

A Fact Sheet

To Accompany the Scholarship Proposal to Huston-Tillotson University

Some Biographical Information about Louis Gregory

- A prominent African American lawyer, one of the “talented tenth,” he gave up a life of comparative ease to pursue teaching the Baha’i Faith and its principles during his lifetime (1874-1951)
- Widely known as a lecturer and writer on racial unity and a variety of other progressive issues
- He knew and associated with virtually all of the black leaders of his day—educators, clergymen, heads of civil rights organizations—and many leading whites as well.
- Repeatedly elected to national Baha’i office by a predominately white membership
- A constant pioneering force for the realization of the oneness of humanity within and without the Baha’i community
- Gave lectures on racial amity/racial healing all across the country, including the South, and Austin, Texas
- Gave three lectures in Austin, Texas in the spring of 1920; one at Anderson High School, one at Samuel Huston College, and one at Tillotson Institute in a building that local historians believe is still present at what is now known as Huston-Tillotson University

“At the heart of the most challenging issue for the American Baha’i community—the problem of obliterating racial prejudice—stands Louis George Gregory. A highly regarded teacher, writer, and lecturer throughout the first half of the century, and the first black to serve on the national administrative body of the Bahá’ís of the United States and Canada, Louis Gregory is a major historical figure. Few blacks of his era were ever elected or appointed to positions of national leadership in organizations with a white majority. None worked more tirelessly for the removal of racial prejudice.” Gayle Morrison

More information on the life of Louis Gregory can be found in **To Move the World, Louis G. Gregory and the Advancement of Racial Unity in America**, by Gayle Morrison.

Principles and Teachings of the Baha'i Faith

Bahá'ís believe:

- There is only one God
- That we have been created to know and love God
- In the unity of the world's religions, and their progressive nature
- The eternal nature of the soul
- The oneness of the human family and the elimination of all forms of prejudice
- Daily prayer and the study of the Word of God
- Living a moral life, centered on spiritual principles and laws
- The central role of marriage and family life
- The equality of women and men
- The importance of universal education
- The harmony of science and religion
- The independent investigation of truth

Bahá'ís recognize the world's major religions, promote the truthfulness of all of them and believe that they share a commonality of basic truths from God.

The Baha'i World Community

- According to the Encyclopedia Britannica and the Christian World Almanac, the Baha'i Faith is the second most widespread religion in the world, with over 5 million followers living in almost every country on earth.
- Over 2,000 tribes, races, and ethnic groups are represented in the worldwide Baha'i community.
- The Baha'i Writings have been translated into over 800 languages.
- The Baha'i World Center is in Haifa, Israel on Mount Carmel—across the bay from Akka, where Baha'u'llah, the prophet founder of the Faith, spent 25 years in prison and under house arrest, and adjacent to Galilee, where Christ spent almost His entire life.
- Contributions can only be accepted from enrolled members of the Baha'i community.