

The Ahmadiyya GAZETTE USA

The believers are only those who truly believe in Allah and His Messenger, and then doubt not, but strive with their possessions and their persons in the cause of Allah. It is they who are truthful.

Holy Qur'an 49:16



"Mr. Tabligh." Late Brother Rashid Ahmad American

National Calendar of Activities

May 1 Fri	All Scholarship Applications Due	Jamā'at	National
May 1-3 Fri-Sun	Muslim Youth Day on Capitol Hill/MKA Shūrā	Khuddām	National
May 8-15 Fri-Fri	Aṭfāl Tarbiyat Week	Aṭfāl	National
May 21 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamā'at	National
May 22-24 Fri-Sun	Annual Retreat of AMMA	Jamā'at	National
May 24 Sun	Khilāfat Day	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
May 31 Sun	Service to Humanity Awareness Day	Jamā'at	National
June 5-7 Fri-Sun	Jalsa Sālāna Germany		
June 5-7 Fri-Sun	Regional Aṭfāl Rally (Various Jamā'ats)	Aṭfāl	National
June 12-14 Fri-Sun	MKA National Ijtimā	Khuddām	National
Jun 13 Sat	National Āmila Meeting	Jamā'at	National
June 13-14 Sat-Sun	Spiritual Fitness Camps	Jamā'at	National
June 18 Thu to July 17 Fri	Ramaḍān		
June 20-21 Sat-Sun	Education Day Programs	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
July 4 Sat	Muslims for Loyalty	Jamā'at	National
July 18 Sat	Īd-ul-Fiṭr		
August 1-13 Sat-Thu	Waqf-e-Nau Jāmi'a Orientation Course	Jamā'at	National
August 8-9 Sat-Sun	Education Day Programs	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
August 14-16 Fri –Sun	Jalsa Sālāna USA		
August 20 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamā'at	National
August 21-23 Fri- Sun	Jalsa Sālāna UK		
August 21-23 Fri-Sun	Spiritual Fitness Camps	Jamā'at	National
August 28-30 Fri-Sun	Jalsa Sālāna Canada		
September 5-6 Sat-Sun	For My Country & Nation	Aṭfāl	National
September 11-13 Fri-Sun	East Coast Lajna Ijtimā	Lajna	National
September 13 Sun	Regional Tarbiyat Workshops	Jamā'at	National
September 17 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamā'at	National
September 18-20 Fri-Sun	Anṣārullāh Ijtimā and Shūrā	Anṣār	National
September 19 Sat	National Āmila Meeting	Jamā'at	National
September 24 Thurs	Īd-ul-Aḍḥā		
October 3-4 Sat-Sun	T20 Cricket Tournament	Khuddām	National
October 15 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamā'at	National
October 18 Sun	Religious Founders Day	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
October 18 Sun	Peace through the Messiah (Two Months Campaign)		
October 23-25 Fri-Sun	National Lajna Shūrā	Lajna	National
October 30 to 1 Nov Fri- Sun	Fourth Annual Tabligh Conference	Jamā'at	National
November 19 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamā'at	National
November 22 Sun	Sīrat-un-Nabī Day	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
November 26 Thu	Humanity First Live Streaming Telethon	Jamā'at	National
December 4 Fri	National Āmila Meeting	Jamā'at	National
December 5-6 Sat-Sun	Presidents Refresher Course	Jamā'at	National
December 17 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamā'at	National
December 25-27 Fri-Sun	West Coast Jalsa Sālāna		
December 26-27 Sat-Sun	Midwest Tarbiyati Ijtimā	Jamā'at	Midwest
December 31 Thu	Aṭfāl Sleepover	Aṭfāl	Regional/Local

An educational and spiritual publication

The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA

Official Gazette of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, USA
March-April 2015

Patron: Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar
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Gazette Online: Hammad Malik

Visit us at AhmadiyyaGazette.us

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Acronyms for salutations used in this publication

sa:	Ṣallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)
as:	'Alaihis-Salām (may peace be upon him)
ra:	Raḍiyallahu 'Anhu/'Anha (may Allah be pleased with him/her)
rh:	Raḥimahullāhu Ta'ālā (may Allah shower His mercy on him)
aba:	Ayyadahullāhu Ta'ālā Bi-Naṣrihil-'Azīz (may Allah support him with His mighty help)

The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA is published by
The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Inc.,
at Fazl-i-Umer Press, P.O. Box 226, Chauncey, OH 45719

Periodical Postage Paid at Chauncey, Ohio

**Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Ahmadiyya Gazette
P.O. Box 226, Chauncey, OH 45719-0026**

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The Holy Qur'an on Consultation

ثُمَّ دَنَا فَتَدَلَّى ۖ فَكَانَ قَابَ قَوْسَيْنِ أَوْ أَدْنَىٰ ۗ

Then he drew nearer *to God*; then he came down *to mankind*,
So that he became, *as it were*, one chord to two bows or closer still. (53[Al-Najm]:9-10)

فِيمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ ۗ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ ۗ
فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ ۗ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ ۗ إِنَّ
اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ ۗ

And it is by the *great* mercy of Allah that thou art kind towards them, and if thou hadst been rough *and* hard-hearted, they would surely have dispersed from around thee. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them, and consult them in matters *of administration*; and when thou art determined, then put thy trust in Allah. Surely, Allah loves those who put their trust *in Him*. (3[Āl 'Imrān]:160)

فَمَا أَوْتَيْتُمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ فَمَتَّاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ۗ وَ مَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ لِلَّذِينَ
آمَنُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ ۗ وَالَّذِينَ يَجْتَنِبُونَ كَبِيرَ الْأَثَمِ وَالْفَوَاحِشَ وَإِذَا مَا
غَضِبُوا هُمْ يَغْفِرُونَ ۗ وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ ۗ وَأَمْرُهُمْ
شُورَىٰ بَيْنَهُمْ ۗ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ ۗ وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَهُمُ الْبَغْيُ هُمْ
يَنْتَصِرُونَ ۗ

And whatever you have been given is only a temporary provision of this life, but that which is with Allah is better and more lasting for those who believe and put their trust in their Lord,

And who eschew the more grievous sins and indecencies, and, when they are wroth, they forgive,

And those who hearken to their Lord, and observe Prayer, and whose affairs are *decided* by mutual consultation, and who spend out of what We have provided for them,

And those who, when a wrong is done to them, defend themselves. (42[al-Shūrā]:37-40)

The Holy Prophet Muhammad on Consultation

May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him

Istikhārah Prayer

Regarding matters of importance, the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} instructed to offer two units of Prayers and offer the following prayer to seek guidance from Allah.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْتَخِيرُكَ بِعِلْمِكَ، وَأَسْتَفْذِرُكَ بِقُدْرَتِكَ، وَأَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ الْعَظِيمِ، فَإِنَّكَ تَفْدِرُ وَلَا أَفْدِرُ، وَتَعْلَمُ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ، وَأَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ، اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ خَيْرٌ لِي فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أَمْرِي فَأَقْضِهِ لِي، وَيَسِّرْهُ لِي، ثُمَّ بَارِكْ لِي فِيهِ، وَإِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ شَرٌّ لِي فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أَمْرِي فَاصْرِفْهُ عَنِّي وَاصْرِفْنِي عَنْهُ، وَاقْضُ لِي الْخَيْرَ حَيْثُ كَانَ، ثُمَّ رَضِّنِي بِهِ.

O Allāh! I seek good from You out of Your knowledge and seek power from You out of Your power, and beg of You out of Your boundless Grace, for You have power and I have no power and You have knowledge and I have no knowledge, and You have the best Knower of all unseen. O Allāh! If it be within Your knowledge that this project is for my good in the matter of spiritual affairs, and my worldly affairs, and in respect of my ultimate end, then make it possible for me and grant me facility concerning it: and bless it for me, but if it be within Your knowledge that this project is harmful in my spiritual and worldly affairs, and in respect of my ultimate end, then cause it to move away from me and cause me to move away from it, and designate for my good, wherever it may be, and then make me pleased with it. (From Bukhārī Chapters Tahajjud, Tauhīd and Da'wāt)

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ خَالِدٍ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ الْوَأَسِطِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبِي، عَنْ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ إِسْحَاقَ، عَنِ الزُّهْرِيِّ، عَنْ سَالِمٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - اسْتَشَارَ النَّاسَ لِمَا يَهْمُهُمْ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ فَذَكَرُوا الْبُوقَ فَكَرِهَهُ مِنْ أَجْلِ الْيَهُودِ ثُمَّ ذَكَرُوا النَّاقُوسَ فَكَرِهَهُ مِنْ أَجْلِ النَّصَارَى فَأَرَى التِّدَاءَ تِلْكَ اللَّيْلَةَ رَجُلٌ مِنَ الْأَنْصَارِ يُقَالُ لَهُ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ زَيْدٍ وَعُمَرُ بْنُ الْخَطَّابِ فَطَرَقَ الْأَنْصَارِيَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - لَيْلًا فَأَمَرَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - بِإِلَاءٍ بِهِ فَأَذَّنَ . قَالَ الزُّهْرِيُّ وَرَأَى بِلَالَ فِي نِدَاءِ صَلَاةِ الْعِدَاةِ الصَّلَاةِ خَيْرٌ مِنَ التَّوَمِ فَأَقْرَبَهَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - . قَالَ عُمَرُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَدْ رَأَيْتُ مِثْلَ الَّذِي رَأَى وَلَكِنَّهُ سَبَقَنِي .

The Prophet^{sa} consulted people how to call them to [congregational] Prayer. They suggested a horn but he disliked it because of the Jews [as they used a horn]. Then they suggested a bell but he disliked it because of the Christians [as they used a bell]. That night the call to Prayer was shown in a dream to a man from the Ansar known as 'Abdullah bin Zaid, and to 'Umar bin Khattab. The man from Ansar came to the Messenger of Allah at night, and the Messenger of Allah commanded Bilal to give the call to the Prayer. Zuhriyy said: "Bilal added the phrase "As-Salatu Khairum-Minan-Naum (Prayer is better than sleep)" to the call for the morning Prayer, and the Messenger of Allah approved of it." 'Umar said: "O Messenger of Allah, I saw the same as he did, but he beat me to it." (Sunan Ibn Majah, The Book of Adhan and the Sunnah Regarding It. Chapter: How The Adhan Began)

The Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} said:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ الْمُسْتَشَارُ مُؤْتَمَنٌ

One who is consulted is trustworthy [that is, is obligated to discharge the trust of providing appropriate advice adequately]. (Sunan Abi Dawud, Sunan Ibn Majah, Tirmidhi)

Trust in God

Sayings of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him

It is mercy of God that you are soft towards them. If you were hard-hearted, they would not have come near you and would have separated from you. (Barahin Ahmadiyya, Part IV, Page 498)

A person mentioned his domestic problems. The Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, said, "If you keep full trust, faith and hope in God, everything will be accomplished. Always keep us reminding through letters and we will pray." (Al-Badr, Vol. 1, No. 5-6, November 28-December 5, 1902, page 37)

Though man is perturbed while facing difficulties, one should not let go of trust in God. The Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was quite worried at the time of Badr. Thus he submitted, O Lord, if You let this group perish, there will never be anyone to worship you on the face of the earth. His worry was due to being a human as he never let go of trust in God. His eye was towards the heaven, and was sure that God will not waste him. He did not let hopelessness come near. Worries are necessary for man's moral progression and perfection but man should not let hopelessness set in as hopelessness is a trait of disbelievers. (Al-Hakam, Vol. 7, No. 10, 17 March 1903, page 3)

Trust in God is to gather, as much as possible, all the means Allah has appointed for the attainment of a matter and then immerse yourselves in prayers: "O God, bring about a favorable outcome. There are thousands of calamities that can upset these means. Save us from their affliction and carry us to true success and desired destination." (Al-Hakam, Vol. 7, No. 11, 24 March 1903, page 10)

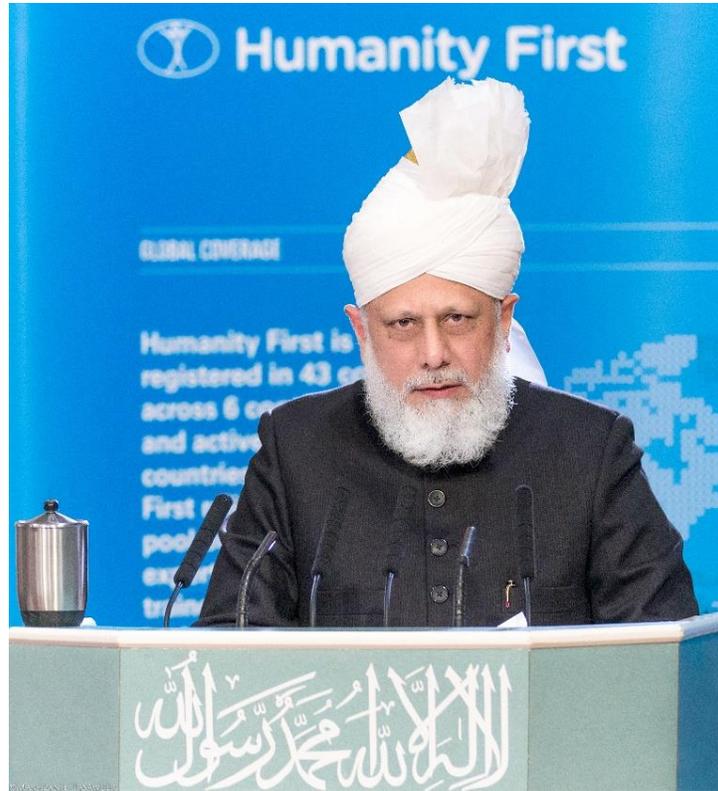
Trust in God is the name of breaking from one side and joining with the other. (Al-Badr, Vol. 2, No. 9, 20 March 1903, page 66)

When man abandons trust in God, a vein of atheism appears in him. One who deems Him to have power over all matters, has trust and faith in God. (Al-Badr, Vol. 2, No. 12, 10 April 1903, page 92)

A person who serves Islam in poverty/want/dearth/need with contentment, becomes a miracle and a sign. One who serves Islam with all means at hand, does not experience the joy as trust in God is not experienced fully. When an effort is made with trust in God, God comes to help. These traits are created through spirituality. When spirituality germinates in a person, he changes the character. How did the Messenger of God, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, change the character of the Companions? This feat was accomplished by the attraction which resides inside a truthful. Such thoughts are false that millions are needed to show progress. When a task is started with trust in God, and its real purpose is to serve His faith, He Himself becomes a Helper and arranges for all necessities and means. (Al-Hakam, Vol. 7, No. 23, 24 June 1903, page 4)

Address by Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{aba}, Khalifatul-Masih V

Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, at
the January 2015 Humanity First International Conference



The Humanity First International Conference, attended by 130 delegates from 15 countries including 21 from the USA, was held over 2 days on the weekend of 24th and 25th January 2015, at the Baitul-Futuh Mosque Complex, UK. Ḥaḍrat Ameerul Mu'minīn, Khalifatul-Masih^{aba} V, graced the conference with his presence on its first day and delivered a keynote address to the attendees.

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwudh* and *Bismillah*, Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih^{aba} V said:

“*Al-Hamdu Lillah*, with the Grace of Allah, Humanity First is holding its International Conference today and tomorrow and I think it is the first time that it is being held on this scale. I hope and pray that this event proves to be extremely beneficial and fruitful and may Allah enable you to fulfil the plans and strategies you are devising whilst here. I also hope and pray that Humanity First comes to fulfil the expectations that I hold of it, *In Sha Allah* (God Willing). And my expectations are based upon the expectations that the Promised Messiah^{as} had from the members of his Jama'at. On

countless occasions the Promised Messiah^{as} spoke or wrote about the need to serve humanity. In this regard, his expectations were truly vast and this is proved by the fact that he made serving humanity a condition of *Bai'at*. The 9th condition of *Bai'at* reads that: “*he or she shall keep himself or herself occupied in the service of God's creatures for His sake only and shall endeavor towards the beneficence of mankind to the best of his or her God given abilities and powers.*” Therefore, the huge value and importance of serving others should be imprinted in the hearts of every single Ahmadi Muslim.

Allah the Almighty has granted each person

many abilities or capabilities. And so it is their duty to use those God-given gifts to help others, particularly those in need. Every person should utilize his individual talents or expertise for the sake of others. For example, doctors can offer their medical services, teachers can provide education, engineers can offer their skills, whilst those people blessed with wealth can and should utilize it for the sake of others. These are just a few examples and there are many more. In terms of financial sacrifice I am pleased to say that with the Grace of Allah, there are many Ahmadis who spend in the way of Allah for the benefit of mankind and who also sacrifice their time and effort in this cause. This is the case with both office bearers and volunteers.

Non-Ahmadis are often left astounded when they hear Ahmadi professionals have gone to the most deprived parts of the world only for a desire to gain the pleasure and love of God Almighty. They are even more astonished when they hear that Ahmadis do not allow for a single penny to be wasted and so some of them even pay for their own travel and consider it an honor to offer their services, time and skills, completely free of charge. This is all due to the spirit which has been inculcated into the Jama'at by the Promised Messiah^{as}. On so many occasions the Promised Messiah^{as} instructed his followers towards the importance of serving others and feeling their pain. For example at one place the Promised Messiah^{as} has said that there are only two complete parts of faith, one is to love God and the other is to love mankind to such a degree that you consider their suffering, trials and tribulations as your own and you pray for them. And so here the Promised Messiah^{as} has mentioned a beautiful distinguishing feature of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, rarely seen elsewhere, that where they seek to serve others they do not rely only on their wealth and skills alone; rather, along with their physical efforts they bow down in sincere prayer seeking Allah's help and assistance. They pray Allah enables them to serve with the true spirit of sympathy, compassion and love for mankind. They seek Allah's help to develop a truly selfless spirit whereby they consider the pain and desperation of others as their own pain and desperation. They pray that they are able to remove the

tribulations and suffering of other people.

We see before going to remote parts of Africa or to countries afflicted by natural disaster that quite a number of our volunteers come to meet me or write to me seeking prayers that their efforts may be blessed. And so as I said, this is a great distinguishing feature of our Jama'at that each and every act is conducted with only one sole motivation—to please Allah and to gain his pleasure. This is the spirit of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community that has been directly instilled by the Promised Messiah^{as}. Always remember the Promised Messiah^{as} taught his followers that one type of *Waqf*, that is devoting one's life or time for the sake of Allah, is to serve God's creation and to show love towards them. This requires true selflessness and love for others. It requires that a person does not rest until he has solved the problems of others and takes the weight of their burdens on to his own shoulders. It requires that a person's heart is consumed by a love for others, whereby he cares not for his own comforts, but rather he cares only for the comfort of others. It requires that a person is every ready to personally absolve all forms of distress for the sake of others and to consider the pain of others as though it is his own pain. It requires that person is ready to bear personal suffering or anxiety so that others can live in peace and contentment. Again and again the Promised Messiah^{as} said that his followers should utilize all of their God given abilities for the sake of others.

He went as far as saying that his followers should set aside all forms of religious differences and even seek to help and comfort those who oppose them. Therefore, this is the level and standard that Ahmadi Muslims should reach for, whereby they put aside all differences and are ever ready to help all people, irrespective of their backgrounds. Only when a person reaches this standard can it be said that they are serving humanity with the required spirit. Certainly, this is the very basis and spirit with which Humanity First was named, that first of all 'humanity,' and one's own pleasure and comfort is secondary. Thus, every person associated with Humanity First, whether they are part of its executive body, are workers or volunteers should understand

this philosophy and spirit. Every member should utilize their abilities and skills for the sake of others and should be ready to accept any form of discomfort, hardship or sacrifice for the sake of giving peace and comfort to those who are in need or who have been deprived in any way. They should not seek any worldly reward, but their sole motivation should be the love and pleasure of God Almighty.

The benefit of serving others is such that the Promised Messiah^{as} has aligned human compassion with spirituality by stating that loving others is a great means of worship and a way to attain Allah's blessing and rewards. Which Ahmadi Muslim could every wish to deprive himself or herself from Allah's bounties and rewards? Keeping these points in view, I say to every member of Humanity First, no matter where in the world they are living or serving, that they must conduct their duties with sincerity and heartfelt love for others. Indeed, you should not just maintain your current level of work, but you should constantly seek to build up on your efforts and further improve the good work and good name of Humanity First. Through your activities in Humanity First you will also engage with non-Ahmadis and draw them to serving humanity. In this way you will be bringing others towards Allah and enabling them to also become recipients of God's blessings. Thus, you should always maintain the highest standards of conduct and sincerity and be a positive example for others to follow.

One further point I would like to make is that there are some people who believe that Humanity First needs to be kept completely separate from religious obligations. I should make it clear to them that it is religion that has taught us the importance and value of serving humanity. It is Islam that has taught us that serving others is a great means of gaining Allah's love and nearness. Indeed, religion itself is the very motivation and inspiration underlying the objectives of Humanity First. And so to say that Humanity First should be independent and free

from religion is completely wrong. There may be certain occasions where the rights due to mankind can be temporarily prioritized even above the rights due to Allah. For example, if a person is drowning, then a person is of course permitted to delay his *Ṣalāt* in order to rescue them, but the office bearers and workers should remember that such permissions are for exceptional circumstances. It should not be that at a day to day level your focus does not remain on prayer. You should not think that charitable work is enough on its own simply because the Promised Messiah^{as} has said serving humanity is considered as worship. Remember that Allah has kept some rights for Himself. And so we must always pay attention to fulfilling them. As I said before, it is our distinguishing feature that we seek Allah's help and so fulfilling the rights of worship are of paramount importance and the Promised Messiah^{as} has also emphasized on this.

Every member of Humanity First should remember that it is through prayer and prayer alone that his or her efforts will be blessed. All positive results are due to Allah's blessings. When we serve humanity for Allah's sake and then bow down to Him, we will be fulfilling both the rights due to Allah and the rights due to mankind. In this way we will earn countless of Allah's blessings and rewards whilst a worldly person will only be rewarded for his physical efforts. This is the very reason that our efforts are continuously blessed and *In Sha Allah* will always continue to be. Certainly the scale of the work being done by Humanity First far exceeds the funds that it has available. Other charities could not do ten percent of the work that Humanity First does with the same amount of money. This is all a result of Allah's grace and blessings and you should remember this at all times. May Allah enable Humanity First to go from strength to strength and enable all of you to work with that spirit of sincerity and love for Humanity, which the Promised Messiah^{as} inculcated and taught us, *Āmīn.*"

Courtesy: Humanity First

Weekly Guidance from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V, May Allah be his Helper
Summaries of Friday Sermons received from the office of
Wakīl A'ālā, Taḥrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya, Pakistan

Friday Sermon 23 January 2015

Excellent Character of the Promised Messiah^{as}

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) related incidents from the life of the Promised Messiah ﷺ shedding light on his extraordinary love for the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also quoted incidents related by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضی اللہ عنہ regarding various aspects of the blessed life of the Promised Messiah ﷺ, and said: The Promised Messiah ﷺ set extraordinary standards of truthfulness for us, which we ought to follow.

On 23 January 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted incidents related by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضی اللہ عنہ regarding various aspects of the blessed life of the Promised Messiah ﷺ, and said: Once, the Promised Messiah ﷺ was standing at the Lahore or Amritsar Railway Station when Pundit Lekhram came up to him and greeted him. The Promised Messiah ﷺ paid no attention to him, and rather fervently said:

“He seems to have no sense of shame.

On the one hand, he abuses my master, the Holy Prophet ﷺ; and on the other, extends greetings to me.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This incident speaks volumes about the Promised Messiah's ﷺ high regard for the honor of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

The Arya Samaj once held a conference in Lahore. Some members of our Jamā'at were also invited to attend the conference. The organizers of the conference had assured the Jamā'at that no uncivilized expression would be used for the Holy Prophet ﷺ in the conference. But, the organizers failed to keep their word. When the Promised Messiah ﷺ was informed that blasphemous remarks were made against the Holy Prophet ﷺ during the conference, the Promised Messiah ﷺ became angry [with his companions who had attended the conference] saying:

“How could your sense of honor for the Holy Prophet ﷺ bear with this? Why didn't you just stand up and leave the conference at once?”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) gave details, as described by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضی اللہ عنہ regarding the fulfilment of the prophecy about Deputy Abdullah

Atham and said that the fulfilment of the prophecy was a great sign of the truth of the Promised Messiah ﷺ.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In order to humiliate the Promised Messiah ﷺ and to debase and ridicule him, the Christian missionaries came up with a plan: They got together some blind, deaf and lame people, brought them before the Promised Messiah ﷺ and said: The Messiah of Nazareth used to physically cure the blind, the deaf and the lame. You too should cure these ailing people. The Promised Messiah ﷺ replied:

“I have made no such claim, rather your own book states:

‘If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’

Therefore, you cannot demand such a miracle from me. You have some blind, deaf and lame people assembled here. If you have faith even as small as a mustard seed, you should be able to cure them.”

This answer on the part of the Promised Messiah ﷺ surprised the Christians to the extent that they sought to quickly remove the blind, deaf and lame people from the scene.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) gave details of the incident according to which the Promised Messiah ﷺ had once placed a letter in a parcel that he sent to someone by post.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) described how a case was then lodged against the Promised Messiah ﷺ for this, how the Promised Messiah ﷺ gave the true statement in the court and how the judge acquitted him of the charge and issued the verdict in his favor.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This is a small example of the standard of truthfulness set by the Promised Messiah ﷺ for us. Those who try to make material gains by falling short of such high standards of truthfulness need to reflect upon their condition. Those who use improper methods to win their asylum cases or to seek certain benefits from insurance companies need to ponder over their attitudes, for it does not behove an Ahmadi to use improper means to seek material benefits.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) explained a tradition of the Promised Messiah ﷺ to remove the

misunderstanding that the Promised Messiah ﷺ ever practiced or believed in magic or witchcraft.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) explained that it was not proper to talk to someone, or loudly ask someone not to talk to someone, during the Friday Sermon or during the Khutba Thāniyah, since the Sermon too is a part of the Jumu'a Prayer.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Parents should take note of this and begin to train their children from home, so that the children act upon this advice when they go for Prayer.

Friday Sermon 30 January 2015

Responsibilities of Missionaries and Officers

Giving advice to Ahmadi missionaries and office-bearers of the Jamā'at, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Act upon Allāh's commandments with all your energy, ability and capability. Ahmadi missionaries and life-devotees have been assigned the responsibility of inviting people towards righteousness and of training and educating them in matters of Faith.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is not only that each one of us needs to be active in the service of Faith, but also there is a need to motivate others as well.

On 30 January 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: God does not burden anyone beyond his capacity. In fact, He issues no such commandment as is beyond human power and capability. This is why man has been assigned the responsibility of acting upon Allāh's commandments, and this is why we should try to act upon His commandments with all our energy and capacity. God has enjoined us to act upon His commandments perfectly and with honesty – in accordance with our maximum ability.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Looking at human faculties and capabilities we find that every individual is different in terms of mental ability, physique, knowledge and level of intelligence. God has, therefore, in view of the fact that each person has his own weaknesses, shortcomings and needs, made His commandments flexible in the sense that they have both minimal as well as maximum standards of attainment. It is for this reason that God says that while He has made His commandments so flexible, we too ought to act upon them diligently and with honesty.

In short, the beauty of the teachings of the True Faith is that it has been revealed in consonance with human nature.

The Promised Messiah ﷺ says: Man has not been

burdened with any such obligation in the Shari'ah as is beyond his power and capacity. God expects man to act upon His commandments in accordance with his power and capability. A true believer should, therefore, strive to obtain this level of submission to God.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Just as each individual is different in capabilities and all persons cannot be equal in terms of capacities, the same is true of faith and of compliance with Allāh's commandments. All people are not equal in terms of faith and compliance with the commandments of the Almighty God. Hence, the best standard that a person can obtain through acting upon Allāh's commandments and using his wisdom is the very standard set for him by God.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: God knows the state of the inner recesses of our heart and no excuse on our part about our lack of knowledge, wisdom or capacity will stand before Him. We, therefore, need to make a genuine assessment of our abilities and test our faith and action against the assessment we have made. The minimum standard of attainment that God has set for us is to offer the five daily prayers in congregation. Similarly, God has also declared fasting and Zakāt to be obligatory. However, looking at our present condition we can say that even five daily prayers are not offered regularly by all of us as God has commanded.

Remember that we cannot deceive God. Our efforts to discharge the duties of Faith should be greater in measure than the efforts we make for our worldly

endeavors.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Our missionaries and knowledgeable persons in the Jamā'at should play their role to enhance the abilities of the people. Efforts should be made to raise the standard of their knowledge. People should be provided support, so that they can enhance their capacities. This will not only help the individual members of the Jamā'at to progress but also the Jamā'at as a whole.

Ahmadi missionaries and life-devotees have been assigned the task of inviting people towards righteousness. They are responsible for the physical and spiritual upbringing of the Jamā'at. Ahmadi missionaries have also been assigned the responsibility of demonstrating to people how they can enhance their faith and belief. Ahmadi missionaries have to inform people of the ever-new ways and methods of inviting the world towards piety and righteousness.

In short, life-devotees and missionaries of the Jamā'at have been assigned the important task of raising the level of knowledge among other members of the Jamā'at. Similarly, the office-bearers of the Jamā'at also need to realize that it is their duty to raise the standard of knowledge and faith among members of the Jamā'at. Secretary Tarbiyat and members of Majlis 'Āmila are equally responsible to train and educate the Jamā'at by setting an example for them. In fact, Secretary Tarbiyat and other members of Majlis 'Āmila should urge the rest of the Jamā'at to regularly listen to the Friday Sermon, to attend the Darses, and to take part in other programs of the Jamā'at, so that they are able to enhance their faith and knowledge and improve

themselves spiritually.

The office-holders of the Jamā'at are also under obligation to continuously remind people of their obligations and duties. In fact, it is the responsibility of the office-holders to support the spiritually weak people in the Jamā'at by making constant efforts to enable them to regularly offer the five daily prayers. Reminders can serve as an effective means of enhancing people's capacities.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: A minor effort on the part of the office-bearers of the Jamā'at can help others shun negligence and become active members of the Jamā'at. The number of people who come to Buyut-uz-Zikr for Prayer can be increased if we continue to remind our neighbors and the Ahmadi living around us about the importance of offering Prayer in congregation. We should help our weaker brothers join us in righteous acts, so that they can raise their level of spirituality. Those who enjoin others to act righteously are granted reward equal to those who act righteously. Therefore, it is not only that each one of us needs to be active in the service of Faith, but also there is a need to motivate others as well.

Next, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced the sad demise of two Ahmadi women, namely Jananul Aani Sahiba of Syria who was living in Turkey and Habiba Sahiba of Mexico and spoke of their love and devotion for the Jamā'at. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced that he would lead the funeral prayer in absentia of the deceased after the Jumu'a Prayer.

Friday Sermon 6 February 2015

Inspiring Stories of the Promised Messiah^{as}

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The incidents related by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه regarding the blessed life of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام contain a number of moral lessons for us and are truly faith-enhancing.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: True benefit from the Holy Qur'ān can only be obtained when we read it with a pure heart.

Bring about a change in yourselves as leads to purity of heart, so that people are drawn towards Faith by looking at your piety and righteousness, the acceptance of your prayers and your strong relationship with Allāh.

On 6 February 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted a number of faith-enhancing and full of advice incidents as related by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه regarding the blessed life of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, and said: Whether the books of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام will affect a

person positively or negatively depends upon the intent and point of view with which a person reads them.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the debate that took place between Muhammad Ahsan Amrohwi Sahib and Maulawi Bashir Sahib. As a result of the debate, Maulawi Bashir Sahib, who earlier on had a deep sense of respect for the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, came to reject him, whereas Muhammad Ahsan

Amrohwi Sahib who initially was an opponent of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, accepted him.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه commented on debates saying, 'According to psychology, debating is a harmful activity and at times results in grave consequences. These are matters not all educationists are able to understand. Should we view even good words, which are full of wisdom and profundity, with intent to pick out faults in them, we may stumble and entirely misunderstand them.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Many people read the books of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام out of context and to raise objections against them. Even the Holy Qur'ān which is a cure and mercy from God for the believers can result in grave loss for those who read it merely to raise objections against it becoming guilty of a great wrong. In short, even the Word of Allāh cannot benefit anyone until one reads it with a pure heart.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه after having related an incident regarding the importance the Promised Messiah عليه السلام placed on offering five daily prayers in congregation, said: At times, when the Promised Messiah عليه السلام was unable to go to the mosque for offering Prayer, he would offer it in congregation at home. Hence, in the first place, members of the Jamā'at should try to congregate together for Prayer. And, those who might not be able to do so should ask their wives and children to join them in Prayer to make it congregational. In short, members of the Jamā'at should make sure that wherever they are they offer Prayer in congregation.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Remember that the beauty of Prayer lies in offering it with all the due care and attention.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Each member of the Jamā'at should try to be first to say Salām to others. Those who are juniors should try to be first to say Salām to their seniors and vice versa. Office-bearers of the Jamā'at should, in particular, set an example for others in this regard. Along with this, all Ahmādīs, the new and the older, should continue to enhance themselves in faith.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) illustrated how

God helped and supported the Promised Messiah عليه السلام when he was prosecuted under false charges.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the number of the Promised Messiah's عليه السلام followers had reached hundreds of thousands during his very lifetime. People from all walks of life pledged allegiance to him. This happened not only in the Punjab, but people from many other countries also took Bai'at at his hands.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Nowadays, those who are given to ridicule and poking fun at Islam should remember that God will not let their blasphemous remarks go unpunished. At times, God makes such people a sign for others in this very world.

We, therefore, must not confront these people with our hands or guns, but rather we need to supplicate against them before God alone. We should try to create in ourselves a change that leads to purity of heart, so that the world comes to feel our righteous influence. Our condition should be such that people are drawn towards Faith by looking at our pious conduct, the acceptance of our prayers and our strong relationship with Allah. Remember that Ahmadiyyat will progress only through such righteous people.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about Hazrat Maulawi Burhanuddin Sahib رضي الله عنه shedding light on the strength of his faith as well as his devotion and love for the Promised Messiah عليه السلام.

Next, speaking about the importance of physical exertion, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Promised Messiah عليه السلام used to work the whole day, yet he would go for a walk at least once a day. We, therefore, need to draw the attention of our children and youth towards playing in the open air. Students of Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya should particularly be instructed to play in the open air at least for an hour and a half daily. If there is no difficulty, walks and games should be done in the open air.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه said that a believer should always remain active and engaged in his work and after he has achieved one target he should strive to achieve the next one. This is the secret of success of every individual and the nation as a whole. May Allāh enable us to work accordingly! Āmīn.

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Identify Flaws and Eradicate Them

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) gave a discourse, with reference to a Friday Sermon delivered by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه, on individual and communal flaws and explained how they can be eradicated.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Nizām Jamā'at, at all levels, should do necessary planning to overcome the social ills undermining society.

Each individual not only needs to assess his own shortcomings, but also there is a need to identify communal ills and make necessary efforts to rectify them.

On 13 February 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: **Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه** once delivered a Friday Sermon wherein he pointed out a number of communal flaws and shortcomings explaining their root causes and admonishing the members of the Jamā'at to protect themselves against them.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This subject is relevant till this very day. Just as flaws and shortcomings can be individual as well as communal, so are good qualities and righteous conduct. Whether it is goodness or evil, or it is shortcomings or righteous conduct, all result from the environment a person is surrounded by. Piety or evil in a person are both influenced by the environment the person lives in. Individual flaws can be eradicated by efforts of the individuals, but if the entire society has gone bad, then everyone living in it will be influenced by the communal flaws.

In short, individual flaws can be identified and rectified through individual effort, but so far as communal flaws are concerned, the whole group has to reflect and ponder over them to get rid of them. A community that is not united in its efforts against evil and is not willing to get rid of them eventually becomes corrupt and flawed as a whole. A time then comes when such a community is ruined for good.

Therefore, just as it is important for each individual to reflect upon his own shortcoming, it is equally important to ponder over the flaws affecting us as a group. There is a need for us to identify such flaws and then work together to rectify them and get rid of them. The whole community has to stand up and realize that there is a need for reform.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه explained how the Jamā'at should view communal evils and flaws. He clearly said that if the Jamā'at pondered over them in detail and try to

rectify them, it would be able to overcome them.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke of the things and reasons that generate flaws and shortcomings. He particularly mentioned media in this regard saying it has removed all boundaries between people. The children, for example, find ways to spend their time according to their own wishes and desires. As a result, they become unwilling to listen to their parents.

Similarly, parents too are distancing themselves from their children. There are parents who destroy the purity of the atmosphere at home by watching inappropriate programs on television. This destroys the peace of homes. The western society is heading towards destruction in the name of freedom and the so-called freedom has taken the form of a communal evil. Sadly, some Ahmadīs too are being influenced by this. However, before this takes the form of a universal evil affecting people far and wide and before the time comes when those who accepted the Promised Messiah عليه السلام once again return to ignorance, we need to make efforts as a community so as to guard ourselves against it.

All parts of the Nizām Jamā'at should join hands and do necessary planning to eradicate evils as may affect us as a community. May Allāh enable us to make sure that we, as a community, never get influenced by the ills of the western society! Āmīn.

We have vowed to eradicate the ills of the whole world. If those, who seek to remedy the ills of the world, are themselves affected by them, who else will eradicate the corruption from the world?

Speaking of the ills as might be affecting the Jamā'at, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) advised Ahmadīs to offer the five daily prayers in congregation, establish a firm relationship with the institution of Khilāfat, watch MTA regularly and remain in touch with the Ahmadiyya website – www.alislam.org.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Instead of consulting trash on the internet, we should consult our

own website which helps us understand the teachings of the Holy Qur'ān and guides us towards the extraordinary knowledge of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام and his cognizance of the Almighty God.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: May God enable us to understand the true teachings of Faith and eradicate evils before they become a communal malady. May God enable us to perform good acts in a way that

they are performed by each and every member of the Jamā'at and become a communal excellence! May God, in His grace, enable us to do this! Āmīn.

Next, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced the sad demise of four Ahmadīs and spoke of their good qualities and services for the Jamā'at. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced that he would lead the funeral prayer of the deceased after the Jumū'a Prayer.

Friday Sermon 20 February 2015

Prophecy of the Promised Reformer

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted extracts from the writings of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه concerning the prophecy of Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه and said: February the 20th has a great significance in the history of the Jamā'at as on this date the Promised Messiah عليه السلام made the prophecy regarding the Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه – the Promised Reformer.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is a great sign of the Almighty God which was shown to enhance the glory of the Faith. The prophecy speaks of a number of noble qualities that were fulfilled in the person of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه. The fulfilment of the prophecy, therefore, is a source of great pride for the True Faith.

On February 20th, 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted extracts from the writings of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه shedding light on the importance of 20th February, the date on which the Promised Messiah عليه السلام had made the prophecy regarding the Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه – the Promised Reformer.

Explaining the background to the prophecy, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه said: When agitation and attacks of the opponents of Islām against the Promised Messiah عليه السلام reached their extreme, the Promised Messiah عليه السلام retired to meditation in Hoshiarpur in 1886. He spent forty days in seclusion and prayed to Allāh that He may help him by showing a sign in his support. God granted his prayers and gave him the glad tidings of a great sign, saying that He would not only fulfil all the promises made to the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, but also cause his message to reach the ends of the earth. God also revealed to him that in order to glorify this sign further, He would give him a son who would be bestowed with some extraordinary qualities. The son would spread the message of the True Faith to the corners of the world and help people be cognizant of the Word of Allāh. In addition, the son would be a sign of Allāh's grace and mercy and would be granted both religious and secular knowledge essential for the propagation of the True Faith, and that God would grant him a long life, so much

so that his fame would spread to the corners of the earth.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام said: "This is not only a prophecy, but rather a great sign of the Almighty God that was shown to demonstrate the glory and majesty of the True Faith. Having accepted the entreaties of this humble one, God promised to send into the world such a noble soul whose apparent and hidden blessings would spread to all parts of the world."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke of the similarity between a vision of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه and the prophecy regarding the Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه, and said: The prophecy truly saw fulfilment in the person of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) elaborated on some other aspects of the prophecy and said: Speaking about the words, 'He will be filled with religious and secular knowledge' in the prophecy, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) said: "After I undertook the responsibilities of the august office of Khilāfat, God revealed the Qur'ānic knowledge to me in such abundance that the world is now obliged till the Day of Judgment to study my books and benefit from them. The term 'spiritual knowledge' pertains to the branches of knowledge that are the preserve of the Almighty God alone. One example of this is the knowledge of the unseen which He reveals only to such of His chosen people whom He assigns some special services for His sake in this world, so that He may disclose His close relationship with such people, and so

that they may restore the faith of the world in God. So, in this also God has blessed me in a most special way and vouchsafed hundreds of such dreams and revelations to me as contain the knowledge of the unseen.”

Explaining the phrase, ‘He will turn three into four’ in the prophecy, Hazrat Musleh Mau‘ūd رضى الله عنه said: By the grace of Allāh, this phrase has been fulfilled in my person in a number of ways.

Hazrat Musleh Mau‘ūd رضى الله عنه then enumerated a number of examples of how the phrase had seen fulfilment in his person.

The prophecy also said, ‘His advent will be a source of the manifestation of Divine glory’. Elaborating on this, Hazrat Musleh Mau‘ūd (May Allah be pleased with him) said: “I have established the Ahmadiyya missions across the world to propagate the message of the True Faith. Just as it was foretold in the prophecy, ‘His fame will spread to the corners of the world’, God enabled me to establish the Ahmadiyya missions in many countries of the world. Right in the beginning of my Khilāfat, God enabled me to establish the missions of the Jamā‘at in England, Ceylon and Mauritius. Then this movement progressed and missions were established in many other countries as well. In short, there is no such nation in the world today who is not aware of the Ahmadiyya

Community. Since God had promised that He would cause this Movement to flourish and would cause its message to reach the corners of the world during my era, He, in His grace and mercy, caused it to reach across the world and in many places sizeable Jamā‘ats were established.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The prophecy has various aspects which were most gloriously fulfilled in the person of Hazrat Musleh Mau‘ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him). In fact, various aspects of the prophecy were fulfilled a number of times and on many occasions. This manifested the truth of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام and enhanced the glory of the True Faith. May Allāh ever shower His grace and mercy upon the blessed soul of Hazrat Musleh Mau‘ūd رضى الله عنه and enable us to fulfil our responsibilities in this regard.

Next, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced the sad demise of Maulana Muhammad Siddiq Shāhid Gurdaspuri, Murabbī Silsila, and spoke of his services for the Jamā‘at. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that may God shower His forgiveness upon his soul.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced that he would lead the funeral prayer of the deceased in absentia after the Jumu‘a Prayer.

Friday Sermon 27 February 2015

Excellent Character of the Promised Messiah^{as}

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) illustrated the blessed life-history of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام and Hazrat Musleh Mau‘ūd رضى الله عنه in light of the observations made by Hazrat Musleh Mau‘ūd رضى الله عنه and said: In the face of extreme opposition and vituperation, the Promised Messiah عليه السلام always expressed himself with decency and politeness.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: No sooner did the Promised Messiah عليه السلام go to sleep each night, than the Almighty God comforted him and reassured him of His help and succor throughout the night.

On 27 February 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted some traditions of Hazrat Musleh Mau‘ūd رضى الله عنه regarding the blessed life of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام and said: Once a person came to see the Promised Messiah عليه السلام and advised him that before he went ahead with his claim of being the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, he should first personally have met with people to judge their reaction to his claim and convince them that there was nothing wrong with it. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام replied: Had it been a man-made enterprise, I would

probably have done the same. But, I have done what the Almighty God commanded me to do. And, I am well-pleased with the will of God.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: A follower of the Arya Samaj, Dharam Pal, wrote a book against Islām. To refute his allegations, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I رضى الله عنه also wrote a book titled Nuruddin. One of the objections raised by Dharam Pal was that if, as the Holy Qur‘ān claims, the fire had failed to harm Hazrat Ibrahim عليه السلام, why don’t we witness such miracles ever being repeated today? Answering to this Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I رضى الله عنه wrote that it was [not the real fire] but only the fire of antagonism that was cooled off

for Hazrat Ibrahim عليه السلام. When the Promised Messiah عليه السلام read this answer, he rejected it by drawing a line through it, and instead wrote: If they [the opponents] want to experiment, they may well throw me into the fire. I assure them that the fire will cool off as it did for Hazrat Ibrahim عليه السلام, for God has revealed to me that, 'Fire is not only our servant, but is also the servant of our servants'.

While relating this incident, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه said: The understanding granted to the Prophets of such miracles are not granted to other people.

Speaking about how highly the Promised Messiah عليه السلام regarded Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I رضي الله عنه, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه said: The Promised Messiah رضي الله عنه held Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I رضي الله عنه in great regard. Once when the Promised Messiah عليه السلام was at his home and Hazrat Amman Jan [wife of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام] was also present, the Promised Messiah عليه السلام complimented Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I رضي الله عنه thus: It is a great favor of God upon us that He has granted us Hakim Sahib, who throughout the day remains engaged in teaching the Holy Qur'ān to people and giving medicines to them, which saves thousands of lives. Indeed, he follows as does the pulse follow the heart.

Pointing to the issue of the Khulafā' making a mistake at times, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه once said: One should not consider the Khulafā' to be equal in status to the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, for the respect of the Khulafā' lies in perfect submission to their Matbū [the one whose Bai'at they have taken, i.e., the Promised Messiah عليه السلام]. At times, lack of knowledge may result in a mistake on the part of the Khulafā', but we ought to remember that the Khulafā' are much better capable of understanding and making a correct interpretation of what the Promised Messiah عليه السلام said.

While speaking on this subject, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd عليه السلام also pointed out that at times errors remain in a document even after someone has gone over it and proofread it.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd عليه السلام and said: People would often ask the Promised Messiah عليه السلام to show them the sign of the lunar and solar eclipse as the Hadith cited it to be the sign of the true Messiah. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Despite such insistence on the part of the people, when the sign was finally shown, they still continued to oppose the Promised Messiah عليه السلام.

Shedding light on the high moral standards of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه said: The Promised Messiah عليه السلام always showed mercy

and clemency towards his opponents. The opponents stopped him from fetching water from the well and told the potters not to make pots for his household. Regardless of this, whenever these people sought pardon from the Promised Messiah عليه السلام for their wrongdoing, the Promised Messiah عليه السلام always forgave them. So much so that once a magistrate refused to apprehend the criminals, because he said there was no use for such an activity as the Promised Messiah عليه السلام would forgive the accused. And, this is exactly what happened.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه also related incidents showing the opponents of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام threw stones at him during his visits to Amritsar and Sialkot. Some of the stones also hit Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه said: I have always confronted my enemies cool-headedly. I have heard their vituperation against me, yet I have always responded to them with civility and politeness. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام heard abuse being hurled at him all the time, yet no sooner did he go to sleep each night, than the Almighty God comforted him and reassured him of His help and succor throughout the night. How could a person like him then turn away from God his Lord?!

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضي الله عنه saying: The Promised Messiah عليه السلام patiently heard what the followers of other religions had to say and only then preached his own religion to them. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام also invited the then Queen of England to Islām and advised her to follow the path of truth.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Once a Turkish diplomat visited Qādiān. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام had a vision about him and, therefore, made a prophecy about him, which was fulfilled exactly as the Promised Messiah عليه السلام had foretold. Many newspapers of the time testified to the fulfilment of this prophecy.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: When those, who are responsible to run the affairs of a state, become corrupt, the state too becomes weak and begins to deteriorate.

Next, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced the sad demise of Sameer Bakhota Sahib of Germany and Chaudhry Bashir Ahmad Sahib of Sheikhpura, Pakistan, and spoke of their services for the Jamā'at.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced that he would lead the funeral prayer in absentia of the deceased after the Jumu'a Prayer.

No Spiritual Ailment is Insignificant

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is not today but rather tomorrow that should be a matter of concern to us.

Faith in the life after death and the Day of Reckoning should be the focus of all our attention.

We cannot equip ourselves with the means of eternal life in the hereafter unless we prepare for it today.

Spiritual ailments keep contaminating the atmosphere around us; we, therefore, need to protect ourselves against them by being persistent in righteous acts and by making constant efforts to get rid of them.

On 6 March 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) recited verses 19-20 of Sūrah Al-Hashr, the translation of which is as follows:

“O ye who believe! fear Allāh; and let every soul look to what it sends forth for the morrow. And, fear Allāh; verily Allāh is Well-Aware of what you do. And, be not like those who forgot Allāh, so He made them forget themselves. It is they that are the rebellious” (59:19-20)

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The root cause of every evil and sin is to consider them small and thus avoid making efforts to protect oneself against them. This attitude of carelessness, however, leads a person to committing bigger sins. As a result, one becomes heedless of righteous conduct, distances oneself from Taqwa, loses faith in the Hereafter and is no longer seen as a believer by God. God has, therefore, urged the believers in these verses not to devote themselves to the worldly pursuits alone, but rather to take into account the future as well, which is more important. This is why faith in the life after death and the Day of Reckoning should be the focus of all our attention.

Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I (May Allāh be pleased with him) said: The rule laid down by God for success in this world and in the hereafter is that one should prepare for the future today. This will help one succeed not only in the life of this world but also in the hereafter. By acting upon the Qur’ānic teaching of, ‘let every soul look to what it sends forth for the morrow’, one not only achieves success in this world, but also in the hereafter by the grace of Allāh. We can never equip ourselves with the means of everlasting life in the Hereafter unless we prepare ourselves today for that eternal abode.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The verses

I have recited above are also recited on the occasion of Nikah. In these verses, God has drawn our attention to a number of issues pertaining to Nikah, such as we should look after our relatives related to us by blood. We should also try to fulfil the obligations that are a natural outcome of the marital bond. We should adopt truthfulness as it helps a person act righteously and fulfil his obligations towards his relatives. By doing so, one is also enabled to keep in view the commandments of the Almighty God. One is not only enabled to personally be able to tread the path of Taqwa, but one’s children are also enabled to do so. Should the families that ruin their lives over petty matters reflect upon Allāh’s commandments and act upon them, they will not only secure peace for their own homes but will also be able to train their children in the right direction and help them tread the path of righteousness.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: People consider the worldly means and fulfilment of their worldly needs to be all they require and thus unwittingly give preference to the worldly means over the help from the Almighty God and due to their own slothfulness and inefficiencies neglect their future in this world and in the hereafter.

Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I (May Allāh be pleased with him) said: Before embarking upon a task, a believers should first consider its consequences.

The one who keeps this principle in view will be enabled to tread the path of Taqwa. In fact, by urging the believers to keep in view the future, the Holy Qur’ān has drawn attention towards following the path of Taqwa in all matters ranging from minor issues at home to the issues more important in a society as a whole, issues pertaining to trade and business and issues of national and international scope. We need to remember that all such means as are used to deceive others for the sake of personal gains are wrong and take one away from Faith. Always keep in mind that a trial of faith is more consequential than the trial related only to the worldly matters, as trial of faith may result in the

ruin of both one's worldly comforts as well as life in the hereafter. Hence, knowing that God is watching over all our actions, we need to continuously look into ourselves and keep in view the outcome of all matters at our disposal.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Spiritual ailments are more dangerous than the physical ones. The society we are living in is being constantly contaminated by spiritual diseases. To protect ourselves against these diseases, we need to act righteously and make persistent efforts to get rid of them. A believer should fear Allāh at all times. We, therefore, need to be honest and relentlessly monitor our actions and conditions to see if we are following the path of Taqwa.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In the second verse that I have recited Allāh has drawn our attention to make sure that we do not become like those who have forgotten Him. We find that there are three kinds of people who distance themselves from God in

this world. First, those who do not believe in the existence of God. Second, those who do not truly believe in the All-Powerful and Omnipotent God. Third, those who lose themselves in the worldly pursuits to the extent that they totally neglect their Lord. They forget that God has prescribed five daily prayers for them. Eventually, there comes a time when they suffer not only moral degradation but also spiritual degradation. This results in the loss of mental peace for them. This is why God says that those who forget Him will be counted among the sinful, and the sinful are those who exceed the limits set by God and those who do not submit to Him.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Each one of us needs to make sure that all his actions are in accordance with the commandments of the Almighty God. We ought to forget about temporary benefits and focus our attention on the future. May Allāh enable us to do so! Āmīn.

Friday Sermon 13 March 2015

The Meaning of Wāḥid and Aḥad

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) gave a discourse with reference to the observations made by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه and the faith-enhancing incidents he related regarding the blessed life of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام and his companions.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Our practices and faith should be such that we should look different and better than others.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) explained the terms Wahid and Ahad in light of the Arabic lexicon and said: The Unity of God can be truly established only when we understand the reality of His oneness.

On March 13th, 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) gave a discourse on Tabligh with reference to the observations made by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه quoting incidents that shed light, directly or indirectly, upon the blessed life history of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We can derive a number of lessons from these incidents and seek guidance from them even today to determine the best course of action for ourselves.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه said: The Promised Messiah عليه السلام would think of unique ways of doing Tabligh. He would spend his days and nights reflecting upon the best possible ways of communicating the message of Islām to every corner of the world. Once he proposed that the people of his Jamā'at should have a specific dress code, so that they are instantly recognized

and become distinguished from others.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه said: Indeed, by making this suggestion, the wish of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام would have been for Ahmadīs to attract the attention of the people on the one hand, and on the other to be personally mindful of their practices and the condition of their faith as they were to present themselves before the world as Ahmadīs.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We need to inculcate this in our hearts even today that our practices should be such that people are instantly able to recognize us as Ahmadīs and find us better than others.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه said: It is important for Ahmadī missionaries, if they seek to invite the world towards Allāh, to have the demeanour of a true believer. Ahmadī youth should make sure that their physical appearance is in accordance with the requirements laid down by Islām. They should make sure to adopt

decency and simplicity in their dress, hairstyle and beards. Islām does not restrict us from wearing a neat and clean dress; it rather commands us to observe cleanliness and neatness and keep away from filth and unhygienic conditions. Also, it commands that one should avoid being extravagant in one's clothing and should adopt moderation in all matters.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) related a few faith-enhancing incidents as explained by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه and by other companions of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام regarding Tabligh.

While explaining that at times even opposition the adversaries show towards the Jamā'at results in guidance for some people to the right path, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه said: When opposition increases, the Jamā'at also progresses. When hostility grows, God's miraculous help and support for the Jamā'at also grows.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام said: Opposition to you shows that you are making progress. The Jamā'at flourishes wherever there is opposition against it.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه said: The purpose of the Promised Messiah's عليه السلام advent was to establish the Unity of the Almighty God. The Promised Messiah

عليه السلام was blessed with an extraordinary fervor to remove the hurdles in the path of the establishment of Allāh's Oneness and Unity in the world. It was this blessed fervour of his that absorbed Allāh's grace and laid down the foundation for the victory of the truthfulness of Islām.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) briefly explained the terms Wahid and Ahad in light of the Arabic lexicon and said: God is Wahid as well as Ahad. The term Wahid refers to His uniqueness in terms of His attributes, which man can only partly emulate and become an image of the Almighty God in the world. This can be seen manifested at its best in the blessed person of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

The term Ahad refers to the Oneness of the Almighty God, an attribute which is not shared by anyone. Hence, we need to realize, as Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه said, that the Unity of the Almighty God will be truly established in the world only when we understand the reality of His oneness.

May Allāh enable us to fulfil the blessed purpose of the advent of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام and help us strive towards the establishment of His Unity and Oneness in the world! Āmīn.

Memories of my grandfather, Rashid Ahmad American

Erfan Ahmad

Grandpa was always a business man, he could sell anything and when he would do Tabligh he would use his excellent selling skills to talk to people. He was very smooth when talking to people. He would start the conversation with whatever caught the person's attention and somehow circle it back to God or religion without the person even realizing what was happening.

One time a conservative/right-wing man came to our store to get his snow blower fixed. Grandpa happened to be there and started talking to the man. Grandpa was so confident in preaching that he could spark a conversation with any one. The conversation started with the man complaining of how his snow



blower broke down and how he was having a string of bad luck. So grandpa talked to him for a few minutes then suggested to the man that "submission" was the answer to his problems. Grandpa said that the man needed to stop fighting his problems and simply submit to his problems. The man agreed and left satisfied. After the man left, grandpa started laughing because he had convinced the man that submission (Islam) was the answer to all his problems. The funny thing was that in the whole conversation grandpa never once mentioned God or religion but rather indirectly convinced the man to submit to the will of Allah and his problems would be solved.

Br Rashid Ahmad Passes Away



Br Rashid Ahmad with Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih V, may Allah be his helper

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih V mentioned Br Rashid Ahmad in his 13 February 2015 Friday Sermon as follows:

Of the Janāzah Ghā'ib [Funeral Services while body is somewhere else], the first is of Al-Haj Rashid Ahmad, who passed away in Milwaukee, USA on February 7, 2015. Innā Lillāhi Wa Innā Ilaihi Rāji'ūn. At the time of his death, he was 91 years of age.

The deceased was born in the American city of St. Louis in 1923. He entered the fold of Ahmadiyya Islam in 1947. Two years after joining, he went to Rabwah in 1949 to pursue religious education. Hadrat Muslih Mau'ud, may Allah be pleased with him, personally received him at the Rabwah railway station. After studying at Jāmi'ah Ahmadiyyah for five years, he graduated as a qualified missionary. During his stay in Pakistan, he learnt Urdu and Punjabi. He earned the distinction of being the first student admitted to Jāmi'ah Ahmadiyyah from America. During his five-year stay in Rabwah, he became a close companion of Hadrat Muslih Mau'ud, may Allah be pleased with him.

Hadrat Muslih Mau'ud, may Allah be pleased with him, arranged his marriage with Ms. Sara Qudsiyya, daughter of Ahmadi Missionary Al-Haj Ibrahim Khalil. He was blessed with three children from this marriage.

One son passed away, and one daughter and another son are currently living in the US.

After his graduation from Jāmi'ah Ahmadiyyah, he was sent to the USA as a missionary. Upon his departure, Hadrat Muslih Mau'ud, may Allah be pleased with him, instructed him and gifted him, with his blessed hand, a kulah of his turban, in which a piece of the sacred garment of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, was sewn. He cherished this gift and still had it in his possession. Now it has been passed on to his children.

He was the first native African-American missionary of the Ahmadiyya Community in USA. He performed his missionary duties in Chicago, St. Louis and various other cities. He also served as the national president for several years. For a long time he was the president of the Milwaukee Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. He also held other offices in Jamā'at.

His second marriage took place with the daughter of a former president of the St. Louis chapter, Mr. Khalid Usman. From his marriage to Aziza Ahmad, he was blessed with two sons and two daughters.

He was passionate about preaching, and would not forego any opportunity. During the time he was president of the Milwaukee chapter, a large number of

American converts joined the community, which is comparatively larger than other chapters. In 1998, he performed Hajj. In Milwaukee, beside from our community, he was popular among other religious communities as well.



Br. Rashid Ahmad with Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV.^{rh}

He was involved in the television program Islam Live for the last 20 years. Until the last breath of his life, he regularly worked at weekly bookstall. Before his death, as long as he was conscious, he was preaching to the nurses at the hospital. In 1985-86, he arranged a large gathering of Muslims at the University of Wisconsin. He used to deliver lectures regularly at university campuses. He conveyed the peaceful teachings of Islam to thousands of students. He was constantly in touch with local as well as state politicians and representatives. He held open meetings on Sundays for all citizens in which Ahmadi members and people of other faiths took part and benefited from his words of wisdom.

At the request of his friends and with the permission from the [Jama'at] Headquarters, he was

planning to have his biography published in which he had described in detail his journeys in the company of Hadrat Muslih Mau'ud, may Allah be pleased with him, taking part in the question and answer meetings, and the notes he had made of these meetings. After several years of hard work, this book is ready to be printed with the permission of the [Jamā'ah] Headquarters.

The [Regional] Missionary for the Milwaukee Chapter, Maulana Faran Rabbani, writes, "I was stationed here nine months ago, and despite my young age, he welcomed me with open arms. When I consulted him with respect to organizing various programs for the Jamā'at, he said to me in Urdu, 'Maulana sahib, you are a representative of the Khalifah of the time, our job is to follow'." He was imbued with the spirit of obedience.

Maulana Shamsad Ahmad Nasir writes, "When I arrived in the US, I always found him narrating incidents from the life of Hadrat Muslih Mau'ud, may Allah be pleased with him. He had molded his life according to the dictates of Hadrat Muslih Mau'ud, may Allah be pleased with him. Last year his speech at the US Jalsa Salana was based on his memories of his beloved master Hadrat Muslih Mau'ud, may Allah be pleased with him. Based on these memories, he wanted to convey a message to the current and future generations."

It would not be out of place to state that in the defense of Ahmadiyya Islam, he was always a drawn out sword with respect to the preaching of Ahmadiyyat, its defense and Khilafat. He was ever ready to preach Ahmadiyyat. In his old age, when his body grew weak, he used to preach all alone. Often he was referred to as Mr. Tabligh. With the mercy of Almighty Allah many members attended his funeral. Source: Al-Fazl International, London, March 6 to 12, 2015, pages 8 and 9 [Translated into English by Zakaria Virk].

Resolution of the US National Amila on the Sad Demise of Br Rashid Ahmad

With heavy heart we received the sad news of the demise of our beloved brother Al-Haj Rashid Ahmad American of Milwaukee at the age of 92. He was very close to Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II (ra) and lived for 5 years in Rabwah, Pakistan. He was first American convert who went to Jami'a and was designated as an "Honorary Missionary".

He remained fully devoted to Tabligh till his last days of his life and played a very constructive role to promote Ahmadiyyat among all Americans. He also led the USA Jama'at in several leadership positions

including the position of National president of the USA Jama'at.

His departure is indeed a great loss for the USA Jama'at.

Be it resolved that we the members of National Amila express our heartfelt condolences to his family, Milwaukee Jama'at as well as all American Ahmadis. May Allah Ta'ala grant him a high station in Jannatul Firdaus. Āmīn

Members of National Amila USA. February 7, 2015

Memories of Br. Rashid Ahmad

Hassiem Abdullah Babatu



Hassiem and Al-Haj Rashid Ahmad at 7 Mile Fair Tabligh booth

About fifteen years ago, I first saw Al-Haj Rashid Ahmad American on a TV show called Islam Live. At the time I was following mainstream Islam. I was unhappy with my situation and was not gaining in knowledge of Islam. I asked Allah to guide me to a mosque among righteous and pious individuals.

I came home from work one day and turned on the TV and watched a show called Islam Live by the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. I had never heard of Ahmadiyyat. I started calling the show every week with questions. Mr Rashid and Muhammad Sabir answered every question I asked and directed me to Surahs in the Holy Quran and explained them to me.

I was given a book, The Philosophy of the Teaching of Islam, by a young man who knew I was a Muslim. While watching the show one day, Mr Rashid mentioned the name of Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (may peace be upon him). I looked at the front of the book and saw his name and then a light seemed to come on in my head.

Finally, on December of 2004, I walked into Baitul-Qadir and Mr Rashid was sitting in the corner. He

greeted me with As-Salamu Alaikum as entered. He asked, “Hey brother, what are you here for?” I said, “I am here to sign Bai‘at. He said, “Al-Hamdu Lillah.”

Over the next year I came into the mosque everyday, Monday through Thursday, between 12 PM and 2 PM. He taught me how to offer Prayers correctly, the last ten Surahs of the Holy Quran and a lot more. I became his student and joined him at the outreach events at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and other events.

The last three years, we would go down to 7 Mile Fair Tabligh booth and my knowledge of how to conduct outreach work increased immensely.

Three years ago, Mr Rashid stepped away from the show, Islam Live, and Al-Haj Dr Muhammad Sabir asked me to join him on the show. I felt honored to be a part of the show that introduced me to Ahmadiyya Islam. I truly believe that I could not have had a better teacher in town. Al-Hamdu Lillah for Al-Haj Rashid Ahmad American as I learned more from him about Ahmadiyyat than all others combined.

A Vaccine for the Materialism Epidemic

We have a disease. Since the inception of our species, we have been afflicted with this disease. This fatal disease has chased many to their graves.

Mutual rivalry in seeking worldly increase diverts you from God. Till you reach the graves. [102:2-3]

This is the disease of materialism. The pharaohs of Ancient Egypt were afflicted with this deadly disease. Buried with pets, jewelry, wealth, and all their prized possessions—the disease of materialism chased them to their graves literally. How true are the words of the Qur'an:

Mutual rivalry in seeking worldly increase diverts you from God. Till you reach the graves. [102:2-3]

This was the disease of materialism, with which Alexander the Great was also afflicted till he reached his grave. His final three wishes carry his own diagnosis:

“I would like the world to know of these three lessons which I have just learnt. I want my physicians to carry my coffin because people should realize that no doctor can really cure anybody. They are powerless and cannot save a person from the clutches of death.

“My second wish to strew gold, silver and other precious stones on the way to the graveyard is to let the people know that though I spent all my life accumulating riches, not even a grain of gold will come with me when I leave this world. I want people to understand that it is a sheer waste of time, energy, and peace of mind when one yearns to be rich.

“With my third wish of having my hands dangling out of the coffin, I want people to know that I came empty handed into this world and likewise will go empty handed from this world.”

His life—and his death—were truly a testament to the words of the Qur'an:

Mutual rivalry in seeking worldly increase diverts you from God. Till you reach the graves. [102:2-3]

Such is the ruthlessness of the disease of materialism. Luckily, we have a cure.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) elaborates:

“There are two types of wealth: one as a source of trial, and one as a source of purification. Wealth which is a source of trial is that wealth which is not only unconnected to Allah, but in fact takes one so far away from Allah that it destroys man. It is towards this that Allah directs our attention when He says, “let not your wealth destroy you” [63:10].

“Wealth which is a source of purification is that wealth which is for Allah. Allah becomes the caretaker of such people. They consider everything they possess to belong to Allah and they prove this through their actions. Look at the conditions of the companions—when they were presented with a test, they presented all that was theirs for the sake of Allah. Hadrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (may Allah be pleased with him) was the first to appear wearing his sheet. And the reward of that sheet that Allah gave him was such that he became the first Khalifah.

“In essence, to earn real quality, goodness, and spiritual pleasure, only that wealth can be of use which is spent in the way of Allah.” [Tafsir Masih Mau'ud, Vol. 8, P. 154]

So, rather than letting your wealth become a source of trial—rather than letting your wealth turn you into a pharaoh or an Alexander—let your wealth become a source of purification. Let your wealth turn you into Hadrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him).

Spend in the way of Allah as if everything you have always belonged to Him. This is the only cure for this disease of materialism. This is the only cure that will save us in our graves. To Him does everything truly belong, and to Him shall everyone finally return.

Hammad Ahmad

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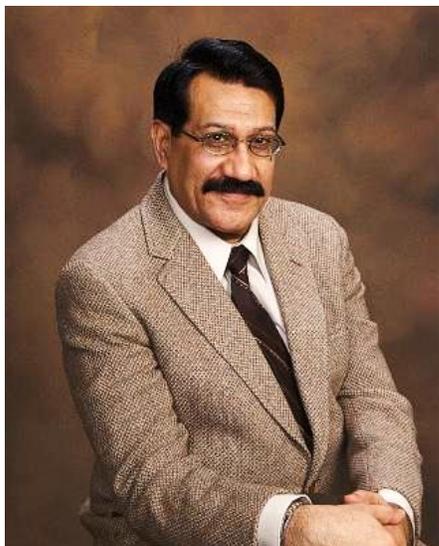
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Mian Habib-ur-Rahman Sahir Passes Away

Friends, admirers, associates and former students of Mian Habib-ur-Rahman Sahir are informed that he passed away in Houston, on Feb 21, 2015. He was suffering from colon cancer for some time. On the following day his funeral prayer was offered in the perimeter of Bait-ul-Muqit Mosque Round Rock/Austin, TX. He was laid to rest in Georgetown, TX.



Mian Habib-ur-Rahman was son of Late Professor Mian Ata-ur-Rahman, T.I. College, Rabwah, Pakistan. He was born on March 7, 1949 in Bhera, Paksitan. He was educated at Rabwah. After completing his M.Sc.

from T.I. College Rabwah, he taught in the same college from 1972 to 1984. He distinguished himself as a popular and hardworking teacher, in fact a “Born Teacher.”

He was a devoted and sincere servant of the Ahmadiyya Khilafat and was able to accomplish numerous projects assigned to him by the Khalifatul-Masih IVth. God Almighty blessed him with an extraordinary intellectual and poetic talent and potential. His poems were published in Jama‘at newspapers and magazines. The love of Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} and the blessings of the institution of Khilafat were favorite themes of his poems.

He was a born teacher and lived his life of a dedicated professional teacher and retired in July 2014, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, sacrifice and dedication. He died in Houston on February 21, 2015 and was laid to rest in Dar-ul-Maghfirah Cemetery at Georgetown/Texas on the following day. The final silent prayers were conducted by Mian Lutfur Rahman Mahmood at the gravesite.

The Late Mian Habib-ur-Rahman is survived by his wife (Khalida Raana), a daughter (Sobia Kiran, who lives in Pakistan) and two sons (Ata-ur-Rahman and Naveed-ur-Rahman who live in Houston TX). May Allah be their guide, protector, supporter and enable them to live a life of excellent model of Ahmadiyya youth. (Amen)

Miami Holds Latino Health Fair

In October, Miami Jama‘at participated in health care fairs throughout South Florida. The month started off with the Binational Health Fair at the West Palm Beach Community Center where medical professional from the Miami Jama‘at provided free medical consultation to over 30 patients from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Three more events were held at the Guatemala Consulate where doctors, pharmacists, and other health care professionals provided medical care to 30 patients. From 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on October 9, 17, and 18, members of the Miami Jama‘at held a health fair at the Guatemala Consulate in South Florida where patients were provided free medical treatment and counselling. The final event of the month was held at

Miramar Latino College where two physicians and four volunteers provided free medical consultation to approximately 40 patients between 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

During those events, many patients and Guatemala staff members asked us about Islam and Ahmadiyyat and provided encouraging and positive feedback.

Following members deserve special mention for their contributions towards the success of these efforts: Dr. Tariq Mahmood, Dr. Bashir Shaikh, Dr. Hafeezur Rehman (Albany, NY), Mudathir Adedeji, Mutaheer Chaudhry, Munawar Chaudhry, Osama Mannan Siddiqui, Mohsin Naeem, Muzaffar Choudhry, Imam Muhammad Saeed, Labeed Choudhry and Aleemudin.

Planting the Seed of Ahmadiyyat in Puerto Rico

By Maria M. Parvez

By the grace of Allah, I am the first Ahmadi from Puerto Rico who joined Ahmadiyyat in early 80s. I, Maria M. Parvez, was sent as a delegate from USA-South Houston chapter to Jalsa Salana UK 2014. It was quite a wonderful experience to meet and share experiences with sisters from different parts of the world and to be able to listen to and have a meeting with our beloved Khalifatul-Masih V, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, may Allah be his helper.

When I came back from that trip, I started dreaming of an Ahmadiyya community established in my home country, Puerto Rico, composed mainly of local people like what has happened in Guatemala. So, early in September 2014, while checking information about mosques in Puerto Rico on Facebook, I just randomly clicked on the name of Brother Bilal A. Rojas. He was a Shia Muslim from Puerto Rico and a member of Lebanese Muslim organization in Isabela. I introduced myself to him as a member of the Ahmadiyya community whose slogan is "Love for all, hatred for none," and sent him a message and attached to it a sermon of the Khalifatul-Masih about world peace.

Brother Bilal, Al-Hamdu Lillah, wrote back on September 13, 2014 stating that he was a Muslim, but that he was interested in a community that will promote peace within fellow beings and wanted to know conditions to join the community! I requested Brother Bilal's permission to contact someone to assist in this matter and he agreed. I contacted Dr. Waseem Sayed and Sister Aliya Latif from the Spanish Desk and informed them of the above. Brother Bilal's information was then forwarded to another Ahmadi brother living in Puerto Rico. For some reason, Brother Bilal was not successful in engaging with this brother and continued showing interest in learning. So, I forwarded him information about alislam website, links for programs such as Faith Matters, Beacon of Truth, USA and UK Jalsa Salana programs including International Bai'at and the Khalifatul-Masih checking the facilities for UK

Jalsa Salana 2014 videos. Links for books such as *Message of Peace and Warning* and *Ten Conditions of Bai'at* were also forwarded and a test of the first book was sent to him on his request.

I requested Hasan Parvez Bajwa to assist in this effort who gladly became a part of this as a family effort. He started exchanging phone calls to answer Br. Bilal's questions about our Jama'at and exchanged about 26 e-mails with Br. Bilal from October through December 2014. Brother Hasan collected some Spanish literature from the Houston Jama'at in the form of small books and pamphlets and these were mailed to Br. Bilal. Br. Bilal had lots of questions and was still very curious about our point of view. He studied most of this literature and became comfortable with the teachings and interpretation of Islam presented by The Promised Messiah, 'Alaihis-Salam, Al-Hamdu Lillah.

On December 15, 2014, Brother Bilal signed the first page of the Bai'at forms sent by Hasan Parvez Bajwa. On January 2, 2015, during our vacation to Puerto Rico, my daughter, Nazayat A. Parvez, and I visited Brother Bilal and his family at their home in Isabela, Puerto Rico. On this journey, we brought more than 50 pounds of Ahmadiyya literature handed over to me by Hasan Parvez before leaving to Puerto Rico. On this day, brother Bilal signed the second page of the Bai'at forms completing the process, Al-Hamdu Lillah. Attached you will see some pictures of this meaningful event. Brother Bilal informed us before leaving his home that he is fixing a room downstairs which he is planning to use as a Prayer room. Allahu Akbar, our dream is starting to materialize!

It is our desire and prayer to continue our humble efforts in promoting Ahmadiyyat on behalf of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih-il-Khamis and Ahmadiyya Jama'at in any way we can, In Sha Allah. Please pray for the success of this Da'i Ilallah mission so that we can fulfill our duties as desired by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih, Ayyadahullahu Ta'ala. Aameen.

Contributing to Gazette

Please type and send soft copy of your English or Urdu contribution through e-mail to publications@ahmadiyya.us.

Please provide your name and phone number on the contribution in case you need to be contacted.

Please indicate in the email if you want to see the edited version before its publication.

Please provide references for quotes from the Holy Qur'an, Hadith, Malfuzat and other sources.

First Midwest Region Training Convention Held in Chicago

The first two-day Midwest Training convention began on Saturday, December 27, 2014. Members of the following Chapters attended the convention: Bloomington, Chicago East, Chicago Northwest, Chicago Southwest, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Minnesota and Zion. Members of these Chapters were encouraged to register on-line for the convention. By the Grace of God over 450 members registered for this auspicious gathering. In addition to the fore-mentioned Chapters, members of the following chapters were also in attendance: Atlanta, Harrisburg, Pittsburg, Maryland and Virginia.

The day began at 10:00 AM with an updated registration and refreshments. Lunch was served to all attendees between noon and 1:00 PM. Zuhr and Asr Prayers were offered at 1:00 PM. The first session of the convention began at 1:30 PM.

The opening session was presided over by Respected Munum A Naeem, National Vice President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA. After the recitation of the Holy Quran and its translation, special message of respected Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, President of Ahmadiyya Muslim community USA was read out by Respected Masood Malik VP Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to members. Respected Munum Naeem spoke on the topic of "Responsibilities of the officeholders and the purpose of this convention." The opening session was combined and attended by both men and women.

The second session of the convention began at 2:20 PM. It was divided into four separate sessions for men (Khuddam and Ansar), women (Lajna), Atfal (boys age 7-15 years) and Nasirat (girls age 7-15 years). Each session was presided over by one of their own members. Some of the topics covered by children in their speeches and presentations included: "Blessing of Joining Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya," "Our Beliefs," "Our Responsibilities as an Ahmadi in the Society," "Overcoming Obstacles in the Western Society," "Bonds of Sisterhood and Unity," and "Salat (Prayer)—a way to meet Allah (God) five times a day." The session was much appreciated by all as children's speeches and presentations showed their enthusiasm and preparation.

The next session was presided over by vice president of Majlis Khudamul-Ahmadiyya (Ahmadiyya youth organization) on men's side, and the Lajna

(women) had their own session. Khuddam delivered following individual speeches: "Allah: the Ghafoor (Forgiver)," "Ideal Khadim and Blessings of MKA," "Holy Prophet's Kind Treatment of Family Relations," "Nations Cannot be Reformed without the Reformation of its Youth." In addition, Khuddam also had a group presentation in which various Training scenarios were highlighted and discussed. Interestingly, Atfal (boys age 7-15 years) provided unique insight into each issue. Lajna (women) conducted a workshop at the same time in which the following issues were discussed: 'Worship,' 'Give Precedence to Faith,' and 'Anger Management and Forgiveness.'

The final session of the day began at 6:00 PM. It was a combined session for men and women and was presided over by respected Falahaiddin Shams, VP Ahmadiyya Muslim community USA. National Finance department made a special presentation regarding Ahmadi community finance system. Respected Falahaiddin Shams spoke on a timely topic of 'Blissful Married Life'. Before the session ended, members were provided an opportunity to ask any question they may have. A panel consisted of Respected Munum A Naeem, Respected Falahaiddin Shams and Respected Imam Shamshad A Nasir answered various questions asked by both men and women. The session ended with Isha Prayer. Dinner was served later.

By the grace of Allah, over 450 members attended the first day of this inaugural training convention in the Midwest.

Sunday 28th, 2014 the second day of the convention started at 4:30 AM with Tahajjud in congregation. Followed by listening to the live address of His Holiness Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad to Jalsa Salana Qadian. Fajr was offered at the conclusion of the address followed by breakfast at 7 AM.

The final session of the convention was presided by Respected Malik Masood, vice president Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA. This session began with the Recitation of the Holy Qur'an and its translation.

The first speech was delivered by respected Imam Faran Rabbani about the "Holy Prophet's response to extreme situations," followed by a speech on the topic of Affliction of Backbiting and its adverse effects" by Regional Sec. Tarbiyat Respected AbuBakar Bin Saeed.

More than 450 Men, Women and children from Midwest chapters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community attended this historic Convention

A group poem was presented by the Ghanaian brothers on 'Messiah has come.' An amazing speech by Respected Dhul Waqar Yaqub on the topic of "Anger Management" was succeeded by a speech by Respected Imam Shamshad A. Nasir on the topic of "Promised Messiah's expectations from us." The keynote speech

was given by Respected Masoud Malik on the topic of "Obedience to the institution of Khilafat and its blessings." At the end, the congregation was led into silent prayers. Lunch was served after Zuhr and Asr Prayers.

Stop the CrISIS

Event Organized by AMSA of Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Dawood Munir, Cypress-Houston Chapter

This educational event regarding the true teachings of Islam was organized by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association of Texas A&M University. Sadr Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, Dr. Bilal Rana, made the presentation. Local newspapers and a TV channel gave coverage of the event. Please see below link for the TV coverage and newspapers. Salman Munir and Sana Rahman, students at Texas A&M, were interviewed by the local TV channel and newspapers and their interviews were published in newspapers. Al-Hamdu Llillah, our next generation is taking over the responsibilities.

TV coverage:

<http://www.kbtx.com/home/headlines/Texas-AM-Muslim-Student-Association-Promotes-Peace-During-Stop-the-CrISIS-Event-292144921.html>

Newspapers:

<http://www.thebatt.com/news/view.php/860825/Stop-the-Crisis-Group-condemns-ISIS->

<http://www.thebatt.com/news/view.php/860704/Muslim-group-addresses-ISIS-stigmas-of-I>

http://www.galvnews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_db2e11fe-ae83-11e4-b9e5-ffcc8a7d0853.html

http://www.chron.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/article/Your-Turn-Feb-12-6075898.php

http://www.theeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/letters-for-february/article_486fbb84-d353-5f87-93e1-d960911fdob4.html

True Islam speaks out against atrocities committed by ISIS

The violence continues and more blood has been shed; ISIS has beheaded two Japanese hostages Huruna Yukawa and Kenji Goto and released a video of the Jordanian pilot, Moaz Kasabeh, being burned alive. [We just learned that American aid worker Kayla Mueller has been killed by ISIS.]

This self-proclaimed "Islamic State" continues to show the world its cruel and violent ways through these continued villainous acts. As a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, I condemn these terrible acts of violence. The true Islamic solution to address this monstrosity is laid out in the Quran where it says, "And if two parties of believers fight each other, make peace between them; then if one of them transgresses against the other, fight the party that transgress."

It is important that we address the problems of ISIS properly. The Khalifa of Islam, Mirza Masroor Ahmad, stated in an interview with the Los Angeles Times that a U.N. alliance made up solely of Arab troops properly could handle the growing distress in the Middle East.

According to the true teachings of the Islam, it's important that we continue to speak out against these atrocities and offer our prayers and condolences to the families of all the innocent victims.

Topics and Deadlines for next Issues

June Issue (deadline May 10): Loyalty: July 4. Independence Day. Rights and responsibilities of freedom. Freedom of thought and conscience in Islam. What freedom means and what it does not. Celebrations in Islam

July Issue (deadline June 10): Jalsa Importance of education.

August Issue (deadline July 10): Meaning of Hajj. September 1, Labor Day: Importance of hard work. Stories and anecdotes related to labor. Rights and responsibilities of employee and employer. Rallies. Health.

September Issue (August 10) Prophets/Prophecy October 13. Columbus Day History of Islam in the US. Islamic influence in the undertaking of Columbus. Contributions of Muslims to science and technology. October 31. Halloween Islam supports healthy and productive celebrations which promote man's physical, social, economic and spiritual well-being.

Imam offers message of peace and harmony in Senate prayer



Imam Zarfar Sarwar of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community gave the opening prayer on Feb. 27.

Religious leaders from all faiths are invited to serve as chaplains and offer the opening prayer before each session of the Senate during the legislative session.

Lt. Governor Owen, who introduces the chaplain each day, said he was so impressed by the prayer offered on Feb. 27 by Imam Zarfar Sarwar of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community that he wanted to share its text here.

Good morning.

*Peace and blessings of God be upon you all,
In the name of God the Gracious the Merciful.*

Honorable members:

Thank you very much for providing me this opportunity to start your session with prayer. It is a great honor for me. All praise belongs to God.

95 years back Ahmadiyya Muslim Community came to United States of America with this motto: "Love for all hatred for none".

God Almighty the Creator of this Universe is the same source of all the prophets such as Adam, Noah, Krishna, Abraham, Buddha, Moses, Jesus, Confucius, Zoroaster, and Mohammad peace be on all of them.

All the prophets taught us that prayer is the best way to attain success and make progress so, for the success and the progress of the state of Washington we pray.

O' God grant us unity remove from us all prejudice and able the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, the men and the woman no matter what religion they belong to or what race enable us all to live with each other in peace and harmony that those of us whom you have blessed with an abundance discharge their responsibility to care of those who are not so fortunate and remove from us all rancor and suspicion.

O' God shower your choices blessings upon all of us and bless this nation, bless our state of Washington and bless all who reside.

(Courtesy web page Lt Governor Brad Owen, State of Washington)

Old Copies of Ahmadiyya Gazette Needed

The publications department is looking for old copies of Ahmadiyya Gazette USA to preserve the history of Ahmadiyya Gazette. Please look in your stacks of old magazines and email publications@ahmadiyya.us if you have copies of Ahmadiyya Gazette published from 1950 to 1979. Jazakumullāh for your help.

Introduction to Islam by Merced Chapter at the Unity Church of Merced

Merced Chapter mailed a letter to churches offering to come and deliver lectures to provide firsthand information about Ahmadiyya Islam. We were invited by the Unity Church of Merced on Sunday 8 February 2015 to come and introduce Ahmadiyya Islam to their church members. The Unity Church advertised the event in the local newspaper, on social media and internally to their members.

Abdur Raqeeb Wali, President Merced Chapter, delivered 45-minute lecture on Islam, which was followed by question/answer session for another 45 minutes. Respected Wali Sahib started with silent prayers and the recitation of the Holy Quran and its translation.

Basic beliefs of the faith of Islam were explained to the seekers of truth. The commonalities between Islam and other religions were explained. Copies of the farewell sermon of Holy Prophet of Islam (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was distributed to the attendees while Br, Wali read and went over the sermon point by point.

Hereunder are few questions asked by the church member, which shows the level of understandings they have for Islam and their quest for knowledge.

Q: What is the meaning of Jihad and how it is explained in the Holy Quran?

Q: We are explaining that Islam is a religion of peace but the actions of ISIS are contrary to Islamic faith.

Q: How do Muslims treat women? The press is full of horrific stories.

Q: Why we use "He" for God and not she?

There were many more questions asked by the church members showing the need of the time to go out and give lectures on Islam in small circles.

At the end, Twyla Reece, the Unity Minister, thanked Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Merced Chapter, for taking the bold step to come to their church and inform them about the true Islam. She also wanted dialogue in future and wanted to be part of interfaith community of Merced City.

Al-Humdu Lillah! It was a very successful event and 27 church members attended the event in spite of very heavy rain fall from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Respected Wali concluded the event with silent prayers.

Reported by Shahid Sohail, Merced Chapter

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Dayton Participates in MLK Jr Day Celebration

Dayton Jama'at took part in the celebration of MLK Jr Day on Monday January 19. Ansar, Khuddam, Atfal, Lajna and Nasirat participated in the parade. After the parade, people gathered in convention center.



There was a big crowd in the parade. Some children were playing with a toy helicopter and enjoying.



The Jama'at had the opportunity to setup a booth.



Around 300 pieces of literature were distributed including copies of the Holy Quran, Life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa}, Pathway to Peace and a pamphlet, Muhammad, the Messenger of Peace.

Our team remained very busy in distributing and answering questions. Business cards were also distributed with the name of the missionary and the phone number and the address of the mosque.



The great dedicated team who distributed the literature (from right to left) Naveed Cheema, Br. Haji Aminullah Ahmad, Missionary Azam Akram, Ch. Muhammad Arshad, President Dayton Jama'at, and Brother Abdur Raheem.



Our missionary is holding the banner of "Muhammad the messenger of Peace" on one side.

During the parade we had another banner "Love for All, Hatred for None." We had 2 small banners of "The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Dayton" as well.

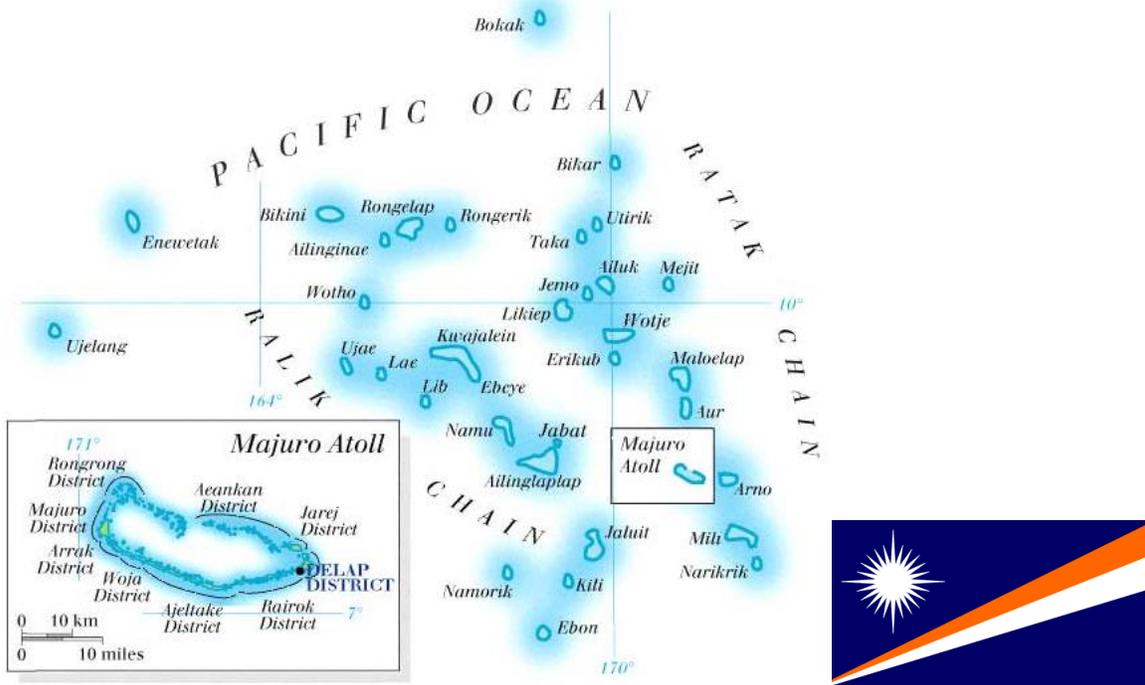
Please pray that may Allah accept our efforts in the way of Allah. (Mirza Mahmood Ahmad)

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Please send your requests for free copies of old issues of Review of Religions to usa@reviewofreligions.org. There is no shipping charge. Please include the number of copies you need, your name and your shipping address. You can request copies of a particular issue if available. (Faiza Bajwa)

Mission Marshall Islands: October 24-November 4, 2013

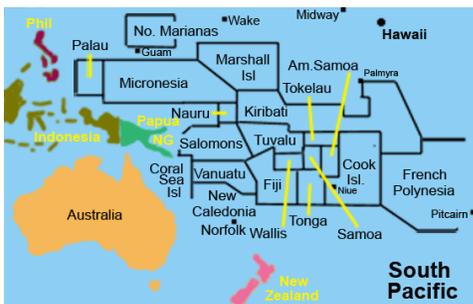
Dr Agha Shahid Khan



Map and flag of Marshall Islands

The quest for self-authentication started to knock on the conscious and I found myself enthusiastically arranging for the medical mission to Marshall Island. I had made a trip to the same destination last year and anticipated my return with ambivalent feelings as to what possibilities of medical mission existed. There was shortage of everything on the Island and it was inconceivable to perform any complicated surgeries but just empowered with faith and trust, I ploughed through to assemble a group of dedicated volunteer doctors and helpers to take on this unlikely task assigned by the Respected Amir US under the Banner of Humanity First.

Marshall Islands so it may be appropriate to say a few words about this waterborne destination that we had targeted for our mission. Marshall Islands are a group of about fifty atolls in the middle of North Pacific between Hawaii and Guam. They are easily a ten-hour flight from any large land mass and are as remote as possible. The capital of Marshall Islands is Majuro, an atoll, which is about 35 miles long and is 3 miles wide at its maximum width and may be 150 feet at its narrowest point. The island has a full service US embassy as well as embassies of other nations. It has an airport that can accommodate a Boeing 737. Almost all the provisions are imported mostly from the US and the Islands are under a pact agreement with the US till 2023 as a result of nuclear testing that were carried out on these islands in 1950s. On the map, these atolls look like a bunch of insignificant dots. An atoll is not a true island but rather a part of a rim of a submerged volcano that had gathered enough soil to become inhabitable. These landmasses are usually flat. Most of these atolls are 400-500 miles apart from each other. The US nuclear board has determined the exposed islands, like Bikini Atoll, to be safe and inhabitable now but people are reluctant to return. There are 30 atolls large enough to have a senator and there is a president that governs the country.



Location of Marshall Islands

I cannot expect most people to know with certainty about the location or socioeconomic situation of

Scattered in the Pacific are other Islands like the Gilbert Islands and the Islands of Micronesia collectively called the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Of special interest is the Island of Koserae for reasons which will be discussed later. Then, of course, there are the South Pacific Islands and other island nations like Japan and the Philippines, Fiji and Tahiti which are well known. I had not realized that there were so many people in the world living on such tiny little landmasses.

Coming back to Majuro, the capital of Marshall Islands, it has a population of 25-30 thousand depending on whose statistics you believe. It has somehow taken the position of an economic hub, and on any given day, you will see Chinese, American, New Zealander or some other courtier's trollers that are moored in the waters of Majuro Lagoon receiving fish from small boats to make the final shipment to their destination in a frozen form. The country is very poor and mostly US grant dependent. There are a number of expatriates who are residing on land or boats finding a respite from the craziness of the so-called developed nations. There are a number of Pilipino doctors and nurses and occasionally those from some other countries who provide most of the medical care. Specialized Medical care like neurosurgery is not available and patients are either sent to the Philippines or Hawaii at a great expense to the government since health care is subsidized and everyone can access medical care for a fee of five dollars. The hospital facilities are acceptable but they are ill equipped except for the dental department that has fairly modern equipment though supplies are not plentiful. Local populations have a very high incidence of diabetes and lack education and sophistication in its treatment thus making them vulnerable to its associated complications. Unilateral or bilateral amputees are a common sight. The stated cause of the diabetes epidemic by healthcare officials is the population's departure from a healthy diet of vegetables, coconut, fruit and fish to an all processed diet heavy in starch imported from other countries. Locals believe that the diabetes epidemic is a result of the effects of radiation from nuclear testing.

During my visit in 2012, I had formulated a plan to return with a group including general surgeon, possibly an orthopedic surgeon, an infectious disease doctor, and a dentist. I was doing this upon a request of Amir US who placed great faith in me by asking me to lead the group since the odds against the mission were so great, the most important being that the territory was untested. Whenever you are doing something for the first time the outcome can never be predicted. It takes

the first step to smooth the way for the next one to follow. I had done this in many a situation before so I had an advantage from that standpoint. The second step is the distance to be travelled and asking people to volunteer to help some unknown people with whom they have nothing in common except for their humanity and all that on their own expense and vacation time.



Left to right: Vlad Zhelenko, surgeon assistant. Dr Ann, general surgeon from Philippines. Dr Rana, general surgeon from US.

Initially we tried to put together a team in May of 2013 but it did not work out for various reasons. Instead of attempting it again in the summer months, I decided to do it at the end of October since at this time summer fever is over and, having worked for a few weeks, the guilt of taking some time off again is not too heavy on the mind or the pocket. During this time, there were many people who signed up, some stayed and some begged off till another time. The final team that took shape consisted of Dr. Agha S. Khan, MD, FACS, FAANS, Neurosurgeon. Mr. Falahuddin Shams, Amir Marshall Islands and Micronesia. Dr. Rana Nauman, MD, General Surgeon. Dr. Haroon Khan, MD, Infectious Diseases Specialist. Dr. Tahir Khan DDS, Dental Surgeon. Dr. Nasir Malik, Ph.D., Agrarian. Mr. Valad Zhelanko, Surgical Assistant and Coordinator.

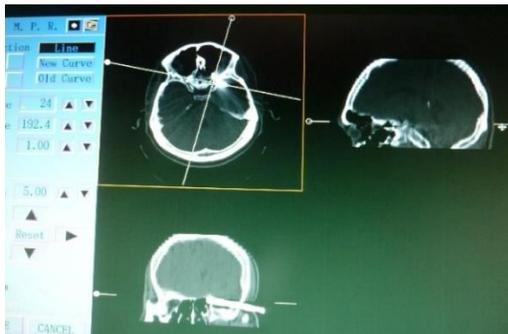


Left to right: Missionary Ehtisham Kauser. Dr Rana Nauman, general surgery. Dr Tahir Khan, DDS, dentist. Falahuddin Shams. Christopher Loepak, President of Marshall Islands. Dr Agha Shahid Khan, neurosurgeon. Dr Haroon Khan, infectious diseases. Missionary Matiullah Joyia. Vlad Zhelenko, surgical assistant and coordinator.



Reception at the mission house

Dr. Nasir Flew from Philadelphia whereas I, Mr Shams and Vlad flew from BWI (Baltimore). Dr. Haroon Khan started from Nashville, Tennessee, Dr. Rana from Spokane, Washington, and Dr. Tahir from Los Angeles, California. We all were to meet eventually in Honolulu, Hawaii, and go to Majuro together. We stayed overnight in Honolulu’s Best Western Hotel by the airport and Mr. Shams, our good friend, took us to the Honolulu Club for dinner. This was Thursday night. By now, we had crossed three time zones starting at the East Coast. We left for Majuro on the morning of Friday the 25th at 7:30 A.M.



CT scan of the nail in the head

We arrived at Majuro airport at about 10.30 AM Saturday and this was fastest turn of the day I had experienced and it was of course due to crossing of the dateline. As the plane was landing, there was water on either side of the runway and some of us were trying to keep the airplane on the tarmac like you do when you are applying the brakes on the passenger side when riding with an aggressive driver. Anyhow, we disembarked safely and were facing a rudimentary airport with a nonexistent customs system but a robust immigration check. As we exited the airport we were greeted by a group of local people including hospital staff and the CEO as well as Missionary Matiullah and Missionary Kauser. We were greeted with garlands, hand-made baskets filled with bread, fruit, chips and young coconut filled with its natural water. Having been there last November, I must admit that I felt

nostalgic and excited to be there again especially on seeing the familiar faces of Jim, Sam and Missionary Matiullah.

From the airport, we made our way to the mission house and there we were greeted by the local children and some adults with more garlands and smiles and vocal greetings. This topped off the day and we were all ecstatic.

Now we were presented with the agenda for the week. First we were to be given the tour of the mission house and some greetings by the missionaries and children. After that we were to tour the hospital and have lunch followed by a sailboat ride on the lagoon. The rest of the week was to be spent with clinical and social activities until Friday. The major contingent of the medical team was to return home via Hawaii while Mr. Shams, Vlad and I were to venture to beautiful Island of Kosarea to eventually return home on November 4th. There was a reception to be held at Marshal Island Resort, also known as MIR, on Sunday Night with an introduction of the team to the local dignitaries including the US Ambassador. MIR is one of the two hotels in Majuro with somewhat reasonable accommodation. There were lots of foreigners in the hotel and lots of them were there to adopt babies.



Person with screwdriver in the head

Sunday morning we decided to take a pre-tour of the hospital to check out the facilities. We made our way to the radiology department and our attention was captured by an X-ray of the skull hanging on the view box. An ordinary skull; the only unique feature was that it had a screwdriver passing through it. It was rather disturbing to see and the first thing that came to mind was who is going to take care of it. On inquiring, we were told that this young man was found by some passersby on a side street in a stupor while smelling of alcohol. He was stable but the screwdriver was stuck in the head and it was broken at the mid shaft. Well, while registering this information we finished the hospital rounds and headed back to the mosque. There we met the local congregation and it was beautiful. Local children were singing songs and reciting the Quran and

verses of Salat with such melody and clarity as if they had been doing it for years. Missionary Matiullah Joya takes full credit for it and was recently joined by Ehtisham-ul-Haq Kauser, who is following his footsteps. Each child had a million dollar smile which you could not buy and the overt expression of love to near complete strangers. Their hand gestures expressed a wish of well-being to all and they hugged our legs with truest warm feelings while not expecting anything in return made this trip more than worthwhile.



Left to right: Dr Khan, Vlad Zhelenko, Dr Ann

We had a short briefing by the Missionary Joya. He informed us, among other things, that since the announcement of the Humanity First Mission is arrived, there had been an anti-Muslim propaganda. He cautioned us about this and advised us to use care in dealing with people. The amazing thing to me was that these people have zero contact with Muslims but the propaganda had already been preset in their minds mostly by local preachers.



Operation in progress

The next day we went to the hospital and were shown into the outpatient department. To my surprise there were signs on display on the doors of exam rooms “US/Muslim/Neurosurgeons and US/Muslim/General surgeons, etc. I told my Filipino counterpart general surgeon that we were there to serve humanity and therefore perhaps a “Human Neurosurgeon” will suffice. Soon afterwards these signs were removed.

Later in the day, we met the administration and

other medical staff and, in the afternoon, we started seeing the patients. All this time I was thinking about what was going to happen with the screwdriver person. I was concerned by the inadequacy of the equipment and the supplies and did not want to deal with a case under these circumstances when the atmosphere was potentially flammable. Also, I had come with the group in the capacity of the medical leader to facilitate the work of others intending to do a few simple procedures but definitely not brain surgery. I casually enquired about what was going to happen to this patient and was told that normally this type of patient is sent to either the Philippines or Hawaii and that the average cost is about 100,000 dollars. Someone hinted that I was expected to perform this operation. I suggested that it would be best if he were shipped out.

On Tuesday, we came back to work and asked about the same patient and I was told that he was still there. I started to feel slightly anxious since, with years of experience, I had developed a sixth sense like most surgeons do when expecting problems during surgery. The longer we waited on this patient, however, the greater the risks of infection, etc. That day I went to the hotel room and advised them that I would let them know whether we were going to operate on this patient or not. By now I had seen a few patients in the clinic who were in severe need of surgery; one of them had severe cervical stenosis with Meylopathy and was losing function in the arms and legs and another was a middle age woman with an extreme case of uncontrollable occipital neuralgia. I told them to keep patient NPO overnight just in case.



Extracted screwdriver

That night before falling asleep I prayed, “God Almighty, please give wisdom and an indication whether I should operate on this man.” I was anxious and worried as I mentioned before. I went to bed and during my sleep I had a dream. I saw that I was operating on this man and had positioned his head in a certain way. I made the incision, turned the muscle/galea flap and, using rudimentary instruments, made a left temporal craniectomy and extended the tear in the Dura and followed the screw driver all the way to its tip and dislodged it while controlling the

bleeding without proper hemostatic agents. I woke up in the morning refreshed and with no hint of anxiety. I announced that we were going to operate on this patient and that word should be sent to the hospital.



President of Marshall Islands with Dr Khan and ambassador of Korea.

Well, I did the operation exactly the way I had seen it in my dream except there was not a single piece of equipment that worked. I had to change diathermy three times and the bipolar only worked with a continuous pump action. There was one strip of gel foam. No thrombin, avitene, or flowseal, nor were there any cotton strips or patties essential to maintain hemostasis. Dr. Ann Vilnoa, a Filipino general surgeon, was great and provided critical assistance where Vlad, being mostly familiar with my routine, did what he could to find alternatives to the missing items.

In the end, surgery went very well and was the talk of the town. That evening Mayer James told Mr. Shams that he had nothing more to worry about anti-Muslim stuff. Encouraged by the results, I told them to schedule the cervical Meylopathy patient and also the occipital neuralgia patient. Dr Rana meanwhile planned to go ahead with an Omphalocele. Thus, we set a few records in the history of the Marshall Islands:

- 1) First brain operation.
- 2) First cervical spine operation with meylopathy.
- 3) First Occipital Neuralgia decompression.
- 4) First Omphalocele.
- 5) First infectious disease lecture
- 6) Greatest number of dental procedures in five days.

Al-Hamdu Lillah

We managed to have some fun and tried surf fishing but had little luck on the ocean side this time and Thursday we went with Senator Gbay Kobota and when we made it to his daughter's deck we managed to get a few red snappers but rain put an end to that.

We had a reception for the local dignitaries and also had meetings with the US ambassador at the US embassy and with the president of Marshal Islands. We

were given a reception by the hospital administration at the wellness center. I will briefly describe these meetings in the following few paragraphs.



View of the Loan Road stretching the length of the island.

We met the US Ambassador. Mr. Tom Armbruetter is a native of Towson and his wife is from Westminster. This was a coincidence and there was a little feeling of home bonding at least from our side. We could talk about some of the same things. He is a tall almost lanky gentleman with an easy manner, humble nature and infectious smile. His wife is a female version of him except that she cannot claim to be tall. You can see Tom walking or riding a bicycle on the street any given day. He claims that he goes swimming every so often. He assured us of his support for not only our medical mission but also for our agricultural project.

Next, our visit with the president of Marshall Island was scheduled at the Presidential office. The president has a nice office, not extravagant but elegant and it is staffed by a group of friendly people. Once again, it was a refreshing experience to see a president of a state with no pretense, arrogance or airs about his position. He is a friendly, humble man with a straightforward point of view about most of the issues. I ran into him many times afterwards dressed in a T-shirt and shorts accompanied by some senators and once with the Korean ambassador.



A bit of rest and relaxation after a hard day's work.

We met lots of other remarkable people which included the hospital staff, especially the doctors and nurses and the hospital administration. Some of the Pilipino doctors were amazing. It is worth mentioning Doctor Ann a female surgeon who made life very easy and an internist who was equally helpful on the medical side. Rosa Bella, the hospital administrator, received us at the airport, and Francis made all the administrative

hassles nonexistent. But the most important part of the whole trip were the Marshallese people and especially the children with their perpetual infectious smiles and eagerness to please. I believe that this was a trip full of blessings and was a cause to strengthen the belief in the power of good deeds and strong faith. When we were planning to leave the next morning, we were met with a group of doctors who held my hands, kissed them repeatedly and would not let go until I had promised that we would come back again. And In Sha Allah we will.

Next morning we went to Koasrae which is about 400 miles away and takes about two hours due to a stop over Kwajalein. It is part of the Federated states of Micronesia and is an independent state with its own governor and a state senate with, at last count, a population of about 6,000 individuals. This is a true island and not an atoll; a beautiful piece of land, about 40 square miles, and complete with hills, rivers and waterfalls. Most of the interior is undeveloped and this makes the access difficult. The beaches are beautiful and there is great snorkeling and diving. Fishing and crabbing is frequent though as most of fish you get are

Tuna, mostly Skipjack Tuna, and it can be tiring to eat it every day. We met with one of Sam's relatives who is the in-charge of local power plant and people come to him to buy the electricity for one day to one month as needed. Robert and his wife invited us for a dinner and it was simply a feast. There were all type of fish, but most remarkable was the Mongrel Crab, a rare black crab who's claw will break your fingers and which turned red on cooking. The ebb tide was remarkable with a twice a day difference in the water level of 4-6 feet. I could have stayed there for few weeks but we only stayed for two days and picked the place for the mosque site. Dr. Nasir Malik had been there for many days before us but the poor soul had a bad case of flu and I doubt that he enjoyed himself much. The island was so peaceful and it just made you so relaxed that there were no worries, just peace. On the way back we made two mandatory stops before reaching Hawaii and then from there to San Francisco and then to Baltimore where Dr. Nasir Malik requested a wheelchair and went on another plane to Philadelphia.

Most recent similar trip to Marshall Islands took place during 13-25 November 2014.

Activities in Fitchburg MA

Fitchburg had second blood drive on Nov 3, 2014. Total collection from both drives was 75 bags of blood.

The day after Thanksgiving, on Friday, Lajna had free Turkey lunch for general public. Many guests showed up. Outreach secretary had books and literature on table. Guests took some of the literature.

Members of Majlis Ansarullah arrange dinner in a homeless shelter on every 3rd Friday of the month.

MTA Varieties program is being aired on TV twice a week.

Lajna had a three-hour program in Fitchburg Library consisted of crafts, Mehndi (Hina) on hands, raffles for children. A lady-liaison from a local public school also participated. (Bashir Uddin Mehmud, President, Fitchburg MA)

Selling your books through amibookstore.us

The US Jamā'at bookstore is allowed to sell only the books published or approved by Wakalat Tasneef. Authors who want to sell their books through amibookstore.us need to provide a copy of the letter of approval of their work by Wakalt Tasneef. They also need to fill a consignment form available from incharge@amibookstore.us.

Books need to delivered much in advance of an event for sale. The bookstore needs time to catalog and place barcodes on the books before they can be sold.

Authors wishing to sell their book at the US Jalsa Salana, should have the paperwork completed and books delivered a few weeks ahead of the event so that the books can be cataloged and barcodes placed for sale at Jalsa.

Humanity First USA Updates

Establishment of Masroor Ahmad School and Tahir Ahmad Hospital in Guatemala



Municipality of Alotenango donated 3 buildings worth more than \$2 million to Humanity First to establish a school and hospital

In the recent years, Hadrat Khalifatul Masih^{aba} V has directed Jama'at Ahmadiyya USA on numerous occasions to reach out and spread the message of Islam to Spanish speaking communities within the USA and to Latin American nations. In addition to Tableegh activities, Hadrat Khalifatul Masih^{aba} V has also emphasized the need for humanitarian projects in Latin America due to their frail socioeconomic conditions. In this context, with the approval of Hadrat Khalifatul Masih^{aba} V Humanity First was established in Guatemala in 2010. For both Jama'at and Humanity First activities, Guatemala is now playing a vital role in expansion into Latin American countries.

Humanity First USA is assigned to lead all humanitarian efforts in collaboration with Humanity First Guatemala. Responding to the call of our beloved Hadrat Khalifatul Masih^{aba} V, Humanity First initiated several health and human development projects including HF Computing & language Academy, Gift of Sight, Gift of Health (medical camps), Water for Life, and many others. Our achievements in the last five years compliments the dedication and support of our donors and volunteers in the US, and the remarkable performance of volunteers and staff members of Humanity First Guatemala. Since 2010, we have served more than 30,000 Guatemalans in over 25 communities.

Most recently under the direction of Hadrat Khalifatul Masih^{aba} V Humanity First has initiated a landmark project in the city of Alotenango - Masroor Ahmad School and Tahir Ahmad Hospital. Humanity First USA and Guatemala had been working on developing this project for the past several years. *Alhamdulillah* the municipality of Alotenango has



Gift of Health Mission

now donated Humanity First a large property consisting of three standalone buildings worth more than \$2 million to establish these projects. With an investment of \$1.1 million, we will establish the school and hospital in these buildings which will not only benefit the city of Alotenango but the whole Sacatepequez district with a population of more than 300,000 residents. Hadrat Khalifatul Masih^{aba} V has

assigned Humanity First USA to raise \$1.1 million required for the project from within our donor base in the USA and fully establish both facilities in 2015, *InshaAllah*.



Masroor Ahmad School

Alhamdulillah, after some critical repairs to one of the buildings Humanity First opened doors to Masroor Ahmad School in one of the three buildings in Alotenango on January 15, 2015 with 200 students. The school focuses on students ranging from pre-primary to primary level who are mostly from the underserved and low income communities of Sacatepéquez district. To become fully operational at full capacity, the school would require major repairs and renovations costing approximately \$350,000.

As directed by Hadrat Khalifatul Masih^{aba} V, Humanity First is actively working on raising funds for Tahir Ahmad Hospital also which will be established in the building adjacent to the school. It will serve not only as a means for providing access to affordable healthcare services for underserved communities but will also serve as a basecamp for all Humanity First international teams volunteering to provide free healthcare services to general population, and medical training for Guatemalan healthcare professionals. Tahir Ahmad Hospital will cost approximately \$750,000 which includes repairs and

refurbishment of the building, equipment and supplies, and initial operating expenses.

Humanity First USA is humbly requesting everyone’s prayers and pleading for generous contributions towards this noble cause which is assigned to the USA membership by our beloved Hadrat Khalifatul Masih^{aba} V. Your *Sqdaq* *Jaaria* will continue to bear blessings of Allah Ta’ala for as long as the hospital and school serve the needy in Guatemala and bring a good name to Jama’at Ahmadiyya and Humanity First.

For online donations, please visit <http://usa.humanityfirst.org>. Checks and money orders can be mailed at “**Humanity First USA, 300 E. Lombard Street, Suite 840, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.**” In memo for online/checks please write “Guatemala Project.” If you need further information or would like to donate and dedicate a full/part classroom, or a section of the hospital in the name of a loved one, please email donor_info@us.humanityfirst.org.



Masroor Ahmad School

Fighting Ebola in West Africa

Since October 2014, Humanity First is actively combating the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone and Liberia in West Africa. In Sierra Leone, Humanity First is providing several services including public education and awareness campaigns which has reached more than 115,000 people so far. This is accomplished by reaching out to general public by engaging community elders, mosques and churches in more than 213 villages. For infection control, Humanity First is playing a critical role by screening the population at public locations such as bus terminals and market areas. So far, we have screened more than 900,000 people and hundreds of suspected

Ebola cases have been referred to relevant health authorities.



HF Hand Washing Station at Bus Stop

Humanity First has developed and issued a standard protocol for safe triage and dealing with an Ebola case for Nusrat Jehan and Humanity First clinics and hospitals across the region.



Ration Distribution for Ebola Orphans

In addition to our existing Ebola preventive efforts, we have also initiated another project to serve the most vulnerable population of this crisis, Ebola Orphans. Humanity First is supporting families who are caring for one hundred (100) Ebola Orphans with rations, clothing and other needs.

One of the causes of the spread of Ebola virus has been a lack of WASH facilities at home, village and school level. As schools are due to reopen later very soon, we are working on developing projects which will provide many schools with hand washing and toilet facilities and train the youngsters in better hygiene practices for the longer term such that they adopt good and safer practices for life.

Establishment of Nasir Primary School, Mali, West Africa



Nasir Primary School

Humanity First USA recently established Nasir Primary School in the town of Kolondieba, Mali in West Africa. The school opened its doors in November 2014 to 70 students from grade 1-6 and in 2015 admissions are expected to exceed 250 students in all 6 grades. At full capacity, the school will accommodate up to 350 primary level students.

The current school structure which is established on 2.5 acres of land includes six classrooms, one administration block with two offices and a library/computer center, a staffroom and four toilets.



First Grade Students

Like most of Mali, the town of Kolondieba also do not have sustained electricity and running water. In the second phase of development, we are planning to install a solar powered water distribution system on traditional boreholes which will not only serve clean and safe drinking water to children at

school, but also to local community. Solar power will also be used to electrify school classrooms, offices and library/computer center.

Launch of Gift of Sight Program in Mali, West Africa

In Dec. 2014 – Jan. 2015, Humanity First USA started its Gift of Sight program in Mali. Program was launched with an opening ceremony and a three days free eye camp to identify patients for free cataract surgeries. Opening ceremony was attended by dignitaries including a representative of Prime Minister of Mali, officials from Health Ministry, local mayors, and other community leaders. Opening ceremony was covered by the national news agency ORTM in its primetime broadcasted on December



22nd, 2014.

560 patients were identified during the first phase of three days free eye camp at Humanity First Dr. Gialo Omar Performing Free Cataract Surgery

Medical Center in the capital city of Bamako. One hundred of the neediest patients were shortlisted for free cataract surgeries. After completion of the first phase, another free eye camp was organized in January 2015 and another 105 patients were

shortlisted. By the end of January 2015, a total of 205 people received free cataract surgeries and their lives were changed forever.

Dr. Chieka Keita, Medical Director at Humanity First Medical Center narrates that in first week of January and old man named Abraham came to the center and brought a beautifully tailored dress for Dr. Keita. When asked, he said that he is a tailor and he lost full vision in both of his eyes five years ago. Since then he was in a very miserable condition because he lost his livelihood. Now that he got his vision back, he sew the first suit for Dr. Keita because he made it possible for him to see and earn his living



once again.

Abraham, who had lost his livelihood as a tailor after losing his vision in both eyes to cataract 5 years ago

We performed surgeries at our medical center by renting all equipment and contracting a well-known local surgeon. We are planning on establishing a permanent ophthalmology clinic so that we can continue the Gift of Sight program at our facility using in-house facilities for long term sustainability.

Humanity First-Bon Samaritan Primary School, Haiti

Humanity First sponsored Bon Samaritan Primary School in Haiti is in its 3rd year since completion of the school in May, 2012. This year we have 244 students in Preschool through 5th grade. Next year we are planning to add 6th grade, which will provide an official Primary School Graduation. This is a great feat in an area where less than half the boys and only a quarter of the girls complete 6th grade.

Humanity First is currently employing thirteen full time Haitian employees at the school. Next year they plan to add another teacher to teach 6th grade and we are expecting that there will be closer to 270 students.



Students at HF School in Haiti

Water for Life Program in Tharparkar District of Sindh, Pakistan

Tharparkar District is one of the most underdeveloped regions of Pakistan and specifically the Sindh Province. The ‘Thari’ communities mostly belong to the Hindu religion and are devoid of even the basic necessities such as food, health facilities, education and drinking water. Amongst all these issues faced by the ‘Tharis’, the most pressing issue is the non-availability of safe and clean water.

Humanity First initiated a major Water for Life initiative in Tharparkar in 2011 which is jointly funded by the USA, UK and Canada. So far 87 water wells have been completed and we are aiming to complete 100 water wells by July 2015.



Each Water Well cost \$3500 and several weeks, in some cases over a month to dig

Portland, OR, Nasirat ‘Adopt a Well’ in Africa by Recycling Project

Portland OR Chapter Nasirat took on a recycling project to raise funds to adopt a well for Humanity First ‘Water for Life’ program. All year in 2014 water bottles/soda cans were collected and Nasirat were taken on a number of field trips to the recycling center. They put bottles/cans through a crusher and received a print out of how many items were recycled and they would receive cash from customer service. It took one year to collect and recycle 8,000 water bottles/soda cans and raise \$410 through recycling. They raised another \$600 through donations and exceeded their target of raising \$1,000 to rehabilitate a water well in Africa.



Nasirat at recycling center in Portland, OR

Nasirat were able to learn the importance of water and about the situation in third world countries where people struggle to find clean water. They also learned the importance of recycling and even though it took a long time to raise funds through recycling, goal to adopt a well was achieved.

Humanity Needs You

Donate – Volunteer

Online Donations - <http://usa.humanityfirst.org>
 Checks & Money Orders - **Humanity First USA,**
300 E. Lombard Street, Suite 840, Baltimore,
Maryland 21202

Other Questions? Interested in Volunteering
 Locally or Internationally?

Contact us at info@us.humanityfirst.org



Humanity First USA's men's team with Hadrat Khalifatul Masih^{aba} V during Humanity First International Conference at Baitul Futuh Mosque in London UK on January 24th & 25th, 2015

Standing - Left to Right: Hassan Ahmed, Shahid Malik, Shahzad Latif, Masroor Sajid, Muhammad Ahmad Chaudhry, Dr. Ahsan Khan

Sitting - Left to Right: Pervaiz Khan, Nazir Ayaz, Bashir Malik, Dr. Clayton Bell, Ahmad Yahya, **Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{aba} (Khalifatul Masih V)**, Munum Naem, Dr. Mahmood Qureshi, Sahibzada Waleed Ahmad, Dr. Naeem Lughmani, Dr. Fizan Abdullah



Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{aba}, Khalifatul Masih V, addressing Humanity First International Conference held at Baitul-Futuh Mosque in London UK, January 24-25, 2015.



ATFAL MATTERS

Welcome to the Majlis Atfalul Ahmadiyya USA section for Gazette. In this issue, we have provided summarized reports on Midwest Tarbiyati Ijtima and West Coast Jalsa, provided by the Nazimeen-e-A'la of these events or the regional or local Nazimeen who moderated them. The two key events were historical in their own way because they had independent Atfal led programs.

West Coast Jalsa 2014

By the grace of Allah, Majlis Atfalul Ahmadiyya USA ran an independent program within the West Coast Jalsa 2014 that was held in Baitul Hameed Mosque in Chino. The program was moderated by Imam Zafrullah Hanjra sahib and Ata-ul-Aleem Choudhary sahib Naib Muhtamim Atfal. The program was then solely presented by Atfal i.e. Tilawat, Nazm, and speeches.

Tilwat – Waleed Ahmad Janjua

Nazm – Amaan Khan—He recited *Naunehalane Jama'at* by the Second Khalifa (ra)

Welcome Address - Aleem Choudhry sahib gave a brief address to the Atfal and audience on an introduction of this independent Atfal program as part of the West Coast Jalsa 2014. He highlighted and complimented the amount of work put into setting up the program.

Speeches

1. Syed Ibrahim Ahmed in the Badar Atfal group gave a speech on *Importance of Salat*
2. Jazib Ahmad gave a speech on the *Blessings of Jalsa Salana*
3. A special keynote speech was given by Imam Hanjra sahib

Video Clips ANN (Atfal News Network) – These were ANN prerecorded news feeds and were used to introduce itself as a brand new initiative begun by the Atfal ul Ahmadiyya USA to bring about news to all Atfal related matters throughout the USA via YouTube.

Dear Parents - After the speeches 20 Atfal stood up and read out loud a letter to a parent (generally speaking). The letter was composed of 20 lines and each Tifl read one. The lines were meant to be innocent friendly reminders to parents in general of their responsibility when it comes to their Tifl from their Tifl.

Conclusion - Prize distribution was held for Atfal after the initial program came to a conclusion

Midwest Tarbiyati Ijtima 2014

By the grace of Allah, Majlis Atfalul Ahmadiyya USA participated in the Midwest Tarbiyati Ijtima 2014 that was held in Chicago at Baitul Jāmi Mosque on December 27, 2014. The program was to allow Atfal ul Ahmadiyya USA the experience of independently moderating their own Tarbiyati program and address Tarbiyati issues that affect Atfal on a daily basis and their resolution. The program was operated and presented by Atfal ul Ahmadiyya, this includes moderators, Tilawat, Urdu Nazm, and speeches.

Introduction - The program was moderated by three Atfal Mirza Ekaan Ahmad, Ammar Malik, and Waleed Ahmad and they introduced it by briefly explaining the importance and objective for it.

Tilawat - Hamza Mir recited the verses from Surah Luqman followed by translation by Haroon Mir.

Nazm - Several couplets from the Urdu poem *Naunehalane Jama'at* by the Second Khalifa (ra) were recited by Daniyal and translation for them by Asher Mir.

Speeches

1. Raheel Ahmed spoke on the topic of *Blessing of Joining Atfal ul Ahmadiyya*.
2. Rohail Ahmed spoke on the topic of *Our Beliefs*.
3. Safir Ahmed spoke on the topic of *My responsibilities as an Ahmadi Muslim in Society*.
4. Kashif Latif spoke on the topic of *Salat A Way to Meet Allah Five Times a Day*.
5. Bilal Mian spoke on the topic of *Attributes of an Ideal Tifl*.

Dear Parents

A similar initiative was carried out in the West Coast Jalsa.

Conclusion

The program ended on a great note and 68 total Atfal had the pleasure of attending while 7 boys under the age of Atfal did too. There were black scarfs and had caps handed out prior to the program beginning. Atfal assisted in Ziafat as well.

Midwest Tarbiyati Ijtima 2014



Na'ib Sadr Sahib MKA USA Junayd Latif with son Kashif Latif who was one of the speakers in the Atfal event

West Coast Jalsa 2014



A full house at the Atfal led event

Atfal Websites

- www.atfalusa.org—Main Atfal Site
- <http://atfalclass.atfalusa.org/> - Atfal Class
- <http://ann.atfalusa.org/> - Atfal News Network

Dear Parents Skit

Dear All Parents, As-Salamu Alaikum. Consider me as your son standing here. This is my letter to you, heart to heart, full of love and expectations from you as a parent and a hope that I will become a model Ahmadi Muslim. For me, you will always be my role models. Everything I will do or become in future, depends on how you engage me in your life. Purpose of this letter is to remind you that include us in every good activity throughout the day.

Dear Parents, When you wake up for Fajr in morning, also wake me up so I can offer Fajr with you, Dear Parents, When I am fully awake make sure you let me know to say "As-Salamu Alaikum" first and then remind me to say the prayer for waking up, Dear Parents, Remind me to do my ablution (Wudhu) correctly as I may be sleepy and rush it. Also Please ask me to say my ablution prayers, Dear Parents, Yes I love my sleep but if you go to mosque for Fajr, take me with you because if you take me today, I will take my son one day, Dear Parents, Whenever I enter or leave the mosque, remind me to say the prayers so you can hear it, Dear Parents, When you recite Holy Quran, ask me to come sit next to you and also recite at least one Ruku, Dear Parents, When we as a family have any type of meal, ask me to say "Bismilla" and prayer before eating the meal loudly,

Dear Parents, When we finish a meal together, ask me to say "Al-Hamdu Lillah" and the prayer after finishing the meal, Dear Parents, When I leave for school or going out of home, ask me to say "As-Salamu Alaikum" to you and say the prayer before leaving the home, Dear Parents, When you leave for work and I am there when you are leaving please make sure I say "As-Salamu Alaikum" or "Khuda Hafiz" to you, Dear Parents, When I come back from school or outside, make sure I say "As-Salamu Alaikum" when I enter the house and the prayer for entering the house, Dear Parents, When I come back from school, make sure you remind me to offer my Zuhr and Asr Prayers, Dear Parents, If I have not done my homework, then make sure I do it immediately before I do anything else and this includes work for my Atfal Class too, Dear Parents, Please spend some time with me. Ask me how my day was, talk about my friends, talk about what I am going to do in next few days, Dear Parents, When you watch MTA, ask me to sit next to you and watch. Huzur has asked families to watch MTA daily. Let's do it together, Dear Parents, Every Friday, When you go to Jum'a, please take me with you. When you watch Huzur's Friday Sermon, let's do it together as a Family. If I don't understand the sermon, I know you can explain it to me, Dear Parents, When you write a letter to Huzur, ask me to write a letter as well. Let's do it monthly. Huzur talks to us four times a month through Friday Sermon and I can try once a month, Dear Parents, When you are about to go to offer Maghrib or Isha Prayers at the mosque, again please make sure you take me with you,

Finally, my Dear Parents, when you are tucking me away for me to go to sleep or I am about to go to sleep by myself, please remind me to recite the prayer for going to sleep. Remind me to say all the prayers I have memorized so far, especially the one for you - Rab-bir-ham-hu-maa Ka-maa Rab-ba-yaa-nee Sa-ghee-raa - "My Lord, have mercy upon them [my parents] as they brought me up [when I was] small." May Allah allow us as Atfalul Ahmadiyya to be true servants of Islam. Aameen



BOLETÍN AHMADÍA

Boletín Oficial de la Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadía de EE.UU.- Una publicación bimensual, espiritual y educativa

Hazur advierte de la necesidad de justicia y honestidad para evitar la tercera guerra mundial



El 14 de marzo de 2015, el líder mundial de la Comunidad musulmana Ahmadía, el Quinto Jaliifa, Su Santidad, Hazrat Mirza Masrur Ahmad pronunció el discurso principal del 12º Simposio Nacional por la Paz organizado por la Comunidad musulmana Ahmadía de Reino Unido.

El evento tuvo lugar en la Mezquita Baitul Futul de Londres con una participación de más de un millar de personas, incluyendo a ministros de gobierno, embajadores, miembros del parlamento y otros dignatarios e invitados. El tema de este año ha sido "religión, libertad y paz".

Durante su discurso, Hazur advirtió de la amenaza creciente de la radicalización y de su peligro potencial para el mundo. Hablando del conflicto creciente existente tanto en países musulmanes como no musulmanes, dijo que la causa fundamental de los conflictos actuales no es la religión, sino una "sed insaciable por el poder, la influencia y recursos".

Su Santidad condenó categóricamente a grupos terroristas como EI, Boko Haram y Al Shabaab, diciendo que actúan totalmente en contra de las enseñanzas del Islam y citó versículos del Santo Corán que rechazan todas las formas de terrorismo. Su Santidad dijo que desde el último simposio se ha hecho un esfuerzo global por detener la financiación del terrorismo, lo cual produce "un ligero y cauto optimismo".

Su Santidad citó una resolución del consejo de seguridad de la ONU de febrero de 2015 respecto a la financiación de los grupos terroristas y afirmó que de implementarse correctamente contribuiría pronto a la caída de EI.

Su Santidad elogió los comentarios recientes de algunos líderes políticos. Dijo: "Es encomiable que ciertos políticos y figuras religiosas hayan elegido no echar más leña al fuego, aclarando que no creen que ningún grupo terrorista represente las verdaderas enseñanzas del Islam.

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www.ahmadiyya.us

www.alislam.es

Del Sagrado Corán

Él es Al-lah, no hay otro Dios sino Él, el Conocedor de lo invisible y lo visible. Él es el Clemente, el Misericordioso.

Él es Al-lah, no hay otro Dios sino Él, el Soberano, el Santo, la Fuente de la Paz, El que concede seguridad, el Protector, el Poderoso, el Sometedor, el Altísimo. Santo es Al-lah, mucho más allá de lo que Le asocian.

Él es Al-lah, el Creador, el Hacedor, el Modelador. Suyos son los nombres más bellos. Todo lo que hay en los cielos y en la tierra Le glorifica, pues Él es Poderoso, el Sabio.

(C.59, Vs: 23-25)

Hadiz (Relatos del Santo Profeta (sa))

“Un grupo de mi comunidad continuará esforzándose por la causa de la verdad y triunfará sobre sus opositores”.

(De Imran, hijo de Hussain, Abu Daud)

“Ciertamente, el Todopoderoso y Glorioso Al-lah suscitará para este pueblo, al final de cada siglo, a alguien que revivirá la religión (Islam) para ellos”.

(De Abu Huraira, Abu Daud)

Alfudat (Escritos del Mesías Prometido)

En verdad, Dios es Todopoderoso y Omnipotente, y sus devotos fieles, que acuden a Él con amor y lealtad, no serán desechados. Sus enemigos pretenden aniquilarlos con su maldad, y los malvados juran acabar con ellos. “¡Insensatos!, dice Dios, “¿pretendéis enfrentarnos conmigo y humillar a quienes amo?”. Efectivamente, nada puede ocurrirle a la tierra si no está decretado por el Cielo, ni la mano terrenal puede extenderse más allá de los límites permitidos por el cielo. Son, pues, necios los que traman crueles y perversos designios al no recordar durante sus detestables y vergonzosas conspiraciones a aquel Ser Supremo sin Cuyo decreto expreso no cae una hoja. Por lo tanto, se ven siempre frustrados en sus esfuerzos sin conseguir perjudicar con su maldad a los justos. Por el contrario, se manifiestan más claramente los signos de Dios, aumentando en Sus criaturas el conocimiento divino. De esta forma, el Todopoderoso y Omnipotente Dios que permanece oculto a los ojos se manifiesta a través de señales extraordinarias.



Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
(1835-1908)

(Rohani Jazain, Vol. 13: Kitabal Bariyya, Prefacio, págs. 19-20).

SIMPOSIO DE PAZ (Cont.)



Su Santidad elogió en concreto los comentarios del Presidente Obama en Washington y los comentarios del Papa Francisco tras los ataques de París al afirmar que la gente no debía provocar a los demás insultando su fe o creencia. Respecto al conflicto creciente generalizado de ciertos países musulmanes, dijo:

“Existen varios factores en el mundo que producen frustración y resentimiento, y menoscaban la paz. Por ejemplo, los efectos de la crisis financiera continúan afectando a gran parte del mundo. En Europa, el descontento continua creciendo y se ve la integridad de la Unión Europea se ve amenazada. Los partidos nacionalistas y antinmigrantes adquieren popularidad en muchos países. Además, está el conflicto de Ucrania y la carrera armamentística global. Todos estos factores que amenazan la paz mundial no guardan relación alguna con el Islam, sino que se han desarrollado como resultado de una sed insaciable por el poder, influencia y recursos”.

También dijo: “Debemos reconocer estos momentos de necesidad. Debemos aceptar que la paz solo se puede edificar sobre los cimientos de la honestidad, integridad y justicia.” “Nosotros, la Comunidad Ahmadía, no tenemos poder ni influencia en el mundo. Nuestros objetivos son puramente espirituales y no aspiramos a poder ni al gobierno. No tenemos ambiciones ni objetivos políticos. Como Comunidad religiosa

solo deseamos que el mundo llegue a reconocer a su Creador ... Las enseñanzas del Islam no guardan relación alguna con la violencia y el desorden que estamos observando en el mundo”. El Jalifa dijo que el permiso que se otorgó a los musulmanes para una guerra defensiva fue como medio de protección de todas las religiones, no solamente el Islam.

Refiriéndose a la destrucción de monumentos históricos en ciudades iraquíes, Su Santidad dijo que eran una clara violación de las enseñanzas coránicas. Dijo: “Esto solo puede describirse como un acto de crueldad extrema y una transgresión de las enseñanzas islámicas”.

Su Santidad concluyó instando a todos los grupos e individuos a promover la paz en el mundo. Dijo que la tercera guerra mundial todavía podría evitarse si los principios de justicia y honestidad afloran en todos los niveles de la sociedad. Dijo: “Mientras que algunos dicen que otra guerra mundial es inevitable, creo que aún hay tiempo para que el mundo se enfrente a esta cruda realidad a la que se enfrenta y detenga esta amenaza. Para ellos todas las naciones y sus líderes tendrán que abstenerse de mirar en una sola dirección y dejar de preocuparse solo por sus propios intereses. En su lugar deberán de tratar de cumplir con los requerimientos de justicia, igualdad y honestidad a todos los niveles de la sociedad.”

Página oficial en Twitter y proveedor principal de información Islámica en español de la Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadía EE.UU.:
[@elislam_us](https://twitter.com/elislam_us)

Nuevos folletos en español disponibles
La Comunidad Ahmadía, Yihad O Terrorismo,
Jesús el Hijo de María y Velo Islámico.
1-800-WHY-ISLAM.

Actividades de Tabligh en México



VISITA DEL IMAM NASEEM MAHDI A MERIDA

Durante el pasado mes de febrero la prensa digital de Mérida ha dado extensa publicidad a las actividades de la Comunidad Ahmadía en Mérida. La revista digital "Libertad de expresión Yucatán" publicó un artículo el 10 de febrero de 2015 en el cual resume la visita del vicepresidente nacional de la Comunidad musulmana Ahmadía, D. Naseem Mahdi, en la cual atendió al público en general durante las reuniones semanales que tienen lugar en la mezquita con el público en general. En estas sesiones se hablan y resuelven dudas sobre el Islam. El Sr. Naseem Mahdi respondió en su entrevista a temas relacionados con rápido crecimiento de la Comunidad, sobre el grupo terrorista ISIS y los ataques al semanario francés Charlie Hebdo.

PLÁTICA SEMANAL EN MÉRIDA

En la mezquita de Mérida se organiza semanalmente una reunión a la que puede participar todo tipo de público. En esta plática se exponen temas relacionados con el Islam y se invita al público a formular sus preguntas o responder sobre cualquier tema relacionado con la religión islámica.



EXHIBICIÓN EN MÉRIDA SOBRE EL SANTO CORÁN Y EL SANTO PROFETA (P.B.D.)

La Comunidad Ahmadía de Mérida inauguró el 17 de febrero de 2015 su primera exposición sobre el Sagrado Corán y el Profeta Muhammad (la paz y bendiciones de Dios sean con él) en la mezquita de Mérida. La exposición está abierta todos los días al público de lunes a domingo de 9am a 9 pm. También está abierta a grupos educativos tanto de escuelas como de universidades. Desde su inauguración, un promedio de veinte personas visitan a diario la exposición. En diversas entrevistas con la prensa, el Imam Noman Rana afirmó que esta exposición ayudará a la gente a comprender mejor el Islam y sus escrituras.

ENTREVISTA CON EL IMAM NOMAN RANA

La revista digital "Por Esto!" publicó extenso artículo una entrevista con el Imam de la mezquita de Mérida (México), el misionero Noman Rana, en la cual habló del establecimiento de la Comunidad Ahmadía en Mérida. En la entrevista, también explicó las verdaderas enseñanzas del Islam, aclarando los estigmas asociados al Islam y exponiendo las verdaderas creencias de un ahmadi musulmán, e invitó al público a asistir a los eventos que tienen lugar en la mezquita.



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Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Inc. publica el Boletín Ahmadía USA en la siguiente dirección:

Fazi-i-Umar Press, P.O. Box 226, Chauncey, OH 45719