



An informational, literary, educational, and training magazine of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ  
القران الحكيم ٣:٢٥٨

# The Ahmadiyya GAZETTE

November 2016

Waqf Jadīd

USA



Scenes from 2016 Jalsa Salana USA

# Milwaukee Chapter Activities

## Unrest in Milwaukee



In the month of September 2016 a violent outbreak occurred in Milwaukee’s Sherman Park District which is close to the ParkLawn District where our Mosque is located. A policeman shot and killed a young man on the run. Jamā’at member reached out to the authorities in which made food for 7<sup>th</sup> District police. On the other side an outreach was made to the family of the victim in which money was donated for the burial of the victim. One of our members, Muhibb Dyer who works with the youth in the community was asked to speak and he spoke at the victim’s funeral and Rev Jesse Jackson of Chicago did the eulogy. Everything went well, and from that the disturbance subsided. (Khalid Walid, Milwaukee)

## Bronsville Street Day Saturday August 6, 2016

Members of Jamā’at participated in Exhibition setup on Bronsville Street Day in Milwaukee, an all-day event. Over three hundred “Peace for Messiah” flyers were distributed. The Program was a project of the African American Desk, Milwaukee.



## National Night Out

Members of Jamā’at participated in National Night Out at Kopps Park event with the Faith-based Group they affiliate with. A picture was taken with Erfan Ahmad with the Mayor of Milwaukee Tom Barrett.



## Meeting with Sheriff Clark

Due to the Islamophobia comments made by Sheriff Clark in the media, the Public Affairs Secretary

Rizwan Ahmad arranged a meeting on August 23 2016 with the Sheriff to discuss his views about Islam. President Nasirullah Ahmad, Tabligh Secretary Hassiem Babatu, Public Affairs Secretary Rizwan Ahmad and Rizwan’s wife had a fruitful two-hour conversation with the Sheriff. Afterwards the Sheriff appreciated the meeting and gathered a new prospective about the world of Islam.



# The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA

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**Acronyms for salutations used in this publication**

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

Verse numbers in the references from the Holy Qur'an count Tasmiya at the beginning of a chapter as the first verse.

**Disclaimer:** The material presented herein reflects the original content of the authors. To the extent possible, Gazette staff has attempted to screen the material for accuracy and appropriateness but some oversights may have occurred. If the reader identifies a mistake and/or would like to comment on some of the material, please contact Gazette staff (gazette@ahmadiyya.us).

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## Good for the Mankind

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ

وَلَوْ آمَنَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَّهُمْ

مِنْهُمْ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَأَكْثَرُهُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ ﴿١١١﴾

You are the best people, raised for the good of mankind; you enjoin good and forbid evil and believe in Allah. And if the people of the Book had believed, it would have, surely, been better for them. Some of them are believers, but most of them are transgressors. (3 [Āl 'Imrān]: 111)

### Commentary:

The verse not only claims that the Muslims are the best people—a great claim indeed—but also gives reasons for it. These reasons are:

- 1) Muslims have been raised for the good of others;
- 2) They have been raised not for the good of any one people or any one country but for the good of all mankind;
- 3) It has been made their duty to enjoin what is good and forbid evil and believe in one God.

The history of Islam bears ample testimony to the fact that Muslims fulfilled all the hopes expressed in this verse. They were not only the torchbearers of Islam to the four corners of the world but they also contributed to the betterment of other peoples in a most remarkable manner. The renaissance of the West was mostly, if not entirely, due to their influence (e.g. *The Making of Humanity* by Robert Briffault).

The greatness of a people is proportionate to the magnitude of their work. As Muslims were to bring about the good of all mankind, they have been declared the greatest of all peoples. In fact, the real purpose of a Muslim's life is to do good to humanity. As Islam is the greatest good, so Muslims have been enjoined to convey its message to the whole world. They are also required to enjoin what is good and forbid what is evil. There are other people also who claim to enjoin good and forbid evil, but their aim in doing so is to contribute to the strength or betterment of their own respective communities. The Quran warns Muslims against having such restricted motives by adding the words, and you believe in Allah, i.e. your preaching about be for God's sake only Who is the Lord of the worlds.

The assignment of this great task to Muslims also implies the appearance of divine Messengers among them from time to time, for it is heavenly Messengers alone who can best perform this duty; and it is through them that we can properly realize the true significance of this task.

It may also be pointed out here that, according to this verse, the excellence of the Muslim people is governed by, and is subject to, the above conditions i.e. preaching Islam to mankind and enjoining what is good and forbidding what is evil; mere lip-profession of Islam cannot entitle anyone to claim excellence. (*The Holy Qur'an with English Translation and Commentary* (a.k.a. Five volume commentary), UK, 1988, p. 437)

## About Serving People

أَنَّ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا قَالَتْ لَمَّا اسْتُخْلِفَ أَبُو بَكْرٍ الصَّدِيقُ قَالَ  
لَقَدْ عَلِمَ قَوْمِي أَنَّ حِرْفَتِي لَمْ تَكُنْ تَعْجِزُ عَن مَثُونَةِ أَهْلِي، وَشُغِلْتُ بِأَمْرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ،  
فَسَيَأْكُلُ آلُ أَبِي بَكْرٍ مِنْ هَذَا الْمَالِ وَيَحْتَرِفُ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ فِيهِ .

[Ḥaḍrat] ‘A’ishah relates that when Abu Bakr As-Siddiq [may Allah be pleased with him] was bestowed Khilāfat, he said,

“My people know that my profession was capable of supporting my family, and as I engage in serving Muslims, the family of Abu Bakr will be supported from the official resources, and he [Abu Bakr] will engage in enhancing the resources of the Muslims.”

(Sahih al-Bukhari, 2070. English translation adapted from Urdu translation by Sayyid Zainul-Abidin Waliyullah Shah)

عَنْ رَبِيعَ بِنْتِ مُعَوِّذِ ابْنِ عَفْرَاءَ، قَالَتْ كُنَّا نَعْرُزُ مَعَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
نَسْقِي الْقَوْمَ، وَنَخْدُمُهُمْ، وَنَرُدُّ الْقَتْلَى وَالْجُرْحَى إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ .

[Ḥaḍrat] Rubayyi’a bint Mu’awwidh bin ‘Afra relates:

We used to join Allah’s Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in military expeditions and provide water to people, serve them and bring the dead and the wounded back to Medina.

(Sahih al-Bukhari 5679)

عَنْ مَيْمُونِ بْنِ أَبِي شَبِيبٍ، أَنَّ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا مَرَّ بِهَا سَائِلٌ فَأَعْطَتْهُ كِسْرَةً وَمَرَّ بِهَا  
رَجُلٌ عَلَيْهِ ثِيَابٌ وَهَيْئَةٌ فَأَقْعَدَتْهُ فَأَكَلَ فَقِيلَ لَهَا فِي ذَلِكَ فَقَالَتْ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ  
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " أَنْزِلُوا النَّاسَ مَنَازِلَهُمْ " .

[Ḥaḍrat] Maimūn bin Abū Shabīb (May Allah be pleased with him) states:

A beggar asked ‘A’ishah (May Allah be pleased with her) for charity and she gave him a piece of bread.

Thereafter, one well-dressed person asked her for charity and she invited him to sit down and served him food.

When she was asked about the reason for the difference in their treatment, she said:

“Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) instructed us:

“Treat people according to their status’.”

(Abū Dāwūd, Book of Manners, Chapter: Treating people according to their status)

## Regarding Serving People

### Devoting one's life to the service of His creature

A person can be held to be a Muslim when the whole of his being together with all his faculties, physical and spiritual, is devoted to God Almighty, and the trusts that are committed to him by God Almighty are rendered back to the True Giver... The second aspect of devoting one's life to the cause of God Almighty is that one's life should be devoted to the service of His creature and to sympathy with them and to sharing their burdens and sorrows. One should suffer pain to bring them comfort, and one should experience grief to bring them consolation.

(The Essence of Islam, Vol. 1, p. 21-22)

### Episode of an Englishman for service to mankind

An Englishman came to visit Qādiān on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1901, or thereabout. Many of my followers were with me at the time and we were engaged in religious discourse. He stood there for sometime until we courteously invited him to join us. He then introduced himself as an English tourist who had also been to Arabia, and expressed his desire to take some photographs of my Jamā'at. We assented to his request and afterwards asked him to stay with us for a few days. But he seemed reluctant and said that he had heard of Christians being mercilessly killed at the hands of Muslims, and even related a few incidents that he had witnessed in Baghdad. But we explained to him that our Jamā'at, known as Ahmadi sect, is strongly averse to such beliefs and abhors the perpetrators of these crimes, and our major service to mankind lies in trying to root out such beliefs. This satisfied him and he spent the night in our company.

(How to be free from sin, p. 14)

### Good service to Muslims is to reform their moral conditions

The one good service one could do to the Muslims would be to reform their moral conditions. Efforts should be made to dispel the false hopes, which they entertain in connection with the appearance of bloodthirsty Mahdi and Messiah. Such expectations are entirely against the teachings of Islam. I have just said that the ideas of some of the present day clerics that there will appear bloodthirsty Mahdi, who will spread Islam at the point of sword, are contrary to the Qur'anic teachings and are only the result of wishful thinking.

(Jesus in India: Deliverance from the Cross and Journey to India, p. 13-14)

### Service to mankind

God Almighty has appointed different methods for the discovery of the reality of things. Some are perceived through eyes, other through ear and some through a combination of senses. There are many verities, which can be perceived only by the heart... Man is equipped with many faculties and each of them performs diverse functions in the service of man.

(The Essence of Islam, Vol. II, p. 407)

One of the elements of worship is that you should love your enemy as you love yourself and your children, and that you should overlook the faults of others and forbear and be goodhearted and pure-minded, upright and clean-living and loyal and virtuous, free from evil inclinations; and that you should be of service to mankind with a natural inclination like that of some vegetables, without formality and without affectation; and that you should not hurt your less fortunate brother with your arrogance, nor injure him with harsh words. It is obligatory on you to respond to your aggrieved brother with courtesy and never speak to him contemptuously. You should die before your death and count yourself among the dead. Honor your visitor even if he be dressed in tattered rags and not in gorgeous robes and new garments. Greet with the salutation of peace, both the acquaintance and the stranger and be ever ready to share the burdens of others.

(Ijazul-Masih, pp. 161-165)



# Waqf Jadid

## GUIDANCE FROM THE HOLY QURAN

And the case of those who spend their wealth to seek the pleasure of Allah and to strengthen their souls is like the case of a garden on elevated ground. Heavy rain falls on it so that it brings forth its fruit twofold. And if heavy rain does not fall on it, then light rain suffices. And Allah sees what you do. (2:266)

### **SO SAID THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him**

Ḥaḍrat Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) narrates that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, a generous (person) is near Allah, near the people and near Paradise and far from Hell. On the contrary, a miser is far from Allah, far from the people and far from Paradise, but near Hell. An ignorant generous (person) is dearer to Allah than a miser worshipper. (Qushiriyah)

### **SO SAID THE PROMISED MESSIAH may peace be upon him**

Most member of my Jamā'at are poor and underprivileged, but to present oneself for the service of Allah with a pure heart is the cure for every problem and difficulty. So whoever truly believes in the existence of Allah and knows that he is dependent upon His favors in the material and spiritual world, should not let this blessed time go out of his hand, nor should he let the disease of miserliness deprive him of this reward. Only he deserves to join this Movement who has a high resolve and who promises Allah that from now on he shall try his best to offer each month whatever financial assistance he can offer in order to remove the difficulties faced by His religion. It is hypocrisy to remember Allah when faced by a calamity and to become heedless when one is in ease and comfort. Allah is Independent and Indifferent; it is you who have to prove your sincerity in order to attain His grace. May Allah be with you! (Majmu'ah Ishtiharat, Vol. 3, pp 165-166)

### **On the occasion of JALSA SĀLĀNA RABWAH, 1960, ḤAḌRAT MIRZA TAHIR AHMAD (r.h.) stated in his address on the "IMPORTANCE OF WAQF JADID"**

In reality, Allah revealed this scheme in the heart of Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II (may Allah be pleased with him). As a result of this inspiration, that Zaki Ghulam (pure boy), that Imam, that extremely intelligent and genius mind, spoke out and said:

'This is the work of Allah and He will certainly fulfill it! And because God has placed this scheme in my heart, even if I have to sell my homes, even if I have to sell my clothes, I will fulfill my responsibility... For completion of my argument, I announce this once again so that people draw their attention towards financial sacrifice, as well as towards Waqf (dedication).'

### **ḤAḌRAT KHALĪFATUL-MASĪḤ V (may Allah be his Helper), said in FRIDAY SERMON, JAN. 3, 2014**

"As we all know, in the beginning Waqf Jadid used to operate in Pakistan only, and then in the time of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ (r.h.), this was extended to outside of Pakistan, so that the work of the Jamā'at in Africa and India may be given much greater expansion. As I have said, in the last one year, in Africa and India, a great deal of construction of mosques and mission houses has taken place and some have also been bought. Apart from this there are Tabligh tasks by virtue of which hundreds of thousands of righteous souls have been blessed by Allah, the exalted, to accept Aḥmadiyyat, the true Islam.

Without a doubt, the Ahmadis living in these countries are also making extraordinary sacrifices, each according to his or her own means, but because of their lack of means, they cannot make sufficiently large sacrifices to meet all their expenditures. This is why the Waqf Jadid Chanda from affluent countries is used specifically in Africa and India. However, as I said, the Ahmadis from these countries also make sacrifices with great passion and zeal. "

I humbly ask all Jamā'at members to reread these few paragraphs, look into your hearts and maximize your sacrifice toward this Blessed Waqf Jadid Scheme.

Yours in the service of Aḥmadiyya Islam,  
Nasirullah Ahmad, National Waqf Jadid Secretary

## Khilāfat News and Announcements

### Head of Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community launches MTA International Africa TV Channel

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community is pleased to announce that at 4 pm (BST) on 1 August 2016, the World Head of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalīfa (Caliph), His Holiness, Ḥaḍrat Mirza

Masroor Ahmad launched MTA International Africa – a new television channel established specifically to meet the needs of the people of Africa.



### Inspection of 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community UK



The World Head of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalīfa, His Holiness, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad conducted an inspection for the arrangements of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention (*Jalsa Sālāna*) of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community in the United Kingdom on Sunday 7 August 2016.

During the inspection, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad visited the various departments tasked with organizing and running the three-day event. His Holiness was briefed on the arrangements as he inspected the site.





Later, His Holiness directly addressed many of the 5,000 volunteer workers and advised them to conduct their duties with diligence and to be regular in prayer. He advised the workers to display the very best manners throughout.

Haqrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“Every volunteer and worker should display excellent manners and etiquette at all time. They should ensure that they do not say or do anything that could cause offence or worry to any of the guests.”

Reminding the volunteers about the importance of prayer, Haqrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“Only through prayer and the worship of Allah will our efforts and our work be blessed. This is the secret to our success! Without Allah’s Grace and Mercy we cannot achieve anything.

Earlier, His Holiness also inspected *Jalsa Sālāna* arrangements made at the *Baitul-Futūh Mosque* in London and at the premises of *Jāmi’a Aḥmadiyya UK* in Haslemere.

## More than 584,000 people join Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community



The 50<sup>th</sup> *Jalsa Sālāna* (Annual Convention) of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community in the United Kingdom concluded on Sunday 14 August 2016 with a powerful and faith-inspiring address by the World Head the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalīfa (Caliph), His Holiness Haqrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad.

During his concluding address, His Holiness called on Islam’s critics to judge the religion on its true teachings, rather than focusing upon the hateful acts of a tiny minority of extremists.

More than 38,000 people attended the *Jalsa Sālāna*, which took place at Hadeeqatul-Mahdi in Alton, Hampshire.

Apart from the thousands of Ahmadi Muslims who participated, many non-Ahmadi and non-Muslim guests also attended. The entire event was also broadcast live on MTA International and streamed online.

One of the highlights of the three-day *Jalsa Sālāna*

was the pledge of allegiance, known as Bai’at that took place on Sunday afternoon, where the participants pledged allegiance to Haqrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad as the Fifth Khalīfa (Caliph) of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him).

The participants formed a human chain leading to the Khalīfa as they repeated the words of the pledge in unison.

Prior to the ceremony, His Holiness announced that more than 584,000 people had joined the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community during the past year from all around the world. He also announced that the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community was now established in 209 countries.

In his concluding address, Haqrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said that critics of Islam continued to raise unjust and entirely unfounded allegations against the religion.

Haqrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“Today’s disorder and terrorism is a result of the fact that people are distorting the teachings of religion and most certainly their hate filled and evil actions do not have any link to the true teachings of Islam.”

His Holiness said Islam laid the foundation for peace by promoting true equality between peoples and nations. Islam taught that no nation or people held superiority over others.



His Holiness said that Islam sought to create peace at every level of society and that the basis for peace in society lay in a person’s home. He said that Islam laid particular emphasis on the rights of parents.

In contrast, His Holiness said that those people in developed nations who routinely branded Islam as a cruel religion were themselves forgetting their fundamental obligation to their parents.

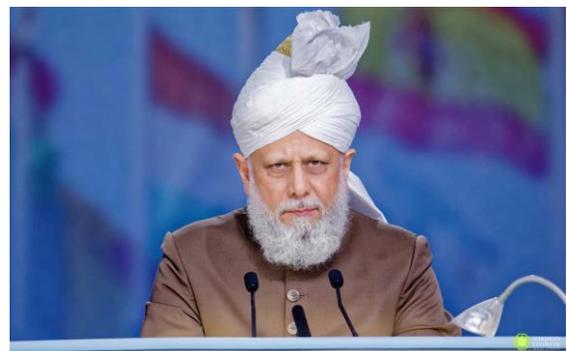
Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“In the developed world many people claim that they do not even have the time to meet their parents regularly, let alone to serve them and care for them in old age. The more advanced they consider themselves the further away they move from fulfilling their basic responsibilities.”

His Holiness emphasized that true justice could not be established without creating a link with God Almighty.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“Without recognizing and fulfilling the rights of the worship of God Almighty, justice cannot be established and one cannot pay attention towards kindness and humanity. Those who call themselves Muslims but continue to act against the teachings of Islam do so because they have not truly recognized God, nor are they fulfilling their obligations towards Him.”



His Holiness also referred to the responsibilities of parents to their children and referred to the verse of the Holy Quran which states “and that you kill not your children for fear of poverty”.



His Holiness said that this verse also referred to those who failed to cater for the moral wellbeing of their children.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“A lack of care and moral training from parents is one reason that children can become vulnerable to extremism and towards committing atrocities in the name of Islam. Such parents are ignoring their duties towards their children in the vain pursuit of wealth and so their children are left bereft of even a basic knowledge of their religion. This in essence is a means of destroying their children.”

His Holiness went on to quote chapter 49 verse 12 of the Holy Quran, which prohibits Muslims from mocking the sentiments of others.



Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“In this day and age religion is also being routinely mocked and derided and Islam is especially being targeted in this regard. When people make derogatory remarks or produce offensive caricatures to mock Islam or the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) it grieves Muslims worldwide. Of course any violent reaction is completely against the teachings of Islam but where is the wisdom in producing such materials that can threaten the peace of society?”



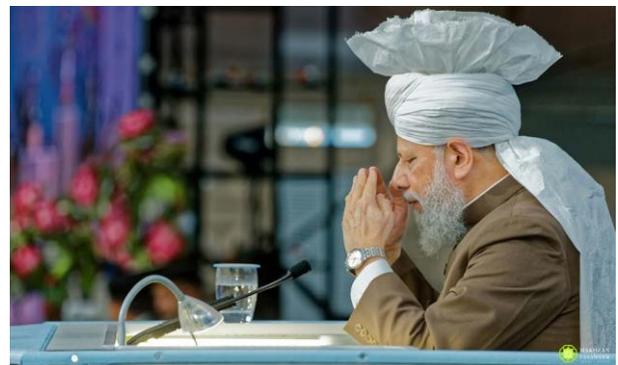
His Holiness continued:

“Does the fact that certain groups or individuals are acting contrary to the teachings of Islam give non-Muslims the license to provoke and hurt the sentiments of all Muslims including us Ahmadi Muslims, who are at the forefront of promoting the peaceful teachings of Islam?”

Explaining Islam’s teachings in relation to mutual respect and interfaith dialogue, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“Islam teaches that disorder should be

curbed, rather than encouraged or inflamed.”



Speaking of the deteriorating state of the peace of the world, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“The conflicts that existed on a small scale are now developing into international conflicts. In the past, when I said that the injustice in the world was pushing us towards nuclear war many government officials, analysts and politicians said that this is a far-fetched claim and overly pessimistic. However now they are themselves saying that a nuclear is looming and anything is possible.”

His Holiness said that both Muslim nations and the major powers had played a role in undermining the world’s peace.

He quoted media reports asking why certain countries were selling weapons to nations that were engaged in wars where innocent people were being killed.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“On the one hand, Muslim nations have failed to act with justice, whilst on the other hand certain developed countries have prioritized the arms trade over and beyond establishing peace. If only they had acted with justice and integrity the dangerous situation that the world faces today would have been avoided. Sadly, vested interests have blinded both sides.”

His Holiness concluded by saying:

“It is the task and responsibility of Ahmadi Muslims to inform the world of the benefits of the true peaceful teachings of Islam. May Allah enable us to do so and grant sense to the world.”

The Jalsa Sālāna concluded with a silent prayer led by His Holiness.



## Head of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Arrives in Germany

### Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad travels to attend Annual Convention of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Germany

The *World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalifa*, His Holiness, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad arrived at the Baitus-Subuh Mosque in Frankfurt on 27 August 2016.

The Khalifa (Caliph) travelled from London by road and after crossing into Germany he was greeted by the National President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Germany, Abdullah Wagishauser and

various other officials who then escorted His Holiness to Germany.

His Holiness travelled onwards to Frankfurt and he arrived at the Baitus-Subuh Mosque at 8.30 pm local time where he was greeted by hundreds of Ahmadi Muslim men, women and children all overjoyed to see their spiritual leader once again. Shortly after arrival, His Holiness led the *Maghreb* and *Isha* prayers.



## Inspection of Jalsa Sālāna Germany 2016

The *World Head of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalīfā (Caliph)*, His Holiness, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad conducted an inspection for the arrangements of the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention (*Jalsa Sālāna*) of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community in Germany on 1 September 2016.

During the inspection, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad visited the various departments tasked with organizing and running the event. His Holiness was

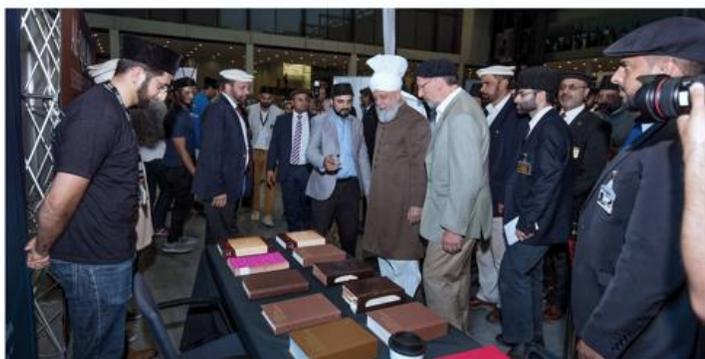
briefed on the arrangements whilst he inspected the *Messe Karlsruhe* site.

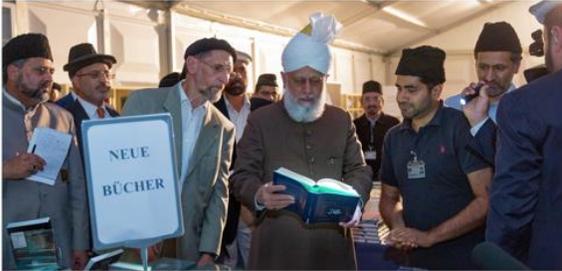
Later, His Holiness directly addressed many of the thousands of volunteers who tasked with hosting the Convention.

He advised them to maintain the very highest standards of morality and courtesy at all times because Islam laid great emphasis upon the hospitality of guests.

# ALLAH IST DAS LICHT DER HIMMEL UND DER ERDE.

DER HEILIGE QUR'ĀN 24:36





Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“The opportunity to serve guests is a great gift from God because the blessings attached to such service and hospitality are countless. Those who attend the Jalsa Salāna come with the intention of joining together to speak and hear about Allah the Almighty and to learn about the blessed character of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). They come here with the intention of

increasing their faith and so it is particularly important that such guests are looked after in the best way.”

Praying for the success of the Jalsa, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“May all participants spread righteousness and peace in every direction through the gift of Salam [peace] and may this event prove to be blessed in all respects.”



# Head of Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community Lays Foundation Stone for New Mosque in Frankenthal, Germany

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad says Islam has liberated women and granted them true freedom



On 30 August 2016, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the World Head of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalifa (Caliph), laid the foundation stone for the first Aḥmadiyya Muslim Mosque in the German town of Frankenthal in the State of Rhineland-Pflaz.

His Holiness has named it the ‘Noor Mosque’ (Mosque of Light).

Around 95 guests attended the ceremony, including various dignitaries, such as the Lord Mayor of Frankenthal, Martin Hebich and the State Minister of Migration and Integration, Miguel Vicente. During the formal session, Abdullah Wagishauser, the National President of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community in Germany, gave a welcome address, followed by guest remarks by dignitaries.



Lord Mayor, Martin Hebich said:

“We are extremely pleased that the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community is part of our

community and that you are building your own Mosque here because you have been at the forefront of promoting peace, openness and tolerance.”



Minister for Migration and Integration, Miguel Vicente said:

“Immigrants, no matter their religion or background, should adhere to our system of democracy and having known the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community for many years, I know that you certainly believe in this value. Indeed the fact that you are persecuted in certain countries and denied your rights means that you value freedom and democracy even more than others.”

The keynote address was delivered by Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, who explained the true purposes of Mosques and the peaceful objectives of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community.

Reflecting upon the teachings of Islam, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“You can summaries the teachings of the Holy Quran in two lines—to fulfill the rights of worship of God Almighty and to fulfill the rights of God’s Creation.”

Outlining the objectives of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community is that community which was established only for the sake of spreading a message of peace, security, love and mercy throughout the world.”

At a time when it is often alleged that Islam does not grant equality between the sexes, His Holiness spoke of how Islam had established the true freedom of women and enshrined their rights.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“Islam guarantees the rights of women and has granted them true freedom. Its teachings liberate women and enable them to step out of the shadow of men and to excel and contribute to society in the very best way.”

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad continued:

“With the Grace of Allah, Ahmadi Muslim

children are all well-educated and often our girls and ladies excel our boys and men. This in itself refutes the erroneous belief that Islam does not fulfill the rights of women.”

His Holiness said that a Mosque was a House of God and as such was open to all peace-loving people. Hence, it was incumbent upon true Muslims to serve all members of society, irrespective of their faith or backgrounds.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“Earlier the Lord Mayor said that this plot of land was previously owned by the authorities and was now under the ownership of our Community. However, according to our belief, a Mosque is a House of God and so it is not the property of any particular individual or community. Rather, when this Mosque or any true Mosque is built its ownership remains in the Hand of Allah the Almighty.”



Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad continued:

“The very first verse of the Holy Quran states that Allah the Almighty is the Lord of all the Worlds and so He is the Lord of every person, whether Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim or of any other belief. Thus, when the ownership of a Mosque lies with that God who is the Lord of all the Worlds, it follows that the Mosque will forever be a source of peace, refuge and tranquility for all people.”





Thanking the Lord Mayor for a tree he had gifted to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community on behalf of the town, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“I wish to thank the Lord Mayor for the generous gift of a tree which he said was a sign of the strong roots we have laid in this town. This was a very kind sentiment on his part. Islam says that Muslims should follow the commands of Allah and so become like those trees that have strong roots in the ground but whose branches reach the heavens.”

His Holiness refuted the allegation that true Muslims were a threat to the people of the West or any other part of the world. He said that those who conducted terrorist acts or promoted extremism were

## Head of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Lays Foundation Stone for New Mosque in Pfungstadt, Germany

**Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad says Allah the Almighty continues to fulfill revelation “I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth”**

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is pleased to announce that on 28 August 2016, the *World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalifa (Caliph)*, His Holiness, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad laid the foundation stone for the first Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosque in the small German town of *Pfungstadt* in the state of Hesse.

Around 30 guests attended the ceremony, including various dignitaries, such as Mayor of Pfungstadt, Patrick Koch and the former Mayor Horst Baier.

acting against Islam’s true teachings.

Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“Islam teaches a Muslim to be loyal to the nation in which he resides. Certainly, Ahmadi Muslims should be and are known as those people who follow the law of the land more than anyone else. They should be known as the people who strive above all others towards the progress of their nation and as the people who spread the message of peace, security and love in their society.”



Concluding, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“Where on the one hand, Ahmadi Muslims who will attend this Mosque will fulfill the rights of Allah the Almighty, it is also incumbent upon them to fulfill the rights of their neighbors and the wider society. In Islam the scope of a neighbor is extremely wide, and so in essence, every person living in this town is our neighbor.”

Following the conclusion of his address, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad laid the foundation stone for the new Mosque.

The respected wife of His Holiness, Hadrat Amtul Sabooh Begum also laid a stone in the foundation of the Mosque and thereafter the Lord Mayor, other dignitaries and a number of Central; National and Local Ahmadi Muslim officials also laid stones.

During the formal session, Abdullah Wagishauser, the *National President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Germany*, gave a welcome address. He said that despite some limited opposition, the vast majority of the local population had supported the Mosque project in *Pfungstadt*.

Thereafter, both the current Mayor and the former Mayor of Pfungstadt took to the stage to offer their congratulations to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.



Mayor Patrick Koch said:

“This event in which you are laying a foundation stone for your new Mosque is a symbol that you are noble and peace-loving

people. Ahmadi Muslims have contributed greatly to this town, for example through your charity walks in which you raise money for those in need.”

Former Mayor, Horst Baier said:

“Recent events have made people think that Muslims are the cause of terrorism, however I have seen and I truly believe that those people who conduct terrorist attacks have nothing to do with Islam but are people who have no respect for human values.”

The keynote address was delivered by Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, who said, the *Founder* of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community had instructed that it was the duty of Muslims to fulfill both the rights due to God and to humanity.

Thanking the local population for supporting the Mosque project and for their tolerant approach, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“I am extremely grateful to the people of this town for displaying open hearts and welcoming immigrants to this town and in particular the Ahmadi Muslims living here. It is now the responsibility of the Ahmadi Muslims to treat the local people like their close friends and relatives and it is their responsibility to look after and serve the local community.”

Speaking about Islam’s commitment to serving humanity, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“The charitable work of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in this town was mentioned earlier. It should be clear that we are not

imparting any favor through such work, rather it is our duty and obligation to serve the creation of Allah the Almighty.”

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad continued:

“Indeed, in a Persian couplet the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community said it was his mission and purpose to serve humanity. Hence, it is incumbent upon every Ahmadi Muslim to serve mankind.”

His Holiness spoke of how the town of *Pfungstadt* was founded in the same decade that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community itself was founded.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“This town was founded in the 1880s and in the very same decade the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community picked up the mantle of defending Islam and highlighted its true teachings before the world. Thereafter, Allah told him in a revelation that ‘I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth.’”

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad continued:

“At that time could anyone have ever imagined that his message would even reach this small town of Germany which itself had only just been founded? Hence, this too is a sign of the fulfillment of that promise that Allah made to the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him).



Concluding, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“It is natural that some of you will be concerned about the prospect of a mosque being built here, however over time your reservations and concerns will all be alleviated. You will come to see and recognize that this mosque poses you no harm, rather it is a beacon of peace that is only a source of benefit to all.”

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad added:

“Islam teaches that religion is a matter of one’s heart and so no one can be forced to accept

any religion. The Holy Quran has very clearly stated that there should be no compulsion in religion.”

Following the conclusion of his address, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad laid the foundation stone for the new Mosque.

The respected wife of His Holiness, Ḥaḍrat Amtul Sabooh Begum also laid a stone in the foundation of the Mosque and thereafter the local Mayor and a number of Central, National and Local Ahmadi Muslim officials also laid stones.

# Weekly Guidance from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V

May Allāh be his Helper

Summaries of Friday Sermons received from

Ch. Hameedullah, Wakīl A'lā, Taḥrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya, Pakistan

## Friday Sermon 1 July 2016 at Baitul-Futūḥ Mosque, London

**The Stress Islām places on Jumu'a prayer is greater than that on the Eid prayer. The Jumu'a prayer has its origins in the birth of Islām.**

**Jumu'a-tul-wida is not the Friday that says farewell to good deeds, rather it extends those good deeds to the next Ramaḍān.**

**There comes a moment on Friday when any prayer a believer makes is accepted.**

After reciting verses 10 to 12 of Sūrah Al-Jumu'a which are translated as follows: "O ye who believe! When the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allāh, and leave off all business. That is better for you, if you only knew. And when the Prayer is finished, then disperse in the land and seek of Allāh's grace, and remember Allāh much, that you may prosper. But when they see some merchandise or some amusement, they break up for it, and leave thee standing. Say, "That which is with Allāh is better than amusement and merchandise, and Allāh is the Best Provider.'" (62:10-12)

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: When God made fasting obligatory, He also said that these are but a few days. Today is the day of fasting and the last Friday of Ramaḍān. There are only four or five days left in Ramaḍān during which we should try to make up for any shortcomings. May Allāh overlook our faults, have mercy on us, and not deprive us of the blessings of Ramaḍān.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that people commonly refer to this last Friday of Ramaḍān as Jumu'a-tul-Wida and think that all prayers are accepted on this day and all prayers and worship that was missed in the past can be made up by attending this Jumu'a. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) has guided us and shown us the right path to the nearness of God. Once the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was asked: "Some people offer four rak'ats of prayer on Jumu'atul-Wida, which they call Qaḍā-i-'Umrī [or the prayer that makes up for a lifetime of missed prayers]. Is such practice permissible?"

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) said that anyone who deliberately foregoes his prayer throughout the year, thinking that he will make up for them through Qaḍā-i-'Umrī, is a sinner. On the other hand it is permissible for one who repents sincerely and offers it with the intention of never foregoing a prayer again.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that we offer

Jumu'atul-Wida and say farewell to these blessed days with the intention and prayer that we will welcome the next Ramaḍān with all our abilities while remaining steadfast on the blessings that we have reaped in this Ramaḍān; that we will keep reminding ourselves of all the things that we have learned in Ramaḍān and always keep them alive; and that our steps will never stop trying to attain God's nearness. It is Allāh's blessing upon us that, as a sign of His love; he blessed every seventh day, which is Friday, with these same blessings.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) says that there comes a moment on Friday in which any prayer a believer makes is accepted. Every virtue leads to God. The five prayers redeem for the faults committed by us from one Jumu'a to the next and from one Ramaḍān to the next. Today each of us should make a pledge that this Jumu'a and this Ramaḍān should make us mindful of safeguarding our prayers and offering the Jumu'a prayer, and that all the virtues we have acquired in this Ramadan we will strive to extend them until the next Ramaḍān.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that every Jumu'a has its own importance even outside Ramaḍān. The Holy Qur'an commands us to leave all our work for the prayer on Friday, and to disperse in the land after the prayer is finished and seek Allāh's grace. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that Allāh has blessed us with the gift of MTA, which we should utilize to listen to the Khalīfa sermons. Missionaries should select extracts from the Khalīfa sermon and read them to their audience in their own sermons.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the day of Friday has a special affinity with the age of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). Allāh has also attached special importance to the Friday sermon. He commands that if you have work to do, you should do it before and after the Jumu'a prayer. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that these days' businesses have taken on an international dimension and keeps people more busy. Games and other such activities have also

become globalized and can make one unmindful of the time. But in all these events you must be mindful of the Jumu'a prayer. A believer's priority should be to seek Allāh's pleasure, hence it is impossible to think that he would forego the Jumu'a for the sake his business. If you safeguard your Jumu'a, it will bring you greater worldly blessings.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said according to a Hadīth the first one to come to the mosque for Jumu'a is given a divine reward equivalent to the sacrificing of a camel, and this diminishes with each one that comes after. On the Day of Judgment people will be seated in God's court in accordance with their attendance of Friday prayers. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said that on Friday you should try to sit close to the Imām. One who keeps back from the Jumu'a keeps back from paradise. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) says that God seals the heart of a person who

misses three consecutive Jumu'a deliberately. This is a warning for those who consider the Jumu'a to be something trivial. However, some have been granted exemption from attending the Jumu'a, such as slaves, women, children, the sick, etc. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the stress laid on Jumu'a prayer is greater than that on Eid. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the efforts made by the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) in the time of the British Government for Friday to be declared a holiday.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that our every word and deed should be a manifestation of the truth of Islām. The way to drink from the fountain of Islām is through fulfilling two obligations: our obligation to God and our obligation to His creatures. Today each and every one of us should promise to fulfill our pledge of Bai'at and to make the blessings of Ramaḍān an abiding part of our lives. May Allāh enable us to do so. Ameen.

## Friday Sermon 8 July 2016 at Baitul-Futūh Mosque, London

**Exhortations about intellectual and moral training of the Jamā'at in the light of the sagacious words of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd**

**The missionaries should strive for higher intellectual and spiritual status in order to uphold their respect and dignity.**

**In our every action, even play and leisure, we should not damage the reputation of the Jamā'at and should always be mindful of its dignity.**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that in his message to the Jamā'at of Qādiān, Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd once said: "Allah has promised to spread the message and the name of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) to the ends of the world, and He is doing this in keeping with His promise and will continue to do so in the future as well. But the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) also advised His Jamā'at seek knowledge from his books and do Tabligh." In this message Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd reminded the Jamā'at in Qādiān that despite their limited numbers and resources they still had a duty to spread the message of truth. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd also had words of encouragement for the Ahmadīs who were safeguarding Qādiān. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd said when the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) embarked on this divine mission there were only two or three Ahmadīs in Qādiān and no Ahmadiyya Jamā'at outside of Qādiān, but now there are hundreds of Jamā'at's in India and it is your duty to keep them active. Along with Tabligh, you also have to take care of new Ahmadīs. If these new Ahmadīs face any persecution it is your duty to reach out to them and raise their spirits.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that Ahmadīs should read and understand the books of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and prepare lectures and speeches based on them. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd said

that those who go out and deliver lectures should be given well prepared material, which they should present in their lectures. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that this is a guiding principle for missionaries and other preachers.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that old Ahmadīs used to prefer the work of Tabligh to that of office work, but today many people insist that they want to be stationed in the center. Missionaries should try to develop their intellectual and spiritual faculties in order to preserve their dignity in the Jamā'at's so that no one should have any occasion to criticize them. In some Jamā'at the members of administration speak ill of the missionaries. When a missionary tries to reform them they start criticizing him.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd said that the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) came to show such miracles and create such people whose prayers would bring about great revolutions. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) says, "That which cannot be done by the whole world can be done through prayer." Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also answered an objection about the acceptance of prayers and the showing of signs citing words of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also cited some brief anecdotes related by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd. One of these was the story of a jealous hunchbacked woman. Hazrat Musleh

Mau'ūd said that such people instead of wishing to be relieved of their own suffering, wish the same suffering upon others. We should pray to be saved from the evil of such jealous people. Citing the story of a blind man, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd said that while people are afraid of death, a believer is not, and when people come to kill him he says that I already died the day I accepted the truth. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd cited the story of a miserly woman and said that there are some rich people who are themselves miserly and claim credit for the overall Chanda of the Jamā'at.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that once people were joking and jesting and saying things that were contrary to the faith and against the decorum of the Jamā'at. Upon this Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd said that it is not forbidden to laugh and joke, but it should not be done in a manner that is derogatory and belittling. And if such a word is uttered by error, one should offer Istighfar. Do not go so far in jest that it brings a bad name to the Jamā'at. We should be mindful of this on all occasions. We have to be mindful not to injure the image of the Jamā'at whether it is in games or leisure or other social gatherings.

## Friday Sermon 15 July 2016 at Baitul-Futūh Mosque, London

**A reminder of the qualities and responsibilities of office-bearers. Believers are always mindful of their trusts and pledges.**

**In order to fulfill their trust, office-bearers should become role models in truthfulness and piety.**

**If the Tarbiyat department becomes fully active, the burden on the other departments will become lighter. Tarbiyat starts from home.**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: As I have already mentioned in a previous sermon, this is the year for the election of Jamā'at's office-bearers. These elections have now been held and new office-bearers have taken charge of their duties. May Allāh enable all the newly appointed office-bearers to serve with all their capabilities and fulfill the trust reposed in them. Service of the Jamā'at should not be seen as something trivial. Each of us has made a pledge to God. Allāh says that the trusts that have been placed in you are your pledges, and that you will surely be accountable for you pledges. In order to truly fulfill your trusts, it is essential to become example of truthfulness and piety for others. The Amīrs and Presidents of Jamā'ats and their 'Āmila and the Secretaries for Tarbiyat should become examples for the Jamā'at. If the Tarbiyat department becomes truly active, it can ease the burden of other departments. The work of tarbiyyat begins from home. Amīrs, Presidents and Secretaries for Tarbiyat should see whether or not they are themselves acting on the programs they have drawn up. If not, then this is contrary to Taqwa.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that man's ultimate purpose is to worship God, therefore we should do our utmost to offer our prayers in congregation. If our mosques are filled with worshippers, then we will also be able to properly train members of the Jamā'at. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that a person's speech cannot be effective unless it is backed by a sincere resolve and action. There should be no contradiction in our word and deed. Every office-bearer should be mindful of offering prayers in congregation.

Speaking of the qualities and responsibilities of office-bearers, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that office-bearers are not appointed to be officers above others, rather the leader of a people should be their

servant. Office-bearers should be humble and forbearing and selfless. They should alleviate other people's sufferings like it was their own. This is true greatness. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that arrogance leads away from God and is harmful for the Jamā'at. Even though the rules permit the Amīr Jamā'at to reject the opinion of the 'Āmila, still they should try to take everyone along with them. This right should only be exercised in extreme cases and in view of the wider interest of the Jamā'at. If they act in accordance with the rules and regulations, there will not be any misgivings among members.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that another quality office-bearers should cultivate is kindness. Office-bearers should be considerate of the feelings of their subordinates and teach them the work with compassion and kindness. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that Allāh is the one that runs all the Jamā'at's affairs. In the time of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ III, there was an office-bearer who thought that the Jamā'at's financial system depended on him. When Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ III learned of this, he replaced him with another one who knew nothing about the work, and yet God blessed it more than ever before. Therefore, no one should harbor the illusion that the Jamā'at depends on an individual's knowledge or experience. Allāh helps the Jamā'at through His angels.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that another quality office-bearers should exhibit is to work cheerfully and show courtesy. They should talk to their subordinates and others with politeness. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that while at times one needs to act with severity in some administrative matters, this should be as an extreme step and its purpose should be to reform, and not to show who is boss. Office-bearers

should know their limits and should read the rules and regulations.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that sometimes the budget is not properly divided among the various departments. The budget of every department should be accurately laid out. Then the work of each department should be analyzed in every 'Āmila meeting, and, if required, the budget may be adjusted accordingly. Another important task of the Amīrs, Presidents and Secretaries is to immediately act upon the circulars they receive from the Centre.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that it is the responsibility of every Mūsī to keep record of their Chanda. It is the responsibility of the Central Office to keep the record of every Mūsī up to date and remind them if necessary. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said

that it is the responsibility of the Missionary In-charge to hold regular meetings with missionaries. In places where Secretaries for Da'wat Ilallāh are not active, the missionaries should try to motivate them.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the office-bearers should consider the next three years of responsibility placed upon them by God as His grace and serve the Jamā'at with all their capabilities.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Sahibzadi Tahira Siddiqa Sahiba, wife of Sahibzada Mirzā Munir Ahmad Sahib, and granddaughter of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), and announced that he will lead her funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

### Friday Sermon 22 July 2016 at Baitul-Futūh Mosque, London

**Exhortation to life-devotees and missionaries to walk and exercise daily, to practice speaking aloud in order to convey the message of Islam, and to read newspapers.**

**Believers should always live in conformity with Divine commandments.**

**Abide by Taqwa. It is the deficiency in Taqwa that leads people to put their trusts in others rather than in God.**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Speaking about the Promised Messiah's habit of hard work, maintaining his health, and keeping physically fit, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd says that the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was not given to indolence, rather he was hard working and was not averse to physical exertion despite his love for solitude. He would often prefer to walk rather than ride. He continued this habit to his last days and would walk from four to seven miles every day. In this context, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) drew the attention of life-devotees and particularly missionaries that in order to maintain their health and being strong they should make a habit of taking exercise regularly. There are some young missionaries whose physique tells that they do not exercise. Dr. Noori Sahib, after doing a check-up of missionaries who had come from Jamias outside Pakistan, said that some of them are dangerously overweight. It is necessary to adopt some kind of exercise, eat healthy foods, and avoid junk foods. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that I do not just say this to you, but I myself exercise regularly. We need healthy missionaries and life devotees so that they can carry on the work of the Jamā'at in the best manner.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that there are times when sound systems are not available, therefore our missionaries should also practice speaking aloud. While the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) normally talked in a low tone, but on occasions when it was required to convey the message of Islām, he would also speak aloud. Speaking about Lecture Lahore, Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd says that when the Promised

Messiah (peace be upon him) spoke it seemed as if a trumpet was being sounded from heaven.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that some people express their worry that they cannot remain steadfast in their state of piety. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that it was good to do self-scrutiny and to think of self-reformation. Often this is not something evil but only fluctuation between greater piety and lesser piety. Once a Companion of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) thought that this was a sign of hypocrisy, but the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that it was the sign of a believer. It is those people who remain worried about their piety, just as mother is worried about her child, that grow in piety and mold their lives according to the commandments of God. It is better to be worried about one's faith than to be heedless.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that joy and sorrow are related to empathy. We do not feel the joy and sorrow of others as we share the joy and sorrow of our near and dear ones. Therefore while we pray for our benefactors and their progeny, we should also pray especially for members of the Jamā'at, for the Jamā'at is one body.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) used to read newspapers regularly. Therefore, those in positions of responsibility should read newspaper regularly and look at even the minor news.

Speaking about the devotion of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ I, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that

when Abdul Hakeem recanted his faith, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ I removed his Commentary of the Holy Qur'an from his library lest he should invite God's displeasure on account of it. This feeling for the honor of faith and fear of God is an example for us. Referring to some objections raised by persons who have been penalized by the Jamā'at, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that some apparently big issues can be small and small issues can be of greater significance depending on the mischief they create. Therefore sometimes apparently big issues have to be overlooked and action has to be taken against matters that are apparently small. It is not proper to unjustly intervene or intercede in such cases.

Speaking about Da'wat Ilallāh, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that in the time of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), Da'wat Ilallāh was mostly done through announcements. Even today the message reaches a far wider audience through media and newspapers, which is not possible through traditional

literature. Through newspapers our message can be conveyed to more people in a day than it could possibly be done by distributing literature for two months.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) related a story that was told by the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) to Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd when he was young which shows that great blessings come from Taqwa and that one should put one's trust in God and ask from Him. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that this was the Promised Messiah's counsel to a child, but everyone should put one's trust in God. May Allah inculcate this level of Taqwa in every one of us. Āmīn.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Al-Haaj, Dr. Idris Bengura Sahib, Na'ib Amīr of Sierra Leone Jamā'at, and that of Mansora Begum Sahiba, wife of Khalid Saifullah Khan Sahib, Na'ib Amīr of Australia, and led their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

### Friday Sermon 29 July 2016 at Baitul-Futūḥ Mosque, London

**Strive to foster love and fraternity among mankind regardless of what religions they belong to. Our religion rejects terrorism, violence and coercion. It gives a message of peace, reconciliation and harmony. Ahmadīs should recognize their responsibility. In these times we should pay special attention to prayers and charity.**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Conditions are fast deteriorating in the world, and unfortunately this is causing the rise of some factions. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Rulers who profess to belong to a religion that stands for peace are playing havoc with justice, and people with vested interests are manipulating this situation. This is happening because governments are giving preference to their own interests rather than to the needs of their people. Governments are showing little restraint and committing atrocities. When such injustices perpetuate, they cause a reaction, which big powers then use to serve their own vested interests. Reason demands that every step be taken with proper deliberation. There is an ever greater need for prayers in these days.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Islām does not condone the killing of innocent people. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), whenever he sent an army to fight, he would order them not to harm women, children, elderly people, rabbis and priests, let alone kill them. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The very name of our religion rejects terrorism, violence and coercion, and promotes peace and harmony. When a true believer seeks God's mercy and blessings in the Salāt, he is saved from mischief and transgression, because Salāt stops one from evil and sinful deeds. Our religion commands us to greet people with the greeting of Salām and to promote peace. Every

commandment of our religion shows that it is a religion of peace and harmony.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) says that Islām has divided its teaching into two parts: those relating to our obligations to God, and those relating to our obligations towards His creature. It is not right to harm anyone on account of his religion. It is also the purpose of Islām to foster brotherhood and unity among mankind. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We should try to foster love and compassion among people regardless of what religion they belong to. Instead of unjustly killing innocent people, we should bring them towards God through peace and amity. We should make Islam an abode of love and compassion and not give its opponents any occasion to attack our religion.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Every terrorist attack should remind Ahmadīs to fulfill their obligations more than ever before. Each one of us should tell the world that peace and harmony is the essence of Islām. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) lauded the Pope's statement that this is not a war of religions but a war of vested interests. These days messages can reach millions through Facebook and Twitter, therefore we should consider what people are saying and respond to them. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Much needs to be done, it is wrong to think that what we have done is adequate. We have to work with sagacity and

diligence. We should pray that God may show us the progress of Islām within our lifetime. Every Ahmadī as a part of the Jamā'at should focus on prayers and charity. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that when the doors of mercy are opened for a person, the doors of paradise are also opened for him. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also said that we should give alms in order to be saved from tribulations and fire. It is obligatory upon us to give to charitable causes.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) says: Trials and tribulations can be averted through almsgiving and prayers. For the acceptance of prayers it is essential that man undergoes a holy transformation and does not transgress God's commandments. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that we recite the prayers taught by the Holy Quran. The Promised Messiah (peace

be upon him) has explained that the Holy Qur'an has taught us these prayers so that when a believer offers them with complete sincerity God accepts them. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) asked the Jamā'at to recite some of these prayers. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that Allāh may protect the Jamā'at individually and collectively from the mischief of our opponents, and turn their evil designs against them, and enable us to spread the teachings of Islām.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Evon Bernaan Sahib, Syed Nadir Sayedain Sahib (in charge of Nāsir Fire and Rescue Service, Khuddām-ul-Ahmadiyya, Rabwah) and Nazeer Ahmad Ayaz Sahib (President of New York Jamā'at), and led their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

### Friday Sermon 5 August 2016 at Baitul-Futūh Mosque, London

**The importance of hospitality in the context of Jalsa Salāna UK and the responsibilities of the workers. While other people seek leisure in their holidays, Ahmadīs choose to serve the guests.**

**Serving humanity is the hallmark of every Ahmadī volunteer.**

**This spirit should always be kept alive.**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Jalsa Sālāna UK starts next Friday and guests from all over the world have started arriving to attend this event. Men and women, old and young, from the length and breadth of UK offer their voluntary services for this occasion. As the Jalsa's demands keep growing, there is need for even more volunteers. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that looking after the Jalsa guests has become a part of every Ahmadī's nature. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about a clip on YouTube where a young man was asked what he was paid for his work, and he replied that he only worked to win Allāh's pleasure. This should be the attitude of every Ahmadī in every country, whether Africa, Indonesia, Oceania, or any developed country of the West.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that while most people's priority during the holiday period is to travel and seek pleasure, Ahmadīs volunteer themselves to serve the guests of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). With regard to Jalsa Salāna UK, the work has to be done on temporary basis and has to be completed within a timeframe of 28 days, hence there is a need for many volunteers to complete the work in this limited time. Considering the nature of the work, this time period is very short and some work is started much earlier, so that some workers have to volunteer up to two months of their time.

Reminding old and new workers of their responsibilities, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Some people have a lot of zeal to work, but sometimes on account of their dispositions they say or do things that

hurt a guest's feeling. These reminders help the volunteers to be wary of such lapses. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I have no doubt at all about the spirit of the workers, they are indeed full of zeal and devotion to serve.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) used to take great care to provide facilities to his guests. Allāh had informed the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) of this beforehand that he should neither tire nor be impolite to his guests on account of their large numbers. Today, in keeping with this Divine command, the servants of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) are serving the Jalsa guests selflessly and tirelessly.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Non-Ahmadī guests are impressed by the volunteers, in particular child volunteers. The spirit of service to humanity is and should be the hallmark of every Ahmadī volunteer and should always be kept alive.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that according to a Hadīth even to greet a brother with a smile is a form of charity. Thus hospitality and cordiality together merit greater divine reward. To show someone the way is also a form of charity. Volunteers of the concerned department should guide the guests to their accommodations. Officials in charge of serving meals should remember that cordiality is the right of the guest and the duty of the host. Inappropriate conduct or remarks by the host can easily hurt the feelings of the guests. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited the story of a Companion of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings

of Allah be upon him) who fed a guest and himself went without food, and said that this is the spirit with which one should serve these guests remembering that they are the guests of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that some volunteers take their friends to the food marquee reserved for non-Ahmadī guests. When such discrimination was once perpetrated in the time of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), God told him that an act of hypocrisy had been committed that night. Everyone should be treated cordially, sacrifice should be

made to whatever extent possible, and everyone should try to do full justice to their duty.

With regard to security, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) urged both workers and guests to be vigilant. At the end of the sermon Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that Allāh may enable everyone to work in the best manner possible. May Allāh protect the guests, make the Jalsa successful in every way and save us from the evil designs of our opponents. May the workers set ever higher standards. When workers serve with such a zeal, Allāh looks upon them with love and compassion.

## Friday Sermon 12 August 2016 at Ḥadīqatul-Mahdī, UK

**Inauguration of Jalsa Salāna UK. Instructions regarding hospitality and other managements.**

**Participants of the Jalsa should keep their attention focused on seeking religious knowledge and spiritual growth.**

**Guests should be grateful to the volunteers who work day and night to serve them.**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: By the grace of Allāh, Jalsa Salāna UK is starting from today. May Allāh enable all the participants to live up to the expectations of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and may He accept the Promised Messiah's prayers in their favor. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) has said that participating in the Jalsa is not like attending a worldly gathering; those who participate in the Jalsa should focus all their attention towards religious knowledge and spiritual growth.

After explaining how the subjects for the various speeches are selected, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the speakers spend many days preparing their speeches and present them in a limited time so that the participants receive the best material available for their religious and intellectual progress. The participants should make sure that they attend all the programs in the Jalsa venue. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) addressed some complaints that come from men and more often women. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that infants should be taken to the children's marquee. It is wrong to sit in groups and talk in the main marquees. I believe that if the audience pay attention even to 50% of what is said, this can raise their intellectual, religious and spiritual standards manifold. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) said: Listen carefully, for this is a matter of faith. Laxity and inattentiveness results in undesirable outcomes. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) instructed those who sit at the end of the marquees not to make noise during the programs.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Listen to the speech not just for temporary pleasure but to benefit from them permanently. Do not listen only to the speakers you like. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that worldly speakers only crave applause and the listeners too do not come with any sincerity. Sincerity creates positive results. The Promised Messiah (peace be

upon him) has drawn our attention even to minor things so that the weakness in a few may not affect the thoughts of the majority.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: If the Jalsa does not enhance us intellectually and spiritually, we should feel concerned. May Allāh bless the words of the speakers so that they become embedded in the minds of the listeners. Every participant should

forget all worldly affairs during these three days and focus on raising their spiritual levels.

Addressing the participants Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) asked them to be mindful of the feelings of the volunteers and keep their emotions in check, while the volunteers should also show patience and forbearance. Wrong attitudes can discourage people from attending in the future. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the participants should not seek to live like guests, rather if they have to face some difficulty they should accept it openheartedly. There are bound to be difficulties in providing temporary amenities. Some arrangements cannot be made on permanent basis. Be grateful to the volunteers who work day and night and strive to do full justice to your hospitality. Spend the three days thinking how you can please God. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) taught us to say this prayer when we come to temporary dwellings: "I seek refuge in all the Divine words, from every evil."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the difficulty faced by some guests the previous night and instructed the organizers to quickly make provisions. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that there are people who bear hardships just to be able to benefit from the atmosphere of the Jalsa and also train their children to be resilient.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Participants should make sure they offer the five daily prayers

punctually. Both the guests and the Tarbiyat Department should make sure of this. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the improved mobile phone services and asked participants to turn off their mobiles or at least keep them silent during the Jalsa programs. Participants should cooperate with the transport and scanning departments. Remain vigilant, especially in the parking, scanning areas and food marquees and watch for any unusual behavior. Also

benefit from the exhibitions set up by the History department and the Review of Religions.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) urged the participants to spend their time in prayers, Ṣalāt, Nawāfil, remembrance of God and Durood. May Allāh bless this Jalsa and protect us from all evil. Āmīn.

## Friday Sermon 19 August 2016 at Baitul-Futūḥ Mosque, London

**Thanking Almighty Allāh for the successful conclusion of the Jalsa Salāna UK, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) expressed gratitude for the volunteers who served at the Jalsa, and spoke about the media coverage of the Jalsa as well as the impressions of the guests about the Jalsa.**

**Speaking about the Jalsa the guests said that it was a great example of love, peace, and true brotherhood. We should strive to make the spiritual environment, the ambience and inspiring discussions at the Jalsa a permanent part of our lives.**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We should strive to make the spiritual environment and ambience of the Jalsa and the pious influence it has left on us a permanent part of our lives. We should pray to Allāh that may He not cause us to be deprived of the blessed rain of His grace and the glad tidings He granted to the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), and that may He enable us to become His thankful servants and be worthy of His grace.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Khuddām, Atfāl and Ansar, all take part in Waqar-e-Amal with great sincerity and do the Jalsa duties as well. Due to the presence of the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ, the Jalsa Salāna UK has become an international Jalsa. Also, due to the volunteers from the USA and Canada this year the Jalsa has become even more as an international Jalsa. The Khuddām from the USA and Canada planned their work well and did it enthusiastically.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the impressions of the guests of the Jalsa regarding the work done by the volunteers at the Jalsa as well as the spiritual atmosphere of the event. Some of these guests were dignitaries including politicians and ministers.

The Defense Minister of Benin said: 'I have met here the ambassadors of peace and love. The Jalsa is a great example of true brotherhood. Every young and old alike makes sacrifice to comfort his brother. The best thing is the arrangements that have been put in place for security.' A journalist from Benin said: 'The excellent arrangements put in place for the Jalsa cannot be matched by any other convention in the world. The arrangements for the MTA broadcast were also superb. Even at the UNO, live translations are not available in as many languages.'

A Provincial Attorney General from Congo said: 'Arrangements for the Jalsa were such that they made the guests all at one with each other, made the

impossible

possible and turned a jungle into a city where all the amenities of life were available. The age of the volunteers ranged from 3 to 80 years.'

The President of Niger's Advisor for Religious Affairs said: 'I have never witnessed such a spiritual environment before. I felt as if light was descending from heaven.' A Japanese friend of the Jamā'at said: 'The passion of Ahmadi children and youth is commendable. In particular, the enthusiastic participation of the children in the Jalsa foretells a bright present and future of the Jamā'at.' The Vice President of Uganda was amazed at the work done by the volunteers at the Jalsa. A Russian doctor said that attending the Jalsa was an unforgettable experience for her. A guest from Iceland said that his heart was deeply impressed by looking at the people who had come from all corners of the world and who stayed at such peace with one another. A Japanese professor said that ambassadors from all countries speak of their different demands at the UNO, but the demands that were made during the Jalsa on behalf of the entire world make the Jalsa a better forum than the UNO.

Citing statistics regarding Press and Media Section of the Jamā'at, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The news of the Jalsa and the Ahmadiyya message of love and peace that was covered by the print media and their online editions as well by radio, television, and social media outlets, reached around 135 million people. If only 20% of the said people truly saw and read the news, the number of such people reached 18 million, which is more than the number in previous years.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the special transmission of MTA Africa for the African countries and related some impressions of the viewers of the Jalsa from Africa.

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

of God's grace upon the Jamā'at is becoming wider and wider. This should make us become even more thankful to Allāh, so that we receive the blessings He spoke about in the verse: If you are grateful, I will surely bestow more favors upon you.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: All the attendees of the Jalsa as well the Ahmadīs worldwide

should strive to thank God to the best of their abilities.

Towards the end of the Friday sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) drew the attention of the Jalsa administration to the flaws in the scanning, parking and security arrangements this year and advised the Jalsa administration to remove the flaws by planning better next year.

## Friday Sermon 26 August 2016 at Baitul-Futūh Mosque, London

**Examples from Europe, Africa and other countries of noble and pious people accepting and holding fast to the truth. Ahmadī parents, Jamā'ats, missionaries and mu'allims should pay special attention to the teaching and training of Ahmadī children.**

**The Jamā'at is progressing by the grace of God, not through our efforts and resources.**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: On the second day of Jalsa Sālāna, Allāh's blessings are recounted and facts and figures are presented with regard to the work of various departments and the progress of the Jamā'at. Along with these numbers, I also recount some related incidents. It is however not possible to relate all the numbers or all the narratives at length. Tahrik Jadid has started producing this data in the form of a book every year. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I recount these narratives on various occasions, and I will cite some of them today.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: These examples show us how Allāh is manifesting the truth of Ahmadiyyat to people living in so many different countries. People are drawn through dreams, through books, through the attitudes of our opponents, and through the exemplary character of Ahmadīs. Some of these narratives reveal the extraordinary faith demonstrated by Ahmadīs living in far off places. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Children can be transformed through training and by living in the company of Ahmadīs, and this is something that impresses other people as well. As a Jamā'at we try to

spread the message in an organized way, but Allāh blesses us with much greater results. Every Ahmadī realizes that the Jamā'at is progressing not through its resources but through the grace of God.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) recounted incidents of acceptance of Islām by pious and good-natured people. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Distributing leaflets are only the means; Allāh has prepared people's hearts beforehand. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Allāh has caused a new wind to blow and people are turning towards us. Allāh is causing a positive thinking to spread and idolaters are believing in the oneness of God. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited the example of a Jamā'at in Tanzania who, despite being poor, collected money to send their representative to the Shūrā. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also cited several heart-warming incidents relating to the building of mosques. Once a person lost his child soon after pledging the Bai'at, and the idolaters said that it was an ill omen, but he said that he believed with full sincerity that God alone has the power to grant wealth and children.

Full original text of Friday Sermons by the Caliphs of Ahmadiyya Islam is available in print in Al-Fazl International, Al-Fazl Rabwah and Badr. These publications are also available online at [alislam.org](http://alislam.org) under periodicals. Translations and summaries of Friday Sermons are also available in various languages on [alislam.org](http://alislam.org) under Friday Sermons.

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Type and send a soft copy of your English or Urdu contribution through e-mail to [publications@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:publications@ahmadiyya.us).

Please provide your name and phone number on the contribution.

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'ān, Ḥadīth, Malfūzāt, any quotations and other sources.

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# Activities and News of Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community in USA

## Khidmat-e-Khalq Volunteers with Amīr USA



Khidmat-e-Khalq volunteers with Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, their beloved Amīr. The meeting with Amīr sahib took place on Saturday, July 30, 2016. A question and answer session took place along with some

great dialogue. (Dr. Bilal Rana, Afsar Khidmat-e-Khalq, and Safeer Bhatti, Ph.D., Nazim Daftar Khidmat-e-Khalq, Jalsa Salana 2016)

## Center for Socinian Philosophical and Religious Studies in Houston Invites Imam Mubasher Ahmad to talk about Aḥmadiyya Islam

On August 27, 2016, Dr. Marian Hillar, the Founder and President of the Center for Socinian Philosophical and Religious Studies in Houston, invited Imam Mubasher Ahmad to make a presentation on Islam and Aḥmadiyyat, and to answer questions from members of the Center. The two hours long meeting started at 10:30 AM at Tracy Gee Community Center in Houston, Texas. Mr. Muhammad Dawood Munir, President of Houston Cypress, and Mr. Lateef Oresanya, Tabligh Secretary of Houston Cypress were also present.

Imam Mubasher Ahmad made a slide presentation on Islam and its basic tenets, and then introduced Aḥmadiyyat as a Reformatory Movement in Islam, gave its brief history, explaining the need of religious revival within Islam due to the scientific and technical progress of the world and decline in Muslim moral practices. He informed the members of the Center about Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him) of Qādiān, India; his claims to be the Promised Messiah and the Mahdi, and his powerful defense of Islam that was under attack of Christian missionaries and Hindu Arya Samajist in the 20<sup>th</sup> century India. He also explained the continuation of his mission through spiritual Khilāfat, and the tremendous progress and success of the Aḥmadiyyat. Also, major differences between Ahmadīs and other Muslims were discussed.

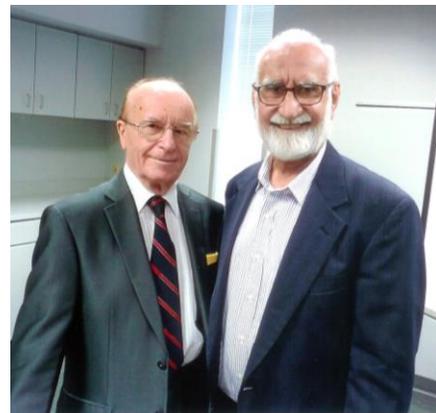
After the presentation, the Question/Answer session started and several important questions were asked.

Among others, the following questions were asked:

What is your view of ISIS or Islamic State?

What does “Islamic Caliphate” mean and why some people insist on it? What does the Qur’an say about it?

What is the view/attitude of Islam regarding other religions and atheists?



What is the view of Islam regarding the relationship between State and Religion?

What is the view of Islam regarding Secularism and Democracy?

What is Sharia? Will Islamic people try to introduce any form of Sharia in the Western world if they gain significant proportion of population?

What do you think about Irshad Manji?

All of the above questions were discussed in detail and the Ahmadiyya point of view was presented in clear terms to the satisfaction of the members. At times the discussion got heated, especially when it was said that Irshad Manji was not a good practicing Muslim.

Some books of the Jamā'at were also presented to them, including The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam, Life of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah

be upon him), and 'World Crisis and Pathway to Peace.

Dr. Marian Hillar, the Center Founder, Professor of Philosophy, Religious Studies, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Texas Southern University, is the author of a very important book *From Logos to Trinity: The Evolution of Religious Beliefs from Pythagoras to Tertullian*. Later, Imam Mubasher Ahmad received the 570-page book from him online.

## Humanity First USA Activities



***Humanity First USA's Nasir Hospital Project, Guatemala*** is progressing very well. I was there over the last few days and saw the construction first-hand. I also had the honor of meeting with His Excellency Jimmy Morales, the president of Guatemala and His Excellency, Jafeth Cabrera, the vice-president of Guatemala, and several other dignitaries. They showed great appreciation for Humanity First efforts to serve the people of Guatemala.

***Humanity First USA's Disaster Response Team*** is on the ground in Louisiana to serve the victims of recent floods. We are coordinating with local authorities to begin our relief operations on Saturday, August 27th, 2016.

Humanity First USA is partnering with the Ahmadiyya Community Center (AMC Center at the site of the former McCorkle Elementary School) in Chicago to organize a ***Back-2-School event*** on Saturday, August 27th, 2016. We will provide backpacks and school

supplies to 500 children from the local community.

Humanity First USA's ***Feed the Hungry in America*** program is organizing a food distribution event in Zion, Illinois on Saturday, August 27th, 2016. This event is expected to provide food items to more than 500 individuals.

***Humanity First Disaster Response Course*** is scheduled to be held between Septembers 23rd-25th, 2016 in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. We are partnering with Homeland Security Education Center at College of Dupage and other emergency response agencies to provide our delegates with hands-on experience to providing care in a disaster environment.

Humanity First USA needs your support to serve our fellow human beings in need.

Thank you,

Munum Naeem, Executive Director

## K8 AMC Math Challenge

Education is more important today than ever before in determining success. So how can we best prepare our students to excel in education today? Research has shown that the best time to focus attention on students is when they are young. Hence we are starting this initiative with our youngest in mind—children starting Kindergarten through 8th grade (K8) in fall of 2016. Research also shows that the most important subject for K8 students for success later in college is math. Therefore, your National Education Department is starting a new national program to encourage parents and children to take up the K8 AMC Math Challenge. We are asking parents of all children who are entering Kindergarten through 8th grade in 2016 to sign up their children with Khan Academy and work through the Math Mission assigned for their respective grade. The process is extremely simple, but the experience will In Sha' Allah greatly benefit your child in years to come.

### What is Khan Academy?

Khan Academy is an online platform for learning. It is free and tens of millions of people use it every month. Khan Academy provides learning in a fun way at all levels. It is personalized, so each individual can work at his or her own pace. It provides instructional videos and other interactive tools to help students master different concepts. Parents and students can track their progress and set targets.

### How do I sign up for “K8 AMC Math Challenge”?

Just follow these simple instructions:

1. Sign up at [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) (or log in with your existing account)
2. Visit [www.khanacademy.org/coaches](http://www.khanacademy.org/coaches)
3. There, in the “Add a coach” field, enter the class code from the table below corresponding to the grade your child is entering in fall 2016.

Grade	Class Code
Kindergarten	ER3TNZ
1st	5MK7MF
2nd	KWTWVY

3rd	U598MW
4th	JM3ZPC
5th	CHT7K9
6th	CJSV8C
7th	CJ6YKJ
8th	WNQMR5

4. You will see a “Notifications” tab when you click on your username in the upper right corner of the Khan Academy home page. The notification will say: “Your coach AMC Education recommended the mission for you.” Click on “Start this mission” tab. That is it! You are now ready to start your Math Mission for the summer.

[Note: If for any reason you are unable to start the mission, you can add it yourself by clicking on “Subjects” in the top left corner of Khan Academy home page, and then selecting your grade under the “Math by grade” menu.]

5. If you have any questions or difficulties with signing on, please contact your Local Ta’lim Secretary for help. You can also email the National Ta’lim Department at [education@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:education@ahmadiyya.us). We will make every effort to provide assistance to parents and children in completing the Math Challenge.

Send us your Khan Academy username. Once you have signed up in Khan Academy, use this form (<https://goo.gl/ZXzvhO>) to enroll in the K8 AMC Math Challenge.

### How do I win the K8 AMC Math Challenge?

For students who are in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, practicing 15+ hours of math problems on Khan Academy by March 31, 2017 will win you the Math Challenge Award and special recognition on our Annual Education Day event. For students in 3rd through 8th grade, completing 85% or more of their respective Math Mission will win them the Math Challenge Award and special recognition on our Annual Education Day event.

May Allah grant our children true knowledge National Education Department Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA.

## Waqf-e-Nau Regional Ijtimā (Mid-West Region)

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, with help and blessings of Allah Ta`ala we had successful regional Waqf-e-Nau Ijtimā on July 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 at beautiful Fazl-e-Umar Mosque in Dayton Ohio.

We were very fortunate to have Pervaiz Khan representing National Secretary Waqf-e-Nau, USA, Abdul Qudoos Shahid, President Dayton Jamā’at, Dr. Mansoor Qureshi, President Detroit Jamā’at and Mirza

Mahmood Ahmed, Secretary Waqf-e-Nau Dayton.

This region includes Detroit, Dayton, Cleveland, Columbus, Indiana and Pittsburgh Jamā’ats. 31 Wāqifin Nau and Waqifāt-e-Nau attended the event, along with parents and volunteers. The total attendance was 60, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh.

Program started at 10:30 a.m. with Tilāwat and

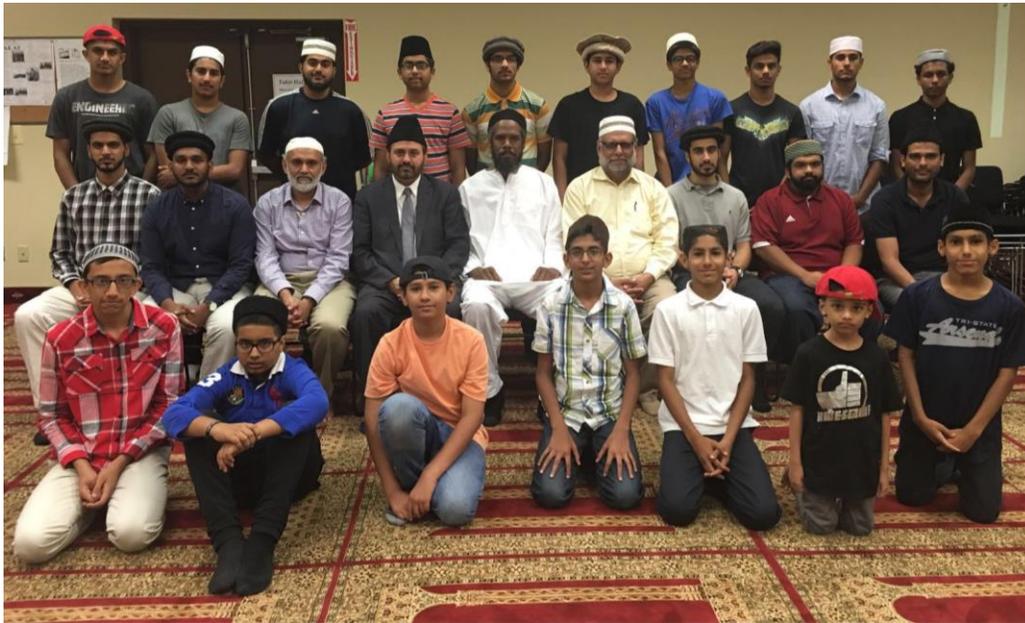
poem. Regional secretary welcomed and thanked all participant Wāqifīn, parents and volunteers. Pervaiz Khan delivered opening address, he urged Wāqifīn-e-Nau and parents to use resources made available by Waqf-e-Nau department.

There were presentations from Wāqifīn-e-Nau. Waqifāt-e-Nau presented on the ladies' side, conducted by sister Fauzia Bukhari, President Lajna Detroit, Sister Bushra, President Lajna Dayton and Amatul Mateen. Very informative PowerPoint presentations were

presented on the topics “Waqf-e-Nau Scheme” and “US Waqf-e-Nau visit to Jāmi’a Aḥmadiyya Canada.”

After presentations, there was group photo, lunch and Ṣalāt break. In the final session, Abdul Qudoos Shahid, President Dayton Jamā’at, and Dr. Mansoor Qureshi, President Detroit Jamā’at, led interactive discussions. Pervaiz Khan distributed awards and gifts to Wāqifīn-e-Nau and delivered his concluding address and requested Mirza Mahmood Ahmed to lead Du’ā at 2:45 pm.

## 10th Waqf-e-Nau Jāmi’a Orientation Camp



Tenth Waqf-e-Nau boys’ Jami’a Orientation Camp was held at Baitul-Hadi mosque (Central Jersey Jamā’at) from July 22-28 this year. Naib Amir Maulana

Azhar Hanif as well as National Secretary Waqf-e-Nau Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary participated.

## Spiritual Fitness Camp at Bait-un-Naseer Mosque Miami

### Aug. 5. Friday:

The program was started after Jumu’ah Prayers and lunch. The opening session was led by Dr. Taha, Imam Muhammad Saeed and President Miami Jamā’at. After Tilāwat and Nazm, respected President Jamā’at made opening remarks and camp activities were started by Imam sahib with silent prayers. Initially, all participants were divided into 2 teams. Both teams were assigned a topic for presentation at the end of camp. Etiquette of Masjid and Housekeeping rules were explained to all. Following activities were done on day 1 of the camp

- Presentation on Materialism
- Team building
- Physical fitness /sports (BF James parkbasketball)
- Cleaning by assigned team

Letter to Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper)– requesting prayers for success in studies and spiritual development

### Aug. 6, Saturday:

The second day was started with Tahajjud Prayers, followed by Fajr and Dars-ul-Quran. Dars and Imam was performed by one of the Khuddām under the guidance of Imam sahib.

### Spiritual Fitness Session - I

Personal Hygiene in Islam (performing Wudu properly, when and how to perform Tayammum, Adhan and preparation for Ṣalāt)

Interactive session Life of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) - students to share a faith inspiring events from the life of Prophet Muhammed

(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).



### Spiritual Fitness Session - II

A spiritually fit Muslim and Society's ill – drugs, tattoos, relationships and how to protect ourselves

Team Building

Writing workshop by Umer Ahmad

Physical fitness/sports

Question and Answer session

### Aug. 7, Sunday:

The 3<sup>rd</sup> day was also started with the Tahajjud Prayers, Fajr and Dars-ul-Hadith. Following sessions were held:

Correct Quran pronunciation

Defending Islam by Muhammad Muddasir

Life of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him).

Khulafā-e-Aḥmadiyyat by AbdulBasit

Team Activity (prepare for presentations)

Closing Session by respected President and Imam Sahib

Parents were requested to participate

Presentations by teams

Report and distribution of certificates

Closing remarks and Du'ā

Mosque cleaning by the assigned team



### Highlights of the Spiritual fitness camp

- Total participation 16 – 12 Khuddām and 4 Atfal
- 2 teams made the very first day
- Each team consist of 5 students and a leader
- All 3 days students offered prayers separately and in congregation.
- One of the student called for azan and the other lead a prayer
- In every Ṣalāt , different students were assigned for azan and prayer
- All the students follow the camp rules and keep the mosque neat and clean.
- In 3 days, 4 hours were spent in physical fitness, 16 hours in interactive sessions, and free time for socializing and team work.

## Street Cleaning with the help of Dayton Police and Community Cleanup Supply Trailer



On Saturday August 6, 2016, a Waqar-e-Amal was organized by the Dayton Jamā'at to cleanup the mosque, its surroundings and the entire Randolph Street, on which our mosque is situated from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, the Zuhr time. The Waqar-e-Amal was very successful. About two dozen people showed for the cleaning of the inside and the outside of the Mosque. Lajna and Nasirat took responsibility to clean their lower level of the mosque. They did clean prayer hall and the meeting room and the children room. Atfal, Khuddām and Ansar cleaned the inside of the mosque and its surroundings.

Apart from that the whole of the Randolph Street was cleaned and mowed the lawns of the abandoned houses.



Two Officers of the Dayton Police, Bob Clingner and

Kevin Johnson, joined us for the entire time. They worked very hard to mow the yards and to trim the fences and removed the weeds from the flower beds. We are very much thankful to them and appreciate their help and spirit with which they participated with us. May Allah reward them abundantly. Our Jamā'at members also worked very hard with the spirit of a team. New and old members of the Jamā'at joined together in this great community project on this very hot day when the temperature was around ninety degrees.

For the refreshment and lunch, Respected Abdur Raheem did great job to prepare pizza in the kitchen with the help of his son. Respected Naveed provided coffee. It is not possible to name everybody, you may see them in the group and other photos. In some photos you see how hard our members are working.

County had organized a very useful "Community Pride Cleanup Supply Trailer" which is equipped with all kinds of tools needed for the mowing, trimming, digging and so much more ready to use any time. On our request the trailer was brought to the site for our use.

(Report by Mirza Mahmood Ahmad, pictures by Mirza M Ahmad and Mubashar Mansoor)

## Deepest Gratitude from Rev. Harold "Hunter" Thompson

Imam Muhammad Saeed, President Munawar Chaudhry and Members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Assalamu Alaikum

It is with greatest respect and gratitude that I thank you for the opportunity to participate in the 68th Jalsa Salana USA. My ministry and understanding of interfaith partnership has been enlarged through the conversations, presentations and wonderful fellowship. I truly feel like a member of the family and the hospitality and spirit of welcome touched my heart. My comments during the closing dinner were heart-felt and

genuine. I pray it conveyed my deepest gratitude. I entered the [Baitun-Naseer] Mosque a year ago as a stranger and quickly became an ally, then a friend. This transformation is only possible through a dialogue with open hearts and minds. I also thank Revs. Mark Tonnesen and Nancy Grajek. Their gifts of joy, laughter, interfaith insight and extravagant welcome further enriched my experience at the Jalsa Sālāna. May God's blessing be with you all, Insha'Allah.

Rev. Harold "Hunter" Thompson

Miami Beach Community Church

## News interview and article of developing story at Ahmadiyya CT Baitul-Amn Mosque to Jalsa Sālāna USA and beyond

Another interview manifesting remedy of interfaith, interdisciplinary action via healing message of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), whose beautiful image is also clearly shown. The grace of Allah, from His House of Peace to Jalsa Sālāna USA and then International Jalsa UK for live Bai'at at the hand of the

Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper).

WTNH News Channel 8

<http://wtnh.com/2016/08/04/man-who-shot-at-meriden-mosque-speaks-one-on-one-with-news-8/>.

(Zahir Muhammad Mannan)

Your Tarbiyat Resource  
spiritualfitness.us

## Picnic in Minnesota Jamā'at



Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq, President Minnesota Jamā'at, with members at their picnic.

## Messiah-Believing Muslims for Loyalty Tent at CT Meriden's 12th Annual National Night Out



We availed another opportunity in propagating the timely message of the universal Messiah (peace be upon him) and true Khalīfa of Aḥmadiyya Islam (may Allah be his Helper) during the *12th Annual Meriden's National Night Out*. This progressive gathering is designed to keep our youth off the streets and away from illicit drugs and thus attracts entire families, community engagers, education departments, multi-faith leaders and clergy, and dignitaries like senators, house of reps, mayors, council, congress etc. who also try serving. Together we enacted how True Islam practices love and loyalty to one's current country, in our case America.



Over 1000 flyers, brochures and literature like the Holy Quran and Life of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), World Crisis and Pathway to Peace, True Islam, Muslims for Loyalty, Peace through the Messiah, Humanity First, and props, etc., were disseminated along with 1-on-1 Tabligh (one visitor was already in the process of becoming Muslim after they had visited and witnessed remarkable incidents with us and saw dreams). The diverse demographic of visitors to our "Messiah-believing Muslims For Loyalty" booth reminded us the Imam Mahdi Messiah (peace be upon him) and his noble Khalīfa (may Allah be his Helper) are sent to all with the healing Message of the Holy Quran and Divine model of the "Mercy sent unto all" (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Over 20 Ahmadi

Muslims (Anṣārullāh, Khuddām, Atfal, and a few Lajna for women) spent a total of 100 hours (20 Jamā'at members X 5 hours each) in inviting our neighbors and compatriots to Allah and True Islam. Novel connections were made, old bridges were strengthened, and press and media covered our story in an interview relaying God's Message via the Messiah (peace be upon him) to even broader audiences WFSB I-Witness News 3

<http://www.wfsb.com/clip/12636444/national-night-out-events-held-in-meriden-on-tuesday>. Jazakumullāh to all for sacrificing precious time in the way of Allah only for His love. Many worked behind the scenes to make this a reality (like Respected President and Respected Danish and the workers you might not see in the pictures). Requesting sincere prayers for all! (Zahir Mannan).

## Dayton Chapter Celebrates 4 July 2016

For the Independence Day, we had been preparing since we received the directives from the Headquarters. We celebrated July 4 at two places just as we did last year.



The first one is at our permanent booth in a Flea Market where we have a permanent exhibition of the Holy Quran at display, with other books and pamphlets displayed and hundreds of people visit every weekend. This is the different county from where our mosque is. There, we displayed all kinds of material received from the headquarters, with big writings of "The July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration." We distributed a lot of flags of U.S.A., Frisbee rings, balls and other things. People received

these things with thanks and gratitude. We also gave some of these to the volunteers of the management office of the Flea Market. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh it was a great event there.

The second place was a big park in the city of Moraine, Ohio, which is a suburb of the city of Dayton. It is very big park and hundreds of people gather there to celebrate the July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day. There were many booths selling food, drinks, children toys and other stuff. There were also swings and other amusements. A big crowd was there busy in listening to the music and waiting for the fireworks to start. We had a booth 10x10 sq. feet decorated with the stuff sent to us by the center. We added pens, with the name of our local mosque and other information about the Jamā'at on it. We also had pamphlets and books especially the Holy Quran. By the grace of Allah we distributed the pamphlets, flags of USA, balls, balloons and Frisbee rings. Flags were taken by everyone regardless, with big thanks. Children were happy to get balls, Frisbee rings and balloons. Some very educated people came to our booth and they asked questions about Islam. They were given the Holy Quran. Three Holy Qurans were distributed and 100 people got other literature. (Report by Mirza Mahmood Ahmad)

## Interfaith Dialogue on Peace and Justice 7/16/2016

By the grace and mercy of Allah Ta'ala, over 60 guests spanning a spectrum of traditions were in attendance at our historic Peace and Justice Symposium hosted at our neighboring Holy Angels Catholic Church in South Meriden, CT. Among attendees were retired mayors, senators, and a reporter who came as interested guests with family to participate. The reviving message of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), the promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper) was delivered effectively, especially by keynote speaker Dr. Mohammed Qureshi, President CT Jamā'at. From our mini bookstall invited by generous host Pastor Symolon, Holy Qurans were taken home as well as True Islam flyers by the hundreds for further dissemination among attendees' circles. All empowering

Jamā'at members became Da'een Ilallāh making all this possible by teamwork and loving unity in prayer, education and action. We were encouraged to have begun the evening at Holy Angels Church with a recitation from both the Bible and Holy Quran resonating throughout the hall. An electrifying Q&A session was extended for over an hour by attendees' eagerness (Nau Muba'ī brother Jonathan also joined and contributed) and we consummated the dialogue with silent collective prayers and Ṣalāt at our neighboring Baitul-Amn Mosque remembering Nice, France, Turkey and all innocent lives lost and suffering souls spanning the globe. Women also brought enriching and vital representation and were provided their own seating tables and separate refreshment tables that the Pastor and Parish not only honored but highlighted as a

respectable, teachable aspect. Very open minded hosts, Subhanallah, and once again “love for all, hatred for

none” was illustrated for the nearness and pleasure of Allah, the Ever-Loving. (Report by Zahir Mannan)



## LA-East Tabligh and Isha‘at Activities–June 2016

LA-East Tabligh Activities: “Islam 101 en Espanol” radio shows in June:

Islam 101 for Univision – Episodio 4 – “Concepto de Dios en Islam”

Airs on KTNQ1020AM 9pm Thu 6-2-16

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/79fwo8lf9k2gtlb/Islam%20101%20on%20KTNQ1020AM%20-%204%20-%20Concepto%20de%20Dios%20-%20Airs%209pm%20Thu%206-2-16.mp3?dl=0>

Islam 101 for Univision – Episodio 5 – “Concepto de las profetas en Islam”

Airs on KTNQ1020AM 9pm Thu 6-9-16

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/litt4577nqdh14/Islam%20101%20on%20KTNQ1020AM%20-%205%20-%20Las%20Profetas%20-%20Airs%209pm%20Thu%206-9-16.mp3?dl=0>

Islam 101 for Univision – Episodio 6 – “Vida de noble profeta Muhammad”

Airs on KTNQ1020AM 9pm Thu 6-23-16

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z72032tyajm2v3f/Islam%20101%20on%20KTNQ1020AM%20-%206%20-%20Vida%20de%20Muhammad%20-%20Airs%209pm%20Thu%206-23-16%20-%20Copy.mp3?dl=0>

Islam 101 for Univision – Episodio 7 – “Objetivo de la vida humana”

Airs on KTNQ1020AM 8:30pm Mon 6-27-16

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/yg227b6qeklm2vw/Islam%20101%20on%20KTNQ1020AM%20-%207%20-%20Objetivo%20de%20la%20vida%20-%20Airs%20830pm%20Mon%206-27-16.mp3?dl=0>

Islam 101 for Univision – Episodio 8 – “Concepto de las profetas en Islam”

Airs on KTNQ1020AM 9pm Mon 6-27-16

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/wxomjwz6of1rury/Islam%20101%20on%20KTNQ1020AM%20-%208%20-%20Las%20Profetas%20-%20Airs%209pm%20Mon%206-27-16.mp3?dl=0>

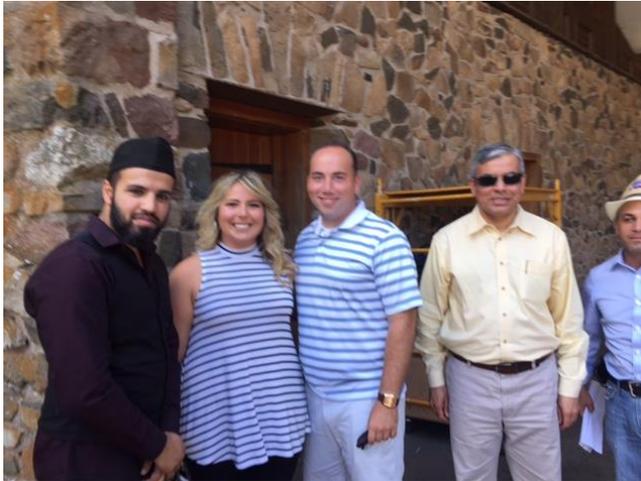
Islam 101 for Univision – Episodio 9 – “Concepto de Dios en Islam”

Airs on KTNQ1020AM 9pm Thu 6-30-16

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/pjfyx8wduog9zce/Islam%20101%20on%20KTNQ1020AM%20-%209%20-%20Concepto%20de%20Dios%20-%20Airs%209pm%20Thu%206-30-16.mp3?dl=0>

There will be five more Spanish radio programs that will air on KTNQ 1020-AM from July 6-13. We are working on a renewal of our contract with Univision’s KTNQ 1020-AM for 14 more episodes. We have requested a Sunday at 8 pm airtime that will run from July 24 to October 23 – three full months on a regular Day and Time, which should help us build a bigger audience. We will undoubtedly re-run some of the 14 programs from our current contract, along with selections from the remaining 15 programs from the MTA video series taken off YouTube.

## Press & Media from Puerto Rican Festival



By the Grace of Allah, this event went very well. We gave away all the Spanish translation Qurans. The fund raiser (ice cream truck 20% of whose proceedings go to South Meriden Fire Department for Back-to-School supplies for underprivileged, Aḥmadiyya Islam booth and Doctor Camp for free medical check-ups to the less fortunate). Our Tabligh and PA team did an excellent job reaching and serving thousands of compatriots.

Jazakallah Dr. Hafeez for representing and translating Allah's message for the Puerto Rican Community at Meriden CT's 49th Annual Puerto Rican

Festival at Hubbard Park.

Coverage

<http://www.myrecordjournal.com/news/topnews/9188988-154/meridens-annual-puerto-rican-festival-recognizes-and-celebrates-the-community.html#gallery-23>

<https://www.facebook.com/zahir.mannan.7/posts/228987414163849>



We did an interview entirely in Spanish language.  
(Saeed Mustafa Publication Secretary CT Jamā'at)

## Tahir Academy NY Farewell Ceremony

On June 4th 2016, New York Jamā'at held a farewell ceremony for our soon to become Jami'a students. We started off with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Kamal Mohammad. After that, we had each of the Jami'a students say a few words on how they created memories over the past eight years of Tahir class and how all of them have become friends and close Ahmadi brothers. Mahir Mahmood said a few words about his life growing up in our Jamā'at and how we all grew up as brothers.

Danial Mahmood spoke about how he became closer to the Jamā'at through the events and Tahir class. Munib

Iqbal spoke about his personal benefit of coming to Tahir class, improving his abilities, and creating a strong relationship with the Jamā'at. After that, I had the honor and privilege to speak about each and every one of my friends who are soon to become Jami'a students on how they were influential towards me and vice versa. After I gave my words, the Jami'a students received gifts from our the Jamā'at. Also, we had a certificate distribution for those who had one hundred percent attendance. Finally, we had a few words from Ahmad Mubarak, Ayaz Sahib, and Muhammad Mahmood. (Report by Danish Chaudhry)

## CT Valley Views Link to Interview with Zahir Mannan, Ted Hakey, Jr. & Jeff Cohen Broadcast Dates:

**Cox/Enfield-Channel 15** (Enfield, E. Granby, E. Windsor, Granby, Hartland, Somers, Suffield, Union, Stafford Springs, & Windsor Locks) Fridays in September at 6:00 PM and Saturdays in September at 10:00 AM See CT Valley Views listings on your Cox Cable viewer guide.

**Nutmeg Community TV Comcast Channel 5** (Avon, Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, Canton, Farmington,

Plainville & New Britain) Saturdays in September at 8:00 PM and Thursdays in September at 10:00 AM

**Windsor TV Comcast Channel 5** Thursdays in September at 9:00 PM, Saturdays in September at 6 AM, Mondays in September at 1 PM and Wednesdays in September at 10:00AM.

**Simsbury TV Comcast Channels 5 & 95** – Month of September, Fridays at 12:30 & 7:00 PM

## Hartford – Wednesdays at 1:00 pm Comcast Channels 5 & 95

Cox/Manchester – Channel 15 (Manchester, Glastonbury, Newington, Rocky Hill, South Windsor, Wethersfield) Mondays in September at 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM.

The program is always available on our website. Also always available statewide on Frontier Digital TV Channel 99 at the same above area schedule. To get to

## Islam teaches peace, respect, harmony and justice for all without discrimination, said Imam Shamshad

On September 9, 2016, Imam Shamshad was invited to the installation of Rabbi Andrea Cosnowsky. The event was held at the congregation Etz Chaim of Dupage County, 1710 S Highland Ave, Lombard Illinois, which had a close relationship with the Aḥmadiyya Muslim community for many years. Rabbi Cosnowsky invited Imam Shamshad of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim as well as many interfaith leaders to the Installation ceremony and Shabbat services. Christian congregations leaders Father George Smith, Reverend Jim Honig, Turkish American society of Wheaton, Jewish leaders from the Etz Chaim community, and Reverend Jay Moses were all present.



**Left to Right: Rabbi Cosnoskwy, Reverend Jim Honig, Imam Shamshad Nasir, Father George Smith**

The installation event started with a dinner at 6:30 pm, in honor of the Rabbi after which services were held at 8:15 pm. Ex Rabbi Bob opened the ceremony and invited Father George Smith and Reverend Jim Honig for an opening Prayer after which Imam Shamshad was requested to also welcome the congregation. Imam Shamshad recited Al-Fatiha and then bestowed sentiments of peace to the more than 350 members and guests.

public access-go to Channel 99 and scroll to any of the above towns at the date and time of the show.

### Press Releases

PR feature story and photos go to all major town publications in airing areas including Hartford Courant, Journal Inquirer, New Britain Herald and Bristol Press and “The Patch” on line.

30” second ad spots for the CTVV show segments are also shown throughout the week on airing stations.



**Imam Shamshad addressing the Etz Chaim Congregation of Dupage County**

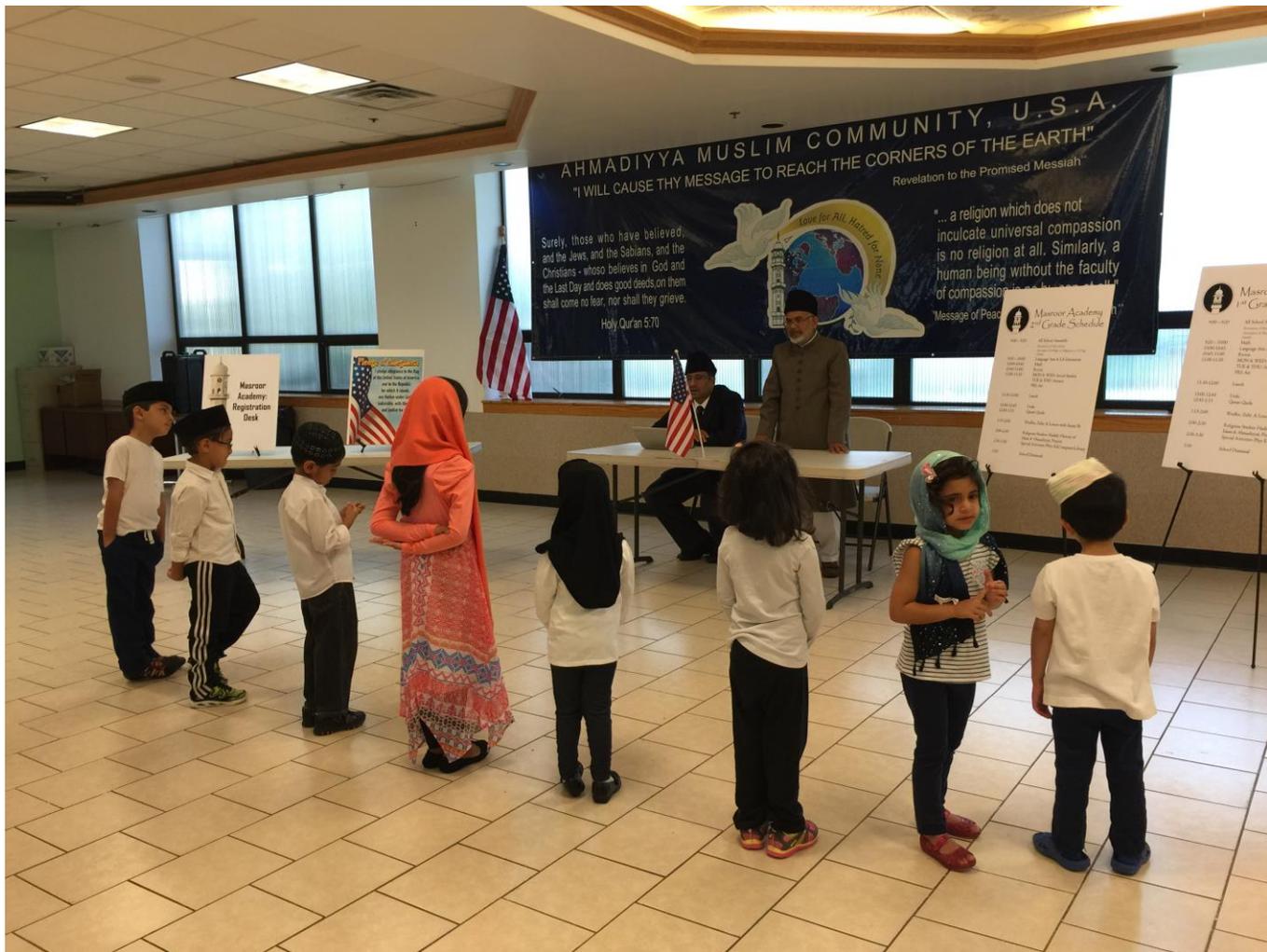
Imam Shamshad explained that the greetings of peace he presented are the same that true teachings of Islam represent. Imam Shamshad further explained that true peace can only be achieved when we begin in our own local environments. This begins with peace at home with our spouses, parents, and children. Beyond our families, we need to ask ourselves if our conduct is promoting peace in our neighborhood, community and city. As a further extension to this concept, the religion of Islam promotes tolerance and harmony towards all without discrimination. Imam Shamshad also drew the attention that another important factor without which peace cannot be achieved is justice. This means that the rights of others should be fulfilled without any discrimination or personal interest.

Imam then presented a copy of the book The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam by the founder of Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be on him) to Rabbi Andrea Cosnowsky and assured her congregation that we will work together in close cooperation with the Congregation at Etz Chaim and the broader community for the benefit everyone in the community. Imam Shamshad also gave some copies of The Muslim Sunrise to other Religious leaders as well.

Dr Fizan Abdullah and Mohammad Latif accompanied from Aḥmadiyya Muslim community of glen Ellyn with Imam.

(Report by Fizan abdullah Chicago)

## Masroor Academy Opening Ceremony in Chicago



## Attention Mūṣīs

### Schedule C Form Submission For Financial Year 2016

- Mūṣīs are requested to hand over their completed Schedule C forms for financial year 2015-16 to respective Waṣāyā Secretaries without delay. Financial statements were earlier sent to respective local Jamā'at Waṣāyā Secretaries in the first week of last August for immediate delivery to Mūṣīs. In case you have still not received your statement or a copy of Schedule C form, please contact your local Waṣāyā Secretary (or President) immediately.
- Please remember that submission of Schedule C form annually to Markaz is Mūṣī's personal responsibility. Per Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya's Waṣiyyat Rule no. 69, "It shall be obligatory for every Mūṣī to submit to the office at the end of every year a declaration as set out in Schedule C in respect of his/her payments toward Hissa Āmad. In case such a declaration is not received, the matter will be put for consideration before Majlis Karpardaz."
- Do not send your completed Schedule C form directly either to National Waṣāyā office or to Markaz. *Jazākumullāhu Aḥsanal-Jazā.*

Khaled Ahmad Ata, National Wasaya Secretary, USA Jamā'at

**Note:** Schedule C form can be also be downloaded by using the following web link.

<http://www.ahmadiyya.us/departments/wasiyyat>

## Pittsburgh PA News



Sat May 7th, 2016: The Wilksburg Community Development Corporation visited our mosque. Respected Missionary Adnan Ahmad and President Omar Shaheed gave them a tour.



Sat May 22nd, 2016: Respected Missionary Adnan Ahmad and Qā'id Khuddām led several Atfāl and Khuddām for door to door flier distribution in Greensburg, PA in preparation for a Holy Quran Exhibition at a library there.

Sat June 4th, 2016: A Pittsburgh Anşār attended a charity Walk-a-Thon for the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

## Coffee, Cake and Islam in Minnesota

There are usually around 30 guests on average attending the program every month. Each event has a different theme highlighting a topic of concern in the world today. The topic for the pictured event was, does Islam oppress women. We also hold a question and answer session at the end to clarify the presentation content in detail. (Rafay Jadran)



## Los Angeles Outreach Activities

By the Grace and Mercy of Allah our Community is exposed considerable in all the circles, police, statesmen, clergy and media in almost all the cities in the county of San Bernardino. All the groups came to know us better after the atrocious attack in San Bernardino by terrorist. Now, most of them are aware of our peaceful efforts that we do to maintain peace and tranquility in the

communities. Our aim is to familiarize all the people in San Bernardino of Aḥmadiyya Islam. May Allah accept our efforts, we also request all the readers to remember us in your prayers for the sun to rise from the West and communities start accepting the true teachings of Islam – Aameen.

MARCH 1st 2016: Interfaith meeting was held in the

city of Claremont. Jamā'at was introduced to all who were present in the meeting.

**MARCH 3rd 2016:**

1. Interfaith meeting was held in Pomona from 8-10 AM. Jamā'at was introduced and the work that we do in the communities for peace to prevail.

2. We attended another event in the evening from 7-9 PM, "African American Exhibition," and distributed flyers and answered questions.

**MARCH 5th 2016:** Bookstall was set up in Los Angeles, flyers were distributed and questions were answered.

**MARCH 6th 2016:** There was a large gathering of Non-Ahmadis at a marriage ceremony. Availing this opportunity we elaborated the Islamic teachings in regard to marriage and how to maintain the harmony among the families and between husband and wife.

**MARCH 7th 2016:** Upland started an Interfaith organization at the Library of Upland. The Chief of Police from Upland was present. The importance of Interfaith dialogue was emphasized in this meeting.

**MARCH 10th 2016:**

1. Chief of Police visited Baitul-Hameed Mosque and stayed from 9-11 AM. During the meeting with him we elaborated and explained in detail extremism and what steps we are taking to stop extremism and establish peace. The police chief was excited to learn the peaceful way we are educating the people regarding Islam and that Islam stands for peace.

2. We attended an Interfaith meeting in Chino held at the Catholic Church from 12-1:30 PM. We were introduced to a number of leaders from other religions and are building relationship with them. We elaborated the work that we do to have peace in the community and the work that we do at the national level.

3. From 2-4 PM we then attended a meeting at Ontario Police Station where number of police chiefs from other counties were present. Congresswomen Norma Torres also attended this meeting. We were introduced to members of FBI and other government officials. We introduced our website trueislam.com and informed them that the points mentioned in this website are to discourage youth from radicalization.

**MARCH 14th 2016:** An Interfaith meeting was held at El-Segundo, Los Angeles. 10 leaders from different religions and denominations were present in this meeting. We introduced Ahmadiyya Islam to all the members and our peaceful agenda. The meeting concluded with a resolution to have more of such meetings in future.

**MARCH 17th 2016:** National Secretary Public Relations Amjad Khan and Secretary Tabligh LAE Monas Choudry were along with me when we visited the

City Police Office to meet the retired Police Chief from Washington who was visiting San Bernardino. There was a discussion on different aspects to stop terrorism and extremism in the Country. We put forth the peaceful teachings of Ahmadiyya Islam and the blessings of Khilafat. This meeting lasted for 4 hours and the officers present were very appreciative and stated that they will take guidance from us in future to tackle these problems.

**MARCH 25th & 26th 2016:** Mormon Church organized a seminar in the University Campus of Claremont for two days. We were invited in this seminar. We met with an Apostle of Mormon Church. This seminar was interactive and we explained the second coming of the Messiah, introduced Ahmadiyya Islam. Many questions were asked by the audience regarding the Promised Messiah and his coming. We built many contacts from this seminar.

**MARCH 28th 2016:**



We called a press conference and an interfaith meeting and prayers for the atrocious attack by terrorist in Pakistan on innocent Christian by bomb blast and loss of many innocent lives. A Christian Lady from Pakistan addressed regarding the illogical laws of Pakistan and denounced them. A representative from the Pakistan Consulate Los Angeles also addressed the audience and denounced the bomb blast and killing of the innocent people. This was covered extensively by 2 TV channels and 2 local newspapers. They commended the efforts of Ahmadiyya Community.

**MARCH 30th & 31st 2016:** A meeting was arranged with university professors with the team of Review of Religions who were visiting Los Angeles. The following day a meeting was held with librarian to get insight into building relationship with other libraries.

We held bookstall on 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th of March in the marketplace wherein members of Khuddamul-Ahmadiyya and Ansarullah distributed flyers and answered the questions by visitors.

We get many visitors at Baitul Hameed Mosque on a regular basis from different nations and communities who are educated on Islamic traditions and prayers. They get introduced to Ahmadiyya Islam and take the literature from us for further research.

**APRIL 4TH 2016:** We participated in Upland interfaith meeting and Jamā'at was introduced to all who were present.

APRIL 5th 2016: Interfaith meeting was called by Clergy of Claremont We introduced Humanity First as our organization and elaborated the work that is done by Humanity First and the services that we render to communities.



APRIL 9th & 10th 2016: Los Angeles Times conducts a book fair every year and our Jamā'at has participated in this event for the past 12 years. This year it was held at the University of Southern California Campus. Many writers attend this festival and sign their books. All major publishers participate in addition to different other businesses. This is attended by a large majority of the population of Los Angeles who visit along with their children and buy books. We distribute many flyers during these two days and answer questions by the visitors. We build relationship with many vendors during this book festival. All auxiliaries participate and make this a successful venture.



APRIL 9th 2016: NWPL organized an interfaith meeting in which over 300 students participated. This was a very good exposure of our Jamā'at wherein we explained the advent and truthfulness of Promised Messiah and presented the prophecies regarding Promised Messiah and introduced our Jamā'at. Other religions were also represented. This was a great opportunity for us to present Ahmadiyyat, the true Islam.

APRIL 14th 2016: Hope Partner Organization serves the Homeless people. They invited us for breakfast. Jameel Mohammed along with Imam Zafarullah Hanjra attended this meeting. This was a good opportunity to introduce our Jamā'at and the services that we render to

the homeless people with food and clothing. We were also introduced to other organizations that are serving the Homeless and less fortunate people of the community.



An interfaith meeting was held at San Bernardino city, 10-15 clergy from different churches were present. The topic of the meeting was how to achieve peace in the communities and how to create the love and affection between religions.

APRIL 17th 2016: A combined interfaith meeting was held at Islamic Center of Los Angeles where Jews, Christians and Muslims attended this meeting. Over 200 people attended this meeting. The love and brotherhood among all the religions was exhibited in this meeting. Met with many members of different religions and build the relationship with them. Mohammed Jameel, Badullah and Imam Zafarullah Hanjra attended the meeting from our Jamā'at.

APRIL 19th 2016

1. A dinner was arranged in honor of the Mayor. Faheem Ahmed represented Jamā'at in this dinner. Jamā'at was familiarized to the attendees in this dinner party.



2. An interfaith meeting organized by Catholic Church in the City of Chino was attended by Anwar

Mehmood Khan and Jameel Mohammed. Jamā'at was introduced and was thanked by the organizers for participation.

APRIL 27th 2016: A contingent of 12 students and 3 religious leaders of Mormon Church visited Baitul-Hameed Mosque. Many questions were raised by them about Islam, Ahmadiyya Islam and was explained to them in detail. The advent of Promised Messiah and the prophecies regarding the advent was also covered so that the students understand it clearly. The contingent was very happy with the answers and later on dinner was served to them.



MAY 2nd 2016: Upland City held interfaith meeting and we attended this meeting and continued building relationship with other faith leaders.

MAY 3rd 2016: Claremont City held interfaith meeting and our attendance in the meeting was highly appreciated by other clergy.

MAY 4th 2016: Attended a meeting on Holocaust in a Synagogue and build relationship with the leader and other attendees.

MAY 9th 2016: NAACP started interfaith meeting, over 100 people attended this initial meeting, Zafarullah Hanjra detailed the Ahmadiyya point of view regarding racial relationship then answered the questions.

MAY 10th 2016: City of Chino Hills held an invocation. Got introduced to Mayor, member of City Council and other attendees.

MAY 12th 2016:

1. Attended an Interfaith meeting held by Chino Interfaith Group.

2. Lajna of Los Angeles West Chapter held an interfaith meeting, the attendance was over 110. Zafarullah Hanjra addressed in a Church and then in a Buddhist Temple, in both the places Ahmadiyya Islam was introduced, the reason for the coming of the Promised Messiah was explained, criticism of Islam was responded with true teachings of Islam.

MAY 14th 2016: A meeting was held in San

Bernardino Sheriff Department by police where a session was held to discuss Jihad and terrorism. 30 members attended this session.

MAY 19th 2016: An Interfaith meeting was held at San Bernardino city in which prayers were led by Zafarullah Hanjra. The total attendance in this meeting was over 150. We met with all the other clergy and other attendees and spread the message of Ahmadiyya Islam.

MAY 19th 2016: HWPL organization held an interfaith meeting in UCLA Irvine. Presented Islamic perspective of soul at peace, spirit and deeds. The attendance in this meeting was 500. We met all the organizers and the attendees and got their contacts.

JUNE 6th 2016: Interfaith meeting of Upland was held and we invited them for Iftar dinner during Ramadhan.

JUNE 7th 2016: Claremont Interfaith meeting was held and we invited all the attendees for Iftar dinner.

JUNE 9th 2016: City of Chino started interfaith meeting. It was decided in the meeting that a plan will be made on a regular basis to keep these meeting more interactive.

JUNE 10th 2016: 40 new members joined us in the Iftar dinner at Baitul-Hameed mosque. Media was present and extensive coverage was given in the newspapers.

JUNE 12th 2016: A prayer vigil was held at Baitul-Hameed Mosque in memory of the lost lives of Orlando shooting massacre by a terrorist. Prayers were held for the families of the victims. Clergy from different churches and many non-Muslims attended this prayer vigil. 4 TV reporters were present and asked questions that were answered. 4 local newspapers extensively covered this prayer vigil.

JUNE 14th 2016: Invocation was held at Upland City Council. We started with recitation of Holy Quran and familiarized them of Ahmadiyyat in Islam. Flyers were also distributed in this meeting for people to understand the true teachings of Ahmadiyya Islam.



JUNE 15th 2016: The Mayor of Los Angeles Hon. Gil

Garcetti invited us for Iftar dinner in LA City Hall. National Secretary Public Relation Amjad Khan and Spanish Desk Imam Malik Tarik were also present in this dinner. More than 300 invitees attended this function, we have introduced Ahmadiyyat in Islam and also enlightened them the importance of fasting and prayers.



JUNE 16th 2016: Met with Chino City Mayor and the members of the Council, invited them for Iftar dinner.

JUNE 16th 2016: Los Angeles Supervisor opened a new City office in Pomona, we were invited in the opening ceremony. We met with the mayors of different cities, police chiefs of different cities, officers of Sheriff

## Quranic Exhibition in Watertown, WI

In keeping with Huzoor's recommendation members participated in having a Quranic Exhibition in Watertown, WI on August 20, 2016.

Department, professors and many attendees and exchange the contact information. Faheem Ahmed and Brother Aleem were also present in this meeting and had an opportunity to introduce Ahmadiyya Islam to the attendees.



JUNE 29th 2016: Congresswomen Norma Torres called in a meeting. Mayor introduced Zafarullah Hanjra to the attendees. We invited them for Iftar dinner. Clergy and other religious leaders were present along with Police Chief. National Secretary Public Relations Amjad Khan was also present in this meeting.

May Allah accept our humble efforts to do Tabligh and may He Guide them to Ahmadiyya Islam, Aameen.



**31st West Coast Jalsa Salana, USA**  
**When: December 23rd - 25th**  
**Where: Baitul-Hameed Mosque**  
**11941 Ramona Ave, Chino, CA 91710**  
**Questions: [info@westcoastjalsa.org](mailto:info@westcoastjalsa.org)**

## Respected Razia Begum, Mother of National Secretary Waqf-i-Nau, Passes Away

Respected Razia Begum Chaudhary passed away in Philadelphia PA on August 14, 2016 at 11:50 PM at the age of 92 because of old age ailments. Inna Lillāh Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'un [Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return] (2:157). She was wife of Chaudhary Ataullah Warraich and daughter of Hadrat Hafiz Ghulam Rasool Wazirabadi, Radiyallahu 'Anhu, a companion of Promised Messiah, 'Alaihis-Salam.

Hundreds of people joined her Funeral Services, led by her youngest son Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary, the next evening on August 15 after Maghrib and 'Ishā Prayers at Masjid Al-Nasr Willingboro, NJ. By the Mercy and Grace of Allah, she was a Moosiyya. Her body was taken to Rabwah. Her Janaza Prayer was offered at Masjid Mabarak, Rabwah, on Thursday August 18, 2016, after 'Asr Prayer. It was led by Sahibzada Mirza Khursheed Ahmad, Nazir A'la and Ameer Muqami. After Salat Janaza, she was buried at Bahishti Maqbrah, Darul-Fazl, Rabwah. Upon completion of the burial, Sahibzada Sahib led the silent prayer.

On her last visit to USA, Respected Razia Begum Chaudhary arrived in North Jersey from Rabwah on March 15, 2016 to attend the wedding of two of her grandchildren. She enjoyed those moments and met each and every child, grandchild and great grandchild during her stay in America.

She was a devout Muslim and lived her entire life according to the tenets of Aḥmadiyya Islam. Throughout her life, she taught Holy Qur'an to children. She had learned the Holy Quran from her father who was a Hafiz of the Holy Qur'an and a missionary of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community. Her students are found in many countries of the world. She taught reading as well as the translation of Holy Qur'an to hundreds of her students.

## Mohammad Shams Ul Haque Passes Away

Our dear friend Mohammad Shams ul Haque son of late Ch. Zia ul Haque of Virginia passed away 30 June 2016, Inna Lillāh Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'un.

Shams was a very friendly person always willing to help others. He was a great volunteer of Jamā'at and a great handyman. Those who remember the days Jalsa at Bait-ur-Rahman, they cannot forget his services in

She taught our beloved Imam Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V, may Allah be his Helper, and Respected Sahibzada Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, Ameer Jamā'at USA, how to read the Holy Quran during their blessed childhood. She had intense love of Aḥmadiyya Khilāfat and Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ. Even in her old age, she watched live Friday Sermons of the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ all the time and always prayed that may Allah grant us the ability to follow the instructions given by the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ in his sermons.

She is survived by three sons, Dr Safee Ullah Chaudhri of Willingboro Jamā'at President Talimul-Islam College Alumni Association USA, Mujeeb Ullah Chaudhary, President Philadelphia Jamā'at and Dr Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary President North Jersey Jamā'at and National Secretary Waqf-e-Nau, USA. She also left behind a large progeny of grandchildren and great grandchildren including many Waqifeen-e-Nau.

In her old age, in addition to her husband, she lost three of her children with patience and seeking pleasure of the Almighty Allah. Two of her daughters, Amatur Rahman Ahmad and Ruqayya Peer (both of Philadelphia Jamā'at) and one son Chaudhary Raziullah Warraich (Ex-Manager United Bank, Rabwah) and two sons-in-law, Ch. Naeem Ahmed and Peer Habib Ur Rahman Shaheed (both of Philadelphia Jamā'at), all passed away in her old age.

May Allah grant patience, solace and comfort to the members of the bereaved family and all loved ones who are affected by this loss. May Allah have Mercy on the departed soul and grant her His forgiveness and give her a high station in heavens of pleasure of Almighty Allah in Jannatul-Firdaus, Aameen.

making the premises ready for Jalsa.

Shams, hardly 58 years old, suffered a fatal heart attack after dawn. He was fasting.

May Allah elevate his station in heaven and grant comfort and solace to the bereaved family, Aameen. (Zaheer A. Bajwa General Secretary USA Jamā'at)

**Register at [ahmadiyyagazette.us](http://ahmadiyyagazette.us) to receive email alerts  
when new issues of Ahmadiyya Gazette and Al-Nur  
are added to the site.**

# 2016 USA Presidential Election

Falahud Din Shams

## Separation of Church and State

There is a lot of political activity in the country due to the election of a new President in November 2016. It is essential that all members understand the rules and regulations concerning the Jamā'at's role in such elections as well as our responsibilities in fulfilling the commandments of the Islamic Sharī'ah as explained in the Holy Qur'an.

Aḥmadiyya Movement in Islam is a religious organization under IRS Section 501(C)(3) under which all churches, synagogues, temples and mosques are registered as non-profit organizations. There is a strict separation of Church/Mosque and State under the USA Constitution and religious organizations are prohibited to endorse or oppose a particular candidate.

## IRS regulation state in this reference

“Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. Contributions to political campaign funds or public statements of position (verbal or written) made on behalf of the organization in favor of or in opposition to any candidate for public office clearly violate the prohibition against political campaign activity. Violating this prohibition may result in denial or revocation of tax-exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes.

Certain activities or expenditures may not be prohibited depending on the facts and circumstances. For example, certain voter education activities (including presenting public forums and publishing voter education guides) conducted in a non-partisan manner do not constitute prohibited political campaign activity. In addition, other activities intended to encourage people to participate in the electoral process, such as voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, would not be prohibited political campaign activity if conducted in a non-partisan manner.

On the other hand, voter education or registration activities with evidence of bias that (a) would favor one candidate over another; (b) oppose a candidate in some manner; or (c) have the effect of favoring a candidate or group of candidates, will constitute prohibited participation or intervention.”

Under the above guidelines, Aḥmadiyya Movement in Islam does not favor any candidate nor does it propagate to its membership to vote for a particular candidate. It is left to each citizen's discretion to vote for whomever they deem appropriate. It is crucial that all our local chapters are aware of these rules so we stay compliant in all aspects of the law.

## Guidance of Holy Qur'an

Members should be knowledgeable about the principles, rules and guidance of the Holy Qur'an as to the form of government, its responsibilities and the role of the voters.

**Form of Government:** Holy Qur'an does not specify which form of government to be used. It does not reject even Monarchy since many of the Kings in the history have been declared as prophets in the Holy Qur'an. It requires two fundamental things from any government.

**Requirements of Government:** Holy Qur'an explicitly requires that the government should operate on strict basis of justice in all its affairs. When the Holy Qur'an mentions kings who achieved the spiritual status of prophets, it describes that they acted with justice.

Second responsibility that is described for any government is to provide the basic needs of its citizens. It specifies those needs as food, clothing, water and shelter. It says: “It is provided for thee that thou wilt not hunger therein, nor wilt thou be naked. And that thou wilt not thirst therein, nor wilt thou be exposed to the sun.” (Surah Ta Ha [20] : 119) It is amazing that most politicians always claim to provide food, clothing and shelter but the Holy Qur'an so wisely has added the supply of water to this list. We see the need of water supply throughout the world today as a major crisis.

As long as any government abides by these two principles, its form is acceptable.

However, it gives the commandment of making decisions with “mutual consultations” which shows its preference for democracy. In Chapter Shūrā it says about the believers, “Whose affairs are administered by mutual consultations.” (42:39)

**Defining Democracy:** In the Western philosophy that is rooted in the Greek philosophy, democracy is defined by the words of Abraham Lincoln: Government OF the people, BY the people and FOR the people.

There are some problems with the Western democracy. In its very definition of majority rule, it is clear that minorities may not have a say so in the matters at all. On the other hand, using the system people can get

elected while they truly do not represent the majority. In USA according to the Pew studies, only 35% of the voters vote on a regular basis, 20% intermittently, 23% rarely vote and 22% are not even registered. So in any election when someone is elected with 51% majority vote, he/she represents about 25% of all voters. So the theory of government BY the people does not end up as reality.

**Voters' Responsibilities:** In the modern democracy, a vote is considered as a right of the voter. It means that the voter can exercise its right to vote for a particular candidate or not use it at all. A voter can choose to be absent and not even register if he deems it appropriate.

The Holy Qur'an describes a vote to be a trust and not merely a right. It says: "Allah commands you to make over the trusts to those best fitted to discharge them." (Surah Al-Nisa [4]:59). A trust needs to be discharged properly to its rightful owner. An item kept in trust cannot be thrown away or given to someone who is not a rightful owner. So under this commandment, a voter must discharge its obligation and vote for the best person. A voter cannot be absent or throw away his vote. By not discharging the obligation of the trust he is liable in the eyes of God as being dishonest. When a vote is a trust, it also signifies that the candidate does not owe anything to the voter for voting for him since he is discharging his obligation and not doing any favors.

While we are living in a democracy, which is not perfect and not completely in line with the principles of Islamic Shari'ah as described in the Holy Qur'an, we need to discharge our obligations to the best way we can. Under the Islamic system a candidate would not offer himself for any office. As a matter of fact, Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> would not assign a person to a position if that person desired for it. Perfect form of government cannot be achieved until everyone firmly believes in the accountability by God on the Day of Judgment.

Our responsibility as a citizen is to evaluate properly each candidate as to his/her abilities and must vote for that candidate. Would the candidate be closer to organizing the government to fulfill the basic needs of the public as prescribed by the Holy Qur'an and establish workings of all aspects of government on the basis of justice? Then vote using one's conscience fully being aware that God is the witness and discharge of this trust will be one of the things that we will be accounted for.

This is also an opportunity for us to describe the wonderful principles, rules and guidance of the Holy Qur'an to our friends, neighbors, associates and acquaintances. It is the opportune time to make it a part of the political debate these days until November 8, 2016.

## International Jamā'at News

### Statement of Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community following France Church Attack

All members of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community throughout the world have been left shocked and devastated by murder of Father Jacques Hamel in a church in France on 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2016.

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community considers this to be an outrageous and evil attack that can never be justified in any way or under any circumstances. The teachings of the Holy Quran and of the Founder of Islam, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) are of peace, tolerance and love for humanity. The Quran says to kill even one innocent person is akin to killing all of humanity (Quran 5:33).

Throughout his life, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) condemned all forms of warfare, violence and injustice. He strictly instructed his followers that even in a state of defensive warfare, Muslims were not permitted to attack any religious leader, any place of worship or to target innocent people such as the elderly, women and children.

Today no nation and no group has waged war against Islam. Muslims are living freely here in the West and are able to practice their religion and so Muslims should be grateful for these freedoms. Thus the hatred manifested by terrorists and extremists is completely incomprehensible. Such terrorists and extremists are not defending Islam but rather are serving only to defame and discredit its name and its teachings.

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community offers its deepest condolences to the family of Father Jacques Hamel and to all those affected. We further offer our sympathies to Pope Francis, the Roman Catholic Church and to the people of France. We share in their grief and we share in their outrage. We pray for peace in the world and for an end to all forms of terrorism, extremism and hatred.

# Paradise Under Your Feet

Dr. Aziza Rahman, LA East

When we think of paradise, we usually think of the Paradise described by the Holy Qur'an -the eternal Paradise of palaces and rivers of milk and honey – paradise that we can earn, but not reach until the Hereafter. Or we might think about paradise on earth, and imagine beautiful beaches or serene mountain vistas – faraway places that some of us might reach in this life.

But there is another paradise. There is a heavenly paradise that is found in this life, and is accessible to each one of us. We don't have to wait for the Hereafter or leave our homes to find it. We are told of this paradise in the Holy Qur'an. Allah Ta'ālā says:

And for him who fears to stand before His Lord there are two gardens.... (55:47)

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) explains this verse thus:

'A person who abandons sin by giving regard to God Almighty's status and His honour and by fearing that he will one day be accountable before God Almighty, will be granted two paradises. Firstly, he will be given a heavenly life in this very life, and a pure change will be brought about in that person. Secondly, after he dies he will be granted an eternal paradise. This would be because he feared God and gave Him precedence over the world and his worldly desires (Lecture Lahore, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 20, pp. 185).

My dear sisters! The first of the two paradises promised by Allah Ta'ālā, a heavenly life in this very life, a life free of cares and worries and full of Allah's blessings, is the paradise under your feet.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) further highlighted this state of paradise when he said:

Paradise lies under the feet of your mother.  
(Sunan Nisa'i)

The commonly held view of this hadith is that by taking care of one's parents, and respecting one's mother, we can attain paradise. However, the deeper meaning of this hadith is that a mother has an enormous influence on the spiritual and moral development of her children. In his address to Lajna in December 1991, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (may Allah shower His mercy on him) said:

Mothers build the future. The fate of a nation is written in mothers' milk, whether it will become a toxic nation or prove to be a life-

giving one. Therefore, you have a great responsibility.

He further elaborated:

The children of those mothers, who have developed a profound personal connection with God, are never wasted. That is why Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not say that heaven is under the feet of your fathers. He said heaven is under the feet of mothers. Hence, heaven has been placed under your feet. You have to decide if you will bestow heaven upon the next generation or throw them in hell. Because if heaven is under your feet and your children become hell-bound, then you will be held responsible twice. [12-27-1991 Address to Lajna by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (may Allah shower His mercy on him)]

My dear sisters! This dire warning means that mothers have to create paradise under their feet because not only are they responsible for what their children achieve in this life, but also what they attain in the Next.

Therefore as Ahmadi women, who have pledged obedience to the commands of Allah Ta'ālā, His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and His Messiah (peace be upon him), we have to not only recognize but also unconditionally accept that the responsibility of creating paradise in our homes surpasses all other worldly roles or obligations. My younger sisters, please note I am not just addressing mothers here; no matter our age and status, all of us have to give priority to this obligation because we will be answerable for it on the Day of Judgment.

This is no easy matter because the society we live in tells us that freedom and honor for a woman is attained when she becomes an independent career woman, not shackled by the responsibilities of motherhood or even a stable marriage; the very opposite of Islamic teaching - which affords women the highest honor and status through both marriage and motherhood, while at the same time giving them the freedom to work, study and earn if they so wish. Whether we stay at home, or go out to pursue a career; the responsibility of being the creators of paradise on earth has been laid on all of us.

So how does an Ahmadi woman establish paradise for herself and for her future generations? She does it by undertaking a lifelong journey on *Sirat-ul-Mustaqeem*, the path of the righteous. She does it step by step, grounding each step on obedience to commandments of the Holy Qur'an, from her earliest youth to the end of her days, so that she becomes, in the words of Ḥaḍrat

Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (may Allah shower His mercy on him):

... a source of such attraction and charm for her home that she becomes an axis and the members of her family rotate around her. They do not find comfort outside but find peace and tranquility in their homes. [12-27-1991 Address to Lajna Qādiān, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (may Allah shower His mercy on him))

A woman cannot create the peace and tranquility, which will make her home a paradise unless she creates peace and tranquility in her heart. And a heart can only be peaceful when love for Allah Ta'ala supersedes love for anyone or anything else. Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper), in his address to Lajna Germany, said:

An intelligent woman is one who thinks about ways to attain a peaceful home [and] ways to turn her home into paradise. If one's sight is set towards the world, this peace can never be achieved. Real peace can only be achieved by establishing a relationship with God the Almighty. [6-2-2012 Address to Lajna Germany by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper)]

So the first step on this journey, which lays the foundation of paradise under our feet, is to move towards Allah Ta'ālā; and movement towards Allah Ta'ālā requires moving away from the world. However, today's materialistic world driven by social media, advertising and the desire to outdo each other does not let go of us without difficulty. Thus if one's relationship with Allah Ta'ala is weak, it is easier to be convinced that life will be better when we have a certain phone, a certain car or a certain pair of shoes; or that it is alright to indulge in some un-Islamic activities, e.g. following western customs at weddings, because they appear to make life more fun. We should always keep in mind that if we allow ourselves to be swayed by worldly desires, paradise will not stay under our feet; it will move away.

However, Allah Ta'ala has bestowed a great favor on us - that even the slightest effort made on our part towards attaining His nearness produces manifold blessings; not only does He strengthen our feeble endeavors and make the task on hand easier, but He also multiplies its rewards in this life and the next. Thus if we try sincerely to overcome our weaknesses and pray for His help, e.g. in improving our observance of purdah, a vital step in creating the paradise essential to safeguarding our children, Allah Ta'ālā will remove any fears and impediments that may hold us back from attaining our goal.

Let me remind you of the example of Asiya, the wife of Pharaoh. After she accepted the message of Ḥaḍrat

Musa peace be upon him), she too had to struggle against the immoral influences of her time and also the wrath of her husband in order to maintain her faith. Nevertheless she remained steadfast even under torture until her death, which it is reported, was by being nailed to the ground with a heavy rock placed on her chest on the orders of Pharaoh. The Holy Qur'an has recorded her heartfelt prayer; it says:

And Allah sets forth for those who believe the example of the wife of Pharaoh when she said, 'My Lord! Build for me a house with Thee in the Garden; and deliver me from Pharaoh and his work, and deliver me from the wrongdoing people;' [66:12]

And of course, without prayer nothing can be achieved; neither love of Allah Ta'ālā nor peace in one's heart. We all know that daily Ṣalāt, accompanied by Tahajjud and Nawāfil, is the most effective form of prayer and the most powerful tool that protects us from indecencies and sin. So a woman must brace her steps towards Allah Ta'ala by establishing Ṣalāt, i.e., offer it on time, observe all its etiquettes and with full attention, or she will not create paradise in her home.

Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper), in an address to Lajna Germany, warned that if Ṣalāt is not offered in this way, it 'falls'. He said that a fallen prayer is one where attention begins to wander and the true purpose of worship is not achieved. He gave examples of this - that if a woman is offering Prayer but during it her thoughts drift toward some wedding she is going to attend, and she starts thinking of the outfit and jewelry which she intends to wear; or she starts thinking about how someone said something mean to her, and how she can answer her back. Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said this how prayer falls.

My dear sisters! Even if this does happen to us, we must never stop striving to re-erect our Ṣalāt till the day we are able to stand before Allah Ta'ālā with full concentration and humility.

The next step for an intelligent woman, as Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) described her, is to find ways to attain a peaceful and harmonious home. The happiness of a home does not depend on its décor, size or the comforts it provides; but rests on the relationships of its occupants to each other. Remember, Allah Ta'ālā says in the Holy Qur'an [4:2]:

".....and fear Allah, in whose name you appeal to one another, and fear Him particularly respecting ties of relationship. Verily, Allah watches over you."

A woman, whether she is a daughter, wife, mother, or mother-in-law, is the essential pivot around which these relationships revolve; what is more, she has the power to 'make them or break them' and this is

particularly true in the case of a mother in-law.

So a daughter, who accepts the guidance of her parents in important matters such as her education and career, and choice of a marriage partner according to Islamic values, has already begun her journey in creating harmony in her home.

Then after marriage, a woman creates paradise in her home by implementing the guidelines given by Allah Ta'ala for her role as a wife. He, Allah Ta'ala, expects her to be a comfort to her husband, adorn him like a garment, i.e. cover up his weaknesses and be his embellishment and support; and to obey him as he has been appointed the guardian of the family.

Therefore the intelligent woman really works on her relationship with her husband, in all sorts of ways; e.g. she greets her husband with a smile when he comes home, appreciates that he works hard for the family's needs, listens sympathetically to his problems, avoids petty arguments, bears patiently with her in-laws, and puts his needs before all else. She tries to do it even when she herself has had a stressful day dealing with the demands of children, never-ending housework and possibly a job, simply because she wants to please Allah Ta'ālā above all else.

Of course this is not easy; and we may not succeed in restraining our egos for the sake of harmony all of the time. But remember, when we keep trying we will progress spiritually and become more compassionate, patient, tolerant, humble and unselfish.

Now some of you might be thinking, due to attitudes prevalent in society – this is not fair! The marriage guidelines are for both partners. Why do I have to be the one who always has to give in? My dear sisters, when you are obeying Allah Ta'ālā and His Messenger, you are not giving in! You are giving yourself the status of a woman with paradise under her feet! It may take time, but your sacrifices, patience and unselfishness will be rewarded; not only by gaining the joy of your spouse and children becoming the delight of your eyes; but also by gaining esteem in the sight of Allah Ta'ālā and the society around you.

The next part of our journey brings us fulfillment of the purpose for which we undertook it – to bestow heaven on our children and save them from hell. Again, the words of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (may Allah shower His mercy on him):

The crux of the matter is that a mother who, from an early stage, not only gives love to her children but also instills justice and balance in them is actually creating a paradise for the future. The mother who showers her children with love and thinks that she has provided them with everything is mistaken. The love that comprises only of devotion and is lacking any

vestige of discipline, solid expectations, and requirements of balance, will harm children instead of benefiting them. But the damage that is done by the mother being self-centered is greater than all these. This kind of harm is increasing day by day due to modern trends. [December 27, 1991 Address to Lajna, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV]

The mother whose love for Allah Ta'ālā is reflected in her actions, not merely in her words, who has established Ṣalāt and Qur'an recitation in her home, is steadfast in her *purdah*, refrains from falsehood, backbiting and gossip, establishes a loving atmosphere in her home and spends time with her children as their friend, their teacher and their guide in Tarbiyat, has already created paradise at her feet. At the same time she has set her children's feet on the journey to paradise because the most effective, in fact the only way that children truly learn is by example.

As I mentioned earlier, observance of *purdah* is a vital step in safeguarding our children from immorality. Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (may Allah shower His mercy on him) has warned that if we do not offer special protection to our *purdah*, then our children will face such perilous situations that we will watch them with remorse, but will not be able to bring them back.

Today our children are exposed to immorality and materialism with such intensity that it seems that if we take our eyes off them for even a minute, they may slip and fall into un-Islamic activities. Therefore if a mother is 'self-centered'; she gives in to her children's demands because giving in is easier than saying no and explaining Islamic values to them. If she gives priority to work over their Tarbiyat, prefers socializing over Jamā'at activities, neglects her modesty and *purdah* and wastes time on vain pursuits such as social media and internet, she is not only forsaking her children to the dangers of this world but may be throwing them into hell.

My dear sisters! The journey to create paradise under our feet is our true jihad. We must undertake it not only for our own children but also to change the society we live in for the better. Our task is made easier through the great blessing of Khilāfat, with continuous guidance from our beloved Khalīfa and role models of exemplary wives and mothers; not only such as Ḥaḍrat Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her) whose sacrifices and suffering for the sake of Islam and the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) are unparalleled; Ḥaḍrat Amman Jan (may Allah be pleased with her) whose every action is a source of guidance for us and Ḥaḍrat Hussain Bibi (may Allah be pleased with her), the mother of Chaudhry Zafrullah Khan whose steadfastness and faith, though sorely tested, could not be shaken, but we also have our mothers and

grandmothers, who overcame the challenges of their times and created paradise under their feet for us to walk on.

But above all, let us follow the example of those courageous Muslim women who earned paradise because they refused to allow their menfolk to retreat from battle by challenging them to go back and fight for the victory of Islam or face their anger and the tent poles in their hands. These women were ready to sacrifice the lives of their loved ones for the sake of the victory of Islam. Surely we can do no less than sacrificing our worldly desires and comforts and taking the steps to create paradise under our feet, so that we can produce such children who will continue to fight for the victory of Islam. Surely we too can rally our menfolk to help us in the fight against the materialism and immorality of society and thus strengthen our Jamā'at and the hand of our beloved Khalifa.

I am reminded of a quote from the American author and scholar, Washington Irving, who incidentally lived

at the time of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), studied Islam and wrote a biography of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). He said:

There is in every true woman's heart a spark of heavenly fire, which lies dormant in the broad daylight of prosperity; but which kindles up, and beams and blazes in the dark hour of adversity.

My dear Sisters! The adversity we face is the danger of losing our children to the ills of society; therefore let us kindle the spark of heavenly fire that Allah Ta'ala has created in our hearts and do our utmost to create paradise at our feet - so that on the day that we face our Lord, we will have become the recipients of two paradises and will hear the words:

وَادْخُلِيْ جَنَّتِيْ ۗ فَادْخُلِيْ فِيْ عِبَادِيْ ۗ

**So enter thou among My chosen servants And enter thou My Garden [Holy Qur'an 89:30-31]**

May Allah Ta'ālā enable us to do so. Amin.

## Finding Peace Through Simplicity

Saadia Ahmed, Silicon Valley

One day a fisherman was fishing on a beautiful beach. A businessman, trying to relive the stress of his workday was walking down the same beach and noticed the fisherman. He decided to find out why this fisherman was fishing instead of working harder to make a living for himself and his family. He stopped and said to the fisherman, "You aren't going to catch many fish this way. You should be working rather than lying on the beach!"

The fisherman looked up at the businessman, smiled and replied, "And what will my reward be?"

The businessman replied that "Well, you can get bigger nets and catch more fish! You will make money and you'll be able to buy a boat, which will then result in larger catches of fish! You can then buy a bigger boat, and hire some people to work for you! And then you can build up a fleet of fishing boats, sail all over the world, and let all your employees catch fish for you!"

The fisherman asked again, "And then what will my reward be?"

A little irritated the businessman replied, "Don't you understand that you can become so rich that you will never have to work for your living again! You can spend all the rest of your days sitting on this beach, looking at the sunset. You won't have a care in the world!"

The fisherman, still smiling, looked up and said, "And what do you think I'm doing right now?"

The topic of my speech today is 'Finding Peace through Simplicity'. Let me start by asking you a

question. What is the biggest malady facing man today? Is it poverty; is it hunger, global warming or the threat of global recession? Surely, the single most important malady of the world today is the absence of peace. In the contemporary world, man as a whole, has reached the highest standard of achievement in material progress, made possible by the advancement of science and technology. Nevertheless, by all measures and statistics, man is not happy or content. There is growing restlessness, fear, anxiety and lack of trust in the future. Many years ago, "burned out" referred to the fireplace where the coal or wood was all burned. "Chronic fatigue syndrome" occurred only in insomniacs. People described a car skidding on black ice as being "out of control," but we wouldn't refer to our lives that way. Today we do.

By all standards we are extremely fortunate to have an opportunity to live in the greatest nation on earth where the constitution grants us complete personal freedom. The freedom of speech, the freedom to worship and the freedom to live our lives the way we want to. Ironically, the greatest threat to these freedoms is the shackles that the media and consumerism puts on us. It tells us when to appreciate our love for our mothers, when to appreciate our fathers. It tells us when we should celebrate our love for our partners and how to celebrate the milestones in our children's lives. It tells us when we can be totally merry and relaxed and have the spirit of sharing and gratitude and when the clock turns,

to switch back to the vigor's of work life. It tells us the standard of life that we should have, it also tells us the work hours that we need to keep to be able to sustain all these so-called life choices.

In reality our freedom to live our life the way we want to and to align it with our values has become a great struggle. To live a simple life without following the crowd seems almost like swimming against the currents of the sea. Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ (may Allah be his Helper) gave us the following advice to help break free of these shackles.

In his Friday sermon of April 30th, 2004, Hazoor said:

In this negative climate, the responsibility on Ahmadīs across the board is ever greater to adopt ways of contentment and simplicity so that we are enabled to be inclined towards Allah rather than consume ourselves in worldly affairs. Indeed Allah's blessings are there to be enjoyed and benefited from, however it is the element of covetousness that tarnishes.

So what does it really mean to SIMPLIFY and how does it provide peace?

In chapter 25 verse 68, Allah says:

“And those, who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor niggardly but adopt a moderate position in the middle.”

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has said:

He who accepts Islam and is bestowed provisions that suffice for his needs and Allah makes him content with what He has given him has achieved true prosperity' (Muslim)

The greatest step toward a life of simplicity is **to learn to let go**. The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary. Times have changed and our lives are extremely cluttered. We need to eliminate physical and mental clutter. Our consumption society has made us feel that happiness lies in having things. We face an ever-increasing pace of life governed by email, texting and cellphones. Material blessings, when they provide for beyond what we need become a burden.

Do you have to give up all of your worldly possessions and move to a shack? Not at all! Simplifying is all about having enough without having too much -- cutting back on unnecessary spending, slowing down, **and FOCUSING on your true priorities**.

In his Friday sermon of 4/30/2004 Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) quoted the following words of the Promised Messiah peace be upon him) saying:

The real goal of a believer is in Allah's pleasure, not to follow the world. And until and

unless a person is satisfied with what he has and cultivates simplicity, he always looks at people who have better things than him and becomes restless. If he is satisfied with what he has he will not care the slightest what anyone has or doesn't have. Instead he will follow the direction that looks up to people with higher morals and be envious of that and then try to excel in good morals.

America is the land of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, but a fourth item could be added to that list: It's also the land of insurmountable debt. In total, American consumers owe about \$11.86 trillion in debt out of which \$901 billion is in credit card debt. More than one-third of Americans have debt in collections, meaning that they've fallen significantly behind in paying their bills. In America three of the 10 highest selling drugs are for stress and anxiety related disorders. Referring to these worldly anxieties and stresses the Promised Messiah peace be upon him) writes:

The less a person is involved in worldly struggles the more his desires are fulfilled. The heart of a person who is caught in this internal struggle is filled with fire and he is engulfed in anguish. In this world also the true source of comfort is that man is liberated from this struggle.

In the book Audacity of Hope, President Obama writes that 'we see no diversity in American churches. People of a certain ethnic group, certain class, certain value system congregate together.' This is not the case of an Aḥmadiyya Mosque. Our mosques and events are alive with racial and class diversity where Ahmadīs of all races, classes, educational levels, ages come together. This can create a certain pressure on the less affluent to keep up a certain standard of living but also puts a pressure on the affluent to curb their excesses.

In the book, Islam's Response to Contemporary Issues, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (may Allah shower His mercy on him) explains that from the Islamic point of view, the creation of classes in a society begins to hurt only when there is no code of ethics governing the way money should be spent. Imagine a society where people live a simple life, with no lavish expenditure on their clothing, food or homes. Where the contrasts or difference in the style of life are not so distinctly marked. No matter how much wealth has accumulated in a few hands, it is the expenditure, which hurts rather than the accumulation of wealth. It is the luxurious lifestyle of the rich and its associated flair, display, pomp and pageantry, which, when observed from the vantage point of less affluent that the uneven distribution of wealth begins to create unbridgeable gaps between the two. Reality shows and TV programs depicting the lifestyles

of the rich and famous creates a sense of deprivation and desire to attain these luxuries.

Islam does not interfere with the freedom of an individual to earn and to keep. On the contrary, it promotes and encourages the private sector more than the public sector. It lays down a well-defined code concerning a simple style of life.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has said:

‘One who has the capacity to wear rich garments abstains from wearing them out of a sense of humility before Allah will be called by Allah on the Day of Judgment in priority to all others and will be given the choice to put on whichever of the mantles of faith he prefers’ (Tirmidhi)

As wives we are enjoined to live within the means provided by our husbands. We are the guardians of our household resources. Many times it is our lifestyle choices that determine how much pressure our husbands take and the hours that they work. Many women also work these days and sometimes are the head of households and are the main bread earners and many times it is not a choice to work very long hours as the wages brought in are merely sufficient to pay for basic necessities of life.

But do we have the ability to make a distinction between a need and a want? Are we able to say no to our children’s excesses when we have the ability to fulfill their wants? Due to this there is less time that parents have for their children in their younger years and that vacuum is usually filled with the latest gadgets, videogames and online interaction. Children grow up with the expectation that most of their wants will be fulfilled and sometimes their lifestyle is no different from their peers at school.

As kids grow and it comes time for their weddings there is intense social and cultural pressure to have a certain style of wedding. If there isn’t a lifelong habit of cutting excesses and choosing simplicity, it is close to impossible to align the wedding expenses to the Islamic standard of simplicity. Many families go into deep debt to finance these expenses and to keep up or they pull money from their retirement accounts or savings accounts and totally deplete their resources. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV in his book ‘Islam’s Response to

Contemporary Issues says:

The style of marriage ceremonies between the rich and poor families can be a sensitive area, which may cause terrible anguish and heartache to the poor parents with daughters of marriageable age. Lavish wedding receptions with a grand display of pomp, opulence and pageantry are roundly condemned in Islam. In fact, we observe from the early history of Islam that wedding ceremonies were so simple as to appear colorless events in the sight of many. Influenced by the customs and tradition of the surrounding societies, many innovations and malpractices have crept into Muslim marriage styles of the rich, but the basic formal ceremony remains exactly the same—plain, simple and inexpensive for the rich and poor alike.

As Muslims we are always encouraged to reflect. The two most valuable resources that Allah has given us are time and money. Simplicity enables us to have more time and more money. As empowered Ahmadi Muslim women, I invite you to take a closer look at your lifestyles and see if there are any areas in your life that cause stress and anxiety. I invite you to define what a simple lifestyle looks like for you and your family and what are some small steps that you can take to achieve that? What are some habits that have now become necessities? What can you do to simplify your life that opens up more time and money for pursuing Allah’s pleasure, which will enable you to have peace of mind.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) states:

One of our principles is that we lead a simple life. Our association is free from all the customs that have been made necessities of life in Europe. We are not compelled by tradition or habit, to the extent that we are watchful of every habit that might be difficult to give up. As far as eating, drinking and social interaction is concerned we prefer a simple lifestyle. (Malfūzāt third edition, Page 448, Al-Badr 29, October/November 1903)

I will end with a prayer of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Our beloved master (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to pray:

My Lord, make me content on what You have given me and put blessings in it for me and give me a better replacement for what I don’t have.

**Sign-up at [amibookstore.us](http://amibookstore.us) to get updates on new titles. (Mohammad Ahmed Nasir)**

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# Religious Values: Do they have a place in today's world?

Maleeha Ahmad, Georgia

I stand here in front of you today, as an Ahmadi Muslim girl in her 20s who has gone through many tests and the one thing making me stick to my values is my religion. This is a near and dear topic to me, so I want everyone to think for a minute. No, I really want you to close your eyes and think. Take a deep breath with me, now close your eyes and think of a time when the guidance of Allah and Islam has helped you during a difficult time. Today, the topic of my speech will be religious values and do they have a place in today's world. I want to take you on a journey and start from the beginning.

Young Ahmadi girls and women can go through years of conflict and have many influences, so it is never too early (or late) to instill Islamic values in our children and us. Even young children are exposed to certain situations that may conflict with their values. I also believe that parents should explain to their children why we believe what we do. We don't give our children enough credit to understand the meaning behind the lesson. For instance, I look at how my sisters are raising their children and admire how they teach their children honesty, not just through words but through their actions as well. When my nieces and nephew ask them why they have to do something a certain way, my sisters explain to them in a way they can understand. We internalize our teachings when we have an appreciation and deeper understanding of them. How do we expect our children to grow with strong values if we don't explain the reasoning behind the lessons? So much of what we learn in life happens at an early age. The security we give children develops early in life; this includes entrusting them with an explanation. The more structure and solid explanations you give children when they're really young, the more secure they feel later in life.

I also want to differentiate between structure and strictness. Structure has a more positive connotation; it provides guidance. My friend described it like this: like a page in a coloring book, Islam gives us structure, and we are allowed to color inside the lines based on our individual life journey. Whereas structure, provides a sense of safety and comfort, strictness feels limiting and confining. And it doesn't make us confident in making our own choices, in choosing to be righteous. Structure is empowering, strictness not so much.

Our journey from the moment we're born is to return to Allah. We're born to enjoy this experience, but

also to protect the treasure we started with. That treasure is our soul and our spirituality. Life can be a collection of blessed experiences that build and motivate us to be better Ahmadi Muslims. People would always ask me how do you enjoy life without the "pleasures" that you're forbidden from partaking in? I would respond that these seem to be pleasures to them, but to me they are distractions and I have been blessed to fully experience life without these activities. Khalifatul-Masih IV's (may Allah shower His mercy on him) stated:

"Drinking, gambling, ... and other modes of pleasure are largely considered innocent pursuits by most societies of the world... Looking at such societies, one may be led to believe that the seeking of [these vain pleasures] is, in fact, the very purpose of man's creation. Not so according to Islam." (Islam's Response to Contemporary Issues)

The Holy Qur'an explains:

'In the creation of the heavens and the earth and in the alternation of the night and day there are indeed signs for men of understanding. Those who remember Allah, standing, sitting and lying on their sides, and ponder over the creation of the heavens and the earth, say, 'Our Lord, Thou hast not created this in vain; Nay, Holy art Thou; save us then from the punishment of the fire' (3:191).

This is the perfect answer to their question; my purpose in life is not to experience these "pleasures," because my definition of pleasure is completely different. I seek to please Allah and be the best Ahmadi Muslim I can, that is my pleasure and my purpose.

I mentioned earlier that our journey is to return to Allah and I acknowledge that I have made mistakes along the way. However, we need to keep in mind that Allah is ever merciful and even in our lowest points, we're moving forward to return to Him. The beauty of this life is that we move forward even though we fall back many times, but in the next life we'll only move forward. How beautiful is that? Both lives are a gift given to us!

When you are given a gift from a relative or friend and you really wanted this one item, you keep it safe right? Let me break it down even further for the people of my generation and younger than me, we are attached to our phones. I didn't get my own first smart phone till I was a senior in college and I treated that phone with a

lot of respect. I dropped it a few times and felt terrible, my heart would lurch until I picked it up to make sure it was okay. We should treat our souls with even more respect than the way we treat our phones. When we make a mistake, be honest with yourself and think was this a good decision for me and pray to Allah for guidance and forgiveness. I am far from being perfect and I stand before you and am okay to admit that. Over the years, past middle school and high school where peer pressure seems to be suffocating, I've learned that what I do, I do for myself. I don't mean that in a selfish way, but I don't do something to please others, I do it to please Allah. He is whom I live for. I consider myself a life-long humanitarian, and I don't help others so my neighbor will see and be proud of me, but so that my soul feels clean and I can rest knowing that I made Allah happy. We live in a society that wants to please others, I mean look at the celebrities like the Kardashians. Now, I am not judging them for their actions, I don't have the right to do that. However, I do have the right to think to myself is that how I want to live my life? No, that isn't. Even though my actions aren't to please society, it is still important to be a good example and have others do good as well.

I mentioned how I do not have the right to judge someone else that is because we all have separate journeys. My journey is different from your journey, but that doesn't make it any less or more valuable. To all my fellow sisters out there, please remember that. You don't have to compare yourself to another sister at the mosque; you can use them as a good example, but do not belittle yourself or others either. We all have to find a balance in life. What does Islam teach us? Moderation. And everyone has to find their personal balance and that is the key to finding your personal peace. As a Pakistani American Ahmadi Muslim (that's a lot of identifiers), my search for balance has been a long one and it still continues. I grew up as the only Ahmadi girl in my city, Augusta, Georgia. Our mosque was two and a half hours away and we were only able to attend monthly meetings. I had to learn on my own, with the guidance of my family, the difference between spirituality and religion. I had to learn the difference between my values and my Western counterparts values. I shouldn't be concerned about having liberal or conservative values, but I should strive for Islamic values. I grew up in the Bible belt and many Christians surrounded me. The saying that there was a church on every corner was literal in my town, it wasn't a figure of speech. I took that as a blessing and realized that even though my friends are of different religions, their sense of spirituality is what counts. Since I couldn't access that community feeling that I got at the mosque or at Jalsa (which I thrive on), I was able to access it in my hometown. Islam has taught me acceptance and equality,

**O ye who believe, let not one people deride another people, who may be better than they nor let women deride other women who may be better than they.**  
(49:12)

We should encourage this peace and interfaith relations. Through my friendships with people of other faiths, I have been asked why I believe in what I do and every time I am put to the test it makes me learn a little more about Islam. These questions make me appreciate Islam more and I confidently say why I am an Ahmadi Muslim. Yes, I was born into it, but that does not mean I should blindly believe what I have been told. I should be inquisitive and truly learn about Islam so this faith and sense of spirituality goes deep down to my core.

Ramaḍān has just passed; did your friends or coworkers ask you why you fasted? I want you to recall your answer. When you give a reply that you sincerely believe in, your honest response makes your belief stronger, makes you appreciative, and the other person respects you even more. I'm not a fan of compliments, but when someone tells me that they like how I am open, sometimes patient, and accepting of others I can proudly say Islam has taught me that. I have gotten numerous negative remarks about my hijab and I always brush them off and my friends are astonished that I don't get angry and yell something back. What good will that do? I will be enabling a misconceived stereotype and I have no desire to yell at someone because of their opinion of me. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) set the best example. These people and experiences that surround you are tests and they are meant to make us stronger Ahmadīs.

There were many times I felt alone and I envied the other Ahmadi girls in my Jamā'at that had the social support readily available. I even envied my Christian friends that had Bible study or youth group meetings, because my faith couldn't be strengthened through the Ahmadi community due to distance. During these times I turn to Qur'an and say:

"In the name of God be its course and its mooring. My Lord is surely Most Forgiving, Most Merciful."(11:42)

In this verse, Ḥaḍrat Nuh's ark is our soul and the course is our journey in life. We're never alone; Allah is always there with you. He is whom you can turn to at all times. Think of it this way, His cell reception is the best in the galaxy and He never lets your phone call go to voicemail.

Now, I have arrived at the college years where I will continue to find my personal peace. This part of the speech is even more important to me. As I stated before, we all have different journeys, but I hope there is a similar underlying message that you can take home. I didn't have much of a social life in years prior to college

or I should say I had a social life, but it was very different from my peers. My times of fun and relaxation included playing Trivial Pursuit with my elder sister's friends, baking cookies at home, and reading books. Don't get me wrong, I thoroughly enjoyed myself and I am grateful now that I didn't have to deal with any distractions. So by the time I got to college, my definition of socializing was still different from my peers. And you know what? I thrived on that! People would comment, oh you're mature for your age, but what I realized was in my earlier years I was able to focus on my inner strength (a major component of that was my relationship with Allah) while others wanted to focus on drugs and partying. I want to make another disclaimer, I am not judging anyone for their behavior, and this is between them and our Creator. I just chose not to do it.

My fellow sisters, let me tell you that this lovely inner strength that we can acquire – that shines out as a quality can truly help in a variety of situations! As we keep strong in this inner strength, it helps us even further. Young women who have no foundation in who they are, are willing to follow any trend. This goes on both ends of the spectrum, from twerking to teenage pregnancy pacts to religious extremists and fanatics. We are experimenting with who we are as Ahmadi girls and women and when we have that safety net, our faith, our lives become a bit easier. Being grounded in my faith and spirituality gives me the strength to navigate life. My faith, Ahmadiyyat, has given me so much and as I was writing this speech I was discovering things I took for granted.

My compassion for humanity has come from Islam and the desire to spread that compassion has lead me on a journey that I wouldn't be on if it weren't for Islam. Someone may be thinking, okay that's a little dramatic and I should take my fervor down a notch. However, to my fellow sisters, especially my peers, I stand here with confidence and say as someone who is nervous about public speaking and being in the spotlight, I would never say something I don't believe in. It's not some life story to make you think I'm the best Muslim out there. Because you know what? I'm not. I feel that I am far from it and I have many things to strive for in my life. When I was asked to do this speech, I was hesitant and didn't know if I was the right person for it. How can I stand in front of thousands and talk about religion? I discussed this with a close Ahmadi friend of mine who knows me well and loves me without judgment (who is a great example for me) and she said that I could use this platform to reach out to the young Lajna that feel a little different in our wonderful community.

Now, back to Islam and compassion on my journey. My career path has changed a couple of times, but the thing that remained the same was my desire to help others. Ten years ago I made a hesitant decision that

would alter my life plan. I forfeited my first-world American luxuries, saying goodbye to my friends and leaving behind "the known" when I moved to Rabwah for two years. While in Pakistan, I was exposed to the socioeconomic statuses on either ends of the spectrum, human rights violations, corrupt governing, familial ties, and the power of the people. This exposure created a passion for social change that has evolved over the years and has been displayed through fine art photojournalism, public health and social activism. Throughout this journey, I saw the beauty of social justice in Ahmadiyyat.

Islam places an importance on peace, on an individual and societal level. If our society had certain structures the way Islam does, we'd be better in protecting peace. For example, there is immense debate on expanding Medicare and a social worker friend of mine does financial support counseling for the elderly, because that population is exposed to financial abuse. Islamic values state taking care of the elderly is without question. On the opposite end, fragmented family structure has a great impact on child well being. I don't want to bore you with facts, but there is enough literature to fill a library about child well-being and how that can determine a person's life.

"The strengthening of [all] blood relationships, a larger family concept, is supported and promoted by Islam for many reasons. Some are:

- It prevents imbalances from occurring in society.
- If strong love and affection were promoted in the family between [parents, children, and further extended relatives], it would naturally lead to the consolidation and protection of a healthy family unit. (Islam's Response to Contemporary Issues pages 109-110)

Now let me tell you about my relationship with Islam and social justice. I live in St. Louis right now and Ferguson isn't far away. I don't like to tell people that, because then they view my proximity as a reason why I've been involved with the movement. No, that's not why. Islam has taught me the value of all human lives and the persecution of Ahmadi's that is going on in Pakistan and other countries has opened my eyes to life of oppression. Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said:

If keeping within their civil rights, the Muslims also protest, no one should have any objection. However, a Muslim living in any country has no right to take the law into his own hands...Religion says: speak the truth. Islam lays great stress on this teaching. Then Islam says: do not usurp the rights of others; do not steal; do not kill; and, obey the authorities. (Respecting Religious Feelings An address by

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, UK on 29th March 2008)

The underlying principle in Islam for all social behavior is the love for fellow human beings and service to humanity. In God's revelations to the Prophet Muhammad, as much emphasis was laid on service to humanity as on the worship of God, perhaps more on the former. In the eyes of God, Prayer is completely meaningless if it is not accompanied by service to humanity. (A Book of Religious Knowledge)

I could talk about my love for social justice for days and I don't have the time for that, but I will say that as an Ahmadi Muslim I feel it is my obligation to stand up for others and give back to humanity. I will end with a verse from the Holy Qur'an and a saying of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Turn not thy cheek away from men in pride  
nor walk in the earth haughtily; surely, Allah

loves not any arrogant boaster. And walk thou at a moderate pace and restrain thy voice; verily the most disagreeable sound is the bray of a donkey. (31:19)

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) states,

“Go to the help of your brother whether he is an oppressor or oppressed.” On being asked how an oppressor may be helped, he rejoined, “Stop him from continuing in his course of oppression.” (Bukhārī, Sect: Oppression, Chapter: Help your Brother)

My dearest sisters, I hope you are able to take something home from this journey I have shared. Allah and Islam has given me many things and I feel the best way to repay is not only striving to be a better Ahmadi, but also as a humble servant, giving back to the world.

## Sisterhood - Beyond Boundaries

Saliha Malik, Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ  
وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ  
لِتَعَارَفُوا ۗ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ  
أَتْقَىٰكُمْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٥﴾

**‘O mankind, We have created you from a male and a female; and We have made you into tribes and sub-tribes that you may recognize one another. Verily, the most honorable among you, in the sight of Allah, is he who is the most righteous among you. Surely, Allah is All-knowing, All-Aware.’ (Holy Qur’an 49:14)**

A few weeks ago the cover of a magazine caught my eye. The picture was of a Caucasian boy cheek to cheek with an African American boy and the words: ‘CAN WE UNLEARN RACISM?’ splashed across. This news was startling to me and put me in a great agitation, especially as the article stated that a New York school was planning to reinstate racial segregation. It is a great shame for this country to have such a History of discrimination and to raise such a question – CAN WE UNLEARN RACISM? - Whose call to the world and whose premise of Liberty is stated so beautifully in the words of the poem printed on the Statue of Liberty at Ellis Island welcoming every

forlorn and hopeful one who ventures to these shores:

Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore  
Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

(Excerpt from The New Colossus by Emma Lazarus)

CAN WE UNLEARN RACISM? My Muslim heart rallied with a resounding YES! It was one of the compelling teachings that drew me towards Islam. I realized how great our responsibilities have become as Ahmadi Muslims, who declare that we believe in and live for UNITY and whose cry: ‘Love of All, Hatred for None’ is heard from all our gatherings. Therefore, let us take the blessed occasion of this Jalsa to truly examine if we are indeed living according to this creed. Are we ready to convince not only the American people, but also the world that we practice true sisterhood – sisterhood beyond boundaries?

The verse I recited beautifully explains the teaching we have pledged to live by:

‘O mankind, We have created you from a male and a female; and We have made you into tribes and sub-tribes that you may recognize one another. Verily, the most honorable among you, in the sight of Allah, is he who is the most

righteous among you. Surely, Allah is All-knowing, All-Aware.’ (Holy Qur’an 49:14)

Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II (may Allah be pleased with him) explains:

“This verse lays down the basis of an all-pervading brotherhood of man. It constitutes the Magna Carta of human fraternity and equality. It has firmly laid the axe at the false and foolish notions of superiority, born of racial arrogance or national conceit.... The worth of a man is not to be judged by the pigment of his skin, the amount of wealth he possesses or by his rank or social status, decent or pedigree, but by his moral greatness and the way in which he discharges his obligations to God and man. The whole human race is but one family. Division into tribes and sub-tribes are so that people may benefit from one another’s national characteristics and good qualities’, (commentary from Vol 5, Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II (may Allah be pleased with him). And *not* so that people can use those differences to be divisive and cause discord.

In fact Islam claimed to be a universal religion from its inception and conceived mankind as one brotherhood almost 1500 years ago! The first commandment in the Holy Qur’an addresses all mankind:

O ye men, worship your Lord Who created you and those who were before you, that you may become righteous; (Holy Qur’an 2:22).

‘Worship your Lord’—enter into His service. ‘Your creator’ who would know your innermost struggles! That you may become righteous—it is necessary to follow God’s commandments as they alone help to nurture man’s latent powers. Unless we dip our selves in God’s colors by striving to follow His ways, we remain stuck in our lower stages of humanness. In other words man is dependent upon the word of God to settle in his heart so that he can be free of his own selfish desires and limitations. Allah sent the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to show us what this means in practical terms, because he completely united with God and submitted himself to Him.

Therefore the solution to thinking of our selves as having insurmountable differences, such as the color of our skin, the amount of wealth we possess or our rank or social status, decent or pedigree—causing divisions and closed groups—the solution is to turn to God and immerse ourselves in Him and His colors and His ways as He says, NO! These differences are for variety in this world; they are for expanding our horizons.

The real cause of failure to live in loving UNITY and brotherhood of mankind lies in our failure to properly understand our relationship with God. “He who regards

God as his Creator and Sustainer will look to Him for his needs and will not cast greedy looks at the wealth or circumstances of others. He can never be untrue to his fellow man, and will always remain at peace with them. Indeed there can be no peace unless we are devoted to God.” (From Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II (may Allah be pleased with him) commentary on 2:22) God explains:

“Hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah and be not divided. And remember the favor of Allah, which He bestowed on you when you were enemies and He united your hearts in love, so that by His grace you became as brothers; and you were on the brink of a pit of fire and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah explain to you His commandments that you may be guided” (Holy Qur’an 3:104)

In other words we stay united ‘by the rope of Allah’. By following His Messengers, His teachings - the Holy Qur’an, and the Khalīfa – who are His representatives. The source of all these is Allah. Because of our love for Allah we stay holding to His rope – and we ALL hold to this rope no matter what our background, no matter what our language is or the color of our skin. And holding this rope prevents us from being divided. Our attachment to our cultural ways diminishes in preference to our love for Allah and submitting ourselves to His teachings. Only Allah can bring hearts together, because before that we were on the brink of disaster—of divisions, of feeling superior, of being immersed in worldly concerns, depriving others of their rights and so on. Left to his own conditions mankind would not come to a place of peace.

Now this teaching of UNITY was more elevated than any other teaching that has come before, because those differences can cause man to stumble. Indeed Allah says:

‘He may try some of you by others’ 47:5 and

‘Verily, We have made all that is on the earth as an ornament for it, that We may try them as to which of them is best in conduct.’ 18:8

There is a lot of self -work needed to fully understand how to live in UNITY.

In his Friday sermon, **Striving for Revolutionary Self-Reformation** (6/5/15) Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) explained:

‘God showed the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) in a vision that he is making a new earth and new heaven and is then asked to make a new man. This was indeed a manifestation of the revolutionary change he was to bring about... The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) gave the perfect demonstration of creating a new earth and a new heaven. He came among people who had no

concept of One God and by virtue of the revolutionary change he brought, worship of One God became more of a nourishment for those people than apparent food.’

Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (may Allah shower His mercy on him) gave us a clear picture of this extraordinary event:

‘As far as the reconciliation of hearts is concerned, we have seen the intense union of fragmented hearts in the early history of Islam. We have seen such tribes coming together that were thirsty for each other’s blood. They would kill one another for no reason and take revenge on new generations for dishonor done to them a century ago. The fire of retribution could never be put out. We witnessed the sight more than fourteen hundred years ago that fragmented nations, whose hearts were not only split but were filled with hatred and enmity, suddenly came together under one command. And they bonded in such a way that, according to the Holy Qur’an, they were tied in relations of love. They became brothers who were always ready to forfeit their lives for each other. (Ahmadi Mothers—Builders of the New World, Daughters of Eve, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tāhir Ahmad, Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV)

So the new earth and the new heaven and the new man are to live by a new principle, the principle of UNITY, which had not been possible before. Tribes and clans, caste and class systems instead of being ways that we may derive benefit from one another’s good qualities were being used to divide communities, repress others and deprive others of their rights. My tribe is better than yours, my skin color is better than yours, etc. No! Allah is saying. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) taught his people:

Allah loves the one who is righteous – the one who loves Him and the more a person loves Allah and makes their heart a place for Him alone, the more they love all mankind. It is this engrossment in Love for Allah and love and care of mankind that gives a person their loveliness and beauty.

Abu Hurairah relates that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

Allah does not see towards your shapes (your appearances) and your wealth; He sees towards your hearts and your actions. (Muslim)

Abu Hurairah relates that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

On the Day of Judgment, Allah the Exalted will call: Where are those who loved each other

for My Glory? Today I shall give them shelter in the shade of My Mercy. Today there is no shade beside My shade (Muslim).

He taught them:

‘Repel *evil* with that which is best. And lo, he between whom and thyself was enmity will become as though he were a warm friend.’ (Holy Qur’an 41:35)

Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (may Allah be pleased with him) explains:

Allah says, that We place a program in front of you that if you see evil, then replace it with beauty. Do not try to remove evil with hatred, for evil itself is ugly and unattractive. Its remedy is beauty. (Ahmadi Mothers – Builders of the New World, Daughters of Eve, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tāhir Ahmad, Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV)

***We join hearts through practicing humility, forgiveness, love and compassion.*** We join hearts through Prayer and submitting ourselves, our stubbornness, our ego to the One who can forgive sins. We ask Allah to ‘*efface our sins*’(2:287) – it means erase them, as if they never were – please, totally forget them. How can we expect Allah to forgive our sins like that, if we continue to hold grudges and harbor hatred in our heart for others, for no reason?

We heard a beautiful example of this in a recent Khutba when Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) would put the letters of ugly abuse sent to him, filled with false accusations and foul language – he would put them in a large bag. “It is foolish to be perturbed by such things,” he said, “they happen to straighten our righteousness. There is no need to be angry and get carried away. After all a vessel will only brim over with what it contains and only foulness will be evident from the enemy’s heart. It is for us to keep our morals and civility in check.” (Khutba Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II: Pearls of Wisdom - July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015)

‘All Ahmadīs, no matter their race, nationality or background, are united by their acceptance of the teachings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), which is the Holy Qur’an.’ (Address to Lajna UK 2013) and by the pledge they have taken at the hands of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him).

Our way is Sisterhood—Sisterhood beyond boundaries. Let us think again, what are these boundaries? My dear sisters, it is not the cultural differences that divide us. It is not the different languages we speak, the different clothes we wear, the different food we eat that cause feelings of superiority or isolation. ***It is our failure to properly establish our bond***

**with Allah. When we have this bond there are NO boundaries.** We need to recognize this and work towards a complete revolutionary self-reformation - through Prayer and scrutinizing what lies in our hearts.

Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper) explains:

“Thus every Ahmadi should try to establish a pure society. This condition cannot arise until compassion arises in every Ahmadī’s heart, unless every one treats the others like his own kinsman, unless the walls of color, race and nationality are made to fall, unless Asian, White and African American consider themselves as Ahmadīs, as human beings equal to each other and do their utmost to discharge the rights of others. Unless such a condition prevails in everyone we will not be truly fulfilling our pledge that we have a true bond with Khilāfat, because it is only Khilāfat that, by fulfilling the requirements of justice, establishes love, affection and peace. It leads to a beautiful society that treads upon the ways of God and His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)” (Khutba June 20, 2008)

Let us take these words into our hearts and make our practice and our communities shine with their light. Let us be ready to show the American people what it means to be truly UNITED, what it means to be those who

welcome every seeker after truth, no matter what their background, race or language; ‘*holding fast, all together, by the rope of Allah...*’ supporting each other in our observance of Islam.

I close with the persuasive words of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) on how to become a new man or a new woman:

Take care that on the basis of a thing or two, which you think you have accomplished, you do not fall into a delusion that you have done all that needed to be done, for God desires that your entire life, your whole being, should undergo a deep and thorough revolution. Indeed He demands from you that you accept a death, after which He would give you another life. Immediately compose all your differences and make peace among yourselves: forgive the transgressions of your brothers for indeed he is evil who is not willing to make peace with his brother. He would be cut off for he tries to create disruption. Leave off vanity and emphasis on self and all mutual resentments, all unpleasantness. Though truthful and justified in your stand, be humble in your demeanor as though you were in the wrong, so that you yourself should be treated with forgiveness. (Our Teaching page 10)

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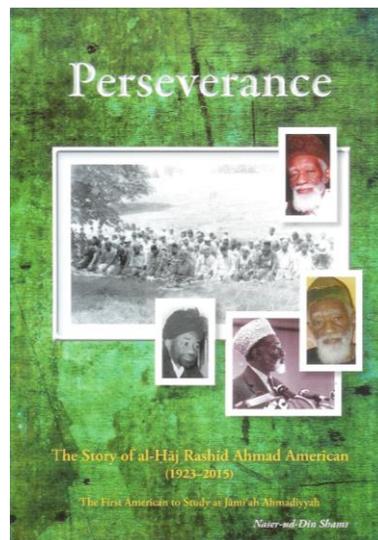
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Having no place to stay, I would routinely show up at the Mosque for the daily Fajr prayers at 4:30 am. Quite frequently, my knocking on the door would earn me the

blessings of waking up the others for prayers, and on the occasions that no one answered the door, I would offer my prayers on the Mosque porch alone.

The story of Br Rashid. Now available from [amibookstore.us](http://amibookstore.us). US \$ 4.



August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear Jama'at Members:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْنَا وَعَلَىٰ آلِنَا وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

During the last session of Jalsa Salana USA on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 with the permission of Respected Ameer Sahib, I made an **urgent appeal** to all members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA regarding the **Nasir Hospital in Guatemala** being built under the direction and advice of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Khamis (aba).

The Nasir Hospital is a \$2.7 million hospital which will serve nearly 2 million people of the Sactepequez region of Guatemala. Construction of the hospital began on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 after laying the foundation stone sent by our beloved Hazur (aba) with his prayers. We are aiming to complete construction by September 2017. **However, we are still facing a shortage of \$1.4 million which is needed over the next few months** in order to make timely installments to contractors.

I request every member of the Jama'at to say "Labbaik" at the call of our beloved Imam (aba) to help our fellow human beings in Guatemala. Every dollar you donate is Sadqa Jaria because this hospital will Insha'Allah continue to serve generations to come.

I would like to urge all members to also **donate on behalf of your elders and loved ones**. When you contribute on their behalf, the rewards from Almighty Allah will continue to reach them as long as this hospital is serving the poor people of Guatemala.

We have distributed \$2.7 million into 1080 cost units of \$2,500 each. We have raised 520 units so far and still have to raise 560 additional units. This in a way means that every person who donates one unit or \$2,500 is sponsoring equivalent to a hospital bed or some component of the hospital.

As Muslims, we are taught to do charity quietly but we also want to leave some examples from our lives for the younger generations for Tarbiyyat purposes. Therefore, Humanity First team is honoring our respected donors who donate at least **One Unit equivalent to \$2,500** through a **Personalized Commemorative Crystal Plaque** which will bear the name of the donor or dedication to living or deceased loved ones. An example of the plaque is attached.

If you donate \$5,000, it will be equivalent to 2 units or 2 plaques and \$7,500 will be 3 units and 3 plaques. You can dedicate each unit to a different person or you can dedicate all units to one person.

This plaque can be put in your office to promote your support for the noble causes of Humanity First USA or can be displayed in your house as a reminder to your family and younger generations of the sacrifice they all made at the call of our beloved Imam (aba) to serve humanity. The plaque will encourage our children to take our example and make similar sacrifices when they are ready to do so.

Please participate in this Sadqa Jaria immediately as a significant amount of funding is needed in the next two months.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions at [mnaeem@humanityfirst.org](mailto:mnaeem@humanityfirst.org). Jazaka'Allah

Wassalam,

**Munum Naeem**

Executive Director,  
Humanity First USA

Cell: (832) 265 3774

[mnaeem@humanityfirst.org](mailto:mnaeem@humanityfirst.org)

CC: Respected Ameer Sahib, USA



**Please Fill Out This Page and Mail to: Humanity First, USA 300 E. Lombard St., Suite 840, Baltimore, MD 21202**

**Personalized Commemorative Crystal Plaque**  
(Note- This is a sample, final product may differ)



Yes, I would like to **contribute / pledge** \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the construction of **NASIR HOSPITAL – GUATEMALA:**

- My payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is included (check/money order # \_\_\_\_\_ )
- My partial payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is included Check # \_\_\_\_\_ and I will pay the remaining amount of by \_\_\_\_\_. (Plaque will be sent upon receipt of full payment)
- I have paid on-line through the web (attach a receipt or tell us name, date, and amount of donation made )
- I have paid Jama'at Finance Secretary (attach a receipt or tell us name, date, and amount of donation made )

**\*\*\*Minimum donation of \$2,500 required to get personalized plaque\*\*\***

I would like the following name (s) written on this / these plaque (s). Minimum donation required to get such plaque is **ONE UNIT OF COST = \$2,500**. Multiple people can contribute towards one dedication or you may request multiple plaques for your loved ones by contributing \$2500 for each.

PLAQUE 1 (Minimum donation of \$2,500)

Name of the person this dedication is being made for: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the person alive or deceased? \_\_\_\_\_ (“in honor of” vs “in memory of”)

PLAQUE 2 (Minimum donation of \$5,000 in order to receive 2<sup>nd</sup> plaque)

Name of the person this dedication is being made: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the person alive or deceased?: \_\_\_\_\_ (“in honor of” vs “in memory of”)

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ AMI Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Member Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**For More Information:** Munum Naeem – [mnaeem@humanityfirst.org](mailto:mnaeem@humanityfirst.org)  
Nudrat Salik - [nsalik@us.humanityfirst.org](mailto:nsalik@us.humanityfirst.org)



# BOLETÍN AHMADÍA

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

## Objetivos del Yalsa Salana

Resumen del sermón del viernes del 2 de septiembre del 2016

Su Santidad, Hazrat Mirza Masrur Ahmad, el Quinto Jalifa, pronunció el sermón del viernes en Karlsruhe, Alemania. Hazur dijo que la institución de la Convención Anual, que el Mesías Prometido inició para la reforma de la Comunidad, cumple 125 años este año. Hoy podemos presenciar los frutos benditos del primer Yalsa que se celebró en un rincón de una mezquita en la pequeña aldea de Qadian, en la que participaron solamente 75 personas, que se reunieron allí para experimentar una transformación pura en su carácter, reformar al mundo y propagar el mensaje de la verdadera fe al convertirse en ayudantes del Mesías Prometido. Dios bendijo su labor e intenciones y ha hecho posible que la Comunidad Ahmadiya de Alemania celebre hoy su Yalsa en este vasto complejo. Teniendo en cuenta los recursos financieros, no hubiera sido posible cubrirlos si Dios no hubiera bendecido los recursos de la Comunidad.

Hablando de los objetivos del Yalsa, Hazur dijo: “El propósito del Yalsa es reformarse, sentir atracción hacia Dios, aumentar el conocimiento y la percepción divina, experimentar un cambio puro, haciendo que forme parte de nuestras vidas, preservarse de las frivolidades del mundo, hacer la promesa de propagar la verdadera fe a los rincones del mundo, cumpliendo esta promesa en lo posible, y



promover el amor, la armonía y la fraternidad. Nuestros antecesores hicieron esto con gran éxito. Hazur dijo:

“Es muy desafortunado quien acude a este Yalsa pensando que se trata de un festival mundano, pues presta atención a los placeres mundanos en lugar de seguir el camino de la virtud. Aseguraos de que cortáis los lazos con los quehaceres mundanos durante estos tres días y haced la promesa de que las obras buenas realizadas aquí formarán parte de vuestras vidas. Aparte de las oraciones obligatorias y opcionales, debéis manteneros ocupados en el recuerdo constante de Dios.”

Refiriéndose al versículo del Santo Corán: “No habrá ninguna charla vana, transgresión, ni lucha alguna” durante los días de Hall, Hazur dijo que si acudimos al Yalsa con la idea de obrar de acuerdo con los principios divinos para preservarnos de los vicios, conseguiremos experimentar una reforma extraordinaria en nuestra conducta.

Después, hablando del modo de preservarse de las frivolidades, Hazur dijo: “Dios dice que los que adoran sinceramente a Dios se abstienen de las frivolidades. Refiriéndose al término “lagav” (frivolidad), Hazrat Jalfatul Masih I dijo que esta terminología abarca todo tipo de actividades absurdas, como la falsedad, la conducta inmoral, los juegos de azar, las charlas vanas y las críticas innecesarias. El Mesías Prometido dijo:

“Los creyentes que han alcanzado la verdadera salvación son aquellos que cortan las ligaduras de todas las actividades, palabras, obras, reuniones, relaciones y pasiones frívolas.” Hazur habló de la imagen de la gente que se dedicaba a jugar a las cartas durante el *Aitkaf*, y dijo: “Esto equivale prácticamente a ridiculizar a Dios. Hay gente que ni siquiera recibe influencia de los lugares y congregaciones sagradas”. Hazur dijo: “Dios está cerca de aquellos que se abstienen de las frivolidades y adoptan una buena moral y utilizan un lenguaje civilizado. Dios por Su gracia cubre nuestras faltas y no permite que nuestros defectos se expongan al público. Si no seguimos los elevados estándares del culto a Dios, nuestra moral no es digna de elogio, y si nos dedicamos a actividades frívolas nos convertimos en instrumentos de difamación del Mesías Prometido.” Finalmente, Hazur pidió para que Al-lah ayudara a todos a beneficiarse del Yalsa.

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## DEL SAGRADO CORÁN

“¡En la creación de los cielos y la tierra y en la sucesión de la noche y el día hay sin duda signos para los hombres sensatos;

Que se acuerdan de Al-lah cuando están de pie, sentados y tumbados sobre su costado, y meditan en la creación de los cielos y la tierra: “¡Señor nuestro, Tú no has creado esto en vano; no:

“¡Santificado eres Tú! ¡Sálvanos, pues, del castigo del Fuego!

“Señor nuestro, a quienquiera que hagas entrar en el Fuego lo cubres en verdad de oprobio. Pues los malvados no tendrán defensores.

“Señor nuestro, hemos oído a un Pregonero llamarnos a la fe: “Creed en vuestro Señor”, y hemos creído. Señor nuestro, perdónanos, pues, nuestros *pecados*, borra nuestras malas acciones y únenos a los justos a la hora de morir.

“Señor nuestro, danos lo que nos has prometido por medio de Tus Mensajeros; y no nos afrontes en el Día de la Resurrección. En verdad, Tú no incumples Tu promesa. ”

(C.3 Vs: 190-195)

## HADIZ (RELATOS DEL SANTO PROFETA<sup>SA</sup>)

“En una ocasión el Santo Profeta<sup>sa</sup> se acostó en una estera y al levantarse observamos las huellas de la estera en su cuerpo. Le dijimos: “¡Oh Profeta de Dios! ¿No es mejor que te preparemos un colchón blando?”

Contestó: “¿Qué relación tengo yo con este mundo y sus comodidades? En este mundo me puedo comparar a una persona montada en camello, que se detiene a descansar bajo un árbol y por la tarde abandona el lugar y reanuda su viaje.”

(de Abdullah bin Masud, Tirmidi)

## MALFUDAT (ESCRITOS DEL MESÍAS PROMETIDO)



Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad  
1935-1908

Pensar mal de otros es una actitud morbosa y distorsionada que destruye tan rápidamente la fe como el fuego a la yesca. El que convierte a los profetas en blanco de sus calumnias e insinuaciones hace que Dios mismo –Quien se levanta en defensa de sus profetas y muestra un celo incomparable en preservar el honor de sus amados- se convierta en enemigo suyo. Fue este mismo celo divino el que me protegió cuando fui atacado e injuriado de diversas maneras.

(Rohani Jazain, Vol. 20; Al Wassiyyat, pág. 26)

Digo en verdad que pensar mal del prójimo es un vicio muy grave que destruye la fe y aparta de la verdad, convirtiendo en enemigos a los amigos. Para alcanzar las excelentes virtudes de los *saddiqs* (persona que posee el rango espiritual más cercano al de los profetas) es necesario que la persona renuncie totalmente al hábito de pensar mal del prójimo. De obrar así inadvertidamente, deberá arrepentirse e implorar el perdón a Dios insistentemente, rogándole le libre de cometer tal pecado y de sus malas consecuencias, y no deberá restarle nunca importancia, pues es una enfermedad muy perniciosa que destruye rápidamente a su víctima.

(Malfudat Vol. 1, pág. 356)

Debéis sentir piedad hacia el prójimo y purificaros para que podáis compartir las cualidades del Espíritu Santo, pues sin él no se puede lograr la verdadera rectitud. Abandonad, pues, totalmente las pasiones y, para complacer a Dios, marchad por el más estrecho y tortuoso de todos los caminos. No os dejéis fascinar por las atracciones del mundo, que os alejan de Dios. Estad, más bien, dispuestos a sufrir por Su causa, pues el dolor que a Él complace es mejor que el placer que Le enoja y derrota que Le agrada es preferible a la victoria que suscita Su ira. Renunciad a los amores que provocan Su enfado. Si os acercáis a Él con el corazón puro, Él os ayudará de todas las maneras y ningún enemigo podrá infligiros daño alguno.

(Rohani Jazain, Vol. 20, pág. 307; Al-Wassiyyat, pág. 9)

## El Islam condena a los Yihadistas

### Las enseñanzas del Islam

El Santo Profeta del Islam (la paz y las bendiciones de Al-lah sean con él) dijo:

“Al-lah no será misericordioso con los que no son misericordiosos con la humanidad.” (Bujari)

“La bondad es una muestra de fe, y aquel que no sea bondadoso, no tiene fe alguna” (Muslim)

Las acciones perversas de los fanáticos, que cometen crueldades en el nombre del Islam, ha llevado a muchos a cuestionarse si el Islam defiende el terrorismo y la violencia. Sin embargo, la realidad es que el Islam y el terrorismo son polos opuestos ya que en el Islam no está justificada ninguna forma de extremismo .

La religión es una fuente de orientación que guía a la humanidad para permanecer en paz con Dios y con los demás. El Islam nos enseña que todos los profetas de Dios y todas las religiones trajeron el mismo mensaje de paz. Cualquier acción que origine desorden o destrucción se opone por completo a las enseñanzas de todos los profetas y, sin duda, a las enseñanzas del Islam. Por lo tanto, un musulmán es aquel que se esfuerza promover la paz en su entorno.

El extremismo, por tanto, se opone a todas las religiones en general, y al Islam en particular. El verdadero significado del Islam es ‘paz’, seguridad y una garantía de protección contra cualquier tipo de daño.

### ¿Encuentran apoyo en el Islam las acciones de los fanáticos tales como el Estado Islámico?

No. El Islam rechaza y condena rotundamente cualquier tipo y forma de terrorismo, ya sea llevado a cabo por individuos, grupos o gobiernos.

De hecho, según el Islam, ninguna religión puede autorizar la violencia y el derramamiento de sangre de hombres y niños inocentes en el nombre de Dios, ya que todas las religiones proceden de Dios, Quien envió a sus profetas para establecer la paz en el mundo. El Islam prescribe a todos los musulmanes mantener la paz. Este concepto está tan fuertemente arraigado al Islam que el Sagrado Corán describe a los verdaderos musulmanes como aquellos que:

“... caminan en la tierra con humildad, y cuando se dirigen a ellos los ignorantes, responden: “¡Paz!” (Sagrado Corán, 25: 64)

Además el Sagrado Corán defiende la santidad de la vida:

“... quien matara a una persona... sería como si hubiese matado a toda la humanidad; mas quien diera la vida a uno sería como si hubiese dado la vida a toda la humanidad.” (Sagrado Corán, 5:33)

En su famoso sermón de despedida, el Santo Profeta Mu-

hammad (la paz y las bendiciones de Al-lah sean con él) dijo que Dios ha santificado las vidas, propiedad y honor de todas las personas; declaró:

“... arrebatar la vida o la propiedad de alguien, o atacar su honor es tan injusto e incorrecto como violar la santidad de este día, este mes y este territorio” (Sihah Sitta)

Según esto queda muy claro que el extremismo y el terrorismo no encuentran ninguna justificación en las enseñanzas del Islam.

### ¿Permite el Islam los ataques suicidas?

No. En primer lugar, el Sagrado Corán expone claramente la prohibición de quitarse la vida.

“... Y no os matéis vosotros mismos. En verdad, Al-lah es misericordioso con vosotros. Mas a quien lo haga con iniquidad e injusticia, lo haremos entrar en el Fuego; es cosa fácil para Al-lah.” (3:30-31)

Esto deja muy claro que las enseñanzas del Islam prohíben y condenan el suicidio. Cuando el suicidio se utiliza como mecanismo para asesinar a alguien, se convierte en un pecado aún más grave. Los ataques suicidas, por lo tanto, son un acto abominable y atroz que no tiene justificación en las enseñanzas del Islam.

### ¿Es aceptable convertir forzosamente a otros al Islam?

No. El Sagrado Corán dice claramente que la humanidad tiene derecho a elegir libremente en cuestión de religión.

“No ha de existir coacción en la religión. Ciertamente, lo recto ha quedado separado de lo erróneo...” (2: 257)

A los musulmanes se les anima a difundir el mensaje del Islam de forma pacífica, con respeto y amor. El Sagrado Corán claramente indica que cada persona tiene la libertad elegir su propia creencia. Además, si alguien no cree en Dios, tiene el derecho a mantener ese punto de vista y, por ello, no se le puede obligar a cambiar o castigarle de ninguna manera. Según el Islam, cada persona debe rendir sus cuentas únicamente ante Dios. A los musulmanes se les recuerda, en el siguiente versículo del Sagrado Corán, que Dios ha otorgado ciertamente la libertad de credo a todos:

“Mas si tu Señor hubiese impuesto Su Voluntad, en verdad todos los que están en la tierra habrían creído juntos. ¿Obligarías, por tanto, a los hombres a hacerse creyentes?” (10:100)

Esto demuestra que el Islam defiende la libertad de religión universal, y que aquellos que cometen el mal, buscan únicamente satisfacer sus intereses egoístas, y sus puntos de vista distorsionados no tienen base alguna en la religión del Islam.

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## CONVENCIÓN ANUAL DE ALEMANIA, 2016

Más de 38.000 personas asistieron a la convención de tres días en Karlsruhe



El líder mundial de la Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadía, el Quinto Jalifa, Su Santidad Hazrat Mirza Masrur Ahmad concluyó la Convención Anual número 41 (Yalsa Salana) de la Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadía de Alemania el 4 de septiembre 2016 con un discurso inspirador y conmovedor.

Antes de la sesión, Su Santidad dirigió a más de 38.000 musulmanes áhmadis en una ceremonia de juramento a la comunidad (Bai'at).

Durante su discurso de clausura, Su Santidad dijo que la Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadía sigue creciendo y extendiéndose en el mundo, incluso en un momento como este en el que el interés por la religión está disminuyendo en gran parte del mundo.

Su Santidad dijo que, cada vez más, se alega que la religión es la causa principal de las guerras y los conflictos en el mundo de hoy, pero los musulmanes áhmadis creen que la ausencia de paz en el mundo se debe a que las personas se están alejando de la religión y de Dios Todopoderoso. Su Santidad, Hazrat Mirza Masrur Ahmad dijo:

“El terrorismo se ha extendido a Occidente y los ataques suicidas ahora están teniendo lugar aquí, y esto ha provocado un creciente temor al Islam en la mente de las personas. Tales atrocidades malignas están impulsando a la gente de fe a ayudar a aquellos que se oponen a la religión y que falsamente afirman que la religión es la causa del desorden de hoy día.” Su Santidad, Hazrat Mirza Masrur Ahmad continuó diciendo:

“En un momento en que el mundo considera la religión y la fe como el origen de las guerras y conflictos, nosotros

los musulmanes áhmadis creemos que la causa de tal malestar se debe a que las personas han abandonado la fe en Dios.” Hablando sobre las enseñanzas del Santo Corán, Su Santidad, Hazrat Mirza Masrur Ahmad dijo:

“Las enseñanzas del Sagrado Corán son universales y eternas, y han establecido los derechos de todas las personas, de todas las creencias, de todas las razas y de todas las naciones.”

Su Santidad citó extensamente los escritos del Fundador de la Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadía, Su Santidad, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (la paz sea con él) con respecto a los objetivos de la religión y de creencias. Su Santidad, Hazrat Mirza Masrur Ahmad dijo:

“El propósito de la religión es crear un vínculo de amor entre Dios y la humanidad. Es eliminar todos los prejuicios y el odio. Es establecer los más altos estándares de moralidad y justicia. La religión es el nombre de la institución que crea una unión de amor entre el hombre y su creador e inculca la solidaridad y la compasión entre todas las personas.”

Concluyendo su discurso, Su Santidad, Hazrat Mirza Masrur Ahmad dijo:

“Hoy en día, es la responsabilidad de los musulmanes áhmadis comprender y actuar sobre las verdaderas enseñanzas del Islam y posteriormente informar al mundo acerca de la necesidad y la importancia de la religión. Esta es la promesa que hemos hecho al Mesías Prometido (la paz sea con él) según la cual vamos a tratar de difundir el Islam verdadero y pacífico a lo largo y lo ancho del mundo.”

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