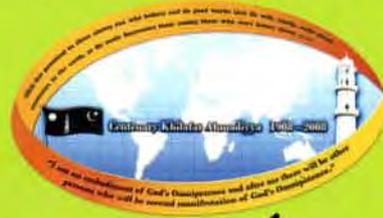


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The Ahmadiyya



September 2008

Gazette

Special Issue: Khilafat Centenary Celebrations in the USA

USA



Khilafat Centenary Celebration, Central East Region, USA



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Table of Contents

2	Al-Qur'an
3	Al-Hadith
4	Sayings of the Promised Messiah ^{sa}
5	A Brief Summary of the Friday Sermon of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V ^{aba} Delivered on September 14, 2007
7	A Brief Summary of the Friday Sermon of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V ^{aba} Delivered on September 21, 2007
9	A Brief Summary of the Friday Sermon of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V ^{aba} Delivered on September 28, 2007
11	How One Can Benefit from Ramadan
14	Concepts of Khilafat: Political and Apolitical
21	Khilafat Centenary Celebrations in the US
25	Khilafat Jubilee Program: Central East Region
32	The Celebration of the Centenary of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya: Sub-Central East Region Program
34	The Khilafat of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V ^{aba} , L. I. Jama'at
38	Khilafat Centenary Celebrations: Khilafat Day Program, Long Island Jama'at
39	Khilafat Centenary Celebrations Program at Willingboro
40	Khilafat Centenary Celebrations, New York Jama'at
43	Khilafat Centenary Celebrations in Brooklyn
44	Khilafat Centenary Celebrations, Philadelphia Jama'at
45	Khilafat Centenary Celebrations, Buffalo Jama'at
46	Public Relations and <i>Tabligh</i> Activities, Connecticut Jama'at
47	Khilafat Centenary Celebration by Central East Jamaats
49	Celebration of 100 Years of Khilafat by LA West Jama'at
53	Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya Centenary Celebrations: Phoenix Jama'at
57	Los Angeles-area <i>Tabligh</i> Activities: Jonathan M. A. Ghaffar
62	Khilafat Centenary Celebration Activities in Bay Point Jama'at
64	Leadership in Islam: Can the World Address Its Challenges without It?
66	Khilafat Centenary Celebration Activities, Merced Jama'at
68	Khilafat Centenary Celebrations Activities, Sacramento Jama'at
70	Khilafat Centenary Celebrations: Oakland/San Francisco Jama'at
72	Seattle Jama'at's Khilafat Centenary Celebration
74	Khilafat Centenary Celebration Fund Collection: Mid West Region
76	Khilafat Centenary Celebrations: Zion Jama'at
78	Sadiq Mosque, Chicago East
79	Zion Jama'at: Weekend Activity
80	Chicago East Jama'at's Khilafat Centennial Celebration Activities
82	Chicago West: Khilafat Centenary Celebrations—2008
86	Khilafat Centenary Celebrations, Milwaukee Jama'at
90	Report Khilafat Centenary Celebrations: Masoud A. Malik

Acronyms for salutations used in this publication

saw:	sallallahu alaihi wasallam (Peace and Blessing of Allah be upon him)
as:	alahissalam (Peace be upon him)
ra:	radhi allahu 'anhu (May Allah be pleased with him/her)
rh:	rahimahullahu ta'ala (May Allah shower mercy on him/her)
aba:	ayyada hullah ta'ala binasrihil aziz (May Allah strengthen him with His mighty help)
swt:	subhana wa ta'ala (Holy and Exalted)

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Al-Qur'an

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ۝ أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ ۚ فَمَن كَانَ مِنكُم مَّرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ ۚ وَعَلَى الَّذِينَ يُطِيقُونَهُ فِدْيَةٌ طَعَامُ مِسْكِينٍ ۚ فَمَن تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَهُ ۚ وَأَن تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ۝

○ ye who believe! fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may guard against evil.

The prescribed fasting is for a fixed number of days, but whoso among you is sick or is on a journey shall fast the same number of other days; and for those who are able to fast only with great difficulty is an expiation - the feeding of a poor man. And whoso does good of his own accord it is better for him. And fasting is good for you, if only you knew. (2:184-185)

COMMENTARY:

Fasting, as a religious institution, in whatever form or detail, is to be found in all faiths. "By the greater number of religions, in the lower, middle and higher cultures alike, fasting is largely prescribed; and when it is not required it is nevertheless prescribed to some extent by individuals in response to the promptings of nature" (Enc. Brit.).

It is the common experience of saints and seers that a certain degree of severance from physical relations or worldly connections is essential for spiritual advancement and has a powerful purifying effect on the mind. Islam, however, has introduced a new orientation and a new spiritual significance in this institution. According to it fasting constitutes a symbol of complete sacrifice. One who fasts not only abstains from food and drink which are the chief means of sustenance and without which one cannot live, but also from going in unto one's wife which is the means of assuring one's progeny. Thus he who fasts really evinces his readiness, if need be, to sacrifice his all for the sake of his Lord and Creator.

Al-Hadith

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا قَالَتْ: مَا كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَزِيدُ فِي رَمَضَانَ وَلَا فِي غَيْرِهِ عَلَى إِحْدَى عَشْرَةَ رَكْعَةً يُصَلِّي أَرْبَعًا فَلَا تَسْأَلُ عَنْ حُسْنِهِنَّ وَطُولِهِنَّ ثُمَّ يُصَلِّي أَرْبَعًا فَلَا تَسْأَلُ عَنْ حُسْنِهِنَّ وَطُولِهِنَّ ثُمَّ يُصَلِّي ثَلَاثًا - فَقُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ! أَتَنَامُ قَبْلَ أَنْ تُؤْتِرَ؟ فَقَالَ يَا عَائِشَةُ! إِنَّ عَيْنَيَّ تَنَامَانِ وَلَا يَنَامُ قَلْبِي -

Ḥadīrat 'Ā'ishah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{sa}, in the month of Ramaḍān and in other months, did not offer more than eleven *rak'āt Nafal* Prayer (in the late hours of the night at *Tahajjud* time). He offered four *rak'āt*. Ask me not how beautiful and for how long he offered these. Then, he offered four *rak'āt*. Ask me not how beautiful and for how long he offered these. After that, he offered three *rak'āt*. Ḥadīrat 'Ā'ishah^{ra} relates that she asked the Holy Prophet^{sa}: "Do you take a nap before offering the Witr Prayer? He said: 'O 'Ā'ishah! My eyes go to sleep but my mind does not.'"

(*Bukhārī kitābuṣṣaum bāb faḍl min qāma ramaḍān*)

عَنْ بِلَالٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: عَلَيْكُمْ بِقِيَامِ اللَّيْلِ فَإِنَّهُ دَابُّ الصَّالِحِينَ قَبْلَكُمْ وَإِنَّ قِيَامَ اللَّيْلِ قُرْبَةٌ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَمَنْهَاةٌ عَنِ الْإِثْمِ وَتَكْفِيرٌ لِلْسَيِّئَاتِ وَمُطْرِدَةٌ لِلدَّاءِ عَنِ الْحَسَدِ -

Ḥadīrat Bilāl^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{sa} said: "You should stand up at night (for *Tahajjud* Prayer) regularly as this was the way of earlier rightly guided persons and this is the way to achieve nearness to God. Furthermore, this habit (of offering *Tahajjud* Prayer) safeguards one from sins, repels evil and protects one from physical afflictions."

(*Tirmidhi abwābudda'wāt*)

SAYINGS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS}

The Purpose of Fasting is Purification

Do not perform the *Salat* as a mere ceremony, but observe it with the burning and the melting of the head and supplicate continuously in the *Salat*. It is the key to the resolving of all difficulties. In addition to the prescribed prayers and glorification supplicate much in your vernacular so that your heart should melt, and continue this effort till you arrive at that condition for that is the means of the achieving of all true objectives. All physical postures during the *Salat* should represent the condition of the heart also. When the worshipper stands in the *Salat* his heart should also be standing erect for God's obedience; when he bows down the heart should also bow down; and when he goes into prostration the heart should also prostrate itself, which means that the heart should not let go of God at any time. When he reaches that condition he will begin to get rid of sins.

(Malfoozat, vol. VI, pp. 367-368)

I have already spoken of the *Salat*. Next in order is worship in the shape of the fast. It is a pity that some who call themselves Muslims at this time desire to modify these forms of worship. They are blind and are not aware of the perfect wisdom of God Almighty. These forms of worship are essential for the purification of the spirit. These people seek to intervene absurdly in a sphere of which they have no knowledge and devise false schemes for the improvement of a territory that they have not visited. Their lives are devoted to worldly affairs; of spiritual matters they have no notion. To be moderate in eating and drinking and to bear hunger and thirst are necessary for the purification of the spirit and promote the capacity for visions. Man does not live by bread alone. To discard all thought of eternal life is to invite Divine wrath.

It should be remembered that the fast does not mean merely that a person should abstain from food and drink over a certain period. During the fast one should be occupied greatly with the remembrance of God. The Holy Prophet^{saw} occupied himself greatly with worship during the month of Ramadan. During that month one should discard one's preoccupation with eating and drinking; and cutting asunder from these needs should address oneself wholly towards God. Unfortunate is the person who is bestowed material bread and pays no attention to spiritual bread. Material bread strengthens the body, and spiritual bread sustains the soul and sharpens the spiritual faculties. Seek the grace of God, as all doors are opened by His grace.

(Speeches Jalsah Salana 1906, p 20)

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE FRIDAY SERMON OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL MASHIH V^{ABA} DELIVERED ON 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2007

On 14th September 2007, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih^{aba} delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futuh Mosque, London.

After reciting verse 184 of *Surah Al-Baqarah*, which is translated as follows:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ
الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن
قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ۝

“O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may become righteous.”

Hazoor^{aba} said: In view of this Divine commandment, we should make the best use of these days of Ramadan in order to make progress in *Taqwa*, to gain Allah’s nearness, to experience the acceptance of our prayers, and to improve our moral and spiritual condition.

Allah says, “Whoever strives in Our path, We surely guide them towards Us.” If anyone wishes to gain Allah’s nearness, he must strive in His path, and whoever makes this effort is cleansed of his sins. The Holy Prophet^{saw} is reported to have said that when a man keeps fast in the hope of attaining Allah’s bounty, Allah creates a distance of seventy years between him and the Fire. The Promised Messiah^{as} says, “He who truly strives to attain Allah’s nearness can never fail.” In a *Hadith-e-Qudsi* Allah says: “Every act of man is for himself, except fasting. Fasting is for me and I Myself will reward them for it. When any of you is fasting, he should neither use vulgar language nor abuse anyone. And if someone abuses him or quarrels with him he should only say, ‘I am fasting.’” The Holy Prophet^{saw} says: “When a person keeps fast, the smell of his mouth becomes dearer to Allah than the scent of musk. And he who observes fast has two joys in store for him: first, when he breaks the fast, and, second, when he meets his Lord.”

Hazoor^{aba} said: Ramadan is a training camp in which we learn how to get rid of our sins, and this is the goal everyone who observes fast should try to achieve. A man can only be seen to strive towards Allah if he continues to cleanse himself of his sins. When a person welcomes every Ramadan with this purpose in mind, it will win him Allah’s approbation and

he will be happy that Ramadan has rid him of his ills and has enabled him to progress in *Taqwa*. We should make maximum use of this provision that Allah has made for us, and we should pass through the days of Ramadan in keeping with His commandments and should raise the standard of our worship.

The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that the purpose of fasting is not merely to go without food. He who observes fast should also keep himself busy in the remembrance of Allah so that he may detach himself from the world and come closer to Him. Fasting means giving up the food which nourishes the body and observe fast for the sake of Allah should always busy themselves with His remembrance so that they may partake of this spiritual nourishment as well.' This is the objective of fasting which brings a person nearer to Allah and grants him *Taqwa*. As we pass through Ramadan, may Allah enable us to keep ourselves focused on gaining His approbation, and may our fasting be for Him alone and may we progress in *Taqwa*.

During *Khutba Thaniyah*, Hazoor^{aba} spoke about the sad demise of Saeeda Begum Sahiba (wife of Jalaluddin Shams Sabib), Saeeda Begum Sahiba (wife of Maulana Abul Ata Jalandhari Sahib) and Nasira Begum Sahiba (wife of Chaudhry Sayyed Mubammad Sarwar Sahib). Hazoor spoke about the sacrifices made by these ladies for the *Jama'at* as well as their piety and their strong attachment with *Khilafat*. Hazoor prayed that Allah may grant them a lofty station in heaven and may their progeny follow in their pious footsteps. *Ameen*.

(Ch. Hameedullah)
Wakil-e-A'la,
Tahrik-e-Jadid Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan

FASTING

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "Allah, the Lord of Honor and Glory says: 'All deeds of a son of Adam are for himself, but his fasting is for Me and I shall be its reward.' The fast is a shield. When any of you is fasting he should eschew loose talk and noisy exchanges. Should anyone revile him or seek to pick a quarrel with him, he should respond with: 'I am observing a fast.' By Him in Whose Hands is the life of Muhammad, the breath of one who is fasting is purer in the sight of Allah than the fragrance of musk. One who fasts experiences two joys: He is joyful when he breaks his fast, and he is joyful by virtue of his fast when he meets his Lord. ' "

(*Bukhari kitabussaum bab hal yaqul inni sa'im idha shutima*)

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE FRIDAY SERMON OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH V^{ABA} DELIVERED ON 21TH SEPTEMBER, 2007

On 21st September 2007, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futuh Mosque, London. Here are some extracts from Hazoor's^{aba} Sermon:

After reciting verse 185 and 186 of *Surah Al-Baqarah*, which are as follows:

أَيُّهَا مَعْدُودِي ۚ فَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْكُمْ
مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِنْ أَيَّامٍ
أُخْرٍ ۚ وَعَلَى الَّذِينَ يُطِيقُونَهُ فِدْيَةٌ
طَعَامٍ وَسَكَنٍ ۚ فَمَنْ تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَهُوَ
خَيْرٌ لَهُ ۚ وَأَنْ تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ
كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ۝

شَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ
هُدًى لِلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِنَ الْهُدَى
وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ فَمَنْ شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ
فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۚ وَمَنْ كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى
سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ ۚ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ
بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ ۚ
وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَى
مَا هَدَيْتُمْ ۚ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ۝

The prescribed fasting is for a fixed number of days, but whoso among you is sick or is on a journey shall fast the same number of other days; and for those who are able to fast only with great difficulty is an expiation--the feeding of a poor man. And whoso performs a good work with willing obedience, it is better for him. And fasting is good for you, if you only knew.

The month of Ramadan is that in which the Qur'an was sent down as a guidance for mankind with clear proofs of guidance and discrimination. Therefore, whosoever of you is present *at home* in this month, let him fast therein. But whoso is sick or is on a journey, *shall fast* the same number of other days. Allah desires *to give* you facility and He desires not hardship for you, and that you may complete the number, and that you may exalt Allah for His having guided you and that you may be grateful.

After the recitation Hazoor^{aba} said: It is said in these verses that the few days of Ramadan have been set aside for your training and to make you *Mujahids*. It has been made binding upon you to fast during these days so that you may attain the object of your lives. But if you are unable to fast due to unavoidable travel or temporary illness, you have to make up for those days afterwards. Do not think that this concession gives you the excuse not to fast. *It* is important for your spiritual progress that you should compensate for the *fasts* you have missed, due to illness or travel, by fasting for the same number of days after Ramadan. This is what is expected of a true believer. During Ramadan, Allah gives us the opportunity to fight our moral and spiritual weaknesses and we make the best use of them.

Allah says that anyone who is unable to observe fasting should pay *Fidya*, which means to provide for the fasting of a needy person. The Promised Messiah^{as} says that this Divine injunction refers to people who cannot complete their fasts afterwards, like a very old man or an expecting mother. Only such people have the option to pay *Fidya* without having to make up for their missed fasts afterwards the Promised Messiah^{as} has also said that the religion which does not *include* striving and endeavor is of no use. It is a great sin to cast away the burden that Allah has placed upon us. Allah says that I guide only those who strive in My path. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that if a person eagerly awaits the arrival of Ramadan, looks forward to fasting, but is unable to fast due to illness, he will not be deprived of his reward in heaven. Ahmadis should observe their fasts understanding the true spirit of Ramadan and should avoid making unnecessary excuses to avoid fasting.

Hazoor^{aba} said: The month of Ramadan is that during which the Holy Qur'an was revealed. As a mark of gratitude for this we should pay more attention towards Allah's worship during these days, and should try to purify ourselves and to observe fasts as He has commanded us. If we observe the fasts with all their conditions, Allah will also keep His promise and will enable us to do more good deeds and will reward us abundantly. During this month as we raise the quality of worship and observe fasts, we should also try to improve our moral condition so that we may be rid of the evil within ourselves and may get closer to Allah.

The Promised Messiah^{as} says that the verse "It was in the month of Ramadan that the Holy Qur'an was revealed" signifies the importance of this month. The Sufis have written that this month is extremely valuable for illuminating one's heart and many visions are experienced during this month. While prayer cleanses the soul, fasting enlightens the heart. During this month we should try to observe prayers that will truly purify us. The verse also reminds us that the Angel Gabriel used to come to the Holy Prophet^{saw} during every Ramadan and go through the portion of the Holy Qur'an that had been revealed until that time, and it is reported that during the last Ramadan of the Holy Prophet's^{saw} life they twice went through the whole of the Qur'an. Ramadan, therefore, has a strong link with the Qur'an and it is important for us not only to recite it but also to learn its translation and ponder over its meanings. If we want to make the best use of Ramadan we should try to abide by all the Divine commandments. May Allah enable us to reap all the blessings of this month. *Ameen*

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakil-e-A'la,

Tahrik-e-Jadid Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan

**A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE FRIDAY SERMON
OF
HADHRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH V^{ABA}
DELIVERED ON 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2007**

On 28th September 2007, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futuh Mosque, London. Here are some extracts from Hazoor's^{aba} Sermon:

Hazoor^{aba} said: By the grace of Allah, we are passing through the holy month of Ramadan, and the Holy Qur'an tells us that this month has been set out specifically so that we may reform our spiritual and moral condition and try to attain Allah's approbation and His forgiveness, and so that our prayers may be accepted. Allah has promised that He will accept the prayers of anyone who prays to Him. The Holy Prophet^{saw} has said that the first ten days of this month are the days of Mercy, the middle ten days are the days of Forgiveness, and the last ten days are for redemption from the fire of hell. During the last ten days there is a night known as *Laila-tul-Qadr* (or the Night of Destiny), and whoever prays during this night, all his prayers are accepted.

Hazoor^{aba} said: In the few days that are left, let us try even harder to make the best use of this blessed month. Allah says that there are certain conditions which a believer must meet if he wants to benefit from Ramadan. The first condition is that he should have such firm faith in Allah and all His attributes that no one should be able to shake it. Secondly, he should have the conviction that Allah listens to prayers and accepts them. When the faith of a believer is thus strengthened, he draws closer to Allah and Allah even speaks to him. The third condition is that, Allah says, "O Muhammad, people can only experience the acceptance of their prayers if they stick to you. Only those will enjoy nearness to Me who have perfect faith in My Messenger and only such people will hear My answer." The fourth condition is that one should pray to gain Allah's approbation. Allah says that when My servant prays for a meeting with Me, he will find Me near him, and if he wishes to hear My answer, he must abide by My commandments. The fifth condition for the acceptance of prayers is that the supplicant should try to avoid all sins. The sixth condition is that the suppliant should give precedence to his faith above all worldly things and should shun all vulgar and frivolous pursuits. The seventh condition is to pray consistently for the betterment of your practical and spiritual condition and to remain steadfast upon it. The eighth condition is that the prayer should be within the realm of the Divine law of nature. Any prayer that is contrary to Allah's teachings will not be accepted. The ninth condition is that one should not only pray in difficulty and adversity, but should remember Allah even in times of peace and tranquility. The tenth condition for the acceptance of prayers is that the supplicant must not be hasty. The Promised Messiah^{as} has said that no man can truly benefit from his prayer unless

he shows patience to the utmost degree and perseveres in his prayers. The eleventh condition is that one must carry one's prayers to the utmost degree, and must supplicate and beseech God with prayers so sincere and heartfelt as the cries of a child.

Hazoor^{aba} said: All the prayers that are offered under these conditions and abiding by Allah's commandments are sure to be answered by Allah, and such people are the guided ones.

Hazoor^{aba} said: The word Ramadan has its root in the word *Ramd*, which means the heat of the sun. In Ramadan man experiences two kinds of heat, first he gives up eating and drinking and his bodily pleasures, and, secondly, he experiences a motivation to abide by Allah's commandments. As we follow Allah's injunctions and fulfill our duty to Him, we should also attend to our duties towards our fellow beings, only then will we be considered the guided ones.

(Ch. Hameedullah)
Wakil-e-A'la,
Tahrik-e-Jadid Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan

I'tikaf

Hadhrat 'A'ishah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} went into retreat (*I'tikaf*) during the last ten days of Ramadan till Allah the Exalted caused his death. Thereafter his wives used to go into retreat.

(*Bukhari kitabul i'tikaf babul i'tikaf fil'ashril awakhir*)

Lailatul Qadr

Hadhrat Ibn 'Umar^{ra} relates that some of the Companions of the Holy Prophet^{saw} dreamt that the Night of Decrees was among the last seven nights of Ramadan, whereupon the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "I see that your dreams all agree upon the last seven nights. Whoever, then, seeks the Night of Decrees should look for it among the last seven nights of Ramadan."

(*Bukhari kitabussaum bab tamsu lailatul qadr fissaab'al awakhir*)

HOW ONE CAN BENEFIT FROM RAMADAN

**Syed Shamshad Ahmad Nasir,
Missionary, Southwest**

Once again we have the great fortune to reap the glorious blessings of the Blessed Holy Month of Ramadan. The Holy Prophet, Muhammad (peace be upon him), called this month 'the blessed month' as Allah rewards us, seven to one thousand times more, for the good deeds we do during this month. The following are some suggestions on how one can take full advantage of God's blessings and benefit from this glorious month of Ramadan:

1- Congregational Prayers

It is mentioned several times in the Holy Qur'an that one should observe prayers in congregation. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said that the reward for observing congregational prayers is 27 times more than that of prayers offered by a person on his own. Each Muslim should therefore strive hard to attend congregational prayers so that he/she can enjoy the extra blessings during the Blessed Holy Month of Ramadan

2-Tahajjud (Midnight/ Dawn) Prayer

Believers should make utmost effort to perform *Tahajjud* Prayers on a daily basis. The Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} used to observe *Tahajjud* Prayers by performing eight *Raka'at Nawafil* then three *Raka'at Wit'r*. It is suggested that one should take special measures to allocate some time to perform *Tahajjud* Prayer during the night after midnight or at dawn, as many *Ahadith* (traditions of the Holy Prophet^{sa} of Islam) emphasize the benefits of this supererogatory prayer.

3-Taraweeh Prayer

Taraweeh Prayer is a special congregational prayer performed exclusively in the month of Ramadan. Muslims should make special effort to observe this prayer in the Mosque. One should note that *Taraweeh* Prayers must not be treated as a substitute for *Tahajjud* Prayer which stands separate and in itself has very great rewards from Allah.

4-Recitation of The Holy Qur'an:

The Holy Qur'an was first revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} in the month of

Ramadan so there is a deep relationship between Ramadan and the Holy Qur'an. In other words, the month of Ramadan is like a birthday of the Holy Qur'an. Muslims frequently recite the Holy Qur'an during this month and study its profound meanings. In accordance with the *Sunnah* (Practice) of the Holy Prophet^{saw}, one should try to read the entire Qur'an twice if possible, or at least once, during Ramadan.

5-Supplicate, Supplicate and Supplicate

There is no doubt that Ramadan is the month of acceptance of prayers. Hadrat Umar^{ra} relates, that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said, "Allah forgives the supplicant in Ramadan and the requester is never returned un-rewarded." In the Holy Qur'an Allah says to the Holy Prophet^{saw}, "When my servants ask thee about Me, say, I am near; I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me."

6- Zikr-e-Ilahi, Forgiveness and Invoking Blessings on the Holy Prophet^{saw}

Zikr-e-Ilahi (Remembrance of Allah) is highly recommended during this blessed month. One should remember Allah and His blessings much and frequently ask for His forgiveness since He has promised to shower His blessings upon the believers during Ramadan. One should therefore not be neglectful, else the whole month passes by, and he reaps not a single benefit. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "The example of the one who remembers Allah and one who doesn't is like (the difference between) a living and a dead person".

7-Charity

During the month of Ramadan, Allah rewards one more for the material and financial sacrifices offered to meet the needs of others. Allah has given the believers special commands which, when followed, will lead to spiritual purification and physical health. Believers are taught to abandon everything for the sake of Allah and make sacrifices of one's needs and wishes. Ramadan gives awareness of the needs of others who are deprived of basic necessities. One way to win Allah's blessings, therefore, is to give more in charity and *Sadaqat*. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was the most generous human being on earth. He never allowed any needy person to return empty handed. If, he could not meet a person's need at that time he would advise him to borrow the required item or money and later when means became available the Holy Prophet^{saw} would pay back the debt on behalf of the person. During Ramadan, the Holy Prophet^{saw} would give so much that his generosity seems to have no bounds.

8- Fitrana

Fitrana (a fund for underprivileged people so that they can celebrate *Eid-ul-Fitr*) is

made obligatory for every believer with no limitation to age. It is a specified amount that every Muslim has to give in Ramadan. The purpose is twofold; it teaches one to make sacrifice and is used to bring some happiness in the life of the unprivileged.

9- *I'tekaf* (Retreat in the Mosque) during last ten days of Ramadan

The last ten days of the month of Ramadan is the period where believers gather in the Mosque and stay for the entire duration spending their time in supplication to Almighty Allah. The *Mu'takif* (one who observes the *I'tekaf*) finds a solitary place away from any kind of disturbance and worldly business and spends this period, uninterrupted, in the remembrance of Allah. He invokes blessings on the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), recites the Holy Qur'an, asks for Allah's forgiveness, supplicates for the problems of human beings and for the unity of the Muslim Community.

10-*Lailatul Qadr*

The Holy Qur'an states about *Lailatul Qadr*, "The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months". (*Al-Qadr*: 4) The majority of Muslims wish to find this great night of Allah's blessings as Allah says that believers should try to find it in the last ten days of the month of Ramadan. It is a great opportunity for those who missed most of the prayers due to worldly businesses that either they perform *I'tikaf* or spend greater parts of their days and nights in seeking Allah's blessings. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "Allah will forgive all the past sins of a person who prays in the night of *Lailatul Qadr* with pure intention and is a true believer". (Muslim).

11-*Eidul Fitr*

Allah has commanded Muslims to have a celebration at the end of Ramadan. This special day is called *Eidul Fitr* and it's a reward for those who have submitted to the will of Allah during the month of Ramadan. Muslims celebrate this very auspicious day because Allah has given them an opportunity to achieve the benefits of Ramadan in their life time. It is also a way to express their thanks to Allah for all the extra bounties He has given during Ramadan. The Holy Prophet^{sa} always insisted that all Muslim men, women and children must participate in *Eidul Fitr* Prayers and celebrations which is a reward for bearing the hardships in Ramadan. *Eidul Fitr* brings the believers closer to Allah and that is the true happiness.

Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin 'Abbas^{ra} relates that someone asked the Holy Prophet^{sa}: "Whose company is better? The Holy Prophet^{sa} said: 'Whose company reminds you of God Almighty, whose talk increases your knowledge, and whose deeds remind you about the Day of Judgement.' "

(*At-Tarhib wa'tTarhib - At-Tarhib fi majalasilul'ulama- , p 76/1*)

CONCEPTS OF KHILAFAT: POLITICAL AND APOLITICAL

**Mubasher Ahmad,
Missionary West Midwest**

To understand the concepts of *Khilafat*, we have to go back to the Qur'an as its original source. In Arabic, the term '*Khalifah*' means 'successor/deputy/vicegerent'. In the Qur'an, the terms '*Khalifa*' (in singular), '*Khulafa*' and '*Khalaa'if*' (in plural) have a wider connotation than merely civil or political leadership. The Qur'an uses the title of '*Khalifah*' for political as well as non-political figures. For example, the title of '*Khalifah*' is repeatedly used in the Qur'an for Adam who was, from Islamic perspective, not a political leader:

The Qur'an says: *When thy Lord said unto the angels, 'I am about to place a Khalifa (vicegerent) on the earth,' they said, 'Will You place therein one who will cause disorder, and shed blood? We glorify You with Your praise and extol Your holiness.'* He answered, 'I know what you know not' (2:31).

In Islamic theology, Adam is understood to be

the first Prophet of God. The use of the title of '*Khalifah*' for him indicates that Adam must not be the first human being, as he was a "successor" a "*Khalifah*" to others who had gone before him. It opens up the possibility to consider that there were other humans who lived before Adam, and who might have caused disorder, and shed blood. The eminent Muslim scholar and mystic Muhaïud Din Ibn Arabi held the same opinion, and referred to a saying of the Prophet of Islam that God had created no less than a hundred thousand Adams.

(*Futuh-at-e-Mecciya*, iii. 607.)

Moreover, the words '*Khalaa'if*' and '*Khulafa*' (the plural of '*Khalifa*') are used in the Qur'an for succeeding generations or nations in the sense that God made them the leading nations as against those people who were perished in the past.

The Qur'an states: *And remember the time when He made you as Khulafa after the people of Noah, and made you a great nation.* (7:70).

And remember the time when He appointed you as Khulafa after the people of 'Ad, and assigned you an abode in the land (7:75).

For political leadership, the Qur'an calls King David a *Khalifah* who ruled Israel. After his death, his son Solomon inherited an empire that covered a wide area in the Middle East. The Muslims consider David and Solomon not only kings of Israel, but also Prophets of God.

About King David, the Qur'an says: *'O David! We have made you a Khalifah in the earth; so judge between men with justice and follow not vain desires, lest it should lead you astray from the way of God.'* (38:27).

This verse of the Quran makes it clear that establishment of justice, abstaining from vain desires, and staying on the path of God are essential for a *Khalifah*.

In the Chapter of the Qur'an entitled *Al-Nur* – "The Light", it is stated that God has promised *Khilafat* to those who possess faith, and do good works:

God has promised those of you who believe and do deeds of righteousness that surely He will make them successors on the earth as He made successors from among their predecessors, and that He will surely establish for them their faith which He has approved for them, and that He will surely replace their state of fear with a state of security and peace. They will worship Me (alone) and they will not associate anything with Me (24:56).

Thus, according to the Qur'an, the fundamental source of Islam, God's promise to establish *Khilafat* among the believers is firmly rooted in their moral and spiritual condition. In this specific sense, it can be argued that according to the Qur'an, *Khilafat* deals with religious and spiritual lead-

ership more than the political authority among the Muslims.

In other words, a *Khalifah* is required essentially to establish the Unity of God, His worship, and to engender a pious and religious society, as distinct from holding some political influence. Therefore, in the Qur'anic sense of the word, a Muslim political ruler may not necessarily be called a *Khalifah* if he himself is not morally upright, or does not endeavor to maintain good religious behavior among other Muslims. On the other hand, a non-political leader who institutes and works for the intrinsic moral and spiritual values in a Muslim society could be called a *Khalifah* though he may not hold any temporal office.

The Mission of the Prophet

The concept of *Khilafat* in its essence is a continuation of the mission of the Prophet so that the objectives of *Khilafat* and prophet-hood remain the same.

The question may be asked: What was the mission of the Prophet of Islam? To answer this question, I refer to the earliest

period of Prophet Muhammad's call (peace and blessings be on him).

To escape the bitter persecution at the hands of the *Quraish* of Mecca, a small party of 80 Muslim men and women had taken refuge in Abyssinia (the modern day Ethiopia) where a Christian ruler by the name of Najashi (or Negus) was well-known for his just and compassionate rule. The opponents of Islam, the Meccans sent their envoys to fetch those Muslims back, but the Christian king of Abyssinia refused to do so unless he heard the Muslims to present their case in his court. When asked by the king to explain the new religion, Jafar bin Abu Talib, a leader of the refugee Muslims, made the following statement:

"O, King! We were plunged in the depth of ignorance and barbarism; we adored idols, and lived in unchastely... We disregarded every decent human feeling, and ignored the duties of hospitality and good neighborhood. We knew no law but that of the might. Then, God raised among us a man of whose birth, truthfulness, honesty and purity we were well-aware. He called us to the Unity of God, and taught us not to

associate anything with Him. He forbade us the worship of idols; and enjoined us to speak the truth, to be faithful to our trusts, to be merciful and to discharge the rights of neighbors. He forbade us to speak evil of women; or to usurp the property of the orphans. He commanded us to stay away from sin, and abstain from evil. He taught us to offer prayers, render alms and to observe fast..."

Thus, in these words, Jafar bin Abu Talib summarized the mission of Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam. His mission was obviously a moral and spiritual reformation, and it remained so at the heart of his prophethood till the last day of his life.

Towards the end of his life, Prophet Muhammad was also given political authority as the head of the newly emerging Muslim State. To be a statesman was an added responsibility to his moral and spiritual authority over the believers, and he conducted brilliantly the administrative affairs of the nascent Muslim community using mutual consultation (*Mushawarat*) with his competent and close companions.

The Prophet has been

acknowledged as one of the most successful and influential statesman in the world history. However, it is clear that the main objective of his mission as the Messenger of God was moral and spiritual reformation.

The Rightly Guided *Khilafat*

His death came rather quickly and unexpectedly, and his followers went into a state of shock and confusion. However, the majority of his companions elected Abu Bakr as the first *Khalifa-tur-Rasool*, that is, the Successor to the Messenger. Abu Bakr and the next three *Khalifahs* – namely, Umar ibn al-Khattab, Uthman bin Affan and Ali ibn Abi Talib – were among the closest and most devoted companions of the Prophet.

The *Khalifahs* not only discharged their responsibilities as the heads of the expanding Islamic empire, but also continued to carry out Prophet's main mission. They understood that the religion of Islam was had been completed in the life of the Prophet, and that the revelations of the Qur'an had ceased with the death of the Prophet, but to keep his mission going was

of paramount importance to them, and they carried on the Prophetic mission the best they could.

They led the five daily prayers as *Imam-us-Salat*; and imparted religious knowledge, its precepts and underlying wisdom to the fellow Muslims through their Friday sermons, mutual discussions, speeches, edict and rulings. They fully utilized the institution of *Mushawarat*, that is, mutual consultation, as was ordained in the Qur'an and practiced by the Prophet himself.

[REF: *WA amro hum shura bainahum*: (42:38)] & [REF: *Wa shawir hum fil amr* (3:159)].

They upheld the rights of the poor, the needy, the orphans and the widows, and remained above any party-politics. That's why they are known in Islamic history as *Khulafa-e-Rashidun* – "the Rightly Guided Successors" of the Messenger of Allah.

Safeguarding the Text of the Qur'an

One of the major tasks they undertook was to preserve the text of the Qur'an in written form. The process of writing the verses of

the Qur'an had in fact started in the life of the Prophet who had received the Qur'an piecemeal in the course of 23 years. In addition to memorize the Qur'anic revelations correctly, the verses of the Quran were put immediately into writing by the scribes before Prophet's own eyes. That's why the Qur'an calls itself *Al-Kitab* – the Book or the Writing. The task of bring all the written material together in one authenticated volume was taken up in the era of the first *Khalifah*, Abu Bakr, and completed in the time of the third *Khalifah*, Usman bin Affan.

Political Khilafat in Islamic History

After the *Khulafa-e-Rashidun*, many Muslim rulers throughout Islamic history used the title '*Khalifah*'. Yazid, the son of Muawiyya, inherited kingship from his father (in 680 AD) and thus the Umayya family initiated a new phase in the history of Islam, changing the election of *Khilafat* by mutual consultation to a system of inherited monarchy. The House of Umayyad ruled the Muslim world for almost a century. The Abbasid overthrew the Umayyad in 749 AD, and

they retained the political power for next five centuries. The Umayyad and Abbasid kings kept the title of *Khalifah*. In 1258, when the Mongols attacked Baghdad, the then *Khalifah* al-Musta'sim was executed. Three years later, a surviving member of the Abbasid family was installed as a *Khalifah* at Cairo under the patronage of the Mamluk Sultanate; but his authority remained a "shadow" *Khilafat*, mostly limited to ceremonial and religious matters.

The End of Political Khilafat

The Turkish Ottoman rulers preferred to use the title "*Sultan*" for themselves, but the seventh Sultan, Mehmed II (1432-1481) and his son Selim I, claimed to be the *Khalifahs* to justify their conquest of Islamic heartland. When the Ottoman Empire defeated the Mamluk Sultanate in 1517, the last Abbasid *Khalifah* at Cairo, al-Mutawakkil III, was imprisoned and taken to Istanbul, where he reportedly "surrendered" the *Khilafat* to Selim I. After that, the title of *Khilafat* took a kind of permanency once again. But the so-called *Khalifahs* were far-removed from the moral and spiritual norms

set by the Prophet and the early "Rightly Guided *Khulafah*" and none of them could claim the religious and spiritual leadership of the entire Muslim *Umma*.

By the end of World War I, the Turkish Ottoman Empire was defeated and its territories were occupied by European Allies. The 36th Sultan, Mehmed VI, was exiled, and after his death the Sultanate was abolished in 1922. However, his cousin, the Crown Prince Abdul Majid II, was elected by the Turkish National Assembly in Ankara as '*Khalifah*'. Later, on March 3, 1924, he was deposed and expelled from Turkey along with the rest of his family, and Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk) formally abolishing *Khilafat* for ever. Abdul Majid II, therefore, is considered to be the last political *Khalifah* among the Muslims.

Sufi Orders and Apolitical Khilafat

The lavish lifestyle of the elite ruling class under the monarchical political rulers had caused a reaction, and many pious Muslims were led towards mysticism. The moral and spiritual essence of *Khilafat* was preserved and sustained by the Sufi orders, the mystics

of Islam. Eminent *Sufi* leaders emerged since the eighth century, and with the passage of time the mystic trend was further heightened. The famous Sufi orders of Naqshbandiya, Qadriya, Suhrawardi, Chishtiya, Mawaalawiyya, and many others, were formed in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

The use of the title of *Khalifahs* a non-political entity became customary among the deputies and successors of the founders of Sufi orders. For example, Qutbud Din Bakhtiar Kaki (d.1235 AD) was a contemporary saint and the principal *Khalifah* of Muinud Din Chishti (d.1236) -- the founder of the famous and highly respected *Chishtiya* Order among the Muslims. Farid-ud-Din Masud Ganj Shakar (d. 1265) was a *Khalifah* (successor) of Bakhtiar Kaki; and his *Khalifah* was the famous saint Nizamud Din Auliya (d.1325) of Delhi, India.

Held in great esteem, the Sufi *Khalifahs* exercised moral and spiritual authority over the hearts and minds of the people by laying emphasis on piety, and resistance to worldly temptations, and showing their followers ways how to attain nearness to God

through esoteric doctrines and practices. They were saintly persons with strong faith in the power of prayer. They experienced true dreams and visions, received personal divine revelations, and even performance of miracles was attributed to them.

Ahmadiyya: A Modern Non- political *Khilafat*

I would like to briefly talk about the institution of a non-political *Khilafat* in modern times which is in existence now for 100 years. Its strength is steadily growing. It is known as *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya*.

The Ahmadiyya *Khilafat* is of interest to study because it is a reformist, dynamic, and fast growing internationally. It categorically rejects militant jihad, and it forbids the use of violence for any reason in any form.

It is the only well-knit International Islamic organization that endorses a separation of mosque and state. It does not believe that Islamic life can be successfully enforced by any government over its population just by enacting the *Shariyah* laws. It strives at

the grass-root reformation of the Muslims at large, and believes that religion is a personal choice of an individual, and as such freedom of religion should be protected. The Ahmadi Muslims believe in a workable possibility of the concept of separation of religion and government within Islamic countries.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at* started out of a small village called Qadian, in the Punjab, in India in 1889. The founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) claimed to be the awaited Mahdi and the Messiah of the Muslims. He initiated a Messianic movement to revive the faith of Islam in its moral and spiritual dimensions, like Jesus Christ he announced, that there were two main Commandments of God: One was to love and obey God; and the second was to demonstrate compassion and love for all mankind.

To achieve these objectives, his methodology was also clearly defined: He stated that his course of action was "to work for the betterment of mankind in the manner of the Israeli prophet of Nazareth, the Messiah, with extreme humility, meekness, modesty, love and courtesy" (*Tabligh*

Risalat, Vol. 1, p.11).

Upon his death in 1908, an eminent religious scholar, Alhaj Maulana Nurud Deen was unanimously elected by his followers as his first *Khalifah* on to continue his mission. He was entitled *Khalifatul Masih*, that is Successor to the Messiah. On the demise of Alhaj Maulana Nurud Deen in 1914, Mirza Bashirud Din Mahmood Ahmad (1889-1965) was elected to be the Second *Khalifah*. However, at the time of his election, a split occurred, and a dissident section shifted to the city of Lahore, presently in Pakistan. The main body of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community remained loyal and united under the leadership of the Second *Khalifah*, who led the movement for 52 long years. He passed away in 1965. At the death of *Khalifah*, elections of the Successors have been conducted for new *Khalifah* in 1965, 1982 and 2003. Presently, Mirza Masroor Ahmad is the 5th *Khalifah* of the Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at*.

Khilafat Through Elections

Presently, the branches of the Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at* are estab-

lished in more than 180 countries. In each country, the Community elects a National Executive Body and a National President called Ameer, through the process of voting. The elections of the National Ameers are approved by the *Khalifah*. In every country, there are local chapters that elect local Presidents and executive bodies to minister the local community affairs.

While all the officeholders are elected for fixed terms by the members of the community, the *Khalifah* is elected for life by an Electoral College. The Electoral College consists of all the National Ameers, the executive Heads and Secretaries of Central Directorate, and all missionaries who have worked for at least three years. The *Khalifah* is elected on the basis of his piety, religious knowledge, and services rendered to the Community, and not on the basis of his personal agenda. There are no self-promoting candidates during the life of an existing *Khalifah*. As a matter of fact, canvassing in favor of any individual is strictly prohibited before and during the election process.

The Ahmadiyya *Khilafat* does not aspire for any political authority in

any country. It teaches its members to remain loyal to one's own country, and to respect and obey the laws of the land wherever one may chose to live. They are taught to follow legitimate legal process, and not by create chaos by taking law in their own hands. Therefore, it strongly rejects violence and terrorism for any cause in the name of Islamic Jihad.

Administrative Structure of the Ahmadiyya *Khilafat*

Administratively, the Ahmadi *Khalifah* heads various departments of the organization, such as education, moral training, missionary work, public relations, social services, and publications. He also heads a system of arbitration known as the *Qaza*.

The *Khalifah* presides over meetings of an Advisory Consultative Council (*Majlis-e--Mushawarat*) which discusses and approves policies and plans to promote the aims and objectives of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The Consultative Council also approves the Budget each year. The institution of *Mushawarat* is vitally important process under *Khilafat*. The Ahmadiyya

Khilafat gives utmost importance to the consultation process between elected leaders and representatives of the Community.

The Ahmadiyya *Jama'at* owns its own satellite TV channels that work 24 hours, 7 days a week, throughout the year, broadcasting multiple programs on international level in several languages, including Arabic and Urdu. The *Khalifah* leads the five daily prayers wherever he may be. His Friday sermons (*Jumu'ah Khutbas*) are relayed through satellite TV with simultaneous translations in various languages.

Attempts for the Survival/Revival of Political *Khilafat*

Presently there are more than 50 countries with a predominantly Muslim population, but all are without any political *Khilafat*. Muslims are coming to the realization that the root cause for their failure in reviving political *Khilafat* is the decline in their morality and spirituality. Several attempts for the revival of political *Khilafat* have failed. Jamal al-Din al-Afghani (1835-1897) attempted to unify some Muslim countries without any success. His concept of Pan-

Islamism diminished in front of emerging nationalistic Pan-Arabism. The *Khilafat* Movement in India started in 1919 when European allies decided to partition the Ottoman Empire territories, but it could not preserve the integrity of the *Khilafat* and the Ottoman Empire. The *Khilafat* Movement was based on a non-factual premise that the Ottoman *Khalifah* was the 'Universal Caliph' to whom all Muslims, everywhere in the world, owed allegiance. However, when the Turkish Muslims under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk abolished *Khilafat* in 1924, the Indian Muslims were deeply hurt and humiliated and the *Khilafat* Movement collapsed.

Later, in 1928, Hasan Al-Banna founded the Society of the Muslim Brothers) --- *al-Ikhwān al-Muslimūn* -- in Egypt, with the aim to unify Islamic governments in a system of *Khilafat*, but met with harsh suppression by some the governments of Muslim countries. *Jama'at-e-Islami* was founded as a political party by Maulana Abul A'la Maudoodi in 1941, but without any significant success to gain political power in any Muslim country.

Another active Is-

lamic political party, *Hizb ut-Tahrir*, founded in 1953 by Sheik Taqiuddin al-Nabhani, is working to unite Muslims of the world under Islamic Law. It has held a few large gatherings to mobilize public opinion in the Muslim world for the revival of *Khilafat*. Even some terrorist and Jihadists including the militant *al-Qaeda* are calling the Muslims to get united for the restoration of a global *Khilafat*, but apparently there is no agreement on its methodology.

To conclude, I submit that though the political *Khilafat* may seem a desirable concept for the present day Muslims of the world, but the current diversity of political systems within Islamic countries, and the sectarian divide and mutual distrust among the Muslims will not allow a unified Islamic government run by any political *Khalifah*. It will not happen. The other alternative is the process of reformation of Muslims from within to teach and educate them to live a pious Islamic life under a non-political leadership, and such moral and spiritual *Khilafat* will give some hope to be able to bring a unity among the Muslim nations.

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS IN THE US

Nasir Mahmood Malik, Secretary KCCC-USA

May 26, 2008 marked the completion of the first glorious century of the Institution of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya*. To express our deep gratitude to Almighty Allah for this unique and invaluable gift and to commemorate His countless favors and blessings on the beloved *Jama'at* of Hadhrat Ahmad^{as}, through this Institution, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} had kindly declared 2008 as the year of Centenary *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya*. Also, Hazoor^{aba} graciously approved a Scheme of Khilafat Centenary Celebrations (KCC) for the worldwide *Jama'ats* with two main objectives:

- A. Express our deep gratitude to Almighty Allah through humble prayers for the continuity and success of the blessed Institution of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* till the Day of Judgment.
- B. Educate the world, especially our younger generation, about the necessity, importance and blessings of *Khilafat-e-*

Ahmadiyya and personal relationship with Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih.

Following is a brief overview of these celebrations in the US to-date (June 2008).

January 1, 2008

The KCC started with prayers and homage to Allah on January 1, 2008. Congregational *Tahajjud/Fajr* Prayers and *Dars* were held in all mosques, mission houses and *Salat* centers. The festivities then followed with breakfast and/or sweets distribution. In major centers the attendance reached 300. In some *Jama'ats* non-Ahmadi neighbors were presented with gifts and/or sweets. Lighting was also arranged at several mosques and mission houses. Many members in some *Jama'ats* fasted a day before or after January 1.

Many *Jama'ats* and *Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya* arranged sports and rec-

reational activities.

February-March 2008

Musleh Mau'ood Day and Masih-e-Mau'ood Day were observed more enthusiastically, with higher turnout, in all *Jama'ats* in the context of *Khilafat* Centenary. Special interactive presentations were made to underscore the significance of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* for our *Jama'at* as well as the world at large.

May 26 & 27, 2008

The Congregational *Tahajjud/Fajr* Prayers, breakfast and/or sweets distribution were repeated in all mosques, mission houses and *Salat* centers on May 26 and 27. Lighting was also arranged at several mosques and mission houses. On May 27, many *Jama'ats* gathered to watch the historic address of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}, live via MTA. In some *Jama'ats* non-Ahmadi neighbors were presented with gifts and/or sweets.

Many members in *some Jama'ats* fasted a day before or after May 27.

Regular *Khilafat* Day meetings were also held in most *Jama'ats*. In addition to speeches on *Khilafat*, the life histories of all *Khulafa* were narrated in these meetings. Many *Jama'ats* and *Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya* arranged sports and recreational activities.

May 26 is a holiday (Memorial Day) for most members in the US. Many members took the day off from work or school on May 27. Thus most members spent the whole 4-day weekend in prayers, reflection and festivities.

June 2008

A historic *Jalsa Salana* was held on June 20-22 at Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, Harrisburg, PA with an attendance of over 9,500. Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} graced this *Jalsa* with his presence and 3 addresses. Additionally, a total of 14 speeches on *Khilafat* related topics (10 in men and 4 in women) were delivered.

A *mushaira* was held on June 21 evening with 20 poets and 400 attendees.

This *mushaira* was also reported on BBC.

National Banquet

A national banquet was held on June 23 in the Hilton Hotel Banquet Hall, McLean, VA. Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} kindly graced this event with his presence and address. This event was attended by more than 300 guests and 70 members. The guests included 14 physicians, 4 professors, 3 lawyers, 3 church ministers, 2 journalists, and 1 police chief and 11 representatives from various government, public and private organizations.

Public Events

In addition to the internal *Khilafat* Day meetings on May 27, many *Jama'ats* held local or regional public KCC meetings on various dates in large mosques or rented facilities. In these meetings, hundreds of non-Ahmadi guests were introduced to Ahmadiyyat and *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya*. These programs included exhibitions, receptions, and gifts for the guests. Many guests were invited to speak in these meetings as well where they complemented the *Jama'at* for its global unity and peaceful pursuits.

KCC Fund

The US *Jama'at* had pledged to collect \$5.0M towards KCCF for the renovation and expansion of *Langar Khana* in Qadian, expansion of the Baitur Rahman Mosque, and the KCC Celebrations. To date, the *Jama'at* has collected \$2.95M. The expansion of *Langar Khana* and Baitur Rahman Mosque are in progress.

DVDs and alislam.org

All books and articles about *Khilafat* were made available as video documents on alislam.org. Similarly, Friday sermons of all *Khulafa* from 1908 to present were placed on line at alislam.org on the Friday sermon page. A DVD on Holy Qur'an with cross references was prepared containing commentaries of the Promised Messiah^{as}, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih I^{ra}, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II^{ra} (*Tafsir-e-Kabeer* and *Tafsir-e-Saghir*), Urdu translation of the Holy Qur'an by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV^{rh}, and the English commentaries of the Holy Qur'an in short form and 5-volume detailed commentary.

Souvenirs:

10,000 copies of an

international souvenir magazine (Mosques around the World) were published. The direct sale of this magazine in the US is in progress. 4,000 copies were supplied to *Tabshir* for international sale/distribution.

5,000 copies of a historic national souvenir magazine were published and mailed to all Ahmadi homes free of charge. This magazine was also distributed as a gift to many non-Ahamdi friends and several worldwide *Jama'ats*.

A CD was prepared containing all the prescribed books on *Khilafat*. Copies of this CD were mailed to all Ahmadi homes free of charge.

A special monthly *Khilafat* magazine was published (4,000 copies each) for one year, starting with May 2007, and was mailed to all Ahmadi homes free of charge.

100,000 commemorative postage stamps (in 20 stamp sheet format) were printed. The sale of these stamps is in progress. This stamp sheet was also distributed as a gift to many non-Ahamdi friends and 44 worldwide *Jama'ats*.

The following souvenir articles were prepared

and sold or distributed free of charge to the members and sent to 44 worldwide *Jama'ats* as gifts:

1. Time Piece Watches (2 styles)
2. Desk Pen Holders
3. Computer Bags
4. China Cups
5. Luggage Tags
6. Ball Point Pens (distributed free)

Exhibition

A historic exhibition with khilafat theme was developed for display at the US *Jalsa Salana*. The displays included rare photographs of *Khulafa-e-Ahmadiyyat* and charts depicting the blessings of *Khilafat*.

Some displays from this exhibition were also supplied to various *Jama'ats* for 25 local or regional KCC events.

Auxiliaries

In addition to the above *Jama'at* level activities, all three auxiliaries are fully engaged in KCC by holding special sporting events, educational competitions, local, regional and national *Ijtamas*, publications, *Khidmat-e-khalq* programs, etc.

Majlis Ansarullah

conducted a *Khilafat* Essay competition with 40 participants (3 *Ansar*, 4 *Khuddam*, 12 *Lajna*, 14 *Atfal* and 7 *Nasirat*). 18 of these contestants were awarded prizes at the US *Jalsa Salana*.

Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya (MKA) organized an International Basketball Tournament in New York in February with participation from 5 countries (Belgium, Canada, Germany, UK and USA). Similarly, MKA published a souvenir (comprising of *Majlis Sultanul Qalam* articles) and adopted 51 highways.

All auxiliaries are conducting the book exam (*Al-Wasiyyat*, *Nubuwwat* and *Khilafat*, and Truth about Split – chapter 2) prescribed by *Markaz*. To date, about 2,000 *Lajna* members have taken this exam.

Media Coverage

Special advertisements were placed in many English, Urdu, Arabic and Bangla newspapers throughout the country, including:

English:

1. Chino Champion

(CA), Chino Hill Champion (CA), Chino Champion (CA), Chino Hill Champion (CA), Daily Breeze (CA), Daily Bulletin (CA), L. A. Times (CA), San Francisco Chronicle (CA), Chicago Tribune (IL), Fitchburg (MA), Baltimore Sun (MD), Maryland Gazette (MD), Finger Lake Times (NY), The Philadelphia Inquirer (PA), York Daily Record (PA), Voice of Asia (TX), Patriot News, Paxton Herald, The News Journal, Lebanon Daily News, Intelligence Journal, Sun Herald, India Post, Daily Bulletin, Sun, India West, Weekly News, Daily Press, News Asia, Pakistan Chronicle, Independent Monitor.

Urdu:

Pakistan Times (TX), Pakistan Post, Pakistan Express, Asia Tribune, New York Awam, BBC Urdu Dot Com, Pakistan Journal, *Nida-i-Waqt*, *Nawa-i-Pakistan*.

Arabic:

Al-Akhbar

HOLY PROPHET

Hadhrat Sa'd bin Hisham bin 'Amir^{ra} relates, "I visited Hadhrat 'A'ishah^{ra} and requested her to tell me about the character of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. She stated that the character of the Holy Prophet^{saw} was the Holy Qur'an. Then she asked me: 'Did not you read in the Holy Qur'an where Allah the Most Honoured and Glorious says:

إِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

Thou dost surely possess high moral excellences. (68:5)? "

(*Musnad Ahmad*, p 91/6, *dala'ilunnabuwawatu lil baihaqi*)

Hadhrat Sa'd bin Hisham^{ra} relates that he visited Hadhrat 'A'ishah^{ra} and said: "O Mother of the faithful! Tell me about the character and conduct of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. She said, 'Don't you read the Holy Qur'an?' I said, 'Why not! (Certainly, I read the Holy Qur'an.)' Then Hadhrat 'A'ishah^{ra} said, 'The character of the Holy Prophet^{saw} was the Holy Qur'an.' "

Another version is: "The character of the Holy Prophet^{saw} was in full accordance with the Holy Qur'an."

(*Muslim kitabussalat bab jami' salatullail*, *majma'ul bahar*, vol. 1, p 372, *dala'ilunnabuwawatu lil-baihaqi*, p 308/1)

Hadhrat 'A'ishah^{ra} relates that the character of the Holy Prophet^{sa} was in accordance with the Holy Qur'an.

(*Mustadrik lilhakim tafsir suratul mu'minun*, vol 2, p 392, *dala'ilunnabuwawatu lil-baihaqi bab dhikr akhbar ruwait fi shama'ilihi wa ikhlaquhi*, p 309/1)

Hadhrat Imam Malik^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "I have been commissioned (by Allah) for the completion of good morals."

In another narration, Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said, "I have been commissioned for the completion of noble morals."

(*Muwatta' Imam Malik bab fi husnul khulq*, p 364, *al-sununul kubra ma'a jawah*)

KHILAFAT JUBILEE PROGRAM

CENTRAL EAST REGION

Inamul Haq Kauser, Missionary Central East

MAY 27, 2008

A *Khilafat* Jubilee Program was held at Regency House Hotel in North Jersey *Jama'at* on May 27, 2008. The First Session of the program began at 12:10 PM under the chairmanship of respected Ameer Sahib, USA – Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar. The attendance exceeded 1200 members of the *Jama'at* from Central East Region. In The Second Session of the meeting members gave tribute to the *Khilafat* and showed their allegiance in 21 languages of the world. For the first time in the U.S.A. Local newspaper appreciated and talked very highly about it.

FIRST SESSION

◆ Nasim Bajwa Sahib from Queens *Jama'at* recited a few verses from Chapter Al-Noor of the Holy Qur'an. The translation of these verses into English language was subsequently provided by Fasasi Sa-

nusi Sahib from Queens *Jama'at*.

◆ Jamil Chaudhary Sahib from Central Jersey *Jama'at* recited an Urdu poem written by Hadhrat Nawab Mubarak Begum Sahibah^{ra} titled “*Yaadhe 26 May*.” The English translation of the poem was read by Raheem Latif Sahib of Central Jersey *Jama'at*.

◆ President of North Jersey *Jama'at* – Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhry Sahib welcomed all the guests for their attendance. He remarked that this event was perhaps the biggest gathering ever hosted in North Jersey.

◆ The first speaker of the program was Dr. Irfan Alladin Sahib from Long Island *Jama'at*. The title of his speech was “The Sad Demise of Hadhrat Masih-e-

Mau'ood^{as}.” He began his speech with the recitation of the first portion of Chapter 3, verse 145. He asked the attendees of the program to reflect upon three things especially – the special relationship with Allah that the Promised Messiah^{as} enjoyed; the similarities between the last moments of the Holy Prophet Mohammad^{saw} and those of the Promised Messiah^{as}; and the absolute falsehood encompassed in the stories spread by the opponents of the Promised Messiah^{as} about the circumstances of his death. Dr. Irfan Alladin said that the Promised Messiah^{as} enjoyed perfect health until his demise. Even as he started to receive revelations about his imminent departure from this world, he showed no signs of illness and infirmity. Due to an illness of Hadhrat

Amman Jan^{ra}, the Promised Messiah^{as} was visiting Lahore to consult with physicians. It was during this stay in Lahore that he became ill in the evening of May 25th. The fact that he was in good health right up to that point is corroborated by the fact that he continued to work on his last book titled "*Paigham-e Sulh*" until that time. Finally, after a brief illness, he passed away on May 26th. His demise was celebrated by his opponents with great celebration and joy who could not imagine that the *Jama'at* of the Promised Messiah^{as} could sustain this loss. The Promised Messiah's^{as} body was taken to Qadian and the funeral prayer was led by Hadhrat Hakeem Maulavi Nooruddin^{ra}. The Times of London wrote a long obituary and many newspapers in India paid rich tributes to the services of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

- ◆ The next speaker was Dabir Khan (*Tifl*) from Central Jersey *Jama'at*

who spoke on the topic of "The Feelings and Determination of Hadhrat Masih Mau'ood's^{as} son." He said that when the Promised Messiah^{as} was lying on his bed during his illness, he was surrounded by many people. Hadhrat Sahibzadah Mahmood Ahmad Sahib^{ra}, went to the head of the bed where there were the fewest people and stood there. When the Promised Messiah^{as} opened his eyes, he saw Sahibzadah Sahib at his bedside. Sahibzadah Mahmud Ahmad Sahib^{ra} relates that it must have been through divine plan that he was made to stand by the bedside where the Promised Messiah^{as} could see him and it appeared that seeing him made the Promised Messiah^{as} content. After the demise of the Promised Messiah^{as}, Sahibzadah Mahmood Ahmad Sahib^{ra} returned home. Hadhrat Amman Jan^{ra} gathered all the children together and told them not to think of the house as empty now that the Promised Mes-

siah^{as} had departed from this world. After the Promised Messiah^{as} had passed away, Sahibzadah Mahmood Ahmad Sahib^{ra} stood by the bedside of his late father and pledged to work for the mission of the Promised Messiah^{as} even if nobody cared to help him in this mission. Later on, Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood^{ra} related that while making that pledge he felt fully confident that he had the ability to fulfill his pledge.

- ◆ The next item on the program was the reading of an Urdu excerpt from the book of the Promised Messiah^{as} titled "*Al-Wasiyyat*" about *Khilafat*. This presentation was done by Ismail Nayyar Sahib while Rafi Ahmad Sahib of Brooklyn *Jama'at* offered the English translation of the Urdu text.
- ◆ The next speaker was Dr. Mir Sharif Sahib from Central Jersey *Jama'at* who spoke on the topic of "Election of

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih I^{ra} on May 27, 1908.” Dr. Mir Sharif Sahib said that after repeated revelations about his demise, the Promised Messiah^{as} wrote the book “*Al-Wasiyyat*” in 1905 where he outlined a system of monetary sacrifice for his followers and laid the foundation of a special cemetery (*Bahishti Maqbara*) for his followers. The companions of the Promised Messiah^{as} counseled him to create an “*Anjuman*” (a working body) to run the affairs of the proposed cemetery. Later on the matters relating to the Review of Religions as well as *Madrassah Talimul Islam* were also added to the responsibilities of the *Anjuman*. The Promised Messiah^{as} appointed 14 members to the *Anjuman* and Hadhrat Hakeem Maulvi Nooruddin^{ra} was made the Chairman while Khawaja Kamaluddin sahib was made the secretary. Even though the *Anjuman* had been brought into existence, it was

not granted charge over everything – for instance, the Promised Messiah^{as} never gave control over the “*Langar*” to the *Anjuman*. There were also instances when the Promised Messiah^{as} demonstrated that the advice of the *Anjuman* was non-binding when he acted against the counsel of the *Anjuman* and according to the counsel of some of his other companions and his own best judgment. Dr. Mir Sharif Sahib spoke in some detail about the background of some of the members of the *Anjuman*. After the demise of the Promised Messiah^{as}, it was Khawaja Kamaluddin Sahib who suggested to Maulana Mohammad Ali Sahib (another member of the *Anjuman*) that a *Khalifah* should be elected. Maulana Mohammad Ali Sahib responded to this by saying that a *Bai’at* could be performed at the hand of Hadhrat Hakeem Maulvi Nooruddin^{ra} but he didn’t think it was necessary for those to do

this bait who had previously done a *Bai’at* on the hand of the Promised Messiah^{as}. During these deliberations, Hadhrat Hakeem Maulvi Nooruddin^{ra} was very reluctant to accept *Bai’at* and was fully prepared to accept any member of the Promised Messiah’s^{as} family as the *Khalifah*. Yet, upon the insistence of everyone, he was chosen as the first *Khalifatul Masih* and all the members of the *Anjuman* who were present in Qadian (including Maulana Mohammad Ali Sahib and Khawaja Kamaluddin Sahib) did his *Bai’at*.

- ◆ Safwan Akbar (*Tifal*) of Queens *Jama’at* spoke on the topic of the “Childhood of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih I^{ra}.” He said that Hadhrat Hakeem Maulvi Nooruddin^{ra} was the fruit of incessant prayers of the Promised Messiah^{as} to Allah for a helper. Hadhrat Hakeem Maulvi Nooruddin^{ra} was born in 1215 A.H/1851 A.D. in Bhaira. He belonged

to a very scholarly and religious family where many people had achieved the distinction of committing the Holy Qur'an to memory. He learnt the Holy Qur'an initially from his mother and then later on from his father. He was taught Persian and calligraphy too. He was very fond of horse riding and among sports; he acquired special expertise in swimming. Once when he was taken ill, he was very impressed by the art of his physician and that formed the basis of his immense interest in medicine.

- ◆ After the speeches, young *Nasirat* from the region dressed in matching clothes and carrying flags and a banner appropriate to the *Khilafat* Jubilee celebration sang a beautiful poem.
- ◆ Subsequently, Akram Khalid Sahib – President of York *Jama'at* – spoke in Urdu on the topic of “Ways & Means of offering Thanks to Allah for the

present *Khilafat*.” The speech was translated into the English language by Mubarak Bashir Sahib of York *Jama'at*. He laid out our responsibilities to *Khilafat* with the help of various excerpts taken from the speeches of *Khulafa-e-Ahmad-iiyat*. He said that we must connect ourselves to the *Khalifah* of the time since *Khilafat* is the rope of Allah and we should hold on to this rope. He said that the members of the *Jama'at* are like pearls and *Khilafat* is akin to the string that holds the pearls together so that they are not lost and are held together to make them look pretty. He said that the *Khalifah's* pleasure should be our pleasure.

- ◆ Ameer Sahib USA – Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar concluded the session with his remarks. He said that Hazoor's^{aba} address telecast live from London in the morning on the subject of *Khilafat* Jubilee was sufficient for all and he could not

add anything to it. He said that everyone should make it a point to listen to Hazoor's^{aba} address. Amir Sahib said that *Khilafat* had started with Hadhrat Adam^{as} when Allah appointed him the *Khali-fah* on His own without anyone's asking. Every prophet of Allah is a *Khalifah* who brought Allah's blessings to this world.

- ◆ The first session ended with silent prayer. An elaborate lunch was served after the session.

SECOND SESSION

The second session of the program was held under the Chairmanship of Na'ib Ameer, USA - Munir Hamid Sahib.

- ◆ The session began with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Majeed Yenful Sahib from the Bronx *Jama'at*. The English translation of the recited portion was presented by Hugo Fernandez from the Queens *Jama'at*.
- ◆ An Urdu poem was melodiously presented

by Asadullah Chaudhry from Philadelphia *Jama'at* while the English translation of the poem was rendered by Tariq Sharif Sahib from Central Jersey *Jama'at*.

- ◆ Imam Inamul Haq Kauser Sahib introduced the second session by saying that the main feature of the afternoon were the people belonging to different ethnicities speaking different languages who would speak the message of the Promised Messiah^{as}. He said that this was a fulfillment of a Biblical prophecy about the Messiah (in his second advent) that people will speak in different languages and will be understood.
- ◆ The next item on the agenda was a steady stream of speakers representing multiple ethnicities and speaking different languages who recited the same text on the topic of *Khilafat*. The languages represented during this segment of the program were Urdu, English,

Arabic, Hebrew, Spanish, Punjabi, Yoruba, 2 languages from Ghana, Bengali, French, Persian, Hindko, German, Japanese, Kashmiri, Sindhi and Swahili.

- ◆ Following the presentations in various languages, an English language poem was presented by Ziauddin Nizami Sahib.
- ◆ The next speaker was Mr. Ahmad Saleem Corbett who was representing the Church of the Latter Day Saints. He spoke on the topic of the "Election of a President" in his community. Mr. Corbett said that the President is the leader of his community and is also known as a prophet. Recently, the last President of the church (who was President for 13 years) passed away in January 2008 and a new President was elected. After the death of the President, the person who has been the apostle for the longest period is elected the new President. Ahmad Saleem

also spoke about his community's belief in the concepts that are known to the Muslims as the five pillars of Islam. He also spoke about the brotherhood of humanity and the help and prayers offered by his community's membership in the aftermath of the Tsunami in 2006.

- ◆ Father Joseph Doyle representing the Catholic Church was the next speaker who spoke on the topic of "Election of the Pope." He said that originally the Pope was elected by the assembly of the Roman people. Over time, the clergy began to dominate this election. Then, political forces started to get involved in the election after a while. This led to a very long process to elect a Pope – in one instance, it took 2 years to elect the Pope. To ward off the political influence, a method was devised where the cardinals were put in a conclave (locked room) and asked to elect the Pope. If they didn't elect the

Pope after 5 days, their rations were halved; if they didn't elect the Pope after 8 days, then the rations were halved yet again; and if after 10 days they hadn't elected the Pope, then they were provided with no rations at all. This method was very effective and the election of the Pope started getting done within days instead of years. Father Doyle said that currently there are about 115 cardinals and a 2/3rd majority is needed for someone to be elected by the cardinals to be the Pope.

- ◆ The next speaker was Dr. Gur Parkash Singh and he spoke about the leadership in the Sikh community. He said that Guru Gobind Singh (the 10th Sikh Guru) made the religious scripture to be the next Guru. Thus, now the Sikhs regard Guranth Sahib (the religious scripture) as the living Guru. He said that any member in a Sikh congregation (man or woman) can lead the congregation as long as he or she is well versed

in the scripture.

- ◆ Imam Inamul Haq Kauser Sahib was the next speaker who spoke about the high status of the Khalifatul Masih^{aba} and the special help that Allah has granted him so that the message of Islam has found acceptance in so many people's hearts through him. He said that Allah Himself guided many people to Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad Sahib^{aba} after the demise of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV^{rh}. Then Imam Kauser invited all the attendees to follow him as he recited the pledge to *Khilafat* in Urdu and English. Finally, he read the names of many deceased members of the community from the local region and asked everyone in attendance to pray for their high status in the hereafter as well as for those whose names couldn't be mentioned.

- ◆ Ahmad Mubarak Sahib spoke briefly after Imam Kauser. He said that the Ahmadi Mus-

lims should recognize their true place in this world. We are the fruits of the seed planted by the Promised Messiah^{as} and it is not God's design to merely create yet another religious denomination on this earth. We have a higher purpose in this life and we must understand it by studying the message delivered to us by the Promised Messiah^{as} in his writings. He said that we have opponents today just as movements started by prophets have had opponents before us – especially, Prophet Mohammad^{saw} faced great challenges from the high and mighty people of his time such as Abu Jahal who claimed superiority over him by virtue of his wealth, his higher status in the society and his learning.

- ◆ The next speaker was Salim Muhaimin Sahib who spoke on the topic of "My Journey to Islam and Love for *Khilafat*." He said that he was raised in Philadelphia and his first contact with

Islam was through the Nation of Islam. This contact with the Nation of Islam's interpretation of the Islamic teachings turned out to be unimpressive. He said that he accepted Islam in a penitentiary. The brotherhood and love demonstrated by the Ahmadi Muslims personified *Khilafat* to him. Salim Sahib met Khalifatul Masih IIIth in the mid 70's yet it was after his meeting with Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Sahib^{ra} before he was elected Khalifatul Masih that he gained the true love of *Khilafat* and appreciation for it.

- ◆ The last speaker of the day was Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhry – President of North Jersey Jamaat. He delivered the concluding remarks upon the direction of Na'ib Ameer, USA – Munir Hamid sahib. Hafiz Sahib thanked all the participants of the program for their attendance. He thanked the workers and the organizers for their hard work. He wished the

last 100 years of *Khilafat* "Mubarak" to all as well as welcomed the next 100 years of *Khilafat*.

- ◆ The program ended with silent prayer. After the silent prayer, tea and sweets were provided to all the audience members and guests.

Hadhrat 'Umru bin 'Auf Al-Huzni^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "Whosoever revives any of my *sunnah* (practices) and people start practising it, will get a reward equal to those who are practising it without decrease in their reward. Anyone who introduces an innovation in the religion and people start practising it, will get a share of the sins of those who practise the innovation without decrease in their sins."

(*Ibn-e-Majah bab man ahya sunnatah qad ami*)

PROHIBITION OF INNOVATION IN FAITH

Hadhrat Jabir^{ra} relates: When the Holy Prophet^{saw} delivered a sermon his eyes would become red, his voice would rise and his anger would increase as if he was alerting us against an enemy host. He would say: "The enemy is advancing against you in the morning; he is advancing against you in the evening. He would say: 'My advent and the event are juxtaposed as my two fingers; and he would hold up his forefinger and middle finger held close together.' He would point out: 'The best discourse is the Book of Allah and the best example is the example of Muhammad; the worst practice is the injection of new elements in the Faith, and every innovation is misguidance.' He would say: 'I am closer to every believer than his own self. If a believer leaves assets they would accrue to his heirs. If he dies an insolvent, survived by dependents, I will look after them.' "

(*Muslim kitabal jumu'ah bab takhfifussalat walkhutbah*).

THE CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY OF KHILAFAT-E-AHMADIYYA

Sub-Central East Regional Program

**Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhary,
President, Central Jersey Jama'at**

The first sub-central East Regional program was held at Baitul Hadi Mosque on March 15th, 2008, presided by Maulana I.H. Kausar Sahib. The program started with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an from *Surah Al-Noor*, verses 52-58, by Hammad Malik Sahib. The English translation was presented by Shazad Khandakar Sahib. Obviously, the theme of the program was *Khilafat*, but in view of the chronology of beginning of the Second *Khilafat*, the program centered on the life history and achievements of Khalifatul Masih II^{ra}.

The Poem "*Basharat dee Keh Ik Baita Hay Teraa*" was recited melodiously, as usual, by Kalim Bhatti Sahib. The English translation was by Shahid Mahmood of North Jersey *Jama'at*.

Dr. Imtiaz A. Chaudhary, the President of Central Jersey *Jama'at*, formally welcomed the presi-

dents and participants of North Jersey, Philadelphia, York, and Willingboro *Jama'ats*. Special thanks were offered to Maulana I.H. Kausar Sahib who had, once again, proposed such important events to be held at the regional level, like the programs conducted in 1989 at the blessed completion of the first century of *Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya*.

Rana Waqqas Sahib then spoke of the prediction and foretelling of *Khilafat* as Allah's second manifestation. Hadhrat Masih Mau'ood^{as} had been repeatedly informed of this blessing to be before his demise.

A young *Tifl*, Danial Qureshi, talked about the childhood of Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood^{ra}, quoting interesting incidents as to how he was under the kind and watchful supervision of Hadhrat Masih Mau'ood^{as}. The presentation was very forceful but lovely.

The topic of the speech delivered by Dr. Mir

Sharif Ahmad was the painful background and scene created by the few dissident elders of the *Jama'at*, like Maulvi Muhammad Ali and Khawaja Kamaluddin. They had been a consistent source of trouble to Khalifatul Masih I^{ra} and came totally out of bag at the time of the election of Hadhrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad as Khalifatul Masih II^{ra}. This indeed was an extremely difficult time in the history of the *divine Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya*.

This was followed by recitation of a poem by Jamil Chaudhary Sahib in his typical sweet voice. Rahim Latif Sahib offered the translation.

The long list of achievements during the 51 year period of the second *Khalifah* was then spoken about by Dr. Mubashar Mumtaz Sahib of York. The art was long, but the time being short, he had to abbreviate at the end.

Dr. Hafiz Samiullah

Sahib then talked about the beginning of the *Khilafat* in Islam after the demise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Mustafa^{saw}, the election of *Khulafa-e-Rashideen*, the formation and functioning of the Electoral College, and the election of *Khalifah* by them. It is through this establishment of the electoral college by Khalifatul Masih the II^{ra}, and then its modification by Late Khalifatul Masih IVth, that the elections of third, fourth, and fifth *Khalifah* went so smoothly.

* Beautiful recitation of the poem "*Barti Rahe Khuda Ki Muhabbat Khuda Kare*" was then done by a young Asad Chaudhry of Philadelphia.

* The topic of the speech by Maulana I.H. Kausar, our regional missionary, which he delivered with full force and authority, was the *Visions and Dreams* by the Saints of *Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya* about Hadhrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad^{ra} as the future Khalifatul Masih and Musleh Mau'ood. In addition, he constantly interjected with his affectionate and experienced feelings about Khalifatul Masih II^{ra} amidst

amidst the speeches and poems

- * The program had originally been scheduled for March 16, but was moved to March 15. Some confusion happened, yet, by Allah's grace, the attendance was 375.
- * Maulana I.H. Kausar Sahib had to leave in order to be able to participate in another such program to be held in the Brooklyn Mosque.

The program ended with silent prayer led by our dear Dr. Karimullah Zirvi Sahib.

Zuhr and Asr Prayers were then offered. The lunch consisted of *Matar Pilau, Aloo Ghosht, Daal, Kheer*, and seasonal fruit.

MAY ALLAH REWARD ALL
THOSE WHO HELPED HOST
THE OCCASION, AND ALL
THOSE WHO ATTENDED.

PAY ZAKAT, FITRANA, EID FUND

HOLY QUR'AN

Hadhrat Anas^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "A believer who recites the Holy Qur'an is like a tangerine, which tastes good and also has a pleasant smell; a believer who does not recite the Holy Qur'an is like a date, which tastes good but has no smell. A sinner who recites the Holy Qur'an is like sweet basil flower (*Ocimum pelosum*) which smells pleasant but is bitter in taste; a sinner who does not recite the Holy Qur'an is like a wild gourd, which does not smell good and also has a bitter taste."

(Abu Dawud kitabul adab bab
man yu'mar ayyujalis)

Hadhrat Bashir bin 'Abdul Mundhir^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{sa} said: "He who does not recite the Qur'an melodiously is not one of us."

(Abu Dawud kita-bussalat bab
kaifa yastahbutartil fil qira')

Hadhrat 'Uthman bin 'Affan^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{sa} said: "The best of you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it."

(Bukhari kitab fada'ilul
Qur'an bab khairukum man
ta'alamal Qur'an)

THE KHILAFAT OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH V^{aba}

**Mohammad Arshad Janjua,
President, Long Island Jama'at**

On April 20th, 2008 It was only due to the sheer mercy of Allah who enabled our *Jama'at*, Long Island chapter, to arrange a *Jalsa* to commemorate *Khalafat-e-Khamisa* on the beginning of the centenary year of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* Islamia 1908 – 2008.

As it was the first regional event of the Northeast region which celebrated 100 years of *Khilafat*, a tremendous amount of work was put in to ensure the event was successful. Here are the few main accounts of this memorable event:

- *Jalsa* proceedings commenced at 1:00 pm after *Zuhr/Asr* Prayers led by Imam I.H. Kauser Sahib.
- Dr. Hafiz Samiullah Sahib who recited verses 56-58 *Surah Al-Noor* offered the recitation of the Holy Qur'an. Umar Ihsan Nayyer sahib gave the translation of these verses.

- A *nazam* about *Khilafat* was presented melodiously by a young *Khadim*, Asadullah Choudhary Sahib of Philadelphia, the translation of which was carried out by Brother Bilal Abdul Salam Sahib .

The president of the host Long Island *Jama'at* delivered the opening address. In his welcome address, he recalled upon all the members in the following words:

“On April 19th 2003, the shocking news of the demise of our beloved Khalifatul Masih IVth engulfed the whole community in deep sorrow and uncertainty. That time was a very prosperous for the community. Allah the Almighty turned with great mercy towards the community and consoled the hearts of the members by appointing Hadhrat Khalifatul Ma-

sih V^{aba} as a divine leader a chosen one a most guided person not only to lead the community but to carry the mission of His beloved messenger, the Holy Prophet Mohammad^{saw} to unite all of mankind under One God.

The Mission of Masih Mau'ood^{as} was the mission of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. There are many prophecies about the Masih and Mahdi Mau'ood and his *Khilafat*. Allah blesses us since he has enlightened us by accepting the reformer of the age. This light, which is illuminating in our homes, must remain lit in our hearts. Our conduct must witness this light in order to attract others who have not yet experienced it and are in need of divine guidance. I am not standing here to make any speech, as you will hear the scholarly speeches later in this *Jalsa*. Please pay attention to these speeches and try to absorb as much as you can. This will enhance your

knowledge about the *Khilafat* and may give you a new perspective. I pray and give all thanks to Allah, our merciful and gracious God! O our Noble and Loving Lord, we are grateful to you that you have bestowed us with your Grace this Second Manifestation and once again saved us and changed our state of fear to that of peace. O Our possessor of power and authority and self-subsisting and All-Sustaining God, we bear witness that once again your Masih and Mahdi's prophecy (which You promised to him) the second manifestation materialized with full glory and magnificence."

After this welcome address the *Jalsa* proceeding was in its full gear.

- The *Atfal* were given priority to speak first, and the first speech was delivered by Moazam Saqib Sahib from the Brooklyn *Jama'at* whose topic was the childhood of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}. Another *Tifl* speaker, Sajeel Ahmad of Willingboro who talked about Hazoor's^{aba} Love For Children. Both *Tifl* were well prepared and *Masha Allah* presented their speeches very well.
- Fazal Syed Sahib of Wil-

lingboro narrated the dreams and visions of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IVth pertaining to *Khilafat-e-Khamisa*. It was a very powerful presentation bearing the weight of the visions and spirituality of our beloved Khalifatul Masih IVth.

- Mohammad Suliman Sahib of Long Island presented a very inspiring and unique video about the life of our beloved Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}. The presenter gave all the events shown in this video.
- A new convert, Brother Khalid Waleed Sahib of the Bronx, was the next speaker who spoke briefly about his personal experience with Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}. He made a special trip to *Jalsa Salana* UK where he first met with Hazoor^{aba} after his acceptance of Ahmadiyyat (the true Islam). His presentation was very motivating, inspiring, and full of spirituality.
- Ahmad Mubarak Sahib of the Queens *Jama'at* delivered a very powerful and very inspiring speech. His presentation consisted of the achievements of *Khilafat-e-*

Khamisa after Allah bestowed the Throne of *Khilafat* upon our beloved *Khalifah* Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{aba} and how God helped this *Khalifah* and gave the glad tidings of victory to him. In his presentation, the data he provided regarding the achievements were fully supported with evidence. The substance of the speech was of great zeal and the delivery was excellent.

- After brother Mubarak Sahib's speech, another speaker from the Philadelphia *Jama'at* brother Syed Fazal sahib talked about Hazoor's^{aba} advice and exhortation and directions regarding *Khilafat*. He presented his speech in both Urdu & English. The assignment given to the speaker was well carried out and was very much prepared.
- Our National Secretary *Tabligh* Brother Ali Murtaza Sahib (Brooklyn *Jama'at*) also spoke about his personal experiences with Hadhrat Khalifatul Msih IVth. He described that he met with Hazoor for the first time when his Holinessth visited USA in 1987. At that time he was not Muslim and as a matter of fact

was searching for the truth. He narrated that how Allah has guided him through dreams to accept Ahmadiyyat (the True Islam) and how He transformed him with the "Ultimate Guidance". He stated that he finds great strength in faith after his memorable visit to Qadian on the occasion of *Jalsa Salana* in 1991 where the Khalifatul Masih IVth visited Qadian after an interval of 44 years.

- Brother Abdul Nasir Sahib of Central Jersey recited a poem the translation of which was performed by brother Rafi Ahmed Sahib of Brooklyn. This was followed by another speech delivered by brother Nooruddin Sahib of Philadelphia, who touched upon the subject of "Blessings Of *Khilafat*". The speech was very motivated and filled with powerful arguments. The speaker was extremely articulate during his presentation.
- Dr. Imtiaz Chudhary Sahib president Central Jersey *Jama'at* addressed the audience in Urdu on request of Imam Kauser Sahib. Doctor Sahib's presen-

tation was very well worded and delivered.

- The main speaker of the day was Imam I. H Kauser Sahib and the topic of his presentation was the "Demise Of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IVth and the election of Hadhrat Khalifutl Masih V^{aba}". Imam Sahib described the situation of the *Jama'at* after hearing the heart breaking news of the demise of our beloved Khalifatul Masih IVth how each member of the community was in shock and was trembling with fear. At this time, as promised, a Divine Force came and helped the community console their hearts with Mercy by bestowing his blessings and appointing a Divine leader namely Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad as Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}. May Allah prolong his life and strengthen his hands (*Ameen*). He called upon the members to remain fervent in their commitment and never show a lack of obedience but also to remain steadfast in offering any sacrifice for the safeguard of this divine Institution of *Khilafat*.

- Our very respected *Na'ib Ameer* and Missionary In charge Imam Daud Hanif Sahib, who very graciously accepted our invitation on very short notice and who also presided the *Jalsa*, offered the closing remarks. In his remarks he applauded all the speakers who delivered their speeches and all the members of the audience who spared their valuable time to attend this spiritual gathering only and only with a sense of Love for *Khilafat*. He also described the events of the election of Khalifatul Masih as he himself was not only an eyewitness but also a member of the voting committee. He elaborated on the system of electing the *Khalifah* and the role of the electoral college (a committee who elects the *Khalifah*). He reminded to all members that as the world is passing through great distress, chaos is the norm of these days; there is only one community which enjoys peace and that is the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. To bring peace to the suffering mankind, it is our duty to pay attention to the call of our beloved

Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} and listen to whatever he may say and ready to act with out any failure and hesitation.

This blessed gathering ended with silent prayers led by *Na'ib Ameer* and Missionary In charge Maulana Daud Hanif Sahib.

As this was a regional event, many members from Philadelphia, Willingboro, Central Jersey, North Jersey, Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island gathered at *Masjid Baitul Huda* by 11:30 am where they were welcomed by the local administration and entertained them with light refreshments and soft drinks.

At the end of the program a very delicious hot Lunch/Brunch was served to all the members, which they enjoyed a lot. On their way back, packages of sweets were distributed to all the attendees.

It was the first historic *Jalsa* in the history of New York given that over 485 members of the *Jama'at* were in attendance. The facility of Long Island Mosque by the grace of Allah was overflowing with people, all of who were accommodated in a respectable manner. We are hum-

ble and grateful to our Lord who enabled us to hold a blessed meeting of such magnitude.

We must acknowledge the services of all those workers who prior to this program participated in decorating the mosque. Posters about *Khilafat* and Islam were found all over the walls. The mosque was very beautifully illuminated from inside and outside and for that we are thankful to our Brother Tariq Nasir Sahib (Long Island), brother Fazal Ahmad Sahib of Brooklyn and his team. May Allah reward their services. (*Ameen*).

Young *Khuddam* of Long Island were present on duty at all times and they very efficiently discharged their duties especially with their handling of traffic and parking, for which we are thankful to our *Qa'id Khudam* Dr. Irfan Alladin Sahib and his team.

Ziafat is always a tough assignment and very demanding, but the way the *Ziafat* team handled this situation warrants all kind of appreciation and our prayers. A thanks goes to Mansoor Ahmad Sahib of Queens *Jama'at* who was in charge of *Ziafat* on that day. His team workers very efficiently and very dili-

gently discharged their duties. May Allah reward them in abundance. (*Ameen*).

Cleaning after the event was an extremely tough job, since when the *Jalsa* was over everyone was in a rush to go back. Thanks goes to our property secretary Saleem Khan Sahib, who not only served the food to the participants but also cleaned the whole facility almost single-handedly with out any complaint. The job was so tiresome that one could imagine what he was going through. The true reward is with Allah who is watching over all of us and is aware of our intentions. May Allah give good health and bless our property secretary Saleem Khan Sahib who very patiently served the community during this event. (*Ameen*).

Nevertheless, we must recognize the efforts made by our respected Imam Kauser Sahib Missionary East Region which made this even a great success. May Allah be with him at all times and may Allah be his helper in serving the cause of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. (*Ameen*)

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS: KHILAFAT DAY PROGRAM

**Arshad Janjua,
President, Long Island Jama'at**

On May 27th. 2008 members of Long Island *Jama'at* gathered at *Masjid Baitul Huda* at 3:30 am to offer *Tahajjud* Prayers for thanks to Allah The Almighty with Who's sheer mercy *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* Islamia entered into a new Millennium by completing 100 years, a milestone in the 1500 years history of Islam. Prayers were led by one of our retired missionaries, Maulana Ahmad Sadik Sahib. At *Tahajjud* Prayers about 55 members of the *Jama'at* were present including men, women and children. Later by *Fajr* Prayer, almost 85 members of the *Jama'at* were present. After the prayers, there was a *Darsul Qur'an* delivered by Dr. Irfan Alladin Sahib related to *Khilafat*, which was very inspiring.

After *Darsul Qur'an*, a delicious breakfast was served to all the members and everyone enjoyed it very much. After breakfast

all members re-gathered in the main *Masjid* Hall to listen to the historic address of our beloved Imam Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}. All members were watching MTA very patiently and were busy in *Tasbeehat*, remembering Allah's favor. All members listened to the address of Syedna Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} very attentively. It was a very unique and very spiritual experience for every individual. Most of the members were not able to control their emotions and tears came out from their eyes as the address of the Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} progressed. Towards the end of the address all members of the *Jama'at* stood up as called by Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} to recite "A Special Pledge". All members of the *Jama'at* recited this pledge at the hand of Hadhrat Khalifa tul Masih V^{aba}.

We all pray to Allah ,
O' our Merciful and Gracious God ! O' our Noble

and Loving Lord, we are grateful to You that You have bestowed us with Your Grace. O' our possessor of power and authority and self-subsisting and all-sustaining God, we bear witness that Your Masih and Mahdi's prophecy (which You promised to him) about the second manifestation that *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* Islamia will remain till the Last Day, has achieved 100 Years with Your mercy. May Allah give us strength to remain steadfast and faithful to *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* to be ready to safe guard this Sacred and Devine Institution (*Ameen*)

Prior to the celebrations the Mosque was decorated with lights and banners. In the end all members of the *Jama'at* were presented with individually wrapped sweet baskets.

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS PROGRAM AT WILLINGBORO

**Dr. Farooq A. Padder,
President, Willingboro Jama'at**

By the Grace of Allah, the *Khilafat* Centenary Celebration took place at Al-Nasr Mosque on June 1, 2008. The program was coordinated by Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser Sahib. About four hundred and fifty members from various chapters participated. The meeting started around 11 AM and was graciously presided by Respected Ameer Dr Ahsanullah Zafar Sahib. The recitation of the Holy Qur'an was presented by Nibras Mir Sahib and welcome address was given by Dr Farooq Ahmad Padder, President of the Willingboro *Jama'at*. Several speakers presented on the importance of the Institution of *Khilafat* and also highlighted the contributions of different *Khulafa*. The morning session concluded at 1 PM following which lunch was served. After the combined *Zuhr* and *Asr* Prayers, the second session started at 2:30 PM. This session was presided by our *Na'ib Ameer* and National Missionary Imam Daud Hanif Sahib. Several *Atfal* were given the opportunity to speak on different topics and the presentations were well liked. The final speech was given by Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser Sahib who discussed the blessings of *Khilafat*. The meeting concluded with the concluding remarks and silent *dua* by the Chair.

HADITH

Hadhrat Nu'man bin Bashir^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "The case of those who observe the limits set by Allah and those who are careless about them is like passengers on a ship who cast lots to determine who should occupy the upper deck and who should be on the lower deck and disposed of themselves accordingly. Those who were on the lower deck passed through those of the upper deck whenever they had to fetch water. So they said to the occupants of the upper deck, 'If we were to bore a hole through our part, we would not then have to trouble you.' Now, if the occupants of the upper deck were to leave the others to carry out their design they would all perish together; but if they were to stop them from carrying it out they would all be saved.' "

*(Bukhari kitabal shirkah ba-b
hal yaqra' fil qismah wal
istiham fih)*

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS, NEW YORK JAMA'AT

Nazir Ayaz, President, New York Jama'at

Khilafat Day

Tahajjud Prayers were offered at Baitul Zafar Opening the *Khilafat Day*

A record for the first time in Baitul Zafar that hundreds of men, women, and children came on May 27th, to offer *Tahajjud* Prayers and then *Fajr* Prayer (led by Imam Kuser Sahib) to start the *Khilafat Day*. Breakfast was served by the *Ziafat* team. *Methai* (sweets) were distributed while children got chocolate/candies. We appreciate Shaeen Sweets for the decorative packaging of the *methai*. Members stayed back in the *Masjid* to watch Hazoor's^{aba} address.

Baitul Zafar Lighting

Baitul Zafar has been embellished with beautiful and colorful lightings commemorating the 100 years of *Khilafat*.

Khilafat Centenary Dinner

On May 24th, 2008,

New York *Jama'at* held a dinner for all the New York *Jama'at* members on the occasion of celebrating *Khilafat Centenary*. Over 200 members enjoyed marvelous food from the *Ziafat* Team, led by Mansoor Ahmed Sahib. After the dinner, there was an informal trivia session took place, which was hosted by Mueen Ahmed. He asked 10 questions and the winners received a special gift. *Salatul Magrib* and *Isha* followed. Imam Kauser Sahib attended the dinner and led the Prayers.

***Khilafat* Postage Stamps**

As part of the *Khilafat* celebrations, USA *Jama'at* issued postal stamps and many members have purchased them and if you need more, you can order them from ahmadiyya.us site.

New York Metro *Khilafat* Children Camp/Picnic

On May 10, 2008, as

part of the *Khilafat* celebration, a special program for children was arranged for all children coming from all the four Metro *Jama'ats* of New York - Queens, Brooklyn, Long Island and Bronx.

The program was coordinated under the supervision of the President of Long Island *Jama'at*, Arshad Janjua Sahib. The *Lajna* members headed by *Sadr Lajna* Farkhanda Ahmed who made all the program arrangements. Over 200 children and their parents attend the program which was held in a wilderness scout camp by the beach and lake. It was beautiful day in a very pleasant surroundings of greenery and fresh air.

Children and their parents were treated with a BBQ lunch prepared by Assistant *Ziafat* Secretary Naeem Sharif with Rashid Khaloon of Long Island and Ijaz Sandu of Brooklyn and many others who gave a helping hand.

The competitions

were conducted by Farah and Mueen Ahmed, assisted by Riaz Rehman and Shoeb Abulkalam. Children sent in their essays for the essay competition and brought with them paintings, graphic designs, and models with the theme of *Khilafat*. Children were awarded prizes in poem, speeches, prayers and other competitions.

We are grateful to the judges (Karim Sharif, Mueen Ahmed) who helped in marking the competitions. The closing ceremony was conducted by Arshad Janjua Sahib for Boys and by *Sadr Lajna* Queens, sister Farkhanda Ahmad for girls. Imam Kauser Sahib led the afternoon prayers and spoke to the children stressing upon the importance of *Khilafat* and he tested their knowledge on *Khilafat* by asking questions. Below are the results of winners from Queens *Majlis*:

Essay Competition Boys

Age: 7—10

1st: Hamza Ahmad

Essay Competition Girls

Age: 7—10

1st: Amatul Mariam

2nd: Anoosha Hamid
3rd: Amara Mahmood

Essay Competition Girls

Age: 11—13

1st: Shanze Hamid
2nd: Sumra Ahmed
2nd: Amna Ahmed

Essay Competition Boys

Age: 14—15

1st: Safwan Akbar

Models, Poster and Cards Competition Girls

Age: 7 and under

1st: Shaiza Mansoor
3rd: Meher Muzaffar

Models, Poster and Cards Competition Girls

Age: 11-13

1st: Labeeba Chaudhry
Nazm Competitions Girls

Age: 7 and under

1st: Meher Muzaffar

Nazm Competition Girls

Age: 7-10

1st: Hirra Muzaffar

Nazm Competition Girls

Age: 11-13

1st: Labeeba Chaudhry

Nazm Competition Girls

Age: 14-15

2nd: Laila Mansoor

Nazm Competition Boys

Age: 14-15

3rd: Safwan Akbar

Hifz Competition Girls

1st: Amatul Mariam
Age: 7—10

1st: Shanze Hamid
Age: 11-13

1st: Nida Nasir
Age: 14—15

Hifz Competition Boys

Age: 7—10

1st: Danish Chaudhry
3rd: Hamza Ahmad

The winning poster boards, and models from the *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations Children's Competition are being displayed in Baitul Zafar.

Monthly Adopt A Highway

On Saturday, May 17th, a group of *Khuddam* volunteered to take part in one of the *Khilafat* Centenary initiatives undertaken by *Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya USA*. The Queens *Majlis* has partnered with Suffolk county in their Adopt-a-Highway Program. The mile long area is located just off the Long Island Expressway on Pinelawn Road. The program was started in April of this year and two successful clean-up projects have taken place. Clean-ups take place once a month and take about an hour to perform. Afterwards, the group goes for dinner. All across the US over 50 highways have been 'Adopted' by *Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya*.

Tahir School Ceremony

Special *Khilafat* Centenary Tahir School held a ceremony that took place on June 14th, 2008. the students strived diligently throughout the fall and spring semester and finally their efforts were acknowledged in the ceremony. All those students who maintained a high attendance record were recognized along with those students who ex-

celled in the classes. The subjects varied with different levels, from Holy Qur'an, *Hadith*, comparative studies, History of Islam, Urdu, to *Qa'ida*.

The Tahir Camp started again from July 7th, 2008, where there are topics various topics discussed from every Monday—Thursday between 6:30 pm-8:30 pm ending with *Maghrib*. This Summer Camp covers in depth on Holy Qur'an, *Hadith*, History, etc.

Khilafat Centenary Fund

At Ameer Sahib's instructions, Syed Waseem Ahmad Sahib came to New York and delivered the Friday sermon on July 25th, in which he laid out the importance of the KCC fund and urged members to come forward and participate as this is a 100 years opportunity and our children must not miss it.

HELP

HUMANITY FIRST

DONATE MONEY AND TIME

PARENTS

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that a man came to the Holy Prophet^{saw} and asked: "Messenger^{sa} of Allah, who is best entitled to my good companionship and kind treatment? He answered: 'Your mother.' The man asked again: 'And after her?' He said: 'Your mother.' The man asked again: 'And after her?' He said: 'Your mother.' The man asked again: 'And after her?' He said: 'Your father.' "

According to another narration the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "Your mother, then your mother, then your mother, then your father and then your near relations, rankwise."

(Bukhari kitabul adab bab min ahqunnas bihusnussuhbah, Muslim)

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "May his nose be rubbed in dust, may his nose be rubbed in dust, may his nose be rubbed in dust. People said, 'Hazaar! Who is that person?' He replied, 'The one who found his parents, one or both, approaching old age and did not enter Paradise through serving them.' "

(Muslim kitabul bir walsilah bab raghima anfu min adraka abawaihi)

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS IN BROOKLYN

Rafi Ahmed, General Secretary, Brooklyn/SI Jama'at

The first meeting of the *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations for the Metro New York Area was hosted by the Brooklyn/Staten Island *Jama'at* on Saturday, March 15, 2008. By Allah's Grace it was a successful meeting. There was representation from the various NY *Jama'ats* - Bronx, Queens and Long Island *Jama'at* who attended and took part in this blessed event. Queens *Jama'at* had a fairly good representation of members, followed by Bronx and then Long Island. The guest speaker from the Queens *Jama'at* was Ahmad Mubarak Sahib who delivered a forceful speech detailing the events that occurred during the election of the Second *Khalifah* in an interesting and eloquent manner. Rizwan Alladin Sahib and Rafi Ahmed Sahib were the main speakers from the Long Island & Brooklyn *Jama'at* respectively. The attendance at this meeting was about 260 people (men, women and children). Respected Muballigh Inamul Haq Kauser

Sahib also gave a detailed account during the time of the election of the Second *Khalifah* and the fear and uncertainty that the *Jama'at* went through at this crucial time and how this changed to peace and security when Hadhrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad^{ra} was unanimously elected as the Second *Khalifah* of *Jama'at* Ahmadiyya. The main theme of this meeting was Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood's^{ra} contribution in establishing the Electoral College for the election of the *Khalifah* under Divine Guidance. President Dr. Shahed Ahmed welcomed the guests on behalf of the Brooklyn/SI *Jama'at* and Bronx President, Nazir Cheema Sahib gave concluding remarks at the end of the meeting.

There was a lot of effort put in by the Brooklyn/SI *Jama'at* members - the *Ansar*, *Khudam*, *Lajna*, *Nasirat* and *Atfal* - all of them sincerely worked to make this event truly successful. We request prayers for all those who worked with

great dedication to make this program and meeting successful.

Our *Lajna* took special efforts in making some beautiful banners - one of them was a large banner which read "CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF KHILAFAT 1908-2008". The banner was posted outside the mosque and attracted a lot of attention from the neighbors and passer bys. Special thanks go to Mubarak Ahmad Sahib and his wife Mrs. Salima Ahmad who worked diligently to make this very beautiful banners under the guidance of our *Lajna* President Amatul Aziz Nighat Sahiba.

Mansoor Ahmad of New Jersey provided us with delicious *biryani* for this occasion and we are thankful to him and our *Ziafat* Team for the good food provided. Our thanks also go to Fazal Mahmood Kahloon Sahib who put in a lot of effort and time in the physical arrangements for this meeting. *Jazakomullah Ahsanal Jazza.*

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS (PHILADELPHIA JAMA'AT)

Ahmad Nuruddin
Vice President, Philadelphia Jama'at

On 6/1/08 the Philadelphia *Jama'at* was blessed to convene in celebration of completion of 100 years of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyyat*. In the weeks prior to the event, many efforts were made to publicize the gathering which was to focus on *Khilafat*; but with a special twist, incorporating *Tabligh*. So the challenge was: "How do we make the 100 years Khilafat Centenary Celebrations a cause for the public at large to celebrate, as well as educate them about *Khilafat*?" Promotion started on our weekly radio program "THE VOICE FROM HEAVEN" [900amWURD.com Tuesdays 7-8PM] and through personal invitations and flyers. We used the radio to also begin the education process(about *Khilafat*).

After months of planning June 1 was finally here! The meeting was held at the First District

Plaza hall in Philadelphia at 1:00PM; However *Jama'at* members were requested to arrive by 12:30 to greet and host the guests. *Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya* were already at the facility setting up since 9:00 AM under the guidance of Qaid Sahib. When the members and guests arrived, they were greeted at the door by *Khuddam* and *Atfal* who escorted them to the registration table. These *Khuddam* and *Atfal* were outfitted in white shirts, black trousers, black/white scarves and black caps as per *Qa'id's* instruction. After a quick registration (which also printed out name badges on the spot) guests were escorted to the meeting rooms of both men and ladies. Once inside, guests and *Jama'at* members were seated in a way which mixed the two groups to promote dialogue. There were large banners on the walls with slogans (ex: LOVE FOR ALL HATRED FOR

NONE) as well as a slide show presentation on a large projection screen at the front of the room. Guests were engaged and some stated that they were impressed at the organization of the event. Lunch started and the guests were invited table by table.

After lunch, the main program began. *Tala-waat*, *Nazm* and translation were followed by a brief welcome address by our Sadr Mujeebullah Chaudhary Sahib. Sadr Sahib also introduced the distinguished panel which consisted of Maulana Daud Hanif (chair), Bilal Abdus-salaam, Ali Murtaza (Natl. *Tabligh* Sec.), Mulana Inamul Haq Kauser (keynote speaker), Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary, Hussein Abdulaziz, and other distinguished members. Men from the local *Majlis* were called one by one to the podium to speak for 5 minutes about: 'How has *Khilafat*

impacted your life since accepting Islam/Ahmadiyyat?" All of those speakers were converts. There were few if any prepared speeches and the meeting room was transformed into a warm family atmosphere. At the conclusion of those speeches, Kauser Sahib addressed the gathering on the history of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* leading up to Khilafat Centenary Celebrations. The audience was very attentive and captivated by the charm and eloquence of his speech. Next, *Khuddam* were dispersed to each table with writing materials to gather questions from the guests. Questions and answer session followed and a range of questions came forward on the finality of prophethood and what is Ahmadiyyat? After the session more time was spent mingling with guests and an area was designated for afternoon prayers. The meeting concluded with *Dua* at approx. 6:00 PM. In all there were 61 non-Ahmadi guests and approx. 200 members at the gathering. Sweets were distributed as guests were leaving and new contacts were made. Many guests expressed gratitude and gave contact information for future gatherings. *Alhamdulillah*, it was truly a blessed event!

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS (Buffalo Jama'at)

Nasir Khan, President

Buffalo *Jama'at* held its *Khilafat* Day Conference on Sunday 25, 2008 on the topic of Divine Guidance for Establishing Peace in the Latter Days. About 80 people attended the symposium out of which approximately 20 were guests.

The speakers and their topics were as follows:

1. **Dr. Nasir Khan: Caliphate and Peace: Concept, Need and Purpose**
2. **Dr. Zia Shah: The Righteous Caliphs**
3. **Imam Inamul Haq Kauser: *Khilafat* - Divine Intervention for Spiritual Uplifting of Humanity.**
4. **Imam Daud Hanif : Divine Scheme for Leadership for Peace in the Latter Days - Prophecies and Fulfillment**

After all the speeches, a 45 minutes long question & answer session was held. Dinner was served as well.

The conference was attended by United States Congressman Brian Higgins and covered by Ken Hamilton.

The day before the conference, the largest newspaper of Buffalo published an article.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND TABLIGH ACTIVITIES (CONNECTICUT JAMA'AT)

Dr. Mahmood Qureshi, President

Sunday, July 13, 2008

Connecticut Jamaat Public Relations and Tabligh Activities
2007-07 to 2008-07

Date	Activity	Comment
2007	A young lady, Ms. Bisma Khan, performed bait	
2007	Persecution Outreach	Sent letters to Connecticut political leaders, including Senator Dodd regarding Pakistan. For example, sent over 50 letters to Pakistani officials and media regarding Faisalabad Medical Student issue.
21-Jul-07	Mosque Inauguration with Guests	Attended by several Meriden town council members, tabligh contacts, a Muslim activist, and an Arab-Muslim leader from Waterbury; Please refer to article in Record-Journal, main newspaper for Meriden, from July 22, 2007
13-Oct-07	Eidul Fitr	Several guests including Mayor of Meriden and reporter for main Connecticut newspaper, the Hartford Courant, attended. Please refer to front page Sunday Connecticut section article from Oct, 14, 2007. Mayor presented an honorable citation.
23-Mar-08	Messiah and Khilafat Conference	Several non-Ahmadi Muslim guests attended, included a Pakistani family and an Albanian contact
31-May-08	Khilafat Day Regional Conference	Announcement of Khilafat Day sent to all Tabligh/PR contacts.
15-Jul-08	Neighbors outreach	Several Khuddam and Atfal visited three homes immediately adjacent to the Mosque; presented a small gift and Huzur's address regarding "Love Thy Neighbor."
2007-2008	Albanian Community Outreach	Invested \$500 in Albanian books. Our Albanian Ahmadi Imam Kemal Lami Sahib made sales of \$250, including selling 8 Holy Qurans; Imam Sahib's travel to Jalsa to see Khilafat was arranged through Tabligh funds.
2007-2008	Letters to Editors and Op-Eds	Several members of Connecticut through the guidance of Majlis Sultanul Qalam wrote in this regard. On various issues including the Danish Cartoons (printed in the Christian Science Monitor), Islam and Peace (Daily Online Edition), Jalsa events, at least three letters to the editor, one Op-Ed on Islam, and several other internet postings were published.
2008	Local Mobile Khilafat Centenary Exhibition	Colorful photographic posters on Khilafat from God to Prophets to Khalifas were made.

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS BY CENTRAL EAST JAMA'ATS

on December 31st and January 1st, 2008

Inamul Haq Kauser, Missionary Central East

Central Jersey Jama'at

On December 31st 39 members of the *Jama'at* including *Atfal*, *Khuddam* and *Ansar* gathered in the mosque at 9.30PM and had an educational Program in which *Surah Al-Noor* was discussed regarding *Khilafat* and some references from the book "the truth about the split" were presented. This program was followed by a sleep over.

On the morning of New Year Jan 1st about 75 *Jama'at* members including *Lajna* gathered at the mosque at 5.00AM and offered *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* Prayers. After the Prayers, Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhary Sahib the President of the *Jama'at* gave a talk on *Khilafat* which was followed by question and answer program. Afterwards *Khuddam* held a sports program. The program was concluded with silent prayers at 9.30AM.

Long Island, NY Jama'at

About 70 people gathered in Baitul Huda on New Years Eve for *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* prayers. The prayer was followed by *Darsul Qur'an* on *Khilafat*. Sweets were distributed afterwards. It was indeed a most blessed and rewarding occasion.

York/Harrisburg Jama'at

It was announced in Noor Flash Local News letter. We offered *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* prayers at three different locations. The total attendance was 72, men, women and children. While 39 members of the *Jama'at* spent whole night in prayers and *Tasbeehaat*. A Special Launch was served to 83 members of the *Jama'at* at Noor Mosque.

A Special program.: *Khuddamul Ahmadiyya* distributed to 200 neighboring homes New Year's Cards

with *Jama'at* Literature and a small gift of special Pens (These pen have *Jama'at* web address info) and sweets.

Alhamdulillah York/Harrisburg *Jama'at* had more than 90% participation in this program.

Willingboro Jama'at

Our program started with *Isha* Prayers, and about forty *Khuddam* and *Ansar* spent the night at Al-Nasr Mosque. In the morning, we offered collective *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* Prayers and *Dars-ul Qur'an* was followed by breakfast in the mosque. Approximately 75 members, including *Lajna* were present in the morning program. The *Al-Nasr* Mosque was illuminated by colorful lights. By the Grace of Allah, the program went very well.

New York (Queens) Jama'at

Masjid Baitul Zafar

was decorated with lights along with a announcement in front of the Mosque inviting the neighbors to join us in the Celebrations.

This program was organized by *Khuddamul Ahmadiyya*, although some *Ansar* also participated. They had two hours program with speeches and interactive sessions. The next day the congregational *Tahajjud* was offered by 275+ members of the *Jama'at*. After *Fajr* Prayers, Hazoor's concluding speech at the *Jalsa Salana* Qadian was watch-ed. All attendees were ser-ved breakfast and sweets.

North New Jersey Jama'at

Approximately 15 *Khuddam* and *Atfal* spent night at the mosque for over-night stay to pray and to thank Allah for *Khilafat*. Almost 200 members including children, men and women gathered to offer *Tahajjud* in congregation at the Mosque. The mosque was illuminated from outside and inside. A news reporter along with a photographer from Herald News (a local newspaper) arrived at *Fajr* prayer and covered the event which was published in the newspaper on the front page the following

After the prayers the President Sahib made a presentation about the *Khilafat*. The meeting concluded at 9 o'clock with collective silent prayer.

Bronx, NY Jama'at

About 10 members of the *Jama'at* stayed overnight at the Mosque for special prayers. While 30+ members including *Lajna* offered *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* Prayers. A general meeting of the *Jama'at* was held at evening regarding the *Khilafat* which was attended by 30 members of the *Jama'at*.

Philadelphia Jama'at

Tahajjud Prayer was offered by 63 members of the *Jama'at* including *Lajna* and *Nasirat*. After *Fajr* we had *Dars-e-Qur'an* from *Surah Al-Nur*. It was followed by question and Answer program. Afterwards we had a *Khilafat Jalsa* at 8.15 am at the Mosque. The salient feature of this program was that a few brothers shared their experience of meeting the *Khulafa-e Ahmadiyyat*. The program concluded by 10 am.

Our Respected Ameer

Sahib visited us the same day. Respected Ameer Sahib addressed the audience for half an hour. More than 22 African American Ahmadis and six Pakistani Ahmadis enjoyed the lunch together. Our Respected Ameer Sahib spent another two hours with us. We had an informal discussion and talk on various topics. No doubt it was a great day for us.

Brooklyn, NY Jama'at

Masjid Baitul Tahir was decorated with lights on December 30 2007 Our program started with *Isha* Prayers at 7 PM. More than 50 *Khuddam*, *Atfal* and *Ansar* gathered in the mosque for prayers, *Tasbeehaat* and educational Program. More than 70 members offered *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* Prayers followed by *Darsul Qur'an*. In the evening we had *Khilafat Jalsa* which was attended by more than 200 members of the *Jama'at* in which we made special prayers for the *Khilafat*. This *Khilafat Jalsa* was held for 3 hours. Afterward members were served dinner and sweets were distributed/

CELEBRATION OF A 100 YEARS OF KHILAFAT BY THE LOS ANGELES WEST JAMA'AT

**Amjad Mahmood Khan,
General Secretary, Los Angeles West Jama'at**

On May 27, 2008, the Los Angeles West *Jama'at* celebrated 100 years of *Khilafat*, the spiritual institution of successorship in Islam. The day began with morning *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* prayers at Baitus Salaam. This was followed by a special international broadcast of Hazoor's^{aba} special *Khilafat* address from the Excel Center in London. Approximately 40 *Jama'at* members listened attentively to the riveting and historic address. The day continued with a special dinner reception at the Torrance Civic Center in Torrance, CA. The reception drew over 181 attendees, including over thirty outside guests. Special guests included members of the staff of California State Assemblyman Ted Lieu, Mr. Devin Chase, Deputy Chief of Police of Torrance, and Mr. Cliff Numark, candidate for Torrance City Council. The *Jama'at* was presented with a special certificate of recognition from Assemblyman Lieu's

office for the *Jama'at's* humanitarian work and contributions to Southern California communities.

The reception began with the recitation of the Qur'an by Mr. Mohammad Shabooti. Mr. Mazaharul Haq then delivered a special poem on the blessings of *Khilafat*. Mr. Amjad Mahmood Khan, the event's moderator and General Secretary of the *Jama'at*, welcomed the guests and delivered an introduction to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. He encapsulated the salient features of Ahmadiyyat and teachings of Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as}. After the welcome, Mr. Nasir Malik, Vice President of the *Jama'at*, delivered the first speech on the concept of *Khilafat* in Islam and Ahmadiyyat. He explained the basic aspects of *Khilafat* through an interactive slide presentation. Mr. Ibrahim Naeem, Secretary *Tabligh* of the *Jama'at*, delivered the second speech of the

night on the subject of the "Need for *Khilafat*." He explained the relevance of *Khilafat* to contemporary society. Finally, Imam Shamshad Nasir, Missionary of the Southwest Region, delivered the event's final address on the subject of "Future of *Khilafat*." Imam Nasir explained how *Khilafat* is a special promise from Allah for the success of the believing and righteous Muslims. This promise is connected to the future triumph of Islam. A short question and answer session followed the speeches. Audience members asked several questions of the speakers relating to the subject of *Khilafat*. Finally, Mr. Chaudhary Jalaludin Ahmad, President of the *Jama'at*, delivered the concluding remarks. Drawing on his personal experiences as an immigrant to the United States from a small village in Pakistan, Mr. Ahmad explained the special blessings of *Khilafat* on his own life. A special full course

dinner followed the formal program.

All in all, the event was very well-received by members and guests. Several of the guests commented on the quality of the speakers' presentations and the professionalism of the organizers. A few newspaper reporters also covered the event proceedings. This day will forever be remembered by *Jama'at* members as a monumental milestone in the history of *Jama'at Ahmadiyya Alamghir*. *Al-humdhollillah*.

Hadhrrat Rafi' bin Mu'la^{ra} relates: The Holy Prophet^{saw} said to me: "Shall I tell you before you go out of the mosque which is the greatest chapter of the Qur'an? Then he took hold of my hand. When we were about to exit from the mosque I said to him: 'Messenger^{sa} of Allah, you had said that you would tell me which is the greatest Chapter of the Qur'an.' He answered: '*Alhamdulillah-rabbil 'alamin*' (All praise belongs to Allah, Lord of all the worlds), the opening chapter which contains the seven oft-repeated verses and the Great Qur'an which has been bestowed upon me.' "

(*Bukhari kitab fada'ilul Qur'an bab fadl fatihatul kitab*)

ENDURING SIGNS OF THE TRUTH OF ISLAM

The Islam whose qualities we have set out is not something for proof of which we have to refer only to the past and to have to point only to the ruins of tombs. Islam is not a dead faith so that it may be said that all its blessings have been left behind and that there is nothing ahead. The principal quality of Islam is that its blessings always accompany it and that it does not speak only of the past but offers present blessings as well. The world is always in need of blessings and heavenly signs. It is not as if it needed them in the past and does not need them now.

A weak and helpless human being who is born like a blind is in need that he should know something of the heavenly kingdom and that he should see some signs of the existence and power of God in Whom he believes. The signs of a past age cannot suffice for a subsequent age, for hearing is not the same as seeing and by the passage of time past events become like stories. Every new century is like the beginning of a new world. Therefore, the God of Islam, Who is the True God, manifests new signs for each new world. At the beginning of each century, especially at the beginning of a century which has strayed far away from faith and integrity and is enveloped in many darknesses, He raises a substitute Prophet in the mirror of whose nature is exhibited the form of a Prophet. Such a one demonstrates to the world the excellences of the Prophet whose follower he is and convicts all opponents through the truth and the display of reality and the frustration of falsehood. [*A'ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam*, Roohani Khaza'in Vol. 5, pp. 245-247]

The sign of a true religion is that through its teaching such righteous ones should continue to arise who should arrive at the stage of a *Muhaddas* to whom God Almighty should speak face to face. The foremost sign of the truth of Islam is that at all times it produces such righteous ones with whom God Almighty talks:

This alone is the test of a true, living and acceptable religion. We know that this light is to be found only in Islam and that the Christian faith is without such light. [*Hujjatul Islam*, Roohani Khaza'in, Vol. 6, p. 43]

PRESS RELEASE

May 28, 2008, Baitul Hameed Mosque, Chino, CA

Ahmadi Muslims Celebrate The First Centenary of *Khilafat*

Some 550 members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and their guests gathered at the Goldy S. Lewis Community Center, 11200 Baseline Rd., Rancho Cucamonga, California on May 26, 2008 to celebrate the *Khilafat* (spiritual leadership) Centenary. The members of the Community began their celebrations with pre-dawn prayers at five different centers located throughout the area.

The proceedings at the Community center in Rancho Cucamonga began at 10:30 AM, as is customary, with a recitation from the Holy Quran. Dr. Hamid-ur-Rahman, President of the local community welcomed everyone and explained that the purpose of the gathering was to thank God for bestowing upon us the blessing of *Khilafat* and to introduce the essence of what *Khilafat* is to everyone. Four young members of the Community, Saif-ur-Rahman, Faisal Rajpoot, Rizwanul Haq Jattala and Ataul Malik Khan then made presentations on each successive 25 years of history of *Khilafat*, the spiritual leadership that has existed in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community since 1908.

Imam Shamshad then explained the underlying theme and message, "*Khilafat* is a divinely established institution that promotes peace through love for God and service to humanity and that unites the members of this worldwide community in bonds of brotherhood and singleness of purpose."

The celebrations continued with a second session that began at 12:30 PM with local officials and neighbors present. After the customary recitation and welcome of the guests, all present stood to observe a moment of silence in memory of those who serve to protect our nation. A short presentation was then made to explain *Khilafat* as understood and as it exists within the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Mr. Abdur Rahim, himself a convert to Islam-Ahmadiyyat explained, "*Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* promotes peace, obedience and submission to the will of God and rejects violence in any form."

The Chief of Police Mr. Stewart then addressed the audience and emphasized the need for community involvement. Imam Shamshad then thanked all the guests, especially the interfaith friends and the police officials who had honored the gathering with their presence. These proceedings ended with lunch and afternoon prayers.

The celebrations continued on till the next day when again the members gathered at the various centers in the area to listen to the address of Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the current international head of the Community from London, England.

In his address he reminded the members of their duty to God and to humanity and

urged them to adopt righteous ways because the blessing of *Khilafat* had been promised only to those who have firm faith and who do good deeds. He said both were essential and faith without good actions was as worthless and good deeds without faith. He asked all the members of the Community watching in all the 190 countries to stand and take an oath to protect and safeguard the institution of *Khilafat* and to instill this devotion and love to *Khilafat* in their future generations.

For further information, please contact Imam Shamshad Nasir at 1-800-WHY-ISLAM or 1-909-627-2252 at Masjid Bait-ul-Hamid, 11941 Ramona Ave Chino, CA 91710.

BELIEF IN UNITY OF GOD ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE HOLY PROPHET^{saw}

It is a false and stinking notion that belief in the Unity of God can be achieved otherwise than through the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him); nor can man achieve salvation without it. How can there be faith in the Unity of God unless there is perfect certainty with regard to His existence? Be sure, therefore, that belief in the Unity of God can be achieved only through a Prophet, as our Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) convinced the atheists and pagans of Arabia of the existence of God Almighty by showing them thousands of heavenly signs. Up till today, the true and perfect followers of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) present those signs to the atheists.

The truth is that till a person observes the living powers of the Living God, Satan does not depart from his heart, nor does true Unity enter into it, nor can he believe with certainty in the existence of God. This holy and perfect Unity is appreciated only through the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him).

[Haqiqatul Wahi, Roohani Khaza'in, Vol. 22, pp. 120-121]

KHILAFAT-E-AHMADIYYA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS Phoenix Chapter-2008

Latif Ahmad, Phoenix, AZ

The first major event that was celebrated at the Phoenix Chapter was the yearly celebration of Musleh Mau'ood day which this year was organized on Feb 24th 2008. This event also marked the first major event of the *Khilafat* Centennial year, we changed the format of such organized activities to make these events more personal and meaningful to the *Jama'at* members. Instead of long speeches by established speakers, we invited 5 *Khuddam* and three *Ansar* to take 5-6 minutes each and speak about what Musleh Mau'ood^{ra} personally meant to them. The activities started with *Zuhur* Prayers followed by an excellent lunch prepared by the local *Lajna Imaillah*. After lunch, the Musleh Mau'ood Day program started with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Mr. Haroon Shakoor, followed by a *Nazm* by Mr. Zaheer Sajid. Mr. Anis Shaikh, local Secretary *Tarbiyyat*, spoke on the *Tarbiyyat* re-

lated aspects from Musleh Mau'ood day's perspective. Mr. Rizwan Ahmed, local Secretary *Taleem*, gave brief remarks and then held a Quiz program. The audience was divided in two teams for this purpose. *Lajna* were encouraged to also participate and answer questions among themselves. The questions were related to the Holy Qur'an. Everyone enjoyed this very much and these questions were a source of knowledge for all. We decided to include such a program in our future meetings as well. This was followed by *Khuddam* and *Ansar* taking turns and speaking about various aspects of the life of Musleh Mau'ood^{ra}. Most of the *Khuddam* who spoke were young and it helped them express themselves as well and allowed them to read and do more meaningful research. The feedback we received was that Quiz competition and *Khuddam* participation made the program more interesting for all. The event was con-

cluded with silent prayers, snacks, and *Asr* Prayers.

Next, the Phoenix and Arizona Chapters convened an interfaith symposium on March 1, 2008. The topic of the discussion was "PEACE AND RELIGION" on which different religions were invited to share the teaching of their faith/ religion on this important topic. Respected Imam Shamshad Nasir, Missionary South West Region represented Islam at this event. In order to accommodate the number of guests expected, the Chandler Public Library Auditorium was chosen as the venue for this event.

The program started with the recitation of a few verses of the Holy Qur'an followed by its translation in English by Mr. Shahzad Amjad. After a brief welcome the program was turned over to Professor Blair Gadsby, Professor of World Religion at Mesa Community College to

moderate. The three invited guests were Sister Mary Norbert Long representing the Catholic Church, Dr. Jaswant Sachdev of Sikh Religion, Mr. Jason Jarvis representing Mormons (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints).

Imam Shamshad Nasir Missionary described the Islamic teachings on the topic of Peace, starting with explaining that the word 'Islam' means peace. Citing verses of the Holy Qur'an, he explained that Muslims are taught by Islamic teaching to establish peace at all levels and in all walks of life. He explained that according to Islamic teachings, an individual can attain peace and tranquility only by creating a direct link with the Creator. Five times daily prayers by a Muslim is the prime source of creating the direct link with God, Who speaks and listens as He used to and He answers the prayers. No peace can be attained without returning to God. Elaborating his view point he further said that Islam presents two fundamentals to attain peace. The first one relates to one's obligation to God Almighty and the other one relates to one's obligation to his fellow beings. If we discharge our responsibilities on these

two fronts, we will be able to attain peace at all levels. He concluded by saying that if we practice Islamic teachings, such as to be respectful to each other, do justice, treat each other with love and compassion, we can bring peace in our homes, in our communities, and in countries and with that we can attain international peace.

The symposium was well-received by different religions which continued for two hours from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM and about 55 Men and women from different religion attended this symposium with great zeal and interest. All attendees and the speakers highly appreciated the concept of holding this conference which was described as the need of the day in the current volatile situation nationally and globally. Respected Imam Shamshad Nasir presented gifts of Ahmadiyya books including "Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam" to all the speakers and the moderator. Although the program ended at 5:00 PM, discussion among attendees continued for another half hour, during snacks.

Masih Mau'ood Day was the third major program of the year which was

held on March 23rd. The success of Musleh Mau'ood Day encouraged us to keep the same format for Masih Mau'ood day as well. The day's activities started with *Zuhar* Prayers followed, as usual, by an excellent lunch prepared by the local *Lajna Imaillah*. As is the tradition of the *Jama'at*, the program of Masih Mau'ood day also started with the recitation of Holy Qur'an, by Mr. Akhtar Mahmood, and a *Nazm* by Mr. Haroon Shakoor. Since the quiz competition was very successful on our previous program, Mr. Anis Shaikh included a brief quiz in his *Tarbiyyat* presentation. The questions were related to the recent Friday Sermons of Hadhrat Khaliqul Masih V^{aba}. Mr. Rizwan had prepared another quiz for all and this time he included the Books of the Promised Messiah^{as} prescribed as reading material for *Khilafat* Centennial preparation. The short speeches by *Khuddam* and *Ansar* provide personalized glimpses into the life of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

All members, including *Lajna Imaillah* found this event very informative. This day concluded with silent prayers, snacks, and *Asr* Prayer.

Respected National

Secretary *Tarbiyyat*, Mr. Nasir Mahmood Malik visited us on April 5th and held a *Tarbiyyat* workshop. On this day respected Maulana Shamshad Ahmed Nasir, West Coast Missionary, was also present. The program started with recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Mr. Usman Yahya. He recited the verses 56-58 of Chapter 24. These verses formed the focal point of the workshop which dealt with *Khilafat*, various attributes of believers described in these verses, and how they relate to *Khilafat*. This program was very well received by all. *Lajna Imaillah*, *Khuddam*, and *Ansar* all gained some new perspective and appreciation of *Khilafat*. Many questions were asked which were beautifully answered by Mr. Nasir Malik and Maulana Shamshad Nasir, to the satisfaction of inquirer. Lunch, was again prepared by members of the Local *Lajna Imaillah*, and *Zuhar* and *Asr* Prayers followed.

The second half of this day was devoted to *Seeratun Nabi*^{saw}. This program was presided by respected Imam Shamshad Nasir. The program opened with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Mr. Haroon Shakoor, and a poem about the status of the Holy Prophet^{saw} by Mr. Bony Ahmed. Mr. Anis Shaikh

then presented a brief sketch of the life of Holy Prophet^{saw} before Prophehood. Mr Rizwan Ahmed then expounded on the topic of 'Tolerance of Holy Prophet^{saw}', a subject which is extremely important for us to understand and be able to communicate to those around us, specially in the Centennial year, when the rest of the Muslim organizations known by them are spreading intolerance by their actions. True to our desire to allow maximum participation by *Khuddam* and *Ansar* and help them express their personal understanding, four *Khuddam* and three *Ansar* had been asked to prepare short, 5-6 minute synopsis of the events of Holy Prophet^{saw} that the took away as most impacting to them. With time and experience, participants had been improving in their presentations and expressing their own views. All understood that asking for someone to cover a single event with the maximum impressions from the life of the greatest Prophet of all respected times, the Savior of mankind, is not a fair assignment. But the exercise forced participants to think on their own and evaluate the life of the Holy Prophet^{saw} a new. Exemplary character shown by the Holy Prophet^{saw} during negotiations of Treaty of Hudaibi-

yya to forgiveness of the extreme transgression and tortures of Meccans spread over a life time at the event of the Final Victory over the *Quraish* were all related in the words of the speakers themselves. Respected Imam Shamshad Nasir then summarized the lessons important to us from the life of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. Imam Shamshad the entertained questions from the audience and provided insightful answers. This day, again ended with silent prayers followed by snacks.

The last day of the 1st *Khilafat* Century ended on May 26. In order to remember the blessings bestowed upon us in the past 100 years members of the Phoenix chapter gathered at the local Mosque to offer *Tahajjud* prayers. The *Tahajjud* Prayers were followed by *Fajr* Prayers and then breakfast was served. The following day, May 27, 2008 was the dawn of the 2nd Century of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya*. In order to welcome the new century members of the Phoenix Chapter, just as the Ahmadi all over the world, gathered for *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* Prayers at local Mosque. Breakfast was served after the Prayers. Arrangements were made to show the live address by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} on this occasion. This

was a spiritually uplifting time and all were and everywhere all over the world to take the slightly revised Pledge Musleh Mau'ood^{ra} took from Khuddamul Ahma-diyya in 1959, all present stood up at Hazoor's instructions and took the pledge to adhere to the *Khilafat*, to safeguard this Divine institution, and to direct our progeny to continue to do the same. One very telling aspect of the day's activities was that since May 27th fell on Monday and, this being a school day and several students were present at the mosque, all of them remained till the end of the event despite the fact the attending the program had made the late. Some of them also had exams early that day and they barely made to class late and had much less time to finish the exam. This is a greatly positive reflection on the members of the *Jama'at* and their love for *Khilafat* and Khalifatul Masih.

The most recent event held at the Phoenix Chapter was the *Khilafat* Day celebration. Due to the great significance of this day in the first year of the second *Khilafat* Century, Tucson, AZ and Phoenix chapters decided to combine their *Khilafat* day celebrations. This event was

members of the two chapters. The venue proved to be very accommodating and a beautiful location. Members from the Tucson Chapter took the responsibility of decorating the place. They adorned the stage back-drop with flags of Ahmadiyyat, the United States and the State of Arizona. This event was presided over by our Regional Missionary, Imam Shamsad Nasir. The program, per tradition, started with *Tilawat* by Mr. Abdul Rauf Sahib. Mr. Bony Ahmed followed with melodious *Nazm* about *Khilafat*. After a brief introduction of the program and the main speeches, a short personal understanding of the events from the lives of the first four *Khulafa* of the Holy Prophet^{saw} were presented. Mr. Monib Sajid spoke on the topic, 'The life of Hadhrat Abu Bakr^{ra}.' Mr. Rizwan Shaikh then rendered his impressions of the life of Hadhrat Umar^{ra}. The Life of Hadhrat Uthman^{ra} was the topic of Mr. Rizwan Ahmed's speech and Mr. Usman Yahya related what aspect about Hadhrat Ali^{ra} was important to him. This was followed by a speech by Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan who spoke on the topic of 'Prophethood of Hadhrat Masih Mau'ood^{as}', the greatest *Khalifah* of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. Dr.

Atif Malik followed him with anecdotal events of the life of Hadhrat Maulana Nooruddin^{ra}, Khalifatul Masih I. Mr. Munir Malik, Mr. Anis Shaikh, and Mr. Arshad Ahmad, each spoke briefly on the lives Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood^{ra}, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III^{rh}, and Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV^{rh} respectively. In the end, respected Imam Shamsad Nasir spoke on the important aspect of *Khilafat* and our role. The program was concluded with silent prayers. Attendees then offered *Maghrib* and *Isha* Prayers. This was followed by a delicious dinner prepared by *Lajna Imaillah* Phoenix.

This report is concluded with a request for prayers for all *Atfal*, *Khuddam*, *Lajna Imaillah*, and *Ansar* who have tirelessly worked all thru the year to not only make the main events but a number of other activities successful. All their labors are proof of their devotion to *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya*, *Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya*, Hadhrat Masih Mau'ood^{as}, and most of all our beloved Lord and Master Muhammad, may unlimited blessings of Allah be upon him. Their efforts are not for worldly rewards, but so that their Allah may be pleased with them. May Allah reward them many fold in return, *Ameen*.

LOS ANGELES-AREA TABLIGH ACTIVITIES

**Jonathan M.A. Ghaffar,
Asst. Secretary Tabligh, L.A. East**

Ahmadiyyat has always striven to open positive interfaith dialogs between Muslims and Catholics and other Christian sects. Toward that end, back in mid-2007, SW Regional Missionary Imam Shamshad A. Nasir had invited Father Kerry and his parishioners from Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Newport Beach to an interfaith dialog and dinner at Baitul Hameed Mosque in Chino. About 150 people were in attendance, and participants all regarded the event as a great success. Father Kerry promised to return the hosting favor in the near future, and it was eventually arranged that on May 5th, 2008, members of L.A. East and L.A. Inland Empire *Jama'ats* would be the guests at Father Kerry's Catholic church in Newport Beach.

Approximately 70 Ahmadi arrived and were greeted by a similar number of Catholics. Father Kerry was warm, gracious and welcoming, as were his parishioners. The Ahmadi

delegation was given a quick tour of the church grounds and then the tour continued inside with explanations of the various areas of the church where the main services were held.

There are many rituals and rites in the Catholic Church – far too many to detail or adequately explain here – but one that most people are familiar with is the rite of confession, where a parishioner sits in a small closet-like room where, in an adjacent cubicle behind a meshed partition, a priest sits and listens to the parishioner's litany of confessed sins during the past week (confession is usually held on Saturdays). What struck me and some others as unusual were the rather obvious windows now prominently visible in the confession booths. For most of Catholic history, confessionals were completely private and no one on the outside could see inside.

I asked about the win-

dows and what motivated their placement. Father Kerry, being acutely aware of all the recent public outcries and scandals involving Catholic priests charged with child molestation and other sexual abuses, quietly answered that windows were now installed in confessionals to provide parishioners seated inside with a sense of safety. Unspoken, of course, was the need now days to allay any potential feelings of unease at being alone with a priest in a completely shuttered cubicle, and also to allay the fears or suspicions from those on the outside of the confessionals – like parents with their young children taking confession -- about any improprieties going on inside; hence the windows now allowing a view of the participants in the confession ritual. (For those who may not know, the rite of confession has long been a keystone of Catholicism, wherein the priest reinforces his role as the mediator between the sinner and God in the confession of sins and the deliverance of

forgiveness via acts of penance prescribed by the priest. The confession is solemnized at the end by the priest's admonition to the parishioner to: "Go forth and sin no more."

The rite of confession and the role of priests in the Catholic Church are but two striking differences between how Catholicism and Islam provide the means for seeking nearness to God and His Mercy and Forgiveness.

After the tour, Father Kerry escorted the audience to the dining hall where a podium was set up for the two presentations for the evening. During a wonderful meal, Father Kerry began by detailing a brief history of Catholic-Muslim relations and their not-so-enviable consequences, remarking that this gathering represented the hope for a new and brighter future for these two populous faiths. Ironically, it is Catholics and Muslims alone who hold the numbers edge in the field of "monotheistic" religions. Monotheistic is in quotes because despite the concept of the Trinity where God is described as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, they are still, according to Christian

thinking and doctrine, "one" God and not three separate gods as the wording would imply.

Father Kerry acknowledged the long-standing conundrum that our ability to be convinced of the validity of this idea based on reason is not possible because the Trinitarian Godhead is too complex for our human intellect to grasp. Too complex apparently even for Jesus^{as} to explain anywhere in the New Testament -- which he never does -- choosing instead to reiterate the simplicity of the actual Oneness of God espoused in Judaism in Deut. 6:4 "Hear ye O Israel, the Lord your God is one Lord..." and, as if that wasn't clear enough, by Jesus^{as} himself in the New Testament (Catholic version) where we read in John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they might know Thee the only true God, and him whom Thou has sent, Jesus Christ."

Father Kerry instead focused on the one element of Christianity that is arguably its strongest rallying point for moral respect and emotional empathy: the teachings and example of Jesus Christ^{as}. Father Kerry stressed that Jesus^{as} was a clear role model to follow,

one that transcended all doctrinal differences and contentions. This is true. No right-thinking person questions Jesus' good works or the moral lessons and righteousness inherent in his exhortations and parables. As a recognized true prophet of God, Muslims have always respected Jesus^{as} for what he said and did in the name and service of the One True God. This is not the same, however, as endorsing ideas or later doctrines formulated or preached by those who never knew Jesus^{as} or were never directly commissioned by him as apostles.

So Father Kerry kept his focus on the moral example of Jesus^{as} that inspires millions of devout and sincere Christians to this day, an example that also inspired a famous phrase that originated in the 1890s: "What Would Jesus Do?" and which has resurfaced in the modern age on T-shirts, bumper stickers and hundreds of websites.

But it is precisely Jesus^{as}' humanity and sagacity which draws people's hearts and minds to believe in him as a true spiritual teacher. At the end of Father Kerry's presentation, I was genuinely touched and impressed by

his moral sincerity and emotional connection and devotion to his subject.

Next up to the podium was Imam Shamshad A. Nasir, who delivered a brief overview of the main points of Islamic belief, opting to spend the majority of the time allotted to him for answering questions from the audience, as past experience has shown that nothing works as efficiently in disseminating the information about Islam that people want to know than by letting them ask you directly what they want to know. Before he opened the floor to questions though, he explained the major difference between *Sunni* and *Shia* Islam with the beliefs of Ahmadiyyat; specifically touching on the claim of Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} as being the awaited Promised Messiah and Second Coming of Christ^{as}. This naturally sparked much interest from the Catholic members in the audience, and Imam Shamshad spent a considerable portion of time explaining the gist of this idea in relation to Biblical prophecy and the reason why this person was not going to be Jesus^{as} himself, descending from heaven in the flesh, as both Christians and most Muslims expected. While at times the questions came

a little heated, colored with a tell-tale bias against Islam due to fanatic Saudis involvement in the 9-11 attacks, Imam Shamshad handled such semi-hostile queries with kindness and skilled oratory. But, as in most things having to do with understanding the true Islam, there is not a lot of initiative demonstrated by those who have no interest in seeing outside their own beliefs or preconceptions.

Other questions from Catholics dealt with such topics as:

Does Islam believe in Heaven and Hell, and in what way?

How do Muslims achieve salvation from sins and entry into Heaven?

If Muslims believe in the Immaculate Conception and virgin birth of Jesus, why don't they also believe he is the literal Son of God and/or God incarnate in human form?

Do Muslims want to engage in violent "*Jihad*" to seize political and worldly power and convert everyone to Islam by force?

What do Muslims believe about Jesus?

If Islam requires Muslims to believe in other

prophets and other holy books, why don't they accept Jesus as their Savior and become Christians?

Why do Muslims believe Jesus didn't die on the cross? And in the case of Ahmadi Muslims, why do they believe differently than the rest of the Muslim world about what happened to Jesus before, during and after the crucifixion?

The evening ended with all participants interested in further meetings and communication, with a definite sense of a meeting of minds and a bridging of the gaps that have for so long separated Muslims from Christians. And as long as people from differing spiritual vantage points can agree to see past themselves to their counterparts on the other side of the bridge, and to want to cross their half of the bridge to make contact with the unknown on the other side, and to then seek mutual friendship and understanding, then hope still exists for a better world and a better humanity.

Dinner Meeting at a Mormon Church in Chino, CA.

Mainstream Christians rarely have anything

good to say about the Mormons, considering them heretics to orthodox Christian ideology and practices. They are lumped together with the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Moonies and labeled as cults. But for the past five years, ever since the unfortunate fire at the Chino mosque in 2003 on the same day as the demise of the 4th Khalifahth, the members of L.A. East & Inland Empire *Jama'ats* have benefited from the kindness of members of the Chino chapter of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or the Mormons, as they are commonly known. And on May 9th they went another step beyond this warm-hearted generosity when they invited our members to a dinner and philosophical get-together at their church.

As with similar meetings at other churches, during the meal a speaker from the Mormons spoke, followed by Imam Shamshad speaking on Islam. The Mormon speaker, Kenn Rasmussen, is a longtime friend and quite an erudite and eloquent speaker, whether on the tenets of his own belief or on those of Islam. On a previous occasion, Kenn spoke at length on the basic beliefs of Islam for the benefit of his members at a joint meeting at

meetings at other churches, during the meal a speaker from the Mormons spoke, followed by Imam Shamshad speaking on Islam. The Mormon speaker, Kenn Rasmussen, is a longtime friend and quite an erudite and eloquent speaker, whether on the tenets of his own belief or on those of Islam. On a previous occasion, Kenn spoke at length on the basic beliefs of Islam for the benefit of his members at a joint meeting at our Chino mosque prior to 2003, and to his credit, it was unanimously agreed that his presentation and comprehension of Islamic teachings and especially Ahmadiyyat beliefs was such that he could easily have passed for a member of our community. No small feat. So Kenn gave us all a short history of Mormonism and its basic ideology and the differences and similarities it has with other branches of Christianity.

Imam Shamshad was asked by Kenn to elaborate on the details of Islamic beliefs and specifically those in Ahmadiyyat and how we were different from regular Muslims. Imam Shamshad spent about fifteen minutes explaining basic beliefs in Islam and Ahmadiyyat, and then the remainder of the time was given over to a

Question-and-Answer session where both speakers were available to answer queries from the audience. Ahmadi ladies' questions were delivered in written form to the podium for answers, and in some ways, their questions were more engaging and direct than those from the men's side. All in all, it was a comfortable meeting between longtime friends and spiritual associates, where decorum and good humor were the watchwords, rather than sharp jabs from the slings and arrows of our theological differences. In the end, good food, good friends and good conversation made for an enjoyable evening all around.

Address at Ontario Christian High School in Ontario, CA.

Imam Shamshad regularly visits a Social Studies/World History class at a nearby Christian High School to give them the basics of Islam and field questions. The class is generally composed of 10th to 12th graders. Imam Shamshad spoke on when, where and how Islam was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} in Arabia in the 7th century A.D. He explained the five Pillars of Islam and the six Articles of Faith. Then he opened the

floor to questions from the class.

Questions, ironically, from the girls focused mainly on the need for and oppressiveness of Islamic clothing worn by Muslim women. Imam Shamshad answered that the style of clothing mandated by Islam was designed to protect and strengthen a woman's self-respect, modesty and virtue while increasing her in righteousness and nearness to God, while the accepted style of dress among most young girls today was calculated to damage or destroy every one of those previously mentioned supposedly desirable qualities.

Other questions from students and the teacher centered on what the Islamic take on Jesus^{as} was and why we didn't believe he was literally the Son of God and/or God incarnate in the flesh. The contradictory nature of these two positions was as oblivious to the students as their lack of awareness of any sources of historical or spiritual knowledge outside their classical Christian conditioning, which told them (via the New Testament) that Jesus was God and that he died for their sins -- yet another set of contradictory logical positions.

The teacher summed up the tone of the entire

meeting by asking what was it in Islam that motivated the Muslim terrorists on Sept. 11 to blow up the World Trade Centers and the Pentagon. Was it the promise of the 72 virgins after the terrorists died and went to Heaven? Imam Shamshad explained all the standard points whereby the actual verses of the Holy Qur'an (a) forbid terrorism and the murder of innocents, and (b) there were no 72 virgins awaiting zealous Muslim terrorists in Heaven because there were no actual physical virgins awaiting anybody in Heaven with promises of sexual debauchery, and any Muslims who did commit a terrorist act would be going in the other direction anyway -- the place where it may or may not someday freeze over.

Imam Shamshad advised the teacher as well as the students to study the Holy Qur'an and other sources of authentic information on Islam, such as www.alislam.org and the 1-800-WHY-ISLAM number.

Juneteenth Celebrations, Riverside & Pomona, CA.

"Juneteenth" is an African-American event memorializing the date of June 19, 1865, when slaves in Texas and Louisiana first

learned that the Civil War had ended on April 9th, 1865 and that they had been technically free since then. The slaves' owners had neglected to tell them. Juneteenth celebrations are marked by events that celebrate and educate African-Americans and their history. Br. M.A. Ghaffar and Br. Rahman Abdul Aleem manned booths at two Juneteenth events -- one held June 14th in Riverside and one held June 21st in Pomona. Public response at both sites was positive.

REQUEST FOR PRAYER

I humbly request prayers for my sister and her family that may their migration from Pakistan to USA in Seattle *Jama'at* be a blessed one for all of them. My brother-in-law, Dr. Waqar Ahmad, Certified Homeopath from Pakistan, can be consulted for any homeopathic matters at dr_waqar@hotmail.com or on phone (360) 362-1004. With the Grace of Allah Almighty, he has successfully been practicing fulltime homeopathy in Pakistan for about 15+ years. Kindly remember him and his family in your prayers. *Jazakallah.*

Naimah Ahmad,
San Antonio, TX

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES IN BAY POINT JAMA'AT

Naveed Ashraf, President Bay Point Chapter

Bay Point *Jama'at* held many activities this year. Here is a brief summary of few *Khilafat* Centenary related activities:

December 31, 2007

A sleepover was arranged by Bay Point *Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya*. 10 *Khuddam/atfal*, and 15 *Lajna/Nasirat/children* participated. *Maghrib* and *Isha* Prayers were offered in congregation.

January 1, 2008

Tahajjud Prayers offered. 75 members of the *Jama'at* attended the *Tahajjud* Prayers. The *Tahajjud* prayers were followed by *Fajr Prayer* and *Darsul Qur'an* led by the Regional Missionary Northwest. A brief review of few *Khilafat* related activities that would take place throughout the year was shared with the *Jama'at* members. *Halva Poori* breakfast was served by Munir Mirza Sahib.

January 10, 2008

Bay Point Chapter became a member of Contra Costa Interfaith Council. Bay Point Chapter applied for its membership in November 2007. But the approval was made official on January 10th, 2008. By joining the Interfaith Council AMI will have the opportunity to work with other faiths in providing human services to needy in our local community. Bay Point Chapter has made a commitment to provide food for a homeless shelter in our community. This program was initiated and carried out by Babar Pasha Sahib.

January 20, 2008

Dinner served to a homeless shelter in Martinez California. 25 residence of the shelter were served with a dinner. Arrangements organized by Babar Pasha Sahib and Naveed Ashraf.

February 17, 2008

Dinner served to a

homeless shelter in Martinez California. *Sadr Lajna* and her team provided a spaghetti dinner for 25 residents.

May 18, 2008

Dinner served to a homeless shelter in Martinez California: 25 residents of the shelter were served. The arrangements organized by Babar Pasha Sahib and his family.

May 25th 2008

A sleepover arranged by *Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya* Bay Point *Qa'id* Sahib Bay Point made the arrangements. 20 *Khuddam/Atfal*, and 10 *Lajna/Nasirat/children* attended the sleepover. *Magrib/Isha* Prayers followed by *Dars-e-Malf-oozat* was conducted by the Regional Missionary Northwest.

May 26th 2008

Khilafat Day was celebrated at Bay Point as

an all day event. Here is brief synopsis of all the activities for the day:

- *Tahajjud* Prayer was offered in congregation followed by Fajr prayer and *Dars-e-Qur'an*
- *Halva Poori* breakfast was served by Munir Mirza Sahib.
- *Khuddam/Atfal* participated in sport activities. A softball game was organized by Khurram Shah Sahib.
- *Ansar* participated in a Tabligh event in the Bay Point Memorial Day parade. Khadim Shah Sahib, *Zaeem Ansarullah* organized the event. Banners were made, and *Jama'at* literature was distributed.
- 12:00 P.M. Sacramento *Jama'at* members joined for the rest of the day. 20 plus members joined.
- Lunch was served by Saleem Shah Sahib and Shahid Abassi Sahib.
- *Zuhr* prayers was offered in congregation
- 2:00 P.M. Main *Khilafat* Day program started
- *Tilawat/translation* by Safeer Mirza Sahib
- *Nazm* by Riaz Sahid and translation by Yusuf H. Pasha Sahib
- Difference between

Khilafat and Caliphate a speech by Ghalib Ahmad Sahib.

- Blessings of *Khilafat*, a speech in Urdu by Munir Mirza Sahib.
- Truth about the Split in *Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya*, a speech by Khurram Shah Sahib.
- *Nizam-e-Wasiyyat*, a speech by Muzafar A. Zafar Sahib.
- Concluding Speech by Respected Missionary Irshad Malhi Sahib.
- Silent prayers led by Respected Missionary Sahib.
- *Asr* Prayer was offered in congregation
- A social tea break and sweets provided by President Sacramento, Waheed Maroof Sahib.
- A video recording of the Peace Conference 2008 held in London was watched by all the *Jama'at* members.
- A delicious BBQ dinner was arranged by Saleem Shah Sahib, Shahid Abbasi Sahib, and Adeel Ahmad Sahib.
- The day concluded with *Magrib/Isha* Prayers offered in congregation. The event was attended by 120 members from Bay Point, and Sacramento *Jama'at*.

Khadim Shah Sahib, Zaeem Ansarullah at the Tabligh Event

May 27th, 2008

Tahajjud Prayers were offered in congregation. Hazoor's^{aba} live address from London was watched. Bay Point *Jama'at* also took out a ¼ page newspaper ad in Contra Costa Times. The ad had a picture of the Promised Messiah^{as} with a bold message across, "The need of the hour". A copy of the ad is attached with this report. A printed copy of the Hazoor's^{aba} address was given to *Jama'at* members present and mailed out to the members not present.

July 20, 2008

Dinner was served to a homeless shelter in Martinez California. 25 residence of the shelter were served. Arrangements organized by Babar Pasha Sahib.

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "A servant is closest to his Lord when he is in prostration, so multiply your supplications in prostration."

(Muslim kitabussalat ma yaqul firraku' wassajud)

LEADERSHIP IN ISLAM: CAN THE WORLD ADDRESS ITS CHALLENGES WITHOUT IT?

An event organized by the Silicon Valley Chapter on
May 12, 2008 at San Jose, CA

Waseem Malik, Na'ib Ameer

The event, which took place in the San Jose City Hall, started with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Mr. Wasim Malik, President of the Silicon Valley Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (AMC). This was followed by a brief welcome address by Mr. Malik, in which he introduced AMC as "a dynamic, international reformist movement within Islam. Founded in 1889, AMC spans over 180 countries with membership exceeding tens of millions. AMC is the only Islamic organization to believe that the long-awaited Messiah has come in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} (1835-1908) of Qadian. Ahmad's advent has brought about an unprecedented era of Islamic revival and moderation. He divested Islam of fanatical beliefs and practices by vigorously championing Islam's true and essential teachings. AMC is the lead-

ing Islamic organization to categorically reject terrorism in any form. Over a century ago, Ahmad emphatically declared that an aggressive "Jihad by the sword" has no place in Islam. In its place, he taught his followers to wage a peaceful, intellectual "Jihad of the pen". As part of its effort to revive and reform Islam, AMC continues to spread Ahmad's teachings of moderation and restraint in the face of bitter opposition from the Muslim world."

This was followed by a welcome speech by Mayor Chuck Reed in which he expressed his deep appreciation for the community services of the Silicon Valley Chapter (SVC) of AMC. He presented an award to Miss Sohail, a young member of SVC, for an act of extraordinary bravery.

Mr. Muhammad Chaudhry, director of public relation for SVC, recognized various leaders of the community. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren was awarded a testimonial by him for her unwavering support of AMC in its struggle against its persecution in countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia. The award was received in absentia by Congresswoman Lofgren's representative, Ms. Tiffany Dao.

Dr. Rafi Ahmed, education director of SVC, gave a brief talk inviting the guests to attend the Islam 101 presentations given by SVC. He said, "In the words of the great American Pulitzer prize winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks: 'We are each other's business; we are each other's harvest; we are each other's magnitude and bond.' We are indeed each other's bond. Yet the unfamiliar mystifies us and unsettles us. I, therefore, urge you to learn more about

Islam and Muslims by attending these talks.”

The keynote speaker, Mr. Anwer Khan, was introduced by Mr. Sam Liccardo, San Jose Council member. Mr. Khan is a director of the National Board of AMC and also the CEO of a Lab Source International, based in Chino Hills, California. His speech emphasized the openness and tolerance of the worldwide AMC. He reiterated the fact that AMC subscribes to the original and pure teachings of Islam taught by the Prophet Muhammad^{sa}. He noted that the militant and intolerant strains in Muslim society seen today are of later origin; these strains are a result of the rejection of the pristine teachings of Islam. He said that there are two types of leaderships, transactional and transformational, and that the leadership provided by the spiritual leaders of AMC has been of the latter type, which focuses on transforming the hearts and minds of people. He concluded his speech by quoting the Prophet Muhammad from his last sermon: “All men, whatever nation or tribe they may belong to, and whatever station in life they may hold, are equal ... No one has any claim of superiority over another. An

Arab possesses no superiority over a non-Arab. A white man is in no way superior to a black man, nor, for that matter, is a black man better than a white, but only to the extent to which he discharges his duty towards God and man. The most honored among you in the sight of God is the most righteous among you.”

The key-note speech was followed by a question and answer session moderated by Mr. Sal Pizarro, a San Jose Mercury News columnist. The panelists were Mr. Anwer Khan, Mr. Raqib Wali, and Dr. Rafi Ahmed.

The event concluded by a vote of thanks and silent prayers by Mr. Malik.

**HUMANITY
FIRST**

NEEDS

VOLUNTEERS

AND

DONATIONS

HADITH

Hadhrat Zaid bin Arqam^{ra} relates that one day, the Holy Prophet^{sa} stood up to address them. He praised God Almighty, then delivered a sermon: "O people! I am a human being. May be a call to leave this world comes and I leave this world. I will be leaving behind two valuable things with you. The Book of Allah, which is full of light and guidance. Hold fast to the Book of Allah and act according to its commandments. Thus, he urged us to follow the commandments of the Holy Qur'an. Then he said: 'The second thing I am leaving behind is my *'ahli bai'at'* (my family). Regarding my family I remind you to remember Allah. Regarding my family I remind you to remember Allah. Regarding my family I remind you to remember Allah.' "

(Muslim kitab fada'ilussahabah bab min fada'il 'Ali)

Hadhrat Ibn 'Abbas^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{sa} said: "He who does not have mercy on children, does not respect the elders, nor enjoins good, and nor forbids evil is not one of us."

(Tirmidhi kitabul birr wassilah ma ja' rahmatussibyan)

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES

Zahid Iqbal, Merced Jama'at, California

On the night of December 31, 2007, the whole world was fast asleep after celebration of New Year activities, but the followers of Promised Messiah^{as} were making preparation for their celebration of New Year in a completely different manner as compared to the rest of the world. This incoming year marked the completion of the 100 years of *Khilafat* in *Jama'at Ahmadiyya*; every member of our *Jama'at* was thrilled to be part of this historic moment. I remember that on New Year's Eve, the ground was covered with dense fog and it was not visible even at a distance of ten feet ahead. But that was nothing for the believers of the Promised Messiah^{as}. The members of the *Jama'at* did not let bad weather conditions get in their way and reached their destination to participate in *Tahajjud* Prayer. One family came from the city of Modesto, which is 50 miles away, to join the *Tahajjud* and *fajr* prayer. After the prayers, *Jama'at* President, Mr. Abdul Raqib Wali Sahib, gave the *Dars-e-Qur'an* and highlighted the importance of the day. After the breakfast a question and answer session

was held. Everyone was very happy and felt fortunate to be part of this historic moment.

During our meetings, a quiz on the subject of *Khilafat* was held between *Atfal* and *Nasirat*. Keeping in mind the specialty of this year; in every meeting we had discussions on different *Khulafa* and read excerpts from books published by them. The members also got together on the *Musleh Mau'ood* Day and watched a documentary on the 2nd *Khali-fah*^{aa}. Throughout the year, the members have been memorizing the prayers required by *Khalifatul Masih V*^{aba} and they were trying to recite them daily.

Various countries across the globe held a "*Khilafat* century essay competition" in compliance to *Hazoor's* *tehrick*. A *Tifl* of *ma'yar-e-kabir*, a *waqf-e-nau tifal* of *ma'yar-e-saghir*, and a *Nasira* from our *Jama'at* also participated. *Alhamdulillah*, *Tifl* Noshewan Zahid of *m'ayar-e-kabir* from our *Jama'at* secured first position in USA, *Nasira*, *Natasha* Zahid, 2nd position and

Waqf-e-Nau Tifl of *Ma'yar-e-saghir* Safwan Zahid got the participation certificate.

By the Grace of Allah, this year *Khilafat* day came on a long weekend, our *Jama'at* made different programs for the members to participate. On May 24th, 26th, and 27th, we again had *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* prayer together and had a long discussion on the *Khulafa*. On May 25th, we had a meeting and BBQ lunch in Modesto city at the house of Mr. Mohammad Afzal (a new convert who became Ahmadi in 2005) and our Regional Missionary, Irshad Malhi Sahib also joined us to be a part of this celebration. The program started with recitation of the Holy Qur'an, followed by a poem and speeches on *Khilafat*. We also watched a documentary on the efforts of Muslims in history. On May 27th, *Hazoor*^{aba} gave a centenary *Khilafat* address and the members got together to watch *Hazoor*^{aba}'s live address in the morning on MTA. We also participated in the International Pledge, which *Hazoor*^{aba} took on this day.

On the third week of May, the Merced *Lajna* had

their separate meeting and they also had poems and speeches on the subject of *Khilafat*. By the Grace of Allah, in June the *Jalsa Salana* USA took place and Hazoor^{aba} also came. It was the desire of every member to meet Hazoor^{aba} and attend the *Jalsa*. Only a few members had the opportunity to participate in the *Jalsa*. Those who couldn't go, gathered in one house and made an atmosphere of *Jalsa* in the home and watched the live proceedings of the *Jalsa*. After *Jalsa Salana* USA, Canada's *Jalsa* began. Again the members got together in one home and tried to be a part of this spiritual convention. We tried to create an atmosphere of *Jalsa* in the home, offered *Salat*, and cooked delicious foods. *Masha Allah*, *Jalsa Salana* Canada too came to its conclusion and *Jalsa Salana* U. K was scheduled to take place in the following week. The followers of the Promised Messiah^{as} again got together to celebrate this blessed occasion. The members listened to the live *Jalsa Salana* proceedings and offered *Salat* together. On the last day of *Jalsa*, the members met at 4:00 a.m. and offered *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* Prayers. Just an hour later everyone participated in the International *Bai'at* and later listened to the concluding address of Hazoor^{aba} on MTA.

BLESSINGS OF ISLAM

Thousands upon thousands of thanks are due to Almighty God Who has bestowed upon us a religion, which is such a means of attaining to the knowledge of God and to the fear of God, as has had no equal in any age. Thousands of blessings be upon the immaculate Prophet^{saw} through whom we have entered this faith and thousands of Divine mercies be bestowed upon his companions who irrigated this garden with their blood.

Islam is such a blessed and God-indicating religion that if a person follows it truly and acts upon the teachings, guidance and admonitions contained in the Holy Word of God Almighty, the Holy Qur'an, he would see God in this very life. For the recognition of God, Who is hidden from the sight of the world behind thousands of screens, there is no other means except the teachings of the Qur'an. The Holy Qur'an guides us towards God Almighty through reason and through heavenly signs in a very easy manner. It comprehends a blessing and a magnetic power, which draws a seeker of God every moment towards God and bestows light, comfort and satisfaction. A true believer in the Holy Qur'an does not merely contemplate like philosophers that there ought to be a Creator of this wonderful universe; he acquires a personal insight and, being honoured with a holy vision, he sees with the eye of certainty that that Creator in fact exists.

He who is bestowed the light of this Holy Word does not merely guess like those who rely upon reason alone that God is One, without associate, but, through hundreds of shining signs which take him by the hand and lead him out of the darkness, observes the fact that God has no associate in His Being or in His attributes. He is able to demonstrate to the world that he believes God to be such a Unity. The majesty of the Unity of God so fills his heart that in comparison with the Divine will, he regards the whole world as no more than a dead insect and indeed as nothing at all.

[*Braheen-e-Ahmadiyya* Part V, Roohani Khaza'in, vol. 21, pp. 26-27]

ACTIVITIES AT THE OCCASION OF KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Waheed Maroof, Sacramento, CA Jama'at

Khilafat Centenary celebration for Sacramento chapter started long before the centenary year, the year 2008 actually started. The thought of *Khilafat* centenary came to members mind when during Hazoor's^{aba} weekly Friday Sermon of 27th May 2005 he announced to the whole community to recite six prayers along with two *Nafl* prayers everyday and one *Nafl* fast each month. As days passed by members became more and more excited that the centenary year is approaching. Finally after the *Jama'at* president returned from the *Shurah* in April of 2007, he brought news on few details on things that the Ahmadiyya Community was planning to do for the centenary celebration. These included things such as collecting \$5 million from the whole U.S. *Jama'at*, to build new facilities, etc.

Given that Sacramento was assigned a target of \$10,000 to be collected toward the \$5 million. *Masha Allah*, with the

blessings of Allah, members pledged to collect more than the minimum target by the end of the *Khilafat* centenary year. As the days passed on more and more detail directions came from national headquarter on things we need to organize at local chapters.

On 1st of January people all over the world celebrate the New Year, often times this includes activities that can be against Islamic teachings. But Ahmadi all around the world celebrated that day by remembering Allah through congregational *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* Prayers to commence the *Khilafat* centenary year beginning. *Masha Allah*, almost 100% of our *Jama'at* members were present for the *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* Prayers. This was a great opportunity for our younger generation to celebrate the start of the year through Islamic teachings by remembering Allah through prayers and breakfast with other Ahmadi brothers and sisters.

Sacramento did not just celebrate the centenary year just among the members, instead they shared this joyous year with other non-Muslim community members. An advertisement, "THE NEED OF THE HOUR" with the Promised Messiah's^{as} photo stating that "The long-awaited Messiah has indeed arrived" was published once on May 2nd and a second time on May 4th in the Sacramento Bee. Sacramento Bee is the highest circulated newspaper in this region of capital of California with a readership number of 300,000+ people. We also distributed sweets and candy to some non-Muslim friends and co-workers.

On Monday May 26th the Sacramento chapter celebrated the *Khilafat* centenary day. Since Sacramento is a relatively small Chapter, we joined together with the neighboring Bay Point Chapter. Together the two *Jama'ats* celebrated the centenary day starting with

Tahajjud and *Fajr* Prayers and ending with dinner and *Isha* Prayer. Even though the Bay Point mosque is relatively far, *Masha Allah* 26 members including children from eleven different families participated in the event. The celebration included many different things such as sports, speeches, question and answer session etc. Also on this day of celebration bookmarks and other propagational materials were distributed at local fairs that were held on that weekend at the local community center.

On the following day on May 27th, members watched live Hazoor's^{aba} centenary day speech on MTA followed by the new *Khilafat* Centenary pledge. During that time members also stood up and repeated the pledge along with Hazoor^{aba}. That was an ecstatic moment for the members. Members were feeling the strong spiritual power of *Khilafat* also knowing that millions of other people all around the world are standing with you and repeating the same exact words. Moments like these helps you realize how Allah's promise of "I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the world" is coming true with the advent of Satellite.

KNOWLEDGE

Hadhrat Ibn Mas'ud^{ra} relates that he heard the Holy Prophet^{saw} say: "May Allah prosper the affairs of a person who hears something from me and conveys it to others as he heard it, for sometimes one who hears from another remembers it better than the original hearer himself. "

(Tirmidhi kitabul 'ilm babul hath 'ala tablighussama')

Hadhrat Mu'awiyah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "Upon him for whom Allah desires good, he bestowed understanding of the Faith."

(Bukhari kitabul 'ilm bab man yuridillah khairan yafqahah fiddin)

Hadhrat Abu Hanifah^{ra} relates: "Once I entered the '*Baitul Haram*' (the Holy House) and saw a huge gathering. I asked my father, why is there this gathering? He told me that the people are gathered around Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin Harith Zubaidi^{ra}, a Companion of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. At this, I rushed towards the gathering. I heard Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin Harith Zubaidi^{ra} say: 'The Holy Prophet^{saw} said: 'A person who ponders and researches in religious matters, God Himself guarantees his provisions and provides him sustenance from sources he can not even imagine.' "

(Musnadul Imamul A'zam kitabul 'ilm, p 20)

Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin 'Abbas^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "When you pass through the Gardens of Paradise, graze a lot. The Companions asked: 'O Messenger^{sa} of Allah! What do you mean by the Gardens of Paradise?' He said, 'Meetings of knowledge.' "

(At-Tarhib wa't-Tarhib bab At-Tarhib fi maja lisatul ulama', p 76/1 ba hawalah attibrani fil kabir)

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "Seek knowledge. Seek knowledge with dignity and decorum. Revere your teachers and give them all the respect due to them."

(At-Tarhib wa't-Tarhib, p 78/1 bab AtTarghi fi ikramul ulama' wa ajlaluhum wa tauqiruhum ba hawalah attibrani fil ausat)

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Oakland/San Francisco Jama'at

Yeman Samut

January 1st, 2008

We had a gathering of 12 males and 8 females at 0500 hrs at the Oakland center and observed *Tahajjud* Prayer collectively.

While we waited for *Fajr* Prayer, we recited various prayers recommended by Hazoor^{aba} especially for the occasion of *Khilafat* celebrations.

At 0600 hrs, we observed *Fajr* prayer which was followed by Qur'an *Tilawat*, *Dars* and *Dua*.

General discussions related to *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* continued until 0730 hrs.

At 0730 hrs, breakfast was prepared and served by the members. The congregation dispersed at 0900 hrs after cleanup etc.

This congregation was particularly overwhelming as Ahmadi were the only Muslim Organization which could ever think about convening ecumenical services in the early hours of the

New Year's day all over the world under the command of one international divine leader while the rest of the universe were undoubtedly submerged in alcoholism, gambling, womanizing and other numerous evils which are so common today.

May 12th, 2008

A group of 15 participants from our Chapter also participated at San Jose Regional Inter-Faith Celebrations which included 12 members from other denominations, *Alhamdulillah!* Our *Jama'at* was well represented and the participants really appreciated whatever they heard and learned about Islam and Ahmadiyyat and were particularly impressed with the hospitality that was extended to them. They were so impressed with the Promised Messiah's^{as} messages that they have asked for copies of his book titled "Philosophies of the Teachings of Islam".

May 24th, 2008

Khuddam members of

our Chapter hosted a BBQ lunch at the center which was also blessed with the presence of Brothers Abdur Rahim Latif, Naib Sadr MKA-USA and Tahir Lubis, Regional *Na'ib Qa'id* West Coast, North. The program included combined *Zuhr/Asr* Prayers, recitation of the Holy Qur'an with English translation, powerpoint presentation on *Khuddam*, *Khilafat*, Goals and progress by bro Abdur-Rahim Latif, followed by *Dua*. *Khuddam* members also participated in *Waqar-e-amal* and helped to decorate the center in preparation for the *Khilafat* Celebrations on May 26th. 8 Local *Khuddam* members also participated in the function. A newspaper ad about the Centenary Celebrations was also published in the Daily Tribune on this day as expected.

May 25th, 2008

The chapter also convened its monthly General Meeting and the focus of discussions centered around the *Khilafat* Celebrations

which was scheduled for Monday, May 26th.

May 26th, 2008

The celebrations proceeded as follows:

The first phase of the day's program commenced with collective *Tahajjud* Prayer at 0345 hrs which was attended by a total of 26 participants (16 men, 10 ladies), followed by *Fajr* Prayer, *Darsul Qur'an* and the recitation of various prayers recommended by Hazoor^{aba}. Breakfast was prepared and served at the center which was enjoyed by all the participants, *Al-humdolillah*.

The next phase of the celebrations commenced at 0900 hrs when we were also blessed with the presence of Missionary Irshad Malhi Sahib and a total participation of 42 members (24 men, 18 ladies), which included 3 guests from Merced Chapter. The program included speeches/presentations on the following:

Qur'an Tilawat with English Translation
Poem with English Translation
Welcome and appreciation by the *Jama'at* president
Overview of the Institution of *Khilafat*
Importance of *Khilafat*
Holy Prophet Muham-

mad^{saw} and *Khulafa-e-Rashideen*

The Promised Messiah^{as} and system of *Khilafat*

Poem with English Translation

Obedience to *Khilafat*

Achievements of *Khilafatul Masih* 1^{ra}, 11^{ra}, 111^{rh}, 1V^{rh} and V^{aba} by different speakers

Poem with English translation

Impact of Islam on a converted member's life

The foregoing presentations were followed by Question & Answer session which was presided over by Maulana Sahib.

The concluding speech was also presented by Maulana Sahib who also performed concluding *Dua*.

At 1310 hrs, Combined *Zuhr/Asr* Prayers were observed

At 1335 hrs, lunch was served.

At 1600 hrs, the congregation dispersed after the cleanup.

6. Tuesday, May 27th, 2008.

A dedicated group of 6 members (4 men & 2 ladies) again assembled at the center and observed the following activities to continue the celebrations :-

Tahajjud Prayer

Fajr Prayer

Darsul Qur'an

Dua

Breakfast

General

The *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations had a very positive impact on the members and greatly helped reinvigorate every active member's loyalty to *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* and I most sincerely hope and pray that all will consistently remain steadfast in their efforts to establish divine relationship with Allah and be exemplary Ahmadis. Unfortunately a very significant number of *Jama'at* members stayed away from this historic celebrations and I also pray fervently that may Allah^{swt} also help them and give them guidance.

The Oakland/SFO Chapter wish to gratefully acknowledge all the help and advice that have been rendered by Ameer Sahib and NHQ on this occasion.

The Oakland/SFO *Jama'at* was so overwhelmed particularly with the congregation on 1/1/08 - New Year's Day and wish to strongly recommend that henceforth, our *Jama'at* all over the world should do likewise every year essentially to resonate the importance of *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations and to keep the entire *Jama'at* occupied in the remembrance of Almighty Allah on this very important day for worldly affairs.

SEATTLE JAMA'AT'S KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES

Hassan Khan, Seattle

The excitement for the *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations could be felt in the Seattle *Jama'at* years before 2008. People in the mosque, young and old could already be heard aspiring to visit the Qadian *Jalsa* that year. It was going to be special year that everyone was looking forward too. Indeed, soon after May 27th 2005 when Hazoor^{aba} appealed to the *Jama'at* for certain prayers for the 100 years of *Khilfat-e-Ahmadiyya*, the yellow-green flyer could be seen in many Ahmadi homes in Seattle for everyone in the house to learn and repeat the supplications.

Men, women and children of the Seattle *Jama'at* welcomed the blessed year of 2008 by offering *Tahajjud* prayers to the most gracious and the most merciful god. The prayers were led by Tayyab Ahmad Sahib at the Lynnwood, WA mosque. The families who live relatively far from the mosque in the south of Seattle offered their prayers at Malik

Mubarik Ahmad Sahib's house. The year everyone was waiting for was here and this set in motion the planning and preparation for a series of events to be organized by the Seattle *Jama'at* for the celebration of the centenary year.

The first special event was held on April 12th, 2008 at our Lynnwood mosque. It was a seminar on the 'The Leadership Qualities of a Muslim'. Several local non-Ahmadi Muslim leaders attended and spoke about their experiences as leaders of their own communities. Mr. Jawad Khaki, the President of the IMAN (Ithna-asheri Muslim Association of the Northwest) spoke about leading a religious community of Muslims in the West. Nazir Harb, the President of Muslim Student Association of Seattle University shared his experiences of representing Islam in the West especially after 9/11. Dr. Abid Haq, representing our own Seattle *Jama'at* gave an inspirational speech about the acts

of leadership as taught by Islam. This event served to educate many non-Ahmadi Muslims about the *Jama'at* and laid a foundation for a good relationship between the various local Muslim communities in the Greater Seattle Area.

This year, our mosque in Lynnwood saw many improvements and decorations. The *Khuddam* worked hard to paint the interior walls of the mosque. The *Ansar*, renovated the mosque kitchen and together we all decorated the mosque with yellow and green lights for the celebrations. The work on the mosque still continues under the supervision of our Property Secretary Waseem Asfar Sahib.

The blessed and long awaited day of May 27th finally came and as can be expected of Ahmadi all over the world, the Seattle *Jama'at* started it by offering *Tahajjud* Prayers and thanks to Allah to have blessed us with the unifying power of *Khilafat*. The

prayers were led by our *Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Qaid* Brother Waqas Malik which were followed by a *Dars-ul-Qur'an* and breakfast. The unique time difference Seattle has with UK, allowed the worshippers to stay at the mosque after the prayers to view the live coverage of the *Khilafat Centenary Celebrations* from the Excel Center in London, UK. By the grace of Allah, I myself had the opportunity of attending the event in UK. Sitting in the men's hall and watching live scenes from Qadian and Rabwah, I could not help but imagine the group of Ahmadis sitting around the television at our mosque in Lynnwood watching the same scenes, completely filled with a renewed faith in *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya*.

The very next weekend, after May 27th, the *Khuddam* and *Ansar* of Seattle organized a family barbeque. The cooking was done by our usual chefs Nasir Malik Sahib and Tariq Ahmad Sahib and like the rest of the events held so far in Seattle, this too was a memorable one. The young children in the *Jama'at* especially enjoyed it.

While the annual convention obviously did not take place in our town. The Seattle *Jama'at*'s par-

ticipation and enthusiasm was visible in every family. People like Imran Ghuman, Shujja Sial and President Mahbulul Alam Ali stayed close to Hazoor^{aba} for several days before and after the convention in Harrisburg, PA. Salman Khalid from Seattle, by the grace of God, attended both the US and Canada conventions as well as the opening ceremony of the Baitun Nur Mosque in Calgary, Canada. The *Lajna* of Seattle, sewed a beautiful blanket commemorating the *Khilafat Centenary* which was displayed at the exhibition on the US Convention and was presented to Hazoor^{aba} as a gift from the Seattle *Jama'at*.

This year's celebrations are far from over yet. The *Lajna* are busy organizing the upcoming regional *Ijtema* to be held in Seattle. The theme of the *Ijtema* is *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* with *Tilawat*, speech and religious knowledge competitions all based on *Khilafat*. Finally, a reception for the local Congress and Senate leaders is also being planned by the Seattle *Jammat*. May Allah enable us to build on what we have achieved so far and fulfill our pledge we all gave to Hazur on May 27th, 2008.

PRAYER

Hadhrat 'A'ishah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} began his Prayer by saying '*Takbir*' (i.e., *Allahu Akbar*) and then he recited *Alhamdu lillahi rabbil 'alamin* (*Surah Al-Fatiha*). When he bowed down for *Ruku'* he neither kept his head too high nor bent it too low. Rather, he kept his head in between these two positions. When he raised his head from the *Ruku'*, first he stood erect and then went into prostration. When he raised his head from the prostration, first he sat completely and then went into prostration for the second time. Each time, after offering two *rak'at*, he sat for '*Tashahhud*' in a way that his right foot was standing up and left foot lying down on the ground. He forbade to sit on the heels of the feet like Satan and to stretch arms on the ground like a dog stretches its forelegs. In the end, he completed his Prayer by saying '*Assala-mu 'alaikum wa rahmatullah*'.

(*Musnad Ahmad*, p 31/6)

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS FUND COLLECTION

West Midwest Region

Mubasher Ahmad, Missionary West Midwest

Respected Na'ib Ameer, Dr. Naseem Rahmatullah Sahib visited the following four *Jama'ats* in the West Midwest Region:

Chicago West – on January 12-13, 2007.

Zion — on January 13, 2007

Milwaukee — on January 13, 2007

Chicago Easton — on January 14, 2007

Chicago West

(a) On January 12, 2007, he delivered the *Jumu'ah Khutba* at Masjid Baetul Jaamay in Glen Ellyn and explained the Islamic concept of "Celebration" through thanksgiving (*Shukr*) to Allah and fellow humans in all possible humility. He presented the *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations plans, and the goals to be achieved by the USA *Jama'at* during the historic year of 2008. He motivated the members to participate in contributing to KCCF generously for the expected expenses for the planned project.

(b) On January 13, at a breakfast meeting, we met with the Chicago West *Amila* and along with the *Amila* members of *Khuddam* and *Ansar*. Further details of the *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations were discussed.

(c) With the Grace of Allah, the Chicago West *Jama'at* pledged to raise \$300,000 for KCCF. A Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Dr. Masood Ahmad Qazi Sahib, and Col. Nazir Ahmad Sahib as the Contact person. The committee shall include reps of *Khuddam*, *Ansar* and *Lajna*. 100% participation of the members was emphasized.

(d) Financial procedure and reporting mechanisms were explained. Ideas were invited and discussed at length as the year long *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations in the Midwest Region.

Zion

On January 13, noon, we met with the

members of Zion *Jama'at* at the Zion Mission House. The meeting was a great success. The Zion *Jama'at* promised to raise \$75,000, *Alhamdulillah!* A KCCF Committee was formed with Hasan Hakeem Sahib as its chairperson and Syyed Anjum Sahib the Contact person. The committee shall include reps of *Khuddam*, *Ansar* and *Lajna*. Emphasis was placed on 100% participation by the members. Pledge Forms were distributed. Financial procedures and reporting mechanism were explained. Various ideas were invited and discussed as to the *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations.

Milwaukee:

On the same day, January 13, 2006, we met with the members of Milwaukee *Jama'at*. With the grace of Allah, they promised to raise \$100,000 for KCCF. A Committee was formed with Nasirullah Ahmad Sahib as its chairperson and Syyed Imran Mudassar Sahib as the Contact. Financial procedure and reporting mechanism were explained to the members. Pledge forms were provided

for greater circulation. Ideas were invited and discussed as to the *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations in the Region. The meeting ended in great success. *Al-hamdolillah!*

Chicago East

On Sunday, January 14, noon, we met with the members of the Chicago East Jamaat at Masjid Al-Sadiq. Respected *Na'ib Ameer* Sahib explained the Islamic concept of "Celebration" through thanksgiving and asked the regional Missionary to present the *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations plans and the goals to be achieved by the USA *Jama'at* during the historic year of 2008. *Al-hamdolillah*, The Chicago East *Jama'at* promised to raise \$101,000 for KCCF. A Fund-raising Committee was formed with Abdul Karim Sahib as its Chairman, and Br. Rafiq Ahmad Sahib as the Contact. Pledge Forms were distributed. Financial procedure and reporting mechanism were explained. Various ideas were invited and discussed as to the *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations. *Al-hamdolillah!*

A total of \$576,000 was pledged by the above four *Jama'ats*.

AHADITH

Hadhrat Ibn 'Abbas^{ra} relates that, "One day, I was riding behind the Holy Prophet^{saw} when he said: 'O Youngman! I instruct you about certain matters. Be watchful of Allah, He will be watchful of thee. Safeguard His commandments, He will always be with you. When you must ask, ask of Allah alone; and when you must seek help, implore Allah alone for help. Remember that if all the people unite to grant favours to you, they would not be able to benefit thee in anyway except that which Allah has destined for you, and that if all of them were to unite to harm you, they would not be able to afflict you any harm except that which Alla-h has decreed against you. The pens have been kept away and the writing in the books of destiny has dried.' "

According to another tradition, the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "Keep your eyes focused towards Allah and you will see Him. Remember Allah during prosperity and He will remember you in your hard times. Keep in mind that what you did not get was not destined for you and what you received, no one could have stopped it reaching to you because it was written so in your destiny. Remember, help comes with patience, and happiness is associated with discomfort, and the days of hardship are followed by the days of comfort and ease."

(*Tirmidhi abwab sifatul qiyamah*)

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates: "The Holy Prophet^{saw} was asked: 'Who is the most honoured amongs the people?' He said: 'He who is the most righteous.' The questioner said: 'That is not what we meant.' He said: 'Then Joseph, Prophet of Allah, son of a Prophet of Allah, son of Abraham, Friend of Allah.' They said: 'This too is not what we meant.' The Holy Prophet^{saw} said: 'Then do you ask me concerning the descent of the Arab? Those who were worthy of honour before Islam are worthy of honour in Islam once they are fully instructed in it.' "

Bukhari kitabul anbiya' bab qaulallahta'ala kana yusuf wa ikhwatuh ayat lissa'ilin)

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES (ZION JAMA'AT)

Hasan Hakeem, President, Zion Jama'at

With special early morning prayers on the first of January, the Zion *Jama'at*, in the spirit of Ahmadiyyat, ushered in the New Year with speeches on *Khilafat* and the benevolent message of Islam -- peace, universal brotherhood, and submission to the Will of God.

The special commemoration and prayers created an emotional occasion as the *Jama'at Sadr* reminded those gathered that the Promised Messiah's prayers stopped the false prophet, Dr. John Alexander Dowie in Zion.

It was also a momentous occasion in Zion as Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad; Khalifatul Masih *V^{aba}* made his historic May 27th remarks about *Khilafat*, the system of spiritual leadership in Islam as set out in the Holy Qur'an. It is the means of uniting Muslims into one cohesive body under a spiritual leader.

Shortly after, the Zion *Jama'at* held a community-wide meeting with emphasis on the renaissance of Islam - a counterbalance to the extremism that is engulfing those who have abandoned the true Islam. The meeting was attended by a diverse group of Zion citizens including *Jama'at* members from Chicago and Milwaukee. A special representative of Illinois State Rep. Michael Bond was in attendance.

During the 100 year celebration, the Zion *Jama'at* has placed great emphasis on its jail ministry outreach programs touching the lives of more than 200 inmates at the Lake County Jail. The Zion *Jama'at* now has four certified chaplains assigned to the jail. The ministry has received praise and accolades from the Lake County Sheriff and the Chief of Jail Operations, Jennifer Witherspoon. In addition, the *Jama'at* awarded Witherspoon its special "Love For All, Ha-

ted for None" Award.

The Jail Ministry team has helped to change the perception of Islam often tainted by the way it is portrayed in the media - with zealots preaching hate-filled diatribe and calling for violence.

It is expected that more than 100 *Bai'ats* will be signed in Zion due to its Jail Ministry efforts. The families and friends of inmates are now hearing the true message of Islam. As part of the *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations, the Zion *Jama'at* has donated Holy Qur'ans, and Islamic books, including the Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam to inmates.

Alhamdulillah! As a result of the Jail Ministry team, *Jumu'ah* Service and *Ta'leem* classes have been held regularly at the Lake County facility.

The *Jama'at* has now expanded its Jail Ministry program to Kenosha,

Wisconsin (20 minutes from Zion) Regional Missionary Mubasher Ahmad is the first Muslim missionary to be invited into the facility to teach Islam. The Zion *Jama'at Sadr* was recently hired as the first full-time Chaplain at two correctional facilities in Kenosha. The Zion *Jama'at* has participated in *Jalsa Salana* celebrations around the world including a four-man delegation that attended the international *Jalsa Salana* held in Ghana, West Africa. During the Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V's^{aba} historic visit to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the *Jama'at* organized a bus for those without means and resources to attend the *Jalsa*. Several young men including a recent convert to Ahmadiyyat from the Jail Ministry attended the *Jalsa*. A Zion city official, Todd Gordon, who has been a good friend of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, attended the *Jalsa* as a guest of the *Jama'at*.

The *Jama'at* was also featured in a Chicago Tribune article that highlighted the work of the Ahmadiyya community in the Lake County area. The article delved into *Khilafat* and provided background on the *Jalsa Salana's* purpose.

HOPE, OPTIMISM AND FEAR OF ALLAH

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that on the authority of Allah the Blessed and Exalted, the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "My servant commits a sin and then supplicates: 'Allah, forgive me my sin.' On which Allah, the Blessed and the High, says: 'My servant committed a sin and then realised that he has a Lord Who forgives sin and can also call to account for it.' The servant breaches his repentance, reverts to sin again and supplicates: 'Lord, forgive me my sin.' The Blessed and Exalted said: 'My servant committed a sin and then realised that he has a Lord Who forgives sin and can also call to account for it.' The servant again breached the terms of his repentance, reverts to sins and supplicates: 'Lord, forgive me my sin.' The Blessed and Exalted said: 'My servant committed a sin and then realised that he has a Lord Who forgives sin and can also call to account for it. I will forgive the weakness of My servant and protect him from sins, in the future. My servant will act as I Wish.' "

(Muslim kitabuttaubah bab qauluttaubah minadhdhanubi wa an takrartudhdhanubi wattaubah, Bukhari kitabuttauhid)

Hadhrat Ibn 'Umar^{ra} relates that he heard the Holy Prophet^{saw} say: "A believer will approach his Lord on the Day of Judgement and under the protection of His Mercy, Allah will question him concerning his sins: 'Do you recognise this sin and this sin?' He will answer: 'Lord, I recognise.' Then He will say: 'I covered it up for you in the world, and I forgive it for you today.' Then will the record of his good works be handed to him.' "

(Riyadus Salihin baburrija', Hadith No. 432)

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "If a believer realised (the full extent of) the chastisement of Allah, none would hope to enter His Paradise; and if a believer realised (the full extent of) Allah's mercy, none would despair of His Paradise."

(Muslim kitabuttaubah bab fi sa'ah rahmatillah)

SADIQ MOSQUE

Abdul Karim, President, Chicago East Jama'at

In writing an account of Chicago East *Jama'at's* activities during the *Khilafat* Centenary celebrations, it is important to know the connection that Chicago East *Jama'at* has with the *Khilafat* Centenary. Needless to say that the Chicago East *Jama'at* was the first *Jama'at* established in USA. In the year 1921 Hadhrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih II^{ra}, decided to send Hadhrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq to USA, to preach Islam and Ahmadiyyat to the American people. When he was told that he was chosen to be sent to USA, his response was that he has no educational degree. Hazoor's^{ra} reply was that he will get many degrees. When he landed in USA and authorities found out that he was a Muslim he was detained at Ellis Island for some time. The concern of the US government was that being a Muslim, he would preach polygamy.

After satisfying the Government that he was bound by the religion of Islam to obey the laws of the land he was permitted to continue his journey. During his travels he addressed many group gatherings, such as

Marcus Garvey Organizations and others, he also spoke at different Colleges and Universities in which he was given Honorary Degrees. This was a fulfillment of Hazoor's^{ra} reply to him.

During his travels he touched many hearts white and black alike. He decided to plant his roots in the city of Chicago with the purchase of a gray stone mansion at 4448 S. Wabash. This was the first property that was purchased in the USA, for the purpose of glorifying the name of Allah. That building served the *Jama'at* well, until 1989 as a Mission House. That was the year when the fourth *Khalifah* of the *Jama'at* Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmed^{rh}, came to USA, I was the president of Chicago *Jama'at* at that time. When Hazoor came to the Sadiq Mission house, and entered the building, we walked to the dining area, then he asked me where do the women meet. I said to him, 'here' Hazoor'. He said to me this is depressing, lets' get out of here. This is not what we want to invite people to.' We went to the living room

area that was used as men's area. Hazoor asked every one to sit. He then told Dr. Muzzafer to right away make plans to either renovate this building or demolish the building and build a new mosque here. The new mosque was named As-Sadiq Mosque. It was completed in 1994, the same year when Baitur Rehman Mosque was completed in Maryland. By the Grace of Allah the both mosques were inaugurated by Kahlifatul Masih IV, Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{rh}.

The As-Sadiq Mosque holds only 150 people but I was convinced that the appropriate way to celebrate the one hundred years of Ahmadiyya *Khilafat* was to hold it on those grounds where the first property was purchased by the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in America. After consulting the *Amila* Members, it was decided to erect tents in the parking lot, which has enough space for 250 people. So the men sat under the tents and women were given the Mosque area. Thus, a very successful *Khilafat* Centenary Celebration meeting was held at the historic As-Sadiq Mosque.

ZION JAMA'AT: WEEKEND ACTIVITY

Hasan Hakeem, President

Without a doubt, we thank Almighty God for his Grace and Mercy! *Alhamdulillah*, the Zion *Jama'at* exhibited a wonderful display of collective Ahmadi power as we worked at the Zion City of Miracles Friday-Saturday. Friday was the set-up and preparation led by Abu and a team of volunteers, Christians and Muslims. Saturday the entire day was one of constant motion, activities and community blessed with a beautiful day, sunny sky and more than 5,000 participants who received free food, book bags filled with school supplies and of course there was the Ahmadi sponsored 3 on 3 Basketball tourney. We came out to the affair wearing our new blue T-shirts blazoned with the Zion logo and sporting "Love For All..." on the flip side. We set up camp on a hill overlooking the event, distributed literature and worked the entire day spreading the message of Islam through example and deed. We were all over the place.

At the end of the tournament, the Ahmadiis took to the stage and presented beautiful awards -- medallions and trophies -- to all participants in the tournament.

We enjoyed the day. The Ahmadiis worked hard including the Regional and local *Khuddam Qa'ids* did exactly what was expected of them...there were no arguments, negative discussions or disharmony within our ranks. One brother from Racine said it was like the "battle of Badr." We were completely outnumbered but the Ahmadiyya Community left a legacy at the event for others to follow. We presented a united front that held its line until the park was cleaned and cleared. At the end, when the pastors, priest and religious entertainers had left the stage...it was the Ahmadiyya Community that held its ground. We never broke ranks and ran for our cars. Those blue shirts worked the area as the Christian men were outnumbered by their women.

This is how you win the "hearts and minds" of a community through that "intangible" *Tabligh*. We worked for the sake of Allah Almighty and his creation without any desire for reward. As the Christians, worked up an emotional display with music, dancers and more preachers...the Ahmadiis found a nice quiet spot to offer collective prayers in the shadow of Dr. John Alexander Dowie's Christian Catholic Church, now the Christ Community Church. We prayed, ate a wonderful and sumptuous lunch of baked chicken, greens, macaroni, potato salad and cucumber salad. Our children frolicked and played while the men laughed, gave high fives and then we went back to work.

We (*Ansar and Khuddam*) came in the name of Allah Almighty. We displayed the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} and finally we followed *Khilafat* -- we hear and we obey!

SUMMARY OF CHICAGO EAST JAMA'AT'S KHILAFAT CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES

**Abdul Karim,
President Chicago East Jama'at**

January 1st 2008

Chicago East *Jama'at* began celebrating the *Khilafat* year straight away. On January 1st 2008 a collective fast was held in the *Jama'at*. Before the fasting began, many members stayed overnight at the Sadiq Mosque in order to perform *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* led by Hafiz Mubarak. Just before *Fajr* time there was a special breakfast prepared.

May 27th 2008

Several members also stayed overnight in anticipation and for preparation for the following morning. The morning of we had collective *Tahajjud* and *Fajr*. We had around 70 members all together show up for the prayer, special breakfast, and also to watch Hazoor's^{abu} address live on MTA.

June 1st 2008

Members of Chicago East *Jama'at* attended Chicago West *Jama'at's* *Khilafat* Day Centennial Celebration.

June 14th 2008

Members of Chicago East *Jama'at* attend Zion *Jama'at's* *Khilafat* Day Centennial Celebration.

July 19th 2008

Chicago East celebrated *Khilafat* Day outside the historic Sadiq Mosque, which holds the distinction of being the first property bought by the *Jama'at* in the United States. Speakers from Chicago West and Zion *Jama'ats* spoke on the occasion. Regional Missionary, Mubashar Ahmed Sahib spoke on the 100 years of *Khilafat*. Hasan Kakeem Sahib, National Publication Secretary and President Zion *Jama'at* spoke on the prophecy relating to Alexander Dowie, while Falahuddin Shams Sahib, National Auditor, spoke on *Khilafat* as a second manifestation of God's messengers on earth. The meeting lasted for about two hours,

with a question and answer session at the end of speeches. The question and answer session was moderated by Abdul Karim Sahib, president of Chicago East *Jama'at*.

A large tent was erected outside the mosque in the parking lot to accommodate the male guests, while women guests were hosted inside the mosque area. Toys were distributed to children at the end of the program. In preparation for the event local news and radio were alerted. *Khuddam* passed out flyers downtown. Over 200 Churches and synagogues were notified by mail. Around 50 Chicago Alderman were sent special invitations. Our local Alderman Pat Dowell attended our event and was given a tour of our mosque by President Sahib.

Wasiyyat Target Met

Huzoor-e-Anwar^{aba} had set each *Jama'at* a target of at least 50% Chanda paying members to become *Moosies*. *Alhamdulillah*, Chicago East *Jama'at* has reached this target. We have a total of 57 earning members, and 31 *Jama'at* members have either applied for *Wasiyyat*, or are already *Moosi*.

Additional points

- ◆ Many members memorized the prayers instructed by Hazoor^{aba} to be recited during this year.
- ◆ Throughout the year, Friday sermons were given by President Abdul Karim Sahib concerning *Khilafat* centenary.

Hadhrat Harth Ash'ari^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "Allah the Most Honoured and Glorious gave five commandments to Yahya bin Zakariyyah^{as} ... and I also command you to act upon five (commandments) which have been given to me by Allah. These are: 'Stay attached to the Community, listen and obey, migrate, and strive in the cause of Allah.' Thus, anyone who moves away even slightly from the *Jama'at* (Community), it will be as if he leaves the boundaries of Islam unless he rejoins (the *Jama'at*). Anyone who invites others towards the days of ignorance becomes the fuel of Hell. The Companions of the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: 'O Prophet^{saw} of Allah! Even if such a person offers Prayers and keeps fast?' The Holy Prophet^{saw} said: 'Yes, even if such a person offers Prayers, keeps fast and calls himself a Muslim. You should call Muslims by their names that Allah the Most Honoured and Glorious has named them as Muslims, *Mo'mineen*, Servants of Allah the Most Honoured and Glorious.' "

(*Musnad Ahmad*, p 130/5, 202/5, 344/5)

CHICAGO WEST: KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS – 2008

Zarik Khan

The Chicago West *Jama'at* has been commemorating 100 years of *Khilafat* over the past six months and has planned events in the future as well. Please enjoy the recap we have compiled of our events.

Khilafat Centenary New Years' Day Sehri (Pre-Dawn Meal)

Members of the Chicago West *Jama'at* kicked off the *Khilafat* Centenary Year by arriving at Masjid Baitul Jaamay on New Years' Eve to participate in congregational *Isha* prayers, listen to a brief discourse on the importance of what was about to take place the next morning, and to spend the evening at the *Masjid* in preparation for the fast that was to be undertaken the next day. A number of members came prepared with sleeping bags. The next morning all present rose early to offer congregational *Tahajjud* Prayers, after which a hearty meal was enjoyed thanks to the efforts of the *Ziafat* team led by Secretary Sahib Mir Ahmed Nasir and others.

There were quite a variety of meal options, from cereals to danishes and donuts, to omelet and spicy potatoes to be had with toast. *Jama'at* members also enjoyed the company of one another on this historic morning; many students were home from college and extended family members had come from out of town to visit and were able to join in our celebration.

After the members finished up the meals, *Fajr* prayer was offered and then everyone went home to spend the rest of the day fasting in remembrance of Allah.

As the year continued, the *Jama'at* continued to incorporate the *Khilafat* Centenary into other events that took place:

- Chicago West's Kashif Qaderi took the lead in organizing the Midwest Region's Khuddam Sports day, held in Milwaukee in February
- Other general meetings and the Masih Mau'ood and Musleh Mau'ood days all incorporated the general theme of the *Khilafat* Centenary and the importance of the institution of *Khilafat* into the program. All the speakers and topics discussed all tied in with an overarching theme of *Khilafat*.

Shortly before the *Khilafat* Centenary was to be celebrated on the historical date in May, a committee was formed of members led by *Na'ib* President Sahib Dr. Waheed Khan, General Secretary Sahib Haris Ahmed, and Regional Missionary Sahib Mubasher Ahmed. This group's responsibility was to organize three important upcoming functions that were to be held in honor of the *Khilafat* Centenary—a *Sehri* to fast the day before *Khilafat* Day, the international *Khilafat* Day itself, and finally the locally observed *Khilafat* Day where a large

number of guests had been invited to join the *Jama'at* and show their support for the ideals that *Khilafat* espouses, particularly that of peace. This committee met in person every week and held conference calls many times a week, working hard to ensure that things would go smoothly during all three days without a hitch, and *Alhamdulillah*, their efforts were blessed by Allah as all three days were great successes. May Allah reward all these brothers and sisters for their efforts.

Khilafat Day (International)

On May 26, 2007 *Fajr* prayers were held in the *Masjid* and then a *Sehri* was held for another optional fast that would be held that day in honor of the historic *Khilafat Day* that was the next day. The *Masjid* also hosted an *Iftar* to break the fast later that evening. The next morning, the *Jama'at* converged on *Masjid Baitul Jaamay* at around 3 AM to offer congregational *Tahajjud* prayer. This was the biggest day of the *Khilafat Centenary* year on an international scale.

Immediately after *Tahajjud*, members offered *Fajr* prayer and then enjoyed a hearty breakfast courtesy of the *Ziafat* team. While waiting for breakfast, members enjoyed one another's company and took in beautiful illuminations that had been added to the mosque to celebrate the historic day.

After breakfast, Mansoor Kamal Sahib, Audio/Video Secretary, set up a projector for members to begin watching the *Khilafat Day* proceedings live from the London Excel Center in the UK, Qadian, India, and Rabwah, Pakistan.

Members listened earnestly as Hazoor^{aba} discussed the importance of the day and called on non-Ahmadis to enter Ahmadiyyat and find what they had been missing in their spiritual lives by accepting the institution of *Khilafat*.

After Hazoor's^{aba} speech, a special International *Bai'at* was held where all members renewed their pledges to the *Khalifah* and re-affirmed their belief in the system of *Khilafat* in general.

Khilafat Day (Local)

The event that the Chicago West *Jama'at* had been working hardest towards was the local *Khilafat Day* event, to be held at *Masjid Baitul Jaamay* and hoped to be attended by 300-400 which would include members and guests. The day before saw many hard-working volunteers show up at the *Masjid* and clean, beautify and prepare the *Masjid* for the celebration.

Many *Atfal* and *Nasirat* participated in a competition where they created posters for each *Khalifah*, the overall concept of *Khilafat*, or the Promised Messiah^{as} and the one that was deemed the best by a panel of judges would be recognized at *Jalsa* before Hazoor^{aba}. The mosque, which was already illuminated from the previous celebration on the 27th, was now even more attractive with streamers, flowers, and special modifications made even to the folding tables that are normally used in the *Masjid*. On the A/V end, a power point presentation was put together to be used not only to greet visitors at the entrance of the mosque,

but also for the purposes of some presentations. Also, Audio/Video Secretary Mansoor Kamal Sahib worked tirelessly to launch a brand-new concept for the USA *Jama'at* – internet-streaming of the event to anywhere in the world, and his innovative idea was used during the USA and *Canada Jalsas* at *mtausa.tv* & *mtacanada.tv*, respectively, where live programs not shown on MTA were being broadcast.

Finally, the big day arrived. On Sunday, June 1, 2008, the Chicago West *Jama'at* held its annual *Khilafat* Day celebration. This year, the event took on added significance as 2008 marked 100 years of the institution of *Khilafat*. As a result, the scope of the event was expanded and included participation by guests and friends of the Community. In addition to the poster competition, decoration of the mosque, and the power point presentations having been setup, there was also a display of *Jama'at* literature; and speeches which focused on reflections of the relevance of *Khilafat* to the most pressing issues of our world today.

The *Na'ib Ameer* of USA *Jama'at*, Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah Sahib was requested to preside the meeting, which opened with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an by Hafiz Mubarik Kukoyi. The first speaker was Dr. Masood Qazi, President of the Chicago West *Jama'at*. He spoke on the necessity for God-fearing and God-believing individuals to adhere to a concept of morality. His argument was that the institution of *Khilafat* insured that we would not forget the importance of morality. With the world in the volatile state it is in today, it is more important than ever to have this blessing in order for mankind to benefit from its guidance and leadership.

The next speaker was Hassan Hakeem, President of the Zion *Jama'at*. He spoke about racism and how *Khilafat* actually helps combat racism. He talked about his personal history and how he had seen racism evolve and take different shapes over the years in this country. He mentioned, however, that the impact of racism was most visible by observing the rise in crime and imprisoned young minorities. By turning to *Khilafat*, we enable ourselves to look past race and become so immersed in serving God that the issues driving racism suddenly become less important and ultimately, racist tendencies that may exist die out.

The final speaker was Mubasher Ahmed, Respected Regional Missionary. He talked about terrorism as it relates to Islam and how *Khilafat* is a powerful antidote to the problems that drive this evil. After detailing the fact that terrorism and suicide bombing in particular are sins in Islam, and giving a historical context as to where these vicious acts originated from, Missionary Sahib detailed the fact that the founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} corrected misinterpretations of *Jihad* over 100 years ago, years before Islamic fundamentalist groups came to prominence. Missionary Sahib stated that the beauty of *Khilafat* was that the successors of the Promised Messiah^{as} were able to continue to spread the true teaching of Islam regarding *Jihad* and terrorism, particularly when the abuse of these concepts became even worse in the future.

After these speeches, dignitaries were introduced from many various communities. Mr. Bhola Singh (a prominent member of the local Sikh community), Chaudhary Naimatullah, (the President of Chicago area Pakistan People's Party), and Mr. Said Umar Khan (President of Pakistani-American Business Society), spoke of what the day's events meant to

them, even though they were not Ahmadis. All dignitaries congratulated the Ahmadiyya Community, and applauded the achievements of the last 100 years of *Khilafat*.

There were a total of 70 non-Ahmadi/non-Muslim guests (55 men, 15 ladies) present in the audience, and this led to a compelling and lively question and answer session, which ranged from questions about Ahmadiyyat to inquiries about how to get further involved in the effort of solving these world issues through the means of *Khilafat*. After this, Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah Sahib made concluding remarks emphasizing upon the spiritual benefits of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* and its significance to the modern world.

The session closed with a silent prayer. Refreshments were served. Some prominent guests were given gifts that included *Khilafat* Centenary souvenirs of coffee mugs, pens, the Philosophy of the Teaching of Islam, and a copy of the Muslim Sunrise. Feedback comments were also collected from the guests which reflected a high degree of satisfaction with the event and a desire to continue the dialogue.

Looking Ahead

Now that the New Year has kicked off, the Chicago West *Jama'at* is just getting started. After *Khilafat* Day, members were buoyed by the success of the event and took this revitalized spirit and zeal with them to the 2008 *Jalsa Salana* USA in Harrisburg, PA. While the Chicago West *Jama'at* was certainly well-represented, many *Ansar*, *Khuddam*, *Atfal*, *Lajna* and *Nasiraat* were also in the forefront in serving as well, whether it was in the areas of MTA, *Ziafat*, Discipline, Security, Registration, or simply arriving at the *Jalsa* and taking the first opportunity to perform duties that could be found. Of course, the event was extra special because it was the *Jalsa Salana* of the *Khilafat* Centenary year and also because the country was graced with the presence of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} for the first time. Some *Jama'at* members were so overcome with love for Hazoor^{aba} that even after the *Jalsa*, they followed the *Khalifah* back to Masjid Baitur Rehman in Washington to be able to pray behind him, and a few even traveled to the *Canada Jalsa* to be near their beloved Hazoor^{aba} once more.

In August, the Chicago West *Khuddam* and *Atfal* will be out in full force at the Regional *Khuddam Ijtema*, being held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as well as the National *Ijtema* which will be in Milton, NY. That same month, the Chicago West *Lajna* and *Nasirat* are also hosting their Midwest Region *Ijtema* in *Masjid* Baitul Jaamay. During the month of Ramadan, the *Jama'at* plans to provide as much assistance as they can to the Milwaukee *Jama'at* which will be hosting the biggest event of the *Khilafat* Centenary year—the Regional *Khilafat* Day which will be held at the University of Wisconsin. Plans are in place to have a large number of guests and *Jama'at* members will be traveling from all over the region to attend this historic conference.

Insha Allah, we pray that these future events will be as successful as those that have passed, and that the Chicago West *Jama'at* will continue to be in the forefront in striving and serving for the cause of *Khilafat*. *Ameen*.

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS: MILWAUKEE JAMA'AT — 1908 - 2008

Syed Imran Mudassar

Khilafat Centenary Celebrations Program Launched in Milwaukee on January 1, 2008

By the grace of Allah, a total of 64 members of the Milwaukee *Jama'at* were able to participate in congregation *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* prayers. *Khuddam* and *Atfal* held a sleepover in the mosque the night of 31 Dec: *Atfal*: 12, *Khuddam*: 16, *Nasirat*: 8, *Lajna*: 12, *Ansar*: 16

* *Darsul Qur'an* and *Darsul Hadith* were also delivered along with congregation *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* Prayers.

* The *Jama'at* President respected Nasirullah Ahmed Sahib launched the KCC program with his opening remarks. *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations Program overview was presented to *Jama'a't* membership. A *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations flyer was

distributed to members present. *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations team leads: *Tabligh* (Haji Jalal Nurrudin), Social Services (Haji Khalid Walid), Public Relations (Dr. Mohammad Sabir, MKA support (*Qa'id* Rizwan Ahmed) and *Lajna* President (Sister Shahina Munir) gave an overview of their respective *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations programs in Milwaukee. Meeting ended with silent prayers by Vice President of the *Jama'at* Haji Dhul Waqar Yaqub.

* Breakfast was served at the end of the session.

Khilafat Centenary Celebration

May 26 & 27 Program, Milwaukee

May 26: Congregational *Tahajjud* Prayers

* Congregational *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* Prayers were offered followed by *Darsul Qur'an* relevant to the concept of *Khilafat* in Islam.

* In total, 60 members including *Atfal*, *Nasirat*, *Lajna*, *Khuddam* and *Ansar* participated in this May 26th program

May 27: Khilafat Day Program

◆ Congregational *Tahajjud* and *Fajr* Prayers were offered followed by *Darsul Qur'an* relevant to the concept of *Khilafat* in Islam.

◆ Brief speech by President Milwaukee for the importance of May 27 in the history of Ahmadiyyat

◆ Important feature of our gathering in Milwaukee on May 27 was Hazoor's^{aba} address that was projected on a big

screen using projectors on both *Lajna* and Men sides. All members present in the mosque listened and watched Hazoor's^{aba} address and other MTA proceedings with zeal and zest and joined with Hazoor^{aba} in collective prayer/ *Dua*.

- ◆ In total, 65 members including *Atfal*, *Nasirat*, *Lajna*, *Khuddam* and *Ansar* participated in this May 27th program

Khilafat Centenary Celebration (1908 - 2008)

Khilafat Day Program Sunday June 1, 2008

Opening Session:

- *Khilafat* Day program started with the recitation of Holy Qur'an by Maudood Ahmed Sahib. Verses from *Surah Al-Noor* were recited with translation.
- A poem, written by Sahibzadi Amtul Quddus Sahiba, was recited by Moheeyuddin Ahmed Sahib.

Speeches:

- Opening address was

given by President Milwaukee, Alhaj Nasirullah Ahmed Sahib describing the importance of *Khilafat* in our lives.

- 1st speech was given by Alhaj Rashid Ahmed Sahib on the topic of "*Institution of Khilafat*". During his speech, speaker related some of his memories from his company with Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih the II^{ra} in Rabwah.
- Ameer USA, Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar Sahib addressed Milwaukee *Jama'at* over the phone. His address was broadcasted over the mosque speaker system both on men and *Lajna* side.
- 2nd speech of the program was given by Brother Abubakar Bin Saeed on the topic of "*Love for Khilafat*". The speaker beautifully described his spiritual experience and memories from the recent Ghana Centenary *Jalsa* which took place during Hazoor's^{aba} visit to West African nations.
- A resolution was passed

by all members of Milwaukee *Jama'at* present at the *Khilafat* Day program. More than 140 members including *Atfal*, *Khuddam*, *Ansar*, *Nasirat* and *Lajna* signed the resolution. Resolution will be sent to Hazoor's^{aba} kind attention (please see page 89 for the text of the resolution)

Khilafat Quiz Competition.

- All members of Milwaukee *Jama'at* (*Atfal*, *Nasirat*, *Khuddam*, *Ansar* and *Lajna*) present in the mosque participated in the *Khilafat* Quiz competition. *Taleem* Secretaries from respective auxiliaries conducted the quiz competition.
- Session was ended with collective silent prayers
- Lunch was served.

Concluding Session

- *Zuhr* and *Asr* Prayers were offered in congregation

Khilafat Quiz Competition Prize Distribution

- *Khilafat* Centenary Celebrations souvenirs were given as prizes to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of the quiz competition. Sweets were distributed among the membership during this session.

Auxiliary Group Photos

- Group photos were taken for all auxiliaries.

Participation and Announcements

- By the grace of Allah, total 151 members & guests participated in the *Khilafat* Day program with the following distribution:

*Atfal: 22,
Khuddam: 23,
Ansar: 32,
Nasirat: 24,
Lajna: 40,
Guests: 10*

- The program proceedings were digitally recorded. A CD of the program proceedings

will be provided to *Jama'at* membership as a *Khilafat* Jubilee gift from the KCC Committee.

- Various KCC and other announcements were made during this session including KCC regional conference to be held in Milwaukee at UWM on Sep 20, 2008. Members were requested to invite non-Ahmadi guests to this KCC conference.

- Program concluded with closing remarks by President Nasirullah Ahmed Sahib

Text of the resolution passed by all Milwaukee members present at the *Khilafat* Day program, Sunday June 1, 2008 is given on the next page

OFFER PRAYERS

IN

CONGREGATION

GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin Mas'ud^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{sa} said: "Those who are of mature age, intelligent and knowledgeable should be nearest to me in Prayer, then those who are closest to them in these respects, rankwise. He added: 'Do not indulge in differences as the differences will creep into your hearts. Avoid creating tumult and noise in the markets.' "

(Muslim kitabussalat bab ma ja' lailani minkum ulul aham)

Hadhrat Jabir^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{sa} said: "Keep your utensils and your drinking water covered, and doors closed at night. Extinguish the oil-lamp before going to bed. If you do so, Satan will be unable to untie the mouth of your water-skin, nor open the doors to your houses, nor uncover your utensils. If someone does not have anything to cover a utensil, at least he should put an inclined wood in the utensil and do so in the name of Allah, i.e., he should recite *bismillah*. (The lighted lamp) could be detrimental in that the mice in the house may cause a fire."

(Muslim kitabul ashriba babul amr bi t'aghtitul ana')

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful



Respectfully Submitted to our beloved Imam
Sayedna Hadhrat Ameerul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V

We, all members of Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at* Milwaukee USA, humbly and respectfully request the favor of acceptance of our sincere and full allegiance to the Institution of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* from our beloved Imam and Khalifatul Masih V. At the centenary occasion of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya*, we renew our allegiance and pledge to offer any sacrifice in this regard and obey our beloved Imam, the Institution of *Khilafat* and *Nizam-e-Jama'at* with full zeal and capacity, *Insha Allah*.

We pray to Allah the Almighty for this, and request Hazoor Ayyadhullah-o-Ta'ala to accept our request, and pray for us that Allah the Almighty grants us the strength, courage and patience to fulfill our obligations in the best possible manner.

Signed today June 1, 2008

by

The Members of Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at* Milwaukee USA

Bait-ul-Qadir

5600 W. Fond du Lac Ave

Milwaukee, WI 53216

USA

REPORT: KHILAFAT CENTENERY CELEBRATIONS

Masoud A. Malik, General Secretary

#	Activity	Status	ECD	Remarks
1	Homage to Allah			
1.a	Prayers and <i>Nawafil</i>	Completion of first century of <i>Ahmadiyya Khilafat</i> and start of new century started with prayers and homage to Allah on January first 2008. Congregational <i>Tahajjud</i> Prayers were followed by <i>Fajr</i> Prayers & <i>Dars</i> at all mosques & mission houses in USA. In major centers attendance reached close to 300 at <i>Tahajjud</i> Prayers. Sweets were distributed among members. Lighting was arranged at many mosques & mission houses. Many <i>Jama'ats</i> and <i>Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya</i> arranged different sports recreational activities for the members, <i>Khuddam</i> and children. Many members at some <i>Jama'ats</i> performed a <i>Nafli</i> fast a day before or after first January. In some <i>Jama'ats</i> non-Ahmadi neighbors were presented with gifts and/or sweets.	Ongoing	
1.b	New <i>Moosis</i>	Total Number of Earning Members = 4,225 Total Number of <i>Moosis</i> = 1,625 (including 334 still in process by <i>Markaz</i>).	2008Q4	In progress
1.c	CKAJ Fund	Income = \$2.88 Million Expenditure = \$2.82 Million Balance = \$0.06 Million	2008Q3	In progress
1.d	CKAT Fund	Pledge = \$0.5 Million Collected = \$0.5 Million Sent to <i>Additional Wakilul Maal</i> = \$0.5 Million: In addition \$0.2 Million pledged, collected and sent to <i>Markaz</i> for improvement of <i>Qadian Langar Khana</i>	Completed	
1.e	Lost <i>Bai'ats</i> Reclaimed	Total Lost <i>Bai'ats</i> = 636 Reclaimed Lost <i>Bai'ats</i> = 139	2008Q4	In progress
1.f	Sermons on <i>Zakat</i>	Number Delivered = 30 on especially <i>Zakat</i> but hundreds on general Financial sacrifices.		
2	Publication			
2.a	Books	1.All books and articles about <i>Khilafat</i> were made available as video documents on <i>Khilafat</i> as part of <i>Alislam.org</i> 2. Friday sermons of all <i>Khulafa</i> from 1908 to present are placed on line at <i>Alislam.org</i> on the Friday sermon page. 3. DVD was prepared on Holy Qur'an with cross reference containing commentaries of Promised Messiah ^{as} , Khalifatul Masih I ^{ra} , Khalifatul Masih II ^{ra} <i>Tafseer-e-Kabeer</i> and <i>Tafseer-e-Sagheer</i> , Holy Qu'ran's Urdu translation by Khalifatul Masih IV ^{rh} , and English commentaries of the Holy Qur'an in short form and 5-volume detailed commentary.		
2.b	Translations	Our USA team is working under <i>Markaz</i> guidance and supervision. USA <i>Lajna</i> has completed the English translation of all		

		speeches of <i>Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV delivered to Lajna at Jalsa Salanas</i> . This is being reviewed under <i>Markaz</i> instructions.		
2.c	Special Issue of Jama'at Magazine on Khilafat	Name = A special monthly magazine on <i>Khilafat</i> for 1 year Languages (s) = English Date of Publication = every month starting May 2007 Number of copies published = 4000 of each issue Number of copies sold/gifted = Almost all mailed to Ahmadi homes. Number of copies in stock = a few	Completed	
2.d	National Postage Stamps	100,000 commemorative stamps (in 20 stamp sheet format) have been published and are currently on sale/distribution. USA <i>Jama'at</i> has also prepared the following souvenirs which were sold or distributed free to USA <i>Jama'at</i> members and sent to 44 countries to Ahmadiyya Headquarters: 1. Time piece watches 2 styles 2. Desk Pen holder 3. China Cup 4. Bag 5. Luggage Tag 6. Pens distributed free Sent a 20 stamps sheet also to 44 countries to Ahmadiyya Headquarters. A sheet of stamps was also given to <i>Ameers</i> of countries present at the KCC meeting in UK on July 28, 2008.	Completed	
2.e	Advertisements in National Dailies/Weeklies, etc.	English: L.A. Times, Daily Breeze, Daily Bulletin, Chino Champion (CA), Chino Hill Champion, Fitchburgh (MA), Voice of Asia (TX), Patriot News, Paxton Herald, The News Journal, Philadelphia Inquirer. Lebanon Daily News, Intelligencer Journal, Chicago Tribune, Sun Herald, York Daily Record, Maryland Gazette, San Francisco Chronicle, Finger Lake Times (NY), Baltimore Sun, India post, Daily Bulletin, Sun, India West, Weekly News, Daily Press, News Asia, Pakistan Chronicle, Independent Monitor Urdu: Pakistan Times (TX), Pakistan Post, Pakistan Express, Asia Tribune, New York Awam, BBC Urdu Dot Com, Pakistan Journal, Nidai Waqt, Niway Pakistan, Arabic: Alakhbar and also Bengali News paper	Completed	
2.f	Master Library	at Baitur Rahman (NHQ) 1000 + books: NewYork; Chicago East; Miami & Willingboro 300 books + at each.	Completed	
2.g	CDs of Old Photographs	One CD of Historical Photographs was prepared & sent to <i>Markaz</i>	Completed	
2.h	Establishment of Radio Station	NA (African Countries only)		
3	Books Published by Markaz			
3.i	Number of Titles	Procured = all prepared by <i>Markaz</i>		
3.ii	Number of Copies	Procured = 3,000		

3.iii	Number of Copies Sold	About 2,000		On going
3.iv	In Stock	About 1,000		
3.v	%age of Ahmadi Houses who have these books	A CD was prepared for all the prescribed books on <i>Khilafat</i> and it was sent to all Ahmadi homes free of charge. Thus, 100 % Ahmadi homes have a copy of these books in electronic form.	Completed	
4	Souvenir	5,000 copies of a National Souvenir have been published and distributed to other countries and our members for each Ahmadi home. 10,000 copies of an International Souvenir (Mosques) have been published and distributed/sold to <i>Tabshir</i> and members.	Complete	
5	Programs for MTA	Number prepared = About 37 Number sent to MTA = 25 Number played by MTA = About 15	In process	
6	Competitions			
6.a	Essay	Total Participants = 38 No. of Prizes given = 18	Complete	
6.b	Speech	Poster competition is planned by <i>Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya</i>	2008Q4	To be held at National <i>Ijtema</i>
6.c	Quiz		2008Q4	To be held at National <i>Ijtemas</i>
6.d	<i>Mushaira</i>	Date held = In April and May at BRM (NHQ) & June 21, 2008 at Harrisburg, PA at <i>Jalsa Salana</i> (This was also reported by BBC) No. of Poets = 10-20 No. of Attendees = 50- 400	On going	
7	Waqar-e-Amal and Khidmat-e-Khalq Programs	51 Highways adopted by <i>Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya (MKA)</i> . 570 Blood Drives were arranged by MKA 21,825 hours of <i>Waqare Amal</i> were spent saving \$392,850 by MKA		
8	National Jalsas			
8.a	<i>Jalsa Salana</i>	Held on June 20-22 at Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, Harrisburg, PA with an attendance of over 9,500. No. of Speeches = 3 by Hazoor ^{aba} , 10 by men and 4 by women.	Complete	
8.b	Masih-e-Maoo'ud Day	Held at local and/or regional level on March 23, 2008.	Complete	
8.c	<i>Khilafat</i> Day	Held at local &/or regional level on May 27, 2008 most places. Congregational <i>Tahajjud</i> Prayers were followed by <i>Fajr</i> Prayers and <i>Dars</i> . <i>Jalsa</i> programs were held in the afternoon with joy.	Complete	
8.d	Musleh Maoo'ud Day	Held at local and/or regional level with great enthusiasm.	Complete	
8.e	Religious Founders' Day		2008Q4	
8.f	Cultivation of Relations with non-Ahmadis for <i>Jalsa Salana</i>	More than 350 non-Ahmadi guests attended the Saturday afternoon session followed by a dinner reception.	Complete	

9	Constructions			
9.i	Mosques	Baitur Rahman Mosque extension for \$3.5 M. (under construction) Qadian <i>Langar Khana</i> renovation \$0.2 M (already submitted)	Complete 2009Q2	
9.ii	Mission Houses	None		
9.iii	Schools	None		
9.iv	Hospitals	None		
9.v	<i>Maqbara Moosian</i>	None		
9.vi	Any other Memorial	None		
10	Exam of Prescribed Books		2008Q4	
10.a	<i>Al-Wasiyyat</i>	Participants: <i>Lajna</i> = About 2000	March 2008	Trophies will be awarded at <i>Ijtima</i> in October 2008
10.b	Truth about the Split (Ch. 2)		2008Q3	
10.c	<i>Nubuwwat</i> and <i>Khilafat</i>	Participants: <i>Lajna</i> = about 2000	June, 2008	
11	Banquet/Reception With Hazoor^{aba}	June 23, 2008, Hilton Hotel Banquet Hall, McLean, VA. # of Attendees = 372 # of Guests = 302	Complete	
12	May 27 Program	Congregational <i>Tahajjud</i> Prayers were followed by <i>Fajr</i> Prayers and <i>Dars</i> at all mosques & mission houses in USA. In major centers attendance reached close to 300 at <i>Tahajjud</i> Prayers. Sweets were distributed among members. Lighting was arranged at many mosques and mission houses. This was then followed by listening attentively the historic address delivered Hazoor ^{aba} . This inspired each and every Ahmadi in USA. Many <i>Jama'ats</i> and <i>Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya</i> arranged different sports & recreational activities for the members, <i>Khuddam</i> and children. Many members at some <i>Jama'ats</i> performed a <i>Nafl</i> fast a day before or after May 27. Regular <i>Khilafat Jalsa</i> program was conducted in the afternoon. In addition to speeches on <i>Khilafat</i> , life histories of all <i>Khulafa</i> and interesting events from their life history were narrated, Children had an excellent day in addition to sports, they enjoyed "moon Bouncing" which were arranged at the mission houses and mosques. In some <i>Jama'ats</i> non-Ahmadi neighbors were presented with gifts and/or sweets. People took leaves from work and schools and whole day was spent in a prayerful and joyous mood.	Complete	
13	Sports and Games	International <i>Khilafat</i> Basketball Tournament in NY in Feb. 5 Countries participated (UK, Germany, Belgium, Canada, and USA). Sports competitions were organized at regional and national <i>Ijtemas</i> .	2008Q4	In progress
14	Exhibition	One National Exhibition at <i>Jalsa Salana</i> . 25 mini-exhibitions in several <i>Jama'ats</i> at their KCC functions.	2008Q4	In progress
15	Souvenir published by Tehrik-e-Jadid	No. of Copies received = 800 No. of Copies sold = 600 No. of copies in stock = 200		

Jama'at Ahmadiyya USA

Beginning of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya Centenary Celebrations Activity Report December 31 2007 - January 1, 2008

1	Austin	Y	Y	40	Y		Y	Y		
2	Baypoint (Pittsburgh)	Y	Y	75	Y		Y			
3	Bronx	Y	Y	30	Y		Y			
4	Brooklyn	Y	Y	60	Y		Y	Y		
5	Central Jersey	Y		75	Y		Y			
6	Chicago East		Y	35	Y	Y	Y			
7	Chicago West		Y	50	Y	Y	Y			
8	Cleveland	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y		
9	Columbus	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y		
10	Dallas	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y		
11	Dayton		Y		Y		Y	Y		
12	Detroit		Y		Y		Y	Y		
13	Houston North/South/Cypress	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y		
14	Indiana		Y		Y		Y			
15	Las Vegas		Y	7						
16	Long Island		Y	70	Y		Y			
17	Los Angeles East		Y	111	Y		Y	Y		
18	Los Angeles Inland		Y	53	Y		Y			
19	Los Angeles West		Y	30	Y		Y			
20	Miami		Y	30	Y					
21	Milwaukee	Y	Y	64	Y		Y			
22	New Orleans	Y	Y	30			Y	Y		
23	North Jersey	Y	Y	200	Y		Y		Y	
24	Northern VA		Y	120	Y		Y	Y		
25	Oakland		Y	22	Y		Y			
26	Orlando		Y							

Jama'at Ahmadiyya USA

**Beginning of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya Centenary Celebrations Activity Report
December 31 2007 - January 1, 2008**

27	Oshkosh	Y	Y			Y				
28	Philadelphia	Y	Y	63	Y		Y	Y		
29	Phoenix		Y	4			Y			
30	Pittsburgh		Y		Y		Y	Y		
31	New York	Y	Y	275	Y		Y	Y		
32	RTP		Y				Y			
33	Sacramento		Y		Y					
34	San Diego									People celebrated at their homes
35	Seattle		Y	20						
36	Silicon Valley		Y	75	Y		Y	Y		
37	Silver Spring/Laurel	Y	Y	35	Y		Y	Y		Visited 104 Neighbors
38	Toledo	Y	Y		Y		Y			
39	Tucson		Y	63	Y		Y			
40	Washington, DC		Y	30	Y		Y			
41	Willingboro		Y	75	Y		Y	Y		
42	York	Y	Y	72	Y		Y			
43	Zion		Y	20						

104	18	11	189	34	3	35	17	1
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Photos by TYSON TRISH/Special to the Herald News

Imam Inam Kauder speaks at a gathering of Ahmadiyya Muslims in Pompton Plains on Tuesday. The event marked the 100th anniversary of the faith's succession system, which was put into place after its founder's death.

'They celebrate peace'

In Clifton, Pompton Plains, Muslim sect marks 100th year



In Pompton Plains on Tuesday, Munassar Alam, 5, plays with the hat of his father, Naseer, at an anniversary celebration for Ahmadiyya Islam. The Alams live in Elmwood Park.

By **HEATHER HADDON**
Herald News

Chanting and praying in 21 different languages, followers of a marginalized sect of Islam gathered in North Jersey Tuesday to celebrate a century of electing prophets to their faith.

The system is a core practice of Ahmadiyya Islam — and one of its most controversial.

Ahmadiyya Muslims believe that God's spirit passes through living prophets elected by members of the congregation. This puts the sect at odds with the majority of Muslims worldwide, who believe that Muhammad was Islam's last prophet. In at least four Muslim nations, Ahmadiyya have been persecuted and labeled outcasts.

On Tuesday, the roughly 600 Ahmadiyya who gathered in Pompton Plains were joyful. Members of nine chapters from the Northeast exchanged embraces in rhinestone-speckled saris and Indian tunics. Children raced around the lobby of the Regency House Hotel. Speakers commended the spread of the faith, which seeks to spread peace and tolerance throughout the world.

"It felt very unifying," said Areeb Ahmad, 23, a member of a Clifton mosque for seven years. "We got a direction for ourselves."

In the 19th century, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, an Indian religious scholar from the state of

Please see **MUSLIMS**, A7



Muslims: Sect celebrates 100 years

Continued from A1

Punjab, declared that he was the next prophet of Islam. Ahmad called his disciples to follow the Quran and spread peace. He also preached acceptance of other religions, while viewing his faith as the unification of the world's major prophets.

At Tuesday's gathering, the Rev. Joseph Doyle, pastor of St. Anne R.C. Church in Fair Lawn, commended the community for reaching out to other faiths.

"I applaud them for reaching out to other groups, because they really do celebrate peace," said Doyle, who compared the Ahmadiyya selection process to the system Roman Catholic cardinals use to select a pope.

On May 27, 1908, the day after Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's death, leaders of the sect voted to begin the Khilafat system, a method of selecting prophets to serve as spiritual leaders of the religion.

The current and fifth Khilafat, who lives in the United Kingdom, was elected through a delegate system of individuals representing the 190 nations where Ahmadiyya live.

Ahmadiyya Muslims are concentrated in Pakistan, Indonesia and India. Estimates of their community's population vary widely, but are in the millions. In the United States, tens of thousands of believers are members of 67 Ahmadiyya chapters. The religion's North Jersey chapter, the Masjid Bait-ul Wahid mosque on Crooks Avenue in Clifton, counts 300 members.

At 3 a.m. Tuesday, believers gathered at the Clifton mosque to commemorate the centennial of the succession process with prayer and breakfast. People took off from work and school for the occasion.

"It is a day of joy," said Ammar



TYSON TRISH/Special to the Herald News

Asadulla Chaudhary reads a poem Tuesday night during a gathering of Ahmadiyya Muslims celebrating the 100th anniversary of their Khilafat system.

Khokhar, a mosque member from Totowa.

At 8 a.m., worshippers listened to an address by Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the fifth Khilafat, broadcast in five languages. In his two-hour sermon, Ahmad called for Ahmadiyya Muslims to "experience the fulfillment" of the religion "with a renewed glory."

In Pompton Plains, Fazal Ahmad said he was awestruck at the idea of simultaneously watching the address with millions of others.

"I felt spiritually charged," said Ahmad, the general secretary of his mosque in Philadelphia. "In my 50 years, I have not had that kind of mind-boggling experience."

But much of the prophet's talk

focused on the decades of persecution the sect has faced, and continues to experience today. Last month, Indonesian officials stated Ahmadiyya deviated from Islam and should be outlawed. At least four mosques were destroyed after the announcement.

In Bangladesh, an Ahmadiyya priest was killed in 2003 and mobs have attacked mosques, according to reports by Amnesty International. In 1974, Pakistani authorities amended the constitution to exclude Ahmadiyya as Muslims. Afterward, believers were jailed and persecuted.

Some Ahmadiyya settled in North Jersey to practice their religion freely. Areeb Ahmad, from the Clifton mosque, said other

Muslims in North Jersey generally tolerate his beliefs. But other followers said they still experience prejudice in the United States.

"The feeling can be really hostile," said Heba Naseem, 21, who just moved to Union Township from Arkansas. "(Other mosques) are not always welcoming."

Still, those gathered Tuesday rejoiced to have lived to see the 100th anniversary of one of their religion's central beliefs.

"It was awesome," Fazal Ahmad said of the prophet's speech. "He conveyed the message of peace for humanity."

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S. Meriden mosque welcomes public at opening

By Dan Champagne
Record-Journal staff

MERIDEN — Mahmood Qureshi stood behind a podium at the Baitul Aman Mosque Saturday afternoon and explained how the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community came into existence.

He told the story of how a prophet predicted the revival of Islam when it had reached its lowest point.

"If you look at the newspapers and watch the news, we can certainly think that Islam is at its lowest with how it has been connected with terrorism," said Qureshi, president of the community's state chapter.

The community took another step in the revival process Satur-

day afternoon.

Nearly 100 members joined city councilors and members of the public for a symposium titled, "Islam: The Religion of Peace," the inaugural event at the mosque at 410 Main St. in South Meriden. The Muslim community purchased the building, which formerly housed a Jehovah's Witness center, from the city in February to serve as a central location for its members from around the state.

"It is our ardent hope and prayer that this mosque becomes a symbol of peace, not only for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, but for the community at large," said member Sohail Hu-

Please see S. Meriden / A7



Sohail Husain gives a lecture titled, "Islam, The Religion of Peace," during a symposium Saturday at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's new Baitul Aman Mosque in South Meriden. The text in the foreground reads: "There is none worthy of worship except Allah (God), and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah (God)."

Rob Beecher / Record-Journal

□ S. Meriden mosque

sain, who added that the facility is open for worship for members of all faiths. The mosque's name, "Baitul Aman," translates to "House of Peace."

Husain spoke to the group of men and boys as the women and girls listened from another area of the building separated by a sheet, as is the tradition in Islam.

"It is a very sad fact that there are many who would consider the title of my speech a paradox," Husain said. "With car bombings and suicide missions in the name of Islam, too many believe Islam is the antithesis of peace."

But Husain tried to dispel those stereotypes by discussing all of the ways the religion promotes peace.

He greeted the group with a traditional peaceful prayer and told of how the Quran actually accepts all religions rather than condemns them.

"The extremist Muslims say nonbelievers are hell-bound and should be destroyed," he said. "Islam neither relegates nonbelievers to hell nor disrespects the idols."

He also said the religion promotes peace between neighbors and among families.

"I like to think of Islam as the religion of peace," he said. "It provides the individual with inner peace through prayer, meditation and reflection. Mosques are meant to be foundations for peace."

With the community's official slogan, "Love for all, hatred for none," hanging from a banner behind the podium Qureshi went on to explain how the Muslim religion holds many of the same beliefs as religions practiced all over the world. Muslims believe in only one God as well as angels, prophets and books of God, including the Bible and the Torah.

The five pillars of Islam are the unity of God, the five daily prayers, paying alms to the poor, fasting during Ramadan and making a pilgrimage to Mecca.

Said Qureshi, "We believe Islam's message is universal."

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The Buffalo News : City & Region

Sunday, May 25, 2008

Home > City & Region > Eastern Suburbs

Ahmadiyya Muslims set interfaith seminar

By Jay Tokasz NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Updated: 05/24/08 6:47 AM

Like most Muslims, they pray regularly, practice the five pillars of Islam and believe the Quran is the word of Allah revealed through a prophet named Muhammad.

But Ahmadiyya Muslims also believe in a person they call the Mahdi, or “guided one,” the promised messiah who lived in the Punjab region of India from 1835 to 1908. And they elect a khalifa, or leader, as a successor to the founder.

Those differences have caused Ahmadis to be persecuted in some predominantly Muslim countries.

Locally, they maintain a profile larger than their numbers would suggest — mostly through an interfaith seminar series that regularly draws a diverse mix of religious thinkers to discuss topics such as life after death and how science and religion can co-exist.

About 80 Ahmadiyya Muslims reside in Western New York, according to Dr. Nasir Khan, a leader in the local Ahmadiyya community.

They will host another seminar Sunday, only this one will be a celebration of their faith — a spiritual marking of the 100th anniversary of the death of founder Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and of the “continuous leadership” by a succession of khalifas since then.

The local interfaith symposiums have attracted 50 to 125 people per session, inside rented space at the Millenium Hotel in Cheektowaga.

For Ahmadis, the sessions are a low-key method of introducing themselves to the larger community. Ahmadis aren't aggressive proselytizers; they prefer a more academic style of sharing their beliefs — some of which are radically different from mainstream Islam and Christianity.

“One would want people to accept the faith, but the basic goal would be for people to know,” said Khan, a Pakistan native who lives in Getzville and is a physician.

“What sets us apart is a belief in a person who claimed to be the messiah of the times,” said Khan. While other Muslims are still waiting, he added, “We say he has already come.”

Ahmadis also have a much different take on Jesus, believing that he survived being nailed to a cross and eventually traveled to Afghanistan and Kashmir in search of lost tribes of Israel.

They believe he married and fathered children, died a natural death and was buried in a tomb in Kashmir.

Local Ahmadis say they are part of a worldwide Ahmadiyya membership of 200 million people in 178 countries.

Here, they are a small group of mostly professionals who have yet to establish a mosque. Instead, they gather for Friday prayer at a member's home.

The interfaith conferences — a model used in other communities in North America — began about two years ago.

“They've been good sessions,” said the Rev. G. Stanford Bratton, executive director of the Network of Religious Communities, the area's largest interfaith organization, of which Ahmadis are active participants. “All is handled quite fairly and openly. There's no hidden agenda.”

Sunday's seminar, which begins at 3:30 p. m. with a dinner at 6:30, will focus on “divine guidance for establishing peace in the latter days.”

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Dennis C. Eason/Buffalo News
Pervait Minhas, left, calls Ahmadiyya Muslims to prayer as Dr. Nasir Khan prepares to lead Friday's service.



Congressman Brian Higgins speaks to moderate Muslims

by Ken Hamilton

As Americans across the nation celebrated Memorial Day, Congressman Brian Higgins, on the invitation of Dr. Nasir Khan, took an hour out last Sunday to visit with members of the Buffalo Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga for a seminar on tolerance and understanding.

Khan, who is the president of the group, says that the Ahmadiyya community is a Muslim group that is neither Shiite or Suni, but a group that believes that its messiah has come in the person of the founder of their community, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908), who established it in 1889 in a small village in India. Today, there are tens of millions of Muslims in the community representing nearly 190 countries. The Buffalo Chapter holds seminars, where they invite the public and have speakers of both Muslim and non-Muslim beliefs explaining various beliefs.

Khan believes the community is the embodiment of Islam's message of peace, brotherhood, and submission to the will of God.

When Higgins arrived at the conference, Imman Inamul Haq Kauser had begun his speech on that very peace, starting off by condemning those who participated in the attacks on America on September 11, 2001. Kauser, stressing the importance for true believers of Islam to have allegiance first to God, then to the prophets, and then to the country that he inhabits, said that when he entered the US in 1986, a naturalization officer told him that he had a series of questions to ask him with the first one being, "If America is attacked, what will you do," to which Kauser replied, "I'll be the first in line; you may be in the last."

Confused by Kauser's answer, the naturalization officer then asked for clarity. "I'll be in the front lines fighting for the country, but you may be all the way in the back."

Kauser then reported that the officer laughed and said, "No more questions."

Higgins opened his speech by talking about his south-Buffalo, Irish-Catholic roots, and how he was taught that Catholicism was about love, tolerance, understanding and charity; and that his teaching was in the Judeo-Christian tradition. "But, upon further examination," Higgins said, "it is not only Judeo-Christian tradition; it is Judeo-Christian-Islamic tradition."

Higgins praised Khan, and others, by saying that the seminars are being done with great leadership, sensitivity and courage to help the United States better understand a part of the world with which most Americans were unfamiliar, and that, as a representative of some of the people in the room, and that after traveling to many Muslim nations, that there is a great challenge for everyone to have a better understanding of the sensitivities of each other, "...because, in the end, we are all a part of a human community. We have different faiths, but in our nation we cherish the freedom of others to practice their faith in a peaceful, progressive way."

When later asked what he thought about the event, Higgins cited that after 9/11, the Islamic community was unfairly painted with a broad brush as the enemy. He said that he was there to learn, and then cited a New Yorker magazine piece to be written by Lawrence Wright, author of the "The Looming Tower", about turmoil within Al Qaeda, whereas the leaders are having a big debate about repudiating the use of violence.

Higgins said that as he examines the Islamic faith he is finding more similarities with his own Christian faith. Again, praising the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community leaders, for stepping up as moderate voices within the Muslim community and telling the truth about the real aims of the Islamic community.

Muslim sect meeting to focus on peace

BY MARY WARNER
Of The Patriot-News

When thousands of Ahmadiyya Muslims hold a three-day convention in Harrisburg next month, the public is invited to join them for an Indian and Italian meal and discussions of peace.

"This is a message of peace. We can agree on peace," said Zaki Kauser, an imam from Silver Spring, Md., and spokesman for the Ahmadiyya community in the U.S.

Ahmadiyya Muslims — a sect that believes a Messiah promised by the Prophet Muhammad came to India in the late 19th century — have held annual conventions for U.S. members for more than 60 years.

Conventions held near Washington, D.C., have at-

tracted as many as 7,000. But this year, the new worldwide leader of Ahmadiyya Islam, Mirza Masroor Ahmad, will travel from London to the convention for his first U.S. appearance, and organizers are expecting 10,000 to attend.

That's why the "humongous and centrally located" Farm Show Complex became the site, Kauser said. The weekend convention is set for June 20-22, with a June 21 event for the public.

Local Ahmadiyya Muslims have gone door-to-door with fliers in city and suburban neighborhoods. And invitations have been issued by phone or in person to churches near the Farm Show Complex and to churches the Muslims know through neighbors.

At Harrisburg First Assem-

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Ahmadiyya Muslim Community symposium on peace.

WHEN: June 21, 3:30-6 p.m.

WHERE: State Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.

RSVP/INFO: 202-380-2083.

bly of God, the Rev. Terry Lamer said the Muslims "seem to be really nice gentlemen," but "when it comes to our doctrines, we're probably miles apart." He won't attend the convention because he has a wedding that day, he said.

The Rev. Lilly McMullen said she has the event on her calendar.

"I'm a peacemaker myself," said McMullen, co-owner of a store and coffee shop called ChurchWorld Plus in

Harrisburg and pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Marietta.

"As I said to the gentlemen, we have to get past this thing about color, even about denomination," she said.

At last year's convention, about 100 guests joined the Ahmadiyya Muslims for a public event on the theme "Love for All, Hatred for None," Kauser said.

He's hoping for more guests this year and said initial response has been positive. "We've been blown away," he said.

Ahmadiyya Islam was founded as a reform movement, but Sunni Muslims — the most numerous group worldwide and founders of most of the midstate's mosques — reject the messianic claims.

In 1984, the Pakistani government decreed that the Ahmadiyya movement was not Muslim and members could not use Muslim forms of worship.

In the U.S., the relationship between Ahmadiyya and Sunni Muslims is cordial, Kauser said.

Still, Ahmadiyya literature says the movement spreads moderation and restraint "in the face of bitter opposition from the Muslim world."

About 1,000 Ahmadiyya Muslims live in Pennsylvania — mostly near Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and York, Kauser said. The closest Ahmadiyya mosque is in York, but plans are under way to build one in Silver Spring Twp.

MARY WARNER: 255-8267
or mwarner@patriot-news.com

The True Meaning and Purpose of Khilafat

By Imam Shamshad A. Nasir

CHINO, Calif. — In the West there is often a very negative association with the idea of Khilafat or Caliphate. This comes from two sources: Fear and ignorance on the part of those who turn on their TVs or read their newspapers and are fed only a terrorist's vision of the word Khilafat, and by a small but often vocal minority in the Muslim world who subscribe to the terrorist's vision of the word Khilafat. But is this definition of Khilafat accurate? And what exactly is Khilafat supposed to be?



Khilafat that removes fear and hate and disorder and rebellion and replaces it with peace, understanding, submission, obedience, order and security. This 100-year history of Khilafat in Ahmadiyya Islam bears ample testimony to these hallmarks.

Generations of members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community have been working for the last 120 years to establish peace and to further the cause of peace. Nowhere has it happened that any Ahmadi has ever participated in any act of violence and disorder

or rebellion.

Is this not an ample demonstration of the peaceful nature of Khilafat as understood and manifested by the Ahmadiyya Muslim community? We invite everyone to investigate the Khilafat of Ahmadiyya Islam by calling 1800-WHY-ISLAM or visiting our Web site at: www.alislam.org and compare it to any modern or historical contenders for this mantle of Khilafat in Islam. You will find many violent, politically-motivated examples of attempts to establish a worldly Khilafat – all of which have failed spectacularly at the hands of the western powers and even at the jealous hands of Muslim rivals.

The Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian (peace be on him), laid the foundation of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in 1889 and said that the sole purpose of establishing it was to bring into being a group of truly righteous people infused with true love of God and sympathy for humanity. Having fulfilled his mission, the holy founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community passed away on May 26, 1908. The very next day, on May 27, 1908, the institution of Khilafat commenced in the community exactly as the Holy Quran promised and exactly as had been foretold by the holy founder in his book "The Will," written in 1905.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim community believes that God has established Khilafat among the Muslims through the successorship of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. The blessings and protection which this Khilafat offers to the Muslim world are there for the taking — it is only their refusal to acknowledge this Khilafat that leaves them in their present debilitated spiritual, moral and worldly condition.

2008 marks the 100-year anniversary of the existence of this

To celebrate the Khilafat Centenary properly it is essential that we Ahmadi Muslims make strong our connection with God and discharge the duty of worshipping Him, and that we devote ourselves to the service of humanity even more so than before. This in fact is the sum and essence of Islam and its true spirit and we achieve all these things through the blessed institution of Khilafat: Unity, oneness of purpose, peace, and security being just some of these blessings.

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INDIA-WEST

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A12 Lawyer Elected Delegate at Demo Meet

A16 Chandra May Become Interim Att'y Gen.

Ahmadi Muslims Celebrate First Centenary of Khilafat

Some 550 members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and their guests gathered at the Goldy Lewis Community Center, 11200 Baseline Rd., Rancho Cucamonga, California to celebrate the Khilafat (spiritual leadership) Centenary. The members of the Community began their celebrations with pre-dawn prayers at five different centers located throughout the area.

The proceedings at the Community center in Rancho Cucamonga began at 10am, as is customary, with a recitation from the Holy Quran. Dr. Hamid-ur-Rahman, President of the local community welcomed everyone and explained that the purpose of the gathering was to thank God for bestowing upon us the blessing of Khilafat and to introduce the essence of what Khilafat is to everyone. Four young members of the Community, Saif-ur-Rahman, Faisal Rajpoot, Rizwanul Haq Jattala and Ataul Malik Khan then made presentations on each successive 25 years of history of Khilafat, the spiritual leadership that has existed in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community since 1908.



Chair



Some of the Audience

The celebrations continued with a second session with local officials and neighbors present. After the customary recitation and welcome of the guests, all present stood to observe a moment of silence in memory of those who serve to protect our nation. A short presentation was then made to explain Khilafat as understood and as it exists within the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Mr. Abdur Rahim, himself a convert to Islam-Ahmadiyyat explained, "Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya promotes peace, obedience and submission to the will of God and rejects violence in any form."

The Chief of Police Mr. Stewart then addressed the audience and emphasized the need for community involvement. Imam Shamshad then thanked all the guests, especially the interfaith friends and the police officials who had honored the gathering with their presence. These proceedings ended with lunch and afternoon prayers.

The celebrations continued on till the next day when again the members gathered at the various centers in the area to listen to the address of Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the current international head of the Community from London, England.

In his address he reminded the members of their duty to God and to humanity and urged them to adopt righteous ways because the blessing of Khilafat had been promised only to those who have firm faith and who do good deeds.



Mr. Ronald Rahim Stubbs addressing



Chino Chief of Police Stan Stewart

Imam Shamshad then explained the underlying theme and message, "Khilafat is a divinely established institution that promotes peace through love for God and service to humanity and that unites the members of this worldwide community in bonds of brotherhood and singleness of purpose."

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AL AKHBAR

المهجرية



Muslim group marks 100 years

By Imam Shamshad Nasir

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is now, by God's Grace, established in 190 countries of the world. This year, all over the world, members are celebrating 100 years of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya, the divinely established spiritual leadership that began in the community in 1908 at the demise of the community's Holy Founder, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India, may peace be on him. May Allah bless all these celebrations. Amen!

What is Khilafat? The Ahmadiyya Muslim community believes that the Divine Reformer that was to appear in the world in the latter days has already come in the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, peace be on him. He was the one who, on March 23, 1889, laid the foundation of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community and said that the sole purpose of establishing this community was to bring into being a group of truly righteous people infused with the true love of God and sympathy for humanity. Having fulfilled his mission, the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community passed away on May 26, 1908.

The very next day, on May 27, 1908, the institution of Khilafat commenced in the community exactly as the Holy Quran promises and as mentioned by the Holy Founder of the community himself in his book: "The Will," written in 1905.

The members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community are celebrating the completion of 100 years of the existence of this spiritual leadership among them with great joy and thankfulness to God.

The purpose of these celebrations was mentioned beautifully and very succinctly recently by the current head of the community, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khali-

fatul Masih V, the Fifth Successor to the Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi. He was attending the annual convention of the Ghana Ahmadiyya Muslim community in West Africa and because of his presence at the occasion more than 100,000 members had gathered including many from neighboring countries. More than 300 young men traveled by bicycle from the neighboring country of Burkina Faso to see their beloved imam.

In one of his addresses he advised the members as to how they should celebrate the Khilafat centenary. He said: "We will achieve the purpose of these Khilafat centenary celebrations when we take an oath that by way of gratitude to God for this immense blessing of Khilafat that He has bestowed upon us, we shall endeavor to establish an even closer relationship with God. That we shall take even greater care and pay even more attention to all our acts of worship and in particular to the offering of our five daily prayers. This manner of rendering thanks will draw even greater blessings of God upon us. The verse of the Holy Quran that follows the one in which God promises to establish Khilafat among the people who believe and do good deeds, discusses this very subject – the establishment of worship of God and obedience to His Messenger. This establishes, therefore, that for us to benefit from the blessings of Khilafat it is essential that we establish ourselves in the careful offering of our five daily prayers."

It may here be helpful to correct a mis-impression that is prevalent in the world today. In the West there is a very negative connotation attached with the notion of Khilafat, but this connotation does not apply to what we understand and believe to be Khilafat. The Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya removes fear and hate and disorder and rebellion and replaces it with peace, understanding, submission, obedience, order and security.

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SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2008

OPINION

INLAND VALLEY Daily Bulletin

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100-year milestone

We offer our congratulations to the local Ahmadiyya Muslim community, this weekend celebrating the 100th anniversary of that denomination's Khilafat, a spiritual period which they believe to have begun the day after the death of the founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, established in 1921, was the first American-Muslim organization and is the only Islamic organization to endorse separation of mosque and state. This progressive branch of Islam, not recognized by mainstream Muslim sects, categorically rejects terrorism in any form.

Imam Shamshad A. Nasir of the Baitul Hameed Mosque in Chino is the local leader of the Ahmadiyya community, which will mark the centenary Monday in Rancho Cucamonga. He is a peace-loving, outgoing religious leader who reaches out to other religious organizations and secular institutions.

Ahmadis espouse a message of peace, love and tolerance. They reject armed jihad, following their religious leader's teaching that "if anyone attacks us we must not attack him and should love him."

CONTACT US

The Daily Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor. Your letters must include your name, address and a daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. Letters of more than 200 words will not be considered. Please limit submissions to one a month.

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The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Celebrates 100 years of Khilafat (Divine Leadership 1908-2008)



*“World Peace through
Divine Guidance”*

HOUSTON- Centenary Celebrations of Khilafat of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community will take place on Saturday, May 31, 2008 at the Baitus-Samee-Mosque located at 1333 Spears Road, Houston, TX 77067 from 5 pm onwards.

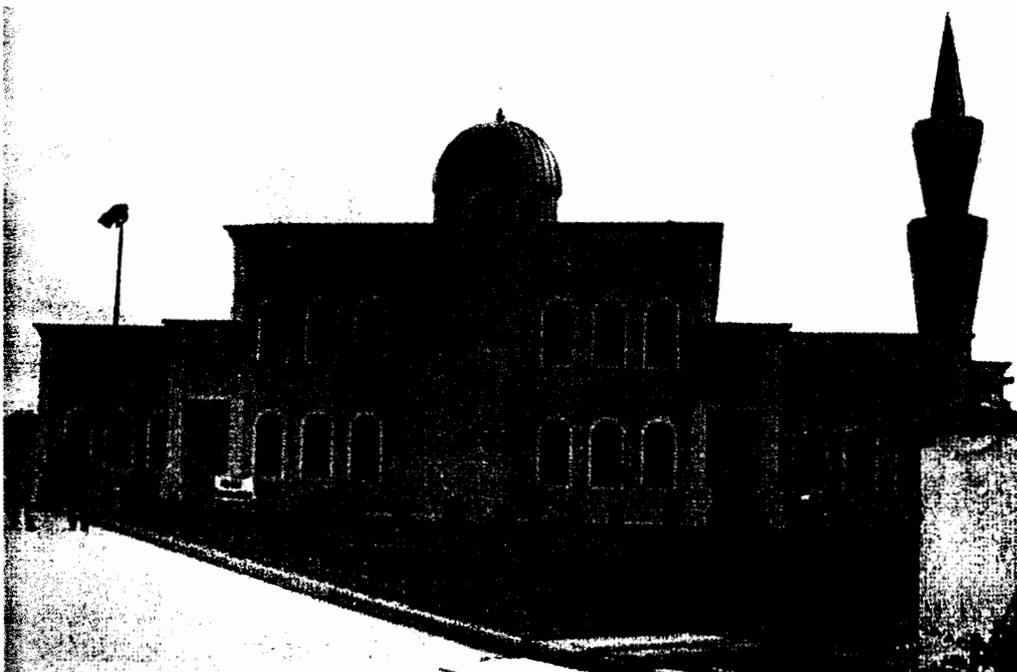
HH Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad , Khalifatul Masih V will address the gathering on the occasion.

For more available on Muslim Television Ahmadiyya International, the Community's 24 hour satellite television station (www.mta.tv); the Internet (www.alislam.org)

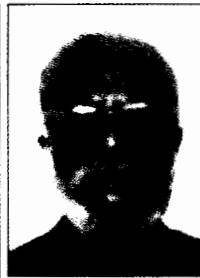
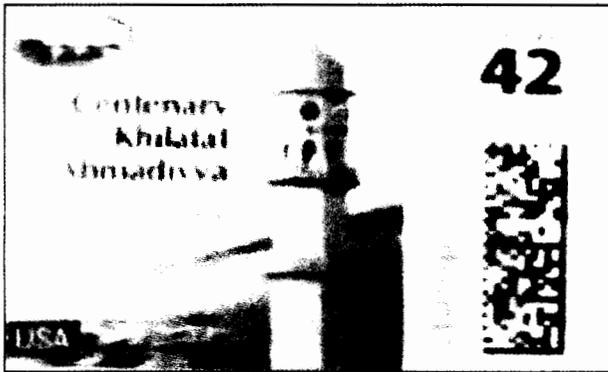
Complete history on Special Issue pages 8-9

KHILAFAT AHMADIYYA IN THE SERVICE OF ISLAM & HUMANITY

- Ahmadiyya Muslim Community started in Qadian, (India) in 1889 and today has been firmly established in 189 countries of the world and God's prophecy revealed to Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, The promised Messiah and Mehdi, "I shall spread thy message to all corners of the earth" has been fulfilled.
- Translations of the Holy Qur'an published in more than 60 Major languages of the world.
- Building of schools, hospitals, mosques and centers for spreading the message of Islam and service of the humanity at large.
- Broadcasting transmission on Ahmadiyya Muslim Television, MTA, 24 hours a day.
- Books of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Q/A sessions on website www.alislam.org
- Live Transmission of Friday sermons delivered by head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community every Friday.
- Broadcast of Ahmadiyya Muslim radio programs on 1320 AM in Houston, every Saturday and Sunday at 6 pm.



Baitus -Samee-Mosque of Houston



Abdul Karim
President Chicago
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Mubashir Ahmad
Missionary Incharge
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Dr. Masood Qazi
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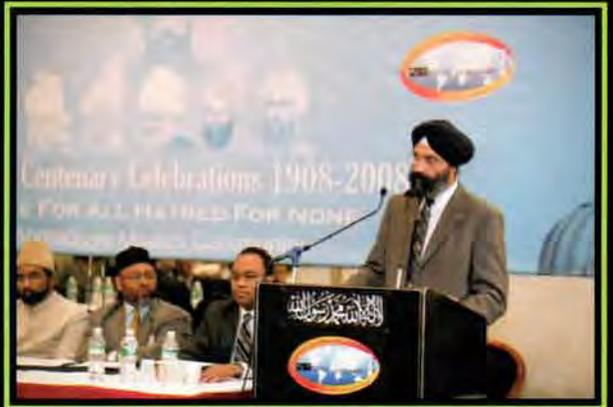
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Khilafat Centenary Celebration



Central East Region, USA

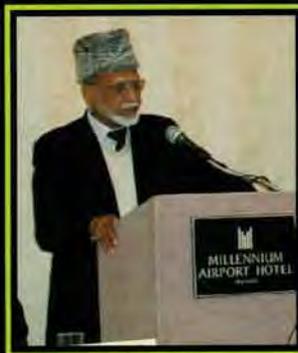
Khilafat Centenary Celebration



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Buffalo, New York



Khilafat Centenary Celebration



Long Island, New York

Khilafat Centenary Celebration



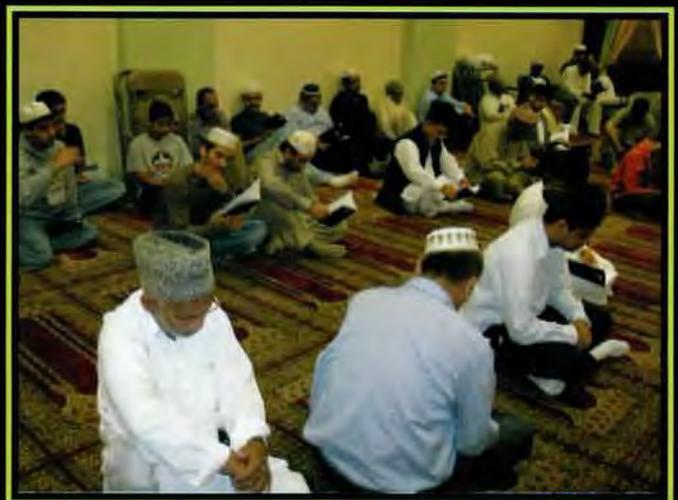
New York, New York

Khilafat Centenary Celebration



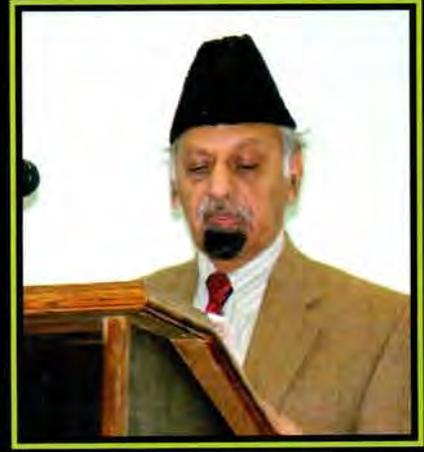
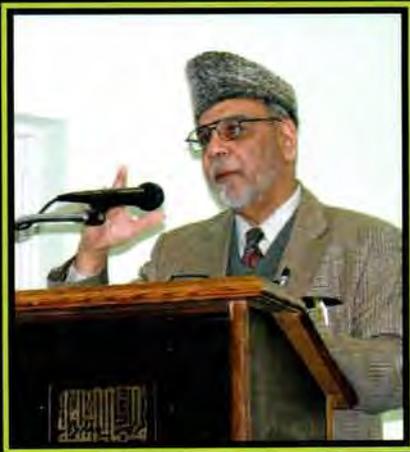
Brooklyn, New York

Khilafat Centenary Celebration



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Khilafat Centenary Celebration



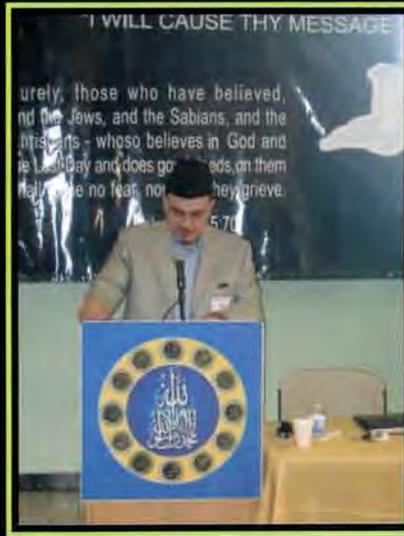
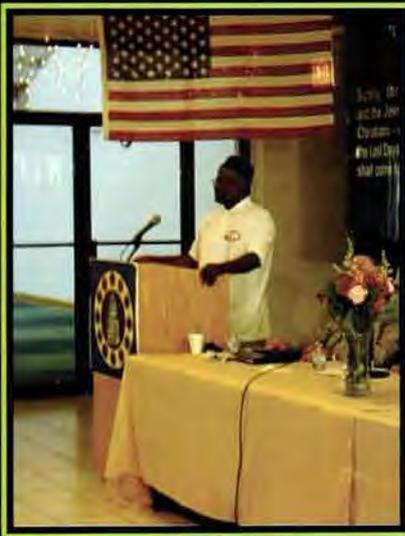
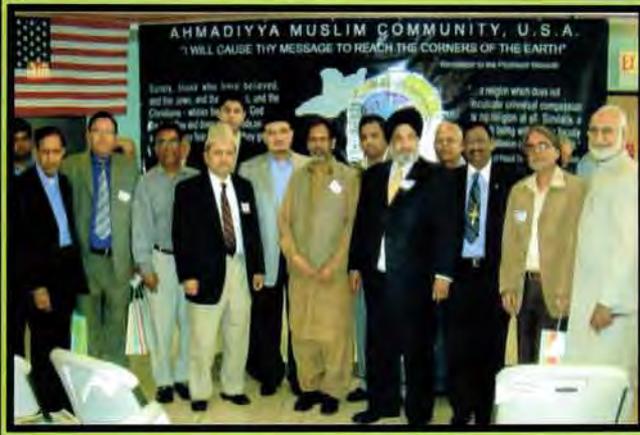
Central Jersey, New Jersey

Khilafat Centenary Celebration



Willingboro, New Jersey

Khilafat Centenary Celebration



*Chicago Delegate's Visit
with Mayor of Chicago*

Chicago West, Illinois

Khilafat Centenary Celebration



Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Chicago East, Illinois



Khilafat Centenary Celebration



Zion, Illinois

Khilafat Centenary Celebration



Silicon Valley, California

Khilafat Centenary Celebration



Bay Point, California



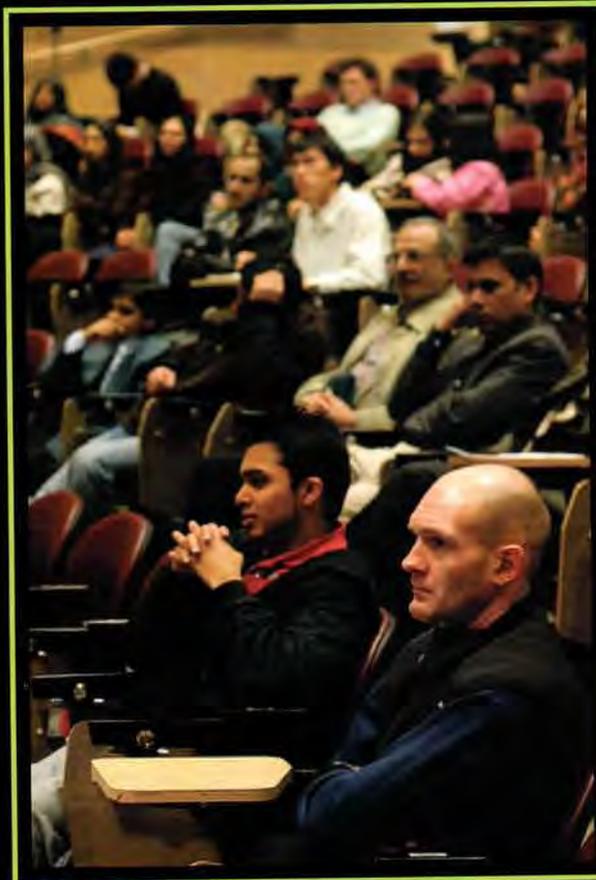
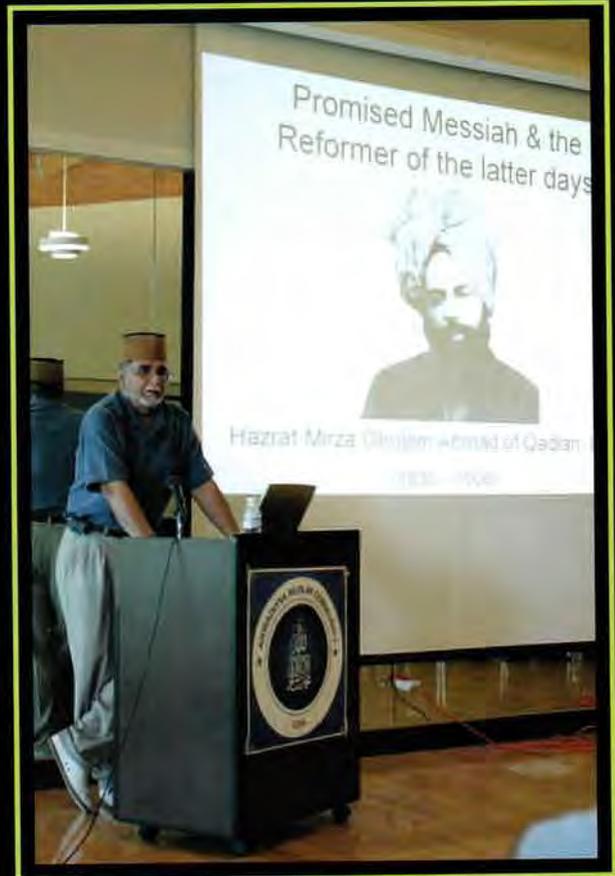
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California



Sacramento, California



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Seattle, Washington

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