



از الذين عند الله السلام

لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله

AHMADIYYA GAZETTE

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MIRACULOUS BEAUTIES OF THE QURAN

By Hazrat Ahmad, the Promised Messiah

Among the miraculous beauties of the Holy Quran is that of eloquence, which is altogether different and distinguishable from the eloquence of human speech, for the field of the latter is extremely narrow and unless a speech is mixed with exaggerated, false, and unnecessary accretions, no man can attain to the higher degrees of that quality.

Secondly, the miraculous beauty of the Holy Quran is that all the incidents related in it are really all prophecies mentioned in many places.

The third miraculous beauty of the Holy Quran is that the teaching contained in it is fully equipped with the means of carrying human nature to its highest development. It contains all the arguments and signs

needed by man to attain to the stage of conviction.

The fourth great beauty to be found in it is that it takes a perfect devotee so near to God that he attains to the privilege of Divine communion. He begins to show clear signs indicating such nearness and he attains to purity of spirit and constancy in faith.

There is another special feature of the Holy Quran worth mentioning; namely, that the blessings of heavenly signs given to a perfect believer are from God. They cannot be taken as an index of personal excellence. The sign of a believer's personal superiority being his pure and righteous disposition, the power of his faith and the strength of his constancy. For example, if a

THE KHALIFATUL MASIH'S HEALTH: The latest reports received here indicate that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih is in good health. Huzur sent the following cablegram from Rabwah at the occasion of Eid:

EID MUBARAK. MAY ALLAH BLESS YOU ALL WITH HIS LOVE AND GRACE
Members are requested to continue praying for his healthy, long and successful life for the cause of Islam.

SUMMARY OF FRIDAY SERMON BY KHALIFATUL MASIH III

Delivered October 13 1978, at Masjid Aqsa, Rabwah, Pakistan

Hazrat Ameerul Momineen, Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih III, recited Tashahhud, Ta'awwuz and Sura Fateha and then expressed his gratitude to God the Exalted for enabling him to deliver the Friday Sermon after remaining absent for the longest period out of the Headquarters, since he was entrusted with the reign of Khilafat.

During this period in the course of his journey, God the Exalted favored him and his entourage with His Grace abundantly while extending the shadow of His Grace over here also, hence he is extremely happy.

He also referred to his indisposition due to dental trouble during the final month of his disseminative and educative tour, informing the congregation that he has been relieved of it through the Grace of God to a great extent. The ailment has passed away through His Grace. I am in constant prayer for you all, he revealed, and asked the congregation to pray for him, that God the Exalted vouchsafe him with healthy and active life. Ameen!

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih related that a part of his preaching tour of Europe is linked with the important International Conference convened in England on the deliverance of Jesus (peace be on him) from death on the cross, at London during June 2-4, 1978. Prior to the conference various important newspapers of Europe gave it wide publicity. A journalist even contributed a detailed description of five to six pages on this subject in the Daily Telegraph, which has a circulation of more than a million.

The wide publicity of the conference perturbed the Church over there, which is clear from their Press Release wherein they have indicated their willingness to hold public dialogue, but simultaneously have

tried to debar us from publicising the dialogue. Our rejoinder to this invitation was not replied and when they were reminded, a letter was received after a fortnight bearing another person's signature depicting that as the person who communicated earlier has no knowledge of Islam, hence, he shall reply, after necessary consultation. This reply has not so far been received. Huzoor further informed the congregation that the wide publicity of this Conference in the newspapers of the various countries of the world can be judged from the fact that in accordance with the estimate of the experts, our voice has been conveyed to 14 million souls of the world.

The reaction of the Catholic Bishops can be realized from the fact that their majority even failed to reply our letters. Nevertheless, the Bishop of Japan wrote categorically that as they are thoroughly convinced of the divinity of Jesus, they are not prepared to have any dialogue with us on this subject. Reason advocates that whenever there is inconsistency between the two parties over basic beliefs, efforts should be made to remove the conflict by holding dialogue in an atmosphere of love and fairness.

One effect of this conference, continued the Khalifatul Masih, is apparent from the fact that our Jamaat in America has planned to convene a similar conference over there after a lapse of two years. As the temperament of American people is different from that of the people of England, it is expected that their newspapers would give more publicity than the one given by the English Press. They would perhaps not mind the pressure of the Church to such an extent. Insha Allah.

Relating different illustrations, the Khalifatul Masih explained how God the Exalted extraordinarily manifested the signs of

His help and support during the tour. The Christian scholars and journalists who met him were dumbfounded. A few of them having been impressed by the excellent teachings of Islam, spoke out at once, saying: why have we not been informed of this excellent teaching earlier? As a result of our humble efforts, Khalifatul Masih announced, more than 500,000 Christians have embraced Islam through the grace of God. Yet the chain of our struggle should continue. When Christendom would realize that the teachings presented by us are better than what they have with them, they will certainly turn towards Islam. Insha Allah. Ignoring the irrefutable arguments and proofs presented by the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) and the excellent commentary of the Holy Quran explained by him, there is nothing else which could attract the developed world towards Islam.

Finally, the Khalifatul Masih remarked, that the realization and reaction this tour has created in his heart is that God the Exalted has entrusted us with very important responsibility. We are to pass through hard and difficult circumstances. We have to discard the life of sloth and must do all we could in carrying out our responsibility, so that the deficiency might be made up by God the Exalted. This is His promise, that do what you can do and the deficiency will be made up by Him, and yet the entire rewards will be given to you. We should supplicate for the entire world, for each country of the world, and particularly for our own country Pakistan, that Allah the Exalted may grant her stability and create a sphere of brotherhood and an excellent society which Islam wishes to form might be established in our country too. May it be so. Ameen!

(The Daily Alfazl, October 14, 1978.
Translated by Imam Ata Ullah Kaleem)

ATFAL SUMMER SCHOOL

This year the National Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya organized the summer school for Atfal at Nasir Mosque, Brooklyn, N.Y. Atfal from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington DC attended the one week residential school. Imam Masud Ahmad and Imam Abdul Rashid Yahya spent their time among Atfal and devoted themselves to teach Islamic education..

The Atfal were divided into two groups, junior and senior, and instructions were given accordingly. Among the senior group, Rizwan Chowdhary, NJ, Tariq Yasin, PA, and Salam Khan, NY, secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively, and they were awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals.

Among the Junior group, Abdul Rahim Abdul Latif, NJ, came out with top academic standing. Rizwan Chowdhary and Tariq Yasin won the First place in speech contest while Ansar Ahmad of Washington, DC, and Kamran Sami, New York, won second and third positions.

May Allah reward all those who devoted their time to make this program a success.

(Continued from page 1)

wall is lit up with the light from the sun, the patch of light would not be one of the excellences of the wall, for the patch can be taken away from it. The superiority of the wall consists, rather, in its being on strong, stony foundation, and in its being so compact and strong that it is impossible to move it however severe the flood and however strong the wind and rain. ..."

(*Chashma-e-Ma'arifat* or Fountain of Knowledge)

NATIONAL IJTEMA'A OF KHUDDAMUL AHMADIYYA

By Bro. Yusuf Ameen

ATHENS, OHIO: The National Ijtema'a of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, USA, was held here on July 22nd and 23rd.

The first session began at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, July 22, with National Qaid Yahya Sharif Abdullah presiding. The meeting was opened with recitation from the Holy Quran by Naib Qaid, Alhaj Dhul Waqar Yaqub, followed by collective recitation of the Khuddam pledge. Next followed the raising of the Khuddam and American flags by Khuddam honor branch 4-B (Dayton, Ohio) led by Zaim Umar Faruq Qadafi. Qaid Yahya Sharif welcomed the delegates warmly and outlined the rules and procedures by which the Ijtema was to be conducted. The following branches participated in Ijtema'a

Atlantic City, N.J.; Boston, Mass.; Dayton, Ohio; Chicago, Ill.; Milwaukee, Wis.; New York, NY; Philadelphia, Pa.; St. Louis, Mo.; Teaneck, NJ.; Washington, DC and York/Harrisburgh, Pa. A foreign Majlis of Copenhagen, Denmark, was represented by a delegate, in the person of Br. Ibrahim Lembolt.

Imam Ata Ullah Kaleem, Missionary In-charge and Naib Sadr of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, USA, gave the inaugural address for the Ijtema'a. In his inspiring talk, Imam Kaleem read from the concluding address given last year by Khalifatul Masih III at the International Khuddam Ijtema'a in Rabwah, Pakistan.

Following opening ceremonies, sports competitions were held. The featured sport was KABADDY and TUG OF WAR.

Following a light lunch and ZUHAR and ASR SALATS, the assembled delegates heard some inspiring speeches regarding the purpose and importance of Ijtema'a. Imam M.M. Ibrahim, Midwest Missionary, in a brief address commended Khuddam on the dedication they are showing and exhorted Khuddam to continue to strive that Allah

may grant them yet greater success. Alhaj Muzaffar Ahmad Zafr, the Regional President, commended Khuddam on the time and sacrifices which they are putting forth in Khuddam and Jamaat activities. Regional Zaim Eastern Region, Sardar Rafiq Ahmad, then gave a speech entitled *A Living Connection with Allah*. He emphasized the necessity of a person being pure of heart and submissive to Allah in order to establish strong connection with him. In his speech, the Regional Zaim Midwest Region, Br. Umar Qadafi, exhorted the Ahmadiyya youth to adopt the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be on him) as their standard and model for conduct whereby they may strengthen themselves and uphold Islam and Ahmadiyyat.

Next on the agenda was Wilderness Survival Training, which combined a hike in the wooded area surrounding the Camp, lectures and demonstrations on First-Aid techniques, and lectures on how to survive in the wild.

The last activity on Saturday before evening prayers was the Majlis Shura session. This session was presided by the National Qaid. He began the session with an inspiring talk wherein he emphasized that in order for Khuddam to properly uphold and promote Ahmadiyyat, they must fully understand Ahmadiyya's perspectives on KHATAMAN NABIYYEEN, and must understand why the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) is the MUJADDID of this millenium.

Naib Qaid, Alhaj Yaqub, followed Qaid Yahya's speech with a comprehensive report, including information on the recently conducted Najmul-Huda Khuddam leadership School, preliminary plans for the 1979 National Ijtema'a, and a summary report concerning the current 1978 National Ijtema'a. Naib Qaid Yaqub stated that

another leadership school is planned for the last week in September, to be held in Chicago. Preparations for holding this school are to be directed by Territorial Qaid Nasirullah Ahmad.

The 1979 National Ijtema'a, said Naib Qaid Yaqub, is tentatively scheduled for June 23rd and 24th, 1979, to be held at New Jersey site. He announced that Bro. Jalalud Din Abdul Latif of Montclair, N.J., has been appointed chairman of planning and preparation for the 1979 National Ijtema'a.

National Qaid Yahya then gave a talk on Khuddam administrative procedures, explaining how the levels of administration — National, Regional and local — relate to each other. Regarding National Khuddam leadership, Qaid Yahya stated that much of Khuddam activity will presently come under the offices of four Nazims, the Nazims respectively of Public Information, Talim and Tarbiyyat, Health and Fitness, and Services. He announced the appointment of Zaim Hasan Abdullah of Atlantic City, NJ, as Nazim of Public Information, and Regional Zaim Umar Qadafi as Nazim of Talim and Tarbiyyat. Bro. Abdul Kabeer Haque remains Nazim of Services and Bro. Jalalud Din Abdul Latif remains as Nazim of Health and Fitness. Focussing on a way to improve Khuddam services, Qaid Yahya stated that Khuddam should take training in skills that qualify them to efficiently perform services beneficial to humanity, especially for disaster relief and the like. Concluding his talk, Qaid Yahya stated that October 28th and 29th have been set as the dates for the next official Majlis-i-Shura session, wherein 1979 activities will, Insha Allah, be planned in detail.

Sunday's Ijtema'a activities began with Tahajjud prayer followed by Salatul FAJR. After prayers, Darsul Quran was offered by Imam Kaleem. This Dars was a thought-provoking discourse wherein the Imam exhorted Khuddam to adopt TAQWA (fear of

Allah) as one never knows, no matter how young he is, when one's death will come. Whenever the end comes, it should find him submissive to Allah, said Imam Kaleem, who quoted the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) exhort: "Every morning should be a witness for you that you spent the night in righteousness, and every evening should be a witness for you that you spent the day with the fear of God in your heart."

Following Darsul Quran, competition in recitation of the Holy Quran was held. knowledge and in the recitation of Ahadith. Khuddam delegates were divided into regional Malik while second and third went to Bro. Sardar Rafiq Ahmad and Bro. Muhammad Isa Qadafi, respectively.

Following a delicious breakfast, competitions were held in general Islamic knowledge and in the recitation of Ahadith. Khuddam delegates were divided into regional teams, one team for each, the Northeast, Southeast, Great Lakes and Midwest regions. In the general knowledge competition, pre-selected questions were offered to each regional team in turn, wherein one member of the team would present an answer to the question. Following a lively competition wherein much knowledge of Islam was exhibited, Bro. Umar Qadafi, Nazim Talim Tarbiyyat, administered a written test to all Khuddam. This test being one designed to evaluate the educational needs of the Majlis as a whole.

First place in both the general knowledge and Hadith quotation competitions went to the Northeast regional team under the leadership of Regional Zaim Sardar Rafiq Ahmad. Second place in the general knowledge competition went to the Southeast regional team under the leadership of Zaim Daud Abdul Malik. There was a tie for second place in Hadith quotations by Southeast and Midwest Regional teams.

Next, Bro. Ibrahim Lembolt of Denmark addressed the assembly, saying "I have (continued on page 10)

IMAM KALEEM'S LETTER TO THE WASHINGTON POST

August 16, 1978

Re: Conversion vs Compulsion

Dear Sir::

It would be appreciated if you could kindly spare some space in your esteemed paper to clear the misunderstanding created by your foreign service correspondent, Mr. Thomas W. Lippman in his contribution from Cairo, entitled: "Ramadan: When Islam Fasts and Life Begins at Sunset", which appeared in the Washington Post on Sunday, August 13, 1978.

The correspondent, while describing the Battle of Badr as one of the two great events of Islamic history which took place in the month of Ramadan, has corroborated with his self-assumed modern scholars when he asserted that: "the victory they (300 Muslims) scored over 1000 Meccans, modern scholars say, laid the foundation for Muhammad's temporal power and began the train of propagation of Islam by armed conquest."

This assertion of your correspondent is based on the writings of those bigoted writers who do not allocate blame as well praise where either is due. In the garb of literary service these writers have done notable disservice not only to the cause of Islam but to humanity itself. When one uses colored glasses, the vision is bound to be colored, but when one looks at an object with the naked eye the color of the object presents itself truly and clearly. The same applies here. It is not so cruel to criticise as to misrepresent a thing. While honest criticism leads to crystallization, misrepresentation clouds the issue and misleads a seeker after truth.

There is nothing more unjust than to impute such a charge to Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam. Such a charge is a gross betrayal of truth. It is an undeniable fact that Muhammad suffered terrible perse-

cutions for a long period of 13 years and was forced to leave his own hometown Mecca, which resulted in his taking refuge in Medina — a town about 270 miles north of Mecca. Even here he was not left in peace. His enemies organized expedition after expedition to put an end to him and his companions by violence and force of arms. He was thus compelled to fight in defense of the right of all men to worship God according to their own lights. A remarkable feature of these battles was that they were fought in or around Medina, a fact which amply shows that it were the pagans who came to attack the Muslims and that the latter were always on the defensive.

Impartial and objective statements of historians stress the point that the idea that Muhammad has waged wars on the opponents for the sake of effecting their conversion is utterly baseless. The well-known writer, Thomas Carlyle, refutes this in his work *Heroes and Hero Worship* in a convincing manner.

Professor E.G. Browne, like Carlyle, does not believe in this fallacy. He says in his *Literary History of Persia*:

"It is often supposed that the choice offered by the warriors of Islam was between the Quran and the sword. This, however, is not the fact, for Magians, as well as Christians and Jews, were permitted to retain their religion, being merely compelled to pay Jizyah or Poll tax, a perfectly just arrangement, in as much as non-Muslim subjects of the Caliph were necessarily exempted both from military services and from the alms in Medina Muhammad became a changed man and sought to promulgate his religion by sword."

Professor Hell, a German, however, agreeing with Prof. Browne on the question of tribute, sees in the payment of tribute definite evidence that there was never any

propagation by the sword. He says:

"Following the example of the Prophet, professors of revealed religions — such as Jews and Christians — were allowed, under the protection of the Muslim Empire and on payment of suitable tax, perfect freedom in their religion. ... In the face of these facts there is no question of the propagation of Islam by sword. United by Islam, Arabism was interested in conquering and keeping the conquered as a tax-paying people." (The Arab Civilization, p.47).

Another writer, George Kirk, comes out strongly with the denial that there was ever any forcible conversion at any time. He says:

"It was also necessary, however, for the new Arab rulers to regulate the legal position of millions of their non-Muslim subjects, who represented the overwhelming majority of the population of the empire. In this Umar followed the example of Muhammad, who had left undisturbed the Christian and Jewish communities of the Northern Hijaz, which he brought under his sway, on condition of the payment of an annual tribute. Umar extended this usage to all the Christian and Jewish inhabitants of the Empire and to the Zoroastrians of Persia. ... Far from there being any idea of forcibly converting them to Islam, their role was to provide revenue for the Arab ruling race by payment of taxation, the conversion of non-Muslims was actually discouraged, as it would have lessened the number of taxpayers." (A Short History of the Middle East, London, 1948).

Prof. T.W. Arnold gives a remarkable refutation to the oft repeated charge that in Medina Muhammad became a changed man and sought to promulgate his religion by sword. He says

"From the very beginning, Islam bears the stamp of a missionary religion that seeks to win the hearts of men, convert them and persuade them to enter the brotherhood of the faithful; and it was in the

beginning, so has it continued to be upto the present day." (The Preaching of Islam, p.41)

There are scores of other writers like Prof. H.A.R. Gibbs, Rev. Lacy O'Lear, Sir William Muir, Will Durant, Von Kremer, Prof. Flenly Welch and Prof. Phillip K. Hitti, who have expressed similar opinions and have refuted the charge of the propagation of Islam by armed conquest but it would be against the courtesy of the Editor to quote the detailed extracts of these writers.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad never supported warfare for the spread of religion, and it was he whose revelation declared in unmistakeable words that: (the following quotes are from the Quran)

There is no compulsion in Religion (22:57)

Say, 'O men, now has the truth come to you from your Lord. So whoever follows the guidance, follows it only for the good of his own soul, and whoever errs, errs only against it. And I am not a keeper over you. (10:109)

And say, it is the truth from your Lord wherefore let him who will, believe, and let him, who will, disbelieve. (18:30)

And if anyone of the idolators seeks protection of thee, grant him protection so that he may hear the Word of Allah then convey him to his place of security. That is because they are people who have no knowledge. (9:6)

The protection referred to in the above verse is during war. This magnanimity of Islam is indeed unparalleled. The verse also cuts at the very root of the Correspondent's allegation that Islam was spread by armed conquest. If it were true, and if early wars of the Muslims were fought in order to spread the faith, how could the Quran possibly have allowed an unbeliever to go away without accepting Islam after the latter had sought protection of the Muslims?

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JAMAATS REPORTS

CHICAGO, ILL.

Frida Services were conducted and Sunday meetings were held regularly with the sincere members participating accordingly.

A public preaching meeting was held in a rented hall on the south side of Chicago for which leaflets were distributed and posters were fixed at appropriate places.

Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad was welcomed in a meeting of the Jamaat where he enlightened his audience with the commentary of a few verses of Sura Al-Kahf.

God, through His grace, has crowned the humble efforts of the Jamaat and has blessed it with the initiation of two persons into the fold of Ahmadiyyat, the true Islam. Alhamdo Lillah. They are sister Raheema Hakeem and Bro. Jabbar Rafiq Ahmad. May Allah grant them steadfastness.

Bro. Ahmad Ali has been discharged from the hospital after having his leg amputated. Members are requested to remember him in their prayers.

CLEVELAND, OH.

Syed Abdur Rahman, the President of Moreland section of the Jamaat, breathed his last on July 25th. *Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Ilaihe Raaajoon.* Imam M.M. Ibrahim, Missionary for Midwest, led his Jinazah Salaat and expressed his heartfelt condolence to the members of the deceased family. As Syed Abdur Rahman was a Moosee, his son took his body to Qadian, India, for burial in Bahishtee Maqbarah. May Allah exalt the ranks of the deceased in the Jannatul Firdaus and grant patience to all the members of the deceased family at this great loss. Syed Abdur Rahman would be ever remembered for his devotion to the Jamaat and his efforts for enhancing the cause of Islam in USA.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Friday services were conducted regularly and guests were welcomed in the Mission

House on each Sunday where they were supplied with necessary information on Islam.

The invitation of the British Council of Churches for dialogue and its acceptance by the Supreme Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam along with the letter of Imam Kaleem to the churches were xeroxed and copies were despatched to the press media and the churches.

Allah has blessed this Jamaat with five new converts — four from Christianity and one from non-Ahmadies. May Allah grant them steadfastness. Amin!

TROY, OHIO.

The Jamaat as usual has tried and contributed a short article on Islam in the local Troy Daily News. Individual propagation efforts continued wherein members introduced various concepts of Islam to friends, acquaintances and co-workers.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Although the Jamaat consists of a few members yet it has tried to despatch more than one thousand copies of the Invitation of the British Council of Churches for dialogue and its acceptance by the Supreme Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, along with the letter of Imam Kaleem to the Churches, to almost all the churches of the area.

DAYTON, OHIO.

The classes of Yassarnal Quran, the Holy Quran and that of Salat are conducted regularly by Imam M.M. Ibrahim. The Imam also conducts the Dars of the Holy Quran each evening since the start of Ramadhan in the Fazl-i-Umar Mosque. He also leads the Taraweeh Salat after the Isha Salat which is well attended by the members.

WASHINGTON, DC.

Educational classes for children are taken regularly by the Deputy Imam, M.A. Rashid Yahya, in three sections of the

Jamaat, benefitting about thirty students. Congregational prayers and reading from the pronouncements of the Promised Messiah followed the classes.

Recitation and exposition of the Holy Quran followed by collective Aftari was a very inspiring feature of the blessings of the Holy Month of Ramadhan. Over forty members attended the Dars given by Imam A.U. Kaleem on Sundays between Asr and Maghrib.

A meeting of the Jamaat was held on July 30. After recitation from the Holy Quran, Bro. Munawwar Saeed gave a summary of the book of the Promised Messiah entitled *Zarooratul Imam* (Need for an Imam). Bro. Mubashir Ahmad spoke of the importance of financial sacrifices followed by some practical suggestions for effective Tabligh by Daud Malik.

About 20 copies of the Holy Quran were distributed to people under Tabligh along with other literature on Islam.

PITTSBURGH, PA.

The Jamaat had the news of the London Conference on the *Deliverance of Jesus from the Cross* published in *The Pittsburgh Courier*, August 5, 1978, with the invitation of the British Council of Churches for a dialogue, and its acceptance by the Supreme Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, along with the proposal to hold such dialogue in London, Rome, a West African Capital, an Asian Capital, and in USA, on dates and conditions agreed upon by the parties.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

The Jamaat has tried to get the news of the London Conference on *The Deliverance of Jesus from the Cross* published in two papers *St. Louis Argus* (August 3, 1978) and *The Monitor* (August 17, 1978), with the detailed news of the invitation of the British Council of Churches for a dialogue and its acceptance by the Supreme Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, along

with the proposal of holding such dialogue in London, Rome, a West African Capital, an Asian Capital, and the USA, on dates and conditions agreed upon by the parties. The papers state, "The International Islamic Organization claims that Jesus did not die on the Cross but lived to be about 120 years and died in Kashmir, India."

YORK-HARRISBURGH, PA.

The Jamaat is meeting regularly to read the Holy Quran during Ramadhan and organize its program for the coming year. Some rooms in Harrisburgh have been contributed by one of the members to be used as a mosque for the area. Weekly classes for Atfal and Nasirat will commence after Ramadhan and a Nasir Club was organized for the pre-Atfal youth. Eid-al-Fitr will be held at the farm of Yahya Sharif.

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The Quranic teachings in respect of tolerance reach the farthest possible limits when it says:

"And revile not those who they call upon besides Allah, lest they, out of spite, revile Allah in their ignorance." (Quran 6:109)

Read any page of the Holy Quran and the reader will find that it is only a sincere faith that, according to the Holy Book, is acceptable to God and it strongly condemns all forms of dissimulation and insincerity. Can a man who is compelled to adopt a faith against his will be said to be a sincere believer? Is it not an admitted fact that a man convinced against his will really does not change his opinion? Is it then reasonable to believe that the Holy Prophet Muhammad enjoined to swell the ranks of Islam with hypocrites and dissemblers by exhorting forced confession from the unbelievers?

Alhaj A. U. Kaleem

IMAM KALEEM VISITS JAMAATS

WASHINGTON, DC.

Imam Ata Ullah Kaleem toured St. Louis, Owensville, and Rosebud in Missouri; Lincoln in Nebraska; Chicago in Illinois and Indianapolis in Indiana. During the tour he met the members, tested the religious knowledge of children and read the appropriate extracts from the Pronouncements of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him.

Imam Kaleem conducted the Friday services at Sadiq Mosque in St. Louis and exhorted the congregation to do their utmost in conveying the message of Ahmadiyyat, the True Islam, to all and sundry. He further advised the members to present exemplary lives which would attract automatically the people towards the Jamaat. He also addressed the members in a meeting held in the evening at the Sadiq Mosque. The members asked various questions which were answered by the Imam to their entire satisfaction. The Jamaat's literature in the main City Library was also checked by the Imam.

Another Jamaat's meeting was addressed by Imam Kaleem at the Ahmadiyya Mosque, Chicago, Ill., after which the members asked different questions and the answers were given accordingly.

In Chicago, the Imam visited the Headquarters of the World Community of Islam and met the teachers of the Islamic school. He also visited the Bahai Center and held short discussion with a guide of the Center.

GEMS OF WISDOM

The following six things are the test of one's wisdom: To forbear in anger, to stand firm in danger, to follow moderation at the time of temptation, to be pious under all circumstances, to be on friendly terms with the people at large, and abstain from quarrelling with

others. (Hazrat Ali, the fourth Caliph).

The wise man, at least, should not make common cause with the bigot blinded by ignorance. (Imam Al-Ghazali)

Pass the shop of a perfumer, and your dress will imbibe the scent of ambergris, approach the forge of a blacksmith, and the smoke fire will soil your clothes. (Firdousi)

The beloved of the Almighty are the rich who have the humility of the poor and the poor who have the magnanimity of the rich. (Sa'adi)

(Continued from page 5)

been a very inspiring experience to participate in the American Khuddam Ijtema'a." He then cited efforts being made to build and organize the Danish Khuddam, and conveyed Salams on behalf of them.

Bro. Umar Bilal Ibrahim, Nazim of Atfal Administration, then addressed the assembled delegates, explaining Atfal Religious Education awards, as given by the National Majlis.

The assembled delegates next heard an excellent speech from a Tifl, Ahmad Tariq Sharif, entitled Unification in the Jamaat, wherein young Sharif stressed the importance of actively promoting peace between brethren in the Jamaat, and quoted the Holy Quran in support of his arguments.

The closing address of the Ijtema'a was then given by Imam Ata Ullah Kaleem. For the substance of his speech, Imam Kaleem once again, as he had done in his inaugural address, referred to the profound speech given by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III, before the International Khuddam Ijtema'a last year. Imam Kaleem quoted from Huzur's speech wherein Huzur had stated that at the head of each century, those raised to regenerate the religion — the divines — may be more than one person, and he quoted the Holy Quran and Traditions in support of his perspective.

JAMAAT REPORTS

CHICAGO, ILL.

The Jamaat held a seminar on Islam at the Auditorium of the Center for Inner City Studies during the period under report. Informative speeches were delivered by Br. Abu Bakr Salahuddin, Dr. Saeed A. Malik and Br. A. Kabeer Haqqe on: *Jesus Did Not Die on the Cross, Religion For All Mankind* and *Ahmadiyyat, the True Islam*, respectively. Slides of the Turin Shroud and that of the Tomb of Jesus in Srinagar, Kashmir, were also shown to the audience which included 17 visitors besides the members of the Jamaat.

Taravih Salat was regularly performed in congregation during the month of Ramadhan. Eidul Fitr was celebrated at the Mosque wherein a new wall to wall carpet was spread on the first floor used for observing Salat. The Salati Eid, followed by a sermon, were conducted by Br. Abdul Kabeer Haqqe, the President of the Jamaat.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA.

Regular weekly meetings were held wherein Dars of Tafseer Sagheer and that of the Promised Messiah's books were the permanent feature. A few people were contacted and the message of Ahmadiyyat was preached to them.

Br. Abdul Raqeeb Wali and Mrs Raqeeb have been blessed with a baby girl who has been given the name Atiyyatul Aleem Wali by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III. Alhamdo Lillah!

DAYTON, OHIO.

The Jamaat benefitted through regular attendance of Dars of the Holy Quran presented by Imam M. M. Ibrahim during the month of Ramadhan. Almost forty members participated in congregational Taravih Salat.

Sister Maryam Razia Zafr presented *The Woman in Islam* on a local Radio station

(WDAO) for one hour. Her presentation was so outstanding that she was asked to present similar talk once again in the near future.

Sister Amatun Nur has embraced Ahmadiyyat, the True Islam. Alhamdo Lillah!

The Jamaat gave a reception in honor of Dr. A. Salam on his arrival in Columbus, Ohio, to receive the Tate award in recognition of his services to the study of theoretical physics. Some distinguished members from other Jamaats were also present. Dr. Salam, in response to the welcome address, presented by the National President Br. M. A. Zafr, delivered a highly inspiring and faith increasing speech.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

The Jamaat mailed copies of letters connected with the London Conference on Deliverance of Jesus from the Cross to 100 Church leaders and 10 editors of the newspapers.

The Jamaat was fortunate enough to have Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad and his family amongst themselves. The members were blessed by Sahibzada's presence many times and every time came out with new inspiration to work for the Community.

Maulana Abdul Malik Khan who was on a private visit to his son Anwar Mahmud Khan, addressed the Jamaat on a number of occasions and reminded the members of their responsibilities towards Ahmadiyyat and elucidated the means and ways for carrying out these obligations.

On the initiative of Maulana Malik, local fund for procuring Mosque has been raised and many promises have been made, some of which have already been redeemed.

Begum Maulana Malik exhorted the ladies to form Lajna Ima Ullah and she actually established it by holding the election of the office bearers.

The Jamaat has been offered a large garage by Br. Anas A. Shah to use it for religious services and other meetings. The

place has been fixed up with panelling and carpeting through Waqare Amal.

Bimonthly meetings were held regularly under the chairmanship of Br. Rahmat Jamal, the President of the Jamaat.

Br. Abdul Latif Sheikh, a devoted Ahmadi, has breathed his last during the period under report. He was a real asset to the Jamaat. He distributed copies of the Holy Quran to libraries wherever he travelled in USA and abroad. Maulana Abdul Malik led his Janazah Salat, and as he was a Moosee, his body was taken to Rabwah for burial.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

The Jamaat celebrated Eidul Fitr at the Lincoln Memorial Park Pavillion. Almost 150 members including those who joined from Waukegan, Kenosha and Zion were led in prayer by Br. Rashid Ahmad, who delivered a very inspiring Khutba.

The Jamaat is actively propagating the message of Ahmadiyyat. Every Sunday morning the Khuddam go out in different parts of the city and distribute literature. The Khuddam have also launched a program of finding the needy families and helping them with substantial amounts.

NEW YORK—NEW JERSEY

The Eidul Fitr was celebrated by New York and New Jersey Jamaats at Teaneck Town House. Imam Masud Ahmad explained the physical and spiritual blessings of fasting and that of Eidul Fitr to a congregation of 300 men, women and children. At the end of his Khutba he launched an appeal for Mosque Fund which was responded by the pledges of \$60,000 at the spot.

SOUTHERN VIRGINIA.

The first meeting of this Jamaat since its inception was held on Sunday, September 17, 1978, at the residence of Dr. Mujaddid A. Ijaz in Shawsville, Va. After the recitation of the Holy Quran by Mr. Naseem, Imam A. U. Kaleem addressed the meeting.

He lucidly explained the meaning of Islam and the purpose of life, following the tradition of Hazrat Ibrahim, peace be on him. This was followed by elections. Dr. Mujaddid Ijaz was elected President and Rashid Azam as General and financial secretary. All local members attended the meeting. Maulvi M. A. Rashid Yahya and Br. Munawar Saeed, the Regional President, were also present.

PITTSBURGH, PA.

The Jamaat held Quran class regularly on each Sunday with 10 - 15 members in attendance. Regular weekly meetings were held accordingly. The Jamaat offered cordial hospitality to the participants of meeting of the office holders of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, USA, during the period under report.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

The Dars of the Holy Quran from the Commentary was given by the President during the month of Ramadhan each day from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Friday services were attended by 11-14 persons regularly. Weekly meetings were also attended accordingly.

Eidul Fitr was celebrated at the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, in Commons Street Cafeteria. The Jamaats in Wilkesboro and Atlantic City also joined.

The Regional Convention for the North-East region was held here with Imam A. U. Kaleem in the chair. The convention was addressed by Imam Masood Ahmad, Dr. Abdul Mannan Malik, Br. Umar Bilal Ibrahim, Br. Abdus Salam and of course by Imam Kaleem. The participants included from New York, New Jersey, Boston, Newark, and Atlantic City.

YORK-HARRISBURGH, PA.

The Jamaat hosted the Regional celebration of Religious Founders Day meeting at York. Speeches included the lives and teachings of Moses and Jesus, Buddha, the Holy Prophet Muhammad and the Pro-

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AN INTERVIEW WITH MR GHULAM SARWAR TAHIR

Who joined Ahmadiyyat in November, 1974

By Mr. M. A. Saqi

We expect very few readers to know about Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Tahir. However, he represents a growing number of converts in Pakistan who have accepted Ahmadiyyat in spite of a government decree classifying Ahmadies as non-Muslims. We reproduce the text of the interview verbatim and without editorial amendments.

Q: Could you please tell us briefly about yourself?

A: My name is Ghulam Sarwar Tahir. I was born in 1948 at Chak No. 339 at Veroke Kejrey, Lyallpur. Having received six years of primary school education, I moved permanently to Sheikhu Pura and was apprenticed to Haji Nur Muhammad, a local Jeweller. I was married in 1967 and I have four children. We have our own jewellery shop where my brothers now assist me.

Q: When did you first hear about Ahmadiyyat?

A: Our neighbor was an Ahmadi but our relationships never extended to religious doctrines. In 1974, when hostilities against the community started to increase, I enquired for the reasons leading to these hostilities. At that time there was a general instruction to maintain a social boycott with Ahmadies and we had been ordered not to have any relationship with them. I came across a book which stated that the Holy Prophet was Khatamun Nabiyyeen and I was satisfied that there could be no prophet after the Holy Prophet.

One day I went to the local Ahle-Hadith mosque. The speaker said that even in 1953 there were hostilities against the Ahmadies. The speaker had then been imprisoned but he had not been successful in his mission. He urged the audience to conduct a social boycott and maintained that this boycott would finish the community.

After some time I was happy as Ahmadi shops began to be closed and I

assumed that success had been achieved. Then one day my elder brother, Mr. Muhammad Ramzan, who is respected in all business matters obtained a book. This book said that calamities such as earthquakes, wars, storms and floods occurred most often when people rejected a prophet of Allah. My brother remarked that there had been many wars and lately there had been an earthquake and he wondered if this arose from the rejection of a prophet.

We were surprised to hear this from our brother. In 1953, he had taken part in the hostilities and was a declared opponent of Ahmadiyyat. Yet here he was defending and virtually preaching Ahmadiyyat to us.

My brother prayed to Allah Almighty. He saw a dream in which he saw the faces of the Holy Prophet and the Promised Messiah in a circle across the sky. The Holy Prophet pointed towards the Promised Messiah and said this is my shadow. Our brother told us about this dream and said that he no longer had any doubts. He also said that a false prophet never survived for long.

So we approached the Amir of the Ahmadiyya Community in Sheikhu Pura, Mr. Ch. Anwar Hussain, and discussed various aspects of faith. After this, on 14th November 1974, my brother was initiated and he became an Ahmadi. Shortly afterwards, I too, became an Ahmadi.

Q: Were you involved in the disturbances and hostilities against the community?

A: No. When emotions ran high, we shut our shop and kept away from the hostilities.

Q: Why did you become an Ahmadi?

A: After my brother's initiation and after countless meetings with the local Amir, I was clear in my mind. I was particularly impressed by a saying of the Holy Prophet that a time would come when Muslims

would be divided into 72 sects and that only one of them would truly represent Islam. At this time all other so called Muslims stand on one side with the Ahmadies alone, a sect apart. This was an evidence of the saying of the Holy Prophet.

Q: What was the reaction of your relatives and friends to your conversion?

A: My elder brother had already accepted Ahmadiyyat. However, my uncle was very displeased. Similarly, my wife and my father-in-law were most displeased. But when various members of our family saw dreams directing them towards Ahmadiyyat, opposition to us began to subside. It is a great blessing of Allah Almighty that through His Grace, there are today about 75 members of our household who have embraced Ahmadiyyat. I doubt whether any of them accepted Ahmadiyyat other than through directions received in a dream.

Q: Did you ever regret your decision in view of what you know was happening to other Ahmadies and that the same might happen to you?

A: I always reflect with much regret that for a long time I had been deprived from this fountain of guidance. Ever since we became Ahmadies, our contact with Allah has increased and we feel that we have become spiritually more mature. Every day some new truth manifests itself. How can we now abandon this grand blessing. Ahmadiyyat is now more important to us than our lives. There was a time when we were forgetful in offering the obligatory prayers and we knew little about religion. Now that we have found confidence in our faith we are eternally grateful to Allah Almighty.

Q: What do you think about Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III?

A: I have now met Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III on several occasions. Whenever I have met him, I have been spiritually inspired, and on each occasion I have wit-

nessed the bounties and signs of Allah. Once I was in a group of 40 people awaiting to meet Huzur. Just before the meeting, one gentleman said that he would be pleased if he was embraced. Another gentleman said that his faith would increase if he was merely granted a handshake. When it came to be our turn, Huzur shook hands with all 39 and only one person was embraced. That gentleman was the one who was desirous of this embracing.

I have always found warmth in his company and I always seek to remain in his company.

Q: Have you ever tried to influence your friends and relatives to join the Movement?

A: Ever since I became an Ahmadi, I have preached Ahmadiyyat to my friends and relatives and through the grace of Allah Almighty, many have now accepted Ahmadiyyat.

Q: What is the purpose of your present visit to Europe?

A: To witness the opening ceremony of the Gotenberg Mosque in Sweden. I am a delegate of those from Sheikhupura who accepted Ahmadiyyat after the 1974 atrocities. Huzur had said that we should travel outside the country to see the grand scale at which Ahmadiyyat is still marching forward.

Q: What is your advice to those who are not yet in the Movement?

A: My advice to them is not to follow the propaganda perpetuated by the so called scholars of Islam but to seek the truth first hand. Study the community's literature and if possible, visit Rabwah. Immediately upon reaching Rabwah, a number of misunderstandings will be removed. Wrong illusion about heaven and hell will be wiped away. When you hear the call for prayers being made from Masjid Mubarak, you will observe that Ahmadies are indeed Muslims. If you cannot visit Rabwah, I urge you to pray conscientiously to Allah
(continued on page 15)

PRESIDENTS OF JAMAATS

WASHINGTON, DC

The approval of the following brothers has been received from the International Headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam as Presidents of their respective Jamaats.

National President of USA

Alhaj Nuzaffar Ahmad Zafr

Baltimore, MD Jamaat

Br. Abdul Hafiz

Central California Seyyed Sharif Ahmad

Chicago, Ill. Br. Abdul Kabeer Haqqe

Dayton, OH. Alhaj Muzaffar Ahmad Zafr

Indianapolis, IND Br. Ahmad Ali

Los Angeles, CAL. Br. Rahmat Jamal

Milwaukee, WIS. Br. Rashid Ahmad

New York, NY Br. Abdus Sami

Pittsburgh, PA. Br. Jamilur Rahman

Portland, ORE Dr. Muhammad Husein Sajid

Schaumburg, Ill. Br. Falahud Din Shams

St. Louis, MO.

Br. Munir Ahmad

Teaneck, NJ.

Br. Muhammad Sadiq

Troy, OH.

Br. Yusuf Amin

Tucson, Arizona Muhammad Ishaq Qureshi

Washington, DC.

Br. Munawar Saeed

York-Harrisburgh, PA

Br. Yahya Sharif Abdullah

There are other Jamaats whose election result has been forwarded to the International Headquarters and their decision is still awaited.

There are other Jamaats who have either not held the elections so far or have not informed us of their election results. This mistake must be rectified as soon as possible.

May Allah the Almighty empower all the Presidents to realize their responsibilities and then carry them out accordingly. Ameen!

Ata Ullah Kaleem, Imam

PRESIDENTS OF JAMAATS

Further to the list published in the last issue of the Gazette, the following additional Presidents have been approved.

Boston, Mass. Abid Haneef

Philadelphia, Pa. Hussain Abdul Aziz

Willingboro, NJ. Dr. Abdul Mannan Malik

Ata Ullah Kaleem, Imam

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Almighty and to seek His Divine Guidance. I assure you that Allah Almighty will open up your hearts and all doubts and misapprehensions will disappear. Thank you very much.

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mised Messiah, delivered by Br. Yahya Sharif Abdullah, Dr. Hammonn of Gettysburg College and Imam A.U. Kaleem. The meeting was presided by Br. Mubashir Ahmad, the Financial Secretary. The Philadelphia Jamaat also attended the meeting. Dinner was served at the Nurud Din School of York.

Friday services are held regularly at the Nurud Din School of York.

DID YOU KNOW?

When a believer is reciting the following verses of the Holy Quran or hearing these verses recited by others like the Imamus Salat, he or she must respond with the words mentioned below.

VERSE**RESPONSE**

Alaisallaho Bi Ahkamil Haakimeen (95:9)
(Is Allah not the Most Just of Judges?)

Balaa Wa Anna Ala Dhalika Minash Sh-hedeen (Yea, and I am among the witnesses over it.)

Sabbeh Isma Rabbekal A'ala (87:2)
(Glorify the name of thy Lord, the most High) (8)

Subhana Rabbe Yal A'ala (Holy is my Lord, the Most High)

Thumma Inna Alaina Hasabahum (88:27)
(Then, surely, it is for us to call them to account)

Allahumma Haasibna Hisaaban Yaseera
(O, Allah, have our reckoning an easy reckoning)

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