



Sacred Spaces

IMAGINE
& DRAW

“An edifice or temple is to be built in order that humanity might find a place of meeting, and this is to be conducive to unity and fellowship . . .” – ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

On May 1, 1912, nearly 400 people waited for ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in a field near Chicago, Illinois. It was time to dedicate the site of the first Bahá’í Temple in the West.

Many Bahá’ís joyfully contributed time, energy, and funds to the Temple. Corrine True helped choose the land and lead the project. Nettie Tobin, a seamstress with little money, offered a large piece of limestone as a cornerstone.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá broke ground at the site with his own hands. Bahá’ís of many nationalities helped dig a hole

for Nettie’s stone. Then ‘Abdu’l-Bahá mysteriously declared, “The Temple is already built.”

Today there are seven Bahá’í Temples around the world. An eighth is under construction in Chile. There are plans for Temples in Papua New Guinea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá explained that someday each will have a hospital, a pharmacy, a resting place for travelers, a school for orphans, and a university nearby. They will be active centers of service to humanity.

Draw your design for a Bahá’í Temple in Papua New Guinea. Include nearby buildings for the places ‘Abdu’l-Bahá described, such as a hospital and school. Bahá’í Temples have a nine-sided circular shape, a dome, and gardens.

