

Stories about Bahá'í Funds- by Gloria Faizi (Page 98)

Tony and Maria are a Bahá'í couple who live in the United States. Tony is black and Maria is white. They had almost finished building a house for themselves a few years ago, when the place was destroyed by an arsonist because of racial prejudice. The couple had stored all their belongings in the new garage and that too, went up in flames, so they lost everything they owned within a few hours. The experience left them absolutely stunned, especially as it was not clear whether the insurance company would be prepared to pay for all their loss.

At this time a Bahá'í conference was held in a nearby city and the couple decide to attend it. When funds were discussed and the Bahá'ís were encouraged to give contributions, Tony and Maria looked at each other and wondered if they dared to make a pledge. Then, for the first time in their lives, they decided to do something of their Faith without thinking of the consequences. They pledged to give \$ 2000 from their insurance proceeds to the Funds, and put their future in the hands of Bahá'u'lláh.

Tony and Maria went back from the conference uplifted by the spirit generated at the gathering, and in a better position to grasp the full meaning of what had happened to them.

A few days later Tony returned to work. His fellow workers had heard of his misfortune and had a gift waiting for him. They all gathered in one place to express their sentiments to Tony and then handed him an envelope. Tony thanked his friends and spoke to them of how they could each help eliminating prejudice.

When he was alone, Tony opened the envelope. He could scarcely believe what he saw – a gift of \$ 2000 to the penny!

To Tony and Maria this was a miracle and a true confirmation of their faith.