Thine orchard, the flowers of Thy meadow, the roses of Thy garden. Let Thy rain fall upon them; let the Sun of Reality shine upon them with Thy love. Let Thy breeze refresh them in order that they may be trained, grow and develop, and appear in the utmost beauty. Thou art the Giver. Thou art the Compassionate. — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

#### *Jewish Prayer*

Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. — *Deuteronomy 6:4-7*

#### *Bahá'í Prayer*

O my Lord! O my Lord!

I am a child of tender years. Nourish me from the breast of Thy mercy, train me in the bosom of Thy love, educate me in the school of Thy guidance and develop me under the shadow of Thy bounty. Deliver me from darkness, make me a brilliant light; free me from unhappiness, make me a flower of the rose garden; suffer me to become a servant of Thy threshold and confer upon me the disposition and nature of the righteous; make me a cause of bounty to the human world, and crown my head with the diadem of eternal life. Verily, Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Seer, the Hearer. — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

- **Musical Entertainment — Children's Choir**
- **Holy Writings**

#### *From the Christian Holy Writings*

And the child [Jesus] grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

— *Luke 2:40-52*

***From the Jewish Holy Writings***

He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children;  
that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,  
and arise and tell them to their children,  
so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments.

— *Psalms 76:5-7*

***From the Buddhist Holy Writings***

A good, all-round education, appreciation of the arts, a highly trained  
discipline and pleasant speech; this is the highest blessing.

— *Sutta Nipata 261*

To the pupil training, in the straight way walking,  
By ending [his sins] first comes knowledge;  
Straight follows insight; by that insight freed  
He knows in very truth: Sure is my freedom  
By wearing out the fetter of becoming.

— *Itivuttaka 53*

***From the Hindu Holy Writings***

The parents of a child are but his enemies when they fail to educate him properly in his  
boyhood. An illiterate boy, like a heron amidst swans, cannot shine in the assembly of the  
learned. Learning imparts a heightened charm to a homely face. Knowledge is the best  
treasure that a man can secretly hoard up in life. Learning is the revered of the revered.  
Knowledge makes a man honest, virtuous, and endearing to society. It is learning alone that  
enables a man to better the condition of his friends and relations. Knowledge is the holiest  
of holies, the god of the gods, and commands respect of crowned heads; shorn of it a man is  
but an animal. The fixtures and furniture of one's house may be stolen by thieves; but knowl-  
edge, the highest treasure, is above all stealing.

— *Garuda Purana*

As the heat of a fire reduces wood to ashes, the fire of knowledge burns  
to ashes all karma. Nothing in this world purifies like spiritual wisdom.  
It is the perfection achieved in time through the path of yoga, the path  
which leads to the Self within.

— *Bhagavad Gita: 4.37-38*

***From the Moslem Holy Writings***

There is no greater wealth than wisdom; no greater poverty than ignorance;  
no greater heritage than culture.

— *(Shite) Nahjul Balagha, Saying 52*

And remember when Luqman said to his son by way of instruction, "O my dear son! Establish  
worship and enjoin kindness and forbid iniquity, and persevere, whatever may befall you. Lo!  
that is the steadfast heart of things."

— *Qur'an 31.17*

Every child is born of the nature of purity and submission to God.

— *Hadith of Bukhari*

• **Musical Selections — Cliff Buckosh**

***From the Christian Holy Writings***

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of  
heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, "Truly, I say to  
you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

— *Matthew 18:1-3*

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

— *Ephesians 6:1-4*

- **Holy Writings**

*From the Bahá'í Holy Writings*

Education is of three kinds: material, human and spiritual. Material education is concerned with the progress and development of the body, through gaining its sustenance, its material comfort and ease. This education is common to animals and man. Human education signifies civilization and progress — that is to say, government, administration, charitable works, trades, arts and handicrafts, sciences, great inventions and discoveries and elaborate institutions, which are the activities essential to man as distinguished from the animal.

Divine education is that of the Kingdom of God: it consists in acquiring divine perfections, and this is true education; for in this state man becomes the focus of divine blessings, the manifestation of the words, “Let Us make man in Our image, and after Our likeness.” This is the goal of the world of humanity.

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Some Answered Questions*, p. 8

The education and training of children is among the most meritorious acts of humankind and draweth down the grace and favour of the All-Merciful, for education is the indispensable foundation of all human excellence and alloweth man to work his way to the heights of abiding glory. If a child be trained from his infancy, he will, through the loving care of the Holy Gardener, drink in the crystal waters of the spirit and of knowledge, like a young tree amid the rilling brooks. And certainly he will gather to himself the bright rays of the Sun of Truth, and through its light and heat will grow ever fresh and fair in the garden of life.

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*, p. 129-30

Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom.

— ‘Bahá’u’lláh, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh*

Bahá’u’lláh hath proclaimed the universality of education, which is essential to the unity of mankind, that one and all may be equally educated, whether girls or boys, and receive the same education. When education is universalized in all schools, perfect communication between the members of the human race will be established. When all receive the same kind of education the foundations of war and contention will be utterly destroyed.

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, in *Bahá’í Education*, pp. 33-34, no. 82

- **Musical Entertainment — Chris O’Brien**

- **Closing Remarks**

- **Closing Prayer**

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

— *Old Testament: Numbers 6:24-27*

- **Refreshments**



The Unity Feast is sponsored by the Greater Nashville Bahá'í Community

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