



ازالہ دین عند اللہ اسلام

لا اِلهَ اِلاَّ اللّٰهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللّٰهِ

# AHMADIYYA GAZETTE

An Official Organ of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Inc.

IHSAN-WAFA 1357 JAMADIUS SAANI-RAJAB-SHA'ABAN 1399 JUNE-JULY 1978

## LONDON CONFERENCE ENDED SUCCESSFULLY BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES INVITATION FOR DIALOGUE ACCEPTED

LONDON, U.K.:— The London Conference on the Deliverance of Jesus from the Cross, held here in the Commonwealth Institute on June 2-4, 1978, ended successfully with epoch making address of Hazrat Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih III, the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

More than 1500 people from all over the world, including envoys of Gambia, Sierra Leone, Mauritius, Liberia; two official observers from the Polish Roman Catholic Church and an observer of Catholic Archbishop of the United Kingdom were in attendance.

Scholars of various denominations presented their theses on different aspects of the theme of the conference.

Before the commencement of the conference, the British Council of Churches had issued a statement inviting the Ahma-

### KHALIFATUL MASIH'S HEALTH

The latest report received through the Daily Alfazl regarding the health of Hazrat Ameerul Momineen Khalifatul Masih III indicates that he is still in London and through the Grace of God is in good health. Members are requested to continue praying for his healthy, long and successful life.

diyya Muslim Community to a dialogue in London and elsewhere.

Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih III, accepted this invitation in the concluding portion of his historic address. He also invited other Christian Churches including the Roman Catholic Church to similar dialogues.

The relevant part of Khalifatul Masih's address is given below:

**REPLY BY THE HEAD OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY OF THE INVITATION**

"The newly-formed Committee of the British Council of Churches for Relationships with People of Other Faiths has issued a press statement with reference to the International Conference of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam on the Deliverance of Jesus from the Cross, in which it affirms its readiness to open a constructive dialogue with, among others, representatives of the Ahmadiyya Movement. The statement expresses the apprehension that the publicity given to the Conference "may ... cause offence." I desire to announce that in holding the Conference the Ahmadiyya Movement had meant no offence and none should be taken. Throughout the Conference, Jesus, in whom we believe as a righteous prophet and true messenger of God, was referred to in terms of the deepest respect and reverence.

The statement points out that there are doctrinal differences between the Ahmadiyya Movement and orthodox Islamic authorities. I wish to make it quite clear that all Islamic sects, despite their differences, are united on the Unity of God, the righteousness of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, on whom be peace and blessings of God, and on his being the Seal of the Prophets and the most exalted of them all. On the question of the Unity of God and the doctrine of Trinity there is no difference whatever between us.

It is further affirmed in the statement: "Our reluctance to make any public comment on the London Conference also stems from our awareness that Christianity has often indulged in aggressive and negative attacks on the central tenets of other religions, attacks of a sort comparable to these Ahmadiyya attacks on the central Christian tenet." While we agree that Christianity has often indulged in aggressive and negative attacks on the central tenets of other religions in language which was often open to serious objection, we

cannot agree that the belief of the Ahmadiyya Movement and its publication through a conference, or otherwise, that Jesus was an exalted divine messenger and that nothing should be attributed to him which should be inconsistent with high status as a divine messenger, is an aggressive and negative attack like the Christian attacks against the tenets of other religions.

The recognition by the Committee that "the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross may seem a scandal and an affront to divine justice" is a welcome announcement. This raises the hope that if the reality of these questions is expounded to our Christian brethren with love in the best manner possible, they would give up their wrong tenets and will recognize that the belief that Jesus died an accursed death on the cross and that an innocent one was punished for the sins of the guilty would not only "seem" but would truly be a scandal and an affront to divine justice.

We are happy that the British Council of Churches, through this Committee, has invited the Ahmadiyya Movement to conversations in the future in London and elsewhere on the differences between us.

We accept this invitation and agree that these conversations should be held in an atmosphere of love and courtesy. We propose that these conversations should be held in London, Rome, a West African Capital, an Asian Capital and in the United States of America, on dates and conditions to be agreed upon between the parties.

We would also welcome opportunities of dialogue with the representatives of the Roman Catholic Church on the doctrinal differences between us, either separately or in combination with other Christian Churches, including the British Council of Churches."

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE 31ST ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY

Dayton, Ohio (By Yusuf Ameen): The Annual Convention of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam commenced on Saturday morning, May 27, 1978, at the Model Cities Community Center in Dayton, Ohio.

Attending this convention were more than 400 persons, including foreign Ahmadi delegates from Canada and Nigeria.

Among the visitors in attendance was the Mayor of Dayton, the Honorable James McGee.

Presiding at the first session was the National President, Rashid Ahmad.

Opening remarks at this convention were made by the Honorable James McGee, Mayor of Dayton, who extended a hearty welcome to the Ahmadi delegates and stated that Ahmadies have done an outstanding job in helping to make Dayton a better place to live, and that Ahmadies have always been a peaceful and positive influence in the community.

Dr. Laeeq Ahmad officially opened the convention with a beautiful recitation from the Holy Quran. This was followed by a brief welcoming address by Al-Haj Muzaffar Ahmad Zafr, President of the Dayton Jamaat.

Imam Masud Ahmad, East Coast Missionary and Convention Secretary, read messages sent to the delegates attending the convention by Khalifatul Masih III and Hazrat Mirza Mubarak Ahmad, Wakilut Tabshir.

In his message to the convention, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih reminded the delegates that the Annual Convention is the occasion when we should take stock of the situation and see how far we have come toward attaining the objectives set before us by Ahmadiyyat, individually and collectively. To this, Huzur added: "You have the unique honor of being the pioneers in this field in America. Hence great responsi-

bility rests on your shoulders. As torch bearers of Islam, your conduct should practically reflect what a true Muslim is like in all matters, spiritual and mundane."

Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad, Wakilut Tabshir, in his message said: "May God bless the occasion and may He enable you to turn it to the greatest advantage of Islam. I hope you will review the work done in the previous year for advancing Islam in the USA, and will make appropriate plans for carrying it forward in the next year." (See page for complete texts of the messages.)

The Inaugural Convention speech was then made by Imam Ata Ullah Kaleem, Missionary Incharge of the USA. It was an inspiring speech, during which Imam Kaleem emphasized that in all circumstances Ahmadies are to maintain faith in God that the promises of God will be fulfilled. Imam Kaleem then quoted prophecies of the Promised Messiah (a.s.) about the eventual victory of Islam, and stated the Promised Messiah's exhortation that all members of his community, and all believers in Islam, should strive unceasingly for the victory of Islam. In conclusion, Imam Kaleem cited the attendance of the Ahmadies at the convention as a sign of the truth of Ahmadiyyat and the prophecies of the Promised Messiah. Imam Kaleem then led collective prayer for the success of the convention.

The Ahmadies assembled then heard a speech by Bro. Mubashar Ahmad entitled **Islamic Teachings for Parents**. Using a well-prepared outline, Bro. Mubashar emphasized the primary Islamic values to be maintained by parents in rearing their children. In his very informative and inspiring speech, Bro. Mubashar explained the value of prayers, proper home atmosphere, respect, education, and good example. Mentioned and explained also by Bro.

Mubashar were the Islamic injunctions that parents provide children with good, simple sustenance and try to instill in them a spirit of service, sacrifice and tolerance. Discipline, said Bro. Mubashar, is an indispensable factor in a child's development and progress, and it is discipline that brings progress to people on the national level.

Haji Baiyewu Malik Olatoye, a visiting Ahmadi delegate from Nigeria, gave a brief talk on current projects by Ahmadies in Nigeria. Haji stated that Nigeria has more than 100,000 Ahmadies and plans are underway to build 10 new mosques, a school, and a local community (township) in Nigeria. Cited also was the progress being made in the publication of Ahmadi literature in Nigeria.

Bro. Munawar Saeed, President, Washington D.C. Jamaat, then gave a speech entitled **Blessings of Khilafat**. In his very scholarly and informative discourse, Bro. Munawar stated that Khilafat is an institution established by Allah. He quoted prophecies by the Promised Messiah that progress would come again through the institution of Khilafat, which would be a second manifestation of Allah's power and glory, in the manner of the first manifestation that occurred in the days of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.s.). Continuing, Bro. Saeed cited signs of progress through Khilafat — as prophesied by the Promised Messiah — that can be seen today in the cohesion and collective striving of the Ahmadiyya community throughout the world in working for the victory of Islam, and the emphasis in Ahmadiyyat on teaching of the Holy Quran. In this connection, he cited characteristics of communities guided by Khilafat as opposed to communities without the blessings and benefits of Khilafat.

The assembly then heard a speech by Imam Abdur Rashid Yahya entitled **Life After Death**. Imam Yahya, using numer-

ous references from the Holy Quran, set forth many of the sound, reasoned concepts of Islam regarding life in the Hereafter, cited teachings of the Promised Messiah (a.s.) explaining life after death and supported these teachings by quoting pertinent Hadiths.

Following brief announcements, the first session of the Annual Ahmadiyya Convention was ended.

## SECOND SESSION

Session II of the Annual Convention commenced following Salat ul Zuhur and Salat ul Asar, with Bro. Muhammad Sadiq, President Teaneck N.J. Jamaat, presiding.

Bro. Sardar Rafiq Ahmad opened the session with an excellent recitation from the Holy Quran, which he followed with a translation.

Bro. Mansoor Ahmad then recited in Urdu a poem of the Promised Messiah, extolling the excellences of Islam and of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.s.), and translated the poem into English.

Bro. Nuruddin Abdul Latif gave a speech entitled **Reforms by the Promised Messiah**. In this well-prepared and scholarly discourse, Bro. Nuruddin explained the significance of the statement of prophecy by the Promised Messiah (a.s.) that Allah, in bringing about the victory of Islam in the Latter Days, would effect essentially a new heaven and a new earth. Bro. Nuruddin proceeded to elaborate on how the Promised Messiah (a.s.) initiated the reformation which constitutes a real revolution through Islam.

Bro. Abid Haneef, President of the Boston Jamaat gave a speech entitled **Latest Findings About Jesus**. He cited the newly-renewed interest throughout the world in what happened to Jesus following the Crucifixion, reminding the assembly that it was the Promised Messiah (a.s.) who, before this century began, stated that Jesus did not die on the cross. Bro.

Haneef explained the significance of the Shroud of Turin as evidence of Jesus' survival from crucifixion, and how the evidence has been developed through scientifically made photographic examinations of the shroud in this age.

The assembled delegates then heard the speech of Bro. Yahya Sharif Abdullah, President of York, Pa, Jamaat, entitled **Our Living Quran**. In his inspiring and thought-provoking speech, Bro. Yahya stated that the Holy Quran is a living book from a living God, and went on to elucidate the excellences of the Holy Quran as an all-comprehensive guide for man, in all facets of life, here and in the hereafter. Bro. Yahya then recalled some profound statements by the Promised Messiah (a.s.) about the priceless value of the Holy Quran to mankind.

Bro. Falahuddin Shams then gave a speech entitled **Prophecies of the Scriptures on the Advent of the Promised Messiah**. In his well-prepared and well-researched talk, he used numerous references from the Holy Quran and from the Christian Bible in firm support of the claim by the Promised Messiah (a.s.) to represent the second coming of Jesus.

Bro. Bashir Afzal, President of the New York Jamaat, gave a speech entitled **How and Why I became an Ahmadi**. He recounted in detail the events which led him to find, examine and embrace Ahmadiyyat. In his very interesting recollections, Bro. Afzal stated that he had been a Baptist until embracing Ahmadiyyat, but was unable to find full satisfaction until he embraced Ahmadiyyat. Bro. Afzal cited upheavals that occurred in the ranks of Ahmadies soon after his conversion, and how he was strengthened in faith by passing through these trials.

After brief announcements, Session II of the Annual Convention was adjourned.

## FINAL SESSION

On Sunday morning, May 28, Session III of the Annual Convention commenced with Imam Ata Ullah Kaleem, Missionary Incharge, presiding.

Session III was opened with recitation from the Holy Quran by Bro. Abid Haneef, President of the Boston Jamaat. This was followed by recitation of a poem by the Promised Messiah (a.s.) by Bro. Sardar Rafiq Ahmad.

Imam Masud Ahmad, East Coast Missionary, gave a speech entitled **Significance of Prayers**. In an informative and inspiring talk, Imam Masud presented profound passages from the works of the Promised Messiah (a.s.) wherein the Promised Messiah explained that prayer can and should be a direct and on-going connection between man and God, whereby man can attain the love and grace of Allah. In his talk, Imam Masud read teachings by the Promised Messiah on how to pray effectively to attain the blessings and nearness of Allah.

The assembly then heard an excellent discourse by National President Rashid Ahmad entitled **Miracles of the Promised Messiah**. In his speech, Bro. Rashid said that the most important miracle for a prophet is the success of the prophet's mission, this success being provided by Allah. This miracle, said he, is more important than many so-called miracles in the prophet's life which hold people in awe. Bro. Rashid went on to give numerous instances wherein spectacular changes have been brought about in the affairs of people throughout the world, only through the teachings and works of the Promised Messiah, by the grace and power of Allah. He said: "When a man's heart becomes filled with the love of God just through reading the works of the Promised Messiah, this is a miracle brought about by God."

The next speech was given by Al-Haj

Muzaffar Ahmad Zafr, President of the Dayton Jamaat, on **Islamic Morals**. He called attention to the need for Ahmadies to separate themselves from the detrimental influences of the Western world in order to be better moral and spiritual examples for mankind. In particular, he called attention to tendencies in our community for Ahmadies — especially women — to mimic western women in dress, attitudes and habits in order to be accepted in a corrupt society. Bro. Zafar called for Ahmadies to remember and return to the values enjoined by Islam, and emphasized that — in the Ahmadi family — it is the duty of the husband and father to uphold Islamic values.

Imam Ata Ullah Kaleem gave the concluding speech, wherein he first stated that it was the Grace of Allah that the conven-

tion had been a success and expressed appreciation to the Dayton Jamaat, commending those persons who had striven to make the convention a success.

Addressing the main subject of his speech, Imam Kaleem explained the qualities which mark a true believer, using numerous references from the Holy Quran. Imam Kaleem emphasized that good works, done in accordance with the injunctions of Allah, determine whether or not one is a believer, and not mere lip service. Said Imam Kaleem: "This is a time to think upon the exhortations we have heard from the speakers at this convention and see if we are meeting the standards set by the Promised Messiah (a.s.)."

After concluding his speech, Imam Kaleem led collective prayer and the convention was closed with collective prayer.

### MESSAGE FROM HAZRAT HAFIZ MIRZA NASIR AHMAD, KHALIFATUL MASIH III TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 31ST ANNUAL CONVENTION OF JAMAAT IN USA

Dear Brethren:

Assalamo Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahe  
Wa Barakatohu

I understand that you are holding your Annual Convention from 26th to 28th May at Dayton. May ALLah bless your gathering and make it a success in every way.

On this occasion I would like to remind you that according to the writings of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) the Truth shall ultimately triumph in the near future and Islam shall flourish as it did in the past. As predicted by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) the light of Islam shall shine forth with full refulgence from the West. There is no doubt about it. It has been definitely ordained by the Almighty. Those who have eyes and ears can discern its signs both in the heavens and on the earth.

But that auspicious day will not dawn

until our hearts bleed with concern, until we forsake our comforts and take our sacrifices to their maximum. The rejuvenation of Islam demands that we sacrifice our lives in its cause. On that depends the rebirth of Islam.

The Annual Convention is the occasion when you should take stock of the situation and see how far you have succeeded in attaining that objective, individually and collectively. You have the unique honor of being the pioneers in this field in America. Hence great responsibility rests on your shoulders. As torch bearers of Islam your conduct should practically reflect what a true Muslim is like in all matters, spiritual and mundane.

About the believers, the Holy Quran says that when their attention is drawn to any message from Allah and His Apostle (peace be on him), they say: "We have heard and we obey." Remember! Islam is

nothing but complete submission to the will of Allah. May Allah grant you the will, the courage and the wisdom to do the needful. Ameen!

Rabwah, May 8, 1978

(Signed)

Khalifatul Masih III

\*\*\*\*\*

### MESSAGE FROM VAKILUT TABSHIR

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Assalamo Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahe Wa Barakatohu

I am delighted to know that you are holding your Annual Convention in May, 1978. May God bless the occasion and may He enable you to turn it to the greatest advantage of Islam.

As is usual on these occasions, I hope you will review the work done in the previous year for advancing Islam in the USA, and will make appropriate plans for carrying it forward in the next year.

I may remind you of the basic thing in this context. I think the main aim of the advent of the Promised Messiah in our time was to bring mankind back to God.

He has stressed upon it repeatedly in his writings. Humanity had drifted away from its Creator and courted death. The Promised Messiah came to join it again to God and so to invigorate it with a fresh life.

Now this is the point which I want you to ponder upon. Have you freed yourself from evil ways? Have you cast away from you the worldly shackles? Have you cleansed yourself of the earthly dirt? Are you striving to realize God in yourself? Are you trying to apprehend the attributes of Almighty Allah and to make them your own qualities?

If you are not doing this, then I am afraid you have not fully understood the message of the Promised Messiah. He wants you to become Godly, to reflect His attributes in your personality, to react in every situation as God Almighty would react. I pray you may think on these lines and try to reflect God on this earth. May God Almighty enable you to do so.

Rabwah, May 3, 1978

(Signed)

Mirza Mubarak Ahmad

### TO ALL THE PRESIDENTS OF JAMAATS FROM MISSIONARY INCHARGE

Dear Brethren:

The following is the translation of the letter dated June 6, 1978, received from London and written by Sahibzada Mirza Anas Ahmad, the Private Secretary of Hazrat Ameerul Momineen Khalifatul Masih III.

"A photostat copy of the letter from the British Council of Churches is enclosed herewith along with the reply given to this letter by Khalifatul Masih III, at the concluding portion of his historic Address in the London Conference on **Deliverance of Jesus from the Cross**, on June 4, 1978.

"Please make necessary arrangements to get the reply of Khalifatul Masih published in the press and in the circles of the churches of your country. The result of the efforts regarding the publication of the reply must be informed accordingly."

The letter is self explanatory. Hence

you are requested to get the reply of Khalifatul Masih published in the press of your area and despatch four copies of each publication to this office for necessary transmission to Khalifatul Masih.

As far as the circulation of this reply in the circle of churches is concerned, I am enclosing herewith a copy of the letter addressed to the Church leader, which could be printed or xeroxed and sent to all the churches of your area along with the invitation letter from the British Council of Churches and its reply by Khalifatul Masih III.

Please try your utmost in complying with all the instructions mentioned in this circular and inform me of your activities in this respect at your earliest convenience. Jazakomullah.

Ata Ullah Kaleem  
Missionary Incharge

## THE BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

2 EATON GATE LONDON SW1W 9BL Tel 01-730 9611 Cables Koinonia London SW1

President  
Honorary President  
Vice-Presidents

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY  
THE REVD DR ERNEST A. PAYNE, CH  
THE REVD DR R. D. ERIC GALLAGHER  
MRS W. D. HART  
THE REVD BERNARD G. THOROGOOD

Chairman, Executive  
Committee  
General Secretary  
Honorary Treasurer

THE REVD DR KENNETH G. GREET  
THE REVD HARRY O. MORTON  
MR BRIAN L. WORTH, FCA

To Mr B.A.Rafiq,  
Imam of the London Mosque,  
16 Gressenhall Road,  
London S.W.18

May 25th 1978

Dear Mr Rafiq,

I am sending to you a copy of a statement which we are putting out from the British Council of Churches about the International Conference which you are holding next week in London.

We want you to have a copy straightaway and before the matter appears in the press. We would not like you to pick up some distorted version of what we have said.

May I draw your attention to the wish which we have expressed (in the second of the three points at the end of the full statement) that some time in the future we may be able to have conversations between some representatives of your Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and some representatives of our Committee members from the British Churches.

yours sincerely

*Cecil Hargreaves*

(Rev. Cecil Hargreaves)

## STATEMENT FROM THE BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ON THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM CONFERENCE IN LONDON, 2nd TO 4th JUNE 1978

The first meeting of the newly-formed British Council of Churches' Committee for Relationships with People of Other Faiths on the 23rd May has offered guidance to Christians in responding to the International Conference of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Movement in Britain, 2nd to 4th June, at the Commonwealth Institute, London.

The Committee affirms its readiness for open and constructive dialogue with peoples of other faiths and ideologies including the Ahmadiyya Movement. It recognises that the publicity given to the Conference may stir up controversy and cause perplexity and offence. On behalf of the Christians of Britain it re-affirms the faith of the Christian Church that Jesus died on the Cross in Jerusalem, was buried, on the third day was raised by God, and is alive for evermore.

(Further details are attached)

Enquiries may be directed to:

Dr. David Kerr                      Selly Oak Colleges  
   Birmingham  
Rt. Rev. David Brown      Bishop of guiford

\*\*\*\*\*

The full statement of the Committee reads as follows:

"We note that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Movement in Britain has organized a conference in London from 2nd to 4th June, on the theme **Deliverance of Jesus from the Cross**. We read that topics to be discussed at the conference centre around one of the principle tenets of the 89 year old Ahmadiyya Movement, that Jesus was taken down from the cross by his disciples, and after recovering from his wounds travelled secretly to Iran, Afghanistan and Kashmir, eventually dying a natural death in Kashmir, and being buried in a tomb still to be found in Srinagar today. We recall that the Ahmadiyya

Movement came into existence in the closing decades of the nineteenth century, in the Eastern Punjab region of the Indian sub-continent, and that the movement began as a result of the preaching and activities of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.

We are reluctant to make any public comment on the London conference. Orthodox Islamic authorities have for a long time repudiated as non-Quranic the Ahmadiyya claim that Jesus died a natural death after going to Kashmir: orthodox Muslims in London should therefore perhaps be the ones to do any necessary commenting on this London conference and its theme. Our reluctance also stems from our awareness that Christianity has often indulged in aggressive and negative attacks on the central tenets of other religions, attacks of a sort comparable to these Ahmadiyya attacks on the central Christian tenet: we do not wish to appear over-defensive when such attacks are directed at us.

However, in view of the publicity given to this conference in a way calculated to stir up controversy, we feel bound to make three comments:

1. We reaffirm our belief in the historicity of the crucifixion and death of Jesus which is attested by the four gospels and by the unanimous testimony of early Christian tradition: We recognise that the death of Jesus Christ on the cross may seem a scandal and an affront to divine justice, but we believe that in the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross we see the love of God which suffers on behalf of others and which does not forgive without a cost:
2. we look forward to conversations in the future (in an unpublicised setting) between Muslims of the Ahmadiyya Movement and Christians, in London and elsewhere, for a mutual sharing of

convictions on the meaning of God's compassionate and merciful nature, and on questions relating to the significance of Jesus:

3. although we do not agree that there is a firm evidence for any visit by Jesus to Central Asia or the Indian sub-continent, we fully accept the fact that

the figure of Jesus, whom we believe to be the living Christ, belongs to all nations and countries, and that all links between the Christian movement and different cultures in the early centuries should be taken seriously and explored."

\*\*\*\*\*

For a reply of this statement by the Khalifatul Masih III, please see page 2 of this Gazette.

### LETTER MEANT FOR CHURCH AUTHORITIES IN THE USA

My Dear Reverend:

I would like to take this opportunity to address you and the members of your church on a subject which is of paramount importance for all of us. That subject is the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) and his deliverance from the accursed death on the Cross, to which the jews wanted to put him.

There are three viewpoints about this historic event:

1. That Jesus died on the Cross. This view is held by the jews and the Christians.
2. That Jesus was never put on the Cross, but was bodily raised to the heaven. This view is held by some orthodox Muslims.
3. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, which I have the honor to represent in the United States, believes that Jesus was put on the Cross, but God saved him from the accursed death by so planning that he was removed from the Cross while unconscious, but still alive. After recovering from his wounds, he departed from Judea in search of the "lost sheep of the house of Israel", the purpose for which he had been sent (Matthew 15:24). He lived to a ripe old age, died and was buried in Srinagar, Kashmir, India.

The Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Community in Islam gave cogent arguments in his writings that these views are

not only consistent with the Holy Quran but also with the Bible. In brief:

- i. Jesus being a beloved of God, could not have suffered the accursed death on the Cross, because that would give the Jews proof that he was an imposter. It is written in Deuteronomy (21:23) "for he that is hanged is accursed of God."
- ii. Jesus did not want to die the accursed death. When his opponents planned to kill him, "Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness" (John 11:54). He even "did hide himself from them" (John 12:36). Nevertheless when he realized that the earthly means of his security could not be of any avail, he turned to God and asked his disciples to do the same. "Abba. Father, all things are possible unto thee", he implored, "take away this cup from me" (Mark 14:36). Supplications similar to this are also recorded in Matthew (26:39) and Luke (22:42). These supplications were offered in such agony that "his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (Luke 22:44). Jesus tells us: "And I knew that Thou hearest me always" (John 11:42). How could God not hear the supplications made with such agony and earnestness?
- iii. Jesus Christ had himself prophesied

that he would be delivered from the accursed death of the Cross, just as Jonas was delivered from the belly of the whale, "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall be no sign given to it but the sign of the prophet Jonas; For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:39-40). Thus Jesus told his opponents that the only sign he was going to show them was his miraculous escape from death in a manner similar to the escape of Jonas from the belly of the whale.

The fact that Jesus did not die on the Cross has been further attested by the scientific studies of the Holy Shroud at Turin, Italy. For instance, the scientists have observed that the Holy Shroud includes blood stains which were absorbed into the cloth. This also proves that Jesus was alive when taken down from the Cross. (For details of this study see Kurt Berna, *Christ Did Not Perish on the Cross*, Hicksville, New York: Exposition Press).

Views of Ahmadi Muslims on this subject were presented at the "International Conference on Deliverance of Jesus from the Cross", held on June 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1978, at the Commonwealth Institute, London.

Before the commencement of the conference, the British Council of Churches issued a statement inviting the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to a dialogue in London and elsewhere. Copies of the letter from the Council along with the Press statements made by the British Council of Churches are attached herewith.

His Holiness Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Third Successor to the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, and the present Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim

Community, accepted this invitation in his concluding portion of his historic address at the above mentioned London Conference on June 4th, 1978. He also invited other Christian churches including the Roman Catholic Church to a similar dialogue.

The copy of the reply to the invitation made in the Conference by the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is also attached herewith for your perusal.

I hereby extend the invitation to your Church to enter into a dialogue with the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam and would be happy to convey your response to the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Further, I and other representatives of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the United States in their respective areas would be glad to address your congregation on this subject and on the message of Islam in general. The following books on this subject are available at the American Fazl Mosque:

1. Jesus In India by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (\$1.50)
2. Where Did Jesus Die? by Maulana J.D. Shams (\$1.00)
3. Jesus Did Not Perish On the Cross by Kurt Berna (\$10.00)
4. Jesus Died in Kashmir by A. Faber-Kaiser (\$8.00)

All praise belongs to God, the Lord of all the worlds.

Yours in His service,  
Ata Ullah Kaleem.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER GETS QURAN

Ottawa: Mr. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada, received a number of gifts on the completion of ten years as Prime Minister. Among the gifts is a copy of the Holy Quran, Arabic text with English translation. This precious gift was despatched to him by Mr. Zakaria M. Virke of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam of  
(continued on page 14, col. 2)

**ISLAM PREACHED ON TV****YORK, PA:**

A one hour live program of presenting Islam to the TV viewers on channel 7 was conducted here by Dr. Louis J. Hammann, Associate Professor of Religion at the Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pa.

The panel members were Imam Ata Ullah Kaleem, the Missionary Incharge of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in USA, Bro. Yahya Sharif Abdullah, National Qaid Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya USA, Bro. Rasul Abdul Muhaimin, General Secretary, York Ahmadiyya Jamaat, and of course Dr. Louis Hammann.

The program started with Azan — call to prayers — done in melodious voice by Mr. Hamid Ahmad Bhatti of York Jamaat. This was followed by congregational prayers of two Rak'ats led by Maulvi M.A. Rashid Yahya, Deputy Imam of the American Fazl Mosque, Washington, D.C. The Deputy Imam recited Sura Fateha along with other chapters loudly in both Rak'ats. Mr. Hamid Bhatti, his two sons and a son of Bro. Yahya Sharif Abdullah participated in the congregational prayers.

When the demonstration of prayer was completed, all the members of the panel introduced themselves to the viewers and Imam Kaleem explained briefly the Azan and the prayers performed in congregation.

Dr. Hammann read a short treatise on the historical background of Islam and its preceptor, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him), and then asked Imam Kaleem to describe in a nutshell the beliefs of Islam, which he did accordingly. This was followed by a question to Bro. Rasul Abdul Mohaimin to narrate the practices of Islam or what is called the five pillars of Islam, and it was answered in quite appropriate manner.

Again, Imam Kaleem was asked by Dr. Hammann to explain shortly what is Ah-

madiyyat and what are its distinctive features; and he threw a considerable light on this subject. This was followed by Bro. Yahya Sharif Abdullah in giving the history of York Jamaat and its activities regarding the spiritual, moral and educational uplift of the area.

Then the general discussion regarding the claim of the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam as the Promised Messiah was shared by all the members of the panel, and the following points were elucidated.

1. The claim of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad as Messiah for the Christians, Mahdi for the Muslims and expected Messenger of all other nations.
2. The fulfillment of the prophecy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him) regarding the eclipses of the sun and the moon during the month of Ramadhan on prescribed dates, as sign for the truthfulness of Imam Mahdi.
3. The spiritual dual of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) with Dr. John Alexander Dowie of Zion, Illinois, and ultimate victory of the Promised Messiah.
4. The second advent of Christ in the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad in accordance with the interpretation of Jesus Christ (peace be on him) regarding the second advent of the Elijah in the person of John the Baptist.

The program was concluded with the recitation of the first six verses of Surah Al-Baqarah (second chapter of the Holy Quran) and their translation by Mr. Hamid Ahmad Bhatti. AlHamdo Lillah!

\*\*\*\*\*

## JAMAATS REPORTS

### CONCORD, Calif:

Weekly meetings were held wherein the Dars of the Commentary of the Holy Quran, the Hadith and that of Tazkirah were carried out. The Lajna Ima Allah also held their meetings regularly.

A total of nine persons were contacted individually and the message of Islam was conveyed to them. Two non Muslims visited the Center. Two Christians and one non Ahmadi family were provided with the Movement's literature. Seven additional copies of the Holy Quran were requested by the libraries and they were furnished accordingly. Besides, four copies of the Holy Quran were distributed to non-Ahmadies. Two Khuddam and one Lajna member are taking lessons in Quran.

### TROY, Ohio.

A symposium entitled **New Discoveries About the Life and Death of Jesus of Nazareth** was held at the Kennedy Hall in Troy. Two articles were published in the Troy Daily News. Individual preaching efforts continued, wherein members introduced various Islamic concepts to friends, relatives and co-workers.

The Quran class was conducted every Monday, and the Jamaat Business meeting was held once in a month.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

Bro. Malik Daud and Sister Ameena have been blessed with a baby boy. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III has given the name of Nasir Ahmad to the new born, hence, the child would be called Nasir Ahmad Bin Daud. May Allah bless the baby and enable the parents to bring the child up as a true Ahmadi Muslim. Ameen!

Bro. Daud held an Aqeeqa party at his residence in Reston, Va. Members of the Jamaat as well as a great number of non Muslims of the neighborhood were invited.

The special feature of this Aqeeqa party was the distribution of one dozen copies of the Holy Quran along with scores of books on Islam to almost all the non Muslim invitees.

Imam Kaleem in his short speech described the significance of Aqeeqa in Islam. He also explained the teachings of Islam regarding the pure nature of each child at his birth and exhorted the members to retain the purity by bringing the children up in accordance with the teachings of Islam.

## ISLAMIC LITERATURE FOR CONGRESSMEN

**Milwaukee, Wis:** Sister Mubarika Malik, a sincere Ahmadi lady, who presented the Holy Quran to Mr. Jerry Ford during his tenure of office as President of the United States, has presented copies of the Holy Quran along with other books on Islam to Congressman Robert W. Kasten, Jr., 9th Congressional District, Milwaukee.

She has also presented two books on Islam to Mr. James Cummings Jr., National Black Republican Council Chairman, Washington D.C.

The presentation was filmed on TV, Channel 4, Milwaukee.

## MIAN MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM IS BACK

**Dayton, Ohio:** Imam Mian Muhammad Ibrahim, the Regional Missionary for Mid-West Region, who went to Pakistan last year after serving almost five years as Missionary of Islam in the USA, has returned here to resume his duties. May Allah bless his return to the country and empower him to serve Islam more devotedly and diligently than even in his previous term. Ameen!

## THE PROMISED MESSIAH ON CHANDA — SUBSCRIPTION

“Let every member of our Jamaat make a pledge that he would regularly pay a certain amount as subscription, Allah the Exalted blesses the sustenance of the person who makes a pledge for His sake... There are many who are unaware of the collection of subscriptions. Such people must be advised that if they had true relationship they should make a covenant with God the Exalted that they will pay regularly a certain amount of subscription. The ignorants should also be advised that they should render complete obedience. If they cannot make even this pledge then what is the use of their calling themselves the members of this community...

“So, if any one refuses to make this pledge he should be excommunicated. He is a hypocrite and his heart is darkened... This covenant is with God and it must be honored, and to go against it is an act of treachery...

“Hence, I stress upon every one of you whether present here or not to keep your brethren informed of (the importance of) subscription. Urge even those who lack in resources to pay subscription. Such an opportunity will never come again. What a blessed period is this that none is asked to sacrifice his life. This is an age, not of sacrificing lives, but only of spending wealth in accordance with one's capacity...

“The person who pays modest amount but does so regularly is better than the one who offers more but only occasionally.

“And the entire community must see that all types of help is rendered to this Movement. There should not be any laxity in assisting the Movement financially. Take note of the fact that there is not a single Movement in the world which can run without subscription. The subscriptions were collected during the periods of the Holy Prophet, Hazrat Moses and Hazrat Isa and all other Messengers. Hence, it

is essential for the people of our Jamaat to be watchful in this respect...

“What can we expect from a person who does not assist this Movement according to his capability with a few cents. How does the Movement benefit from his membership? An ordinary man, however impoverished he might be, when he goes to the market he does take something for himself and his children in accordance with his financial position. Then what about this Movement which has been established by God the Exalted with magnificent objectives? Is it not worthy enough for expenditure of a few cents. Has there ever been or is there any Movement in the world now, whether secular or spiritual, which can run without finance...

“There are some who make pledge of allegiance and solemnly promise that they would give precedence to religion over the worldly affairs, yet when the need arises they maintain a tight grip on their pockets. Can any one achieve any religious objective with such ardent love of the world? Can the membership of these people ever benefit the Movement? Never. Allah the Exalted says:

LAN TANALUL BIRRA HATTA  
TUNFEQOO MIMMA TOHIBBOON

As long as you do not sacrifice your most cherished possessions in the path of Allah the Exalted, you cannot achieve virtue.

(Malfoozat, pp. 38-42)

(Malfoozat — Pronouncements of the Promised Messiah)

\*\*\*\*\*

(Continued from page 11)

Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Acknowledging the gift per his letter dated May 25, 1978, to Mr. Zakaria, the Prime Minister wrote: “I am very pleased indeed to have this memento which you kindly presented to me on the completion of my ten years as Prime Minister.”

## QUESTION AND ANSWER

(This answer was given by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II. May Allah be pleased with him)

**Q. What do the souls do in Hades?**

A. "Hades" is a greek word and is a translation of the Hebrew word 'Sheol'. Sheol means the state or place, whether good or bad, wherein reside the souls after their severance from their bodies. This word is used in this sense in the beginning of the New Testament. In the Acts of the Apostles it has been used in a bad sense, then it has continued to be used. I do not know to which meaning of this word you refer — whether you take it to mean hell or only life after death. If you take it to mean hell, then the Quran says: "The relation of a soul to its dwelling place in hell is such as a child bears towards its mother." The mother takes a weak and invisible germ, keeps it in her womb for nine months, and after removing many of its frailties and weaknesses, brings it into the world to enjoy life. This description of the development of the human soul in the womb, according to Islam, fully applies to hell. It is neither purely a jail nor wholly a school. It is a jail and a hospital combined. Just as in the womb of the mother a child eats foods which are considered unclean and abominable, and is deprived of all air and light which are essential for its life; just as sometimes in order to protect eyes from the glare of the sun they are bandaged because a diseased eye has to remain in darkness, similarly hell prepares man for that real natural abode for which he has been created. When his preparation for a life in the paradise becomes complete, he leaves hell and goes to his eternal place of living.

If you mean "Hades" to be "life after death", then after having described the process through which the soul passes in

hell, I may tell you that in paradise it will continue to attain the stages of the nearness of God. The struggle for betterment will continue in the next world as it goes on in this world with this difference that there will be no fear of failure, no tiresomeness, no lack of perseverance. After having attained a certain stage of perfection, a definite path lies open to him which, he is perfectly convinced, is the right way and which under no circumstances he is prepared to give up. So he goes on and on without pausing to see this way or that and without halting and hesitating to look backwards. He is perfectly satisfied and has not the least desire for any change in his position save for a change which may lead to a still higher stage on this road. He works harder than in this world because he sees the object of his quest before him.

\*\*\*\*\*

### A SINGLE PILLAR OF CHRISTIANITY

The Promised Messiah Says:

The day you would prove the Messiah (Jesus Christ) among the dead, the very day you know it for certain that Christianity has vanished from the world. Understand it certainly that as long as their God is not proved dead their religion cannot be exterminated. All other discussions with them are useless.

There is a single pillar of their religion and that is this that Jesus son of Mary is still alive in heaven. Break down this pillar into pieces and then see how Christianity disappears from the surface of the earth.

As God the Supreme too is determined to infuse Unity (of God) in Europe and Asia after crushing their pillar, hence He has sent me and disclosed to me through His special revelation that the Messiah son of Mary had passed away. And this is the revelation: The Messiah son of Mary the

Messenger of God had passed away and in accordance with the promise you have come in his likeness. (IZA)

(IZALAE AUHAM, p. 302)

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW ARRIVALS IN LITERATURE

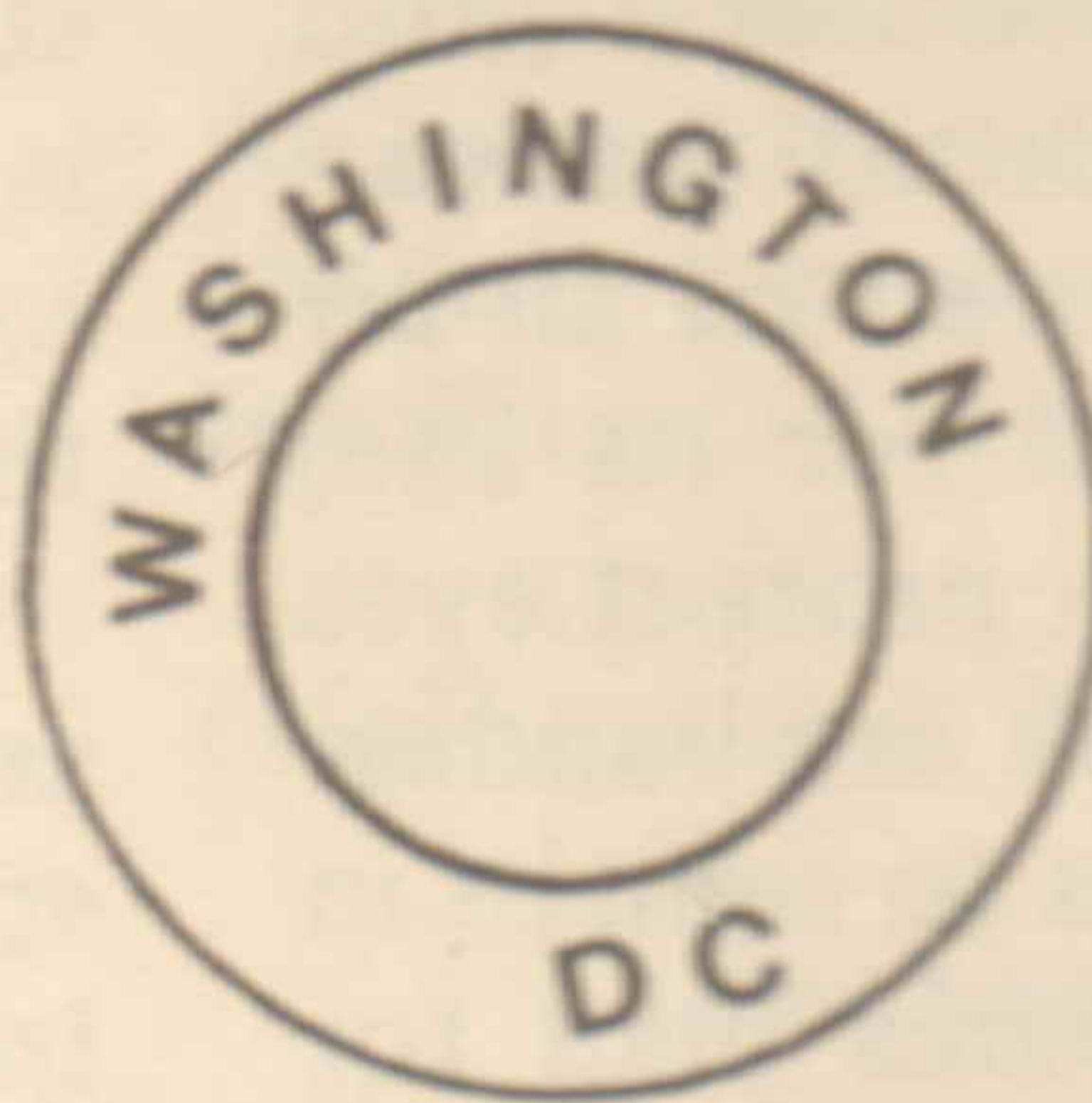
Jesus in India	Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad	\$1.50
Where Did Jesus Die	Maulana J. D. Shams	1.00
Islam on Marital Rights	Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad	1.00
Truth About Ahmadiyyat	Mr. B. A. Rafiq	2.50
Jesus Died in Kashmir	A. Faber-Kaiser	8.00
Christ Did Not Perish On the Cross	Kurt Berna	10.00
Victory of Islam	Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad	0.50
Lessons in Islam (Set of four books)	Maulvi M. I. Munir	2.50
Introduction to the Study of The Holy Quran	Hazrat Mirza Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih II.	3.50

A long horizontal row of small square icons, each containing a different geometric pattern or symbol.

The Ahmadiyya Gazette is edited and published for the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Inc., by Ata Ullah Kaleem, Missionary Incharge, USA, from the American Fazl Mosque, 2141 Leroy Place N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. Telephone: 202 / 232-3737

Printed at the Fazl-i-Umar Press, Pomeroy Road, P. O. Box 338, Athens, Ohio 45701

**The American Fazi Mosque**  
2141 Leroy Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008



Non Profit Org.  
BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 669