RESEARCH NOTE

Treatment of the Bahá'í Faith in the Pages of *Christianity Today*

By William P. Collins and Jay Tyson

The Reverend Billy Graham founded the evangelical magazine *Christianity Today* in 1956, based in Carol Stream, IL. It has been called "evangelicalism's flagship magazine."[1] *Christianity Today* has a print circulation of approximately 110,000 and an online readership of 2.2 million at ChristianityToday.com. Billy Graham said he wanted to "plant the evangelical flag in the middle of the road, taking the conservative theological position but a definite liberal approach to social problems." Graham thought the magazine could be a contrast to *The Christian Century*, the predominant mainline Protestant periodical, as a way of providing a unifying voice for evangelical Christianity.[2]

In the 67 years between March 1958 and January 2025, *Christianity Today* mentioned the Bahá'í Faith in 132 articles (translations into other languages from the magazine's English-language articles have been excluded). Most such articles had only a passing reference to the Bahá'í Faith. The authors have reviewed the articles and given each one a rating on a scale from -5 (extremely negative, polemical attack) to +5 (highly positive, laudatory). The ratings are, of necessity, subjective. However, we jointly assigned what we thought to be a reasonable score of each article's attitude toward the Bahá'í Faith. The average rating for the 67 years was +0.402—modestly within the positive range. The average score for 1958-1978 was -0.69 while the average score for 1979-2025 was +0.709—an increase in average score of +0.778 between the two periods, before and after the beginning of the Iranian persecutions.

The articles were predominantly negative or neutral during the 1958 to 1978 period (29 articles in 20 years). After the start of the persecutions in Iran with the article in the February 1979 issue, the mentions were more often neutral or positive and have generally remained so. This coincides with a trend that the Universal House of Justice noted during that same period: "But the great, the historic feature of this period is the emergence of the Faith from obscurity, promoted by the steadfast heroism of the renowned, the indefatigable, dearly loved Bahá'í community of Bahá'u'lláh's and the Báb's native land."[3]

See the attached table listing all of the *Christianity Today* articles referencing the Bahá'í Faith with dates, titles, assigned scores, whether related to the persecutions, whether simply part of a list, and a summary of the contents. We have included at the end of this article a graph of the

[1] Jacob Lupfer, "Why a 'yes' to gays is often a 'no' to evangelicalism," *The Washington Post* (June 10, 2015).
[2] Christian Smith and Michael Emerson, *American Evangelicalism: Embattled and Thriving* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998), p. 12.
[3] Universal House of Justice, *Messages from the Universal House of Justice 1963-1986* (Wilmette, IL: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1986), #427.1.

scores that clearly indicates the trend toward more positive characterization of the Bahá'í Faith beginning in 1979.

It is therefore notable that around the time of the Islamic revolution in Iran, which appears to have inspired a revised approach to the Bahá'í Faith in the pages of *Christianity Today*, there was also an encounter between a Bahá'í living in Alaska and Rev. Billy Graham.

Fred Capp, a Bahá'í who was living in North Pole, Alaska, tells of the time he unexpectedly met Billy Graham.[4]

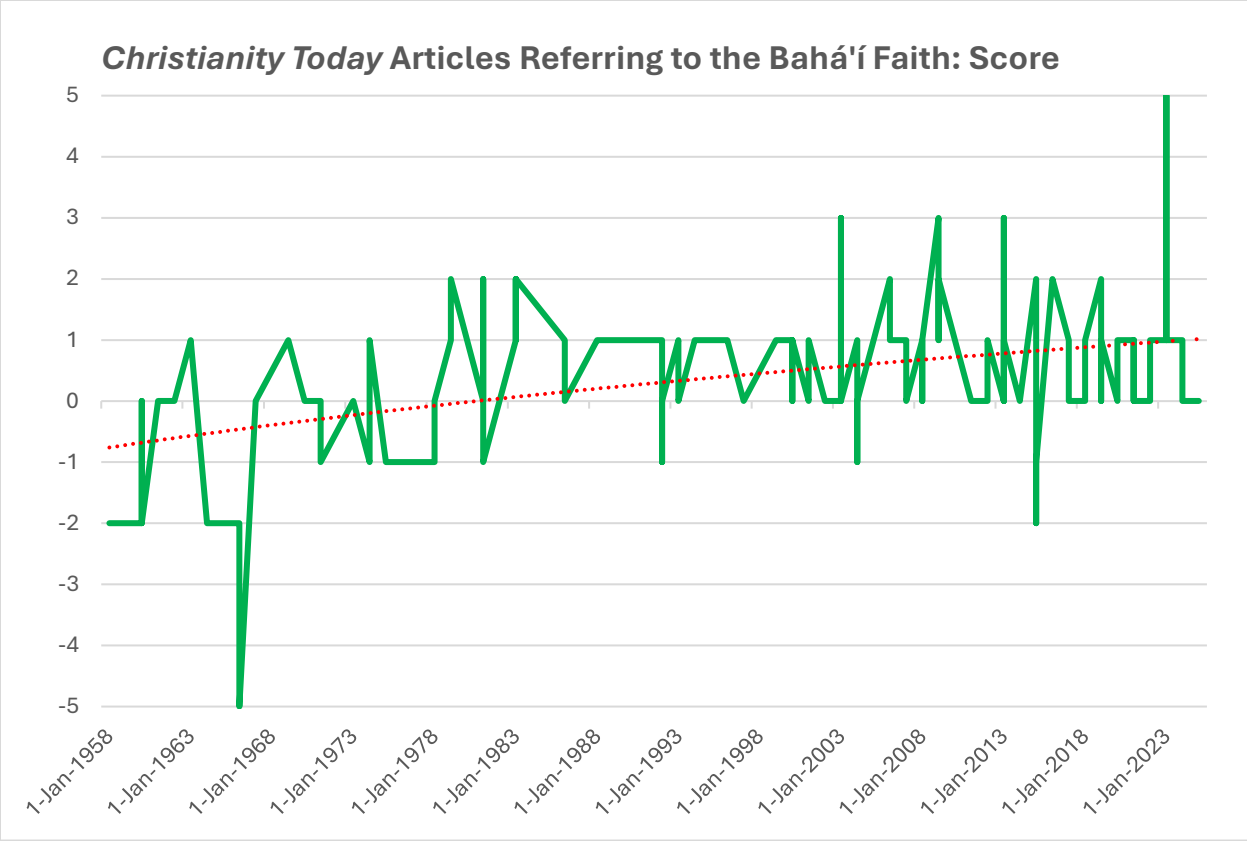
Fred Capp had been living in the late 1970s, near to the studios of KJNP AM ("King Jesus, North Pole") "your 50,000 watt Gospel voice of the north." The station management seemed to consider Capp as its personal evangelism project. At some point in 1978 he was out of town for a couple of weeks and returned a full day before he had originally planned. This was before mobile phones and many people did not have answering machines yet. Being unable to contact his friends with the change of plans, he decided to trust in God and try to hitchhike home. It was the KJNP van that responded to his hitchhiking signal. He decided to accept the ride as he would likely be dropped at his own front door. In the van Fred found the top management of the station (with whom he had spent many an hour) and a new face that he recognized but could not immediately place. Before the station management introduced Capp to their guest, one of the KJNP people who also worked as a DJ started the same argument that he had been losing for several weeks about the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ. Then the stranger piped in before Capp formulated a response to the specious question and asked Capp who he was. Capp introduced himself and offered his hand. The other gentleman took Capp's hand and introduced himself as the Reverend Billy Graham to Capp's astonishment. The station president explained to Rev. Graham that "Fred is one of those heathen Bahá'ís who claim that Christ would dare to return as a 'Muhammadan'" and the like, and that they were trying to convince Capp of the error of his ways. Capp calmly replied that he had yet to find an error in his ways but that they were more than welcome to investigate his beliefs to try to find some. But everything that they knew about the Bahá'í Faith was either from Capp or from reading works by people with an anti-Bahá'í agenda. Rev. Graham agreed with Capp that when investigating the truth of another person's beliefs, it is best to go to the source of that belief. After the ensuing uproar the DJ commented that Capp had never answered his question. So Capp did, knowing full well that whatever answer he gave would be attacked for its presumed weaknesses. It was. Then Rev. Graham piped in again to lambaste the KJNP staff for their unchristian behavior in "ganging up" on somebody. During this tongue-lashing he mentioned that one of his favorite neighbors was a Bahá'í, that he had read some of their books, and that while he could not accept the teachings as his own, there was a great wisdom there that *all* Christians could learn from. He said that Capp's

[4] I have condensed the incident from: Susan Maneck, "Billy Graham (RIP) and the Baha'i," https://www.christianforums.com/threads/billy-graham-rip-and-the-bahai.8050970/ (Feb. 21, 2018). Edited for style and clarity. Fred Capp confirmed that he wrote this report to Dr. Maneck and that it took place around 1978 (direct message via Facebook Messenger, 6 July 2025).

answer to the question satisfied him because it was “a really stupid question” that was answered with wisdom and patience. “Baha’is believe in God, love the Lord Jesus, and repent of their sins. Isn’t that what we ask of our own people?” It was a thoroughly cowed crew that pulled the van up to Capp’s home, where he was assisted out with quiet thoughtfulness. Capp thanked Rev. Graham graciously, and said that he would invite them in but he had been away from home for a while and there was no food in the house. Rev. Graham smiled, thanked Capp, put a hand on his shoulder, and quietly stated that if more Christians acted like the very few Bahá’ís he had met, then Christianity would indeed be the only religion in the world. Capp told Graham that he was really not all that good, though he was trying to do his best. He also thanked Billy Graham, and offered to pray for his continued success. Graham said: “And I for yours.” He got back into the van and they left. That evening, on the radio, Capp listened to Graham’s discussion and sermon, in which he mentioned this encounter with a Bahá’í in passing. It was all very positive. Capp wondered who Billy Graham’s Bahá’í neighbor was, and what their relationship was like, because that Bahá’í was largely responsible for Billy Graham’s positive feeling.

It is impossible to assign any causal relationship between Billy Graham’s encounters with Bahá’ís and the editorial policy of *Christianity Today*. Further research is needed to determine the extent of Graham’s interactions with Bahá’ís and what influenced the changes in the editorial approach at the magazine. Clearly, the Christian experience of being persecuted in Iran and other countries where Bahá’ís are also persecuted would have awakened sympathy.

Further research is needed at the Billy Graham Library and Archives in Charlotte, NC to determine if there is further documentary evidence of Rev. Graham’s contact with Bahá’ís. Likewise, exploration within the Bahá’í community is needed to find any Bahá’í from Charlotte, NC who lived near Graham and had contact with him.


Christianity Today Articles Referring to the Bahá'í Faith: Score
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
-3
-4
-5
1-Jan-1958
1-Jan-1963
1-Jan-1968
1-Jan-1973
1-Jan-1978
1-Jan-1983
1-Jan-1988
1-Jan-1993
1-Jan-1998
1-Jan-2003
1-Jan-2008
1-Jan-2013
1-Jan-2018
1-Jan-2023

Date of Issue	Title of Article	Score	Persecution-related	Included in a list	Description/Comments
8-Jan-2025	The Bestseller that Made Church Cool—and Optional: 'Blue Like Jazz' spoke for a generation and left disillusioned evangelicals more dissatisfied	0			Discusses Donald Miller's book *Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality* . Quotes Dale Huntington, lead pastor of City Life Church in San Diego, whose father raised him in the Baha'i faith, but Huntington became a Christian at age 16. Huntington read *Blue Like Jazz* to his father, who later became a Christian.
12-Apr-2024	Make Nepal Hindu Again: Christians Concerned by Rising Religious Nationalism	0		1	Hindu nationalism in Nepal. Mentions the Bahá'í Faith as one of the "minor religions" of Nepal.
21-Feb-2024	Report: Iran Arrested 166 Christians in 2023, Targeting Bible Distributors	1	1		"As with the similarly violated Bahai community, arrests of Christians tend to come in waves"
21-Dec-2023	This Bahá'í Leader's Favorite Bible Verses by A. K. Merchant	5			Explains Isaiah 2:1-5 from the Bahá'í perspective and the teaching of Bahá'u'lláh fulfilling that scripture
21-Dec-2023	We Asked a Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain, and Bahá'í Leader to Pick Their Favorite Bible Verses: Indian religious leaders on what they admire about Christianity's scriptures	1			Christianity in India and information about respondents, including Bahá'í A. K. Merchant.
13-Jul-2023	Rainn Wilson's Spiritual Revolution Gets Spirituality Partly Right and Jesus Mostly Wrong: "The Office" star offers a welcome critique of privatized faith. His other ideas are harder to swallow.	1			Critique's Wilson's book *Soul Boom* ; while calling it a skillful Bahá'í apologetic, it criticizes the approach to Christianity and Jesus (the only way to God)
19-Oct-2022	The Push for Women's Rights in Iran Is a Push for Religious Freedom Too	1	1		Bahá'ís are briefly mentioned near the end of the article, as "very heavily persecuted".
13-Jul-2022	The British Are Coming: UK Takes Religious Freedom Torch from US	1	1		Bahá'í Faith is mentioned briefly near the end of the article as an "oft oppressed religious minority".
6-Jun-2022	Will US List Nigeria Again After Latest Religious Freedom Report?	0	1	1	Bahá'í Faith is included in a list of persecuted communities
3-Dec-2021	Iran's House Churches Are Not Illegal, Says [Iranian] Supreme Court Justice	0	1		Mentions the Bahá'í Faith in passing, regarding the issuance of identity cards.
14-Nov-2021	What Christian Aid Workers Want You to Know About Afghanistan	0	1	1	Mentioned in a list of religious minorities in Afghanistan
4-Nov-2021	November's Holy Week: A Modest Proposalfor the Persecuted	1	1	1	Advocating religious freedom for all. "other groups feeling the impact of persecution include Baha'is, Hindus, Sikhs, and atheists."

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30-Sep-2021	Pew: Religious Terrorism at Record Low, Gov't Persecution at Record High	1	1	1	After describing religious harassment of Christians & Muslims, "An "other" category of Bahá'ís, Sikhs, and Zoroastrians followed, harassed in 68 nations..."
17-Aug-2021	What Christian Aid Workers Want You to Know About Afghanistan	0		1	Bahá'ís are listed among 4 religious minorities in Afghanistan.
31-Mar-2021	Christians Need Win-Wins with Muslim Society More Than Wins in Court	0		1	Bahá'ís are listed in a sidebar mentioning religious minorities in Malaysia.
5-Mar-2021	Iraq's Evangelicals Use Pope Francis's Visit to Press for Equality	0		1	Discussion about Protestant minorities in Iraq mentions Bahá'ís in passing.
22-Feb-2021	If Muslims Can Build Churches in Egypt, Has Persecution Ended?	1	1	1	Mentions that "Bahá'ís, unorthodox Muslims and converts from Islam continue to face discrimination.
10-Jul-2020	Persecuted Christians Resettled in US Drop Dramatically Under Trump	1	1	1	In addition to decline in Christian refugees, it mentions Bahá'ís from Iran, Muslims from Burma & Yezidis from Iraq.
22-Jun-2020	Refugee Converts Aren't 'Fraudsters,' German Pastors Say	1	1	1	Mentions Christian groups, the Bahá'í community and other groups calling for changes in German policy regarding evaluation of religious claims as grounds for asylum.
6-Jan-2020	US Religion Census Maps Changing Churches, Declining Denominations	0		1	Mentions Bahá'ís in a list of 3 non-Christian religions that the US Religion Census started to count in 2000.
27-Sep-2019	Duke-UNC Middle East Studies Center Flagged for Anti-Christian Bias	1	1	1	Mentions "historic discrimination faced by...religious minorities in the Middle East, including Christians, Jews, Bahá'ís, [Yazidis], Kurds, Druze, and others."
10-May-2019	Asia Bibi's Cell Now Holds Another Christian Woman on Death Row for Blasphemy	0	1	1	Bahá'ís listed as one of 4 non-Christian religions in Pakistan which had no cases of religious blasphemy registered against it, while Christians had 187 & Hindus had 21.
14-Feb-2019	40 Years Later, Iran's Islamic Revolution Feels Threatened by House Churches	2	1		Bahá'í Faith is mentioned 5 times--generally accurately, as suffering persecution similar to or worse than the persecutions suffered by the Christian community there.
26-Jul-2018	Pence and Pompeo Make Big Religious Freedom Pledges	1	1	1	Bahá'ís were included in a list of 4 religious communities being persecuted by the religious authorities in Iran, according to VP Pence.
20-Apr-2018	'These Bombs Led Me to Christ'--The "Napalm Girl" tells her story of coming to faith.	0		1	Testimonial: Bahá'í books mentioned in passing, along with books from other religions, in a story of a young woman's transition from Cao Dai to Christianity.
30-May-2017	Why the US Military Wants Fewer Generic Christians	0		1	Bahá'í is included in a list of 140 religious groups currently recognized by the Dept. of Defense

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31-Jan-2017	Should America's Refugee Policy Put Persecuted Christians First?	1	1	1	Bahá'í is mentioned twice by one of 4 authors of short articles. It is in a list of 6 persecuted groups (by Nina Shea, Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom)
19-Jan-2017	Trump Stacks Prayer Service Lineup with Evangelicals	1		1	Bahá'í is one of 8 non-Protestant religions cited in the text, and one of 26 religious groups participating in the prayer service.
10-Feb-2016	We Are Followers of a Middle Eastern Refugee	2	1		Although the focus is on a Christian's positive experience with a Muslim refugee, there is a paragraph of her positive experience with a Bahá'í refugee family.
22-Dec-2015	The Top 5 Testimonies of 2015	-1			References 5 testimonial articles, including the 10/19/15 article which speaks negatively of the Bahá'í Faith among other stages that she went through.
19-Oct-2015	From the Bahá'í Faith to Porn to Alpha to Jesus	-2			Testimonial: Story of a young woman's spiritual journey, includes becoming and then leaving the Bahá'í Faith, among other things. (When searching under the "Relevence" option, this one comes up on top--perhaps because it is the only story that includes "Bahá'í" in its headline.) Her one complaint is unfounded.
29-Apr-2015	13 Million Flee Religion-Linked Conflicts Worldwide	1	1	1	"Prisoners of Conscience" is the 3rd of 5 groups listed. Focusing mainly on Iran, where Bahá'ís are listed first among 5 groups being persecuted.
6-Jan-2015	Our Battle against Religious Persecution Is Floundering	2	1		"Wolf calls on evangelical leaders to step up their game for human rights among all at-risk faith groups—Christian, Jewish, Islamic minorities, Bahá'í, and others." "As we follow Jesus, we should also advocate for persecuted Bahá'í in Iran and for persecuted Buddhists in Tibet. This emphasis on public justice cuts across religious fault lines."
28-Jul-2014	Leading Rabbi Nominated as First Non-Christian Religious Freedom Ambassador	0	1	1	Sec. of State John Kerry cites Bahá'ís among 4 religious groups being persecuted in Iran.
9-May-2014	175 Leaders Urge U.S. Support in Christianity's Historical Heartland; Egyptian Churches Not So Sure	0	1	1	Bahá'ís listed as one of 4 religious groups suffering in the Middle East, in addition to Christians.
6-Nov-2013	New Yorkers seek to stop 'Jesus' prayer at town council	1			Jews, Bahá'ís and Wiccans were cited as examples of non-Christian groups who have accepted invitations to offer opening prayers at town council meetings.

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25-Jul-2013	The Surprising Countries Most Missionaries Are Sent From and Go To	0		1	Center for the Study of Global Christianity says that by 2020 Christianity will be only the 5th fastest growing religion "coming in behind the Bahá'í faith, Islam, Sikhism, and Jainism."
22-Apr-2013	Religious Freedom Is Not a Zero-Sum Game	1	1	1	Book Review: Persecuted, in addressing the plight of Christians, is ultimately about putting us in touch with Mandaeans and Yezidis in Iraq, Bahá'ís and Jews in Iran [& 7 other groups listed].
19-Apr-2013	Update on Save Saeed: Letter Says Iran Release Depends on Abedini Renouncing Faith	1	1	1	Quotes *USA Today* re gov't crackdown on religious minorities, "including evangelical Christians and the more numerous Sufis, Bahai and self-help spiritual practitioners"
19-Mar-2013	Critics: State Department Is 'AWOL' on Abedini, Iran Religious Freedom	3	1	1	"...the mistreatment of other religious minorities in Iran, including Zoroastrians, Jews and Bahá'ís." Three add'l paragraphs cover persecution of Bahá'ís in some detail.
7-Feb-2013	Lutheran Pastor Apologizes for Praying at Newtown Vigil	0		1	Bahá'í Faith included in the list of religious groups participating.
10-Dec-2012	Subverting the Taliban	1	1	1	Pakistan's laws "make all religious minorities (Christians, Sikhs, Hindus, Bahá'í, and Ahmadi Muslims) second-class citizens..."
18-May-2012	Court: City Didn't Try Hard Enough To Find Non-Christian Prayers	0		1	Bahá'ís listed in news article as one of 3 non-Christian groups who were offered to open town meetings with a prayer (eventually all 3 bowed out--no reasons cited.
4-May-2011	Shaking One's Fist at God	0		1	The author lists the Bahá'í faith as one of 3 religions in his childhood household, but continues with his personal story, concluding that religion is a personal thing.
28-Mar-2011	Proselytizing in a Multi-Faith World	0		1	Bahá'ís were included in the list of religious groups participating. The author, while recognizing "multi-faith" does not want to assist with "interfaith" activities.
18-Jan-2011	Who Fights for Religious Freedom? Obama's Ambassador Position Still Vacant	0		1	Reference to "freedom for all religious groups from Bahá'í in Iran to Yazidis in Iraq". Article is mostly a lament of the slow progress in Washington on these issues.
25-Mar-2009	Standing with the Desolate	2	1		Human rights advocate in Iran speaks of abuses of Christians, but also devotes a paragraph to the Bahá'ís "who have suffered much more than Christians have since the 1979 revolution."
3-Mar-2009	Presidential Prayer Effort Proves to be Bipartisan	1		1	Organization that encourages people to pray for the President is "about 95% Christian". There are also "some Jewish members and at least one Bahá'í member."

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17-Feb-2009	The Office's Dwight Appeals for Religious Freedom	3	1		Article on Bahá'í Rainn Wilson's calling on Congress for relief from Iranian persecution. This whole article is about the Bahá'í situation in Iran. [mostly from a CNN Op-Ed]
23-Oct-2008	See No Evil: International religious freedom--too low a priority [Editorial]	1	1	1	"A minority religion—such as Christianity in China, Pentecostalism in Turkmenistan, or Bahá'í in Iran—is a proverbial canary in the coal mine."
30-Sep-2008	Iran Parliament Requires Death for 'Apostates' As Crackdown Continues	1	1		Article about Christian persecution in Iran mentions Bahá'ís as being similarly affected.
18-Jun-2008	Q&A: Frank Wolf [US Hs of Reps Caucus on Religious Minorities in the Mid-East]	0	1	1	The caucus also intends to address the challenges faced by other religious minorities ... in the Middle East, including the Copts, the Bahá'ís, the Yazidis, and others."
28-May-2008	Israel Reconciled to All [Editorial]	0		1	Mentioned in passing: "As a Jewish and democratic state, the government officially acknowledges Judaism, Christianity, Druze, Islam, and Bahá'í."
14-Apr-2008	Egypt's Identity Impasse	1	1		A report on 2 Christian cases and one Bahá'í case of the courts controling the listing of religion on identity cards. The article focuses on one of the Christian cases
25-Sep-2007	No Ultimatum' for Episcopalians.../Sub-article: Church & state (#5 of 9)	0		1	Pair files suit after county withholds marriage license: Only those of the Quaker and Bahá'í faiths may perform their own weddings, says county registrar (Pittsburgh Tribune)
10-Sep-2007	Will Iraq Trump.../Sub-article: Persecution/religious rights (#3 of 5)	1	1	1	"Egypt: Christian twins forced to 'become' Muslim: Hearing adjourned indefinitely; Bahá'í children also struggling for religious freedom (Compass Direct)"
18-Dec-2006	Exodus from the Episcopal.../Sub-article: Religious Freedom (#3 of 4)	1	1	1	"Egypt Bahá'ís lose battle for recognition" (not allowed to list "Bahá'í" on official documents) "in a landmark case condemned by rights organizations (AFP)".
13-Apr-2006	Pennsylvania Students.../Sub-article: "Other Religions" (para #4)	2		1	A "circle of Bahá'í followers" in Winchester, VA, brought together Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Sikhs to pray together, read and discuss selections from their holy writings.
2-Sep-2005	Houston's Religious Communities Scramble to Help Evacuees	1		1	Bahá'í Faith included in the list of religious groups participating in helping evacuees from flood--9/2/2005
30-Aug-2004	Iraq's Worrisome Constitution	1	1	1	A careful review of the new Iraqi constitution highlights religious rights problems. One is that the list of acceptable religions excludes groups "such as Bahá'ís and Jews."

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1-Oct-2004	The Evangelical Voting Gap / Sub-article: UK students to learn six religions	0		1	Bullet point #5: UK schools instructed to provide lessons on "Atheism and minority faiths such as Bahá'í and Zoroastrianism"
1-Sep-2004	State Department Adds Saudi Arabia to 'Worst of Worst' Persecutors List	0	1	1	Iran is one of 8 countries cited for significant religious persecution; Bahá'í is cited as one of 4 groups in Iran being persecuted.
1-Sep-2004	So, Who Owns the Sanctuary? [re: churches splitting over gay rights issue]	-1		1	In ref to church becoming too liberal, a member says he "was alarmed when Tibetan chants and Bahá'í prayer bells were used in worship." [The ref to bells is inaccurate].
1-Jul-2004	U.S. Protestant Majority..../Sub-article: Interfaith relationships:	1		1	"Neighboring the traditional mainline Christian churches are Buddhist, Hindu, Bahá'í, Muslim, Jewish and Unitarian Universalist worship and meditation centers." Simpsonville, SC
1-Dec-2003	Bethlehem Prepares.../Sub-article: Interfaith/Interfaith forum...	2		1	"Interfaith forum addresses religious intolerance"--Bahá'í is listed as one of 6 religions represented on the panel. (Others: Islamic, Christian, Jewish, Hindu & Buddhist).
1-Dec-2003	Weblog: Research May.../ Sub-art: Christian Discrimination [*by* Christians]	0			A Bahá'í woman claimed in a federal discrimination lawsuit that she lost her job because she was a Bahá'í.
1-Aug-2003	Weblog: Evangelical Missionaries/ Sub-art: Other religions and interfaith relations	3			"A match made in heaven: The Bahá'ís and Baptists have been meeting weekly this summer to make connections that overcome religious and racial barriers."
1-Mar-2003	A Nation at War / Sub-articles: Politics & law:	0	1	1	U.S. eyes Laos religious freedoms: Majority Buddhist & minority Christian and Bahá'í noted as subject to gov't persecution.
1-Nov-2002	USCIRF's Concern Is To Help All Religious Freedom Victims	0	1	1	Chair of USCIRF responds to allegations from a former assistant founder. Bahá'í is mentioned in passing, as one of 4 groups persecuted by the communist govt in Laos.
22-Apr-2002	The Heavyweights of Religion Research [a review of 5 reference works]	0		1	Reviewing the 2nd of the 5, "Atlas" is quoted as It records "the decline of Episcopalians, redistribution among Lutherans, growth among the [Bahá'í]"
12-Nov-2001	meetingGod@beliefnet.com (a testimonial about working at BeliefNet.)	1		1	Mostly about the author's Christian journey, Bahá'í is listed as one of 6 religious groups "and just about everyone else" inclined toward religion who visit the website.
1-Jul-2001	Eight Christians Released From Laos Custody	1	1	1	Article on communist gov't oppression of Christians ends with "Parker said members of the Bahá'í faith also have been targets of government repression."
19-Feb-2001	We All Believe In Something' [on the website "BeliefNet"}	0		1	About the website "Beliefnet": "The main roster includes Bahá'ís, Jains, pagans, and Scientologists" along with 4 Christian denominations

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8-Jan-2001	Turkmenistan: Christians Beaten, Tortured	0	1	1	Last paragraph of the article, summarizing persecution of other groups in Turkmenistan, appears to have been copied from the Dec 1 article mentioned below.
1-Dec-2000	Turkmenistan Police Torture Four Christians	1	1	1	After reporting on Christian persecution here, Bahá'ís are included among 5 groups "subjected to police raids and large fines".
23-Oct-2000	The Transcendental Gore	0		1	Biographic piece on candidate Al Gore mentions that he "draws on Islamic, Hindu, Sikh, and Bahá'í texts, along with Native American prayers" as well as his Christian background.
1-Oct-2000	U.S. Religious Freedom Commission Criticized	1	1	1	Mentions "representatives of the Bahá'í, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths" on the US gov't appointed Commission. (Mostly about Indian Christians' objections to the Commission.)
1-Feb-2000	White House Attacks Iran on Religious Persecution	1		1	Execution of 3 Bahá'ís in Iran is recognized by Pres. Clinton as "contrary to the most fundamental human rights principles." (1 paragraph).
14-Jun-1999	Religious Freedom Panel in Place	1	1	1	Members appt'd to Commission on International Religious Freedom include a Muslim, a Bahá'í, a Baptist, a Mormon. The non-voting commission head is an evangelical.
3-Mar-1997	Indonesia: A Nation Out of Control?	0	1	1	Article mostly about anti-Christian persecution mentions Bahá'ís as one of 4 named groups as well as "hundreds of other religious groups" who are not allowed.
6-Jan-1997	Persecution Panel Appointed	0	1	1	State Dept appoints "advisory committee on religious freedom abroad". Bahá'ís are among 6 non-Protestant groups included. Some complained that it's "too diverse".
28-Oct-1996	Beijing U: China Educators Launch First Religion Department	1		1	Financial contributions for the Religion department at the university came from American evangelical groups plus Swiss Bahá'í, Japanese & Taiwanese Buddhists.
7-Oct-1996	Persecuted Convert Flees to America	1	1	1	Re: Christian convert from Islam: Congress.rep calls for stronger US efforts to defend Christians, as it has done for Jews "and, more recently, people of the Bahá'í faith."
3-Oct-1994	BOOKS: Religion and Religions / NEW RELIGIONS	1		1	*Dictionary Of Cults, Sects, Religions And The Occult* , George A. Mather & Larry A. Nichols: Criticized for too much emphasis on occult sects & too little on world religions (including Bahá'í).
16-May-1994	Christian College Coalition: Students Explore Middle East	1		1	Christian college students, during the 2-week Israeli portion of their visit to the Middle East, toured "sites sacred to Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Bahá'í."

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25-Oct-1993	Healing the Health-care Stystem / A Holy Disturbance (i.e. 2nd article)	0		1	This brief response to last month's article on the Parliament of Religions was generally negative, but it mentioned Bahá'í & 5 others as examples of religious diversity.
4-Oct-1993	World Parliament: The Elusive Quest for Religious Harmony	1		1	A Christian professor, in speaking of the opportunity to find common ground with other religions at the Parliament, mentions Bahá'í as one of 4 non-Christian religions.
14-Sep-1992	Letters: #5	0		1	Mentions, in passing, the fact that UPI was once owned by 2 Bahá'ís & once by an Arab group &Pat Robertson as an employee. (About whether religions influence media).
20-Jul-1992	Is Religious Liberty a Human Right?	1	1	1	Defense of religious freedom for all people--not just Christians. Bahá'ís in Iran are cited as the 3rd of 5 examples.
20-Jul-1992	Earth Summit: Searching for a Spiritual Foundation	-1		1	Summarizes Christian groups attending the Summit; concerned about Christianity being seen as an "old paradigm" it lists Bahá'ís as one of 4 groups "seeking converts".
18-Nov-1988	Canadians Get Religious TV Network	1		1	"Islam, Hinduism and Bahá'í" are mentioned in addition to various Christian denominations, meeting Canada's requirement to broadcast a diverse array of religions.
19-Sep-1986	Letters (18th): Nowhere Else To Go	0	1	1	Comments on the 7/11 article on "The Real Religious Persecution..." mentions "the hardships faced by...Bahá'ís in Iran" but only in passing. It is neutral.
11-Jul-1986	The Real Religious Persecution Is Not in Nebraska	1	1	1	Citation of serious religious persecution overseas: Christians in USSR & China, followed by "the gentle Bahá'í faith" under Khomeini, then Christians in Saudi Arabia, etc.
16-Sep-1983	In Northern Irelan... / 6th of 7 single-paragraph articles	2	1		"International outcry has slowed but has not ended persecution of followers of the Bahai faith" includes 2 accurate statements regarding Bahá'í teachings.
15-Jul-1983	Diverse Christian Leaders...against Genetic Eng'g / 7th of 12 single para. Articles	1	1		"A recent appeal by President Reagan..." covers Reagan's appeal to Khomeini on behalf of the Bahá'ís and notes that at least 150 Bahá'ís have been killed.
17-Jun-1983	At Leighton Ford's Crusade / 4th of 8 single paragraph articles	2	1		"Iranian authorities are continuing a drive to decimate Bahais" provides numbers of hangings, imprisonment, refugees and childrens banned from attending school.
21-Jan-1983	Crystal Cathedral/ Article on religious persecution	1	1	1	Article on Congressional investigation of religious persecution worldwide lists "the plight of the Bahá'ís of Iran" as the 2nd among 6 examples.

Date of Issue	Title of Article	Score	Persecution-related	Included in a list	Description/Comments
5-Mar-1982	Liberation Theology: European Hopelessness Exposes the Latin Hoax	0		1	Article about the failings of communism suggests that the liberationist movement should expand to include several other oppressed groups, including "Bahaists of Iran".
23-Oct-1981	America's Spiritual, Sometimes Satanic, Smorgasbord	-1		1	Bahá'í is listed as one of 6 "pseudo-Christian religions" (along with 5 others that are clearly Christian denominations). All called "rationalistic" with a "materialistic" lifestyle.
7-Aug-1981	Mother Teresa Invited/ World Scene--#11-Persecution of Baha'is	2	1		This 9-line paragraph mentions the execution of 18 Bahá'ís "for their faith" and arrest and imprisonment of others, seizure of Bahá'í holy places & other properties
20-Feb-1981	The Shroud of Truin/Malawi article	0		1	Included in a list of many religious organizations in Malawi, but noted as one that is "small, but growing in numbers and influence".
2-Nov-1979	Pope's Presence/ World Scene, para 3: Iran's recognition of 3 minorities excludes Baha'is	2	1		Summarizes persecution of Bahá'í minority religion, citing statistics indicating that it is Iran's largest minority religioin.
2-Feb-1979	Iran: Iranian Turmoil: East Pushing West	1	1	1	Implications of the Iranian revolution for Christian, Zoroastrian, Jewish and Bahá'í communities in Iran. Bahá'í is cited numerically as largest; also that it is illegal.
15-Dec-1978	Teen-Age Preacher (Story of Jim Jones)	0		1	A passing reference: "He believed himself to be the reincarnation not only of Jesus Christ, but of Lenin, Buddha, and the Bahai prophet Bab, all rolled into one."
7-Apr-1978	Book Briefs / Book review #3--What Is Moon Up To?	-1		1	*Sun Myung Moon and the Unification Church* , by Frederick Sontag. 99% about SM Moon, it says, "...we must confront them as we do Hindus or Buddhists, or, more pertinently, the Bahai's."
30-Dec-1977	Refiner's Fire: 'Oh, God!' Oh, Carl Reiner!	-1			A review of the film "Oh God"--"In other words, this is a film of the Bahai faith, which tries to syncretistically blend all religions together."
30-Dec-1977	Book Briefs / Briefly Noted/ Sects	-1			*"What Is the Baha'i Faith?* by William McElwee Miller (Eerdmans, 151 pp., $3.95 pb) is an abridgement of a 1974 book"--See items in 1/3/75 & 2/18/66 below.
3-Jan-1975	Book Briefs / Newly Published: Final para. lists 10 books on non-Christian religions	-1		1	The Bahá'í Faith: Its History and Teachings by William Miller is #8 of the 10. (See his letter, in the 2/18/66 issue below.) Called "scholarly," this book is certainly a polemic.
11-Oct-1974	The Wary Witness of the Poets	1			Robert Hayden cited (in a positive way) as one of the theistic poets who was non-Christian--"a deeply committed Bahá'í."
21-Jun-1974	Church Crisis in Chad / Article #3: Scotland: Unexpected Reprieve	-1		1	"Dr. Ian B. Doyle...referred to the alarming rise of non-Christian religions and movements [in Scotland]." Bahá'í is cited as one of 5

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11-May-1973	Book Briefs / Full-length book review	0		1	A Religious History of the American People, by Sydney E. Ahlstrom. Bahá'í is listed as one of 9 'religious movements outside of the mainstream". Appears to be scholarly.
27-Apr-1973	Book Briefs / Newly Published #1 of 42 single-paragraph reviews.	0		1	Those Curious New Cults, by William Petersen. Bahá'í is one of 16 "curious new cults" listed. This single-paragraph review is neutral.
16-Mar-1973	Reinstating,,,Morality / Newly Published: 11th of 30 single-paragraph reviews	0		1	*Religions and Spiritual Groups in Modern America, by Robert Ellwood, Jr. Bahá'í is listed a one of 5 "current exotic religions, but this brief summary is neutral.*
18-Jan-1973	A Not-so-Secular City	0		1	This article on animism and occult groups specifically EXCLUDES the Bahá'ís and other "Asian religions".
2-Jul-1971	Book Briefs: (#3) Distinctively Undetached (Book review)	-1		1	*Christianity and Comparative Religion* , by J. N. D. Anderson. Bahá'í is cited as one of 3 or 4 groups who (mistakenly) "assume that all religions are basically one."
26-Mar-1971	Passover Telecast 7th article: Religion in Transit (12th of 13 paragraphs)	0			A 2-line mention of 9,000 Bahá'í "converts"--"most of them rural blacks" during a 13 county conference in the South.
13-Mar-1970	Asbury Revival Blazes Cross-Country Trail/**Bahai In Black Africa: A Force To Contend With**	0			Commentary on the Bahá'í Faith, occasioned by Ruhiyyih Khanum's trip thru Africa, is generally accurate, although a few comments might be taken to be threatening, depending on the reader's perspective.
7-Nov-1969	Surprise Post	1			Report on 1st Canadian ambassador to the Vatican, who mentions the Bahá'í Faith in passing, in a positive light.
10-Nov-1967	Most Missionary Tales Have a Happy Landing/Miscellany	0			Brief mention: "James A. Pike represented Christianity at last month's centennial of the Baha'i faith in Chicago...."
18-Feb-1966	Eutychus and His Kin (Letters to the Editor--4th to last)	-5			The Bahá'í Cult: A letter by William McElwee Miller of Philadelphia (former Presbyterian missionary to Iran) who emphasizes "the finality of Jesus Christ" and directs readers to an anti-Bahá'í publisher.
4-Feb-1966	Book Briefs: (#6) Chaos (Book review)	-2			*The Kingdom of the Cults* , by Walter R. Marlin . "Bahaism" is one of 12 "cults" listed, but no details of it are given in this review.
11-Sep-1964	Book Briefs: (#4) No Room For Syncretism (Book review)	-2		1	*No Other Name: The Choice Between Syncretism and Christian Universalism* , by W. A. Visser t Hooft (Bahá'í is listed as 1 of 7 sources of syncretism, which is condemned)
12-Apr-1963	News Worth Noting: April 12, 1963 / Miscellany	1	1		Bahá'í International Community requests UN Human Rights Commission to assist with the case of 9 Bahá'ís sentenced to death in Morocco in December.

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2-Feb-1962	Congo: Survivor Describes Massacre of Priests/People & Events	0		1	On a list of recent deaths: "Amelia Collins, 87, a leader of the Baha'i World Faith; in Haifa, Israel."
13-Oct-1961	The Protestant Stake in British Guiana	0		1	Bahá'ís are listed among 22 religious organizations in Guiana.
22-May-1961	Pentecostal Meeting Makes Holy Land History/Convention Circuit	0		1	List of 9 religious meetings across the nation, includes a mention of the recent Bahá'í convention in Wilmette, Ill, and its "unprecedented growth" in the Western hemisphere.
10-Apr-1961	Miami Thrust over, Graham Eyes Manchester/ People & Events/Deaths	0		1	On a list of recent deaths: "Julie Olin Chanler, 78, leader of the reform Bahai movement; in New York"
19-Dec-1960	The American Scene: Are Cults Outpacing Our Churches?	-2		1	Bahá'ís are listed among several "cults" including several Christian ones (Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah Witnesses, etc.). It is one of the smaller ones.
19-Dec-1960	Unity	-2			"Unity" (a Christian denomination started in 1891): "...the cult prefers (like the Bahá'is) to work silently and pervasively."
29-Aug-1960	Protestant Broadcasting Faces More Cutbacks / Protestant Panorama	0		1	Bahá'ís listed as one of 12 religious organizations represented at Canada's National Exhibition. (Bahá'í is the only non-Christian one.)
20-Jun-1960	The Modern Drift: Is Nobody Home in This World?	-2		1	Bahá'í is listed as one of 5 "sects" that are "Eastern and use varying degrees of Christian terminology to express that which is contrary to Christian thought."
17-Mar-1958	Eutychus and His Kin (Letters to the Editor--2nd)-World Government	-2		1	Includes "the Bahá'í idea of world federalism" in a list of 4 with similar ideas, which the writer regards negatively. (In response to the Feb 3 article "World Government and Christianity.)

Net Total score:	53	56	96
Percentage of total:		42%	73%
Total Number of Articles:	132		
Average Score per article 1958-2025:	**0.4015**		**This is on a -5 to +5 scale.**
Net total score 1958-1978	-20		
Total Number of Articles 1958-1978:	29		
Average score 1958-1978	**-0.69**		
Net total score 1979-2025	73		
Total Number of Articles 1979-2025:	103		
Average score 1979-2025	**0.7087**		