

## 01. Introduction: Being in the right place at the right time!

These recollections which I choose to share are ones which could only have happened at a special time in history.

The Hands of the Cause of God are an incredible body of Baha'is who were appointed by all three of the main figures in the Baha'i Faith, Baha'u'llah the Founder, Abdu'l-Baha, the son and successor of the Founder and Shoghi Effendi the grandson, and successor to 'Abdu'l-Baha.

Within their own life time span, Baha'u'llah (1817-1892) appointed 4; Abdu'l-Baha (1844-1921) mentioned 4 posthumously; Shoghi Effendi (1897-1957) appointed 10 posthumously and 32 living Hands within four different time frames. Thus when Shoghi Effendi died in 1957 there were 27 Hands still alive. It is also interesting to note that he appointed eight of those Hands just a little over a month before his death.

### **From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**

#### ***“Hands of the Cause:***

*The Hands of the Cause of God, Hands of the Cause, or Hands (informally) were a select group of Bahá'ís, appointed for life, whose main function was to propagate and protect the Bahá'í Faith. Unlike the members of the elected institutions and other appointed institutions in the Bahá'í Faith, who serve in those offices, Hands are considered to have achieved a distinguished rank in service to the religion.[1]*

*According to The Will and Testament of `Abdu'l-Bahá, they are to be nominated and appointed by the Guardian of the Cause of God and are to be under his direction and obey his command[2] and a quote of Bahá'u'lláh's is also used as a prayer for them.[3]*

*The title is no longer conferred. The last living Hand of the Cause was `Alí-Muhammad Varqá (1911–2007). The work of the Hands of the Cause is now carried out by the Continental Counsellors and the Auxiliary Boards.*

*There were fifty Hands of the Cause in all, four named by Bahá'u'lláh, four by `Abdu'l-Bahá and forty-two by Shoghi Effendi (including ten posthumously). Twenty-seven Hands were alive when Shoghi Effendi died in 1957.”*

Our family had become Baha'is in 1964 in Carmichael, California. On 12 October 1965 we left the United States as pioneers, going first to Puerto Rico, and in the ensuing forty nine years moved to six other islands within the Caribbean area, serving on the Island of St. Lucia twice.

Although Baha'is had traveled and served the Faith since its inception, and some countries had carried out their own national plans, it was not until 1953 that Shoghi Effendi called for the first global teaching plan, entitled the Ten Year World Crusade and the process then began. The ones who opened new territories were given the title of “Knight of Baha'u'llah. Thus, our family responded in the second wave in 1965 during the Nine Year Plan (1963-1973).

Our period of early pioneering put us in the position of being on islands at the same time that the Hands were traveling all over the world, teaching, encouraging and stimulating communities.

During this time frame, we had the great honour to meet ten Hands of the Cause of God while serving as pioneers in these islands.

This was the stage when there were only small Baha'i communities on the Caribbean islands. The pioneers then were in an excellent position to have the privilege to not only to meet the Hands at the airport but also serve as their companions for their stay in each area. I cannot explain in words how grateful we were to not only meet, but to be with them, even for a short period of time. But even now as I write this, my eyes fill with tears, and my heart is full.

As I said at the beginning:

*WE WERE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME!*