

وَأَشْرَقَتِ الْأَرْضُ بِنُورِ رَبِّهَا

And the earth will shine with the light of her Lord
Holy Qur'an 39:70



اللَّهُ وَبِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُمْ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ
القران الحكيم ٢:٢٥٨

Centennial Souvenir Edition

The Ahmadiyya

GAZETTE

October 2020 - September 2021

USA



Sadiq Mosque, 4448 Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois (Left Original, Right Reconstructed 1994)
The first Ahmadiyya Mosque, and the oldest continuously used Mosque in the United States of America

© M. Rizwan Akbar



Left: American Fazel Mosque, Washington DC; establish 1950. It isn 4th on list of oldest mosques in the US.
Right: Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque, Silver Spring, MD; inaugurated 1994.



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



AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM COMMUNITY
United States of America

Muslims who believe in the Messiah
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian



نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُصَلِّي عَلَى رَسُولِهِ الْكَرِيمِ وَعَلَى عَائِلَتِهِ الْمُسِيحِ الْمَوْجُودِ

خدا کے نفل اور رحم کے ساتھ
هوالتناصر



اسلام آباد۔ یو کے

HM - 06-02-2020

مکرم امیر صاحب جماعت احمدیہ امریکہ

السلام علیکم ورحمۃ اللہ وبرکاتہ

آپ نے جماعت احمدیہ امریکہ کے قیام کو سو سال پورے ہونے پر اظہار تشکر کا دن منانے کے لئے جماعت امریکہ کے نام پیغام بھجوانے کی درخواست کی تھی۔

حضرت مفتی محمد صادق صاحب رضی اللہ عنہ آج سے ٹھیک ایک سو سال پہلے 15 فروری کو امام الزماں حضرت اقدس مسیح موعود علیہ السلام کا جو پیغام لے کر وہاں گئے اور جس روح اور جذبے سے انہوں نے کام کیا اور بہت سی سعید روحوں کو اسلام احمدیت میں داخل کیا افسوس کے ان کے بعد وہ نسلیں احمدیت سے دور چلی گئیں اور جماعت سے سنبھالی نہیں گئیں۔ اس پس منظر میں اس موقع پر ایک تو میرا آپ کو یہ پیغام ہے کہ آپ بھی آج اسی جذبہ اور روح کے ساتھ ایک بار پھر امریکن قوم کو اسلام احمدیت کا پیغام پہنچانے کے لئے اپنی تمام تر استعدادوں کے ساتھ مصروف عمل ہو جائیں اور دوسرے ان سعید روحوں کی وہ نسلیں جو پہلے ہم سے سنبھالی نہیں گئیں انہیں تلاش کر کے واپس لائیں اور ان سے رابطہ کر کے ان کو دوبارہ احمدیت کی آغوش میں لائیں جس طرح کہ میں نے گزشتہ ایک سفر کے دوران پہلے بھی وہاں کے ان ابتدائی احمدیوں کی نمائش میں لگی تصویریں دیکھ کر آپ لوگوں کو ان سے رابطے کرنے کا کہا تھا۔ اس لئے اب یہ 100 سال صرف گزرے ہوئے 100 سال منانے کے لیے نہ ہوں بلکہ ایک نئے جذبے کے ساتھ احمدیت کی تعلیم اور تبلیغ کو پھیلانے کے لئے اپنے آپ کو وقف کر دینے کے ہوں اور حضرت مفتی محمد صادق صاحبؒ والے اس جذبہ اور روح کو اپنے اندر زندہ کر کے سعید روحوں کی تلاش کا کام کرنے کے ہوں تاکہ آئندہ جس جس طرح وہاں جماعت پھیلے اسی طرح اس کی تعلیم اور تربیت کے انتظام بھی ہوتے رہیں۔ اللہ آپ کو اس کی توفیق دے اور ساری امریکن جماعت کو مل کر اس مقصد کے حصول کیلئے محنت اور کوشش کرنے کی ہمت اور طاقت عطا فرمائے تاکہ جلد یہ ملک بھی اسلام احمدیت کی آغوش میں آکر اللہ اور اس کے رسول کے نور سے منور ہو جائے۔ آمین

والسلام

خاکسار

خاکسار

خليفة المسيح الخامس

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُصَلِّي عَلَى رَسُوْلِهِ الْكَرِيْمِ وَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ الْمَسِيْحِ الْمَوْعُوْدِ

خدا کے فضل اور رحم کے ساتھ
هو الناصر



Respected Ameer Sahib Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya, USA.

Assalamu 'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah.

You had requested for a message to Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya USA to celebrate the day of gratitude on the completion of a hundred years of its establishment.

The message of the Promised Messiah, Imam of the Time, may peace be upon him, that Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, may Allah be pleased with him, carried there exactly a hundred years ago, on February 15, and the spirit and enthusiasm with which he worked, and brought many virtuous souls to the fold of Ahmadiyya Islam, unfortunately, afterwards, their progenies drifted away from Ahmadiyyat, and the Jama'at could not retain them. With this background, at this occasion, my first message to you is that with the same spirit and enthusiasm, using all your faculties, you too get engaged today once again in giving the message of Ahmadiyya Islam to the people of America. And secondly, find and bring back the generations of those virtuous souls that we could not retain earlier, and connect with them and bring them back to the lap of Ahmadiyyat, as, during one of my visits, after watching the pictures of the earlier converts in an exhibition, I previously too asked you to make contact with them.

Therefore, these centennial days should not be just to celebrate the past hundred years, but to devote yourself in spreading the teaching and message of Ahmadiyyat with a renewed zeal, and to rejuvenate the enthusiasm and the spirit of Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq to find the righteous souls, so that as the Jama'at expands there in future, the arrangements for their education and training also fall in place.

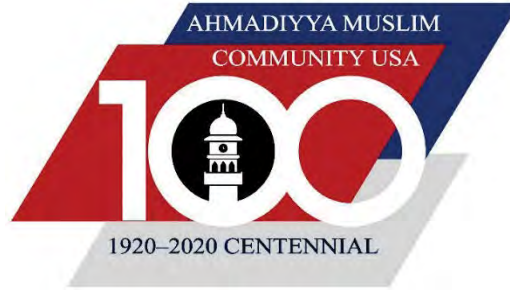
May Allah, the Almighty, grant you the ability to do so, and may grant the determination and strength to the whole American Jama'at to achieve this objective together, so that this country too is enlightened with the light of Allah and His Messenger very soon by coming into the lap of Ahmadiyya Islam. Amen.

Was-Salam,

Humble,

Mirza Masroor Ahmad

Khalifatul-Masih V



New Year 2020 Message From Amir Jamā'at Ahmadiyya USA

Dear Members

Assalamu 'Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu

I wish you a Happy New Year. May we enter this year seeking Allah's help and favors. May we start this year with prayers and reflection and a resolve to bring a meaningful change in our spiritual state.

The year 2020 is also a significant milestone in the history of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya in USA. This year will have been 100 years since Jamā'at was established in this country in 1920.

But mere counting of numbers is not a reason for celebration. Rather, cultivating love of Allah in our hearts and in the hearts of our children, family, and friends is.

Let us pray and strive to bring a profound change in our spiritual and moral state, as well as bring those of us who had wandered away from the Jamā'at and Khilafat back to the Jamā'at of Ḥaḍrat Promised Messiah ('Alaih-is-Salam). May Allah keep us under His protection year after year and forgive our sins. May He make us true Unitarian.

Wassalām

Khaksar

Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, Amir Jamā'at USA

Dated: 31 December 2019



January 31, 2020

Dear Jama'at member,

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Our beloved Imam, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{abna} once said in a Jumuah Sermon:

“The Promised Messiah^{as} constantly exhorted the members of the Jama'at to focus greatly on prayer because the Jama'at will progress and attain dominance and will escape the evil designs and activities of the opponents primarily through prayer. He clearly explained that PRAYER IS THE ONLY WEAPON for our ultimate triumph.” (FS 8-8-14)

At the beginning of this year, Huzoor again called us to action. He wanted “every Ahmadi, whether a man, woman or child” to pray and make this year a blessed one and ward off the “storm clouds (of war and civil unrest) that continue to gather ahead.”

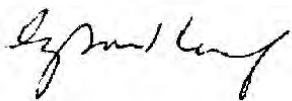
To heed that call, we urge everyone to promote and participate in the following:

1. A “**National Day of Prayer**” during the first Jumuah of February, **Friday, February 7th** – taking time off from school and work to pray for our nation and world.
2. A collective **Tahajjud Prayer** in your local mosque on **Saturday, February 15th** as part of our Centennial activities to express gratitude for past Divine favors and pray for our Jama'at and humanity.
3. Generously donate to a **Humanity First Appeal** as Sadaqa (alms) to draw additional Divine mercy and increase the acceptance of our prayers. You may contribute online: <https://usa.humanityfirst.org/donate>

2020 is our Centennial Year so we ardently desire that it may be a blessed one. You can help us to make that happen through your support and prayers. Every prayer counts!

May Allah accept our supplications and sacrifices, and shower blessings on all. Ameen

Wassalam



Azhar Haneef, Missionary In-charge, USA

Planning for Commemorating The First Centennial of Ahmadiyyat in the USA

Planning for commemorating the First Centennial of Ahmadiyyat in the USA began in the USA Jamā'at Shura of 2013 when an outline for this commemoration was proposed by the then Chicago-East Jamā'at. Subsequent to due deliberations, the Shura Recommendations were kindly approved by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih al-Khamis (aba). Pursuant to Huzur's approval, the then Amir USA, Respected Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar formed a National Centennial Committee in 2014, with the then Na'ib Amir USA, Respected Munum Ahmad Naeem as its Chairman.

In October 2016, Respected Munum Ahmad Naeem, with approval from the then Amir USA, Respected Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, engaged me as the Secretary of the National Centennial Committee. We held our first formal Committee meeting (via teleconference) on November 16, 2016 and started developing the Commemoration Plan in earnest.

In late 2017, Respected Munum Ahmad Naeem excused himself from the Committee work due to his job transfer abroad and asked me to continue the Committee work, as Acting Chairman and Secretary, in his absence. On February 8, 2020, the USA Jamā'at National Amila approved me as the Chairman and Respected Amjad Mahmood Khan as the Secretary of this Committee.

I am grateful to the National Centennial Committee for putting together a rather ambitious Commemoration Plan for this historic Centennial. The theme of this commemoration was to:

- Demonstrate our gratitude for Allah's favors on us and our elders.
- Memorialize the sacrifices and accomplishments of our elders.
- Inspire our youth to propel our community to new heights.
- Seek Allah's forgiveness for our shortcomings.

As the year 2020 unfolded, the first century of Ahmadiyyat in the USA became even more historic in that it was bookended by two devastating and paralyzing pandemics – the Spanish Flu (1917-1918) and COVID-19 (2020). Soon after commemorating our planned Centennial Day (Saturday, February 15, 2020) events in various communities throughout the country and the world around us changed abruptly due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Consequently, we had to defer or scale back our Centennial Plan.

A critical component of our Centennial Plan was to capture a glimpse of the first century of Ahmadiyyat in the USA in the form of a Centennial Souvenir. I am grateful to our Publications team, led by Syed Sajid Ahmad (National Publications Secretary, USA) for assembling a memorable compendium of articles and photographs in this souvenir about the Successors of the Promised Messiah (a.s.) and the impact of their prayers, guidance and blessed visits to the USA and the pioneers of Ahmadiyyat in the USA and their extra-ordinary sacrifices and accomplishments. May Allah abundantly reward all the contributors (writers, editors, designers, photographers, proofreaders, reviewers, advisers, assistants, and others) to this souvenir. I hope and pray that our readers will overlook its deficiencies and find it informative and memorable.

May our Gracious and Merciful Allah forgive our shortcomings and accept the humble efforts of the National Centennial Committee. May our Almighty Allah bless our community with unprecedented future successes in the USA and beyond. Ameen.

Nasir Mahmood Malik

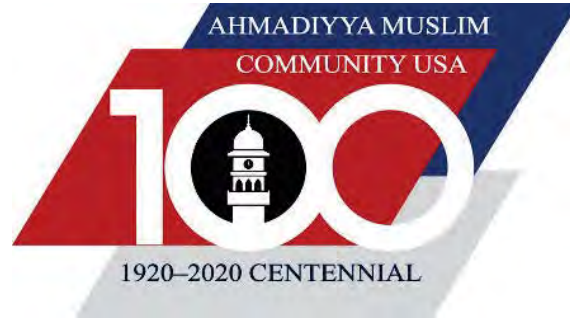
December 23, 2020

Ahmadiyya Gazette

United States of America

Vol. 72 Nos. 10-12 and Vol. 73. Nos. 1-9

October 2020 – September 2021



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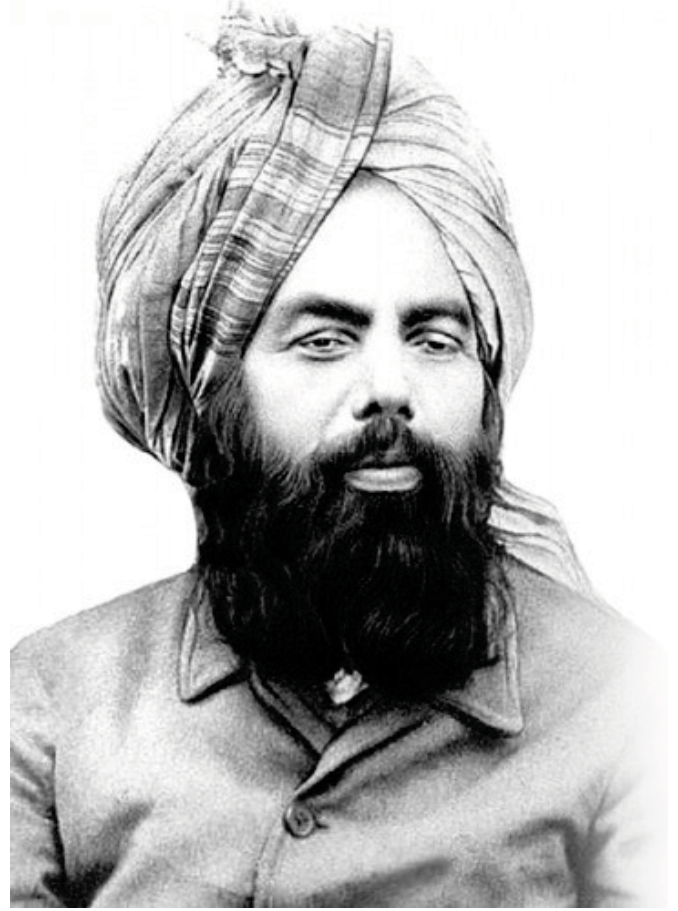
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Souvenir Commemorating
the First Hundred Years of
Ahmadiyya Islam in the US

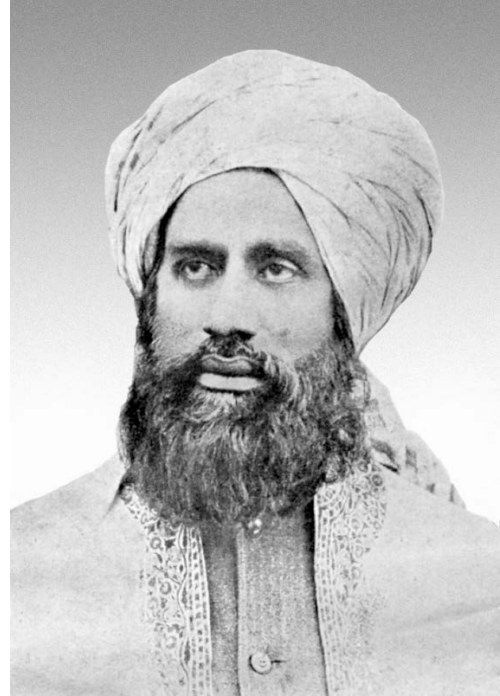
Revival of Islam in the Latter Days

عَنْ حُدَيْفَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ
 ﷺ تَكُونُ النَّبُوءَةُ فِيكُمْ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ تَكُونَ ثُمَّ
 يَرْفَعُهَا اللَّهُ تَعَالَى ثُمَّ تَكُونُ خِلَافَةٌ عَلَى مِنْهَاجِ
 النَّبُوءَةِ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ تَكُونَ ثُمَّ يَرْفَعُهَا اللَّهُ
 تَعَالَى ثُمَّ تَكُونُ مُلْكًا عَاصِمًا فَيَكُونُ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ
 أَنْ يَكُونَ ثُمَّ يَرْفَعُهَا اللَّهُ تَعَالَى ثُمَّ تَكُونُ مُلْكًا
 جَبَرِيَّةً فَتَكُونُ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ تَكُونَ ثُمَّ يَرْفَعُهَا اللَّهُ
 تَعَالَى ثُمَّ تَكُونُ خِلَافَةٌ عَلَى مِنْهَاجِ النَّبُوءَةِ ثُمَّ
 سَكَتَ -

Ḥaḍrat Hudhaifah relates that the Holy Prophet said: “Prophethood shall remain among you as long as God wills. He will bring about its end and follow it with Khilāfat on the precepts of Prophethood for as long as He wills and then bring about its end. Kingship shall then follow to remain as long as He wills and then come to an end. There shall then be tyranny, which shall remain as long as God wills and come to an end upon His decree. There will then emerge Khilāfat on the precepts of prophethood. Then he remained silent.” (Musnad Aḥmad)



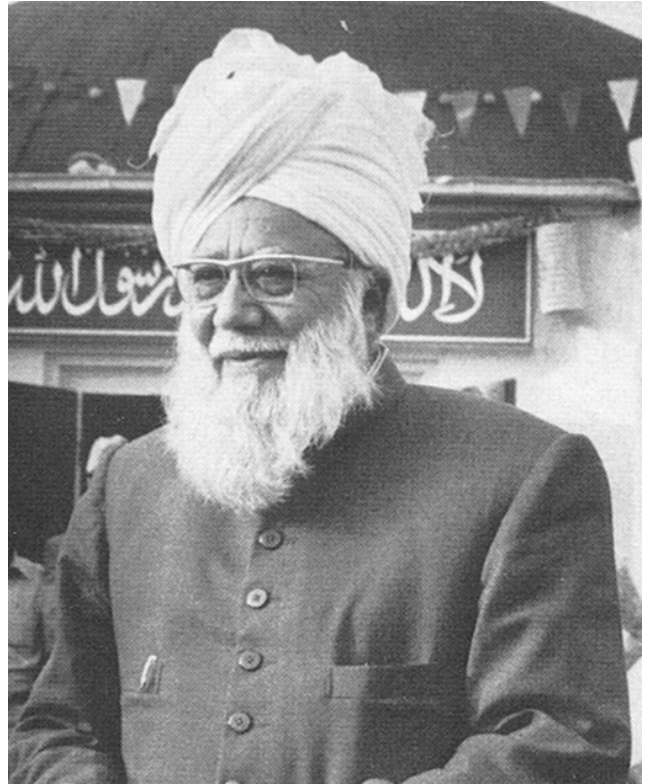
Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908)
The Promised Messiah and Mahdi



Hazrat Maulawi Nur-ud-Din (1841-1914)
First Successor to the Promised Messiah



Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (1889-1965)
Second Successor to the Promised Messiah



Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad (1909-1982)
Third Successor to the Promised Messiah



Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (1928-2003)
Fourth Successor to the Promised Messiah



Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (1950-...)
Fifth Successor to the Promised Messiah

The Heavenly Community of the Latter Days

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, prophesied about the latter days,

إِنَّ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ افْتَرَقَتْ عَلَى إِحْدَى وَسَبْعِينَ فِرْقَةً وَإِنَّ أُمَّتِي
سَتَفْتَرِقُ عَلَى ثِنْتَيْنِ وَسَبْعِينَ فِرْقَةً كُلُّهَا فِي النَّارِ إِلَّا وَاحِدَةً وَهِيَ
الْجَمَاعَةُ

The Israelites divided into seventy-one sects, and my people will divide into seventy-two, all of them will be in Hell (disarray) apart from one, which will be the Jamā'at. (Sunan Ibn Mājah, Book on Disorders, Chapter 17)

There are other similar narratives that prophesy the divisions among Muslims and the advice of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to stick with the heavenly community.

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْمُثَنَّى، حَدَّثَنَا الْوَلِيدُ بْنُ مُسْلِمٍ، حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ جَابِرٍ،
حَدَّثَنِي بُسْرُ بْنُ عُبَيْدِ اللَّهِ الْحَضْرَمِيُّ، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ أَبَا إِدْرِيسَ الْحَوْلَانِيَّ، أَنَّهُ
سَمِعَ حُدَيْفَةَ بْنَ الْيَمَانِ، يَقُولُ كَانَ النَّاسُ يَسْأَلُونَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَنِ الْخَيْرِ، وَكُنْتُ أَسْأَلُهُ عَنِ الشَّرِّ، مَخَافَةَ أَنْ يُدْرِكَنِي فَقُلْتُ
يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنَّا كُنَّا فِي جَاهِلِيَّةٍ وَشَرٌّ فَجَاءَنَا اللَّهُ بِهَذَا الْخَيْرِ، فَهَلْ بَعْدَ
هَذَا الْخَيْرِ مِنْ شَرٍّ قَالَ " نَعَمْ ". قُلْتُ وَهَلْ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ الشَّرِّ مِنْ خَيْرٍ قَالَ "
نَعَمْ، وَفِيهِ دَخْنٌ ". قُلْتُ وَمَا دَخْنُهُ قَالَ " قَوْمٌ يَهْدُونَ بِعَيْرِ هَدْيِي، تَعْرِفُ
مِنْهُمْ وَتُنْكِرُ ". قُلْتُ فَهَلْ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ الْخَيْرِ مِنْ شَرٍّ قَالَ " نَعَمْ، دَعَا عَلَى
أَبْوَابِ جَهَنَّمَ، مَنْ أَجَابَهُمْ إِلَيْهَا قَدَفُوهُ فِيهَا ". قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صِفْهُمْ
لَنَا. قَالَ " هُمْ مِنْ جِلْدَتِنَا، وَيَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِأَلْسِنَتِنَا ". قُلْتُ فَمَا تَأْمُرُنِي إِنْ
أَدْرَكَنِي ذَلِكَ قَالَ " تَلْزِمُ جَمَاعَةَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَإِمَامَهُمْ ". قُلْتُ فَإِنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ
لَهُمْ جَمَاعَةٌ وَلَا إِمَامٌ قَالَ " فَاعْتَرِزْ بِتِلْكَ الْفِرْقِ كُلِّهَا، وَلَوْ أَنْ تَعْصَى بِأَصْلِ
شَجَرَةٍ، حَتَّى يُدْرِكَكَ الْمَوْتُ، وَأَنْتَ عَلَى ذَلِكَ ".

Hudhaifah bin Al-Yamān related, People used to ask Allah's Messenger (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) about the good but I used to ask him about the evil lest I be overtaken by it. I said, "O Messenger of Allah! We were living in ignorance and evil, then Allah brought to us this good (that is, Islam); will there be any evil after this good?" He said, "Yes." I said, "Will there be any good after that evil?" He replied, "Yes, but it will be ambiguous." I asked, "What will be the ambiguity?" He replied, "Some people will lead without guidance. You will

recognize some and reject others." I asked, "Will there be any evil after that good?" He replied, "Yes. Some will call at the gates of Hell, and whoever will respond to them, they will throw them into the Hell." I said, "O Messenger of Allah! Describe them to us?" He said, "They will have our form and will speak in our languages." I said, "What do you order me if I encounter so?" He said, "Stick to the Jamā'at (Community) of the (true) Muslims and their leader." I said, "If there is neither a Community of Muslims nor a leader?" He said, "Then keep away from all those sects even if you were to bite the roots of a tree till death overtakes you while you are in that state." (Bukhari, Book on Disorders, Chapter 11)

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, advised,

مَنْ رَأَى مِنْ أَمِيرِهِ شَيْئًا يَكْرَهُهُ فَلْيَصْبِرْ عَلَيْهِ، فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ فَارَقَ الْجَمَاعَةَ
شَبْرًا فَمَاتَ، إِلَّا مَاتَ مَيِّتَةً جَاهِلِيَّةً

If one notices something which he dislikes concerning his leader, he should be patient about it, for whoever separates from the Community even for a little and dies, he dies a death of ignorance. (Bukhari, Book on Disorders)

He further explained the conditions in future and guided accordingly,

أَوْصِيكُمْ بِأَصْحَابِي ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ ثُمَّ يَفْشُو
الْكَذِبُ حَتَّى يَخْلِفَ الرَّجُلُ وَلَا يُسْتَحْلَفُ وَيَشْهَدَ الشَّاهِدُ وَلَا يُسْتَشْهَدُ
إِلَّا لَا يَجْلُونَ رَجُلًا بِأَمْرَةٍ إِلَّا كَانَ ثَالِثَهُمَا الشَّيْطَانُ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْجَمَاعَةِ
وَإِيَّاكُمْ وَالْفُرْقَةَ فَإِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ مَعَ الْوَاحِدِ وَهُوَ مِنَ الْإِثْنَيْنِ أَبْعَدُ مَنْ
أَرَادَ مُجُوحَةَ الْجَنَّةِ فَلْيَلْزِمِ الْجَمَاعَةَ مَنْ سَرَّهُ حَسَنَتُهُ وَسَاءَتْهُ سَيِّئَتُهُ
فَدَلِكِ الْمُؤْمِنُ

I advise you to be with my Companions, then those who come after them, then those who come after them. Then lying will spread until a man will take an oath when no oath was sought from him, and a witness will testify when his testimony was not sought. Behold! A man is not alone with a woman but the third of them is the Satan. You are to be with the Jamā'at (Community), be watchful of separation, for indeed the Satan is with one, and he is further away from two. Whoever wants the best place in Paradise, then let him stick to the Jamā'at

(Community). Whoever rejoices with his good deeds and grieves over his evil deeds, then that is the believer among you. (Tirmidhi, Book on Disorders, Chapter 7)

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, envisaged only escape for Muslims from the disorders in the latter days in belonging to “the Jamā‘at,” or “the community.”

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَجْمَعُ أُمَّتِي - أَوْ قَالَ أُمَّةً - عَلَى ضَلَالَةٍ وَيَدَّ اللَّهُ مَعَ الْجَمَاعَةِ وَمَنْ شَدَّ شَدًّا إِلَى النَّارِ

Indeed Allah will not gather my people upon deviation from the right path, and the Hand of Allah is with the Jamā‘at (the Community), and whoever deviates, he deviates towards the Fire. (Tirmidhi, Book on Disorders, Chapter 7)

مَنْ خَرَجَ مِنَ الطَّاعَةِ وَفَارَقَ الْجَمَاعَةَ فَمَاتَ مَاتَ مَيِّتَةً جَاهِلِيَّةً

One who defected from obedience and separated from the Jama‘ah and died, he died the death of ignorance. (Muslim, Book on Leadership)

مَنْ خَلَعَ يَدًا مِنْ طَاعَةِ لَقِيَّ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ لَا حُجَّةَ لَهُ وَمَنْ مَاتَ

وَلَيْسَ فِي عُنُقِهِ بَيْعَةٌ مَاتَ مَيِّتَةً جَاهِلِيَّةً

One who withdraws his hand from obedience will find no argument in his own favor when he meets Allah on the Day of Judgment, and one who dies without having bound himself by an oath of allegiance (Bai‘at) will die the death of ignorance. (Muslim, Book on Leadership)

مَنْ فَارَقَ الْجَمَاعَةَ شِبْرًا فَقَدْ خَلَعَ رِبْقَةَ الْإِسْلَامِ مِنْ عُنُقِهِ

One who separates from the community within a span takes off the noose of Islam from his neck. (Sunan Abi Dawud, Book on Sunnah, Chapter 30)

كُلُوا جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفْرُقُوا فَإِنَّ الْبَرَكَةَ مَعَ الْجَمَاعَةِ

Eat together and do not be divided for the blessing is with the Jamā‘at. (Sunan Ibn Mājah, Book on Foods, Section 17)

To claim the distinction of being a Jamā‘at, many Muslim group attach the word Jamā‘at to their associations but to truly manifest the meaning and intent, the community is to be led by a global leader followed by the members of community in a synchronized fashion as exhibited during congregational Prayers.

The word Jamā‘at was used by the Holy Prophet for the five daily Prayers offered in congregation.

Congregational Prayers are led by a leader (Imam). All followers stand behind him shoulder to shoulder without any distinction in rank, in an organized manner, in straight rows facing exactly the same direction. They follow the leader exactly and do not deviate from him in any manner except for allowed physical inconveniences. The followers stand, bow, sit and prostrate as the leader does. Jamā‘at is a cohesive group of people who pledge to follow a leader pursuing common goals and objectives.

The cohesion among a group is a result of common objectives and a practical working system under a leadership followed by all members. In comparison to the other contemporary Islamic groups, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community fulfills the required requisites to be “The Community.” It follows a leadership that is established on the very precept envisaged by the Holy Prophet for it to carry during the latter days, Khilafat following the ways of prophethood.

عَنْ حُدَيْفَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ تَكُونُ النَّبُوءَةُ فِيكُمْ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ تَكُونَ ثُمَّ يَرْفَعَهَا اللَّهُ تَعَالَى ثُمَّ تَكُونُ خِلَافَةُ عَلَى مَنَاجِزِ النَّبُوءَةِ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ تَكُونَ ثُمَّ يَرْفَعَهَا اللَّهُ تَعَالَى ثُمَّ تَكُونُ مُلْكًا عَاصِمًا فَيَكُونُ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَكُونَ ثُمَّ يَرْفَعَهَا اللَّهُ تَعَالَى ثُمَّ تَكُونُ مُلْكًا جَبَرِيَّةً فَتَكُونُ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ تَكُونَ ثُمَّ يَرْفَعَهَا اللَّهُ تَعَالَى ثُمَّ تَكُونُ خِلَافَةُ عَلَى مَنَاجِزِ النَّبُوءَةِ ثُمَّ سَكَتَ -

Ḥaḍrat Hudhaifah relates that the Holy Prophet said: “Prophethood shall remain among you as long as God wills. He will bring about its end and follow it with Khilāfat on the precepts of Prophethood for as long as He wills and then bring about its end. Kingship shall then follow to remain as long as He wills and then come to an end. There shall then be tyranny, which shall remain as long as God wills and come to an end upon His decree. There will then emerge Khilāfat on the precepts of prophethood. Then he remained silent.” (Musnad Aḥmad)

To streamline the smooth operation of the Ahmadiyya Community, the Promised Messiah started laying the foundation of a system that has flourished and continues to grow as the membership increases and its needs demand expansion of areas that need to be addressed.

The Ahmadiyya Community system is based on the Islamic principles of consultation as laid down in the Holy Quran and practiced during the early days of Islam. General membership from the geographical chapters elects representatives who in turn elect national leadership that works under a global head who is elected for life by a committee that comprises elected and select lifetime devoted members.

In this compilation, from the national administration side, various departments present the history of their development and work in the US under the guidance of global leadership of Ahmadiyya Khilafat. From the general membership side, geographical chapters present their historical development and work. The planning and work of the national administrations and the local administrations are streamlined through a yearly advisory council meeting where representatives from the geographical chapters elect officials, and propose and select programs, budgets and plans for the upcoming year. The decisions of the advisory council are vetted, approved, and supported by the global leadership of the Community and leadership at all other levels.

The Holy Qur'an foretold the advent of a messenger of Allāh in the latter days:

هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُم
الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ ۝ وَالْآخِرِينَ مِنْهُمْ لَمَّا
يَلْحَقُوا بِهِمْ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ۝

“He it is Who has raised among the Unlettered people a Messenger from among themselves who recites unto them His Signs, and purifies them, and teaches them the Book and wisdom, although they had been, before, in manifest misguidance;”

“And among others from among them who have not yet joined them. He is the Mighty, the Wise.” (62[Al-Jumu'ah]:3-4)

The Holy Prophet explained this verse in the following manner:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ كُنَّا جُلُوسًا عِنْدَ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَأَنْزِلَتْ عَلَيْهِ سُورَةُ الْجُمُعَةِ وَالْآخِرِينَ مِنْهُمْ لَمَّا يَلْحَقُوا بِهِمْ قَالَ
قُلْتُ مَنْ هُمْ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ فَلَمْ يُرَاجِعْهُ حَتَّى سَأَلَ ثَلَاثًا، وَفِينَا سَلْمَانُ
الْفَارِسِيُّ، وَصَّعَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَدَهُ عَلَى سَلْمَانَ ثُمَّ قَالَ «لَوْ
كَانَ الْإِيمَانُ عِنْدَ الثُّرَيَّا لَنَالَهُ رِجَالٌ - أَوْ رَجُلٌ - مِنْ هَؤُلَاءِ».

Abū Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, narrates: “We were in the company of the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) when Sūrah Jumu'ah was revealed. [When he recited the verse] ‘Wa Ākharīna Minhum Lammā Yalḥaqū Bihim,’ that is, ‘And (among) others of them who have not yet joined them,’ one of those present asked, “Who are they, O Messenger of Allāh?” The Holy Prophet

did not reply until the third time. At that time, Salman the Persian was also among us. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) placed his hand on him and said, ‘Even if faith ascended to the Pleiades, a person or persons from among them will restore it [back to earth].’ (Bukhārī, Kitābut-Tafsīr)

The Holy Qur'an made the promise of Khilāfat (Successorship) to the righteous,

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
لِيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ ۗ
وَلِيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ وَلِيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ
خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا ۗ يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا ۗ وَمَنْ كَفَرَ بَعْدَ
ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ ۝

“Allāh has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear: They will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me. Then whoso is ungrateful after that, they will be the rebellious.”(24[Al-Nūr]:56)

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, during the time of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, and under the canopy of Khilafat after him, has manifested, for more than a hundred and thirty years by now, the embodiment of the verse of the Holy Qur'an,

وَأَلْفَ بَيْنٍ قُلُوبِهِمْ ۗ لَوْ أَنفَقْتَ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا مَّا أَلْفَتْ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِهِمْ
وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ أَلْفَ بَيْنَهُمْ ۗ إِنَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ ۝

And He has put affection between their hearts. If thou hadst expended all that is in the earth, thou couldst not have put affection between their hearts, but Allah has put affection between them. Surely, He is Mighty, Wise. (8 [Al-Anfal] : 64)

All praise is due to Allah for all His bounties and favors upon the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. (Syed Sajid Ahmad)

Visits to the US by the Ahmadi Caliphs

Visits to the US by *Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih III*



Interview with press. From left to right: BA Rafiq, Imam London Mosque, seated on sofa. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III. Ameer and Missionary In-Charge, Muhammad Siddique Shahid, standing. Missionary Mian Muhammad Ibrahim, standing.

Visit	Date of Visit	Places Visited
First Visit	25 July to 13 August 1976	Washington D.C., Dayton OH, New York NY, New Jersey
	25-31 July 1976	Washington D.C.
	1-4 August 1976	Dayton OH
	4-6 August 1976	New York NY
	6-8 August 1976	New Jersey
Second Visit	11 September to 23 September 1980	San Francisco, Washington D.C., Longwood Gardens PA
	11-15 September 1980	San Francisco CA
	15-23 September 1980	Washington D.C. and Longwood Gardens, PA

During his first visit, Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih III stayed around New York-Washington, D.C. area and visited Dayton. During his second visit, he stayed at two ends of the US, California and the area around Washington, D.C.

Visits to the US by *Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih IV*



Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih IV in a QA session with members. (Photo by Abdus Sami Khaliq)

First Visit: 30 September 1987-14 November 1987

30 September: New York.

2 October, Friday Sermon in New York.

4 October: Washington DC and visited Philadelphia and Willingboro.

7 October: Reception. Proclaimed Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Day by Washington DC.

8 October Willingboro Mosque opening. 9 October: Friday Sermon in Washington DC and groundbreaking of the future Bait-ur-Rahman complex. Philadelphia mosque opening.

10 October: Dayton and then to Chicago Detroit (Friday Sermon in Detroit on 16 October) and back to Washington.

Next trip to Miami FL, St Louis MO, Tucson AZ (21 October Yousuf Mosque opening), Los Angeles CA

(Friday Sermon in LA on 23 October), San Francisco, Portland (Rizwan Mosque opening and Friday Sermon 30 October, reception 31 October). Calgary Canada (Friday Sermon 6 November). Back to DC 8 November.

Back to NY. Friday Sermon in New York on 13 November. Historic National Shura 13-14 November in New York. Left for London 14 November.

Second Visit 1989

Visited Rochester, Amsterdam, University of Maryland at Baltimore, China CA (Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque Opening)

Third Visit 1991

Visited New Jersey (Bait-ul-Wahid 18 June 1991), Ypsilanti MI.

Fourth Visit. 1994

Los Angeles CA (Friday Sermon 23 September), Seattle WA,

Washington DC (Earth Station MTA inauguration 13 October 1994. Bait-ur-Rahman inauguration 14 October. 14-16 October Annual Convention). Willingboro (18 October 1994 mosque foundation). Chicago IL (Sadiq Mosque 23 October 1994, Bait-ul-Jami Glen Ellyn IL 23 October 1994).

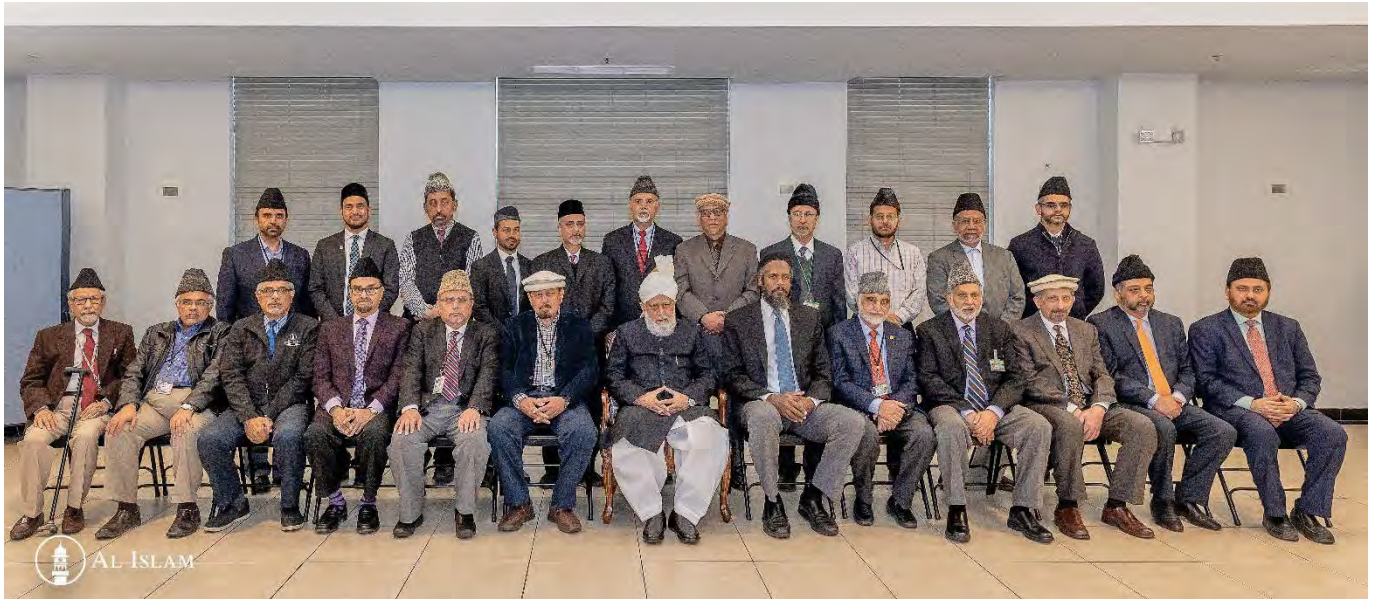
Fifth Visit 1997

Boston (16 June mission house dedication. City of Sharon Ahmadiyya Muslim Day). Chicago (17 June 1997 Glen Ellyn IL Mosque Foundation). Bait-ur-Rahman Silver Spring Maryland (Annual Convention 20-22 June).

Sixth Visit 1998

Maryland (26-28 June Annual Convention), Houston TX (Bait-us-Samee Mosque, Houston, 30 June 1998). Milpitas, CA (Bait-ul-Baseer, Milpitas, 1 July 1998)

Visits to the US by *Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih V*



Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khaifatul-Masih V with members of the National Executive in November 2018

	Date of Visit	Places Visited	Mosque/Building	Inauguration	
First Visit	16-24 June 2008	Harrisburg, McLean, VA			
Second Visit	June-July 2012	Washington D.C., Zion IL			
		Columbus OH	Bait-un-Nasir	19 June 2012	
	19 June 2012	Pittsburg			
	27 June 2012	Capitol, Washington			
		Virginia	Mubarak Mosque	27 June 2012	
Third Visit	4-12 May 2013	Los Angeles			
	11 May 2013	Montage in Beverly Hills, CA			
Fourth Visit	October		MTA Masroor Teleport	16 October 2018	
		Philadelphia	Bait-ul-Aafiyat Mosque	19 October 2018	
		Baltimore	Bait-us-Samee	20 October 2018	
		Philadelphia. Visit grave of George Baker.		20 October 2018	
		Guatemala	Nasir Hospital	23 October 2018	
		26 October 2018	Houston, TX		
		30 October 2018	Ansar Housing Project Joppa, Maryland		30 October 2018
		2 Nov 2018	BRM Maryland		
			Manassas, VA	Masroor Mosque	3 November 2018
		5 Nov 2018	Bait-ur-Rahman Maryland		

Progression of Administrative Departments in the US

Dr. Muhammad Abdul-Khaliq, Dr. Mahmud Ahmad Nagi

Two dedicated companions of the Promised Messiah; Mufti Muhammad Sadiq and Maulvi Muhammad Din, started the propagation of Islam in USA. US is a vast country, about three thousand miles from east to west. As the number of members increased, there was need for establishing organization at the national level.

Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq came to be the first head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the US as Missionary-in-Charge. He had a number of persons helping him in propagation such as handling mail and persons trained to assist in preaching, teaching and training, designated as Shaikhs. The concept of Shaikhs died away as additional missionaries came, auxiliaries were formed, and organization expanded at national and local level.

Dr. Muhammad Yusuf Khan, an honorary missionary, writes about the modus operandi about Tabligh (propagation) of Mufti Muhammad Sadiq:

He began visiting various denominations of Churches and the Syrian Restaurants. Sometimes he wore navy blue suit, but mostly he wore black sherwani with green turban which caused him to look quite distinguished. He always carried about one hundred large-size cards in his pockets. His photo appeared on one side and the other side were the Islamic teachings in condensed form. The cards were always printed in green ink... He had a wonderful personality, and, in my judgement, he was a born missionary and a practical psychologist. He was the most tactful person whom I have ever seen... He would engage people on the street cars or on the sidewalk and therein he would somehow introduce Islamic teachings and then gave them cards. By so doing quite a few

people contacted him in his office from time to time... With his distinguished personality and charming manners, he was considered an honor to any church or social pulpit. Since he knew colloquial Arabic language, he made a great hit with the Arabs of Syria, Arabia, Lebanon and Palestine... He persuaded Brother Yaqub to move to Chicago where he found about fifty converts to Ahmadiyyat thru his activities. (Muslim Sunrise, 1974 Issue-4, p. 14)

In 1933, Dr. Muhammad Yusuf Khan appointed Sister Aliyyah Muhammad as first President of the women's "Sewing Circle." (From Nycemah Yaqub-African American Journey to Islam)

Sufi M.R. Bengali officially formed Lajna Ima'illah USA in 1935. By 1937, Lajna Ima'illah was established in five cities, Chicago, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Kansas City.

When the name, "Lajna Ima'illah, was introduced in United States in 1936, Sister Aliyyah Muhammad became Lajna's first elected local President in America." Lajna USA established contact with Center Rabwah. Sister Amatul Hafeez wife of Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir Missionary In-Charge was elected first Elected President of Lajna Ima'illa USA. Sister Atiyyah Shaheed was elected Secretary of Lajna. Lajna issued a magazine "Lajna News" which was later named as "Ayesha". (Tareekh Lajna Ima'illah, V. 4, p. 562)

Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya USA was established in March 1939 at Chicago. (Al-Fazl, 29 July 1939). The Majlis was in sound footing in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Dayton and Baltimore in the year 1947. (Al-Fazl 15 August 1948). Khuddam who contributed

extensively for Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya USA are Brother Abid Haneef of Boston, Noor-ul-Islam of Chicago, Basharat Ahmad Saboor and Brother Munir Ahmad of Philadelphia, Brother Muzaffar Zafr of Dayton.

Dr. Khalil Nasir conducted two successful Mubahala (Prayer Duel) with the Jews under the auspices of Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, South Chicago. (Al-Fazl, 11 April 1948).

Chief Missionary Maqbool Ahmad activated Khuddam as their Naib Sadr. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, V. 8, No. 3, p. 3).

Khalil Ahmad Nasir Initiated elections of national executives and auxiliaries. Participated in many international religious conferences. (Al-Fazl 17 April 1946)

Br. Hussain Abdul Aziz of Philadelphia started Bulletin named "Khadim." (Gazette Dec. 1968, p. 4) Annual gathering of Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya was held from 25 to 27 April 1969. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA May 1969, V. 8, No. 5, p. 5).

A two-day National Ijtemā of Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya was held in May 1977. (Al-Fazl, 9 July 1977).

With the availability of more than one missionary at a time, circles or regions have been assigned to missionaries comprising chapters of members scattered over large areas.

First Ahmadiyya Convention was held on 5 September 1948. (The Moslem Sunrise 1948, V. 20, No. 4, p. 11)

The Ahmadiyya Co-operative Committee was one of the new departments created at second annual convention held in Pittsburgh in September 1949. The principal object of this department was to institute ways and means of

helping our sisters and brothers to work in unity and to co-operate with one another to better their condition of spirituality, socially and financially. (Ahmadiyya Gazette USA June 1950, V. 1 No. 4, p. 13)

On the transfer of headquarters from Chicago to Washington, circles were realigned from May 1950.

New York Circle: In charge Missionary Ghulam Yasin

Missions: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Maryland states.

Pittsburgh Circle: In charge Missionary Abdul Qadir Zaighum

Missions: Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan States.

Missouri Circle: In charge Missionary Shukar Ilahi

Missions: Missouri, Illinois and Indiana States.

(The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA June 1950, V. 1, No. 4, p. 2)

Majlis Ansarullah was formed at the Twelfth Annual Convention of US held in Chicago on 5-6 September 1959. First President was Ahmad Shaheed of Pittsburgh and Secretary Muhammad Sadiq of New York (Personal file of Syed Jawad Ali Shah 1959, p. 28)

At Annual Convention of 1962, Syed Abdur Rahman was elected as Za'im A'la Ansarullah. After this, separate meetings were held for Ansar, Khuddam and Lajna. (Al-Fazl 5 October 1962)

Consultative Meeting (Shura) was held at 23rd Annual Convention (Jalsa Salana). Presidents of the Jamā'at and the missionaries attended. Ways were devised for the improvement of the financial conditions and stepping up the propagation. Several resolutions were passed. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, August-September 1970, p. 2)

A consultative meeting was held

on 5 Sept 1970 at Dayton Mosque. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, Aug-September 1970, p. 4)

Approval was received from the Center of the appointment of the following Khuddam as Nazim' (Secretary) of the department mentioned against each name.

1. Br. Munir Hamid of Philadelphia—Enrollment & Publication
 2. Br. Al Nur Gazzali of New York—Finance
 3. Br. Abdul Raheem Zafar of Dayton—Education & Instructions
 4. Br. Jameelur Rahman of Pittsburgh—Propagation (Tabligh)
 5. Br. Abdul Karim Chicago—Social service
 6. Malik Abdul Mannan, Philadelphia—Dignity of labor
 7. Bashiruddin Usama, Detroit—Health & Hygiene
 8. Lateef Ahmad of St. Louis—Atfal (Children)
- (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, April-May 1971, p. 8)

The executive committee of Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya National held its meeting at Dayton on 7 January 1972. Following attended.

1. Br. Abdur Rahim Zafr, Mu'tamid and Nazim of education and enrollment.
2. Br. Munir Hamid of Philadelphia- Nazim of propagation.
3. Br. Dhul Waqar Yaqub of Troy Ohio-Nazim of propagation.
4. Br. Abdul Karim of Chicago-Nazim of Social Service.
5. Br. Jameel-ur-Rahman of Pittsburgh- Nazim Tahrik Jadid.
6. Br. Basharat Ahmad Sabur of Milwaukee-Nazim of Trade and Industry.
7. Br. Lateef Ahmad of St. Louis-Nazim of Dignity of Labor.

The meeting was presided over by Missionary In-Charge Maqbool A. Qureshi. Now they will try to carry out their schemes through the local

office holders-the Qā'ids. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA January 1972, p. 3)

“Imam [Major Sharif Ahmad] Bajwa, the Missionary in-Charge of our missions in America has appointed the following gentlemen to look after the religious needs of Correctional Institutes. With the cooperation of the Government authorities, they will form Jamā'ats and organize lectures beneficial to the inmates. Chairman: Abdur Rahim Zafar. Members: Balal Abdullah, Yahya Abdullah, Abdul Raqib Wali.” (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, July 1973, p. 3)

US Jamā'at promised to pay \$3,90,000 for Hundred Year Jubilee Fund initiated by Khalifat-ul-Masih III in 1974. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA March 1975, p. 2)

Majlis Shura USA was held in Washington on 8-9 February 1975. A representative of US Jamā'at Missionary Br. Rashid Ahmad American was sent to attend Central Majlis Shura Rabwah in 1975. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA March 1975)

A special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors was held on 25 May 1975 at Washington Mission HQ with Missionary Imam [Siddique] Shahid in the chair. The following attended.

1. The missionary Midwest circle, Missionary Muhammad Ibrahim
2. The National Amir, Rashid Ahmad American.
3. National Financial Secretary, Munawar A. Saeed.
4. The Midwest Regional Amir, Bashir Afzal, Co-opted. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, June 1975, p. 1)

Amirs (of US Chapters) met at Washington D.C. on 8-9 February 1975 under Missionary In-Charge Muhammad Siddique Shahid Gurdaspuri. Following attended.



Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, New York, Teaneck, New Jersey, York-Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Dayton, Detroit (Rahman Karim substituting), St. Louis, Waukegan, Athens, Milwaukee and Portland OR (Br. Khalil Ahmad of Boston), Col. Ata Ullah of Lahore, Pakistan, on casual visit, participated on request. Following was the agenda.

- a) The Ahmadiyya Gazette be published once a month. Amīrs should collect the annual subscription of \$ 5 for the Gazette and quarterly Muslim Sunrise, and send to Washington Mission.
- b) Illustrated history of Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam USA be published by the next National Convention (Aug 30-Sept 1, 1975), for which photos and articles be sent to the Editor by 31 May 1975.

(The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA March 1976, p. 3)

Decisions taken by Amīrs during meeting held under the guidance of Missionary In-Charge Muhammad Siddique Shahid Gurdaspuri on 6-7 Feb. 1976.

- a. Subscription of Ahmadiyya Gazette be increased from 5 to 7 dollars.
- b. Suitable piece of land be obtained for building a mosque at Zion.
- c. Br. Rashid Ahmad was elected unanimously as National Amir
- d. Missionaries Masud Ahmad and Mian Muhammad Ibrahim are required to look after the Jamā'ats in East Coast region, Midwest and Lakes respectively. (Ahmadiyya Gazette March 1976, p. 3)

Missionary In-Charge Muhammad Siddique Shahid conducted the election of the National Qaid for the ensuing 2 year period (1977-8).

Khuddam Officers 1977-78
Br. Yahya Sharif Abdullah, Qā'id

Br. Hajji Dhul Waqar Yaqub, Nā'ib Qā'id Awwal

Br. Nasirullah Ahmad, Nā'ib Qā'id

Yusuf Amin, Mutamid/ Administration

Mubashar Ahmad, Mutamid/Program

Abdul Karim (Boston), Nazim/Religious Training

Umar Bilal Ebrahim, Nazim/Atfal al-Ahmadiyya

Abdul Kabir Haqqe, Nazim/Khuddam Services

Jalaluddin A. Latif, Nazim/Health & Fitness

A.M. Shamim Ahmad, Nazim/Public Information

Basharat Jamil, Nazim/Finance & Supply

Khalid Abdul Aziz, Nazim/Enrollment & Records

Munir Hamid, National Murabbi. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA June 1977, p. 7 and October 1977, p. 7)

The following presidents of Jamā'ats and missionaries in USA attended meeting with Missionary in Charge Mir Mahmud Ahmad Nasir in the chair:

Muzaffar Ahmad, National President Dayton

Rashid Ahmad, Regional President Milwaukee

Abid Hanif, Boston
Major Abdul Hamid, Missionary East Coast (NY)

Mian Muhammad Ibrahim, Missionary MW and Lakes (Dayton)

M. Abdur Rashid Yahya, Missionary, S. East Region (Washington)

Muhammad Sadiq N.J
Syed Sharif Ahmad, Concord, CA

Munir Ahmad, St. Louis, Missouri

Jamilur Rahman, Pittsburgh, PA
Jamil Ahmad, Cleveland, OH
Abdul Hafiz, Baltimore
Ali Razaa, Kenosha, WI
Abdul Kabir Haque, Chicago
Yahya Sharif, Dover, PA
Mubashar Ahmad, Central Financial Secretary
Dr. B.A. Munir, Athens OH
Yusaf Amin, Troy-OH
Hussain Abdul Aziz, Philadelphia, PA
Dr. Abdul Mannan Malik, Willingboro, NJ
Umar Bilal Ibrahim, NY
Abu Bakr, Racine, WI
Nasir M. Malik (V. President) Detroit, MI

Among terms discussed were the feasibility of establishing schools for children, training of American Ahmadis as honorary missionaries and prospects of holding an Int. Conf. on the Crumbling of the Cross in America in 1980. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette April 1979, p. 5)

In 1980, the very first convention of the West Coast took place in San Francisco at a rental hall which was presided by Mir Mahmud Ahmad, Missionary-in-Charge. Interestingly enough, the number of attendees at this convention totaled 75. (Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, June 1980)

Prior to 1990 these Annual Convention were organized at rental Halls but since the establishment of Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque, these gatherings are held at the Mosque in Los Angeles in the month of December.

(50th Jalsa Salana Souvenir Ahmadiyya Community USA, June 1998, p. 58 and the Ahmadiyya Gazette USA Vol. 70, No. 3-4, March-April 2018, p. 40)

National Leadership under the Canopy of Global Khilafat

Entries below do not cover all the activities, events and accomplishments.

Please consult previous and upcoming issues of the Ahmadiyya Gazette USA and other resources.

Missionary In-Charge 1920-1923

Mufti Muhammad Sadiq

Arrived in the US: 15 Feb 1920

Left: 8 Sept 1923 (Al-Fazl, 4 Dec 1923, p. 2-3)

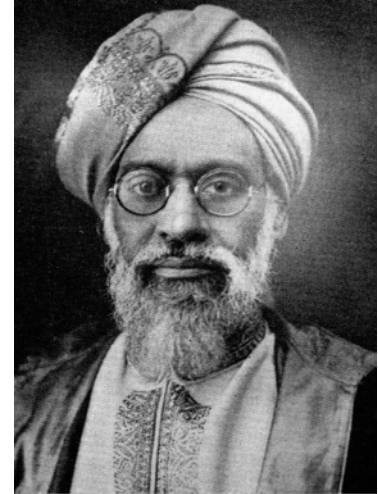
Established Ahmadiyya headquarters and the first Ahmadiyya mosque in the US, Al-Sadiq Mosque in Chicago

Started the Moslem Sunrise periodical, later Muslim Sunrise

Delivered hundreds of lectures gaining over 700 new converts

Established chapters at Detroit, New Orleans, Florida, South Carolina, Indiana, West Virginia and New York. (Muslim Sunrise, January 1924, p. 45-6). Traveled to many states for lectures

His services are well documented in numerous sources.



Missionary In-Charge 1923-1925

Maulawi Muhammad Din

Left Qadian on 7 January 1923. Arrived in Boston on 27 March 1923. Arrived in Chicago on 29 March 1923. He assumed the charge of the mission three months after from Missionary in-Charge Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (Al-Fazl, 9 July 1923). Went to England for three months during the visit of Khalifatul-Masih II in the latter part of 1924 to help in Wembley Conference (Al-Fazl, 11 November 1924) and came back early 1925. Arrived back in Qadian on 30 December 1925. (Al-Fazl, 1 January 1926)

- Over 650 new converts
- Wrote congratulatory letter to US President John Calvin Coolidge Jr

His services are well documented in numerous sources.

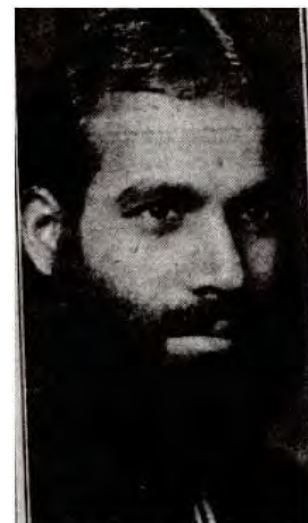
Dr. Muhammad Yusuf Khan (Honorary Missionary)

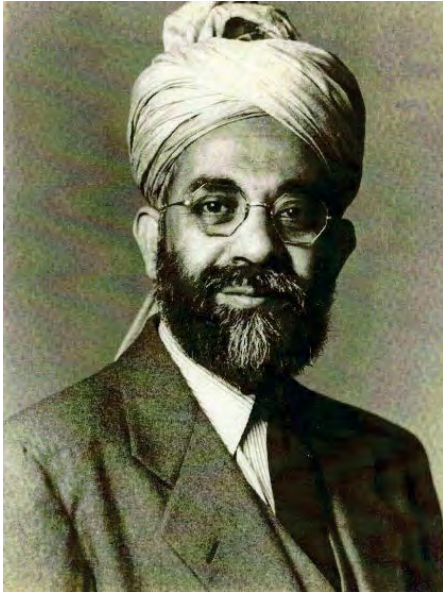
In-Charge US Missions 20 Oct 1925-End of 1927

At the departure of Maulawi Muhammad Din, the charge of the American Mission was given to Dr. Muhammad Yusuf Khan on 20 October 1925.

Muhammad Yusuf Khan came to the US for education in 1920 (arriving in the US in April 1921 (Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, April-September 2020, p. 52), and was employed here. He was the right hand of Mufti Muhammad Sadiq in the service of Ahmadiyyat. He continued to serve the community after the arrival of Maulawi Muhammad Din, therefore, the supervision of the American Mission was assigned to him. He worked diligently and wholeheartedly for two years... He went to Qadian and Jhelum in 1928 and was back on 4 June 1932 to take charge of the Pittsburgh PA mission. (Al-Fazl, 7 January 1928, Al-Fazl, 30 August 1932)

There were 500 active African American Ahmadi Muslims in Pittsburgh in 1930. Pittsburgh thrived under first American President Br Abu Saleh. Women members come together in what they called "Sewing Circles." (Nycemah Yaqub-African American Journey to Islam)





Sufi M.R. Bengalee

Missionary in-Charge 1928-35, 1936-48

Left Qadian on 21 May 1928.

Arrived in London 19 June 1928. Arrived in Chicago IL on 18 August 1928. (Report Mushāwarat 1929, p. 174)

Moved Ahmadiyya Mission to 56 East Congress St. Suite 1307, Chicago on 3 November 1929.

Established chapters in Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Washington, Steubenville, Youngstown, Cleveland, Homestead (Al-Fazl, 3 November 1932), Kansas City in July 1933 (Al-Fazl, 5 December 1933), St Louis end of 1946 (Al-Fazl, 14 February 1947), Baltimore (President Abdul-Karim), Dayton, Indianapolis, Philadelphia (Al-Fazl, 24 February 1947), New Jersey (Al-Fazl, 11 April 1947), New York (Al-Fazl, 18 June 1947), Boston (Al-Fazl, 13 August 1947).

Wrote letters to US Presidents Herbert Hoover and Frank D. Roosevelt.

Read message of Khalifatul-Masih II for World Fellowship of faith

Established Lajna Ima'illah USA

Khalil Ahmad Nasir

Missionary In-Charge February 1948-1959

First Ahmadiyya Convention held on 5 September 1948.

Established American Fazl Mosque in Washington D.C. 1950.

Initiated elections of national executives and auxiliaries.

In first seven months, addressed all US missionaries and delivered 23 lectures in churches, clubs and conferences.

Distributed 12000 pamphlets "Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam."

Published book "An Interpretation of Islam" by Laura Veccia Vaglieri.

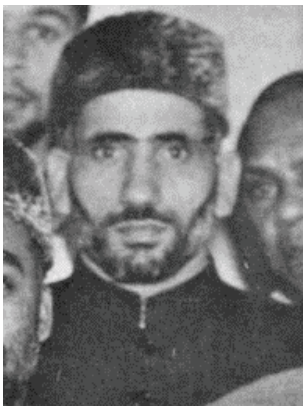
Launched the Ahmadiyya Gazette USA 1950

Annual subscription of US Jamā'at reached \$40,000

US headquarters shifted from Chicago to Washington in May 1950.

Laid the foundation stone of Dayton Mosque in March 1953.

New Ahmadiyya mission opened in Detroit in 1956. Chapter in Milwaukee 1950 (Al-Fazl, 10 September 1950), Los Angeles, Kentucky, Louisiana 1951.



Ghulam Yasin Khan

Missionary In-Charge July 1959-17 February 1962

Came to the US in June 1947. Left US in 1962.

Delivered lectures at Universities and Churches

Held weekly outreach meetings at Time Square

Majlis Ansarullah USA came into being during Annual Convention (5-6 September 1959) in Chicago. First President Ahmad Shaheed Pittsburgh and Secy. Muhammad Sadiq NY (Personal file of Syed Jawad Ali Shah 1959, p. 28)

Chaudhri Ghulam Yasin arrived in Rabwah from USA in 1963. (Record Wakalat Tabshir, Rabwah)

Sufi Abdul Ghafoor Missionary In-Charge

17 February 1962-27 December 1963

Under his leadership, Syed Jawad Ali, Chaudhri Abdur Rahman Bengali and Major Abdul Hameed were trained for missionary work.

He traveled to Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington and Youngstown for propagation.

His statement was broadcasted on the radio at Youngstown.

Established Baltimore, Dayton, Indianapolis and Philadelphia Chapters (Urdu Biography of Major Abdul Hamid. General File America 1963, p. 423)



Abdur Rahman Khan Bengalee Missionary In-Charge December 1963-May 1972

Arrived in the US on 9 April 1963 and was stationed in Pittsburgh PA. He was appointed missionary in-charge in December 1963 at the return of AG Soofi. He left US on 16 October 1967 and came back to the US on 19 October 1969 to Dayton OH as missionary in-charge. He passed away on 16 May 1972. His body was taken to Rabwah and was buried there 19 May 1972. Due to his illness, Qureshi Maqbool acted as missionary in-charge (Ahmadiyya Gazette, January 1972, p. 3. Ahmadiyya Gazette, Aug-Sep 1970, p. 2. Journal File USA 1970-72, p. 50) Three local newspapers published his interviews. (Al-Fazl 17 August, 26 October, 12 December 1963 and 25 February 1964) Dayton Mosque was completed during his tenure as missionary in charge on 23 March 1965 at a cost of \$16500. (Al-Fazl, 13 May 1965). In the middle of 1968, a chapter Waukegan City near Chicago started functioning. (Al-Fazl, 23 November 1968). In 1969, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Athens missions were reported. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, May 1969, p. 3) Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya started a bulletin named "Khadim." (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, December 1968, p. 4)



Qureshi Maqbool Ahmad. Missionary In-Charge September 1967-October 1969

Arrived in the US on 6 Sept 1967 and assumed the responsibilities of the missionary in-charge from AR Bengali. He was stationed in New York and then in Dayton OH. He returned to Rabwah 14 February 1970. (Al-Fazl, 15 February 1970)

He was back in the US on 9 February 1971 and was stationed in Washington DC assuming the responsibilities of the Secretary of the mission from Syed Jawad Ali. He acted as the missionary in-Charge after AR Bengali passed away. He made Dayton as temporary headquarters.

Foundation of new mosque in Athens, OH (Gazette Jan 1968 p. 4)



Major Sharif Ahmad Bajwa

Missionary In-charge 28 January 1973-20 July 1974

He organized different Ahmadiyya chapters USA. (General file USA 1972-4, p. 329) Khalifat-ul-Masih III announced Hundred Year Centenary Jubilee Fund in 1974 and asked members of the Jamā'at to contribute generously so that the Jubilee could be celebrated with dignity and honor. (Tabshir File USA) US Chapters came forward and contributed generously. Some friends donated \$10,000. Missionary Sharif Ahmad Bajwa toured different chapters and collected an amount worth \$ 390,000.

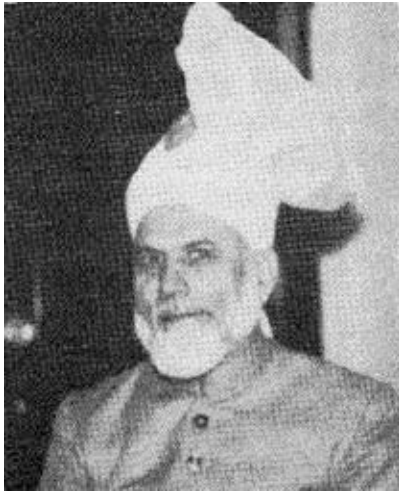
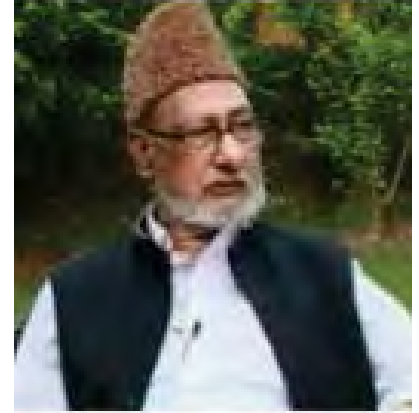
Muhammad Siddique Shahid

Missionary in-charge 20 July 1974-9 Sept 1977

On Jan. 13-14, 1968, meetings of Amirs, Board of Directors and Budget Committee and Missionaries were held. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA Jan. 1968, p. 3-4) Amirs of Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore. NY, Teaneck, NJ, York-Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Dayton, Detroit, St. Louis, Waukegan, Athens, Milwaukee and Portland, Oregon met on 8-9 Feb 1975 at Washington Fazl Mosque with Imam Shahid, Missioner In-Charge, in the chair.

Muhammad Siddique Shahid managed the 1976 tour of Khalifat-ul-Masih III along with missionaries Rashid Ahmad American, Mian Muhammad Ibrahim and Masud Ahmad Jhelumi.

Established mission in 2-story building in Brooklyn.



Ata Ullah Kaleem Missionary-in-Charge

1 August 1977-19 November 1978, 9 December 1980-83

Published 40,000 copies of the Holy Quran.

Started the Urdu journal Al-Noor.

Propagational interviews were broadcasted live on Manhattan and East Saint Louis Cable TV and published in The Detroit News, Detroit Free Press. The Community Carrier, and the Canton Observer.

He spoke to students at several colleges and universities.

A 3-story building for the mosque in Philadelphia was purchased for \$42,000. He inaugurated the mission building with Friday Sermon on 4 June 1982. (File General America Diary 1972, p. 77)

Land for the mosque in Chicago was purchased.

Mosque in Tucson Arizona was inaugurated.

Mir Mahmud Ahmad Nasir

Missionary In-Charge

19 November 1978-9 December 1980

Hadrat Maulawi Ata Muhammad, a companion of the Promised Messiah, was invited by Mir Mahmud Ahmad Nasir in September 1979 for a visit to the US. He was given rousing welcome in York, Washington and Baltimore. He talked about inspiring stories the Promised Messiah. (General File America 1979, p. 191-2)

He represented the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at at the United Nations Conference of World Religions where his thesis on Qur'an's invitation to come to the common denominator of worshipping One God was received with great appreciation. At the conclusion of its historic meeting, he was asked to lead the international representatives in collective prayer.

Khalifat-ul-Masih III graced the soil of America once again in 1980.



Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad Amir 26 November 1983-June 1989



Land acquisition and construction initiation of Bait-ur-Rahman.

A house and 5-acre land procured in Glen Ellyn and foundation of Bait-ul-Jami. A 6-acres piece of land was acquired in Detroit.

Four Acres land was bought in Los Angeles. Bait-ul-Hameed built.

Acquired a house in New York and mission house inaugurated on 23 March 1984. Establishment of Masjid Noor in York.

A house and land donated in Willingboro NJ. Establishment of Bait-ul-Ahad in New Jersey. Cleveland church acquisition for mosque.

Acquisition of a house in New Orleans. Establishment of Bait-un-Naseer in Rochester NY. New mosque constructed in Tucson after erasing the original one. Acquisition of Bay Point CA property.

In Zion, IL, a Flat and a house was bought.

Masjid Rizwan constructed in Portland, Oregon and inaugurated by Khalifat-ul-Masih IV in 1988.

Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad Amir July 1989-22 July 2002

Members responded aggressively to his call to excel globally in contribution towards Tahrik-i-Jadid and Waqf-i-Jadid.

Messiah 2000 Interfaith Conference was held on 11-12 August 2000.

Started Al-Hilal magazine for children.

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV toured USA for the third time in June 1991. Visited Mexico on 16 June 1991. Went to New Jersey on 18 June 1991 to inaugurate Bait-ul-Wahid Mosque.

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV inaugurated Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, MD on 14 October 1994, and the Earth Station. (Souvenir-Bait-ur-Rahman USA-Inauguration, pp. 6-7) (Ahmadiyya Gazette USA January 1995, pp. 5-8) Khalifat-ul-Masih IV laid foundation stone of new mosque and mission house in Willingboro, USA on 18 October 1994.

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV inaugurated the new mosque Bait-us-Sadiq in Chicago, IL on 23 October 1994 and laid the foundation stone of the future Bait-ul-Jami Mosque in Glen Ellyn, IL.



Al-Islam website on the Internet was established in 1995. (Ahmadiyya Muslim Community fiftieth Jalsa Salana USA, p. 66). The Association of Ahmadi Muslim Scientists, USA (AAMS-USA) was founded in 1995.

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV announced in Friday Sermon that Jamā'at Ahmadiyya USA contributed more in Waqf-e-Jadid than the rest of the world. Jamā'at USA was second in Tahrik-e-Jadid in 1996. First position was maintained by the USA Jamā'at in Waqf-e-Jadid as well as Tahrik-e-Jadid in 1997. (Khutbat-e-Tahir V. 16, p. 807-8, Khutba 31 October 1997)

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV visited USA for the fifth time. He inaugurated Ahmadabad Mission House, Boston on 3 June 1997. He laid foundation stone of Glen Ellyn Mosque and Ahmadiyya Community Center, Van Buren, Chicago, IL on 17 June. On 20 June 1997, he delivered Friday sermon. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA August 1997)

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV visited US Jamā'at for the sixth time in June-July 1998. He inaugurated Ahmadiyya Muslim mosques in New Jersey and San Jose and laid the foundation of the Ahmadiyya mosques in Houston, Texas. The Ahmadiyya Convention was held on the premises of the recently constructed Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman, Silver Spring, Maryland. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA July-August 1998, p. 17)

1991, Milwaukee, WI, Commercial unit, Existing building.

1995, Syracuse, NY (Bait-ul-Ihsan), Commercial bldg. Bait-ul-Ikram Mosque, Allen, Texas, Apr-15-1996

Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar Amir 19 August 2002 to June 2016



Humanity First USA launched in 2004. 2006: Khalifat-ul-Masih V appreciated the efforts of members of USA for Tahir Heart Institute.

Dallas Morning News, Chicago Sun Times, USA Today, Houston Chronicle, published Ahmadiyya response to cartoon controversy on 9 February 2006. (The Muslim Sunrise, Spring 2006, p. 43)

On the request of Hon. Thomas M Davis, National Flag was waved on the first arrival of Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih V, to United States of America on 16 June 2008.

Khalifatul-Masih V on 27 June 2012 delivered a keynote address on the Capitol Hill to an audience filled with more than 30 members of the United States Congress, including Honorable Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic Leader in the House of Representatives.

Khalifat-ul-Masih V inaugurated Mubarak Mosque in Virginia.

Khalifat-ul-Masih V inaugurated Bait-un-Nasir in Columbus-OH on 19 June 2012.

In his third tour, Khalifat-ul-Masih V made an historic visit to California (West Coast of USA) for the first time for 10 days from 4 May to 13 May 2013. Nusrat Mosque in Minnesota inaugurated on 23 May 2015.

Construction of mosques in Detroit, Willingboro and Dayton OH and other places.

Property acquisition programs carried out in Austin TX, Syracuse NY, Bronx NY, Pittsburg PA, Queens NY, Research Triangle NC, Phoenix AZ, Rochester NY, Seattle WA and other places. Development programs carried out on Virginia mosque, VA, St Louis Mosque, MO and Bait-un-Naseer mosque, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Detroit Jamā'at held first Arab Conference on 18 November 2014 at the University of Michigan, Dearborn.

Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad Amir July 2016-...

Served as the third president of Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA. He was the longest serving president of Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA (2001 – 2016).

Houston mosque became Harvey disaster relief center August 2017.

Missionary House at Mubarak Mosque in Virginia.

Acquired property for missionary house in Detroit.

Acquired missionary house in Baltimore.

Acquired property at the Ansar Housing Project.

Khalifat-ul-Masih V toured USA for the fourth time Oct-November 2018.

Khalifat-ul-Masih V inaugurated Mansoor Teleport on 16 October 2018.

On 19 October 2018, Khalifatul-Masih V inaugurated Bait-ul-Aafiyat in Philadelphia.

Khalifat-ul-Masih V inaugurated Bait-us-Samad in Baltimore, MD, on 20 October 2018.

Khalifat-ul-Masih V inaugurated Nasir Hospital, Guatemala on 23 October 2018.

Khalifat-ul-Masih V inaugurated Masroor Mosque on 3 November 2018.

Acquisition of property in Lehigh Valley for a mosque.

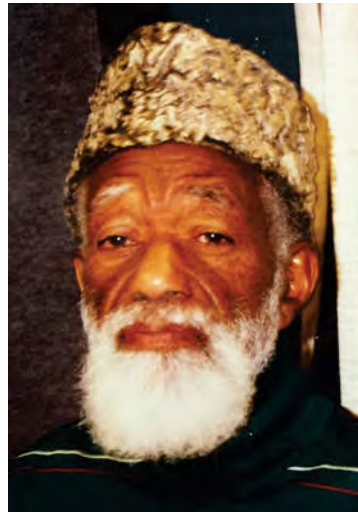
A larger mosque, Bait-ul-Qayyum, at the Dallas Mosque site has been built to meet the needs of the growing number of members there.

Acquisition of properties close to Bait-ur-Rahman for the need of Ahmadiyya Community.

Started the ambitious Zion Mosque and exhibition center project. In October 2019, he offered Lajna Ima'illah USA the opportunity to lead in building Zion Mosque. Members are responding positively to his appeal to meet financial obligations showing increase in individual contributions.



National Presidents



Rashid Ahmad American
Circa 1972/73-78/79



Muzaffar Ahmad Zafr
Circa 1978/79-1983

Missionaries In-Charge



Daud Hanif
1996-2009



Naseem Mahdi
2009-2016



Azhar Haneef
2016-...



Executive Council (Amilah) Members at the 2009 Advisory Council (Shura) Meeting

General Secretary

Purpose and importance

1- General Secretary Office, located at the National Headquarters at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque, National Headquarter of USA Jamā'at, plays a central role in assisting the Ameer Jamā'at USA to facilitate, coordinate, and manage the activities of the USA Jamā'at and its local chapters.

Responsibilities and Duties

1- The most critical function of the General Secretary Office is to ensure implementation of the directives received from Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih, Tahrir Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya, Ameer, and the government. This includes the decisions of the Majlis Shura as approved by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih and decisions of the National Majlis Amila as instructed by the Ameer.

2- The functions of the General Secretary Office require careful and detailed record keeping including:

A- Recording minutes of

2- One of the main functions of this office is to manage communication with Khalifatul-Masih, Markaz (International Headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at), Ameer, National Majlis Amila, and Local chapters.

3- At the National level, the

National Majlis Amila and the Annual Majlis Shura,

B- Election and approval of all local Jamā'at office holders and delegates to Majlis Shura,

C- Keeping track of the implementation of decisions of the Annual Majlis Shura and the Majlis Amila,

3- Undertaking all correspondence as desired by the Ameer,

4- Obtaining monthly reports from local chapters and National office holders,

General Secretary Office facilitates and manages the convening of the Annual Majlis Shura (General Council or consultative body) and periodic meetings of National Majlis Amila (Managing Committee or Executive Committee).

5- Assisting the Ameer in the preparation of the annual report of activities of the Jamā'at.

6- Having inventory of all the properties and belongings of the Jamā'at.

7- Having Jamā'at's Annual accounts and Auditor's report ready.

8- Having a list of members of the Jamā'at who are qualified to participate in the Jamā'at elections.

9- In addition, the General Secretary Office performs such other duties which the Ameer may assign from time to time.

Historical Evolution of the General Secretary Department in the US

Missionaries as General Secretaries:



Syed Jawad Ali

The General Secretary department has evolved from the days when a Missionary served as General Secretary to support the Missionary-in-Charge who was also the Ameer of USA Jamā'at. This was the period when General Secretary

was appointed by the Ameer with the approval of the Khalifatul-Masih at the time and the system of regular office holder elections as practiced in Pakistan had not been implemented in the United States.



Qureshi Maqbool Ahmad

Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir

Missionary in-charge (1948-1959) initiated elections of national executives and auxiliaries. Participated in many international religious conferences. (Al-Fazl, 17 April 1946)

Missionary Syed Jawad Ali (12/1954-7/1960; 2/1963-3/1971) took over as Secretary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA in 1954. His missionary efforts continued for six and half years. He established the mission in Detroit in 1956. (Personal File of Syed Jawad Ali Shah 1959, p. 28)

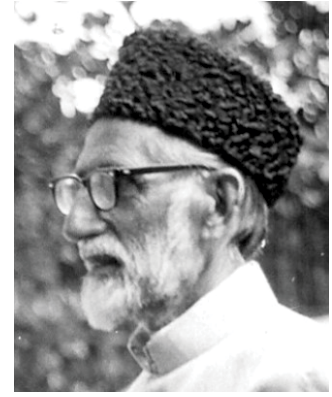
He returned to Pakistan in July 1960. (Al-Fazl, 20 April 1958 and Al-Fazl 30 July 1960)

He came back to USA in January 1963 and worked in Washington, DC, Chicago and St. Louis. He finished his tenure of duty on 14 March 1971. (Souvenir 50th Jalsa Salana USA 1998, p. 57)

During his first appointment, Qureshi Maqbool Ahmad arrived in the US on 6 Sept 1967 and assumed the responsibilities of the missionary in-charge from AR Bengali. He was stationed in New York and then in Dayton OH. He returned to Rabwah 14 February 1970 (Al-Fazl, 15

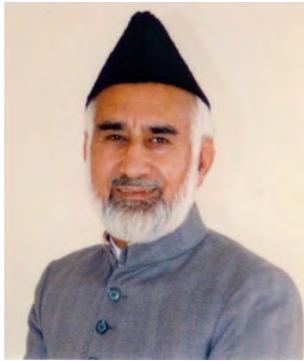
February 1970). He was back in the US on 9 February 1971 and was stationed in Washington DC assuming the responsibilities of the Secretary of the mission from Syed Jawad Ali. He acted as the missionary in-Charge after AR Bengali passed away.

Within this earlier system, the last Missionary to have served as General Secretary was Mian Muhammad Ibrahim who held this office until 1982. (Memoir of Mian Muhammad Ibrahim p. 130)



Missionary Muhammad Ibrahim

Mubasher Ahmad appointed General Secretary:



Left: Missionary Mubasher Ahmad

After Mian Muhammad Ibrahim, a member (volunteer) of the Washington, DC chapter, Mubasher Ahmad, was appointed General Secretary with the approval of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV Raḥimahullāhu Ta‘ālā. He served in this office until 1988 when he had committed his life to the service of

Jamā‘at and his Waqf (devotion) was accepted by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV Raḥimahullāhu Ta‘ālā. At that point, he became a missionary and was appointed Regional Missionary for the Southeast Region.

Functioning and Organization of the General Secretary Department during 1982-1988: Recollections of Missionary Mubasher Ahmad

1- Jamā‘at System was not so organized in those years. There was no formal office for General Secretary. Most of the communications were done directly by the Ameer and Missionary In-Charge with National Amila Members and local Presidents. There were no regular monthly Amila meetings. Whenever it was necessary to meet with National Amila, General Secretary would inform the Amila Members.

2- Shura used to be held in those days but without the full representation of all local chapters. Mostly it was held at Jalsa Salana (annual convention) time without elected Shura representatives from local chapters. The elected Presidents and members of National Amila used to get together for Shura meetings. Implementation reports of Shura decisions used to be submitted directly to Ameer throughout the year.

3- The US Ameer himself corresponded with international headquarters, or he assigned someone of to prepare correspondence with the international headquarters. For example, Missionary Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad would ask the then Na‘ib Ameer Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad to compile specific reports to be sent to Markaz.

Notable accomplishments 1959-87

1. The first Shura was held on 29 August 1959. (Al-Fazl 7 June, 11, 23 September and 11, 12 November 1958)

2. Consultative committee meeting of Amīrs or Presidents of Jamā‘at was held at Dayton Mosque on 5 September 1970. (US mission report 1969-70)

3. Majlis Shura of USA was held in Washington on 8-9 February 1975. It was proposed that one member of US be sent to Majlis Shura Rabwah every year. So, Brother Rashid Ahmad American National President USA was sent to Rabwah as representative of USA.

4. Khalifat-ul-Masih called a meeting of Amīrs and Missionaries. (Al-Fazl 11 October 1976)

5. Maulana Ataullah Kaleem, then Amir, permitted Missionary Mir Mahmood Ahmad Nasir to organize Jalsa Salana in the West Coast. In 1982, the very first convention of the West Coast took place in San

Francisco at a rental hall. Interestingly enough, the number of attendees at this convention totaled 75. (Edited from 50th Jalsa Salana Souvenir Ahmadiyya Community USA, June 1998, p. 58 and the Ahmadiyya Gazette USA Vol. 70, No. 3-4, March-April 2018, p. 40)

6. Shura Meeting was held on November 23, 1983, under the supervision of Maulana Ata Ullah Kaleem, then Ameer and Missionary-in-Charge USA. In that Shura, a reception was arranged in the honor of newly arrived Ameer and Missionary-in-Charge, Maulana

Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad, who came from London the same day. There were approximately 30 members who attended that Shura Meeting. Among others, Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad and Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar were also present in that meeting, later both became Ameer of USA Jamā'at one after the other.

7. On August 9, 1983, Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad of Detroit chapter was martyred by a non-Muslim, and that created a big problem to hold our Jalsa Salana (annual convention) that was scheduled to be held in Detroit the same week. We ended up

holding our Jalsa Salana in a park. Letter of Mubasher Ahmad was published by Detroit Free Press "Understanding the Heart of Muslim Sect."

8. In October-November 1987, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV Raḥimahullāhu Ta'ālā visited USA Jamā'at, and he toured eleven States. Among many other important activities, he performed the opening ceremonies of 3 mosques, and laid down foundation stones for five mosques.

Dr. Masoud Ahmad Malik as First Elected General Secretary



Left: Dr. Masoud Ahmad Malik

An Election for National Amila was held during the 1988 USA Jamā'at Annual Shura (Advisory Council) and Dr. Masoud Ahmad Malik was elected as General Secretary. He took charge of this office after approval from Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV Raḥimahullāhu Ta'ālā. Dr. Masoud Ahmad Malik served as General Secretary until

2013. In 2013, Dr. Masoud Ahmad Malik was appointed as Na'ib Ameer of USA Jamā'at by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih V Ayyadahullāhu Ta'ālā Bi-Nasrih-il-'Aziz.

The Functioning and Organization of the General Secretary Department 1988-2013 Historical Memories of Masoud Ahmad Malik

1- In 1988, Maulana Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad was Ameer and Missionary-in-Charge. In October 1989, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV Raḥimahullāhu Ta'ālā approved Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad as Ameer Jamā'at USA. Maulana Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad continued to hold the office of Missionary-in-Charge till his retirement.

2- As (Late) Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad became the Ameer, full record keeping for local chapter elections started with 1989 elections. Until this time, both the National and the Local Chapter Amila were

approved by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih and elections were held every two years. Later on, the election frequency was changed to every three years in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of Tahrik Jadid Anjuman Ahmadiyya. In addition, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV Raḥimahullāhu Ta'ālā delegated the approval of local Amila to the Ameer.

3- During the early phase of this period, there was no Missionary-in-Charge appointed for the United States and new Missionaries training was

coordinated by the General Secretary Office. This involvement of General Secretary Office with missionaries' training ended with the appointment of Missionary Daud Ahmad Hanif as Missionary-in-Charge.

4- The USA Jamā'at Headquarter remained at Fazl Mosque in Washington, DC until the inauguration of Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV Raḥimahullāhu Ta'ālā in October 1994.

Notable accomplishments 1988-2013

1- Comprehensive record keeping started during this period and all Shura material was prepared in booklet form and distributed to all

Shura members.

2- The General Secretary Office also handled visa and immigration

approval process for new missionaries and their families on behalf of Jamā'at USA. The reason was that due to the change of

circumstances, international headquarters asked USA Jamā'at to apply for missionaries' visas. This was a new initiative, therefore, after much discussion with Ameer and few other persons, the information of missionaries was solicited to sponsor the missionaries from different countries as per the instructions of international headquarters.

3- Similarly, this office provided support for asylum applicants arriving from Pakistan and interacted with the United States Immigration Service. With persecution in Pakistan, a lot of Ahmadi families started to come to USA. Jamā'at contacted concerned government departments and developed a system whereby the General Secretary would authorize and issues letters to Ahmadi asylum applicants. Initially, all missionaries were authorized to issue the letter. Later, under Markaz instructions, letters were started to be issued by the General Secretary Office and missionaries were asked not to write said letters. As part of the applicant's verification process, knowledge and background of applicant would be obtained from Pakistan. A system was adopted whereby record of all issued letters was kept.

4- Previously, there was no regular Shura elections in local chapters. During the time of Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad's Imarat, the process was initiated to hold elections and their approvals as per rules. Moreover, National Amila Meetings were started to be held regularly.

5- Previously, Ameer would prepare the Annual Tabshir report with the assistance of a missionary. Masoud Ahmad Malik formulated a process whereby all presidents and missionaries were asked to report their activities. After compiling all these reports into one report, the Annual Report would be sent as per

the Tabshir format with the approval of Ameer.

6- General elections and Shura elections were started to be held in local chapters regularly. Markaz also delegated the approval prerogative of local chapter elections to Ameer USA.

7- Based on the vast knowledge and experience of Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad, office affairs were organized in national headquarters and to motivate and encourage office holders for daily Jamā'at work, few banners were printed and distributed among National Amila and Presidents to be put in the offices. For example, what have I done today in the service of Islam Ahmadiyyat? And, I will give priority to faith over the world (*Mein Deen ko dunya par mukaddam rakhoonga*).

8- There was no specific process for determining start of Ramadan and Eid days. Khalifatul-Masih IV gave a formula as per the Sharia guidance. Data from London and USA observatories was collected, and Eid dates were fixed in the beginning of the year. This process was coordinated with Canada Jamā'at.

9- Annual Calendar of all Jamā'at activities was started to be made in advance having the Seerat-un-Nabi Day, Masih-i-Mau'ud Day, Muslih-i-Mau'ud Day, Khilafat Day, all National Amila Meetings, dates of the annual convention, Auxiliaries' Ijtimas and other important events were decided before the start of new year.

10- Before establishment of MTA, General Secretary Office was assigned with the task of getting cassette tapes of sermons of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV Raḥimahullāh and making copies and mailing to all the chapters, missionaries and members. Later, this work was transferred to the National Audio

Video Department.

11- General Secretary Office assisted in participation of USA Jamā'at in International Expo Exhibition held in Spain in 1992. USA Jamā'at participated by attending and manning some parts of the days of the Exhibition.

12- General Secretary Office helped getting initial legal permits and other issues concerned with establishing MTA Earth Station in 1994.

13- Ahmadiyya Jamā'at USA introduced and implemented an internet-based reporting system (AMI Report Master) in 2009.

During this period, from 1988 to 2013, the following volunteers supported Dr. Masoud Ahmad Malik at different times as Assistant General Secretary in carrying out his multitude of responsibilities as General Secretary:

- Kaleemullah Khan
- Dr. Khaled Ata
- Zahir Mustafa Ahmad
- Dr. Syed Mohammad Ahmad
- Ather Malik

As General Secretary USA Jamā'at, Masoud Malik also assisted in various aspects, the details of which are as follows:

- i) He assisted Amir USA in Centenary Celebrations in 1989 in various parts of USA, including Washington DC. A big reception event was held in Washington in which various dignitaries were present. Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad delivered keynote address. A video message of Khalifatul-Masih IV for the Centenary celebrations was played at that occasion.
- ii) Under the instructions of Amir, Masoud Ahmad Malik participated and helped in various events as well as

- construction of mosques in USA. He served on the Committee of Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque. He assisted in collection of funds and various aspects of its constructions as well as many other mosques in USA.
- iii) When the persecution started in Pakistan, A Human Rights Committee was started under the instructions of Amir. Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh and Chaudhry Naseer were Co-Chairmen. The committee met officials of the US Government and members of Congress and briefed them on difficulties Ahmadis were facing in Pakistan. Work of that committee was later delegated to the Umur Khārijīyya Department. Masoud Malik was also member of that Committee.
- iv) While he was serving as Afsar Jalsa Salana, the Exhibition at the Jalsa Salana USA was initiated in 1989 and by the grace of Allah we are continuing that tradition. Food service (*Langar Khana*) was

- started in 1992 at Jalsa Salana (annual convention) USA.
- v) Masoud Ahmad Malik also assisted Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV Raḥimahullāh in research and finding references for his publication of the book *Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge and Truth*. Various references were located. This work lasted for several years. Khalifatul-Masih IV had kindly expressed appreciation in his book as well as in 1997 UK Annual Convention in his concluding speech.
- vi) He assisted in various aspects of all the USA visits of Khalifatul-Masih IV and during the 2008, 2012, and 2015 USA visits of Khalifatul-Masih V.
- vii) Five Volume Commentary of Holy Quran was published by global headquarters. The USA Jamā'at distributed and sold it to various libraries and governments of various countries. It was priced at US\$300. USA Jamā'at was able to sell about 300 sets to several libraries and various countries. These countries included Saudi

- Arabia, Australia, Iran, Canada, Finland, Iceland, Togo, South Africa, and Pakistan. CIA also got a set of Five-Volume Commentary of Holy Quran. Masoud Malik assisted in accomplishment of this task.
- viii) While he was serving as General Secretary, Presidents' Refresher Course was introduced to help presidents in dealing with Jamā'at issues. On a weekend during the month of December, all presidents, missionaries, and national executive members were invited at the national headquarters starting Friday afternoon and various aspects of management issues were discussed and deliberated until Sunday. Notes were written and distributed on pertinent aspects of rules and guidelines of different departments. Issues or questions raised by the presidents were addressed, such as the issues of elections, matrimonial issues, complaints, management.

Dr. Zaheer Bajwa as National General Secretary:



Left: Dr. Zaheer Bajwa

Life devotee and missionary, Dr. Zaheer Ahmad Bajwa, was appointed General Secretary by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih V Ayyadahullahu Ta'ālā Be Nasrihil-'Aziz in 2013. Zaheer Bajwa held the office of the General Secretary until 2016. Khalifatul-Masih V was pleased to appoint him as missionary for Washington DC

chapter and later he was transferred to Dallas as Regional Missionary in Dallas, Texas.

Use of Electronic Communications Since 2013:

The use of electronic communications increased over time as US Jamā'at started with hosting its own website (ahmadiyya.us) and its own email domain. Use of email communication with Markaz,

National and Local Chapters has gradually increased since Dr. Zaheer Ahmad Bajwa tenure and is getting more secure by the day. The transformation to electronic communication has been greatly

facilitated by Markaz as it has adopted use of email for communication with USA Jamā'at. Currently, the General Secretary office uses email for all communication with Markaz,

National Amila, and local Chapters. This includes communication for managing the election process for local chapter officeholders and Annual Shura delegates. Similarly, email is used for managing the Annual Shura proposals collection process with local Jamā'ats and approval process with Markaz and

Mukhtar Ahmad Malhi as National General Secretary

In 2016, Waqif-i-Zindagi (Life Devotee) Mukhtar Ahmad Malhi was appointed National General Secretary by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih V Ayyadahullāhu Ta'ālā Be Naṣrihil-'Aziz. In 2019, he was elected for same service for next three years.

Currently, the following members support General Secretary Mukhtar Ahmad Malhi as Assistant General Secretary in carrying out his multitude of responsibilities:

- Ali Iqtidar Bajwa
- Missionary Umer Firasat Ahmad
- Khurram Bashir
- Maqbool Tahir
- Dr. Syed Mohammad

Khalifatul-Masih.

During the period from 2013 to 2016, the following volunteers supported Missionary Dr. Zaheer Ahmad Bajwa as Assistant General Secretary in carrying out his multitude of responsibilities as General Secretary:

Ahmad

- Mujeeb Chowdhry

Ali Iqtidar Bajwa is a Waqf-e-Nau devotee who devoted his life to the service of Jamā'at and his Waqf (devotion) was accepted by Khalifatul-Masih V. He is posted at the General Secretary office and serves as Assistant General Secretary full-time and carries a significant amount of workload for this office. His main areas of assignment are: communication with Markaz that includes ongoing report preparation as requested by Markaz, Foreign Jamā'at verification of asylum applicants, and Foreign Jamā'at verification of Ahmadi migrants to the United States.

Missionary Firasat Umer

- Col. (Retired) Bashir Ahmad
- Zahir Mustafa Ahmad
- Dr. Syed Mohammad Ahmad
- Mujeeb Chowdhry
- Ather Malik
- Shoaib Solangi

Ahmad handles the reports to the Markaz that must be prepared in Urdu language and scanning of historic records of the General Secretary Office.

Khurram Bashir coordinates the annual national calendar and helps with preparation of local Jamā'at election reports that are presented by the General Secretary Mukhtar Ahmad Malhi to Respected Ameer for approval and helps with Annual Shura. Maqbool Tahir facilitates the AMC Reporting System. Dr. Syed Mohammad Ahmad supports information collection and preparation of Annual Tabshir Report. Mujeeb Chowdhry handles archiving of important communications for record keeping.

Meetings of National Amila USA Jamā'at

National Amila is elected by National Majlis Shura and it makes decision on behalf of the National Jamā'at for the spiritual, moral,

missionary, intellectual, economic, cultural and physical activities of general membership. National Amila deliberates the plans for the

consolidation, development and welfare of the whole US Jamā'at.

General Secretary and National Amila Meetings:

The General Secretary Office is responsible for making the arrangements for hosting all National Amila meetings. Until 2017, National Amila meetings were mostly held at the National Headquarter at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque and the National Headquarter Metropolitan Area

chapters supported the General Secretary Office in functions such as: transportation, accommodation, Diyāfat (food, refreshments, drinks), and preparing the meeting rooms. Currently, these meetings rotate among different local chapters that have adequate facilities available for holding such meetings. The General

Secretary Office is supported by the volunteers in Local chapters where these meetings are held. The National Headquarters Metropolitan area chapters hold more National Amila meetings than any other local chapter.

Detailed Record Keeping of National Majlis Amila Meetings:

The functions of the General Secretary Office require careful and detailed record keeping of National Majlis Amila meetings. The General

Secretary prepares a meeting package before each meeting that includes meeting agenda, official record of the minutes of previous

meeting, reports received from National Departments, any supporting documents related to the agenda items and any important

Markaz correspondence needed for that meeting. This meeting package

is emailed to each National Amila member before the meeting.

Agenda and Decision-Making Process in National Amila:

Before holding of each National Amila Meeting an agenda is suggested by National Departments and is approved by Respected Ameer

and sent to all National Amila Members and detailed deliberations are carried out for each agenda item. Decisions are taken by majority

votes. It is important to mention that the Jamā'at matters that come under discussion in National Amila are decided after due deliberation.

Recording of Meeting Minutes:

The General Secretary Office records the minutes of each meeting that are used to prepare official

record of the minutes of each meeting. This official record is presented in the next National Amila

meeting for any edits for approval.

Implementation of National Amila decisions:

The General Secretary follows up with National Departments and

Local Jamā'ats throughout the year to monitor progress of

implementation of National Amila decisions.

National Amila Meetings during Covid-19 Pandemic:

During the current Calendar year (2020), a total of Eight meetings are scheduled. Due to COVID-19, these meetings are being

held remotely through Zoom. As members cannot travel due to Pandemic situation and can take part in virtual meetings, therefore

Respected Ameer USA directed to hold National Amila Meeting every month.

Rotation of National Amila Meetings among Chapters and Regional Refresher Courses

Usually, eight National Amila meetings are held in one year. The National Amila meetings should be held every month, but it becomes difficult due to other important events, such as Jalsa Salana, Shura

and Ramadhan. Previously all such meetings were held at National Headquarter in Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque, however, since 2017 Respected Ameer directed to have four meetings in different local

chapters and four meetings at National Headquarters. This decision brought amazing results and blessings for National Headquarter and for local chapters.

These Meetings – Amazing Opportunities for National and Local Jamā'ats:

Through these meetings general membership gets the opportunity to meet with Respected Ameer and all National Officeholders. This opened another huge window of opportunity for National Amila Members to hold

Regional Refresher Courses where local Amila Members of all chapters of the Region and the general membership of the host chapter are invited to see the presentations regarding Nizam-e-Jamā'at (system

of the community), National initiatives and resources provided to local chapters details for the working of the national departments at local level.

Dynamic Effects of these Meetings and Refresher Courses:

The Meetings of National Amila in local chapters, now have become great events to know at grassroots level, the hardships and disconnect of some members due to lack of Tarbiyat (training) on the one hand and to ask questions and seek guidance from Respected Ameer

directly on the other hand. This process is working diligently to improve the relationship of local officeholders and membership with the National Headquarter creating new life, confidence, and enthusiasm for Jamā'at work and ultimately for the Ahmadiyya Khilafat.

Since 2017, we have held our National Amila Meetings in Los Angeles, New York, Silicon Valley, Dallas, Chicago, Oshkosh, Detroit, Atlanta, and Miami along with, of course, in Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque National Headquarters.

Presidents' Refresher Course in National Headquarter:

After every three years, we have our local and national elections and new officeholders are elected. Therefore, always, a dire need is felt to introduce Nizam-i-Jamā'at to

them and train them to carry out their responsibilities at their best. For this purpose, General Secretary Office holds a Presidents' Refresher Course after every three years in

National Headquarters. This is besides all the Regional Refresher Courses that are arranged in local chapters where National Amila Meetings are held.

This is a very important event for presidents to learn and for national departments to introduce their plans and resources in the light of instructions of international headquarters and guidance of the Khalifat-ul-Masih. National secretaries also highlight the ways and means to carry out the national and international initiatives.

To get maximum benefit out of this program, all the surrounding chapters of National Headquarter are requested to invite all their local Amila members. In this way, this Presidents' Refresher Course becomes an opportunity for participants to learn and get acquaintance with Nizām-i-Jamā'at, its Rules and Regulations and latest

guidance in every sphere of the Jamā'at functioning. This event also provides an amazing opportunity for newly elected office holders to ask questions and find the solutions of their daily chapter operations directly from Respected Ameer and National Amila Members.

AMI Reporting System from 2009 to 2019:

Ahmadiyya Jamā'at USA introduced and implemented an internet-based reporting system (AMI Report Master) in 2009. A conference call was scheduled (Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 9:30 PM, Eastern Time) to introduce and train our local Jamā'ats to the reporting system so that local Amila members can start submitting their reports to the USA Jamā'at. Dr. Syed

Mohammad Ahmad facilitated the launch of AMI Report Master in coordination with the General Secretary Dr. Masoud Ahmad Malik and Na'ib Ameer Munum Naeem. This system was originally developed by the Canadian Jamā'at and was hosted at their website (<http://ahmadiyya.ca/us/monthlyreports/login.php>). Implementation of this system required ongoing

consultation and support from the Canadian Jamā'at General Secretary. The purpose of AMI Report Master was to be used by local Jamā'ats to submit their monthly and quarterly reports to the USA Jamā'at. USA Jamā'at was to use these reports to compile reports for both the USA Jamā'at and the International Headquarters.

New Reporting System introduced by General Secretary Office in 2019:

Ahmadiyya Jamā'at USA developed a new internet-based reporting system (AMC Reporting System) in 2019. This system was introduced and implemented in July 2019 and is facilitated by Assistant General Secretary Maqbool Tahir of Detroit Jamā'at. This system is hosted at

<https://www.amcreporting.us> and is accessed by office holders through the USA Jamā'at email system. Once again, the purpose of AMC Reporting System is for it to be used by local Jamā'ats to submit their periodic reports to the USA Jamā'at. National Amila members can retrieve their respective

departmental reports from this system for monitoring local Jamā'at activity and preparation of their department's national level reports. The General Secretary office uses this information to compile reports for both the USA Jamā'at and the International Headquarters.

Annual Tabshir Report from USA Jamā'at:

Wakalat Tabshir Islamabad, UK collects annual reports from all countries before the international Jalsa Salana in the United Kingdom. The information collected through the Tabshir Questionnaire is used in

preparation of the worldwide Annual Report presented by Khalifatul-Masih on the second day of the Jalsa Salana. Assistant General Secretary Dr. Syed Mohammad Ahmad has supported information collection

and preparation of Annual Tabshir Report since 2009. Initially, communication for Tabshir Report was done using phone and fax that changed to email over the time.

Annual Majlis Shura

National General Secretary is Secretary of Majlis Shura:

After getting the permission of Khalifatul-Masih and on the directions of Respected Ameer, the General Secretary's Office is

responsible for the preparations and holding of Majlis Shura USA every year as the most important institution of Jamā'at. National General Secretary, as per the Rule 503 of Rules and Regulations of Tahrik Jadid, serves as the Secretary

of the Majlis Shura.

It is his responsibility to take care of all steps of preparation of holding each year of the most important institution of Jamā'at.

Arrangements to Maximize Participation in Jamā'at Affairs by Using Right of Vote:

As per the USA Jamā'at's National Calendar, which is

prepared in advance, the National Shura is normally scheduled to take

place in April every year. Hence, in November of the previous year, the

instructions are sent to Local chapters to take account of members' donations and to motivate the members to give their Chanda regularly every month so that as

many local members as possible, can participate in their elections to choose Shura delegates. The purpose of this initiative taken by National General Secretary Office is to make it

possible that more and more members are able to participate in Jamā'at activities by giving their valuable opinions through using their right of vote.

Efforts to maximize attendance at local level for Shura elections and finalizing proposals

1- The functions of the General Secretary Office require careful and detailed record keeping of the Annual Majlis Shura process: its preparation, management, implementation, and monitoring.

2- This annual process starts with preparation of local Jamā'at delegate election materials that are sent to the president of each chapter who are requested to hold election in a timely manner to elect their Shura delegates with maximum attendance of members to make the elected Shura delegates as real representatives of the chapter in National Majlis Shura and send detailed report to the General Secretary.

3- National General Secretary office also requests the chapters to hold general body meetings wherein general members suggest, discuss, and vote on proposals, and then send the proposals with the highest votes to National Headquarters so that they may be included for discussion in the Shura Agenda.

4- In order to finalize the proposals for Shura and to hold Shura elections in chapters, packages containing the Rules and Regulations and important instruction to carry out the Shura elections are sent out to all chapters so that officeholders are made completely aware of them.

5- General Secretary's Office also plans a program of traveling to chapters to hold refresher courses with the local Majlis 'Amila and with members through General Body Meetings.

6- These refresher courses help Jamā'at members to understand the Nizām-i-Jamā'at on a grassroots

level so that members understand and follow the rules and regulations of Tahrik Jadīd for the election of Shura representatives and finalizing the Shura proposals.

7- Once the election results for Shura Representatives are received from chapters, the General Secretary presents a report of all proposed Shura delegates with all details, like, representatives' names, total votes, introduction, profession and dues-status to Respected Ameer for approval.

8- Accordingly, after the approval of Ameer, the names of all approved Shura representatives are sent to all local presidents so that Shura delegates should be able to schedule their trips to attend Majlis Shura at least three weeks in advance.

9- The National General Secretary is required to motivate the presidents of chapters to hold the Shura elections in the first attempt when the maximum quorum is required. The quorum for the first meeting is 50%, which enables the chapter to elect its Shura delegates with maximum attendance.

10- The proposals from all local chapters are collected by the General Secretary Office for presenting to the National Majlis Amila. The General Secretary Office also seeks reports from different National departments regarding the proposals relevant to them. All proposals received from local chapters or national departments along with reports of national secretaries are compiled into one document and presented in the National Amila meeting for final deliberation. Here, National Amila divides these proposals into two

groups. Some are declared as administrative proposals and are marked to national departments to take appropriate actions if not taken already. Other group of proposals are recommended to take up on the agenda of current year Shura.

11- All proposals received from all local chapters, both groups mentioned above, are sent to Khalifatul-Masih for his consideration and approval. After the approval of Khalifatul-Masih, the Shura agenda is finalized to be discussed by the elected Shura Representatives.

12- The General Secretary Office is responsible for making the arrangements for hosting all the Annual Majlis Shura Representatives and the Shura meetings. This is a large task and requires organization of dozens of volunteers into different groups that handle functions such as: transportation, registration, accommodation, Ziyafat (hospitality), and preparing the Shura meeting hall and other meeting rooms. Bulk of the volunteer work to support arrangements for the Annual Majlis Shura is undertaken by the National Headquarter Metropolitan Area chapters. Currently, these local chapters include Baltimore, Maryland, Central Virginia, North Virginia and South Virginia. All the Shura delegates are issued name badges as they arrive at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque. The meeting Hall located on the top floor of Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque is used both for the Shura sessions and the smaller subcommittee meetings during and after hours. The main mosque prayer

hall, conference rooms, and the basement are also used for the subcommittee meetings.

Majlis Shura package:

The General Secretary Office prepares the Annual Majlis Shura package that is emailed to all Shura delegates before the meeting. This package includes all proposals received from the local chapters,

annual budget, proposals approved by Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih Ayyadahullāhu Ta'ālā Be-Naşrihil-'Aziz for consideration of Majlis Shura and his remarks on each proposal, Shura program, and other

related information for the delegates. Hard copies of this package are also prepared for the benefit of Shura delegates during the Shura sessions.

Shura recommendations for approval of Khalifatul-Masih V:

After the conclusion of Majlis Shura, the General Secretary prepares a detailed report based on

the deliberations of the Majlis Shura and all supporting documents within a few days after Shura for review of

the Respected Ameer. This material is finally sent to Khalifatul-Masih for his consideration and approval.

The Responsibility of Implementation of Shura Decisions:

All the proposed Shura recommendations by Majlis Shura, after the approval of Khalifatul-

Masih V become final Shura decisions. National General Secretary's Office is responsible for

disseminating these Shura final decisions to all departments and local chapters for implementation.

Detail of Implementation Process with the Help of an Example:

It is necessary to state here that, during the Shura, different proposals are allocated to different departments according to their subject matter and content. For example, the proposals that are related to Tarbiyat (training) issues

are placed for deliberations before a Shura Subcommittee which is called Tarbiyat subcommittee. When Khalifatul-Masih approves the recommendations of the Tarbiyat Subcommittee, the Tarbiyat Department is then tasked to

implement these decisions. Now this department is required to make resources and plans available to the local chapter so they can act upon these decisions and arrange programs locally in relation to these decisions for implementation.

Supervision of Shura Decisions Implementation Process:

The National General Secretary is tasked to ensure that, throughout the year, all relevant departments are implementing and acting upon

these final Shura decisions. He must gauge to what extent implementation is occurring and, after every three months, present an

implementation reports to the National Majlis Amila, so that the National Majlis Amila can gauge progress and provide guidance.

Collection of the Implementation Reports of Shura Decisions:

Ultimately, the General Secretary's Office will request all relevant departments to submit their final reports on implementation so that the same can be presented in the next Majlis Shura.

In the light of Quranic injunctions, all Khulafa-e-Ahmadiyyat have always described the holding of Annual Majlis Shura as an amazing source of extraordinary training of the members of all chapters. Majlis Shura brings, in fact, a new life to the Jamā'at. Khalifatul-Masih IV said while addressing to Majlis Shura Brussels, September 9, 1992:

“The institution of Majlis Shura is vital for the proper training and education of the Jamā'at as well as for maintaining its special character and safeguarding its potential. I receive reports from many European and other countries in which Majlis Shura has been established, and I am told that a new life has been breathed into those Jamā'ats. They have attained a new life and a new confidence, and the speed of their progress has increased. By the grace of God, you too shall progress gradually. Today you have come of age, for a Jamā'at cannot become mature without Majlis Shura. The maturity of thought, the confidence

and the satisfaction one gets from being personally responsible, cannot be attained other than from the Shura.”

Speaking about Majlis Shura Khalifatul-Masih IV also said:

“Just like Khilafat and the Jamā'at, Shura and the Jamā'at are also inseparable. Therefore, I believe that if the system of Shura becomes fully established in the Jamā'at, just as Khilafat has already become established, by the grace of Allah, the structure of the Jamā'at will become so strong that no power in the world will be able to destroy it.”

تبليغ—Outreach—Tabligh

Tabligh: Conveying to the people. The Holy Quran describes Allah as *Rabb-ul-Aalameen* in the Opening Surah—Lord of all the worlds. The word *Rabb* means, (a) Lord, Master, Creator; (b) One Who sustains and develops; (c) One Who brings to perfection by degrees. Thus, as man arrived at the stage in his development when he was in need of spiritual guidance, Allah, who had been hitherto providing for all his other needs, also arranged for his spiritual nourishment by starting to send down spiritual guidance through prophets of God. Hazrat Adam, peace be on him, being the first.

One essential duty that the prophets of God were given was that of tabligh—conveying the message of Allah to the people. The Holy Quran tells us that the prophets perform this duty perfectly, devoting themselves wholly to it and teaching their followers to do the same by way of gratitude to Allah for having guided them. Those who believe and accept the prophets of God come to learn that the purpose of their lives is to acquire knowledge of their Creator and worship Him and through this create for themselves a paradise in this very world and thus be assured of a paradise in the Hereafter.

Tabligh is, therefore, an essential duty that the believers have to discharge, and its importance can be gauged from the emphasis laid in this verse where the Holy Prophet was commanded as follows:

يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ. وَإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلْ فَمَا بَلَّغْتَ رِسَالَتَهُ. وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمُكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ. إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٦٨﴾

O Messenger! convey to the people what has been revealed to thee from thy

Lord; and if thou do it not, thou hast not conveyed His Message at all. And Allah will protect thee from men. Surely, Allah guides not the disbelieving people.

In another verse of the Holy Quran, Allah enjoins the believers that there should always be a group among them solely dedicated to the preaching of Islam:

وَلَتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ. وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

And let there be among you a body of men who should invite to goodness and enjoin equity and forbid evil. And it is they who shall prosper. (3:105)

This does not mean that the duty of preaching is confined to a few only. What it means is that everyone should try to preach and propagate the teachings of Islam but there should be a party of men among Muslims who should be wholly and solely devoted to this work. This verse also suggests in its last part that Muslims can only prosper when they would have their concentrated effort towards preaching of Islam. (English 5 Vol. Commentary (2018). Vol. 2. Pg. 539-40) In fulfillment of this verse, Ahmadiyyat, under the guidance of Khilafat, has sent its missionaries to the corners of the earth to preach the Message of Islam-Ahmadiyyat.

The Holy Quran elaborates this point further in Chapter Al-Nisa, where Allah states that:

لَا يَسْتَوِي الْقَاعِدُونَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ غَيْرَ أُولِي الضَّرَرِ وَالْمُجَاهِدُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ. فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ الْمُجَاهِدِينَ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ عَلَى الْقَاعِدِينَ دَرَجَةً. وَلَا وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْحُسْنَى. وَفَضَّلَ اللَّهُ الْمُجَاهِدِينَ عَلَى الْقَاعِدِينَ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

Those of the believers who sit still, excepting the disabled ones, and those who strive in the cause of Allah with their wealth and their persons, are not equal. Allah has exalted in rank those who strive with their wealth and their persons above those who sit still. And to each Allah has promised good. And Allah has exalted those who strive above those who sit still, by a great reward, (4:96)

Again, this verse clearly states that those of believers who strive in the cause of Allah, through their wealth and persons, are superior to those who sit idle, except those who are disabled. This verse is even more important now when, in the time of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), the task at hand is the **Takmeel-e-Isha'at [the Perfection of Dissemination]** of the message of Islam—the **Takmeel-e-Hidaya [the Perfection of the Message]** having been done in the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

The Holy Quran also teaches us how to carry out propagation properly. For this Allah states in Chapter An-Nahl:

ادْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَ جَادِلْهُمْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ

Call unto the way of thy Lord with wisdom and goodly exhortation and argue with them in a way that is best. (16:126)

This verse means that a Muslim should invite others to Islam by arguments based on knowledge and reason. Then, it also means that Muslims should explain the beauties and rationale of Islam to others. The

words, “goodly exhortation” mean a discourse which softens the hearts of the listeners and makes a deep impression on them, which should be based on pure truth and honesty. As Islam was also to be preached to people who claimed to possess revealed Scriptures, Muslims have been told in this verse that a much more difficult task lay ahead of them. While dealing with idolaters it was easy enough to refute idolatry but concerning the “People of the Book” the excellence and superiority of Islamic teachings will have to be proved with much more detail and attention. [English 5 Vol. Commentary (2018). Vol. 3. Pg. 1737-38]

The life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and, in our own time, that of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) exemplify how a true believer should lead his life. Their lives teach us how to conduct ourselves while propagating. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said to Hazrat Ali^{ra} regarding the importance of propagation:

قَوْلَهُ لَأَنْ يُهْدَى بِكَ رَجُلٌ وَاحِدٌ خَيْرٌ لَكَ مِنْ خَيْرِ النَّعَمِ

Hazrat Sahl bin Sa'd narrates that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said to Hadrat Ali^{ra}: “By Allah, if Allah guides a single person through you, it is better for you than (the most precious) red camels.” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Kitab-ul-Jihad, Chapter: The invitation of the Prophet (May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to embrace Islam)

This is what Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) exhorted to Hazrat Ali^{ra}, while he was going on a battle. This indicates that

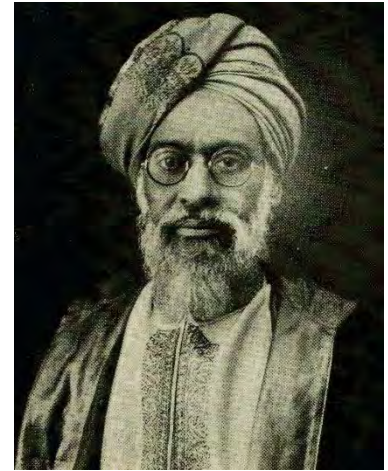
propagation and preaching should be one of the most important aspects of a Muslim's life. Similarly, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) also laid great emphasis on propagation. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) said.

“ہمارے اختیار میں ہو تو ہم فقیروں کی طرح گھر بگھر پھر کر خدا تعالیٰ کے سچے دین کی اشاعت کریں اور اس ہلاک کرنے والے شرک اور کفر سے جو دنیا میں پھیلا ہوا ہے لوگوں کو بچالیں۔ اگر خدا تعالیٰ ہمیں انگریزی زبان سکھادے تو ہم خود پھر کر اور دورہ کر کے تبلیغ کریں اور اسی تبلیغ میں زندگی ختم کر دیں خواہ مارے ہی جاویں۔”

“If it was in my power, I would go door to door like an ascetic and propagate the message of the True religion of God Almighty. And to save people of the earth from the widespread shirk (polytheism) and disbelief that is annihilating them. If God Almighty enables me to learn the English language, then I would myself go around visiting and preaching to such an extent as to devote my entire life in this preaching, even though I may face being killed in this cause.” (Translated from Malfūzāt, Vol. 3. Pg. 90 (2016))

The propagation of Ahmadiyyat or the True Islam in the Americas started in the era of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). Before his establishment of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya, he was in correspondence with Mr. Alexander Russell Webb of USA from the year 1886. Though, his acceptance of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) is disputed but nonetheless the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) conveyed the message of Islam to him [Umar F. Abd-Allah, A Muslim in Victorian America, Oxford University Press: New York, New York (2006), Pg. 119 & 60-63]. Another American gentleman Mr.

George Baker of New York accepted the message of the Promised Messiah in his lifetime. [Rūḥānī Khazā'in, Vol. 21, Braheen-e-Ahmadiyya Part 5 (2008), Pg. 106] Then through his prayer-duel challenge to John Alexander Dowie and then upon Dowie's decline from fame and death, the message of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) reached the length and breadth of America through various newspapers of that time. One of these, The Boston Herald, ran a feature entitled “Great is Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, The Messiah” with a full-page picture of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). [The Sunday Herald. Boston, Massachusetts. June 23, 1907]



Mufti Muhammad Sadiq

Then, the Companion of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, may Allah be pleased with him, upon the instructions of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II departed for America from Liverpool, England on January 26, 1920.

During his four-year tenure as the chief and the very first missionary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the United States of America, he preached the message of Ahmadiyyat or the True Islam to the Americans as conveyed by the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). He faced immense difficulties. He was detained by

immigration upon arrival. He escaped assassination attempts. But nothing stopped him from preaching the message of True Islam, whether he was on the steamer ship, which brought him to America, or in the detention center in Philadelphia, waiting for his approval to preach in America, he missed no time or opportunity to convey the message of Islam to everyone he came in touch with.

During his stay in America from 1920 to 1923, Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him), preached the message of Ahmadiyyat or True Islam to millions of Americans. He delivered hundreds of lectures on 70 different topics, which are noted in The Muslim Sunrise. For these lectures and the propagation of Islam, he visited numerous cities and states including New York, Detroit, Chicago, Dowagiac, Michigan City, Sioux City, Sioux Falls, St. Louis, Grand Rapids, Benton Harbor, South Bend, Niles and he also visited the states of North Dakota and Minnesota. Due to his speaking skills and knowledge, he was bestowed 4 doctorate degrees and 2 other degrees of distinction in the USA. [Muslim Sunrise, Vol. 1-3]

Another vital accomplishment of Hazrat Mufti Sadiq, may Allah be pleased with him, was the establishment of one of the longest-running quarterly periodicals for the propagation of Islam and outreach, the "Muslim Sunrise." Apart from this periodical he also wrote articles in several local American newspapers defending Islam and preaching the message of Promised Messiah (peace be upon him).

He established the very first Ahmadiyya Mosque of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the early summer of 1922 in Chicago, where he moved the headquarters of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA from Detroit, Michigan. During

his stay in America, he received 6,700 incoming letters and sent forth 27 thousand letters including Ahmadiyya literature to various personalities across the world. Several of these letters to dignitaries as the Missionary Epistles. 1,800 circular letters with literature were mailed to the Principals and Governors of Universities and selected colleges all over the USA.

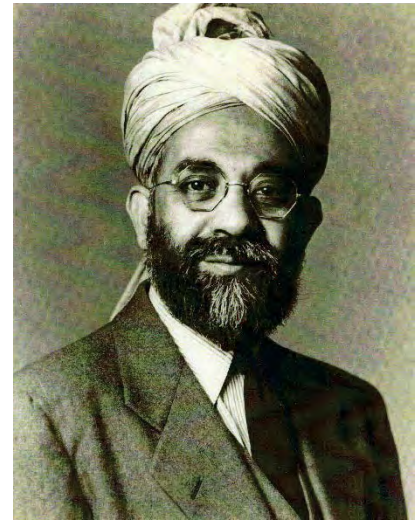
Throughout this time, according to reports of The Muslim Sunrise, 798 souls accepted the message of Promised Messiah, peace be on him, and these converts also include some very intellectual reverends.

After Hazrat Mufti M. Sadiq, may Allah be pleased with him, Maulvi Muhammad Din and then Sufi Mati-ur-Rahman Bengalee served as the Missionary in-Charge of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam USA. In 1930 Sufi MR Bengalee wrote a letter to the President of the United States and preached the message of Islam to almost 12 thousand people through visiting and addressing numerous churches. He also visited Northwestern University and the University of Chicago preaching the message of Islam. About 200 souls embraced Islam through the preaching of the Ahmadiyya Mission in the USA. [The Muslim Sunrise, Vol. III, No. 3. 1930]

In 1930, it was reported that due to the missionary work of the Ahmadiyya Movement, there were then 2,000 Ahmadi Muslims in America. [The Muslim Sunrise, Vol. III, No. 4. 1930] Sufi MR Bengalee kept on with his missionary work and kept on preaching the message of the Promised Messiah and especially in those times of economic instability, he propagated the message of Islamic economic equality and racial equality. An eminent daily newspaper of Minnesota "St. Paul Dispatch" on February 6, 1934, stated that out of

20,000 Muslims in America 3,000 are converts who belong to Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. [The Muslim Sunrise, Vol. VII, No. 1&2. 1934]

A Journal of Springfield, Massachusetts "The Springfield Daily Republicans" reported on April 23, 1940, that the Missionary of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Sufi M. R. Bengalee claimed that the number of Ahmadi Muslims in America is somewhere between 5 to 10 thousand. [The Muslim Sunrise, Vol. XII, No. 2. 1940]



Sufi MR Bengalee

It is debated that Miss. Aliya Ali was the first African American to accept Ahmadiyyat, the true Islam, which was in 1921. Aliya was originally from Kenner, Louisiana and on a visit to Chicago, she heard about The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. She visited the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission at South Wabash, Chicago, where she then permanently established herself. [<http://ahmadiyyamuslimcommunityusa.blogspot.com/2009/05/facebook-my-photos-as-i-see-ahmadiyya.html>] After her, there was an influx of African Americans in the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, but these first-generation African American Ahmadi Muslims did not translate into what was hoped to be an Islamic revolution in

America, especially of the African Americans. Still in 1988 issue no. 3 of "Religion Today" mentioned that the number of Ahmadis in the USA is 10,000 and about sixty percent of them are African American. [https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13537908808580629]

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) stated in his Friday sermon of Oct 19, 2018, on the inauguration of the Mosque in Philadelphia:

"During his (Hazrat Mufti M. Sadiq^{ra}'s) stay here, it is said that approximately five or six

thousand people accepted Ahmadiyyat. Hazrat Muslih Mau'ud^{ra} at the time stated that if this is the number of people entering the fold of Ahmadiyyat, then within a few decades this figure could reach the hundreds of thousands (Tarikh-e-Ahmadiyyat, Vol. 19, p. 477). In any case, this target was not achieved, due to whatever hindrance, circumstances or our shortcomings. But now we have the opportunity to make this endeavor with resolve."

[https://www.alislam.org/riday-sermon/2018-10-19.html]

Let us all, those of us blessed to be the followers of the Imam of the Age living in the US, heed the words of our Beloved Imam, may Allah be his Helper, and become engaged in the blessed work of outreach, heart and soul, like Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, may Allah be pleased with him. And let us also pray to Allah, as he did, perfecting our worship as our Beloved Imam, may Allah be his Helper, is calling upon us to do. Aameen.



Members of the American delegation to the annual convention in Qadian also visit the grave of Jesus in Srinagar.

Members pointing at the signboard are, from left to right, Aminullah. Dr. Sabir and Ali Raza

(Picture Courtesy: Habeeb Shafeek)

Tarbiyat—Moral Training—تربیت

Purpose

- Inculcate in the members' the basics of Islam and Ahmadiyyat, the habit of offering daily prayers, Jum'a, observing fasts in Ramadan, etc.
- Look after the religious education and training of members.
- Strive to eradicate any un-Islamic practices found in members of the Jamā'at. (Rules and Regulations of Tahrik Jadīd)

Importance of the Department

Our true purpose in life, the worship and connection of our God, should be reminded to the members.

The Holy Quran states:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

“I have not created Jinn and men but that they should worship Me. (51:57)

Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd, states:

“Most [fundamental] truths were disclosed to human beings in the earliest days of their existence, but despite this, it is part of human nature to neglect certain essential principles unless they are repeatedly emphasized.”

For this reason, the Holy Quran

States:

فَذَكِّرْ إِنْ نَفَعَتِ الذُّكْرَى
سَيَذَكَّرْ مَنْ يَحْشَى

“So, continue to remind. For reminding is very beneficial. He who fears (God) will soon take heed. (87: 10,11)”

Communications

National: Monthly conference call with ten regional Tarbiyat secretaries is held with regularity. Average attendance ~95%.

Local: Monthly conference call held with local Tarbiyat secretaries. Attendance is around 50+. Efforts are being made by regional secretaries to increase attendance.

Newsletter: Spiritual Fitness newsletter is sent to over 6,500 members averaging once a month. Open rate is around 25%.

Website: Over 92,000 unique

visitors with >256,000-page views counted.

Twitter: @SpiritualFit Twitter account has >2600 followers.

YouTube: Uploading multiple Tarbiyat related videos onto the YouTube Channel titled “Spiritual Fitness.”

WhatsApp: Communication channel for all Tarbiyat secretaries and Tahir Academy principals. Sharing best practices, reminders, updates, Q&A, etc.

Friday Sermon: Synopsis of

Friday Sermon is forwarded to all Tarbiyat Secretaries every week. MTA clips with selected extracts from latest Friday Sermon are available on Twitter feed.

Annual Meeting for all Tarbiyat Secretaries and Tahir Academy Principals: Last year's face-to-face meeting was held Sept 7th and 8th 2019. Attendance was around 130 people. This year's meeting is scheduled for July 18th.

Salat 'Asharah (10-days of emphasis on Salat)

This scheme was initiated based on the guidance of the beloved Khalifat-ul-Masih V in efforts to increase the attendance at congregational prayers at the Mosque.

“Try to hold Salat 'Ashara every other month, as a result there after six efforts in the year, there will surely be a difference in the salat attendance.” (Khalifat-ul-Masih V)

Salat is the bread and butter for the connection with Allah the Almighty and the transport for meeting Him. For this reason, constant emphasis and reminders need to be placed on this aspect of our lives.

Salat Centers:

“Many Ahmadi living in the Western countries live 15-20 miles from Masjid, but still make the effort to go to Masjid to offer salat in congregation. If everyone who possesses a car utilizes it for worldly matters, uses it for gaining God’s pleasure, then the purpose of these vehicles will become the service of Islam and the individual will gain both worldly and religious rewards. Wherever it is not possible to go to Masjid, a few Ahmadi living close by should organize to get together in

one home to offer prayers in congregation.” (Khalifat-ul-Masih V, Friday Sermon, 22 June 2012)

A survey was taken from 1,000 head of families in 2018 and asked them how many of them live further than 15-20 minutes away from the mosque and found that 63% of them lived more than 20 minutes away.

Based on the above guidance from Khalifat-ul-Masih, Salat Center initiative was established to help US Jamā’at members to offer their

prayer in congregation.

Salat center initiative started in 2013, and every year the drive is conducted in the last 100 years of the year. From our survey before the drive started, there were only less than 50 mosques in the country that had a daily congregational Salat. Through the drive, Al-Hamdu Lillah, we can establish more than 200 places of congregational salat, including mosques and people’s homes.

Tahir Academy

“Neglecting the educational needs of children amounts to destroying a nation; for children of today will become the nation of tomorrow.” (Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muṣliḥ Mau’ūd)

“Nations cannot be reformed without the reformation of the youth.” (Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muṣliḥ Mau’ūd)

In 2014, Majlis-e-Shūrā recommended the following which was approved by Khalifat-ul-Masih

V.

Approximately 4,000 Ahmadi Muslim children under the age of 15 (boys and girls) live in the United States. Special emphasis for the Tarbiyat of these children is needed. In the light of Khalifat-ul-Masih’s recent Friday sermons on the importance of self-reformation, National Majlis-e-Amila recommended that Jamā’at USA develop and implement a comprehensive Tarbiyat plan for all children under the age of 15.

As a result, the National Tarbiyat department started Tahir Academy.

This is a comprehensive weekend school which provides additional human and financial resources for our auxiliaries, missionaries and parents to work in a collaborative fashion.

Al-Hamdu Lillah, ~45 Tahir Academies benefitting with over 1,600 Atfāl and Nāsirat have been established nationwide. Tarbiyat department provides ongoing support with monthly conference calls for Principals, budget approvals, and resource materials.

Testimonies from Students:

“Tahir Academy taught me the religious knowledge that probably I would have never learned without it. It helped me memorize various chapters of Holy Qur’an. Most importantly, Tahir Academy has created the love of Allah in me. Al-Hamdu Lillāh. Jazakumullah to all

my teachers.”

“Tahir Academy teaches kids a lot of things which we did not know. The best part is that it’s not boring and is in a fun environment. Tahir Academy also has different subjects which is good. The classes are very

interactive.”

“I like Tahir Academy because I learn a lot of new Surahs and I love to read about the Holy Prophet Muhammad and it’s fun.”

Spiritual Fitness Camps

- SF Camps is a nationwide drive targeting youth ages 7-18 (both boys and girls). These are led by a local missionary and is an interactive program with involvement from the youth.
- The purpose of these camps is to bring about solutions and conversations regarding issues kids may see at school such as dating, dealing with friends and social pressures of fitting in, e-cigarettes, etc.
- The purpose is to educate them in matters of Tarbiyat, as opposed to being strictly informational.
- SF Camps are geared to be



interactive and discourage “speeches” to the students.

- SF Camps are fine-tuned, and a package is sent across the US as to how to set them up as well as

what content should be included. At the end of the day, we want that students leave receiving insight as well as having fond memories in an environment of brotherhood,

while having answers to issues of our time.

- In 2019, 30 SF Camps were held. In 2018, 24 SF Camps were held.

Local *Islahi* Committee (LIC)

“The Reformative Committee should comprise of people who possess deep insight (those who truly know what’s going on in the Jamā’at at a grass-roots level). They should be able to sense evil and realize where its stench is coming from, and, even if an evil is invisible, their sharp senses should warn them that danger is lurking and they should remove it before it actually becomes a disease.” (Khalifat-ul-Masih IV)

- *Islahi* committee’s job is to

address local issues and bring the solutions to local Amila for implementation.

Islahi Committees were the initiative created by Khalifat-ul-Masih IV to truly discover root underlying causes in the Jamā’at and to protect from any emerging causes by identifying them, and addressing them prior to them becoming an actual issue.

- A full package detailing the scope and objectives of local

Islahi Committees was shared with and sent to Tarbiyat Secretaries. Best practices were reiterated during our national meeting and through WhatsApp channel. Nearly 35 US chapters have established an *Islahi* committee but there is much room for improvement in frequency of meetings. One-on-One guidance is being given to local Tarbiyat Secretaries as needed. Frequency of holding LIC meetings is being tracked on an on-going basis.

The Jumu’ah Initiative

“Many Ahmadis do not prioritize the Jumu’ah over their work. This habit can then negatively impact the youth who start missing Jumu’ah prayers due to school: the behavior carries forward into adult life. Majlis-e-Shūrā should find ways to improve the attendance of Jumu’ah prayers with special attendance on the youth.” (2019 USA Shūrā Proposal)

- For this purpose, the National Tarbiyat Dept has created a special booklet in which the Importance of Jum’ah was covered through references of the Holy Quran, Hadith, sayings of the Promised Messiah and the Khulafa.
- Every first Friday of the

month, has been allocated to encourage parents to take their kids out from school and bring them to Jumu’ah

- Letters of excuse and leave from school are also provided to anyone should they need it to be excused from school.

Tarbiyati Visits

To help bring awareness and drive to implementing the various initiatives of the Tarbiyat Dept, visits are being made to local Jamā’ats across the US by members of the National Tarbiyat Dept. In these visits, an interactive session is held with the general membership of the

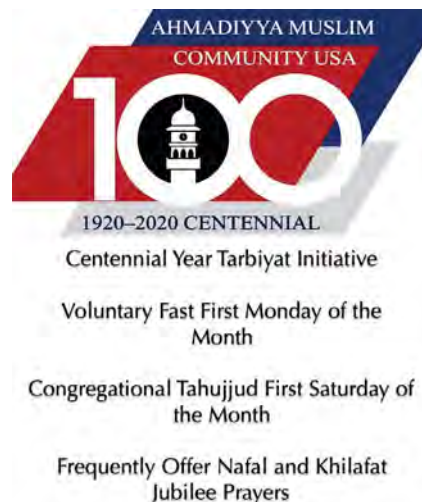
Jamā’at and discussions are held on what issues we face today, and what initiatives have been set in place by the Tarbiyat Dept. to address these issues.

There is also a sit down with the leadership of the Jamā’at (Local

Sadr, Missionary, Zaeem Ansarullah, Qa’id MKA, Sadr Lajna) and the local Tarbiyat Sec. in the form of the *Islahi* Committee to discuss their local concerns and what is being done to handle them.

Centennial Year Tarbiyat Initiative

With each success, it is integral to remember where Allah states, “If you are grateful, I will surely bestow more favors upon you.” (Holy Quran 14:8) In celebration of the Centennial Year, the Tarbiyat Dept has issued the following way of remembering Allah at this time of great success.



Shūrā Recommendations related to Tarbiyat

2018: Behavior of Office Holders

Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih al-Khamis (Ayyadahullāhu Ta‘ālā Benasreh-il-‘Aziz) has repeatedly instructed officeholders to hold themselves to a high standard while fulfilling their responsibilities. Majlis-e-Shūrā should delineate specific behaviors expected from

officeholders at all levels for them to lead by example and strive for moral excellence and to motivate the Jamā‘at members to participate fully and serve the Jamā‘at with their best abilities.

Action: A booklet of the past 15-

years of Khalifat-ul-Masih’s quotes regarding office holder’s responsibility was published and mailed to every US household. Seminars were held. Sermons were given and the material of booklet was discussed in local Amila meetings.

2017: Populating the Mosque

Four years ago, Majlis-e-Shūrā deliberated on the topic of establishing congregational prayers. As a result, Al-Hamdu Lillah, progress has been made at various levels, including but not limited to establishing more than 250 Salat

Centers nationwide. However, more work is needed to populate our mosques. Majlis-e-Shūrā should recommend achievable ways to populate our mosques on a sustained basis.

Action: Make it easy for members to attend prayer services at the masjid. Appoint a custodian of mosque where possible, provide food, include youth friendly activities.

2016: Culture of Islamic Marriage

“Despite previous efforts, marital disputes continue to surface. Majlis-e-Shūrā should highlight reasons and develop a comprehensive program to promote

the culture of Islamic marital harmony.”

Action: Marital harmony guide was created and distributed to

presidents. Friday sermons were delivered on this topic, and interactive discussions were held at the local levels.

2015: Preventing Social Ills

How can we prevent individual ills from becoming communal? Instead of coming towards Salat and adopting Islamic values, some

members tend to gravitate towards materialistic pursuits. How can we do individual and collective “Jihad” to reverse this trend?

Action: Established 220 salat centers, Interactive presentations were introduced.

2014: Tarbiyat of Children

Approximately 4,000 Ahmadi Muslim children under the age of 15 (boys and girls) live in the United States. Special emphasis for the

Tarbiyat of these children is needed. In the light of Khalifat-ul-Masih’s recent Friday sermons on the importance of self-reformation,

National Majlis-e-Amila recommends that Jamā‘at USA develop and implement a comprehensive Tarbiyat plan for all

children under the age of 15.

Action: Tahir Academies were established as a result.

2013: Culture clash, losing youth

The parents who have migrated from the old countries with imbued old culture and mindset seem unable to connect with their American born children in comprehending the current environmental dictates. Consequently, many young are rebelling and moving away from

creating a cohesive and loving family structure. There is a precise need for both parties to learn, adapt and compromise under the auspices of the National Jamā'at by establishing a series of interactive lectures and discussions to strengthen their loyalty to the Jamā'at and to their

respective families.

Action: Conduct local interactive programs, make videos, identify and help at risk individuals, improve the masjid atmosphere to non-judgmental.

2012: Controlling Inappropriate Internet Use

Given the pervasive influence of and easy access to internet (social media, YouTube, etc.), what preventive and punitive measures should be taken to protect our members, especially the youth, from

immodesty and immorality.

Action: Conduct educational workshops to raise awareness among youth and parents. If a well-documented case of inappropriate

use of internet is identified, the case should be brought to Islahi committee and may be further escalated for punitive/corrective action.

2011: Prevent Divorces

The number of divorce and khula cases is increasing in the Jamā'at. So, activate the Jamā'at Tarbiyat Department and draw the attention of the auxiliary organizations of Ansar, Khuddam and Lajna towards this issue. In this regard, assess the situation and send me a report as to how many

marriages took place in America in the last three years and how many were lost to divorce or khul' (separation sought by wife). People are becoming devoid of Taqwā (righteousness) and fear of God. Advise the Murabbiyan (missionaries) to draw people's attention towards this in their

Khutbat (sermons) and speeches. (Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih al Khamis, February 19, 2011)

Action: Pre-marital counseling was recommended (started in 2017). Engage members, give training workshops, establish a hotline.

2010: Disengaged Youth

The youth (and other members as applicable), need to be more involved in Jamā'at and integrated in Nizam-e-Khilafat (system of Khilafat), to strengthen the future of the Jamā'at in the USA. What are the

factors which can be appropriately considered in promoting that end? There is need to involve the youth through Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya but how is it best accomplished within the Jamā'at in

general. (National Amila).

Action: Islahi committees were formed. Summer Tarbiyat camps started.

2009: The Need for Marriage Counselors

At the national level, a committee should be appointed, under Amir's guidance, with a view to identifying appropriate and committed individuals, both male and female, in various geographic

regions of the US, to assume the role of marriage counselors and to approve the training programs that are deemed appropriate for our objectives. (Khalifat-ul-Masih's observation: Rest is the work of the

subcommittee to see how to undertake it).

Action: Two members took the course in marriage counseling.

2008: Tarbiyat of our Youth

To facilitate proper tarbiyat (moral and spiritual training) of our youth, we should: Make a dedicated effort to write comprehensive tarbiyat books for various age groups, educate our members about the non-Islamic (Christian, Pagan,

etc.) celebrations and holidays (background, purpose, etc.) and how to deal with them in this society, Educate our members about Islamic position on the contemporary moral issues, like homosexuality, pornography, abortion, etc.

Action: All available Jamā'at Literature is regularly promoted and sold through the Gazette, Web, and Regional/National Jamā'at and Auxiliary events.

Ta'lim—Education—تعليم

The first Ahmadiyya missionary to the US, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq started teaching Arabic language through the pages of Muslim Sunrise. He pronounced sounds of all 29 Arabic letters and vowels. He described with pictures different postures of Islamic way of praying. He mentioned some Muslim names with their equivalents in English and some Arabic phrases used by the Muslims in everyday speech. (The Moslem Sunrise, V. II, No. 2-3, April-July 1923, pp. 216, 222)

A school named Noor-ud-Din was opened to teach religious education to newly convert Americans. (Daily Al-Fazl, June 21, 1950, p. 2)

In later decades, at times schools for education have functioned at various locations.

Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, May 1969, reports in News of Ahmadiyya Missions:

Louisville: Members are holding meetings and trying to learn reading of Arabic.

Dayton: Arabic class is being held every day before Maghrib.

Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, July 1969 reports in the news of Ahmadiyya American Missions in USA:

St. Louis: Eight Atfāl members participated in test given by the Educational Secretary on Muslim prayers. Prizes were given later on.

New York: They are holding weekly educational classes regularly apart from Sundays and Jum'ah prayers.

Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, August 1969 reports in the news of Ahmadiyya American Missions in USA:

New York: Regular Sunday

meetings and educational classes were held.

Detroit: Class for children is being held regularly.

Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, May 1971, reports in American mission news:

Pittsburgh: Children classes are held regularly.

Milwaukee: They held Arabic classes 1:30 to 2:00 P.M.-Reading of the Holy Quran 4 to 5 P.M.

Dayton: A class was held every Saturday to teach Prayer, Principles and Practices of Islam and reading of Arabic. The Lajna is also having an Art & Crafts class every Wednesday.

Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, July 1973, reports:

Activities at Camp Hill: A course in Arabic studies is being offered for the credit at educational facility of Camp Hill Correctional Institution at Pennsylvania. Classes are conducted weekly for 3-5 hours by Yahya Sharif Abdullah and include "Arabic language, culture, and history" in accordance with the circular limits imposed by atheist government requirements. However, all of the essential of Islam are contained within the course. Composed largely of Ahmadi brothers who embraced Islam during their interment, the class affords vehicle for organization and development of Jamaat at Camp Hill.

Islamic Camp School: Mian Ibrahim, Missionary, incidentally the Editor of the Ahmadiyya Gazette had an occasion to visit the Islamic Camp School being conducted by Sister Saeeda Latif, at Lothian, Maryland.

Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, March 1975, reports in American

Community Activities:

New York Jama'at:

Holy Quran Study: Most members of the Jamaat can read Quran in Arabic. Those who cannot read yet, join the Arabic classes.

Arabic Classes: Primarily for Nāsirat and Atfāl. Yassarnal-Quran study for those who cannot yet read in Arabic.

Educational Class: Nāsirat and Atfāl study from lessons in Islam series, as well as learn other basic Islamic principles.

York-Harrisburg Jamaat: Regular Quran study continues.

Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, November 1979, lists in Jama'at Activities Reports:

Baltimore: Sunday Quran Class is regularly held.

St. Louis: Educational Secretary holding classes for adults beginning at 1 -2 P.M. Religious training for Atfāl sponsored by Khuddam and Murabbi Ahmad Saeed has been continuing with its Saturday and Sunday meetings. Three Atfāl have been awarded distinction and merit for memorizing the last ten chapters of the Holy Quran.

Willingboro: The Quran class is held and attendance in 100%.

During the next decades, education department started offering merit scholarships and need-based loans that helped many students complete their education.

Education department currently has active programs in place to help Ahmadi students excel in education which are being run ably by a dedicated team under the direction of the national education secretary, world-renown economist, Atif Mian.

(Dr. Mahmud Ahmad Nagi)

اشاعت—Publications—Ishā‘at

Publications Secretary: Syed Sajid Ahmad (2013-...)

Muhammad Owusu (2010-2013)

Hasan Hakeem (...-2010)

وَإِذَا الصُّحُفُ نُشِرَتْ
التكوير

And when books are spread about. (81 [al-Takwir] : 11)

Introduction

Spreading of books points to the means that are presses, as you see that Allah raised people that invented printing machines. So, the presses you find in India and other countries are an act of Allah to help us in our mission to spread our faith and our books and to have our exegeses reach every nation so that they pay attention to them and be guided. (The Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, in *Āīna-i-Kamālāt-i-Islam*, p. 474.) (Translation from Arabic by Sajid.)

Truth will prevail. A new bright day will dawn again for Islam. Same as it did before. The sun of Islam will rise in full bloom, same as it did before. But this will not be at once.

Imperative it is that this should not happen until we have proved our worth by devoted hard work, by offering our lifeblood, by sacrificing our rest and peace, by accepting all indignities for the dignity of Islam. The new Life of Islam demands a great Sacrifice from us. What is this Sacrifice? It is our lives: on this Sacrifice depends now the Life of Islam, the Life of Mussalmans, the Manifestation of God in our time. Sacrifice is of the essence of Islam. And this is the Islam that God wants to restore. To bring about this great transformation, it was necessary that God Himself should establish a workshop, adequate and efficient in all respects. So, He the Most-Wise, Most Powerful, let this workshop come into being by sending this humble one to undertake this work

of reforming mankind. This workshop He had divided into several branches, all devoted to the dissemination of truth, the propagation of Islam. Of these branches one branch is concerned with the preparation of books, one of the tasks assigned to this humble one. To perform this task, I have been gifted with special knowledge. Knowledge, which is not within man's capacity, which can be acquired only by the Help of God, which comes not of human effort but through the Holy Spirit. Instruction by the Holy Spirit has dissolved our difficulties. (The Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, in *Victory of Islam*, English Translation, Rabwah, 1973)

وہ خزانے جو ہزاروں سال سے مدفون تھے
اب میں دیتا ہوں اگر کوئی ملے امیدوار

The treasure that had been obscured for thousands of years

I offer them now if there is a taker

(The Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him. Translation by Sajid.)

Books published in the US

After his arrival in the US, the first missionary to the US, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, took full advantage of the printing facilities available in the US at that time. He started the periodical, *Moslem Sunrise*, that is published to-date in the US, and is the longest running Islamic periodical in the US. Books and flyers were also published. a listing is provided below.

For many years, Dr. Basharat

Mirza helped publish books and magazines of the Community. He established a physical printing press, *Fazl-i-Umar Press*, in Chauncey OH, that was instrumental in publishing and spreading the Community books and periodicals. As he advanced in age, he could not keep up with the advancing printing technology and his press went out of service. His family continues to support the Community in its publication needs even without having their own press.

Successive caliphs have desired publications of the Holy Quran and other literature from the US in large numbers and the establishment of a press. Readers will find such instances scattered through this compilation. Large number of copies of the Holy Quran and various titles have been published during the first hundred years of the Community in the US. A listing has been provided of the titles that could be identified.

Magazines published in the US

Muslim Sunrise

Quarterly *Muslim Sunrise* (www.muslimsunrise.com) was started in 1921 for the US audience by Hadrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him), the first missionary to the US.

It is one of the oldest Islamic

periodicals in the US in English language published to reach out to the US public. It addresses current controversies to highlight pristine guidance presented by Islam. Its past issues have been an excellent source of historical account of Ahmadiyya Community in the US.

Currently, it is published quarterly.

With the efforts of Munawar Saqib, Naseem Waseem and Saud Iqbal, *Muslim Sunrise* has been digitized and made available at issuu.com worldwide. Archives can be found at muslimsunrise.com.

Ahmadiyya Gazette (English)

Ahmadiyya Gazette was started by the then Missionary Khalil Ahmad Nasir in 1950. It has been published since then at various frequencies during the following decades. *Muslim Sunrise* and *Ahmadiyya Gazette* have been the main depository of the historical records of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the US. It has mostly been published from the US

headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community except for a short period when it was published by Missionary AU Kaleem from the then San Francisco chapter in the West Coast.

Ahmadiyya Gazette, *Al-Nur*, *Boletin* (Spanish), *Ahoban* (Bangla) aim to share Ahmadiyya news and information on topics of upcoming

activities. Complementary copies are sent to all Ahmadi households in the US. Home page is at www.ahmadiyyagazette.us.

Jaleel Akbar, Syed Sajid Ahmad and Dr. Nagi have scanned old issues for putting on the site with the help of Hammad Malik who has been managing the website. Muhammad Khawas Bhatti is the webmaster.

Al-Nur (The Light) in Urdu

Al-Nur was started by Missionary AU Kaleem in 1979 on the suggestion of the writer of this account, Syed Sajid Ahmad. On his appointment in the San Francisco Bay Area as the West Coast missionary, he asked the writer how he could serve the members. I told him that when I was coming from Ghana to settle in the US, on the way I had stopped by in some European countries. In Germany, I stayed at

the Frankfurt mission for some days. I observed that missionary Jalal Shams there made copies of important news, especially the Friday sermon, as soon as he received the *Al-Fazl* from Rabwah and mailed to all Ahmadi members in Germany. This way the most up-to-date message of the Khalifat-ul-Masih reached every household immediately. Missionary AU Kaleem liked this suggestion and started

following suit. The one-pagers at first carried the title *Akhbar-i-Ahmadiyya* (*Ahmadiyya News*). Syeda Bushra Ahmad suggested name *Al-Nur* that Missionary AU Kaleem liked and adopted for the publication. *Al-Nur* has served as a source of news, history and educational material for Urdu-speaking members.

Boletin Ahmedia (Spanish)

An initiative from Outreach Secretary, Syed Waseem Ahmad, to start a newsletter for the education and training of Spanish-speaking members. It started in January 2015.

Ahoban (Bangla)

Publication secretary encouraged Secretary Outreach to start a newsletter for Bangla-speaking members. It started its publication January 2017.

Al-Hilal (The Crescent)

Al-Hilal is an English periodical compiled by and published for the Ahmadi Muslim children in the US: Syed Sajid Ahmad suggested in 2000 to the then Ameer, Sahibzada MM Ahmad, that a magazine for children was needed for their education and training and to get them involved at an early age. A magazine committee was formed with the approval of the Ameer and the magazine was started in 2001. Committee had suggested various names for the magazine. The name Al-Hilal was chosen by the Ameer, Sahibzada MM Ahmad. Complementary copies are sent to all Ahmadi households in the US.

Other Periodicals

Four issues of Guidance were published in English from the West Coast by missionary AU Kaleem during October-November 1979 period. Al-Maghrib was also issued from the West Coast for some time.

Local Periodicals

Numerous chapters have published on and off local newsletters in print and/or online. Jama'ats are requested to put their current and old newsletters online to preserve history and for easy access for members. New York also has been publishing Jamā'at calendar for the last 20 years or so. Some examples are Bait-uz-Zafar Envoy newsletter from Queens, Bait-ul-Hadi Newsletter (Cent Jersey), Zion Highlight Newsletter, Bait-ut-Tahir up to date-newsletter, Al-Muzaffar (Electronic), LA East Newsletter.

Management of International Periodicals

Monthly Review of Religions (www.reviewofreligions.org) is the oldest English magazine published by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. It was started by the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) himself to introduce the true Islam to masses and to bring the message of Ahmadiyya Islam to the English-speaking world. Its paid subscriptions have reached a thousand copies in a recent year. It has been managed by missionaries Adnan Ahmad and Tariq H. Malik (usa@reviewofreligions.org) in recent years.

Al-Fazl International (Urdu), published every third day currently, was started by Muslih Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) for the education and training of the members and explanation of the true Islam. Its subscriptions have been managed by Ghalib-ud-Din in the US in recent years with paid subscriptions reaching a hundred.

departmental pages in this compilation.

Publications by Auxiliaries and Departments

Auxiliaries of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the US have published in the past and currently publish numerous periodicals and books. Their detail is left to the auxiliary pages following the

departmental pages in this compilation.

Objectives of Our Magazines

Announcing the launch of Urdu newspaper, Al-Fazl, Mirza Mahmud Ahmad (1889-1965), Muslih Mau'ūd, Khalifat-ul-Masih II, may Allah be pleased with him, wrote,

I consider it necessary to put forward the purposes of this newspaper briefly.

1. To present the beauties of the religion of Islam before opponents. To make aware of the excellences of Quran.

2. To make people aware of the teaching of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, and the specifics of his denomination.

3. To make members familiar with the religion of Islam and to try to pull them out of the darkness of all kind of innovations and customs, and to bring to their attention to set their manners right.
4. To publish the useful portions of the history of Islam that encourage the advancement of good attitudes such as courage, steadfastness, sacrifice, bravery, selflessness, faith, fidelity, etc.
5. To encourage education and to present useful proposals in this regard.
6. To encourage propagation of Islam, and to search means for it, and to bring awareness to the propagational efforts of the opponents.
7. To educate members to follow the principles that the Promised Messiah wanted the nation to follow, and to teach fidelity to government.
8. To bring awareness of important and useful news so that there is no need for any newspaper for general news, especially to make aware of the news of the Muslim world.
9. To try to increase mutual interaction and familiarity among Ahmadiyya and to bring them together to a central pivotal point.
10. To bring, as much as possible, familiarity with industry, trade, commerce, etc., and with new inventions.

Translated from Urdu in Badr, Qadian, June 1913. Reprinted in Al-Fazl International, 18 June 2019.

Libraries

Almost every chapter in the US has a physical library. Offices of all the missionaries in the US also have

their own separate libraries. The libraries mostly comply with the standards established by

international headquarters.

Books Approval

Respected Ameer USA has graciously formed a book review committee under the chair of Respected Falah Shams. This committee has expedited the book

review and approval process. Please let the committee chair (falah.shams@ahmadiyya.us) know if any other work in progress (except for the work being done directly

under the direction of Wakalat Tasnif) so that it can be monitored, and members may be assisted in the completion of their work.

Video programs for public access cable television (PACT)

More than hundred programs are available to play free on PACT.

Many chapters are playing one-hour videos twice a week. The maximum number of towns playing Ahmadiyya DVDs has been 22,

playing one-hour program at least once a week.

DVD publishing equipment has been acquired with the help of Audio/Video department to mass-produce DVDs for playing on cable

and for distribution for outreach. It is being managed by Sarjo Trawalley in Boston. Currently Muneeb Shareef, Boston, has been preparing videos for playing on public access cable TV.

Writing in newspapers and magazines

Missionaries and members have been writing in print media for the last hundred years. The US print media has been covering the

message of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, and the Ahmadiyya news and activities in the US for more than hundred years

even before the first Ahmadiyya missionary arrived in the US. Example can be seen throughout this compilation.

History Committee Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA

Syed Sajid Ahmad, Chairman

Fazal Ahmad, Secretary

Members:

Syed Shamshad Ahmad Nasir

Mubasher Ahmad

Yahya Ahmed Luqman

Tanvir-un-Nisa Ahmed

Dhul Waqar Yaqub

Falahud Din Shams

Karim Ullah Zirvi

National Archives

Thousands of books have been donated and are being arranged by

dedicated teams of local volunteers. In Chicago, Br Haroon and Br

Makeen has played significant role under the leadership of Br Abdul-

Karim.

Rare books and past documents are always being scanned. Naveed Khan has scanned numerous books in Chicago. Mohammed Ahmed

Nasir has arranged scanning of additional books.

Distribution center made shipments throughout the year despite the difficulties they faced.

Syed Mahmood and his team, Saiyed Burhan Qaderi and his helpers, Mansur Sheikh and his helpers provided support in shipping books from Chicago when AMC center there was active.

AMI Bookstore (amibookstore.us)

US Jamā'at maintains a bookstore to assure the supply of available titles published by Jamā'at to the Ahmadis living in the US and to the non-members in the US. Publications are provided at reasonable prices. The bookstore also provides books to libraries free of cost.

Books Published

Title	Author	Language	Year	Pages
Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam	Sufi M.R. Bengalee	English	?	11
The Teachings of Islam		English	?	
The Muslim Prayer Book		English	?	
The True Islam		English	?	
Extracts from the Holy Quran and the Sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad		English	?	
Son of God	B. M. Mirza	English	No date	9
Invitation to all good Christians	Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad	English	No date	11
Khilafat in Islam	Nafisur-Rahman A.G. Soofi	English	No date	32
A Message of Peace and a Word of Warning	Khalifat-ul-Masih III	English	No date	13
Eesa ka Wisaal		Urdu	No date	31
Jamā'at-i-Ahmadiyya ke 'Aqa'id	The Promised Messiah	Urdu	No date	36
Constitution of Majlis Ansarullah		English	No date	47
Way of the Seekers	Khalifat-ul-Masih II	English	No date	117
The Bounties of Islam		English	No date	5
Conclusion of the fourteenth Century and a Moment of Reflection for the Muslims	A. U. Kaleem	English	No date	24
Visit of the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (Third Successor of the Promised Messiah) to the United States of America and Canada		English	No date	5
What is Islam		English	No date	4
The Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at: A Brief Introduction		English	No date	4
Great in Mirza Ghulam Ahmad		English	No date	1
The Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association (PAAMA) USA		English	No date	8
The Messiah has come		English	No date	6
Good News. The Promised Messiah has come		English	No date	6
Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, A Non-Muslim Perspective	Khalid M. Sheikh	English	No date	10
Who is Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam?		English	No date	24
Victory of payer over prejudice	Zafrulla Khan	English	No date	12
This is our belief		English	No date	6
African American Journey to Islam		English	No date	4
Muhammad in the Bible		English	No date	6
Biblical Background of Islam	Khalil Ahmad Nasir	English	No date	8
A Solution to the Gulf Crisis		English	No date	5
Peace One Faith		English	No date	4
Salat		English	No date	4
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community		English	No date	8
Jihad. The True Islamic Concept		English	No date	6



Jihad or Terrorism		English	No date	12
Introduction to Islam		English	No date	8
What is Islam		English	No date	6
Islam: An Introduction to its Teachings and Prophet		English	No date	8
Islam, the religion of peace and tolerance		English	No date	6
Great is Mirza Ghulam Ahmad The Messiah	Sunday Herald Boston	English	No date	8
With Love to the Muslims of the World	Extract?	English	No date	8
An open invitation to a Mubahala		English	No date	14
He has already come		English	No date	1
Muhammad the Seal of Prophets the Covenant		English	No date	1
The need of the hour		English	No date	1
God is Love		English	No date	6
Muhammad, the Prophet		English	No date	6
Muhammad in the Vedas		English	No date	6
Khilafat		English	No date	6
The Blind Watchmaker		English	No date	6
Future of Revelation		English	No date	6
Saving the World		English	No date	4
Peace through the Messiah		English	No date	4
How can any good Christian burn a book which contains these verses?		English	No date	4
True Islam and the Extremists		English	No date	4
Muslims for peace		English	No date	4
Muslims for loyalty		English	No date	4
Muslims for life		English	No date	4
Repuesta del Islam Extremismo		Spanish	No date	4
La Repuesta del Islam Extremismo		Spanish	No date	6
Nuestras Enseñanzas		Spanish	No date	42
El Sagrado Con Texto En Arabe Traduccion al Espanol	Extract from Spanish translation of Quran	Spanish	No date	14
Yihad o Terrorismo?		Spanish	No date	6
Mohammad En La Biblia		Spanish	No date	6
La Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadiya		Spanish	No date	6, 8
El Velo Islamico		Spanish	No date	8
Jesucristo Murio En La Cruz?		Spanish	No date	8
Los Musulmanes Por La Paz		Spanish	No date	4
Las Mercedes De Islam		Spanish	No date	6
Jesus, El Hijo De Maria (Jesus, Son of Mary)		Spanish	No date	6
La liberacion del pecado depende de la conviccion total		Spanish	No date	2
Bangla name?		Bangla	No date	8
Salat Poster		Arabic, English	?	1
Muhammad in the Bible	Muhammad Zafrulla Khan	English		
The Will	The Promised Messiah	English	No date	38
Qaseedah bi-muttali'in	The Promised Messiah	Arabic	No date	2
Faith of a Muslim	Muhammad Zafrulla Khan	English	No date	16
The Promised Messiah Comforter of the Bible		English	No date	6
Islam – A message of love, peace & understanding	Maryam Chaudhry	English	No date	6
The Advent of Imam Mahdi in Islam		English	No date	6
The True Story of Crucifixion		English	No date	6
Reasons why Islam should be preferred		English	No date	6
Ten Questions on Trinity		English	No date	6
Conditions of Bai'at	The Promised Messiah	English	?	1
Great is Mirza Ghulam Ahmad		English	?	1
65 Reasons to Believe Jesus Did Not Die on the Cross	I. H. Kauser	English	No date	20



Change the Game	Sohaib Awan	English	No date	12
Islam and Democracy	Khalifat-ul-Masih II	English	?	
Life of Ahmad		English	?	
An Interpretation of Islam	Laura Veccia Vaglieri	English	?	
Life of Muhammad	Sufi M.R. Bengalee	English	1939, 1946	286
Splendid Mission and Glorious Prophets		English	By 1943	
The life and work of the Head of Ahmadiyya Movement (From Seerat Khalifatul-Masih II)	Muhammad Zafrulla Khan	English	1943	
Tomb of Jesus	Sufi M.R. Bengalee	English	1931, 46	60
Communism and Democracy	Khalifatul-Masih II	English	1951	
Ahmadiyya or the True Islam	Khalifat-ul-Masih II	English	1951	246
Why I Believe in Islam	Khalifat-ul-Masih II	English	1951, 1989	16, 6, 6, 6
Moral principles as the basis of Islamic culture	Zafrulla Khan	English	1951	
Life of Muhammad	Khalifatul-Masih II	English	1952	
Muhammad in the Bible	Khalil Nasir	English	1953, 1959	
My Faith	Muhammad Zafrulla Khan	English	1953	16
Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam	Zafrulla Khan	English	1943, 53	
How Jesus Survived Crucifixion?		English	1956	
The Cross has Broken		English	1964	
Islam – The Misunderstood Religion	James A. Michener	English	1964	
Ahmadiyya Movement		English	1964	
This is my belief		English	1964	
Islam and Christianity	Major Abdul Hamid	English	1968	
Moral and Spiritual Training (Mirza Bashir Ahmad)	Translator Chaudhary M.A. Bajwa	English	(1970), 1981, 1983	
Essays on Islam	Dr. B. A. Munir	English	1972	32
Islam is a living religion		English	1976	
The Handbook for Muslim Women		English	1975	
The Promised Messiah Has Come		English	1976	
Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam		English	1976	6
Qadianis a non-Muslim minority in Pakistan		English	1976	
Islamic brotherhood		English	1976	
Jesus did not die on the cross		English	1976	
This is Islam		English	1976	
A Glimpse into the Life and Teachings of Muhammad	A U Kaleem	English	1979?	
The Holy Quran	Translation by Sher Ali	Arabic, English	1979, 1982	676
What is Ahmadiyyat		English	1980	98
Promised Messiah and Mahdi has come		English	1983	
Beauties of Islam		English	1983	
The Six Articles of Faith (Muhmmad Sadiq, missionary Singapore)	Translated by Mirza Majid Ahmad	English	1983	23
The second advent of Jesus Christ		English	1983	6
What is Ahmadiyyat		English	1983	4, 6
Deliverance from the Cross		English	1983	6, 8
Mother of the Faithful	Ch. Mushtaq Ahmad Bajwa	English	1983	45
You were told but I tell you		English	1983	6
An Introduction to Islam	Ata Ullah Kaleem	English	1983	20
Ahmadiyya Muslim Beliefs	A. U. Kaleem	English	1983	12
Bright Lights of the Ahmadiyya Movement		English	1983, 1989	59
Ahmadiyyat: An Introduction	Louis J. Hammann	English	1985	13
Fate of a False Prophet	Syed Hasanat Ahmad	English	1985	16
Kalima Tayyiba	Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad	Urdu	1985	



Kalima Tayyiba	Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad	English	1985	
The Best News of this Millennium: The Promised Messiah has come	Printed by Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad	English	1986	6
Yassarnal-Quran	Translation by Basharat Munir Mirza	English	1986	60
Lessons on Islam 1	Translation by AR Mughal	English	1986	?
Lessons on Islam 2	Translation by AR Mughal	English	1986	48
Lessons on Islam 3	Translation by AR Mughal	English	1986	80
Lessons on Islam 4	Translation by AR Mughal	English	1986	107
Islam and Christianity		English	1986	16
The Miraculous Signs of the Promised Messiah	Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad	English	no date (1993?)	19
Muhammad in the Bible	Khalil Ahmad Nasir	English	? 2002?	20, 16
The Detroit Address	Khalifat-ul-Masih IV	English	1987 2018	54
Guroo Nanak Jee Dee Islaam Baarai Gawaahae	The Promised Messiah. Translation by Giani Ibadullah	Gur- mukhee	1987 2017.	28
Listen to The Voice from Heaven. The Promised Messiah has come. Also reprinted reformatted (new edition) with no date with additional heading Our Savior on top		English	1989	6
American Ahmadiyya Centennial Souvenir		English	1989	98
Centenary Souvenir		English	1989	56
Souvenir Presented by Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam New York Jamā'at	Aftab A. Bismil	English	1989	76
Muhammad, the Liberator of Women	Khalifat-ul-Masih II	English	No date, 1991, 2002	
Al-Waṣiyyat	The Promised Messiah	Urdu	1991	48
Ahmadiyyat in America	Mubashar Ahmad, Nasir A Jamil	English	1992	24
Kitab-i-Mahfuz		Urdu	1992	41
Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman		English	1994	43
Souvenir 1994. Mosques Around the World	Anwer Mahmood Khan	English	1994	138
Muhammad in the Bible		English	1995	12
Woman in Islam	Muhammad Zafrulla Khan	English	1995	30
Arnold Tynbee ka Ta'aqub	Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad	Urdu	1995	60
The Message of Islam	Muhammad Zafrulla Khan	English	1995	33
Pathway to Paradise	Lajna Ima'illah	English	1996	160
Por Que El Islam		Spanish	1997?	37
Razzaq and Farida	Yusef Lateef	English	1997	
Synopsis of Religious Preaching	Ata Ullah Kaleem	English	?, 1998	
fiftieth Jalsa Salana Souvenir		English	1998	88
Selections from the Writings of the Promised Messiah		English	1998	60
Our Teaching. Various printings.	The Promised Messiah	English	1998, No date	48. 34.
Words of Wisdom	Dr. Karimullah Zirvi, Majeed A Mian, Syed Sajid Ahmad	English, Urdu, Arabic	2000	322
Fulfillment of a Grand prophecy	Anwer Mahmood Khan	English	2000	94
Conditions of Bai'at		English	2000, 2002, 2006	8
A Letter to a Dear One (Aik Azeez kai Nam Khat) Muhammad Zafrulla Khan	Translation by Shermeen Butt	English	2001	110
Wonderful Qur'anic Prayers	Nasir Mahmood Malik	Arabic, English	2002, 2006	8



Welcome to Ahmadiyyat	Karimullah Zirvi	English	2002, 2003, 2010	701
Muhammad in the Bible	Khalifat-ul-Masih II	English	2003, 2013	58
Al-Waṣiyyat	The Promised Messiah	Urdu	2004	32
Inspiring Events in the Field of Tabligh: Ata-ul-Mujeeb Rashed.	Translation by Rashid Ahmad Cheedo	English	2004	83
The Will	The Promised Messiah	English	2004	48
Conditions of Bai'at: Initiation into the Ahmadiyya Movement In Islam.		English	2004	
Sermons on Waqf-e-Nau Delivered By Khalifat-ul-Masih IV		English	2005	
Daughters Of Eve – A Collection Of 5 Sermons Delivered By Khalifat-ul-Masih IV (Hawwa Ki Baitian)		English	2005	
Khilafat Centenary Prayers	Khalifat-ul-Masih V	English, Arabic	2006	1
Qaseedah ya 'aina faidillahi	The Promised Messiah	Arabic	2007	4
Forty Gems of Beauty (Chalees Jawahar Parai): Mirza Bashir Ahmad, M.A.	Translation by Nafis-ur-Rahman A.G. Soofi	English	2007	188
Ta'limul Quran	Karimullah Zirvi	English	2007	278
Why Islam is my choice	Syed Sajid Ahmad	English	2007	172
El Islam Una Religion De Paz Y Amor		Spanish	2007, 2008, 2009	6
Jesus son of Mary		English	2008, 2009	8
Jesucristo Murio En La Crus?		Spanish	2008, 2009, 2010	6
Religious Knowledge Workbook		English	2008	145
Islamic Teachings on Ideal Family Life	Mukhtar Ahmad Cheema	English	2008	60
Faith Affirmed	Lajna Ima'illah USA	English	2008	151
Khilafat Centenary Souvenir		English	2008	216
Approaching the West	Mubasher Ahmad	English	2008	216
Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosques Around the World	Anwer Mahmood Khan	English	2008	352
By the Dawn's Light		English	2009	211
By the Dawn's Early Light		English	2009	229
Ahmadiyya Resource Directory 2010		English	2010?	176
Quick Guide to Homeopathic Remedies (Homeopathic Nuskhe from Homeopathy-Ya'ni 'Ilaj Bil-Mithl)	Mirza Tahir Ahmad Translation by Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad Chaudhary	English	2010	66
Points to Ponder (Sochnen ki Batain): Khalifat-ul-Masih II	Translation by Syed Sajid Ahmad	English	2011	76
The Holy Quran	Translation by Sher Ali	Arabic, English	2012, 2017	822
True Love for the Holy Prophet	Khalifat-ul-Masih V	English	2012	40
Remembering August 14, 1947		English	2013	6
Celebrate Independence of Nigeria		English	2014	6
Tabligh Guide	Naseem Ahmad Bajwa	English	2015	106
Stories of the Faithful	Noman Rana, Ahmed Khan, Umair Ahmad	English	2015	73
Odyssey of Sacrifice	Anwer Mahmood Khan	English	2015	92
Qurbani ka Safar	Anwer Mahmood Khan	Urdu	2015	77
Purdah – The Path To Success For Every Muslim Woman (Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V)	Translated by Lajna Ima'illah USA	English	2015	59
Death on the Cross	Abul-Ata Jalandhri	English	2015	14
Paradise Under Your Feet	Lajna Ima'illah	English	2016	212



Perseverance	Naser Shams	English	2016	232
The Martyr	Hafiz Muzaffar Ahmad, Ahmad Noor Kabuli	English	2017	112
World Crisis and Pathway to Peace	Khalifat-ul-Masih V	English	2017	
Holy Quran English-Short Commentary	Malik Ghulam Farid	English	2017	
World Crisis and Pathway to Peace	Khalifat-ul-Masih V	Spanish	2017	
Elementary Study of Islam	Khalifat-ul-Masih IV	English	2017	
Jardin (Islam Gardens of Wisdom)		Spanish	2017	
Jesus in India	The Promised Messiah	English	2017	
Jesus en la India	The Promised Messiah	Spanish	2017	
The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam	The Promised Messiah	English	1953, 2017	
The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam	The Promised Messiah	Spanish	2017	
Garments for Each Other (Khalifat-ul-Masih V)	Translation: Lajna Ima'illah USA	English	2017	135
Tahir Academy Workbook Levels 1		English	2018	?
Tahir Academy Workbook Levels 2		English	2018	?
Tahir Academy Workbook Levels 3		English	2018	?
Tahir Academy Workbook Levels 4		English	2018	?
Tahir Academy Workbook Levels 5		English	2018	122
Tahir Academy Workbook Levels 6		English	2018	164
Ask a Murabbi	Rizwan Khan	English	2018	376
The Essence of Waqf-i-Nau	Khalifat-ul-Masih V	English	2018	44
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community		English	2018	126
The Soccer Sacrifice	Sameea Safi	English	2018	32
Catalog 101		English	2018	8
I Solemnly Pledge	Khalifat-ul-Masih V	English	2019	88
A Sign of Allah	Khalifat-ul-Masih IV	English	2019	66
Social Media: Khalifat-ul-Masih V	Translation by Sadiqa Mian	English	2019	98
I Love Allah		English	2020	
Tales to Live By		English	2020	

My Personal Recollections of the Ahmadiyya Bookstore in Washington DC

Jaleel A. Akbar

As a young boy in the early 1960s, I witnessed the missionaries who worked in the American Fazl Mosque. I had a perfect vantage point because my family lived on the same block as the mosque and I frequented the mosque even at that age, since the mosque was just a 2-minute walk from my home, if even that. As the whole mosque area was accessible to my playful activities, I interacted with the missionaries and their children.

In the early 1960s, what I saw was that the missionary at the Fazl Mosque took care of the books. In that early period, the term "bookstore" was not even used. However, the missionaries were the

source, or point-of-contact. One of these early missionaries was Syed Jawad Ali, whose family still lives in Virginia today. I remember seeing that we had received a large shipment of the One-volume commentary of the Holy Quran in English, what is now known as the very first edition. In the basement, in one of the finished rooms which later became a prayer hall for the ladies, there was a walk-in closet, and that closet was absolutely filled from floor-to-ceiling, wall-to-wall, of the One-volume commentary, nicely laid out on shelves. I also witnessed that gradually over time, that particular closet started having open space and eventually emptied out, as the One-volume commentary was

distributed over time. Other books were kept in storage boxes in the basement, however the number of selection of books was very small, perhaps about 10-15 titles, at most.

Later, in the 1970s, during the era of Maulana Ata'ullah Kaleem and Abdur Rashid Yahya (whose son, Qasim Rashid, is well-known in the Jamā'at), the selection of titles available suddenly grew dramatically. The Jamā'at books were supplemented with related titles of general books and other Islamic literature published in the world, such as new research on Jesus in Kashmir. There was even a complete collection of the English translation of Sahih Bukhari, by Kazi

Publications, which was still valuable to have despite not being a Jamā'at-sponsored translation, because there was not an Ahmadiyya translation of the entire Sahih Bukhari at that time.

I remember reading on the inside cover page of the Ahmadiyya books that they were printed by the Oriental and Religious Publishing Co., the publishing entity of the Jamā'at which operated in Rabwah. Their history must go back much further, probably to the 1940s, since they published the first editions of the 5-volume commentary. The Fazl Mosque in Washington DC was the direct beneficiary, among all the major missions around the world, of their publishing activity. So, as a result, a larger selection of books was made available to visitors of the mosque in the main office of the Missionary In-charge, whose room not only had his desk, but was open to the public as a welcoming library-like environment. Nice bookshelves adorned two of the walls. There was a beautiful fireplace in the room, along with the missionary sitting at his desk working. There was the bay window with a beautiful view of the outside garden, two comfortable sofas, and a coffee table for visitors to enjoy. One could browse through all the multitude of books on the shelves, and the missionary would also take interest in helping, playing the role of a librarian, explaining the value and contents of the books. When a visitor sat at the sofa, there would be found the latest periodicals on the coffee table, like the Daily Al-Fazl from Rabwah. A visitor could have hours of a very pleasant time reading any books he liked, any newspapers and periodicals, and the missionary was a friendly host with whom you could strike a conversation as well. For example, that is how I learned about the persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan through the troubles of 1974. At any

rate, through that pleasant environment, a visitor could learn a lot about Islam, and that was the extremely pleasant environment which sparked my interest in Islamic literature, which formed my early childhood character, and to which I credit my interest in the pursuit of knowledge to this day.

The later 1970s saw the arrival of the missionary, Syed Mir Mahmood Ahmad Nasir. I developed a close friendship with him, as the mosque was such a peaceful and pleasant place to be all the time, and I started assisting him in his missionary work. This would also serve as the foundation of the next dramatic period of growth of the bookstore. I became close friends with his son, Syed Mir Muhammad Ahmad Nasir, who had worked as a *waqf-e-zindagi* (life devotee) for Khalifatul-Masih IV and now currently for Khalifatul-Masih V (atba) in their *Hifazat-e-Khas* (Special Security) team in London. He was in college at that time, and in his spare time, Muhammad Ahmad took charge of the books in the mid-1980s and transformed it into an operating bookstore for the first time, and I was fortunate to work as his assistant.

The operation of distributing the books was now too much to be handled by a missionary, and we were one of the very early ones who created the first bookstore in Washington DC. It was only the two of us, and we worked every weekend at the mosque on the bookstore. We stored the books in large rooms in the basement, which were transformed into a warehouse-like structure, like the bookstore that operates today at Bait-ur-Rahman. A display case of the available books was set up on the first floor, in the room that served as a living room. Adjacent to that living room in the Fazl Mosque, the outside large balcony was accessible and had by

now been walled up and made into an interior room and served as a new library area. However, that room was not so pleasant like the missionary's office of the early 1970s, which gradually became less accessible to the public. However, the basic functions of a library-like environment along with the comfortable and pleasant living room of the Fazl Mosque with its book displays continued to play that role.

In short, the books were warehoused and inventoried in the basement. The public's request for books, which were sent as personal letters to the missionary, would be responded to by packing boxes for those requestors, and placed in the foyer of the Fazl Mosque, where they would be picked up by a shipper like UPS, etc., at regular intervals.

As the volume of books in inventory grew, we had to seek out a commercial storage company, which are now so prevalent everywhere in America today. Although I was not involved in the acquisition of it, I was involved in working at the U Street book storage room that was rented by the early 1990s. At that time, Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya had become organized in the Washington area, and we used to accompany the missionary named earlier, Abdur Rashid Yahya, to organize and retrieve books from the U Street location. Among the Khuddām that worked with me was also the young Usman Ijaz Grumman. We made many trips to U Street for the Jamā'at.

Up to this time, the Ameer of the U.S. Jamā'at was a combined office of the missionary in-charge, the latest of whom was Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad. Zaheer Bajwa, when he came to the USA in 1986, mentions that when books would arrive at Baltimore from overseas, Sheikh Mubarak would personally go there and pick up books in his station

wagon and bring them to Masjid Fazl. In 1994, Zaheer Bajwa moved to Masjid Fazl, and at that time Missionary Zafar Sarwar was in-charge of the bookstore. Then Ameer M.M. Ahmed gave the charge of the bookstore to Zaheer Bajwa. The number of rented storage rooms expanded from one to two, and later moved to the Randolph Street location where a different storage company's building was now used with at least three rooms, the U Street location having ended. I was also personally involved in helping in the work of those operations as well. This was how the bookstore evolved from the mid-1980s and through the 1990s.

In addition to these day-to-day operations of the bookstore, its existence also supported a new, greatly expanded feature of the U.S. annual Jalsa Salana. Muhammad Ahmad and I would setup and run the Jalsa bookstore in the 1980s, of which I vividly remember working in the 1986 Jalsa bookstore. The Washington DC bookstore would be essential and instrumental from now on for implementing the Jalsa bookstores from here on out and into the future. At that time, the Jalsa was held locally in the Washington DC metropolitan area, and also at University of Baltimore Maryland (UMB).

This state of affairs that continued through the 1990s, was what we thought of as a "large operation." However, another period of dramatic growth of the bookstore would come in the 21st century. It was 1994 when Bait-ur-Rahman was built and inaugurated, which was the foundation of a future development: the acquisition of adjacent lots of land. As the real estate that bordered Bait-ur-Rahman became available, those were acquired by the Jamā'at, and one of the big donors that I remember through word-of-mouth was the then Ameer Dr. Ahsanullah

Zafar. These developments provided additional housing and structures, one of which served as the early centers of the U.S. branch of Muslim Television Ahmadiyya (MTA) along with the earth station facilities which were developed on the original land purchase of the early 1990s. In addition to the MTA house was a separate two-car garage with a second floor. Zaheer Bajwa was still responsible for the bookstore and it was decided to make use of the garage as the new storage location of the books, saving the Jamā'at the necessity of renting storage space. Up to that point the bookstore was still a back breaking manual operation where books were picked up from the bookstore, taken to the Masjid Fazl, hauled inside, repackaged according to the orders placed and then put outside for UPS to pick up.

In 2007, the missionary Zaki Kausar was given the responsibility of the Bait-ur-Rahman bookstore and he requested me to assist him in organizing the books in that garage. He requested me to take responsibility for the foreign language books. At that time, the books were just a huge pile, or mountain, of boxes filled with books. We didn't have a proper team of volunteers, and since the volume of books was beyond our capacity to fully organize, we did our best to start organizing them while I focused on separating and inventorying all the foreign language books to the second floor. However, the lack of organizing a team of volunteers was the obstacle that made the operations difficult and slow. Zaki then had a transition to other locations for his missionary activities.

Around 2008 or 2009 Waqar Bajwa volunteered his time. He was able to organize a larger team of volunteers, where I continued in my organizing efforts of the foreign

language books, which I completed successfully on the second floor. At this time, Muhammad Ahmad Nasir of Baltimore started as one of the important volunteers, and he took responsibility of organizing the English and Urdu books on the first floor, which comprised perhaps 60-70% of the volume. The second floor at that time was used by MTA as a studio for their productions, but they later realized that the entire second floor would now be needed by the bookstore, as it had now become a serious organizing effort. Waqar Bajwa and others, along with myself and the new Muhammad Ahmad Nasir, put in a tremendous amount of time every weekend and worked throughout the night. I remember one of the caretakers of Bait-ur-Rahman complained to me that we would leave the light on all night, but little did he realize that there were actual working, burning the midnight oil working all night, well up to daybreak! I remember that at one time we even had a heavy snowstorm with about 6 inches on the ground, but Zaheer Bajwa hired help to clear pathways for our team of volunteers so that we could continue with the organizational work. The bookstore was not in operation during this effort of Waqar Bajwa because of the tremendous volume of unknown boxes of books that had piled up, and had to be inventoried, and a brand-new system of shelving and warehousing techniques, not unlike an Amazon.com warehouse was developed by brute force. Muhammad Ahmad Nasir also put his effort in developing the online bookstore website, and all the new rules of operations that enable the bookstore, when it finally opened again, to have a web presence with online features of book browsing, purchasing, and shipment. I also worked on an online website specifically for the foreign language books, but it was decided by Waqar

Bajwa to not integrate that feature into the main bookstore website.

Once the US Headquarter bookstore became operational again in the late 2000s, with the tremendous work of organizing mostly complete, the original team of volunteers began to fade away. There was a short-term crisis in terms of operating the bookstore, however Ameer, Dr. Ahsanullah

Zafar-asked Muhammad Ahmad Nasir to take charge of its operations-Muhammad Ahmad accepted the responsibility and averted the crisis, created a new team to perform the day-to-day work, and works to this day since the mid-2000s in operating the US Headquarter bookstore as a modern 21st century retail-like operation, which now hosts hundreds of titles, and now easily makes all the new

books coming from London and even Qadian immediately available to the Jamā'at members and the public at-large immediately. Muhammad Ahmad Nasir also runs the US Jalsa Salana bookstore, which is greatly expanded as a large Barnes-and-Noble-like operation with many attractive new features. May Allah bless him immensely for all his great work.

Bookstore

Mohammad Ahmed Nasir

In September of 2009, the Baltimore Jamā'at decided to participate in the Baltimore Book Festival. As I was managing the project, I started to look for Jamā'at books. I contacted Zaki Kauser and he asked me to go to Bait-ur-Rahman and pick up whatever I felt

was needed. This was the first time I went to the bookstore. I felt that I could be of help at the bookstore. After the Baltimore Book festival was over, I contacted Zaki Kauser and offered my services to help it organize. Zaki Kauser was more than happy and immediately allowed me

to work on it. As propagation has been my passion, I always looked at the bookstore as an instrument of outreach. This outlook has shaped the way bookstore works and operates till this day.

Making an egg from an omelet

Initially the work was very intimidating. I would look at the storage, with almost 1800 Sq. Ft filled to the ceiling with the jumbled-up books and barely enough space to walk around. I could see that this would be at least a year's effort to sort it out. I was not even sure myself, that I would be able to come here from Baltimore—a 45-minute drive—every weekend for one whole year. But somehow Allah, with His grace, made me keep on going.

Initially, I would go alone but after a few weeks I started to take my daughters with me, who were ages 9 and 7 at that time. They would count books, play around, and read children's books. Zaki Kauser had one computer and a printer and most of the orders were received via phone/email/fax and by mail. Invoices were made using Excel.

After a few weeks, Waqar Bajwa came to the bookstore and was very happy to find us working there. He had been made in-charge of the

bookstore recently. We worked out some details and our work became more official and efficient. I was able to get some Khuddam from the Baltimore Jamā'at a couple of times and he would get some Khuddam from the Silver Spring area. During that time, the circuit breaker for the lights tripped and it took eight weeks of sorting books before we could reach the electric box—which was on the far side of the bookstore—to reset it. During that time, it was also decided to have a moratorium on the sale of books for at least six months.

Dr. Zaheer Bajwa, who was general secretary of the US Jamā'at at that time, fully supported our effort. He helped us buy shelves and we started to put books in boxes and on the shelves. We assigned locations and SKUs (stock keeping unit) to each book and used Excel to record all the information. By the time of annual convention (Jalsa Salana) 2010, 75% of the sorting and counting of the English and Urdu

books was done. At the end, there were more than 100,000 books in 100 languages, worth half a million dollars.

Before Jalsa Salana 2010, I had developed a basic eCommerce website. It was launched as <http://bookstore.ahmadiyya.us>. At Jalsa Salana 2010, we had less than 100 books available online and the website only accepted checks. Later we added a comments box for orders so that those who wanted books for Jamā'at functions could indicate so. Another decision was made that shipping will be free and Jamā'at members should get the books at the same cost that they are getting them at Jalsa Salana so that way they don't have to wait for Jalsa Salana to buy books. On the bookstore side, we also replaced boxes with bins and a certain routine was set in place. At that time, I left the bookstore team to focus back on Tabligh efforts in the Baltimore Jamā'at.

AmiBookstore.us

Sometime after Jalsa Salana 2011, Waqar Bajwa had to leave for the west coast, and I was asked to come back to the bookstore and manage it. The rudimentary website that we had developed was not secure and was run by Jamā'at volunteers. It had been hacked and was disabled at that time. It was decided to buy a separate domain

Selling books on Amazon.com

Around winter of 2011, some members of the Jamā'at approached Khalifatul-Masih V for permission to sell books on amazon.com. After Khalifatul-Masih V's approval, an informal group was created—headed by Abada Barabouche in London—to

Team building

For the first two years I worked alone, later joined by my brother-in-law Adeel Nasir. Over time though, the team grew. By 2016 steadily a team had developed from the Baltimore Jamā'at. Initially it was

Bookstore at alislam.org

In 2000, Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah, who was managing alislam.org, wanted to have a bookstore on the website. The NY Jamā'at was asked to facilitate it. The President of the NY Jamā'at, Nazir Ayaz, appointed Sheikh Naseer Ahmad, who was NY publications secretary, to manage it. Sheikh, along with Shoeb Abul Kalam, Zulfiqar Sikdar, Manzoorul Sikdar, and Rizwan Hameed, ran this store

Bookstall at Jalsa Salana

In the early years, the Jalsa Salana used to be held at Bait-ur-Rahman. Around 1998, the Jalsa bookstore was managed by Abdul Ghaffer of central Virginia Jamā'at. In the early 2000s, Khawas Bhatti joined Abdul Ghaffer in helping the Jalsa bookstore.

By 2006, the Jalsa was held at the Expo Center in Chantilly, VA.

name and hire a professional company to host it. Lots of things at that time were new like accepting credit cards, allowing the usage of PayPal, having a bookstore bank account, etc. We also started to upload foreign language books which were managed up to that point by Jaleel Akbar. At that time my brother-in-law, Adeel Nasir, moved

start this effort, but after a few months this came to naught. Around July 2012, I explained the situation to Dr. Zaheer Bajwa. He asked me to pursue this and get it done. We started the project and in August 2012, we started selling Jamā'at

Abdul Rahman Olawole, Hussain Bin Ammar, and then Hashir Siddiqui, Labeed Toor and Sameer Zaheer, in that order. This team also includes Syed Ammar from Dallas, who helps in technical issues related

every Saturday for 17 years. Mansoor of Mansoor Bookshop in Jackson Heights helped this store acquire books from Pakistan and India. They would also get their shipments from the UK and Canada. This facility also shipped Review of Religions and Al-Fazl till 2017.

As the performance the Jamā'at bookstore at Bait-ur-Rahman's improved, the alislam bookstore

This gave the opportunity to display a larger number of books. The Jalsa bookstore team used to use a U-Haul truck to pack the books from the warehouse at Bait-ur-Rahman and transport them to the Expo Center. Around 2010, the Jalsa Salana, USA had moved to the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA.

In 2012, I was also in-charge of

to Baltimore and we both started working together at the bookstore every weekend. The National Publication Secretary changed from Hasan Hakeem to Mohammad Owusu. Both lived in other states, so I mostly worked closely with Dr. Zaheer Bajwa on many day-to-day decisions.

books on amazon.com. Since then, we have expanded to Amazon's branches in Mexico, Canada, Japan, and Australia. And right now, we are in the process of expanding to Amazon Europe and Arabia.

to amazon.com and amibookstore.us. We are also now on eBay. We have made arrangements to provide subscription to Review of Religions and Muslim Sunrise.

increasingly started to depend on the Jamā'at bookstore. This added to the cost as we shipped books to NY first and then they would ship around the world. As we were selling books internationally via amazon.com and amibookstore.us, it was decided in 2016 to discontinue alislam.org's NY bookstore and the amibookstore.us link was put on the alislam.org/store webpage.

the bookstall at Jalsa Salana. The software developed by Khawas Bhatti had gotten old and I decided to develop a new windows-based software for Jalsa point of sale. An untested software, my inexperience, the fact this was the first time Khalifatul-Masih V was coming to USA Jalsa, which meant higher attendance at Jalsa, and no data

from the sales in previous years. All these factors added to the crisis that we faced. Khawas Bhatti's sons, Sarmad and Siraj Bhatti, who used to help their father saved the day and with their invaluable experience, patience, and sense of responsibility, helped avert what could have been the worst possible disaster at the worst possible time. Till this day, Sarmad works with us on the Jalsa bookstall.

On the Lajna side, Naseerah Bhatti—who has been managing the Jalsa bookstall for more than a decade—patiently worked with me without criticizing all the faults. The next year, we fixed a lot of glitches, improved the flow, had the right number of books with the right titles.

Present and Future

Our lack of a proper warehouse is a huge issue. We have again moved our storage to a public storage facility. We lack a proper dock, which allows for us to get a forklift that can move an entire palette, and instead we must take a whole day to move that palette ourselves. It also adds to the cost of trucking, as we need to hire special powered liftgate

Some Distinctive Feature of USA Jamā'at Bookstore

We always try to stock every translation of the Holy Quran published by the Jamā'at. It is very important that at least there should be a place where actual physical copies are available for purchase all the time.

We also try to keep as many translations of the Promised

The system was offline though, which means after Jalsa we must update our inventory manually each year, which was a serious effort. Another issue that we still face is that many Jamā'at books don't have an ISBN barcode printed on the back of the book. This means that for every book that is sold at Jalsa we must print our own barcodes and paste on the back cover of each book.

In 2016, when we migrated the website to Magento 1.9, we added an online point of sale system, which updates inventory immediately. This really improved our operations. But in 2017 Jalsa we depended on Jalsa Gah's internet connection which was very slow. After that year, we have our own cellular hotspots and that

trucks. It also weakens our supply chain as books are not stored at one place. For example, at one point we were number one on amazon.com in Quran sales, but we were unable to sustain it because our stock was in Chicago.

The bookstore has evolved into a distribution center, where other

Messiah's books as possible. For example, right now we have 32 translations of Philosophy of the teachings of Islam.

We also keep the prices of the books very low. For example, our books are usually half the price of other online offerings.

We also have created the

fixed that issue. Also, in 2017, we started taking credit cards at the Jalsa bookstall which really helped people who had to keep cash with them to buy books from Jalsa Gah (Convention Venue).

Since 2015, a steady team of young volunteers have started to help at Jalsa Gah. On the men's side Farhan Chaudhary, Abdul Rahman Olawole and other regular bookstore team members joined. On the Lajna side, my daughter Rida Ahmed started to assist Sister Aeman Bashir. In the last five years an institutional memory has developed, and operation has become much smoother.

departments like Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, Ansarullah, Waqf-e-Nau, Tahir Academy and Tabligh department use us as their distribution facility. This really helps to keep the costs down and makes it possible to have a one window operation for the Jamā'at.

payment method of budget usage, where different office holders can use their budget to buy books. This also has gotten us away from the wasteful push strategy where the headquarter used to push a certain number of books to all Jamā'ats whether they needed them or not.

Sam'ī wa Basarī—Audio and Video—سمعی و بصری

Introduction

Sam'ī wa Baṣarī refers to sound and sight (audiovisual). A proper functioning sound and sight is the function of department of Sam'ī Baṣarī or Audio Video department, USA. The sound of silence and diminished visual acuity are an embarrassment to the department of Sam'ī Baṣarī. We are handicapped by the fact that man and machines will fail us repeatedly. Hence the need for constant check and recheck of the equipment in our mosques and mission houses. Our work is tangible.

Initially it was only the sound system that needed care and maintenance. Technology advancement has made it imperative that we keep all our audio video equipment in proper working order. In addition, it is important to ensure we have emergency back-up systems including batteries, microphones and televisions. The wiring needs to be checked and maintained. It is also important to ensure transmission to the women's side is also maintained in proper working order. MTA access in our mosques and mission houses is also important. The objective of all these functions is to be able to communicate in a timely and proper manner and to be able to listen and see the speeches and instructions of Khalifat-ul-Masih V <https://www.alislam.org/multimedia/>. Audio books provide easy access to the words of Promised Messiah and the Khulafa. The Ahmadiyya Photo Gallery at www.ahmadiyyagallery.org serves as an archive to renew our memories.

Our podcast services at <https://www.alislam.org/podcast/> include audio books of The Promised Messiah and Khalifat-ul-Masih V, latest Friday Sermon and keynote addresses delivered by Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V. These Podcasts are available via iTunes (for Apple devices), Google Play Music (for Android devices). The members are periodically reminded of availability of all programs. Sam'ī Baṣarī work at our Jalsa Salana is more intense and pronounced where we have extended teams of men and women working on each side.

The Promised Messiah was asked by one of the companions as recorded in Malfūzāt: "We hear that some companions of The Prophet had lost their vision, but we rarely hear about the companions having lost their hearing." In response The Promised Messiah said that one aspect was that the preservation of The Holy Quran was paramount. Allah ensured that by listening and memorizing the Holy Quran this would happen.

In the development of human beings, as mentioned in the Holy Quran, there is a pattern in which organ starts to function first as noted in these verses (6:47); (23:79); (16:79); (67:24).

It is always ears, eyes and heart (67:24) Say, 'He it is Who brought you into being, and made for you ears and eyes and hearts; but little thanks do you give.'

The ears start to function first. As soon as the baby exits the womb and light hits the eyes the eyes start

to function. When the cord is cut the heart, circulation restores to normal. (Stanford Medicine)

Hearing is the first sense to start working. Followed by sight. Hence the words Sam'ī and Baṣarī.

The use of loudspeakers started in 1936, and more than twenty-five thousand participants of the Annual Convention benefitted from this facility. At this occasion, Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II said:

"I believe this is also a proof of the truthfulness of The Promised Messiah; as the Holy Prophet Muhammad foretold that the Promised Messiah would bring the victory of Islam through the means of communication and publication. And the Holy Qur'an also indicates that his time would be an era of vast publication. In order to fulfil these prophecies, Allah Almighty has caused to invent many new devices such as Printing Press, Loudspeaker and Wireless System. And if Allah Almighty wills so, it is quite possible that one day a Friday Sermon is being delivered in Qādiān and people all over the world would be able to listen through radio and follow their prayers afterwards." (Daily Al-Fazl Qādiān, December 29, 1936)

Chronological order of the developments

As given in the Al-Fazl International:

1. December 1980: Arrangement for translation for foreign guests and delegates was made during the Annual Convention [in Rabwah].
2. 1984: Audio cassettes of Friday sermons of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV were distributed throughout the world. This process continued until the initiation of MTA.
3. January 1, 1985: The state radio station of Norway started broadcasting the Jamā'at's programs regularly.
4. April 3, 1987: In Rabwah, members of the 68th Majlis Shūrā listened to a recorded address (from the UK) by Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV.
5. March 24, 1989: The first Friday sermon of the second centenary of Ahmadiyyat was broadcast live to Mauritius and Germany via phone. Before this, a message recorded for the occasion of the celebration of 100-years of Ahmadiyyat was distributed to Jamā'ats all over the world.
6. January 18, 1991: The live Friday sermon of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV was transmitted to the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Mauritius, the United States

of America, and Denmark.

7. June 23, 1991: The 'Idul Adha sermon delivered by Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV was broadcasted to 24 countries.
8. July 1991: Addresses of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV at the UK Annual Convention were relayed live via satellite in 11 countries with a simultaneous translation in seven languages.
9. July 1992: Proceedings of the Annual Convention were shown live on MTA.
10. August 21, 1992: Friday sermons of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV were started transmitting live via satellite to Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. This initiated the MTA Transmissions for four continents.
11. January 7, 1994: Regular programs started to broadcast on MTA to Europe (three hours a day) and Africa and Asia (12 hours a day).
12. April 1, 1996: Started twenty-four (24) hour transmission of MTA [As of October 2019, this service continues an even wider and wider scale].

The USA Jamā'at Sam'ī Baṣarī department has been served by many Jamā'at stalwarts who paved the way for progress over the years. By the grace of Allah USA Jamā'at has been in the forefront utilizing the advanced technology to

communicate with Jamā'at membership and spread the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat. Listening and watching the Friday sermons, speeches and instructions of Khalifat-ul-Masih V is paramount.

<https://www.ahmadiyyagallery.org/Jalsa-Salana-Annual-Convention/United-States-of-America/National/Jalsa-Salana-USA-2019/2019Jalsa/i-txXLcVd/A>

<https://www.ahmadiyyagallery.org/Jalsa-Salana-Annual-Convention/United-States-of-America/National/Jalsa-Salana-USA-2019/2019Jalsa/i-69mGsMP/A>

<https://www.ahmadiyyagallery.org/Jalsa-Salana-Annual-Convention/United-States-of-America/National/Jalsa-Salana-USA-2019/2019Jalsa/i-2QjkwSJ/A>



Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah

Rishta Nāta—Matrimony—رشته ناتا

Ahsan M. Khan, National Secretary, Rishtā Nata Department, USA



Left to right: Yasir Mirza, National Assistant. Nasiruddin Ahmad Tariq, National Assistant. Khalifat-ul-Masih V, Dr. Ahsan M. Khan, National Secretary Rishtā Nata. Dr. Mansoor Qureshi, National Assistant (London, January 18, 2020)

Marriage is a sacred institution in Islam as stated in the Holy Qur'an:

“And among His signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in peace and tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are signs for those who reflect” (Quran 30:21).

The Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, instructed that we should select a marriage partner on the basis of righteousness. Anas ibn Malik reported: The Messenger of Allah said, “Whoever Allah provides with a righteous wife, then Allah has assisted him in half of his religion. Let him fear Allah regarding the second half.” Thus, marriage is an essential part of spiritual life.

The Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, laid heavy emphasis on the importance of marriage. He recognized in the early years after the establishment of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community a need to facilitate the arrangement of marriages between Ahmadi men and women and that is how the department of Rishtā Nata (matrimony) was established during his lifetime. Over the years as the Jamā'at expanded, Rishtā Nata was formally instituted as an office in the Jamā'at structure. The national secretary Rishtā Nata is appointed by the Amir of the Jamā'at and serves in the national Amila of the country. Similarly, Rishtā Nata secretaries also serve on the local Jamā'at level.

The duties, as stated in the rule

and regulations of Tahrik-e-Jadid, include (1) maintaining a list or database of marriageable candidates; (2) identifying problems in arranged marriages faced by families; (3) facilitating introduction of marriageable candidates and their families to one another; and (4) seeing that marriages are solemnized according to Islamic practices.

The Rishtā Nata Department of the USA Jamā'at has been served by various secretaries in recent time. Naeem Khan was appointed and served from 2002 to 2005. Abdul Shukoor Ahmad expanded the services and outreach of the department as national secretary from 2005 to 2009. Dr. Farooq Padder was then appointed in 2009. During his 10-year tenure, the

department further expanded and included the development of an online registry and premarital counseling services, along with creation of educational content and dedicated Rishtā Nata weekends on the national calendar to promote dialog and understanding. Dr. Ahsan Mahmood Khan was appointed national secretary in 2019 and currently serving in this capacity.

The present worldwide head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (Ayyadahullāhu Ta'ālā bin Naṣrihil Azeez) has dedicated several discourses and Friday sermons, watched by a worldwide audience, about marriage. He has, in particular, laid emphasis on prioritizing righteousness (Taqwā) in choosing a spouse. In January

2020, Khalifat-ul-Masih V graciously held a meeting with the Rishtā Nata national delegation from the United States and offered very important directives, guidance and encouragement.

Portal: rishtanata.us



Past national secretaries: Naeem Khan. Dr. Farooq Ahmad Padder. Abdul Shukoor Ahmed.



Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman during the 2008 visit of Khalifatul-Masih V

Umur Khārijīyya—Public Affair—امور خارجیه

June 23, 1907: The Boston Herald reported on the prayer duel between the Promised Messiah and John Alexander Dowie. Dowie died at the age of 59, while the Promised Messiah, who was older, passed away a year later, thus fulfilling the prophecy.

Hardy, an 'we're the six as 'll do it. To-morrow bein' your day, yer all kin settle up that

WILL DOWIE FIGHT THIS DUEL?

Who is a liar?
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, Punjab, India, wants to know, and he believes he can get the truth out of John Alexander Dowie. The Hindoo has challenged the Zionist prophet to a duel to death and Dowie has turned up his nose at the Oriental prophet and refuses to say a word.
The man of Punjab is not a joker, and he wants Elijah the Restorer to know it. He asks the Zion potentate to fight to the finish and he has named prayer as the weapon.

The pair is a liar may perish instantly. Mirza has not named his seconds nor the place of combat, but he wants a thousand men to back him up, and he is willing to give John Alexander an equally fair showing.
Mirza is Not Prosperous.
Mirza is a Mohammedan, and he is by no means an ordinary prophet. He is not a banker, nor a real estate agent and a builder of cities, nor a lace maker. He hasn't been very prosperous as a Messiah. Qadian isn't as profitable a field for religious enterprise

ing to Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, they are not good prayers, and do not reach very high. Here is where Mirza expects to get the best of the captain of the Zion City baseball club. He says Dowie is a liar, and he is going to pray to the Almighty to strike down the liar. The Zionites declare this is unfair, and that Mirza would not be fighting on the square, for he would only be praying for the demise of his rival and would not be asking the Almighty to judge between them.
Mirza, in his challenge, does not say he is willing to come to Zion City. He favors

medan. I am the very Messiah, the promised one, for whom you are anxiously awaiting." This is not according to Dowie's calculation.
Mirza then goes on in this wise:
"Between Dr. Dowie's position and mine the difference is this, that Dowie fixes the appearance of the Messiah within the next twenty-five years, while I give him the glad tidings that the Messiah has already appeared. I am the Messiah, and the Almighty God has shown numerous signs from earth as well as from heaven in my support. My following, which already claims 100,000 souls, is making rapid progress.
The proof that Dr. Dowie furnishes in support of his extravagant claims is the very height of absurdity. He claims to have healed hundreds of sick men. But why did his healing power fail in the case of his own beloved daughter, where it should have been exercised in the highest degree?"

Would Not Shed Blood.
The Indian claimant is a harmless sort of a fellow, and he doesn't desire to shed any blood in his duel. He believes he can settle his dispute with Dowie with no more serious consequences than the death of himself or his rival.
"Whether the God of Mohammedans or the God of Dowie is the true God may be settled without the loss of millions of lives, which Dr. Dowie's prediction would involve," writes the Punjab man. "That method is that, without threatening the Mohammedan public in general with destruction, he should choose me as his opponent and pray to God that of us two whoever is the liar may perish first. I look upon the Son of Mary as a weak human being, although I recognize him as a prophet of God, while Dr. Dowie takes him for the Lord of the universe.
"Which of us is right is the real point at issue. If Dr. Dowie is certain of the divinity of the Son of Mary, he should publish the proposed prayer with the signatures of at least a thousand men allied to it. Upon receiving it, I should address the same prayer to Almighty God and publish it with the signatures of the same number of witnesses.
"If Dr. Dowie has the courage to accept this challenge, he will open a way for all other Christians to the acceptance of the truth. In making this proposal I have not taken the initiative, but the jealous God has inspired me upon Dr. Dowie's presumptuous prediction that all Mohammedans shall perish."

Has a Little Side Information.
Before the Oriental gets through with the prophet of the north shore he tells him a few other interesting little things about the Savior that are not generally known outside of Punjab and the adjacent provinces.
"An important discovery regarding Jesus Christ has been made by the followers. Jesus did not die upon the cross, but was taken down alive and senseless. Subsequently the Son of Mary recovered, traveled onward, and lived to a good old age. His tomb is situated in Khan Yar street at Srinagar, Cashmere."
Dowie probably will not accept the Indian Messiah's challenge for some time to come. His prayers are all taken for months ahead and he is so busy getting ready for his Christianization of Ootham that he isn't paying any particular attention to Punjabians of any caste, be they such pariahs or Messiahs clad in old overcoats and white breeches.

Dowie Doesn't Like Prophets.
If Mirza Ghulam Ahmad takes it into his head to come to this country and beard the prophet in his own land office, he will find that Dowie hasn't been wasting any time fooling with other Messiahs. He will find instead that Dowie has been engineering town-plot booms and directing the program of the collection takers between prayers. He will find a few stores where he can buy a new coat and a decent-looking hat, if he has the money, and he will find a hotel where he may sleep if he does not neglect the Zion City cash drawer.
But Mirza will not find a warm welcome if he comes. Dowie isn't inviting any rival prophets or Messiahs. He doesn't want any side shows, and what is more, he never would listen to the Easterner's proposition, for Mirza insists upon writing the prayer. The Zionites fear there is some sort of a hidden trick in this very proposition, and the Zionites, they know the doctor won't have anything to do with the plan.
At any rate, over in Punjab Dowie will be discredited if he does not enter the next. But there are not many Hindoos in the Dowie flock, so, in the long run, it doesn't make much difference. But the question is not one of what the followers think about it. The issue is a fact.
Will Dowie fight it out?



REV. JOHN ALEXANDER DOWIE

MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD

Furthermore, Mirza, who claims to be the promised Messiah, has laid down the rules for the deadly combat, and he demands that Dowie either "shoot or give up the gun."
Dowie has not accepted the challenge. He has not said that he will not. His followers say he hasn't time for any Punjabians, and that he has enough to do in preparing to swoop down upon wicked New York in October, when he intends to scrub the territory between the Bowery and the Bronx.
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad is jealous of the Illinois Messiah. He says some one is a liar and that he can prove it. And he intends doing it by prayer—a duel of prayer. He wants Dowie to stand up and pray that whoever of

as Chicago, and Dowie has the Hindoo eclipsed when it comes to being a commercial Messiah. While Dowie is wearing a gorgeous purple robe and carrying a staff that reaches two feet above his bald poll, Mirza has only a cast-off overcoat, a pair of white breeches, and a bamboo cane.
And in the matter of whisks Mirza is considerably handicapped. Dowie's chin is decorated with a snowfall that reaches to his watch chain, while the Mohammedan boasts only a straggling black beard that hardly hides his collar button. But he sports a puffed and knotted turban that looks as religious, if it does not outshine, Dowie's hairless pate.
Dowie is long on prayer; in fact, his orisons ascend almost continually, but, accord-

long-distance prayers, and believes he can undo Dowie by the wireless method as easily as if he had him at his side.
The Mohammedan does not pose as a gleaner of shekels, but he does claim a large following. He tells the Chicago prophet that he has 100,000 devotees at his heels, and gives Dowie to understand he is no common exhorter. He has heard that Dowie despises the Mohammedans and he wants to know why.
Mirza claims he was sent here for the reformation of the world exactly at the time fixed by calculations he has made on the Biblical prophecies. After this he says to the chief Zionite:
"You should remember that this challenge does not proceed from an ordinary Moham-

Hazrat Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq traveled aboard the American transatlantic liner S.S. Haverford from Liverpool to Philadelphia, PA on Jan. 24, arriving on Feb. 15, 1920. Upon his arrival in PA, he was arrested by the authorities, who suspected he would preach polygamy. Behind bars, he converted 19 inmates to Islam.

Through lectures, like this one at the Auto-Worker's Hall, Detroit, in February, 1921, Hazrat Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq converted over 700 Americans to Islam before departing in 1923.

Comes to Teach Us Ahmadi




Ledger Photo Service
MUFTI MUHAMMED SADIQ, of Quadian, Punjab, India, who left the steamship Haverford late yesterday, is here to teach the doctrine of Ahmadi, a reformed Mohammedanism.

EAST INDIAN HERE WITH NEW RELIGION

Immigration Authorities Detain Visitor, Who Says He Is a Missionary

MAY BE SENT BACK

Spreading a new Oriental religion without the sword is uphill work, but as it is necessary under modern conditions to proceed without the sword, Mufti Muhammed Sadiq, missionary from the Ahmadia Church in India, has come to this country without side arms of any sort to convert America. He is at the immigration station at Gloucester, and there is some doubt that he will be allowed to enter the country.



A SHOPPING BASKET on wheels with a handle, so the kiddies can help m



6/25/1922: The mission of Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq is covered in the Syracuse Herald, describing it as the movement to "win new converts to the faith of Mohammed and fill our cities with Mosques..."

THE VANCOUVER SUNDAY SUN, VANCOUVER, B. C., SEPTEMBER 24, 1922

Trying To Make Christian America Mohammedan

Amazing Details of the Movement Now Under Way to Win New Converts to the Faith of Mohammed and Fill Our Cities with Mosques From Whose Towers the Muezzins May Call Millions to Worship Allah As the Koran Teaches

An adaptation of J. L. Gerome's famous painting, "The Call to Prayer," showing how the tower of a Mohammedan mosque would look in the heart of New York, and with a muezzin at the top, summoning all true believers to prostrate themselves and pray.

Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, the Moslem missionary who has been sent here from India to spread the Mohammedan faith

Significant design on the cover of the quarterly magazine edited by the leader of the Mohammedan missionary crusade. It is in English and is filled with claims of the superiority of Mohammed to those of Christianity.

THE Christian people of America are spending millions of dollars every year in the effort to spread the gospel of Christ all over the earth and convert the people of every nation under the sun to Christianity.

And while this tremendous outlay is being made to maintain thousands of devoted missionaries in foreign lands, one of the world's other great religions is making a determined effort to gain a foothold in Christian America.

The leaders of Mohammedanism, not content with the \$25,000,000 or more all-otments that faith now has in Turkey, India and other countries, are turning their attention to the United States and Canada, with the hope of making both those nations strongholds of Islam.

They aim to make their picturesque mosques and the towers from which the muezzins issue their calls to prayer as numerous as our churches, and when that day arrives they are confident it will not be long before the crescent will overshadow the cross and a great majority of Americans will be following the precepts laid down in the Koran.

To the millions of American Christians who have so long looked eagerly forward to the time when the cross shall be supreme in every land and the people of the whole world shall have become followers of Christ the plan to win this continent to the faith of the "infidel Turk" will seem a thing inconceivable. But there is no doubt about its being actually well under way or that it is being pressed with all the fanatical zeal for which the Mohammedans are noted.

A little more than a year ago there arrived in the United States a Mohammedan missionary who is charged with the duty of spreading his faith throughout the length and breadth of North America. His name is Mufti Muhammad Sadiq and he came from Gadhon, Punjab, India, where are the headquarters of what is known as the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam.

The Ahmadiyya Movement is called after its founder, Mahomed Ahmad, whom the

imes would happen if the barrier applied for admission to the United States under the present immigration laws. The following is the dialogue which he describes as taking place between the immigration officer (I. O.) and Jesus (J.):

I. O.—Please write your name.

J.—I do not believe in taking oaths. It is not right.

I. O.—What is your name?

J.—Jesus.

I. O.—What is your first name?

J.—This is my first name.

I. O.—What is your second name?

J.—I have no second name. This is my only name.

I. O.—Fanny! What is your father's name?

J.—I have no father.

I. O.—How do you get your money?

J.—I do not know.

I. O.—How do you come from India?

J.—I have no money with me.

I. O.—How will you live without money?

J.—I never think of tomorrow. Tomorrow will think of itself.

I. O.—Fanny! We think of things in this country a century ahead. What is your nationality?

J.—I am a Jew.

I. O.—Do you believe in the law of Moses which allows polygamy?

J.—Surely I do. Whoever shall lead the least of the commandments of the law of Moses he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven.

I. O.—Why are your hands pierced?

J.—I was unjustly nailed to the cross.

I. O.—What is your profession?

J.—I am a preacher of God's word. I speak nothing but what I am commanded

Mohammedan mosque in Highland Park, Mich., a suburb of Detroit—one of the many Moslem evangelists hope to establish here

These evangelists are highly educated men, speaking many languages fluently and in every way carefully trained for the work they are doing. They are called missionaries and their duties and responsibilities correspond quite closely to those laid on our own missionary bishops.

Already besides the missions in America there are missions all over India, in England, Burma, Ceylon, China, Australia, Neopitania, Persia, Arabia, Egypt, East and West Africa, Mauritius and a number of other places. More are being sent out just as fast as they can be trained and funds raised to carry on their work.

Dr. Sadiq, as he calls himself, the missionary assigned to the task of winning the United States and Canada to Islamism, is showing himself an aggressive and enthusiastic worker and is apparently well equipped by his own lack of funds. The progress he claims to have made in the few months he has been here leads some of his admirers to think that the day when America shall be Mohammedan may dawn sooner than they had hoped.

In addition to several hundred converts whom he reports with from various

Reports of the progress of Dr. Sadiq's thirty-three American met and women were made in a magazine called "The

Recent English converts to Mohammedanism at prayer in a London park

That Jesus cannot be allowed to enter this country because (1) He comes from a land which is out of the permitted zone; (2) He has no money with Him; (3) He is not devoutly dressed; (4) He has no trade in the palm; (5) He remains handfast, which is a disorderly act; (6) He is against fighting for the country; (7) He believes in making wise when He thinks it necessary; (8) He has no credentials to show that He is an authorized preacher; (9) He believes in practicing the law of Moses which allows polygamy; but He can appeal to the Washington office against this decision of ours.

To this Dr. Sadiq thinks Jesus' reply would be: "I would not submit any appeal. It is not to discuss a man's name and surname of evil is against my principles. He I think the dust of my feet and go back to the cleaning land of His nation."

The same issue of "The Moslem Sunrise" contains many expressions of appreciation and promises of support for the magazine and its editor, coming from readers in all parts of the world.

"I offer prayers for you five times daily," writes one.

"The seed of Islam sown by you in America," says another, "will soon day grow up a big, strong tree. I see an optimistic future before you."

"I pray Allah will give you greater strength," writes an Englishwoman, "to penetrate those regions where the glad tidings of Islam are yet unknown, and may Allah enable the world to a realization to grasp the true faith now within its reach."

The religion which Mufti Muhammad Sadiq and his fellow-workers are striving so ardently to spread in America was founded in the seventh century by a former camel driver. This man, whose later took the name of Mohammed, meaning "he who will be praised," dreamed strange dreams and heard the voice of the Angel Gabriel, whose words were afterward written down in a book called the Koran.

When he announced himself the long-awaited prophet sent by Allah to save the world his neighbors only laughed and called him a fanatic and a liar. Mohammed died at Medina, and there he was soon surrounded by an increasing number of followers, who accepted the Islam, or "submission to the will of God," which he made the highest of virtues.

It is believed that the chief reason for the astonishing success of the religion founded by Mohammed lay in the

THE DETROIT FREE PRESS,

MOSLEMS CELEBRATE FEAST OF ID-UL-FILTR.

Left to right: Kaniel Bizzy, Mufti Mohammed Sadiq and Hussien Karoub. These three Moslem sheiks were central figures in the parade celebrating the opening of the new Mohammedan mosque. Dr. Sadiq, because of his higher rank, was entitled to wear green canonicals, while the others wore white. In the inset is the smallest Mohammedan in the parade. His a Bedouin and was garbed in native costume.



Mohammedanism had its day in Highland Park Tuesday. From early in the morning, when several hundred of the faithful knelt in prayer on rugs spread upon the mud floor of the incomplete mosque at 242 Victor avenue, until the middle of the afternoon, when the parade of Moslems disbanded, the day was one round of festivity.

The parade was the outstanding feature. The swarthy Orientals, headed by a band, and marching under the banners of America, Arabia, Syria, Mexico and Turkey, left the mosque and marched through Victor avenue, backbone of the Syrian colony, to John R. street, to Buena Vista avenue, and thence out Woodward avenue to Ford playfield. There the parade rested for a few minutes before returning to the mosque.

Three Sheiks in Line.

Three sheiks sat together in an automobile, and, behind them, in another auto, was a trio of Arabians in their Bedouin costumes. Members of the Arabian-American

association fell into line for nearly three blocks, and these were followed by members of the Mohammedan Young Men's association. And to show that they were Americans, they permitted their women to ride in the parade also, a thing that would not have been permissible in most of the Mohammedan countries of the old world.

Tuesday was the occasion of a double celebration. It was the feast of Id-ul-Filtr, when Moslems end their 30-day fast, and it was also the first time any use had been made of the mosque, the only one in the United States. The weather, however, was inauspicious, and only a few hundred of the 16,000 followers of the Prophet were in attendance at the early morning

prayer service, which did not differ materially in form from a Christian church service, except that the members of the congregation removed their shoes before entering the presence of the altar. The building was so far from completion that the cement had not yet been laid on the basement floor, but linoleum and rugs were spread upon the wet dirt, and a temporary altar was erected.

Fast Was Then Broken.

The half hour of prayer was conducted by Dr. Mufti Mohammed Sadiq, and this was followed by a sermon by Hussien Karoub, sheik of the local congregation. The entire assemblage was free then to break its fast and all were given a luncheon by Mohammed Karoub, who is financing the building of the mosque.

The rest of the morning was spent in greetings and mutual well-wishing. Immediately after the noon luncheon, the parade formed. Following its conclusion, the annual three days of visiting began.

There was also the giving of presents chiefly within the family, as is done on the Christian Christmas.

1933: Hazrat Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan visits Chicago to address the “World Congress of Faiths” on Islam’s solutions to the world. In this same year, Sufi Muti-ur-Rahman Bengali delivered lectures on overcoming racial prejudices through Islam.

MOSLEM LECTURER



Sufi M. R. Bengalee

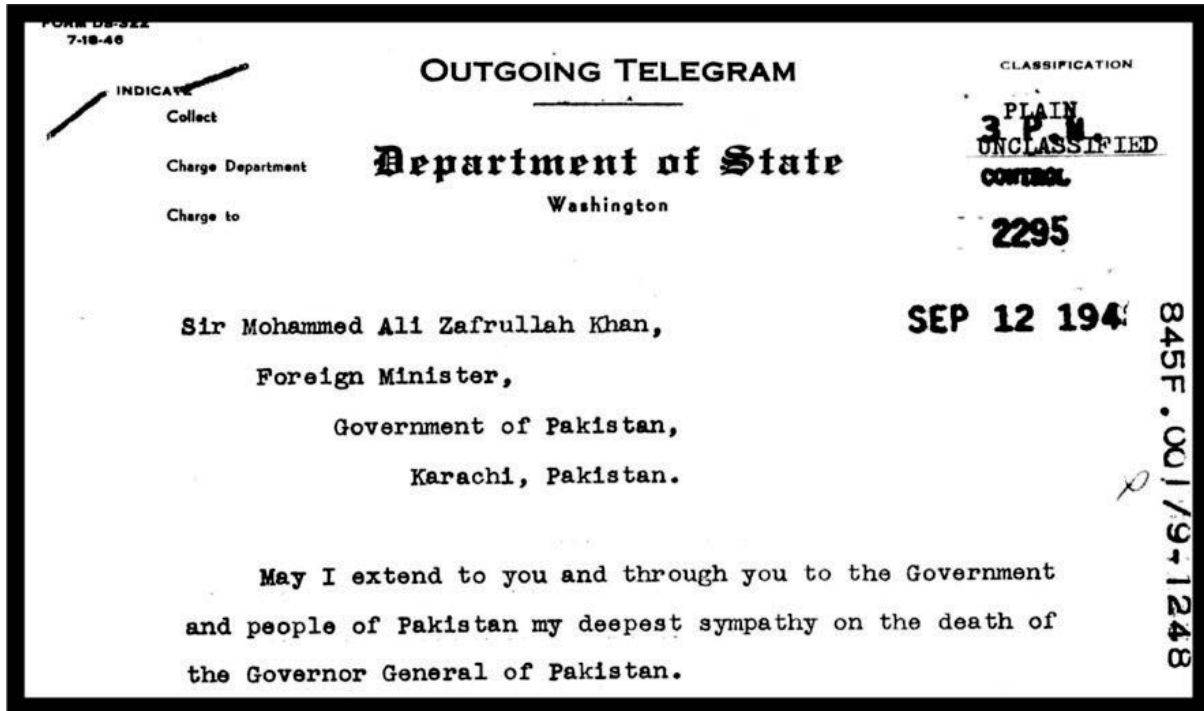
HHEAD of the Ahmadiyya movement in Islam, Moslem missionary organization, Sufi M. R. Bengalee of Chicago will give a lecture on World Problems and How to Solve Them, at 8 o'clock Monday night in the public library. Sufi Bengalee is editor of The Moslem Sunrise, only Mohammedan publication in America that is printed in English. The sufi is a native of India and a graduate of the Universities of Calcutta and Punjab, where he obtained his master's degree. He has been active in Moslem missionary work in America for the last 10 years. The lecture will be open to the public.



Sufi M. R. Bengalee was the third Missionary to the U.S., serving from 1928-1948. Included in the Annual Report of Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya for the year 1932-33 is a report sent by Sufi M. R. Bengalee, stating that he delivered 115 lectures, like the one pictured above at the Mother Mosque, North Dakota.



9/12/1948: Following the death of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Founder of Pakistan, US Secretary of State George C. Marshall sent his condolences to Hazrat Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, Foreign Minister of Pakistan.



Attendees of the first Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention) of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in the United States, photographed in Dayton, OH, in September of 1948.



9/6/1951: Hazrat Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, delivered an address at the Japan Peace Conference in San Francisco, CA, entitled, "Pakistan's Observations on Japanese Peace Treaty"



February 1960:

After Billy Graham boldly insults Islam during African tour, a healing contest was proposed by Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, chief of the Ahmadiyya Moslem mission in East Africa. He wrote to evangelist Billy Graham, proposing a contest using 30 persons with incurable ailments. Graham, touring Africa, declined to comment.

Missionary in charge, East Africa, Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, challenges Billy Graham to healing contest. Missionary Ahmad said it would determine *"who is blessed with the Lord's grace and mercy and upon whom His door remains closed."*

Graham Challenged to Healing Contest

NAIROBI, Kenya — (AP) — Evangelist Billy Graham was challenged Friday to a healing contest to see whether Christianity is more powerful than Islam.

On his return to Nairobi from Ruanda Urundi on his African safari, Graham was handed a letter from the chief of the Ahmadiyya Moslem Mission in East Africa, Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad.



Claiming Islam alone is the living religion on earth today through which man can attain salvation and that, Christianity was utterly devoid of any heavenly blessing or true guidance for man, the letter said:

"I therefore invite you in all humbleness and sincerity for the benefit of the ignorant masses to a contest in which we may demonstrate the truth of our respective claims.

"One way of doing this could be to have say 30 incurables certified by the director of medical services of Kenya, comprising 10 Europeans, 10 Asians and 10 Africans. These may then be equally divided between you and me by lots.

"We may then be joined by six persons of our respective faiths in prayer to God for the recovery of our respective patients to determine as to who is blessed with the Lord's grace and mercy and upon whom his door remains closed.

"I am sure you will have no objection to acceding to this

proposal, for it exactly accords with the principle laid down by Jesus Christ himself. But in case you decline it will be proved to the world that Islam is the only religion which is capable of establishing man's relationship with God."

Graham declined comment on the challenge and one of his associates said it was doubtful he would make any reply.

Throughout his African tour the American evangelist has declined to be drawn into controversy with the Moslem

faith, which is strong in Africa.

The Moslem leader's challenge was delivered to newspapers and correspondents here before Graham received a copy.

The Graham team arrived in Nairobi Friday from Usumbura, Ruanda Urundi, where a service was held for 3,500 Africans Thursday. Graham will conduct two meetings in Nairobi today and Sunday and leave Monday for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where two more meetings are scheduled.

POOL OWNERS

Extensive research proves ULTRA TIDLET kills Bacteria, Typhoid.



Billy Graham May Debate With Moslem

NAIROBI, Kenya (UPI)—American evangelist Billy Graham may have to take part in a spiritual debate with a Moslem missionary when he holds his mass meeting here today.

Sheik Mubarak Ahmed, chief of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, which operates in East and West Africa wrote Graham a letter challenging him to debate the merits of Christianity versus Islam.

Graham did not immediately answer the letter. Throughout his three-month religious crusade in Africa, Moslem religious figures have looked on Graham's work with cold disdain.

The Moslem leader quoted to Graham the words of Jesus Christ:

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard, ye shall say to this mountain, be transported hence, and it shall transport itself, and nothing shall be impossible to you."

Ahmed said "these sayings of Christ would appear to establish a standard by which the truth of religion can be tested."

"The question now remains whether there can be any better opportunity of achieving this for the good of the people of East Africa than the present occasion of your visit," said Ahmed's debate challenge.

Graham Refuses Healing Contest

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Evangelist Billy Graham said Sunday he has refused to consider a challenge for a faith healing contest to test the powers of the Christian and Islamic religions.

The proposal was made two days ago by Sheik Mubarak Ahmad, chief of the East African Moslem mission of Ahmadiyya, an aggressive missionary society.

He suggested 30 incurables be selected and that Graham and six of his followers pray over 15 while the Sheik and six followers prayed for the recovery of the other 15.

The result, the Sheik said, would determine "who is blessed with the Lord's grace and mercy and upon whom His door remains closed."

In his first public comment on the challenge, Graham said he

does not represent responsible Moslem thought," the evangelist said in an interview. "Christ was once challenged by Satan to perform a spectacular feat in order to prove His deity. He answered by saying, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.'"

Graham added he had received a number of messages from the United States urging him to accept the challenge but he said he will not do so.

He closed his crusade in Kenya Sunday with a service before 14,000 people. His sermon was relayed by radio to 11 other cities in Kenya and Uganda. About 300 persons made decisions for Christ.

He now goes to Ethiopia.

"Christians of Kenya in the past few years have been an unprecedented example of faith, love and courage for the whole world,"

11/21/1962: President John F. Kennedy (in rocking chair) meets with President of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, Hazrat Sir Zafrulla Khan, in the Oval Office, White House, Washington, D.C.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TALKERS TALK

Visit of Zafrulla Khan, Pakistan,
President of United Nations General
Assembly, November 21.

The following material may prove useful for you to draw on in your conversation with Zafrulla Khan on November 21:

1. Zafrulla Khan has done an excellent job of presiding over the General Assembly and expediting its business. The Assembly has already completed action on a number of important subjects and the prospects are good that its entire agenda will have been acted on when the session ends on December 29, 1962.
2. The US is gratified about the recent exchange of messages between President Ayub Khan and Prime Minister Nehru in regard to the Indian border war with Communist China. We noted particularly that the Indian Parliament cheered when Ayub's friendly letter was read in Parliament on November 11.
3. We hope that the reasons for US military aid to India, during this hour of crisis, will be fully understood throughout the Pakistan Government and by its people.
4. We are pleased with the way the UN administration in West New Guinea is proceeding with the help of Pakistani troops and personnel.
5. Some of the most difficult problems in the General Assembly involve the remaining colonial areas in Africa and the problem of apartheid in South Africa. In view of Zafrulla's long experience in the United Nations and because of his ability to analyze such matters in an impartial, judicial manner we would be interested in his views regarding future developments in the southern part of Africa. Specifically, what are his ideas as to how the long range solution of the racial problems of southern Africa might evolve?

4. 22

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

6. If Zafrulla intimates that he would like to have US support for election to the ICG next year, it is suggested that you indicate we will keep his interest in mind, without making any commitment. Background: Zafrulla was a judge on the ICG from 1954 to February 1961 and was very unhappy when the US did not support him for re-election in 1960. At that time we had to choose between two good friends, Judge Tanaka of Japan and Zafrulla of Pakistan, and we chose the Japanese. Next year the only possible way in which Zafrulla could be elected would be for him to succeed one of the 3 judges whose terms are expiring (3 Latin Americans, 3 British, 3 French). If the Latin Americans are no longer a snafu, it is almost certain to go to an African, because there is no African judge on the ICG at this time.
7. If Zafrulla gets into a discussion of the India border war with Communist China, and conjectures on the advisability of bringing up the matter with the Security Council or the General Assembly, you might wish to point out that any such action would normally be initiated by India as the aggrieved party.
8. If Zafrulla mentions E. Than's candidacy for a full 5-year term as Secretary General of the UN, you might wish to express our understanding that the President of the Security Council for this month (Rias), UNMI has informed our UN Mission that if a settlement of the Cuban crisis is not in sight while we will again ask the Soviet Delegation to reconsider their position that the Council should not meet to consider the appointment of the Secretary General until after the Council's anticipated meeting in Cuba. How is eager to have Than's appointment as SG as acted on by the Council in November.



1960s: Media campaign on what we believe covers wide range of topics connecting with readers

In the name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful
There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is His Messenger

THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM

The world suffers today from maladjustment. The most grievous is the disparity between man's material resources and his spiritual poverty. In recent years the process of exploitation of the forces of nature has been sharply accelerated. But the evolution of man's inner self has not kept pace with material advancement. There has been a steadily increasing divergence.

A living faith is needed to bring about adjustment and coordination between all aspects of human activity. The principles upon which this coordination must be based and through the implementation of which more human faculties and capacities may be combined in beneficent cooperation are set out in the Holy Quran. The great need of the age is the exposition and interpretation of these principles as applicable to the patterns and problems of human life, with which we are faced today. To create confidence and inspire faith this interpretation must proceed upon the basis of divine revelation. In the absence of such revelation the needed resolution cannot be achieved. Also, mankind must have set before it the example of a life based upon these principles and illustrating their beneficent application and operation.

All this had been foreseen and provided for in Islam. We find further confirmation of this in the fact that all great faiths had foreseen the advent of a Prophet in this age to fulfill these needs and purposes.

This Prophet appeared at Qadian (India) in the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1849-1908) founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement. He was a devout Muslim and a devoted follower and servant of the Holy Prophet of Islam. His mission was to re-establish perfect communion between man and his Maker through a fresh interpretation of the Holy Quran and the example of his own life.

He presented to the world the true meaning and teachings of Islam and invited mankind to establish direct communion with God by conforming their lives to these teachings. The message proclaimed by him is very Islam itself. It is based solely and entirely upon the teachings contained in the Holy Quran and illustrated in the life of the Holy Prophet of Islam. The interpretation of Islam is called Ahmadiyyat and the movement initiated by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad is known as the Ahmadiyya Movement.

THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM, INC.
2141 Leroy Place, N. W., Washington 8, D. C.
AD 2-3737

564 Walnut Street Camden 3, N. J.	147-20 Archer Ave. Jamaica, N. Y. AX 1-2899
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All Praise Belongs To God

In the name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful
There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is His Messenger

JESUS WAS SAVED FROM CROSS!

**Do You Know That The Bible Says:
Jesus Did Not Die On The Cross**

READ: "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign and there shall no sign be 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 earth."

WHAT WAS THE SIGN OF JONAS?

The sign was that the prophet Jonas entered the whale's belly alive (John 19:30-34) was taken into the sepulchre, his wounds were treated with ointment and spices, he recovered and walked away in the disguise of a gardener (John 20:14-15). He came out from this symbolical heart of the earth (sepulchre) alive in line with the Prophecy. He proved His recovery by appearing many times to His Disciples in Galilee. This is not the only instance. There are many other places where the Bible rejects the idea of His crucifixion to death.

If Jesus did not die on the Cross — then: SHOULD WE BELIEVE IN TRINITY AND ATONEMENT, ETC.?

If Jesus did not die on the Cross — then WHAT CAN CHRISTIANITY OFFER US?

If Jesus did not die on the Cross — then WHERE DID HE GO?

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AFTER HE WAS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS?

For answers to these crucial questions write or come to:

The Ahmadiyya Movement In Islam, Inc.
2141 Leroy Place, N. W., Washington 8, D. C.
AD 2-3737

564 Walnut St. Camden, N. J. 609-966-7343	147-20 Archer Ave. Jamaica, N. Y. AX 1-2899
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In the Name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful
There Is No God but Allah, and Mohammed Is His Messenger

THIS WE BELIEVE

ISLAM means the attainment of peace through complete submission to the will of God.

WE BELIEVE that God is One; All things proceed from Him and depend upon Him for support and sustenance. He is a living God Who reveals Himself to His servants in this age in the same manner as He revealed Himself in the past.

WE BELIEVE that "There is none to be worshipped but only one God, and Muhammad is His messenger." The revelations which came before him were limited in scope and application. The final, perfect and universal message is contained in the Holy Quran which was revealed upon the Holy Prophet of Islam for the guidance of all mankind. The Quran contains and expresses without the slightest change through its entire history.

WE BELIEVE in all the prophets of God including Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Buddha, Krishna and Muhammad. All of them came with one and the only message, Islam, which was completed upon Muhammad.

WE BELIEVE that God will continue to raise such people who will provide guidance and inspiration to mankind for the development of the pattern of human life as designed by Him. Hazrat Ahmad of Qadian is such a person raised in our times. All Ahmadi Muslims we believe in him.

WE BELIEVE that there is no "original sin." Every human being is born pure. He is given the liberty to choose wrong or right course so that he may become worthy of God's love or chastisement.

WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of the soul and the life after death.

WE BELIEVE that by the right and proper use of the capacities and faculties endowed to every human being we can be led to the state known as salvation.

WE BELIEVE that heaven and hell are not geographical locations. Heaven is the attainment of life of everlasting progress and complete joy and happiness through union with God. All human beings will ultimately receive this union with their Creator.

WE BELIEVE in the establishment of true democracy and universal brotherhood without any discrimination of caste, color or country. While some other faiths may have also professed the equality of man, only Islam has outstandingly succeeded in fulfilling and realizing the splendid principles of universal brotherhood in actual life and practice.

WE BELIEVE in the equality of both sexes. Islam safeguards in practice the rights of women by not only announcing that the doors of spiritual blessings are equally open for both sexes but also by such actual means as making both male and female relatives of a deceased Muslim heirs to his property.

WE BELIEVE that peace is a very potent and the principal means of approach to God. Fasting, charity and tolerance are some of the other means of approach to Him.

WE BELIEVE that the purity of body is essential for the purity of mind and spirit. We consider that one should eat wholesome and pure food and adhere to moderation. Islam, therefore, prohibits the use of liquor and all intoxicants and eating of pork.

WE BELIEVE that a religion should provide complete guidance in all phases of human life, moral, social, economic and political. Islam gives us such teachings.

WE BELIEVE in complete harmony between science and religion, between the Word and the Work of God.

WE BELIEVE that religion should invite reason for an understanding of the faith.

WE BELIEVE that the natural desires of man should not be crushed but should be guided on the proper channels. There is no monasticism in Islam.

WE BELIEVE that a Muslim should manifest a beneficent conduct to others irrespective of whether others act beneficently toward him or not.

WE BELIEVE that Islam has furnished guidance and provided conditions through which a lasting and enduring peace can be established for all mankind.

These are some of our basic beliefs.

The Ahmadiyya Movement In Islam, Inc.
2141 Leroy Place, N. W., Washington 8, D. C.
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564 Walnut Street Camden, N. J. 609-966-7343	147-20 Archer Avenue Jamaica, N. Y. AX 1-2899
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In the name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful
There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is His Messenger

THE PROMISED MESSIAH HAS COME

It is not within the attributes, qualities of Allah that he would let this age go past without we (mankind) not receiving his guidance. It seems as though we rush to our children who cry for our aid, yet we possess small qualities as compared to God. Yet in ages past and within the period of the Bible, God sent Prophet after Prophet; not waiting for any particular time, but when the need arose the Prophet appeared. Surely, today, this age bears witness that guidance from God is needed. An example, a Prophet is needed today. He has appeared in the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, who founded the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam.

The Promised Messiah and Mahdi and the expected Messenger of all nations. In the spirit and power of all the earlier prophets, he came to serve and re-interpret the final and eternal teaching laid down by God in the Holy Quran. The Movement therefore represents the True and Real Islam and seeks to uplift humanity and to establish peace throughout the world.

Hazrat Ahmad died in 1908, and the present Head of the Movement is his second successor, Hazrat Mirza Rashidud-Din Mahmood Ahmad under whose directions the Movement has established Missions in many parts of the world.

for information write to:

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1974: Sister Mubarika Malik of Milwaukee, GOP 5th District Congressional Representative candidate, presented President Gerald Ford with a Holy Qur'an, becoming the first African-American woman to present a Holy Qur'an to a sitting president.



8/9/1976: During the historic first visit of a Khalifa to America, the New York Post described Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih III as having come to convert every American to Islam.

Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih III, visited the U.S. in 1976 and 1980—the first ever visits of a Khalifa. Upon arrival at the Dayton Airport on August 1, 1976, Khalifat-ul-Masih was presented the Key to the City of Dayton by Comm. Curran.

Grandson Of Promised One Terms Islam The Only Way

By JOHN MUELLER MADDON — Some of the men were moved to tears praying with the solemn, grandfatherly figure. Most of the women delegates never even got to see the man who looked sort of like Bart Ives, though they could hear his voice through a parabolic in the college gymnasium.

The man was Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, grandson and third successor of The Promised One, and his message to 600 of his 10 million Ahmadiyyan followers was that there is no hope for humanity outside Islam.

Dressed in flowing robes, saris, or dashikis, with many of the women veiled, the listening believers were delegates to the 29th annual convention of North American communities in the Ahmadiyyan movement over the weekend at Drew University.

Building shows with weekend singers, tennis players and Shakespeare festival stagehands, they gathered Friday and Saturday to pray and exchange ideas about their Islamic evangelical sect in what was described as "a true Islamic society in the midst of an overwhelming materialistic environment."

"The reality is that Christianity has failed to solve the problems of

Ahmad's grandfather, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, the Punjab, founded the evangelical sect in 1889, apparently trying to combine the thrust of major world religions under a universal Islam. Besides the promised Mahdi, he claimed to be the second advent of Christ, an incarnation of the Hindu Krishna and a horse, or incarnation, of Muhammad.

Missionary for the Midwest Mirza Muhammad Ibrahim explained, "What separates Ahmadiyya from not only the Muslims but from all other religions is a belief in ongoing revelation. If God spoke yesterday, he certainly can speak today. There is also the belief in the universality of prophethood. It brings us closer together, closer to world unity."

Another key belief, he said, is Ahmad's reinterpretation of the Islamic precept *jihad*, or holy war, to mean persuasion by the pen rather than the sword, and a submission to temporal authority in temporal matters approximating the Christian "rendering unto Caesar."

Ahmad's sect is disowned by orthodox Muslims because Ahmad claimed to be an inspired prophet, while in Islam Muhammad is supposed to have been the final prophet.

A women's exclusive session was scheduled "in deliberate or problem peculiar to the female society."

"A basic tenet of Ahmadiyyan Islam is that each person should develop his physical, moral, spiritual and mental faculties to their fullest. This of course necessitates equality of the sexes," said the prophet, who added that in the Quran men are enjoined to uphold the rights of women. "A press handbook said it pointed to a 100 per cent literacy rate in Rawah, Pakistan, the sect's center, compared to 7 per cent in the rest of the country."

Those surveying the throng outside could hear a mixture of Pakistani, Indian and a scattering of African and European languages. One black woman dressed in a colorful, flowing outfit was asked if she could explain the separate-but-unequal facilities and how she felt about them.

She turned out to be from Texas. "I'm not a delegate. I'm not even a Muslim. I'm the mother of one of the speakers, and my son's friend made me this outfit because she said I had a Muslim body," she explained. "They almost always separate the gentlemen from the ladies. Usually I don't attend it but it does take



Hazrat Ahmad



Look Out, He Wants YOU

By JOSEPH MANCINI

An elderly, turbaned man with a Santa Claus beard and an almost perpetual smile says he has come from Pakistan to convert every American to the religion of Islam.

Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, spiritual leader of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam Inc., held a press conference at the Waldorf-Astoria the other day, to announce his arrival and declare his movement's mission "to win every heart which beats in the United States."

The 60-year-old Oxford graduate, whose "evangelical" Muslim sect claims more than 10 million followers worldwide, admitted it might take many years to accomplish this "long-range goal."

But Ahmad added that he was a patient man.

'Love and Affection'

"We will win these hearts with love and affection," he said, pausing to smile between phrases. "And when people realize this is the reality of our ways, then they will join us."

Surrounded by a handful of followers and a dozen reporters in the 33d-floor hotel suite, Ahmad sat on a velvet couch beneath a pastoral oil in a gilded frame and fielded questions for more than an hour. Communism, capitalism and Christianity have all failed, he said, and the religion of Islam is "a perfect and positive answer to the spiritual, social and political problems" of the Western Hemisphere.

Ahmad — reputedly the grandson and third elected successor to Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, who founded the movement in this country in the 1920s, India in 1889 — is scheduled to preach these writings in several cities in the U.S. and Canada over the next three weeks. He reportedly undertook the journey, his first ever to the West, at the invitation of U.S. hospitals and schools around Ahmadiyyan communities in more than 20 North American cities.

The sect, with national headquarters in Washington, D.C., was introduced to this country in the 1920s, according to pamphlets distributed by the group, but there are only an estimated 1000 U.S. adherents. The movement's world center is in Rawah, Pakistan, and it claims hundreds of mosques, hospitals and schools around Ahmadiyyan communities in the globe.

HAZRAT AHMAD
'Perfect answer to problems'

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PALOOZA CITY MUSIC HALL

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—KATHLEEN CARROLL, N.Y. News

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Produced by John H. Jackson
featuring The Rockettes, Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Will Bruns
Script by Anthony New. Costume by Frank Sorensen

Muslim leader visits city 'to teach people to love'

Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, 67-year-old spiritual leader of a Muslim sect with about 100 followers in Dayton, said he came to "the most sophisticated nation in the world to help people to learn to love each other."

The white-turbaned Ahmad, who arrived in Dayton Sunday from Pakistan, said that although most of his sect's Dayton members are black there are missionaries working among whites. He said his sect is not related to the Black Muslims.

Ahmad said his community, the Ahmadiyya Muslims, arrived in Dayton about 30 years ago.

M. Ibrahim is one of the sect's missionaries. Ibrahim said he has lived in Dayton at the sect's 637 Randolph St. mosque for three years.

AHMAD SAID HIS grandfather began the Ahmadiyya sect, which he said is known as one of the most "cheerful" of the Muslim groups in Pakistan. Its followers believe in life after death, he said.

Israel & S. Africa In Gun Boat Deal

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel is building two long-range gun boats armed with 50-

8/8/1983: Following the martyrdom of Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad, the first martyr of the U.S. Jamā'at, and the arson of the Detroit Jamā'at Mission House, the planned Jalsa Salana venue, Oakland University, did not allow use of its campus. Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV, instructed the Jamā'at not to cancel the Jalsa, which was held in Belleville, MI, and attracted 1,000+ Ahmadis.

Feud suspected in shooting of sect leader

DETROIT (AP) — A slain Islamic religious leader held a dinner at his Canton Township home for the man who gunned him down two nights later, a close friend of the slain man's family says.

Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad, the local secretary of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, was fatally shot Monday night, about four hours before his alleged killer and an alleged accomplice died of smoke inhalation in an alleged arson attempt at the sect's Detroit religious center.

"I was there (at Ahmed's home)," the

unidentified friend told the Detroit Free Press. "And (William) Cain was there. He had contacted Dr. Ahmed several weeks before, and the doctor was helping him to understand the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam," the newspaper quoted the friend as saying.

POLICE SAY Cain, 27, of Akron, Ohio, was Ahmed's killer. Calvin Jones, 30, of Highland Park, also died of smoke inhalation early Tuesday in the attempted ar-

son at the Islamic Center.

Cain and Jones also attempted to fire-bomb the Clinton Township home of the sect's financial secretary, La'eeq Butt, but the bombs did not explode, police said.

Investigators said Wednesday that Cain and Jones may be members of a black Muslim group named Dar-ul-Islam, which has centers in Detroit and Akron. The Free Press reported in its Friday editions.



BODY SENT TO PAKISTAN

Martyr's burial for slain doctor

By PATRICIA CHARGOT
Free Press Staff Writer

Slain Detroit area Islamic leader Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad will be buried in a special cemetery for religious martyrs in Pakistan, leaders of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam said Saturday.

The Ahmadiyya Movement, founded in India in 1889 and claiming to have about 10,000 members in the U.S., had planned to hold its national convention this weekend at Oakland University in Rochester. But after Ahmad's murder, university officials canceled the group's reservation and the

to him ... He (Cain) didn't seem nervous. But he seemed so cool. I said, 'Pleased to meet you.' He said, 'OK' — like he didn't want to talk to me.

"He said, 'I left my cap at your home. May I have it back?' Dr. Ahmad said, 'Yes, I think I put it in the closet.' So he goes to get the cap. I'm in the kitchen looking through some pictures for the convention, and he says, 'Let me see him off. I'll be right back.' They walked out into the foyer. There was no discussion between them. Then I heard four shots. Dr. Ahmad was on the floor and the man was



Free Press Photo by JOHN COLLIER
Mirza Afzal, an Ahmadiyya missionary from Chicago, who said he was at Ahmad's home when the shooting occurred.

translated phone message read.

Arson pair were hired murderers, police say

By ALLAN JALON
and BRIAN FLANIGAN

Free Press Staff Writers

Police said two dead men linked to two fires and the slaying of an Islamic leader apparently were hired killers.

Representing Montgomery County’s City Council, Isiah Leggett presents Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV a Proclamation marking 10/14/1994 as “Dedication Day” of the Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque.



6/8/1998: Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV speaks at the Rayburn House Office Building. Professor Karl Von Vorys meets Khalifat-ul-Masih at the Rayburn event in Washington, D.C.



2006-Present: Public Affairs Department launches annual Public Affairs Seminar in National Headquarters to train local secretaries.



2008: The historic first visit of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V is reported in newspapers across the United States during Khalifat-ul-Masih's tour of North America.

Khalifa in Harrisburg
U.S. Muslims convene at Farm Show site
 BY LORI VAN INGEN
 Intelligence Journal Staff

The Khalifa of Islam is bringing the world a message this weekend at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

After completing a three-week tour of West Africa, Mirza Masroor Ahmad, leader of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, is estimated to be the first Muslim leader to visit the United States since the death of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, in 1908.

Arriving two hours late to the Farm Show Complex on Thursday night, Ahmad, wearing a white turban, long gray coat and white pants, greeted hundreds of volunteers, shaking the hands of the men and patting the faces of the children. One young boy even got the chance to hug the Khalifa.

Ahmad, the fifth successor of the Promised Messiah and a London resident, said his purpose is to bring peace and unity in anyone's heart. Their heart will be clear of vindictiveness. That is how you create peace in the world. There will be no need for atomic bombs if everything God provides is used for the betterment of human beings," Ahmad said.

Continued from A1

more than 185 countries in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and North and South America. It has its roots in the Sunni Muslim tradition, but broke off more than 100 years ago when Hadirat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad claimed to be the Promised Messiah. Upon his death in 1908, the Khalifat system was instituted, ensuring a continuation of the Promised Messiah.

Ahmadiyya, however, is "the most persecuted community in the Islamic world," Harrisburg banker Adnan Ahmad said Thursday. "It's a crime to call ourselves Muslim, and we're not allowed to be in Saudi Arabia. The United States allows us, but we're not allowed in Muslim countries. We are second-rate citizens love of God, above any worldly relations. (The Khalifa) is the beloved, and you're yearning to see him. There is an excitement, a joy you feel (to be able to meet him)."

Today's session begins with prayers given by Ahmad in the men's section. The women and children also have their own special areas and will be able to view the Khalifa on a large screen. Ahmad's speech will be telecast over an international satellite station through MTA TV at 1 p.m. today and 10 a.m. Sunday. It also can be seen at alislam.org.

From 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, there will be a Muslims for Peace Conference at the Farm Show Complex, 2300 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg.

"We're inviting the com-

Khalifa: Leader in Harrisburg
 Deb Grove / Intelligence Journal

Khalifa of Islam Mirza Masroor Ahmad during an interview Thursday following his tour of the Farm Show complex.

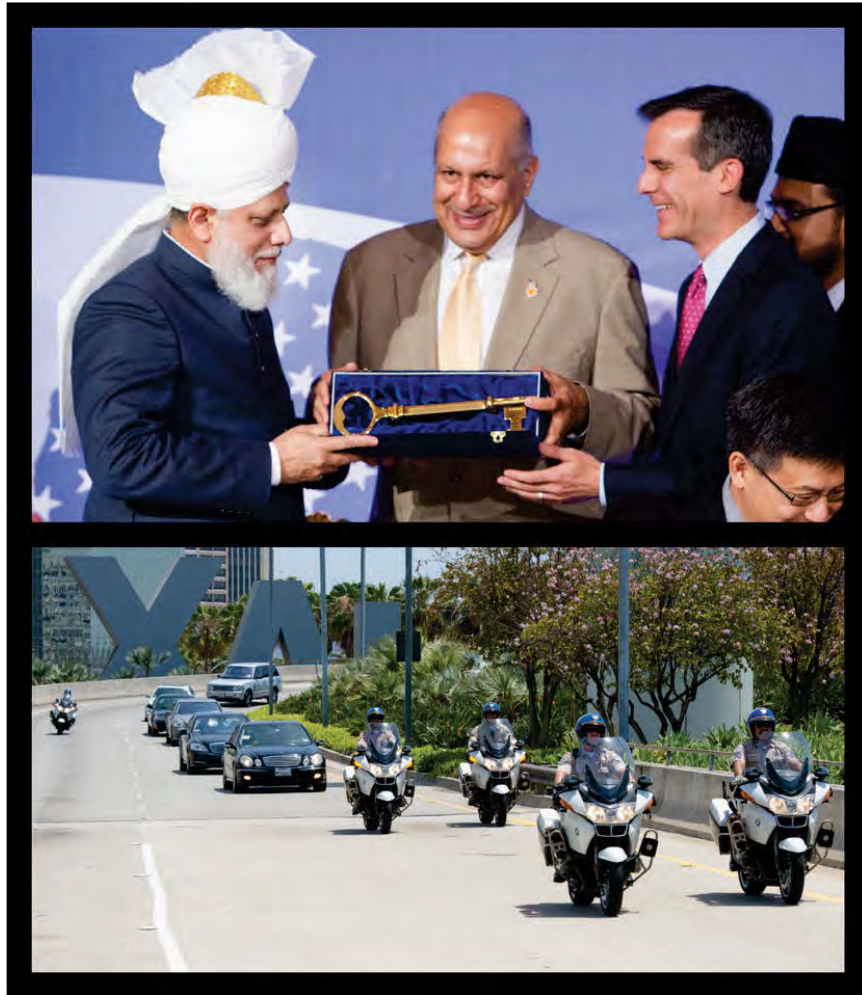
2010-Present: Public Affairs Department launches annual "Day on the Hill" event, bringing hundreds of local Public Affairs Secretaries to meet elected officials on Capitol Hill.



6/27/2012: Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V departs Capitol Hill following Khalifat-ul-Masih's historic speech to lawmakers, entitled "The Path to Peace – Just Relations between Nations."



5/11/2013: Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V accepts the key to Los Angeles from Mayor Eric Garcetti during Khalifat-ul-Masih's 2013 visit to LA. The L.A. Police Department Motorcade escorted Khalifat-ul-Masih from LAX to the Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque in Chino, CA.



2/28/2014: Co-Chairs of the new Ahmadiyya Muslim Congressional Caucus, Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) and Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) launch the first Muslim caucus in Congress.



10/31/2018: Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, Sam Brownback, meets Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V at Bait-ur-Rahman during Khalifat-ul-Masih's 2018 tour of the Americas.



7/16/2019: The Ahmadiyya Muslim Congressional Caucus, comprised of 37 Members of Congress, co-hosts "A Conversation with U.S. Lawmakers about Religious Persecution," with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission in the U.S. Capitol, featuring speeches by recently-released prisoner of conscious Respected Abdul Shakoor, during his visit to the U.S. as a guest of the Department of State, as well as the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief.



Umur 'Amma — General Affairs — أمور عامة

History of Umur 'Amma

The Umur 'Amma, or General Affairs, Department sees to the general welfare of members of the Jamā'at. We are charged with improving the collective lot of all members by encouraging them to find jobs or programs which enable them to recognize their true potential and to become self-sufficient. Furthermore, we resolve conflicts for members of Jamā'at and by this way many disagreements are resolved without needing to enter the civil court system. We also ensure discipline and accountability for the Jamā'at so that misconduct against others within the community

are held in check, and that public indecencies and un-Islamic behavior are not normalized. For this, a system is set up nationally and locally to report such issues, and to implement the decisions by Dar-ul-Qada (the Islamic jurisprudential body). Additionally, the safety of our members is of paramount importance in Umur 'Amma, and we educate members on how to prepare for disasters, and how to properly secure themselves and our places of worship. We also provide counseling of various kinds, homeopathic medicine, provide health advice, and assist those who have legal concerns

and those that come here as immigrants new to this country.

National Secretary Umur 'Amma

2019-current	Bilal Rana,
Houston	
2016-2019	Zahir M. Ahmad,
Maryland	
2007-2016	Shahid Malik,
Virginia	
1990s-2007	Munawar A. Saeed,
Maryland	
1990s	Allah Buksh Chaudhary,
Virginia	

Ḍiyāfat — Hospitality — ضیافت

Ḍiyāfat (spelled Ziafat in some areas of the world) or Hospitality is an important part of Islamic teachings from the beginning of Islam to the end of the world. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was foretold to revive True Islam in latter days and become a champion in hospitality. Khalifat-ul-Masih V said in a Sermon:

The hospitality at Jalsa always impresses the guests from outside.

USA Ziyafat Dept. consists of the National Ḍiyāfat Secretary and Ziyafat Secretaries for all chapters.

“Khalifat-ul-Masih said to the volunteers at duty during Jalsa to carry out their duties with diligence, courtesy, patience and tolerance. Every small

requirement of the guests should be taken care of; each guest should be treated as if he/she is a special guest of the person on duty. May God enable each assigned volunteer to fulfill their obligation in an excellent manner... The volunteer workers at Jalsa should be pleased that Allah is granting them an opportunity to earn reward. Guests should be served regardless of their appearance or social status, rather, the sincerity with which they have travelled for Jalsa should be kept in view. (Friday Sermon, 17 July 2009)

This is the same spirit our

Ḍiyāfat Department should have when serving guests, local members, or strangers.

Allah gave Ahmadiyya Community the ability to have archived sermons for more than 100 years at www.alislam.org. Ḍiyāfat (hospitality) is mentioned in many Friday sermons thoroughly on Friday Sermons before Jalsa Salanas. One can Google “Ḍiyāfat or Ḍiyāfat in Ahmadiyya” and see many Ḍiyāfat department.

As the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is getting to the corners of earth, so, is Ḍiyāfat pacing behind this growth. Ḍiyāfat dept. is getting to the cities with many guest houses. These guest houses are excellent way to stay and come back to the true Islam. They add to the duties of Ḍiyāfat secretaries.

Importance of Dīyāfat Department (hospitality)

If you go to Friday Sermons at www.alislam.org and search for “hospitality in Ahmadiyyat,” you will find hospitality mentioned in almost all sermons before Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention). Here is a sermon about Dīyāfat:

<http://www.alislam.org/friday-sermon/2015-08-14.html>

The Holy Prophet also used to inquire from the guests how they found the hospitality extended by the Companions. On one such occasion, a guest said, O Prophet of God, they gave us soft bedding to sleep on and fine food to eat and they also educated us about the Holy Book and sunnah.

<http://www.alislam.org/friday-sermon/2009-07-17.html#summary-tab>

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) did not merely honor his guests with good arrangements of food; rather, he took care of their small needs and at times served them personally. He counseled his followers to do the same. It is related,

‘If you claim to love me then follow me.’ The hospitality he enjoined was without the hope or wish for a return of favor or praise and purely for the sake of obeying God’s command. He advised to serve guests in an excellent manner for three days for this was the guests’ due. He said if one believed in God and the Day of Judgment, one should honor guests.

Hospitality is a courtesy that is mentioned in the Holy Qur’an. The Qur’an goes on to state that Hadrat Ibrahim (on whom be peace) made

prompt arrangements to serve the guests,

‘And he went quietly to his household, and brought a fatted calf,’ (51:27) or it is stated in Surah Hud, ‘... They said, ‘We bid you peace.’ He answered, ‘Peace be on you,’ and was not long in bringing a roasted calf.’ (11:70).

<https://www.alislam.org/friday-sermon/2011-07-15.html>

Hadrat Maulawi Ibrahim Baqapuri relates that the Promised Messiah said that all the guests should be given the same kind of food.

Hadrat Malik Ghulam Hussain relate that once a Maulawi came for Jalsa and the Promised Messiah specifically instructed to look after him properly and serve him suitable food as he was elderly.

Hadrat Fazl Ilahi writes that he used to often travel to Qadian from Lahore. Many times, the Promised Messiah invited him to his residence and personally served tea.

Hadrat Chaudhry Abdullah Khan relates that once he went to Qadian. After Salat the Promised Messiah said that as he had arrived just then, he should have a meal. Chaudhry Abdullah replied that it was not a mealtime. The Promised Messiah smiled and said that there was no fixed time for food, one should eat when one felt hungry.

<https://www.alislam.org/archives/2007/summary/FSS20070720-EN.html>

Khalifat-ul-Masih V said that the significance of hospitality in Islam is great, and he cited verse 70 of Surah Hud (11:70) and said that the essence of hospitality is that when guests arrive,

there should be no sense of frustration, rather whatever best one can arrange should be offered to the guests. Khalifat-ul-Masih said that this verse does not in any way suggest that the food prepared for guests should be lavish.

Khalifat-ul-Masih said that we have been left the model of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) who washed soiled bedding himself that was left by a guest who was a non-Muslim because he said that it had been left by his guest. Indeed, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said that hospitality was a symptom of faith.

Khalifat-ul-Masih also related a few incidents from the life of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) illustrating his supreme sense of hospitality. Khalifat-ul-Masih said that each volunteer worker at Jalsa should serve the guests with a sense of honoring his/her obligation of hospitality and without any care to their own inconvenience, because in order to honor rights, one must forgo convenience.

Once during the times of the Promised Messiah, due to management mistakes guests were not served food properly. God informed the Promised Messiah of this and he said that God had informed him that the previous night there was hypocrisy in serving food to the guests. The Promised Messiah dismissed the workers for six months. Despite his gentle nature, he did not tolerate deficiency and hypocrisy in serving guests.

The first thing is to either speak a good word or remain silent. Do not stir discord by uttering meaningless things. Do not create conflict between one another. A believer does not utter unseemly and inconsequential speech.

Contemporary Instructions to all Ahmadis

Ḥadrat Khalifatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his helper) has instructed to have two months' worth food stored all the time. Some food suggestions are:

Dāl (lentils and other edible pulses) and rice can be stored for

long time.

Cooking oil.

Species.

Gas-stove, woods and any other arrangement for cooking food.

Water storage can be arranged through a well by the installation of

a hand-pump to get water from ground in the absence of electricity, or by storing bottled water.

For Electricity, one way is to have solar-power and another to have a generator.

Food handling precautions or food safety

1. Start with prayer.
2. Hands washed before touching food, etc.
3. Keep kitchen clean. Cleanliness is part of faith.
4. Follow state/county rules for pest control.
5. Avoid sick person in the kitchen.
6. People at risk (as a guide): [https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/people-at-risk-food-](https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/people-at-risk-food-poisoning.html)

[poisoning.html](https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/people-at-risk-food-poisoning.html)

7. Don't mix utensils between uncooked and cooked food. Don't cross contaminate food. Apply same instruction to persons cooking food.
8. Keep hot food hot (140°F or above) and cold food in a cold place otherwise these foods will spoil.
9. Expiration dates are a guideline but not written as a hard rule. You have five senses and use

these senses to make decisions. (TASTE, odor, color, or texture).

10. Many of the precautions are mentioned by Khalifat-ul-Masih in many messages about COVID-19, Coronavirus, that will apply to Ḍiyāfat; <https://www.mta.tv/covid-19-impact/immune-system-supplements-help>
11. And finally, prayer is the last resort:

Foodborne illnesses

Food poisoning, also called foodborne illness, is illness caused by eating contaminated food. Infectious organisms — including bacteria, viruses and parasites — or their toxins are the most common causes of food poisoning... Contamination can also occur at home if food is incorrectly handled or cooked.

Illness caused by food contaminated with bacteria, viruses,

parasites, or toxins. Infectious organisms or their toxins are the most common causes of food poisoning.

Food poisoning symptoms may include cramping, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Most food poisoning is mild and resolves without treatment. Ensuring adequate hydration is the most important aspect of treatment.

Commonly food poison is caused by:

1. Norovirus.
2. Campylobacter. (see CDC site)
3. Clostridium perfringens. (See CDC site)
4. Staphylococcus aureus.
5. Overeating.
6. Salmonella, Campylobacter, Listeria or E. coli are hospitalized.



PR Summit in Queens, NY

Waṣīyyat

In the Holy Quran, Almighty Allah says:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ اشْتَرَى مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ بِأَنْ لَهُمُ الْجَنَّةَ. يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَيَقْتُلُونَ وَيُقْتَلُونَ. وَعَدًّا عَلَيْهِ حَقًّا فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ وَالْقُرْآنِ. وَمَنْ أَوْفَى بِعَهْدِهِ مِنَ اللَّهِ فَاسْتَبْشِرُوا بِبَيْعِكُمُ الَّذِي بَايَعْتُمْ بِهِ. وَذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ۝

Surely, Allah has purchased of the believers their persons and their property in return for the Garden they shall have; they fight in the cause of Allah, and they slay and are slain — a promise that He has made incumbent on Himself in the Torah, and the Gospel, and the Qur'an. And who is more faithful to his promise than Allah? Rejoice, then, in your bargain which you have made with Him; and that it is which is the supreme triumph. (Surah At-Taubah, Verse 119).

When Almighty Allah decides to bestow His special blessings and pleasure upon some individual or people, He first wants them to offer some sacrifices in His cause. The Divine reward compared to meager human effort or sacrifice can be up to seven hundred times or even more as per the Holy Quran. Believers are urged to strive in the way of Allah with that which He has bestowed them with including life, wealth, time and honor, etc.

In the early days of Islam, believers were asked to offer physical as well as financial sacrifices to defend their Faith against the onslaughts of the enemies. In this day and age, however, only financial sacrifice is called for as the Jihad with sword stands obsolete. Spending in the way of Allah is to gain *Taqwa* (righteousness) which is the key to winning Allah's nearness or pleasure which, according to the Promised Messiah^{as}, is a believer's real Paradise beginning during their life on earth.

Nizam-e-Waṣīyyat (the System of The Will) is an extraordinary scheme of financial sacrifice initiated by the Promised Messiah^{as} in 1905 under a Divine revelation. Among its manifold objectives is creation of a group of righteous people as would bequeath at least tenth part of their wealth and properties for the sake of Islam. All such people, according to the

revelation, shall be buried in a graveyard named by the Divine as *Bahishtī Maqbarah* or resting place of the inmates of the Paradise. The Holy Prophet's prophecy about the Promised Messiah^{as} says, 'He will inform people of his Jamā'at about their ranks in the Paradise.' (*Sahih Muslim*). Thus, in a very subtle fashion the Holy Prophet^{saw} had hinted towards the establishment of a *Bahishtī Maqbarah* to be established during the time of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Truly in fulfillment of this prophecy, the Promised Messiah^{as} saw a vision around year 1898 which he has described as follows.

'I was shown a spot in the vision and was told, This is the spot of your grave. I saw an angel who was measuring the ground, and arriving at a certain spot, he said to me, *This is the place of your grave*. Then I was shown a grave which was brighter than silver and all its clay appeared to be silver, and it was said to me, *This is your grave*. I was shown a place which was named *Bahishtī Maqbarah*, and it was conveyed to me that it contained graves of such selected members of the community as are destined for heaven.' (*Risāla Al-Waṣīyyat*)

Very special and great tidings have been given about the *Bahishtī Maqbarah*. The Promised Messiah^{as} says, 'God did not only say that this graveyard is Bahishtī (paradise), but also said that every kind of blessing has been descended onto this graveyard, and there is no blessing which is not shared by those who are buried in this graveyard.' (*Risāla Al-Waṣīyyat*)

The Promised Messiah^{as} has made fervent prayers in favor of those who will be buried in the *Bahishtī Maqbarah*. The Promised Messiah^{as} says,

'I pray that God may bless it and that He may make this very piece of land *Bahishtī Maqbarah* and make it the resting place of those members of the *Jamā'at* who are pure of heart and who have in reality given precedence to Faith over the world and who have renounced love of the world and submitted themselves to God and who have brought about in themselves a holy change and who, like the disciples of the Holy Prophet^{saw}, have set the example of Faithfulness and Truthfulness, *Amin*, O Lord of the world. I pray again: O my Mighty God! make this piece of land fit for the

graves of those of my *Jamā'at* who are pure of heart and who have in reality become solely for you, and in their works, there is no adulteration of the worldly objectives, *Amin*, O Lord of the world. Again, for the third time I pray: O my Mighty and my Benevolent! O God who is Forgiving and Merciful, give in this land a piece for graves only to those who truly believe in this chosen one of Yours and who have no trace of hypocrisy, of selfish desires, and of unfounded suspicions in their hearts; and as faith and obedience deserve to be followed and observed, they follow and observe it for your sake; and the condition of their heart is such that, [while alive,] they have sacrificed their lives for you and in your path; and with whom You are pleased; and about whom You know that they are totally lost in their love for You; and those who have a relationship of love for Your chosen one and have such devotion for him as they would not hesitate to shed their lives for him—a relationship based on loyalty, total respect and veneration and a relationship based on the fact that their hearts embrace faith with open bosom without feeling any constraint, *Amin*, O Lord of the world.' (*Risāla Al-Waṣīyyat*)

FOUNDATIONS OF A NEW WORLD ORDER

When God Almighty sends His messenger, He creates a new Heaven and a new earth for him. The

Messenger brings light of guidance to take mankind out of darkness. Modern world is in the grip of an ever increasing moral, spiritual and socio-economic decadence. There has been a constant surge of catchy economic ideologies and systems promising to mend global economic ills albeit only aggravating them further. Through the heavenly inspired system [Nizam-e-Waṣīyyat], foundations of a new world order have been laid aiming to deliver the poor from the shackles of economic slavery and for restoration of human dignity, forever. The following words of the Promised Messiah highlight the fundamentals of Islamic perspective.

“The essentials of Islamic social and economic system are:

(i) that the needs of all human beings should be provided for,

(ii) that in trying to achieve the first object the incentive behind individual effort and enterprise should not be weakened,

(iii) that the system devised should be voluntary and should not involve forcible dispossession or confiscation, and

(iv) that the system should not be confined to one country or one nation but should be universal. All the movements that are being boosted today are in one respect or other limited in their application. They pertain to sections of mankind. The Islamic system is not national or sectional but universal.' (*Nizam-e-Nau, Anwār-ul-Uloom, Vol. 16, p 587-588*)

A Global Blessing

Expounding the subject further,

Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd says,

‘When this system attains maturity, it will provide not only for missionary work but will also help to abolish want and distress by making adequate provision for the needs of all individuals. An orphan will not have to beg, nor will a widow have to ask for charity, nor a needy person to suffer anxiety. The system will be a mother to children, a father to youth, and a source of security to women. Under this system, not by means of compulsion or coercion but out of real affection and goodwill a brother will be eager to help his brother. Nor will such sacrifice be in vain. Every giver will be recompensed many times over by God. The rich will not suffer loss nor will the poor suffer privation. Nation will not fight nation, rather its [Nizam-e-Waṣīyyat's] beneficence will encompass the whole world.’ (*Nizam-e-Nau, p 120*).

Part of Faith

Drawing attention of the faithful towards Nizam-e-Waṣīyyat, Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd said,

‘One method of improving financial condition in light of Divine revelation is that prescribed by the Promised Messiah^{as}—and it is [Nizam-e-Waṣīyyat]. The Promised Messiah^{as} has described Waṣīyyat as part of Faith. Friends should pay attention to it.’ (*Anwar-ul-Uloom, Vol. 11, p. 83*).

Test of Believers

Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muşliḥ Mau'ūd says,

“The test of every believer is that he should participate in this [Nizam-e-Waşiyyat] Scheme and seek special grace of God by this means. He [the Promised Messiah^{as}] announced that only hypocrites will keep out of this Scheme. In other words, the Scheme is voluntary but at the same time is a test of your faith. If you are anxious to win the pleasure of God and deserve real Paradise, you must make this sacrifice. If on the other hand these things have no value in your eyes, you can retain your properties in this world; neither God nor the Movement founded under His Command has any need for them.” (*Nizam-e-Nau, Anwār-ul-Uloom, Vol. 16, pp. 590-591*)

Waşiyyat – The Criterion for Perfect Faith

Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muşliḥ Mau'ūd further says,

‘I wish to draw *your* attention that the urge for Waşiyyat is from Almighty God with many rewards attached to it. Those who have not done Waşiyyat yet, should do it and render proof of their absolute Faith since the Promised Messiah^{as} has said that: ‘He who does not do Waşiyyat, I have qualms about his Faith.’ Hence, Waşiyyat is the criterion for perfect Faith.’ (*Khutubat-e-Mahmood, Vol. 10, pp. 166-167*).

Special Message to the USA Jamā‘at

In 1955, Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muşliḥ Mau'ūd, sent a special message to Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir (late), missionary in-charge, USA Jamā‘at expressing his keen desire and expectations of the US Jamā‘at. Some excerpts from the message are as follows.

“The scheme set out in Al-Waşiyyat being purely voluntary and a gift for the service of Islam and humanity will carry with it moral and spiritual benefits which may be lacking in any other system. Countries will gradually step forward one after the other to embrace this Scheme, and Allah's name will continue to be exalted in the world by those who will make spiritual, moral and material gains through it. The scheme is already operational in Pakistan and India. It is my wish and I pray too that America proves to be the third such country as would adopt it and participate very vastly in laying foundations for the welfare, prosperity and progress of humanity. *Amen*. Brethren: We are weak, but our God is strong and Almighty. We can do but little, but He can do everything. Be sure that His help is speeding towards you. Indeed, He Himself is standing at your door waiting to enter. Spring up, therefore, and open wide your doors to Him. When God enters your homes and fills your hearts, life will become radiant for you, and you will be glorified on earth as He is glorified in the

Heavens. May God be with you. *Amen*.” (*Tareekh-e-Ahmadiyyat, Vol. 18, May 1955 to June 1956, pp. 104-107*)

A Bargain for Paradise

Shedding light on the Quranic verse (*Ch 9, V 111*), Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IVth said,

“The Holy Qur‘an has clearly mentioned of a bargain between Allah and His servants; and Nizam-i-Waşiyyat or any such system which has been initiated or founded at the behest of Allah-a direct injunction from Allah-falls under that category. And that verse is:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ اشْتَرَى مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ بِأَنَّ لَهُمُ الْجَنَّةَ.

(Translation: Surely, Allah has purchased of the believers their persons and their property in return for the Garden they shall have).

Exactly, Nizam-i-Waşiyyat is mentioned *here*. Allah has bought from the believers their lives and their wealth, for what price? Because Allah will give in return to them Jannah [Paradise]. (*Al-Nahl, Special Waşiyyat Edition, p. 17, Q2-3-2005*).

Our Waşiyyat Target

Close to the beginning of second centennial of Ahmadiyya Khilafat, Khalifatul-Masih V appealed to worldwide members of Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya to join Nizam-e-Waşiyyat as a gesture of gratitude for the bounty of Khilafat endowed upon them from the Divine. Addressing Jalsa Salana, UK in 2004, Khalifatul-Masih V said,

“It is my wish that by year 2008, which will *In*

Sha' Allah mark completion of 100 years of Khilafat, members of every Jamā'at in every country of the world as are earning and Chanda paying, at least fifty percent of them would enroll in this grand System [Nizam-e-Waṣiyyat] established by the Promised Messiah and achieve higher standards of spirituality and sacrifices. This too will be a humble offering that Jamā'at will be presenting at the threshold of Almighty Allah as a gesture of gratitude for the completion of 100 years of Khilafat." (Al Fazl International Weekly, London, Vol. 11, Issue 50)

Office Holders Lead by Example

Office holders play a vital role in respective spheres of service to the Jamā'at. They enjoy confidence of membership that looks towards them to lead by example. The Holy Quran clearly forbids believers to ask of others what they don't do. (61:3). Highlighting this fundamental quality of leadership during his address to Majlis Anṣārullāh, UK, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih V said,

"The first point I wish to stress upon is that all office-bearers should become part of the System of Waṣiyyat starting from the National Āmila to the lowest level. Only then will they be able to exhort other members of the Jamā'at. Remember! Your persuasion will only succeed, will only be useful when saying *Labbaik* (here I am, at your service) to the call of the Promised Messiah, you too will join this System since the Promised Messiah has prayed extensively for those joining this System." (Al-

Fazl International Weekly, London, Vol. 11, Issue 53)

Expounding it further during his Friday Sermon of 14 April 2006, Khalifat-ul-Masih V said,

"First of all, office holders should evaluate themselves, and Amir should also review that hundred percent office holders of the Jamā'at join this System, be they national office holders, office holders of national auxiliaries, of local Jamā'ats or of local auxiliaries." (Al Fazl International Weekly, London, Vol. 13, Issue 18)

Foundations of Bahishtī Maqbarah

In order to secure and increase funds for Bahishtī Maqbarah and expend money, the Promised Messiah founded an *Anjuman* (association) and proposed its name as *Anjuman Kārpardāz Masālih Bahishtī Maqbarah* and made it part of *Risāla Al-Waṣiyyat*. The Promised Messiah^{as} wrote,

"It will be mandatory that location of this Anjuman shall always remain at Qadian as God has blessed this place."

All rules and regulations were in place by January 31, 1906, and were published in newspapers, including *Al-Hakam* and *Al-Badr*, on February 10, 1906 and February 16, 1906, respectively, for public information. (Tareekh-e-Ahmadiyyat, Vol. 2, p. 441).

Wasaya Department, USA Jamā'at Brief History

With the grace of Almighty Allah, service to Mūsiyān in the USA has been in place ever since the arrival of first missionary late Maulana Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, a Companion of the Promised

Messiah^{as}, in 1920 and formal establishment of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at in this country. Successive national Amīrs and Presidents or their designees very diligently and meticulously discharged all Waṣiyyat-related responsibilities for a long time until late 1980s when Wasaya Department formally started to work under a secretary. Following is a list and brief recollections of works performed by some of the Wasaya Secretaries.

Sardar Rafiq Ahmad (Nov 1987-Oct 1989)

Syed Abdul Majid (Nov 1989-Jun 1995)

Syed Ghulam Ahmad Farrukh (Jul 1995-Jun 2000)

Sahibzada Mirza Kalim Ahmad (Jul 2001-Aug 2005)

Khaled Ahmad Ata (September 2005-current)

Sardar Rafiq Ahmad

"In the 1980s, the Wasaya Department was handled by Rashid Ahmad Sabir (late), who was a devout servant of the Community. His position was not of a secretary; he was just managing the Department. Due to some illness, he had to go back to Pakistan in early 1987. So, this Department was left unattended for a few months.

In November 1987, when Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IVth came to visit the USA, Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad (late) was the Amir Jamā'at, USA. Missionary Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad had organized meeting of the representatives of USA chapters in New York City, at Palo Alto Mosque. Maulana Inamul Haq Kauser was Missionary of New York chapter and Nazir Ahmad Ayaz (late) was the President of New York City chapter. During that meeting, it was requested to Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IVth to assign someone as Secretary Wasaya, USA Jamā'at.

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IVth asked the representatives to present him a name. Mian Majeed Khan (from Boston chapter) proposed my name. Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IVth immediately approved me.

I used to live in Binghamton, 330 miles away from Washington DC. I used to travel to the Fazl Mosque (Washington DC) every other weekend to take care of the Wasaya Department. Within a few months, the backlog was taken care of, files were organized, all the correspondence with the Mūṣīs and the Center was updated, and the Department was running back to normal.

There was no separate list of Mūṣīs at that time, but I was provided a list by the then Finance Secretary in which Mūṣīs were identified by an asterisk (or *). I remember quite a few devoted and important members of the US Jamā'at as Mūṣīs including Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad (late) and his respected wife Sahibzadi Amat-ul-Qayyum (late), Mrs. Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir (late), Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, Br. Muzaffar Ahmad Zafar (late) of Dayton, OH, Br. Yusef Lateef (late) and Br. Abid Hanif of Boston, MA, Br. Rashid Ahmad (late) of Milwaukee, WI, Br. Muhammad Sadiq (late) of Newark, NJ, and Sr. Ayesha Sharif (late) of York, PA. There must have been more local Mūṣīs but I do not remember.”

Dr. Ghulam Ahmad Farrukh

“I took responsibility of this office from Dr. Abdul Majid Shah on July 01, 1995. This is the usual start of the fiscal year of the Jamā'at. I had the experience of this department since 1990 as Secretary Wasaya of the Washington Metropolitan Jamā'at.

The first task was to contact all Mūṣīs in the country to encourage

and help them complete their annual returns [Schedule C Forms] as per Waṣīyyat Rules. There were more than one thousand Mūṣīs at that time in different chapters. Once the financial closing of the previous year was done, financial records were sent to all Mūṣīs By the grace of Allah, I was able to update records of all Mūṣīs within the first four months of the fiscal year. Regular communication with them was established. Office of Wakalat Mal II, Rabwah was also contacted on regular basis.

All local chapters were provided with useful information, and importance of System of Waṣīyyat was highlighted to Mūṣīs as well as local Wasaya Secretaries. A sample Waṣīyyat form was prepared so that prospective Mūṣīs could fill out Waṣīyyat application forms easily. Mūṣīs were continuously encouraged to pay Waṣīyyat dues according to their earnings.

Respected Amir US appointed a committee at the national level to assess values of Mūṣīs' properties. This committee consisted of National Secretary Wasaya, National Secretary Finance, and National Secretary Properties. So, if a Musi wanted to pay Hiṣṣa-e-Ja'īdad (dues on property), the National Secretary Wasaya would ask the local president to make an evaluation of the said property with the consent of local Majlis-e-Āmila. That valuation would then be presented to this committee at the national level and its report presented to the National Amir. Recommendation would then be sent to Wakalat Mal II, Rabwah for approval by Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya, Pakistan.

In 1992, Khalifatul-Masih IV approved establishment of Maqbarah Mūsiyan (*cemeteries for Mūṣīs*) all over the world including the USA. A management committee was also approved by Khalifatul-Masih IVth whose first meeting was

held under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar who was a member as well as Na'ib Amir, US Jamā'at at the time. It was formally decided that twenty five percent of all gravesites in all Ahmadiyya graveyards will be reserved for Mūṣīs.

By the grace of Allah, number of Mūṣīs increased substantially during this period, both by immigration and new members joining the System of Waṣīyyat.

In 1998, Khalifatul-Masih IV sent a very strong message to Jamā'at that all Ahmadi should pay dues according to their earnings, especially the Mūṣīs. A committee worked under the chairmanship of respected Amir to review Chanda payments of Mūṣīs during the preceding five years. This exercise not only highlighted importance of Waṣīyyat dues on members but also enabled them to pay their arrears.”

Current Numbers

With the grace of Almighty Allah, the US Jamā'at currently has 3662 Mūṣīs (Ansar: 1275; Khuddam: 725; Lajna: 1661) out of 5450 earning members. Number of earning Mūṣīs is 1720 which is less than our target keeping in view Khalifatul-Masih V's express desire that at least fifty percent of earning members should enroll into this blessed System. It, therefore, behooves all Jamā'at members, especially the earning, who are still not part of System of Waṣīyyat to ponder upon following words of the Promised Messiah^{as} and step forward with a firm resolve.

“Now is the time that those who wish to enter this door [Nizam-e-Waṣīyyat], mustering all their strength, should show their mettle and by doing so win a specially coveted prize from God.” (*Risāla Al-Waṣīyyat*).

May Almighty Allah make it happen soon. Amen.

Special Gratitude

First and foremost, we are extremely grateful to Almighty Allah for His ever-increasing grace and mercy of which we shall ever continue to beg more. We are highly indebted to Khalifatul-Masih V for his kind guidance and earnest prayers for our success. We are also very thankful to respected Amir, USA Jamā'at for his profound interest in promoting System of Waṣīyyat in letter and spirit, and for continuously providing us with support and astute guidance in various matters.

The Wasaya Department owes a

great debt of gratitude to a nationwide team of local Chapter Wasaya Secretaries for their selfless services. Special thanks are due to a core team of dedicated volunteers, including Umar Nayyar (Missionary), Mubashar Ahmad Khan and Nadeem Ahmad Pal, serving at the national office of the Department in Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman. Among those who were blessed to serve earlier are Nadeem Ahmad Khan, Haroon Virk, Salman Akhtar, Zarif Ahmad, Nasir Jadran, Rafiq Jadran, Mukhtar Ahmad Chaudhry, Sardar Anees Ahmad, Ali Chaudhry, Ataul Wahab Ahmad, Mubashar Ahmad Chaudhry, Ghalibuddin, and Basit Khan. The Department also humbly acknowledges kind cooperation of

Talha Chaudhry, Muzaffar Mansoor (late) and Armaghan Malik in various IT-related matters. This list will be incomplete without special recognition of services rendered by Waqar Ahmad Bajwa and Ali Iqtidar Bajwa who pioneered the digitization project of all records/archives of the Wasaya Department in a record time in year 2011. This was an important milestone that opened doors of the Wasaya Department to the 'digital age,' *Al-Hamdu Lillāh*. May Almighty Allah richly reward each one of our volunteers for their selfless sacrifices in His cause, both in this world and the Hereafter. Amen.

Update on Percentage of Mūṣīs Based on Earning Members (as of 09 July 2020)

S. No.	Jamā'at	Ansar	Khuddam	Lajna	Earning Members	Earning Mūṣīs	Percent Mūṣīs	Position*
1	Alabama, TN	28	39	52	45	8	17.78%	
2	Albany, NY	36	39	78	35	10	28.57%	
3	Austin, TX	59	53	98	62	29	46.77%	IV
4	Baltimore, MD	77	90	153	129	49	37.98%	
5	Bay Point, CA	63	43	116	70	26	37.14%	
6	Binghamton NY	16	20	37	26	9	34.62%	
7	Boston, MA	46	46	88	79	28	35.44%	
8	Bronx, NY	38	38	47	49	7	14.29%	
9	Brooklyn, NY	114	128	235	86	30	34.88%	
10	Buffalo, NY	33	33	72	66	12	18.18%	
11	Central Jersey, NJ	113	103	249	99	34	34.34%	
12	Central VA, VA	158	151	306	286	85	29.72%	
13	Charlotte, NC	33	53	68	62	16	25.81%	
14	Chicago, IL	243	228	437	343	84	24.49%	
15	Cleveland, OH	36	27	70	36	13	36.11%	
16	Columbus, OH	42	35	77	75	28	37.33%	
17	Connecticut, CT	63	68	117	67	23	34.33%	
18	Dallas, TX	108	82	214	163	62	38.04%	
19	Dayton, OH	40	31	70	37	16	43.24%	VIII
20	Detroit, MI	76	76	141	131	58	44.27%	VI
21	Fitchburg, MA	19	17	30	20	7	35.00%	
22	Fort Worth, TX	41	47	67	48	18	37.50%	
23	Georgia-Carolina, GA	96	107	191	165	66	40.00%	IX
x	Headquarter Nat'l	115	134	135	11	2	18.18%	
24	Houston, TX	161	143	303	154	43	27.92%	



25	Indiana, IN	17	13	36	28	7	25.00%	
26	Iowa, IA	6	5	7	10	4	40.00%	X
27	Kansas City, MO	22	24	39	26	5	19.23%	
28	Kentucky, KY	14	21	32	26	7	26.92%	
29	Las Vegas, NV	17	30	43	30	4	13.33%	
30	Lehigh Valley, PA	15	5	22	21	7	33.33%	
31	Long Island, NY	81	77	165	110	25	22.73%	
32	Los Angeles, CA	272	257	520	312	106	33.97%	
33	Maryland, MD	365	315	692	368	117	31.79%	
34	Merced, CA	12	16	42	12	4	33.33%	
35	Miami, FL	60	56	117	73	24	32.88%	
36	Milwaukee, WI	82	89	146	79	40	50.63%	II
37	Minnesota, MN	29	27	47	37	10	27.03%	
38	New Orleans, LA	17	15	26	8	4	50.00%	III
39	New York, NY	140	140	250	233	62	26.61%	
40	North Jersey, NJ	107	101	237	182	49	26.92%	
41	North Virginia, VA	100	91	188	158	36	22.78%	
42	Orlando, FL	37	34	60	61	17	27.87%	
43	Oshkosh, WI	16	28	42	44	25	56.82%	I
44	Philadelphia, PA	125	115	239	129	30	23.26%	
45	Phoenix, AZ	28	29	50	32	11	34.38%	
46	Pittsburgh, PA	21	31	47	25	10	40.00%	
47	Portland, OR	31	31	56	60	24	40.00%	
48	Richmond, VA	37	33	62	66	14	21.21%	
49	Rochester, NY	31	26	59	37	8	21.62%	
50	Research Triangle Park, NC	29	37	60	50	19	38.00%	
51	Sacramento, CA	29	24	54	53	19	35.85%	
52	San Diego, CA	12	20	30	23	5	21.74%	
53	Seattle, WA	84	102	167	136	51	37.50%	
54	Silicon Valley, CA	85	90	170	87	28	32.18%	
55	South Virginia, VA	177	212	354	295	97	32.88%	
56	St Louis, MO	65	51	97	43	8	18.60%	
57	Syracuse, NY	15	10	29	16	7	43.75%	VII
58	Tucson, AZ	32	33	66	19	3	15.79%	
59	Tulsa, OK	24	44	64	32	6	18.75%	
60	Willingboro, NJ	71	100	174	58	19	32.76%	
61	York, PA	69	86	145	72	32	44.44%	V
62	Zion, IL	34	28	54	33	9	27.27%	
Total		4262	4277	8139	5428	1698	31.28%	

Ta'lim -ul-Quran wa Waqf Ardi (TaQWA)

تعلیم القرآن ووقف عارضی



خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ

The best among you is the one who learns the Qur'an and teaches it.
(Bukhari, Kitāb Faḍā'il al-Qur'ān)

The emphasis on loving, learning, teaching, and following the Holy Qur'an is a hallmark of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya. The Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad so beautifully stated:

قرآن کے گرد گھوموں کعبہ مرا یہی ہے

(My life) revolves around the Qur'an; This is my Ka'aba (the focus of my being).

The Department of Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardhi, also known

by the acronym TaQWA, was established for the very purpose of instilling the love and understanding of the Holy Qur'an in the hearts and minds of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya USA, and for spreading that light around.

TaQWA – The Merger of Ta'lim -ul-Qur'an and Waqf-e-Ardhi, USA

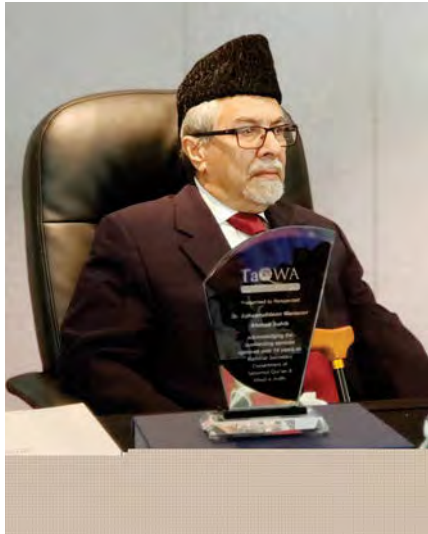
The departments of Ta'lim -ul-Qur'an' and 'Waqf-e-Ardhi' had been active separately, parallel to each other, in Jamā'at USA. However, in 2005, Khalifatul-Masih V, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, combined

these departments into a single Department of Ta'lim -ul-Qur'an and Waqf-e-Ardhi (TaQWA).

“The mission of the TaQWA department is to motivate and

inspire each of us to integrate the Qur'an into our daily lives so that we may be successful in life, as well as to devote time to help others do the same.”

Appointment of the First National Secretary



Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad

As the new department was established, under the recommendation of Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, Ameer USA, Khalifatul-Masih V approved the appointment of Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad as the first National Secretary of TaQWA. He served at this position from 2005-2019.

Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad is the great-grandson of both the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and Khalifatul-Masih I, Hakeem Nooruddin. He is the grandson of Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd, and the son of Sahibzadi Amat-ur-Rasheed Begum and Mian Abd-ur-Rahim

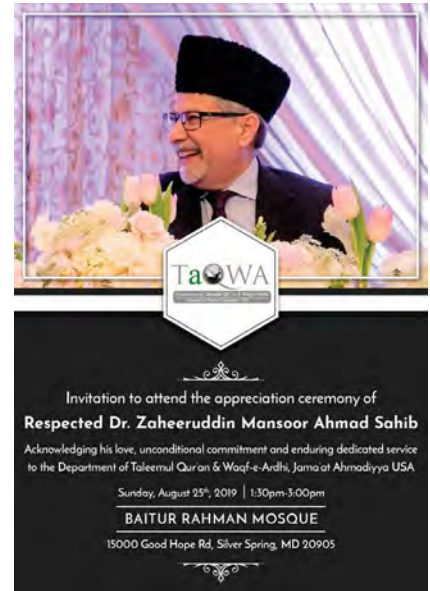
Ahmad. His paternal grandfather, Hadhrat Ali Ahmad, may Allah be pleased with him, was a companion of the Promised Messiah.

Dr. Zaheeruddin received his basic education From Ta'lim -ul-Islam High school and College in Rabwah, Pakistan, and completed his medical degree in 1976 from Nishtar Medical College, Multan (affiliated with University of the Punjab, Pakistan). He has served the Jamā'at in various capacities including Qā'id Ta'lim-ul-Quran of Majlis Ansarullah Pakistan and has also served as a physician at Fazl-e-'Umar Hospital in Rabwah.

When he was young, Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muşliḥ Mau'ūd, used to say to Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor's mother, Sahibzadi Amat-ur-Rasheed, that he would grow up to become a doctor and would teach the Holy Quran like his great grandfather Khalifatul-Masih I, Hakeem Nooruddin. By the Grace of Allah, those blessed words were fulfilled.

Befitting the progeny of the greatest servants of the Holy Qur'an, ever since his childhood, Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad has had great passion and enthusiasm for learning this divine scripture and spreading its message. He learned basic Arabic language skills to

master the meanings and knowledge of the Holy Book and spent his entire youth serving this cause. When he was assigned to establish the new department of TaQWA, he utilized all his talent, aptitude, and experience to accomplish this challenging assignment. Everyone who has worked with Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor finds his passion for the Holy Qur'an infectious, his demeanor sincere and unassuming, and his personality noble and kind, like that of a loving father.



Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad

Development of Ta'lim -ul-Qur'an

The Pioneer Team

Initially, Dr. Zaheeruddin started with three dedicated assistants to help gather information and manage basic workload.

For his Administrative Assistant he had the help of the late Raja Nasir Ahmad, a brilliant student, and a student union leader in Ta'lim-ul-Islam College, Rabwah, who also founded T. I. College Alumni Association USA and was elected its first General Secretary.



Nasir Raja with Khalifat-ul-Masih V

Mirza Habeeb ur Rahman, a mathematician and IT specialist, provided technical support and helped create the IT infrastructure. He developed a high-tech news

media workflow management system in 1995 for a very well reputed Pakistani Media group 'Express News' using the newly developed Urdu publishing system In-Page. He also drafted the initial forms to collect information about the state of Quran literacy.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Rajayki (the grandson of Abu Al-Barakat Maulana Ghulam Rasool Qudsi Rajayki) was his deputy in the research and development field, performing the spadework of collecting materials and resources for teaching the rules of recitation (Tajweed/Tarteel) and the Arabic language.

Serving the Jamā'at in various capacities throughout his life, Rajayki had the honor of being a pioneer member of the TaQWA Department. In addition to his engagement in translation work, Urdu reports, and correspondence for the department, he wrote many articles on various topics, notably the history of "Langar Masih-e-Mau'ūd" and "MTA-alislam.org," and a very comprehensive thesis on an extremely critical subject of

"Interest-Based Economy & Mortgage System in the USA." Readers of Urdu literature will find his series of articles on memoirs of the loved ones especially engaging. Rajayki has also been working as a core team member for the Jamā'at's official website "alislam.org," coordinating with its Urdu and Qur'an sections.



Imtiyaz Ahmad Rajayki

Later, other learned and talented people, like Fakhar Ahmad Khalifa, Sajid Ahmad Khan, Muzaffar Ahmad Malik and Naimah Ahmad joined the team. Khalid Asad was the first Assistant Secretary for the Waqf-e-Ardi wing.

The Two-Pronged Strategy

Strategically, Dr. Zaheeruddin

started on two fronts. Firstly, he embarked on a physical, in-person, audience-based, teaching and awareness campaign for this noble mission. For that purpose, he toured all the major centers of the USA Jamā'at to hold on-site Qur'an classes with the help of his trusted comrades, like Dr. Col. (R) Fazal Ahmad, a Wharton College PhD holding Law Professor, as a keynote inspirational speaker, and Imtiyaz Ahmad Rajayki who conducted Ta'lim -ul-Qur'an classes in Tennessee, Pittsburg, Philadelphia, Willingboro, Central Jersey, St. Louis, Dallas, Houston, Austin, Orlando, and Miami in the last decade and introduced the available package of learning materials.



Dr. Fazal Ahmad

Dr. Naeemullah was also a part of this team and alternately travelled to hold the Ta'lim -ul-Qur'an classes. He has been associated with the TaQWA department since 2010 in various capacities. As a member of the Alfurqan faculty, he holds Holy Qur'an classes locally which include Yassarnal-Qur'an for children, classes for Ansar and Khuddam, and a memorization class for Lajna members. He also holds Holy Qur'an classes for teachers.

Naeemullah serves both as the local TaQWA Secretary as well as the Regional Secretary. He has also participated in various programs organized by TaQWA to teach and

assist children in learning the Holy Qur'an with correct tajweed. Dr. Naeemullah has also been part of the various Hifz Camps and has helped children memorize the prescribed portions.



Dr. Naeemullah

Getting back to Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor's two-pronged strategy for advancing the objectives of TaQWA, his second line of attack was the establishment of a remote, internet-based teaching system, employing the latest technologies and resources. In this arena he was blessed with two exceptionally devoted and knowledgeable associates.

Strengthening Office Administration & Finances

On the administrative side, Dr. Zaheeruddin had the help of Sajid Ahmad Khan. Sajid Ahmad Khan was first introduced to the TaQWA Department as a general volunteer in the organizing team of the first Hifz Class in 2008 in which his son participated as a student. Both, his paternal grandfather (Abdul Majid Khan) and maternal grandfather (Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh) were companions of the Promised Messiah. Sajid Khan has three decades of professional experience and presides over MicroAgility, a

successful business, managing a global team that has successfully completed projects pertaining to operational improvements, cost reduction, and growth management.



Sajid Khan

He was nominated the Chief Administrative Officer of the Department in 2010. Ever since, he has been the right-hand of the National Secretary TaQWA involving all day-to-day activities including the arrangement of meetings and conference calls; consolidation of reports; coordination with department heads, regional and local secretaries; and the management of Ta'lim -ul-Qur'an classes and conferences in various regions. With his kind and cool-headed personality, Sajid Khan has strived to help others succeed and create opportunities for uplifting humanity and serving the community. With his exceptional management skills and work ethics he has worked to produce solutions that are feasible and sustainable. He, with the diligent assistance of Muzaffar Ahmad Malik, worked to control the department's finances, effectively managing the procurement of high-tech products and services.

Building the Team for Remote Learning, and the Growing Lajna Contribution

On the other hand, Naimah Ahmad with her technical background and management skills along with her passion and commitment towards the high objectives of TaQWA, took the phone-based distance-learning services started by Fakhur Khalifa, into an established, online, distance learning academy—the current ‘Alfurqan.’

It is, indeed, Allah Almighty’s great favor on the USA Jamā’at that He gave the opportunity to His humble servant, Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad, to serve in this capacity. His knowledge and experience brought to fruition a greater vision of utilizing the services and talents of Lajna Ima’illah on a broader spectrum at national level which had not been tapped in this expansive and connected way before.

Initially, he involved the ladies of his own noble family—a decision which was instrumental in widening the scope of service for Lajna members in general. Naimah, the wife of Sahibzada Mirza Tariq Akbar Ahmad, is a close relative of Dr. Zaheeruddin, who knowing her academic and professional qualifications entrusted her the responsibility to run the “Alfurqan Academy” as its director in 2010—a service she continues to render as Assistant National Secretary.

With a BA in Economics, Naimah Ahmad won a full scholarship from the United States Education Foundation in Pakistan, earning an MIS certification from Florida Atlantic University in 1988. Prior to that, she was sent to Hongkong to train for the development of the first ever Urdu Word Processing Machine code launched in Pakistan. She has

worked with various multinational organizations including the United Nations Information Center in Pakistan as an Information Systems Officer.

When in Pakistan, Naimah worked on the Qur’an Indexing project of Alislam, assigned by Pir Habib ur Rahman (martyr) where she formed a team of international volunteers through the Association of Ahmadiyya Computer Professionals (AACP) platform. She was also in charge of the AACP Islamabad chapter, Lajna wing. Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah, a daily user of the tool, has presented it before the Khalifatul-Masih V in various updates over the years and Khalifatul-Masih V has appreciated the Tool. The 2018 version of the 5 Volume Commentary was added to it at Khalifatul-Masih’s instructions.

In 2011, Naimah Ahmad was assigned by the alislam team to lead a team of volunteers to prepare English titles and short English and Urdu synopsis of archived Friday Sermons.

Naimah currently also serves as the Local Ta’lim Secretary, Halqa Nigran, and Secretary Naumuba’iyat, Lajna Ima’illah Austin. She also served as Na’iba to Regional Sadr South for two years.

Her approach to management is hands-on, thoroughly focused, and always kind. She is an active, certified, Alfurqan teacher and a committed Alfurqan student. She does not just delegate work but is often in the trenches helping with data collection, reporting, class admin support and much more, all the while overseeing the technical needs of the portal and its services. She has worked with Lajna members across the United States, building the vast pool of female teachers and

administrative and technical volunteers who provide most of Alfurqan’s services.

Naimah Ahmad’s maternal grandfather, Haji Muhammad Din (Tihalvi), went to Qadian, leaving behind his pious wife Ayesha Bibi with the children. He embraced Ahmadiyyat at “Pugri wali Bai’at” (Initiation into Ahmadiyyat via a chain of turbans) and was one from the group of 313 companions of the Promised Messiah. He later served as a Dervish in Qadian. Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V once mentioned Hazrat Haji Muhammad Din (r.a.) in his sermon as being “duaon ki machine” (‘machine of prayers’). Naimah Ahmad’s father, the late Muhammad Siddique Malik of Wah Cantt. was the first in his family to embrace Ahmadiyyat in his teens. As a Nasira, Naimah Ahmad started learning translation of the Holy Quran from Maryam Siddiqā, affectionately known as Chhotē Aapa.

Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad’s immediate family—his wife and children—also played a big role in providing full support to achieve the objectives of the growing department during his tenure. The efforts of his sisters, Amatul Baseer Ahmad (Baji Suri), Amatul Hai (Baji Baby) (Nā’ib Sadr IV, National Lajna Ima’illah), and Amatun Noor Ahmad (Baji Nushi), and their niece Aisha Habib Mirza, are especially noteworthy. They made significant contributions in planning and setting up various big and small events, like the East Coast Qur’an Conferences and Jalsa Booths. They took special care in purchasing various items to gift-wrap as “goodie” bags for the Ameen children. Their contributions in TaQWA events were wide ranging,

from cleaning the mosque to food arrangement, to preparing welcome packages for guests to developing interesting knowledge-based programs for the Lajna side.

In reference to Ameen ceremonies, Regional Sadr Central, Lajna Ima'illah USA, Naseera Bhatti also very lovingly took part in arranging for copies of the Holy

Qur'an to be presented as gifts for the Ameen children.

Origins of Alfurqan—A problem and a solution

A main hurdle for the Department of TaQWA was the long distances that spanned between the

scattered populations of Jamā'at USA. Reaching out to everyone to teach the Holy Qur'an was a

challenge indeed.

Telephone Conferencing Call Service—First Step in Distance Learning



Fakhar Ahmad Khalifa

The turning point came in 2005 when under the guidance of Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad, Respected Fakhar Ahmad Khalifa started a telephone conference call service for Jamā'at members in Silicon Valley, California, to teach translation of the Holy Qur'an.

The purpose of this initiative

was to include members who, due to long commutes, could not participate in classes held at the masjid. Soon, Jamā'at members living in the East Coast also joined this telephone conference class. To facilitate this class, a special telephone conferencing system, integrated with the mosque's public address (PA) system, was installed in the Bait-ul-Baseer Mosque, San Jose, California.

It was not long when it was realized that there was a much greater need for long distance learning in Jamā'at USA. And so, with the guidance from Respected Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad, a team was designated to develop an online learning solution 'understandingquran.org.' Skype was integrated as a conference bridge for the screen-based sharing tool. Soon after, the open-source learning platform, "Moodle" was introduced.

IT Director, Awais Butt and Naimah Ahmad customized it for the use of USA Jamā'at members. The Holy Quran courses were placed on new platform in a more systematic way with a more user-friendly Holy Quran education system. The project was named 'AlFurqan' and a website was registered with the domain name 'www.alfurqan.us.'

Thus, Fakhar Ahmad Khalifa's phone-based classes were the precursor to Alfurqan. Fakhar Khalifa has always been an active member of the Jamā'at and has served as Assistant National Secretary Ta'lim -ul-Qur'an USA, from 2006 to 2011. Currently, he is serving as the Local Ta'lim-ul-Quran & Waqf-e-Ardi Secretary of Silicon Valley. Before moving to Pakistan in 2011, Fakhar Khalifa handed over the charge of Alfurqan portal to Awais Butt and Naimah Ahmad.

TaQWA's Core IT Team Advancing Web Interactivity and Enhancing Learning Services

IT volunteers and the Administrative staff are the backbone of Alfurqan, right along with its teachers. An online learning platform cannot exist without their dedication and diligence. The IT team is responsible for the creation, maintenance, and continuous improvements of the online platform that is used for Holy Qur'an education.

Since Fakhar Khalifa left for Pakistan, Awais Butt has been serving as the IT Lead for the Alfurqan portal. His services for TaQWA started as the head of the IT team. He has a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore, and is an MSc Computer Science Gold Medalist. He introduced state of the art technologies for

conducting online Holy Qur'an classes, including Webex conference bridges, Uber Conferencing, and Zoom.

Under his leadership, the Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an portal (www.altaqwa.us) and the Alfurqan Portal (alfurqan.us) were revamped to the latest versions, and the Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an Department started using Amazon Cloud services. The open-

source distance learning system Moodle was upgraded and improved for conducting online classes.



Awais Butt with Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad at East Coast Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an Conference 2

Awais is also engaged with the Jamā'at in various other capacities including his services as the Assistant National Secretary Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardi USA, Assistant National Secretary Şan'at-o-Tijarat USA, Nā'ib Afsar Jalsa Salana Daftar, member of National IT team, Project Lead for Tabligh Bai'at Automation System, Local Secretary Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardi NVA Jamā'at, Local Assistant Secretary Tabligh NVA Jamā'at, Mubarak Mosque Tahir Academy Qur'an Teacher, Halqa Leader of local chapter, and as member of local Umooor-e-Amma team for distribution of homeopathic medicines.

Earlier in December 2010, Sajid Khan introduced Mubashar Ahmed and Zafar Nasir for the formation of an IT department for Ta'lim-ul-Quran & Waqf-e-Ardi. Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad approved their appointment. Mubashar Ahmed took on the application design and architecture while Zafar Nasir took on the role of infrastructure as well as unifying all the TaQWA applications. Both shortly after started to work with Khalid Asad on the design and architecture of the Waqf-e-Ardi

application.

The online Waqf-e-Ardi system was primarily developed by Saba Khan and Mubashar Ahmad. Among other efforts to improve the Holy Quran Education System, in Jan 2011 research and analysis was conducted on upgrading the infrastructure and adding a ticketing system developed by Saba Khan to the Alfurqan application to create a more user-friendly experience.

The conceptualization of a unified system driven via Tajneed started to take place, and the consolidation of all the apps within the newly self-hosted environment. Word of the Day app by Wadood Chaudhry and his team started to take shape as did the TaQWA website. They also worked on the premise of introducing various teams of structured development pipeline, and various concepts of security.



Naveed Malik

Zafar Nasir served as a co-lead for National Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardi IT Team. He was in charge of infrastructure and responsible for managing hardware, servers and security.

Bilal Farhat served as project manager and Masroor Sajid revamped the national Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an portal.

Bilal Farhat, along with Shahid

Syed, Muhammad Izhar, and Rukh-e-Khanda, also initiated the work on another deeply desired initiative of Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad which was the development of a Hifz-ul-Quran App. Dr. Chairul Bahri was the project manager for that initiative.

The supporting team for the Hifz-ul-Qur'an portal development included Samina Noor (Hifz mentor), Amatul Hameed Munira (Hifz mentor), and Naimah Ahmad (administrator). The goal was to have members sign up and upload the recorded portions they had memorized for mentors to check and send back a revised file with text marked for improvement. Testing and trial remained in progress for a few months but due to unavailability of some technical members, the system could not reach final implementation. It remains as a prototype for review for future projects with similar goals.

Currently, Awais Butt leads a team of volunteers including Quratul Ain, Najma Khokar, Humera Malik (daughter of Shaheed Pir Habib Rahman), Ahmad Sohail and Ausaf Malik, among others. After Mubashar Ahmad left the department, Awais Butt has been supervising the TaQWA portal.

Naveed Malik, serving as the Graphic Design Lead for the Department of Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardi, was instrumental in creating graphics for the Alfurqan and TaQWA websites. Always working with a fast turnaround time, producing as many iterations as possible of an image that were requested in the review process, without complain. Naveed has been with the department since 2010. His first project was to create the official logo of the TaQWA Department, regarding which he says Sajid Khan was instrumental in guiding the concept into a result. Over the years, he has provided graphic design

services for Jalsa booth exhibits, Teachers Certificates, Social media posts, backdrops for regional Qur'an conferences, and promotional material for various department

initiatives. Naveed Malik came from Pakistan with an MBA. He currently serves as Nazim-e-A'la for Headquarters region for Majlis Ansarullah, Principal Tahir

Academy Bait-ur-Rahman, Local Ta'lim Secretary for Maryland, in addition to providing Layout and Printing expertise for the Muslim Sunrise.

Homepage of Alfurqan's old portal

DEPARTMENT OF TALEEM-UL-QURAN and WAQF-E-ARDHI, JAMAAT AHMADIYYA, USA

Home | The Holy Qur'an | Site News | Resources | Support / FAQs? | Contact Us

You are not logged in. (Login)

Alfurqan Demo Video
Download Video

YouTube Channel
Al-Furqan USA
YouTube

Alfurqan Twitter
follow us on twitter

Schedule of Classes
Schedule of Classes

Who are the teachers?

Course categories
Special Projects Classes (2017-2019)
Yassarnal Quran

Wَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ لِلذِّكْرِ فَهَلْ مِنْ مُدَكِّرٍ
And, indeed, WE have made the Qur'an easy to remember.
But is there anyone who will take heed? (54: 41)
حَمِزُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ
"The best among you is the one who learns and teaches the Holy Qur'an"
(Sahih Bukhari)

STAY TUNED NEW ALFURQAN PORTAL COMING SOON

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahamtu'Allah wa Barakatuh!

Welcome to the Online Holy Qur'an Learning Management System (LMS)
Department of Taleemul Qur'an and Waqf-e-Ardhi, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA

THE HOLY QUR'AN
-> more about The Holy Qur'an ...

Amir ul Mominin Syeedna Hadhrat Khalifat ul Masih V (ab) Mirza Masroor Ahmad's Message for the members ...

Login
Username:
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Create new account
Lost password?

At-Tarteel (ENGLISH)
الترتيل
At-Tarteel, a program teaching correct pronunciation with Hafiz Fazle Rabbi

Yassarnal Quran (URDU)
يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ
Yassarnal Quran, a children's program teaching correct pronunciation with Qari Muhammad Ashiq

Recent Activity
Activity since Saturday, 18 July 2020, 09:38 PM
Full report of recent activity...
Nothing new since your last login

Alfurqan – Holy Qur’an Distance Learning Service under TaQWA

So, what exactly is Alfurqan?



Alfurqan is now a well-established Distance Learning service running under the Department of Ta’lim-ul-Qur’an & Waqf-e-Ardi, USA, to teach the recitation, translation, and

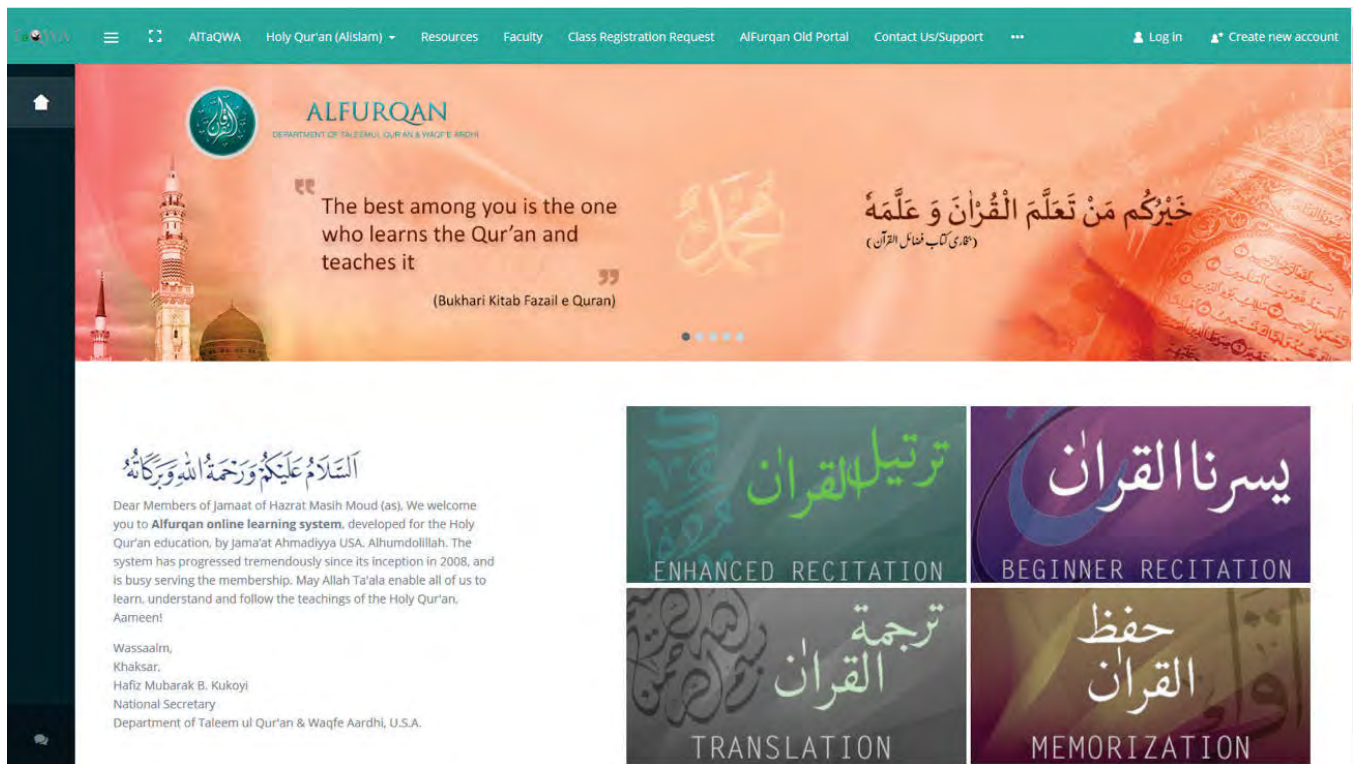
memorization of the Holy Qur’an to men, women, and children of Jamā’at-e-Ahmadiyya, USA. This service is offered through the web portal www.alfuran.us.

Teachers, mostly from America, but also from other countries, including this year, Africa, teach Ahmadi students living here in the USA. Presently, Alfurqan’s faculty consists of 185 teachers who in addition to their families, jobs, and other Jamā’at obligations, dedicate time to teach others. Alfurqan

teachers consist of 171 women and 14 men, most of whom are certified Holy Qur’an instructors as well as some scholars of related fields.

The female teachers hold classes for women and children including boys up to age fifteen. Alfurqan’s male faculty consists of 12 USA members including 2 murabbiyan. Additionally, by instructions of Khalifatul-Masih V, Alfurqan enjoys the special privilege of holding classes under four esteemed Jāmi’a professors.

Homepage of the New Alfurqan Portal



Al-Furqan Classes

Live, interactive, online classes are taught through Alfurqan using primarily the Zoom conferencing system, and occasionally, Skype and telephone. Classes are also held at local mosques and some teachers provide lessons at their home.

In the online class’s students can learn Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Recitation (rules of

‘tajweed/tarteel’) of the Holy Qur’an through Qā’ida Yassarnal-Qur’an and Qā’ida Tarteel-ul-Qur’an, after which they recite from the Holy Qur’an to reinforce the learning. Many classes are available to teach Translation and Commentary of the Holy Quran, as well as Arabic Grammar. Hifz-ul-Qur’an (memorization) classes continue

through the year, helping students memorize portions of the Holy Qur’an.

Recorded classes for self-paced study and other learning resources are also available on alfurqan.us including a link to Alfurqan’s YouTube channel ‘Alfurqan USA’ which was launched in 2012 and contains videos of many recorded

classes.

Self-Study Resources are available as well. Alfurqan is also launching a self-study program of Holy Qur'an Translation on its website, supervised by respected Fakhar Ahmad Khalifa. Students will be able to learn at their own time and pace, take assessments and receive a certificate of completion.

Another valuable resource available for translation students is a Holy Qur'an PDF file showing the grammatical construction of 'mudhaaf/ 'mudhaaf ilaih' (مضاف، اليه مضاف), i.e., the grammatical pairing demonstrating the genitive case. Azra Ahmad and Sadiqa Hayee have painstakingly reviewed the entire Holy Qur'an and highlighted

Alfurqan Teachers' Certification

Almost all Alfurqan teachers are certified through Alfurqan. Alfurqan Teachers' Certification is offered to those who are interested. The expectation is that they will teach others. The students can take classes to learn intermediate and advanced

Alfurqan Faculty and its Many Roles

Alfurqan Regional Faculty Leads play a critical role in helping the administration manage the services of its 185 teachers spread across the country. They work consistently and diligently in helping gather reporting data from teachers in their region on a monthly and quarterly basis and for special reports. The Regional

Alfurqan Administrative Support

Alfurqan Regional Leads work in coordination with the Alfurqan Lead Administrator Naila Mubashar who ensures the accuracy and completeness of the data, conducting repeated data reviews and follow-ups. She is also responsible for many other day-to-day Admin tasks including reporting of technical issues and follow-up of their resolution. Naila has a bachelor's degree in Computer

each time this pairing occurs.

Classes for local Jamā'at groups based on the needs of specific Jamā'ats are also held when requested.

'Mothers & Mothers-to-be Classes' are the result of a special initiative to address the critical shortage of teachers for young children. This course aims to teach current and future mothers the basic rules of Tajweed so they feel confident teaching their own children. This class is kept at a basic level while providing opportunity of more advanced lessons to those who are interested.

A Spanish Conversational Class was launched in 2018 per the instructions of Dr. Zaheeruddin

rules of recitation (tajweed/tarteel). They are then tested by a panel of judges to assess their mastery of the rules. To date, 135 women and 12 men have been awarded Alfurqan Teachers' Certification. Nusrat Shareef Ahmad, Tyeba Hina, and

Faculty Leads are: Amatul Hamid Munira, Fauzia Shahid, Kalsoom Ijaz, Maqsoosa Virk, Nusrat Munir, Naeema Mahmood, Naimah Ahmad, Sadaf Ali, Samina Noor, Shahida Nasar, Uzma Waqar, and Dr. Bashirudin Khalil Ahmad.

Per instructions of Khalifatul-

Science and she also serves as Vice Principal of Tahir Academy, Houston Jamā'at.

The data is then handed over to the Publications Lead Qudsia Shafaq Lone who performs further data cleansing and prepares data summaries and charts and writes the Alfurqan reports. Qudsia started as an Alfurqan student in 2009 and became a certified teacher in 2012. She has been serving in various

Mansoor Ahmad, for prospective Waqifeen-e-Ardi to facilitate their propagational activities in Spanish speaking areas. This class is being taught by two dedicated Lajna members, Esther Khan and Munahil Tariq Mahmood. Esther Khan immigrated from Cuba in 1980. She grew up in a Christian household and converted to Ahmadiyyat. She is serving as Mu'awina Public Affairs for Alabama/Tennessee and also assists Secretary Nāsirāt. Munahil is daughter of Missionary Tariq Mahmood, who is serving Bay Point and Silicon Valley area. Munahil is a college student and learned Spanish in Spain while her father Missionary Tairq was serving there.

Zahida Rehman have contributed towards preparing most of the certified teachers in the pool. Attia Ghani takes care of the logistics of this process.

Masih that female faculty should teach boys up to the age of 15, from the year 2020 men's classes and member registration is now under the male faculty Lead. Dr. B K Ahmad who was given this assignment as the Assistant National Secretary.

capacities since 2012, such as preparing departmental correspondence, Alfurqan announcements, Urdu/English translations, proofreading/editing etc. With bachelor's degrees in Biology and Psychology and VBA certification, she has extensive experience in automating Excel based reports.

From 2012 to 2016, another dedicated volunteer Shahma Malik

Again, on 6 September 2019, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih cautioned the entire Jamā'at in his Friday sermon against accepting money for teaching the Holy Qur'an and narrated the following hadith:

“Ubadah states “I taught the Holy Qur'an to some individuals from among the Ashab-us-Suffah [people of the platform] and I also taught them how to write. Upon this, one of them sent me a bow as a present. In my heart I thought that this is not money, cash, gold, silver or any form of currency and that I will use it to shoot arrows in the cause of Allah. It is merely a bow and it will be useful to me to shoot arrows if the occasion of Jihad ever arises and will be used in the way of Allah.” Nevertheless, he says: “I requested the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) for guidance in relation to this. Upon this, the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) said: ‘You may accept it if you wish to wear a necklace made of fire.’”

As Khalifatul-Masih explained

that the Holy Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had metaphorically illustrated the grave displeasure of Allah Almighty falling on those who accept material compensation for teaching the Holy Qur'an, Dr. Zaheeruddin sent immediate messages to ensure that all members were aware of this serious warning.

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, all Ahmadi teachers in the knowledge of TaQWA were themselves ready to heed the advice of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V. Because the Jamā'at never charges for teaching the Holy Qur'an, the need for this advice only became apparent after some members pointed out the existence of paid classes by some others who were themselves unaware of any instructions against it. Once they became aware, they immediately complied.

This is yet another distinction of the Jamā'at of the Promised Messiah that its members sincerely aim to

give preference to the next world over this one. Browsing through the internet and looking at messages on non-Ahmadi Muslim message boards, one sees a flood of businesses based on teaching the Holy Qur'an. Their imams and scholars may get into nitpicking details about nail polish being haram for ablution, men's pants being haram if longer than certain length, and many other inconsequential details, but have not managed to teach their flocks that the Holy Prophet has clearly stated that they are buying garlands of fire for their necks by making a business out of the Holy Qur'an. We thank Allah for the blessings of Khilafat.

May Allah Ta'ālā enable us to learn and teach the Holy Qur'an solely to please Him, and to live our lives according to His will. May He enable the Department of Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardi to offer its best possible services to His Jamā'at, for His sake.



TaQWA Team with Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V, ayyadahullah – 2012, Harrisburg

Recurring Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an Related Events

Ameen Ceremonies



Nasirat at their Ameen with Khalifat-ul-Masih V

Holding Ameen ceremonies to celebrate completion of the first reading of the Holy Qur'an has always been a tradition within the Jamā'at. The Promised Messiah held Ameen ceremonies for all his children and wrote special poems for those occasions. For this reason, the USA Jamā'at annually holds these ceremonies during Jalsa Salana as an encouragement for children.

The TAQWA department has been assigned to arrange Ameen Ceremonies during Jalsa Salana and special visits from Khalifatul-Masih for the past eight years. So far, Ameen ceremonies of 328 boys and 366 girls have been held. The Alfurqan team is primarily

responsible for all related arrangements. All Ameen children receive gift bags containing copies of the Holy Qur'an with English translation. They are also given goodie bags with snacks and treats.

A few months before the ceremony, Alfurqan teachers start to give lessons to the Ameen children to reduce any major mistakes in recitation. These lessons continue till a few days before Jalsa.

Attia Ghani has been serving as the Ameen and Tarteel Certification Exam Coordinator since 2015 and is herself a certified Alfurqan teacher since 2014. She also serves as an Alfurqan Admin and has been teaching the Holy Quran in Tahir Academy since 2012.

Attia Ghani is the granddaughter of Late Babu Abdul Ghani, a companion of the Promised Messiah. She came from Pakistan with a master's in Biology and completed her MBA from Brenau University, Georgia. Locally, she served as Tarbiyat secretary for 8 years and currently serves as the Media Watch secretary. She has received awards at Jalsa Salana for being among the most prolific Media Watch authors, getting her writings about Islam published in local newspapers and magazines.

Alfurqan tries to ensure that the Ameen children continue to take lessons from their designated Alfurqan teachers after the Ameen ceremony until such a time that they are reciting with sufficient fluency. As these children are quite young, these lessons are often needed.



Boys at their Ameen with Khalifat-ul-Masih V

Holy Qur'an Conferences

وَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ لِلذِّكْرِ فَهَلْ مِنْ مُدَكِّرٍ

And, indeed, We have made the Qur'an easy to understand and to remember. But is there anyone who would receive admonition? (Holy Qur'an Ch54:v41)

Local Qur'an Conferences (LQC)

Local Quran Conferences were held with the objective of spreading the knowledge and learning of the Holy Quran across all the local Jamā'ats and to drive local accountability. From 2017 onwards, these conferences were held in over 30 Jamā'ats to help the members integrate Holy Quran in their lives and to ensure close coordination between the local

secretaries and respective local presidents to drive consistent implementation of the national plan across all the Jamā'ats. These conferences were also a good source of information for the members about the various Holy Qur'an learning resources that are available through the TaQWA department.



Regional Qur'an conferences

Regional Quran Conferences were held to gather more people together on a larger platform. Scholars from different disciplines delivered lectures and presentations on various aspects of the Holy Qur'an, highlighting the

beneficence of the Word of God. Topics surrounding current events and special interest were also discussed considering the scripture.

East Coast Qur'an Conferences

East Coast Conferences were the largest of the

regional events, held at Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman, Silver Spring, Maryland.



(East Coast Quran Conference)



(East Coast Quran Conference)

Over a 1000 people from across the country attended the first of these conferences held April 5th-7th, 2013; about 1137 guests from over 37 Jamā'ats attended the weekend of April 9th-10th, 2016; and there were over 1300 attendees for the event that took place April 7th-8th, 2018.

Prayers and massive volunteer efforts went toward ensuring the success of these weekend-long conferences. About a 100 TaQWA members and local volunteers worked around the clock for the smooth operation of events, providing lodging and transportation to out-of-area guests, and arranging for meals and snacks for all present.

These conferences were live streamed for the greater Jamā'at audience. Those who could not attend in person were able to watch and listen to the program.

Events for Women & Children: For the 2nd and 3rd East Coast Conference, separate Lajna sessions with workshops, panel discussions and jeopardy quizzes were added. Uzma Waqar was tasked with preparing a separate Children's program. Children's session included competitions of Holy Qur'an recitation and memorization. Children also participated in related quizzes and light indoor sports activities. Prizes were awarded.

Highlights of Children's ECQC Events



In the 2016 ECQC Children's competitions, for example, 29 Nāsirāt and 20 Atfāl participated in the Recitation competitions and 28 Nāsirāt and 26 Atfāl participated in the Hifz competitions, representing 12 USA Jamā'ats. Twelve Alfurqan teachers volunteered as judges.

Copies of the Holy Qur'an were awarded to those who took part in the competitions and copies of the program were presented as souvenirs.

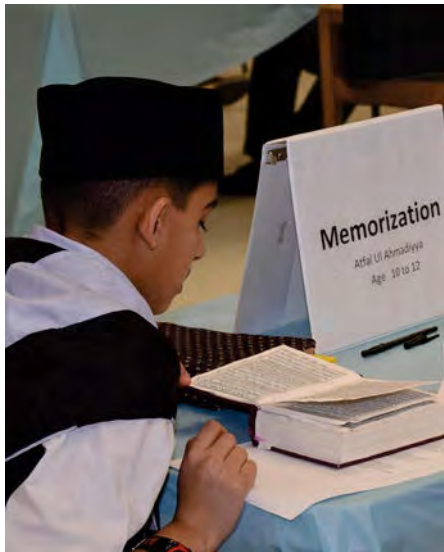
A game of Jeopardy was held for Atfāl in which 58 boys took part. At the end of the game Alfurqan

bookmarks and magnets were distributed to all those who gave correct answers.



On the last day of the event, a special talk session was held with Missionary Azam Akram, attended by 40 Nāsirāt and 38 Atfāl. It was an interactive discussion session after which there was a short quiz as a competition between Atfāl and Nāsirāt based on the discussion content. Nāsirāt won the quiz by answering more questions correctly.

May Allah Ta‘ālā fulfill all the goals for which these conferences were held. May He fill our hearts with the love of the Holy Qur’an and enlighten us with the glowing teachings of the Qur’an so that the society in which we live starts to shine with the light of this great Book.



Hifz Camp



Hifz Camp Organizers, 2019, at Masroor Mosque



Hifz Camp 2019 LA

Hifzul Qur'an Camps



Left: Syed Fazal Ahmad with Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad

The TaQWA Department has held several Hifzul Qur'an camps for young boys and girls to help them memorize portions of the Holy Qur'an.

The late, Respected Syed Fazal—a very dedicated member of the Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardi Department—organized and spearheaded these camps with utmost dedication and immense love

and care for the students

Syed Fazal had also served the Jama'at in another capacity – as host, as a Qazi, as Assistant National Secretary Waqf-e-Nau, as Assistant National Secretary Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an and Waqf-e-Ardi, as National Qā'id Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an and as Regional Nazim Ansarullah, to name a few of his roles. He also had the honor of serving as the General Secretary of Philadelphia Jamā'at throughout his 17-year stay there.

Before moving to the USA, Syed Fazal was the Ameer Jamā'at, Middle East. He held a deep love for

the Holy Qur'an and because of this love he embarked on the journey of learning the recitation of the Qur'an

with Tarteel. He passed away on February 25th, 2019 at the of age of 63. *إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ*



Hifz Camp – Willingboro

The 1st and 2nd Hifz-ul Qur'an Camps were held in the summers of 2008 and 2011, at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque, Maryland. After passing a thorough selection process, about 70 students, both boys and girls, from all over the USA attended the event. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V graciously appointed Qari Nawwab Ahmad Rana from Qadian to teach these classes.

from Canada, with the kind approval of Amir, Canada, Malik Laal Khan.



Hifz Camp-Bait-ur-Rahman



Hifz Camp – Willingboro

The third Hifz-ul-Quran Camp was held on August 10, 2018, at Al-Nasr Mosque, Willingboro, New Jersey, for which 51 students from 18 Jamā'ats were selected. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V graciously appointed Hafiz Fazle Rabbi from the UK to teach at this camp. He was aided by Huffaz, Mobeen Ahmed and Mujeeb Ahmad



Hifz Camp – Willingboro



Hifz Camp – Willingboro



Hifz Camp – Willingboro-7-Organizers



Hifz Camp – Willingboro-6-Tour



Hifz Camp – Willingboro-2

Virtual Hifz Camp West Coast: An online class of 14

students from Seattle ran alongside this 3rd Hifzul Qur’an Camp by permission of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V. Uzma Waqar, who had requested the online camp was also the supervisor for the event. A locally funded ‘day camp’ was created in one of the Seattle homes for the 14 participants. The children were provided a comfortable, loving environment with delicious snacks and meals.



Virtual Hifz Camp-Seattle

Among other academic credentials, Uzma Waqar holds MA and MEd in Special Education and is a teacher for special needs students by profession. In addition to which she teaches Alfurqan students an impressive six hours a day, five days per week. Thirteen of her students have finished their first recitation of the Holy Qur’an through her. She is also Alfurqan Faculty Lead for West Coast Region; Mu’awana Sadr Waqifāt Seattle and Principal Tahir Academy Seattle, WA; Rishta Nata Facilitator, USA; and Advisory Board Member of Special School, Rabwah, Pakistan.

Uzma Waqar’s maternal grandfather was Haji Muhammad Din (Tihalvi) who was among the group of 313 companions of the Promised Messiah and a Darvish of Qadian. If that sounds familiar, it is because she is the sister of Naimah Ahmadi (Director Alfurqan) and shares the same devoted family.



Virtual Hifz Camp-Seattle-1



Virtual Hifz Camp – Seattle-2

where Hafiz Fazle Rabbi stayed from August 12th to the 24th to teach the class of 16 students, in person.

Hifz Camps in other cities



Hifz Camp 2019, Baltimore-1



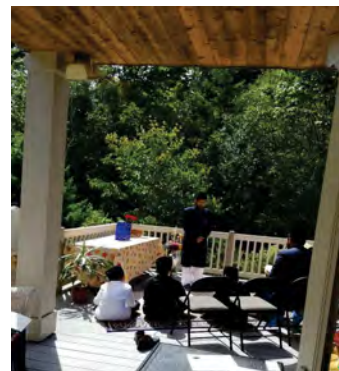
Hifz Camp 2019, Seattle – 3



Hifz Camp 2019, Baltimore-2



Hifz Camp 2019, Seattle – 4



Hifz Camp 2019, Seattle – 2

Hifz Camp Hafiz Fazle Rabbi visit West Coast: In 2019, Seattle held a local on-site Hifz-ul-Qur'an camp

Nationwide Home Based Hifz-ul-Quran Initiative, 2020: A Covid-19 Response by TaQWA

The Department of Ta'lim-ul-Quran & Waqf-e-Ardi has organized a home-based Holy Qur'an Hifz (memorization) initiative for Atfāl, Nāsirāt and children under the age of 7. This nation-wide initiative aims to maximize the engagement of our children while they are at home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The program is divided into different

levels to accommodate varying learning proficiencies. This initiative received an overwhelming response from parents. In total 451 children are registered (Atfāl = 195, Nāsirāt = 170, and Children under 7 = 86). This program requires parents to help their children to memorize at home. The children then join the class to recite their memorized

portion and the teachers help correct any mistakes. In the East Coast, Hafiz Maghfoor provided a platform under the Alfurqan umbrella to offer additional help to children. The program started with 30 teachers, including Hafiz Maghfoor, helping over 150 children. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh.


Special inquiry by Khalifat-ul-Masih regarding Holy Qur'an Memorization classes

In August of 2013, Respected Ameer USA received a letter from the office of Ameer-ul-Momineen, Khalifatul-Masih V with the following inquiry regarding Khalifatul-Masih's special instructions about Hifz classes on Alfurqan:

“Huzoor-e-Anwar (Khalifatul-Masih V) has inquired to describe the nature of the Holy Qur'an class that is being held via internet. Does this class include some program to enable children to memorize the Holy Qur'an? This class is being conducted under the department of Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad. If it does not include a program to help memorize the Holy Qur'an, then suggest as to how a Holy Qur'an memorization class can be conducted two or three days per week. Please report back regarding this matter.

The Department was pleased to report that Alfurqan's regular Hifz class conducted four days a week by Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya Qari and Hafiz started in November of 2011. Members of Lajna, Nāsirāt and Atfaal have been chief beneficiaries of these morning sessions. Through this class, two Lajna members have memorized the entire Holy Qur'an and many other members have completed the 30th part and selected verses compiled in 'Āyat-ul-Kitāb.'

They have been awarded certificates of accomplishment during Salana Jalsas. Students continue to memorize more portions at their own pace.



AHMADIYYA MUSLIM FOREIGN MISSIONS OFFICE

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بخدمت مکرم امیر صاحب جماعت احمدیہ یو. ایس. اے
السلام علیکم ورحمۃ اللہ وبرکاتہ

حضور انور ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ بنصرہ العزیز نے دریافت فرمایا ہے کہ قرآن کریم کی کلاس جو انٹرنیٹ کے ذریعہ ہو رہی ہے وہ کیا ہے؟ کیا اس کلاس میں بچوں کو قرآن کریم حفظ کروانے کا پروگرام بھی شامل ہے؟ ڈاکٹر ظہیر الدین منصور صاحب کے شعبہ کے تحت یہ کلاس ہو رہی ہے۔ اگر اس میں قرآن کریم حفظ کروانے کا پروگرام نہیں ہے تو تجویز دیں کہ ہفتہ میں کس طرح دو تین دن حفظ القرآن کلاس ہو سکتی ہے؟
براہ کرم اس حوالہ سے مطلع فرمائیں۔ جزاکم اللہ تعالیٰ احسن الجزاء

والسلام
ظہیر الدین
ایڈیشنل وکیل التبشیر لندن

Other Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an Related Initiatives

Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an Learning Status Application (LSAP)

Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an Learning Status Application (LSAP) is an interactive web-based application that was developed in 2009 by Muzaffar Ahmad Malik.

LSAP provides a common

platform to view and collect the latest information from all the Jamā'ats, reflecting their Quran reading and learning status nationwide in real-time. This project follows a phased approach.

Data was collected, analyzed and various reports were developed in electronic format for the first time for 66 USA Jamā'ats to gauge the overall progress, while avoiding the difficulties and complexities of

manual data collection, report creation, email messaging, and ad hoc communication, etc. The Department is planning to ensure that 100% of children ages 12 and under complete at least one cycle of Holy Qur'an Nazira before Jalsa Salana USA, 2021.



Muzaffar Ahmad Malik

Additionally, new features and functionalities are under consideration and will be added to LSAP to leverage the application's functionality. LSAP data will also help the Department in rectifying issues and developing strategies to implement solutions to gain the Department's objectives in coming years, In Sha Allah.

The App Developer, Muzaffar Malik is the son of Malik Mubarak Ahmad, former Professor Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya, Rabwah and the great grandson of Hafiz Ghulam Rasool

Wazirabadi, a companion of the Promised Messiah.

Muzaffar Malik has been serving as Assistant National Secretary of TaQWA since 2006 as one of the pioneer members of the Department. Primarily, he provides management support in Data and Analytics and Administrative help in Finance Management. He has a master's degree in Information Technology, and currently serves as Deputy Director in US Department of Justice.

Word of the Day (WOD) APP

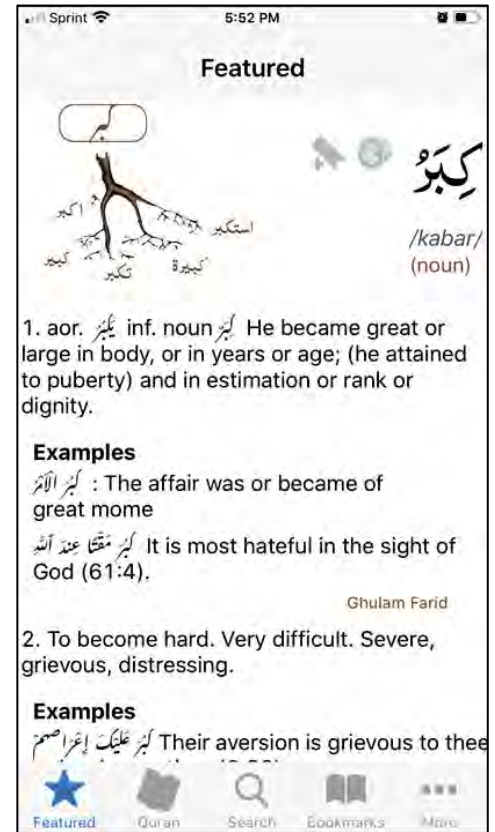
Word of the Day (WOD) APP. Word of the Day (WOD) Project was initiated by Imtiyaz Ahmad Rajayki in MS Word format under the direction of the National Secretary Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an. Three lists were made of words used in the Holy Qur'an: (a) words occurring more than 100 times, (b) words occurring 50 to 100 times, and (c) words occurring 25 to 50 times.

The software application was later developed by Wadood Chaudhry and his IT team members Mirza Abdul Ala Taimur Hadayatullah Ahsan and the AlFurqan Lajna Faculty team comprising of Sadiqa Hayee, Zubaida Kaleem, Amtul Hamid Munira, Qudsia Shafaq Lone, Quratul Ain Ahmad, and Quratul Ain Malik, along with Javed Yousaf and a Jāmi'a professor.

Wadood Ahmed Chaudhary is

the grandson of Raja Ali Muhammad, a companion of the Promised Messiah. He is a technologist with a master's degree from Columbia University and works in mobile application development. He helped create various Jamā'at applications like a mobile application on Qur'an reading and lookup.

The WOD App includes a Holy Qur'an browser, split-word translation, and other linguistic information on the Quranic verses. It delivers a 'word of the day' every day for the user to learn. It includes the functionality to provide a search of the entire Holy Qur'an both in English and in Arabic. The application also provides root search and all occurrences of a word.



Developments in Waqf-e-Ardi

A Drive by Khalifatul-Masih III

The drive for temporary dedication, called 'Waqf-e-Ardi' (Arabic pronunciation: 'Waqf-e-Ardi') was undertaken on special occasions during the time of Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd, Khalifatul-Masih II. Hazrat

Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih III, started the scheme of 'Ardi waqf' in May of 1966, later initiating Nizarat of Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an in May of 1969 and combining both under one Nizarat,

i.e., Nizarat-e-Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardi, in the same month. The same scheme of Waqf-e-Ardi continues to this day.

Khalifatul-Masih III states:

“The main purpose of the ‘*waqf-e-Ardi*’ drive is that members voluntarily and at their own expense

go to outlying Jamā’ats and conduct classes to teach the Holy Quran so that those members in turn become

examples for the world.” (Friday Sermon 28th March 1969; Printed in Al-Fazl, 14th May 1969)

Waqf-e-Ardi work in the United States

As mentioned earlier, in the USA, Ta’lim-ul-Qur’an department and Waqf-e-Ardi operated in parallel until 2005, when Khalifatul-Masih V, Mirza Masroor Ahmad, combined these departments into the single Department of ‘Ta’lim-ul Qur’an & Waqf-e-Ardi’ (TaQWA).

Initially, the Waqf-e-Ardi wing of the department was overseen by Khalid Asad. Khalid Asad served as the National Secretary Waqf-e-Ardi from 2005 to 2017. He accepted

Ahmadiyyat in 1978, converting from Judaism. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Mathematics and a master’s degree in Computer Science and works as an IT Architect supporting development of complex IT solutions for government and commercial clients.

Working with the National TaQWA Secretary, Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor, he established the mission of the Waqf-e-Ardi department to encourage and support increasing

levels of participation in the blessed Waqf-e-Ardi scheme across the United States.

In support of that mission, he built a team of 10 very dedicated volunteers from across the country, who spent countless hours helping to achieve the department’s goals. With the support of TaQWA department leadership they created a Waqf-e-Ardi website and integrated it into the Ahmadiyya.us portal.

Development of the Waqf-e-Ardi Application

By March 2012, a Waqf-e-Ardi application was created to streamline the process of identifying the needs and resources of the Waqf-e-Ardi scheme.

Saba Khan was the lead developer on the Waqf-e-Ardi application (as well as the Summer-Camp application and the TaQWA-One-Platform). She worked for the Department of TaQWA after receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin.

Saba Khan had officially joined

the Department of Ta’lim-ul-Qur’an in February 2011. She is the great-granddaughter of Ayesha Pathani and Maulvi Ghulam Rasool Afghan; the maternal granddaughter of Major Muslehuddin Ahmad Saeed Shaheed, (martyred in East Pakistan in 1971); and paternal granddaughter of Abdul Quddus Khan, Ameer Jamā’at of Peshawar and Provincial Ameer of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Waqf-e-Ardi application allowed users to register online. Through this application, devotees

could submit requests to devote their time and the local Jamā’at representatives could submit their needs for volunteers. The application was designed to facilitate matching devotees with needs of the Jamā’ats across the nation. A select number of Jamā’ats completed end-to-end testing and provided feedback. Updates were made to the application based on this user feedback. The application was successfully deployed for use in September 2012.

Development of Summer Camp Application and TaQWA-One-Platform

By April 2013, a Summer-Camp Application was developed providing registration for summer camps and other regional events and to gather attendance data. The Summer-Camp application was integrated with the Waqf-e-Ardi application to create the TaQWA-One-Platform. The Summer-Camp application provided the ability to collect additional data related to

specific events and allowed the user to choose and register from a list of events. The application passed the testing stage and was made available to the community under the TaQWA-One-Platform. The vision for TaQWA-One-Platform was to have a single platform where users could create their accounts once and use the various applications avoiding recreation of multiple accounts.

Based on registrations received through the Waqf-e-Ardi application, devotees were assigned to presidents and National Amla members for their short-term volunteer needs. In addition, the Waqf-e-Ardi application was leveraged for special outreach projects initiated by Khalifat-ul-Masih V.

Call for Bay Point Waqf

When Khalifatul-Masih V, Mirza Masroor Ahmad visited the US in May of 2013, Khalifatul-Masih V initiated a project to increase our

outreach efforts in the Bay Point Jamā’at. To support this project, the Ta’lim-ul-Qur’an & Waqf-e-Ardi Department requested members to

sign up for Waqf-e-Ardi in this region, especially those members who could speak Spanish, in order to better connect with the local

community.

Collecting 'Needs Profiles' from Local Chapters

In the 2nd Quarter of 2013, the Waqf-e-Ardi team worked in collaboration with regional TaQWA secretaries in getting local

presidents to submit their 'Needs Profiles,' based on which devotees were assigned to help in their Jamā'ats. In this process, 85% of all

local presidents were registered with the Waqf-e-Ardi Application.

The Month-Long LA County Fair

In 2014, in a month-long fair in Los Angeles (LA County Fair) which ran from 29th August to 28th September, the Jamā'at set up a Tabligh booth in one of the halls to distribute the Holy Qur'an and other

Islamic literature. Members from three LA chapters (LA – East, LA-Inland, and LA-West) manned the booth from 10 AM to 11 PM each day of the fair. A roster was maintained at Bait-ul Hameed Mosque, where

Ansar, Khuddam, and Lajna signed up for availability. Anis Chaudry from the Waqf-e-Ardi team manned the booth with support from others who had committed to devoting time at the Outreach Booth.

Increasing focus on Waqf-e-Ardi

In 2017, Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad nominated Syed

Nasir Ahmed as his assistant with the approval from Ameer, USA, to

dedicate more focused efforts towards Waqf-e-Ardi.

Spreading Awareness

To increase awareness of the Waqf-e-Ardi scheme and its online resources, the Waqf-e-Ardi team publishes articles in periodicals, runs booths at major events, and develops educational and motivational materials including flyers, computer presentations and audio/video presentations.

Waqf-e-Ardi Workshops are also helpful in creating awareness as they provide a more in-depth look into the various tasks which members can undertake while completing their Waqf. For example, in the first Waqf-e-Ardi workshop for the East Coast which took place on March 2nd 2019 at Bait-ul-Aafiyat Masjid in Philadelphia, workshops were simultaneously conducted on the topics of Holy Qur'an, Tabligh, Humanity First, and Office Work.



Waqf-e-Ardi Workshop underway

Waqf-e-Ardi—Moving Forward

The responsibility of National Secretary Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardi transferred from Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmed to Hafiz Mubarak Kukoyi in 2019, who is now advancing the work of Waqf-e-Ardi further, by the grace of Allah Ta'ālā.

Observing the exposure Waqf-e-Ardi has received among attendees in conferences and workshops, Hafiz's recommendation before Covid-19 took over the landscape

was to hold two back-to-back Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an Conferences at Bay Point and Silicon Valley Jamā'ats to highlight the Waqf-e-Ardi drive and encourage members to join. One challenge now is to assess new ways forward in this climate of travel precautions and social distancing protocols.

Another effort in increasing participation was focused on Ansar. With the cooperation of Qā'id Ta'limul-Qur'an and the approval of

Sadr Ansarullah, retired Ansar were motivated to sign up for Waqf-e-Ardi which would be physically and mentally beneficial to them as well by keeping them active and engaged.

The main challenge and the goal remain the same: To spread awareness about the Waqf-e-Ardi program among the members and motivate them to regularly participate in this blessed scheme.

How to join Waqf-e-Ardi and what to expect

Over the years, members of

Jamā'at USA have performed Waqf-

e-Ardi locally in the USA as well as in

other countries like Pakistan, Guatemala, the UK, and Mexico. Some Ahmadi American doctors offer their services through Humanity First and some serve directly in Pakistan, especially at Tahir Heart Institute in Rabwah.

Those interested in devoting time for Waqf-e-Ardi should apply on the TaQWA website

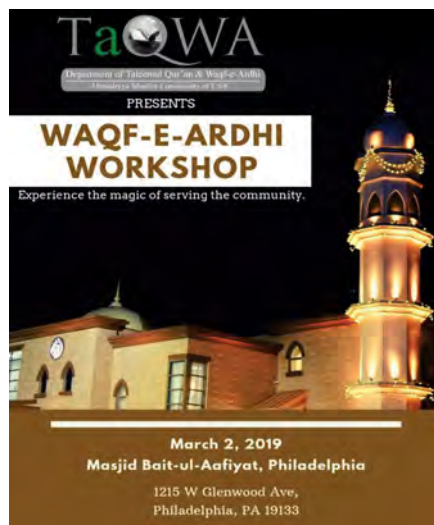
(www.altaqwa.us). Departments in need of Waqifeen can also request devotees through the same application. The required duration of waqf is a minimum of 3 days up to a maximum of 6 weeks.

Travel and food expenses must be covered by the devotee. Though at times, food may be provided depending on the location.

Accommodation is provided at the masjid or mission house. Members can complete the form and provide preference of where they want to go for waqf-e-Ardi. Lajna can perform waqf-e-Ardi locally. There may be exceptions if travelling with a permitted male relative and depending on facilities available at the host destination.



Why participate in Waqf-e-Ardi



Regular participation in Waqf-e-Ardi is imperative not only to propel the cause of Islam and Ahmadiyyat but also for our own spiritual progress as explained here:

“*Murabbis* and office holders and every Ahmadi should tell others to volunteer for ‘*Waqf-e-Ardi*.’ There is no doubt that this is a sacrifice and it is a difficult road, but there is also no doubt that we cannot receive Allah’s Grace without sacrifice.” (Khalifatul-Masih III, Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Friday

Sermon Al Fazl 27th August 1969)

In Friday Sermon of 4th June 2004, Khalifatul-Masih V, Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

“Every Ahmadi in the world should make it incumbent upon himself that he has to devote one or two weeks every year for this work.”

May Allah the Almighty spread the spirit of ‘waqf’ within the Jamā‘at more than ever before, resulting in a deluge of blessings associated with this noble endeavor. Ameen.

Other Noteworthy TaQWA Teams & Events

TaQWA’s Media Publication Team

This team is responsible for the social media messages posted on platforms such as WhatsApp,

Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. Amatus Shakoor (Shukri) Khan has been serving as the Lead for

Publication and Social Media Teams of TaQWA since 2013.

The Media team includes Shehla

Ahmad, Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Najia Muneer Tariq, Samia Waheed, Shaneen Upal, Asifa Kainat, Alia Muneer, Aansa Virk, Zoya Virk, Sehar Zaheer, Manahil Toor, and Attia Latif. Attia Latif passed away on June 22, 2020, fighting rapid onset of aggressive lung cancer **إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَأِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ**. Even in her last few weeks she accepted a new TaQWA responsibility from Naimah Ahmad who was unaware of her illness at that time. Attia told another member that she did not feel right refusing the assignment and so did not mention how unwell she had been feeling.

The Publication team is served by Awais Khaloon, Fareeha Haroon, Aansa, Zoya Virk, and Tariq Naseem

Shukri Khan has the honor of teaching the first Holy Quran translation and commentary class for Lajna. Her journey with the

TaQWA department began in 2008 as an Admin for Dr. Hameed Naseem's class. Because of her academic background and experience she was soon involved in various other tasks like graphic designing of Alfurqan banners and flyers, content/report writing, and creating PowerPoint presentations. She also designed the first Teachers' Certification Certificate.

She served as Alfurqan's Director of Publications from 2010 to 2012. She also serves in the Tabligh team for Baltimore Jamā'at and conducts interfaith presentations on current topics from the Holy Qur'an. Since 2005 she has intermittently served as Tabligh Secretary and Mu'āwina Sadr Media Watch for Lajna. She has served as general secretary for Baltimore Lajna and started the newsletters for Baltimore Lajna and the Baltimore

Jamā'at. She has also been serving as Secretary for Jalsa Salana Lajna Discipline Team since 2012.

Shukri Khan, daughter of Missionary Ali Haider Upal, learned the translation of the first six chapters of the Holy Quran from her maternal grandfather Mirza Muhammad Sharif (brother of Darvish-e-Qadian Mirza Muhammad Ibadullah) and was fortunate to take classes with Sayyida Apa Tahira Siddeeqa Nasir, wife of Khalifatul-Masih III and the late Dr. Nusrat Jahan. Her maternal great grandfather, Mian Ghulam Rasool Buddha, accepted Ahmadiyyat as a result of a divine dream. Her entire family, including her children Aysha Khan, Tirzah Khan and Sajeel Khan have contributed toward TaQWA services.

TaQWA Booths at Jalsa Salana



Jalsa Booth

Every year, at Jalsa Salana, TaQWA booths are set up to inform members about the services offered by the Department of Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardi. Banners with relevant quotations are prepared and installed. Small giveaways like bookmarks and magnets are prepared with related content to give as gifts to visitors.

Naveed Malik is the graphic artist rendering most of the concepts into images. However, active feedback provided by various members of the department is instrumental in successful completion of these projects which require carefully selected content along with guidance. Dedicated volunteers like Yasir Mirza, Tooba Mirza, and Maleeha Mannan have contributed toward the successful completion of the Jalsa booth magnetic giveaways, bookmarks, and banners with Qur'anic verses, hadith, and quotes of the Promised Messiah and

his Khulafa.



Jalsa Booth

The late Atiya Latif of Detroit will be remembered for the love and hard work she put into creating the two rotating Arabic alphabet cube displays that brought vibrancy and visual interest to the TaQWA booths the last two Jalsas.

Regarding Jalsa booths, Mohammad Azim Qureshi of York Jamā'at and his family (Ataul-Ghalib Minhas Ahmad, Zafar Zeeshan Minhas Ahmad, Hashim Ahmad Khan, Yasir Ahmad Khan, Farhan Mabroor Ahmad, Habib Qureshi, Farida Azim Ahmad, and Adeeba-Sadaf

Minhas Ahmad) have been instrumental in providing help with the setup. They have tirelessly worked to set up the booths, and then dismantle and pack everything and secure the materials for next year's event.

Two members of the Alfurqan team, Rafia Luqman and Aqsa Malik, have served at the TaQWA Jalsa booth at the women's side for many years, being a constant presence at the booth to welcome and assist visitors.

The UK Trip—A unique, blessed experience

By the grace of Allah, the Department of Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an and Waqf-e-Ardi USA traveled to the UK to meet Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V on the weekend of April 12th-14th,

2018. In addition to the National Team, Regional and Local Secretaries, as well as members of the Alfurqan team were also invited to the trip to London, UK. There

were 50 Lajna members and 35 men in attendance on this trip, who had all traveled at their own expense to visit Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V.

Meeting with Khalifatul-Masih V



By the grace of Allah, the team received the opportunity to meet with our beloved Imam, Khalifatul-Masih V, Mirza Masroor Ahmad (May Allah be his Helper) on April 13th, 2019. The meeting went very well, and everyone returned with their own set of cherished memories, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh!

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V emphasized that teachers should learn the translation of the Holy Qur'an and get certified. He further said that teachers with American accent should be identified so that they can teach American Ahmadiis. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V

appreciated Lajna's efforts and gave direction to teach mothers as well. He pointed out that those learned people who know Persian and Arabic and have immigrated to the USA, should be contacted for help and guidance. Khalifatul-Masih V emphasized the need to conduct regular Hifz-ul-Qur'an classes on a weekly basis.

Khalifatul-Masih V further instructed that male office holders should volunteer for Waqf-e-Ardi for a minimum of two weeks every year and should also focus on the teaching of the Holy Qur'an during that time.

During this meeting, Khalifatul-Masih V awarded medals to two Lajna members, Husna Maqbool Ahmad and Jamila Butt, on memorizing the entire Holy Quran through the Alfurqan Hifz-ul-Quran class taught under special Jāmi'a teacher.

Husna Maqbool Ahmad serves on various Jamā'at platforms. She is the Regional Sadr South and has been nominated for this service twice by National Sadr, Lajna Ima'illah USA. She also serves as editor of the national periodical Al-Nur. She holds a master's degree in English literature.



The Bus Tour

On this trip, the TaQWA group received the opportunity to visit both Bait-ul-Futūh and Masjid Fazl, offering salah behind the Khalifatul-Masih V. Majority of the members were accommodated in Masjid Bait-ul-Ihsan and enjoyed hospitality by the local Jamā'at. A bus was hired for a special Jāmi'a tour, a short visit to Islamabad (Tilford), as well as

opportunity for some London sightseeing.

During the visit to Islamabad, Tilford, the TaQWA group had the opportunity to pray by the graves of Khalifatul-Masih IV, Mirza Tahir Ahmad and his wife Asifa Begum. Members were also able to view Masjid Mubarak and Qasr-e-

Khilafat (residence of the Khalifatul-Masih) from outside, with ongoing construction.

This trip was a unique experience for all, filled with comradery, inspiration, and blessings. May the Almighty Allah aid the Khalifatul-Masih with His mighty support. Ameen.

Trip Organizers

Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad had designated Halim Muhammad Chaudhry as the Ameer-e-Qafila (group leader), Coordinator for the TaQWA UK Trip. Halim was then serving as Regional Secretary for the East Coast Region. He has served the Department of Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardi from 2005 to 2018, in various capacities including Local TaQWA Secretary Baltimore, Regional TaQWA Secretary HQ (N), TaQWA Coordinator for Eastern Region, and Assistant National TaQWA Secretary East Coast.

With an MA and MBA, Halim Chaudhry has professional expertise

in banking and linguistics. He currently is the President of Baltimore Chapter. His many other services for the Jamā'at include working as Secretary Waqf-e-Nau Baltimore, General Secretary Baltimore, Za'im Ansarullah Baltimore, Regional Nazim Ansarullah (HQ), Assistant Auditor Majlis Ansarullah USA, and Auditor Majlis Ansarullah USA.

Umar Tayyab Ahmad was appointed as Nā'ib Ameer-e-Qafila (assistant group leader) for this trip. Umar Ahmad joined the Department around 2014 and served as Local TaQWA secretary and Regional Secretary. He was then appointed as

Regional Secretary for the West Coast region. He is now serving as Liaison for the entire US Jamā'at. He hails from Rabwah, Pakistan, where he initiated his higher education in Ta'lim-ul-Islam College Rabwah, later earning his master's degree from University of the Punjab, Lahore. After his migration to the USA, he graduated with a master's degree in Engineering. He has served the Jamā'at in many other capacities, including local Ta'lim Secretary, local TaQWA secretary and he is currently also serving as the Property Secretary of Chicago Jamā'at.

Appointment of the Second National TaQWA Secretary

A new chapter began for the Department of Ta'lim-ul-Quran and Waqf-e-Ardi in 2019 when Respected Hafiz Mubarak Bola Kukoyi was elected as National Secretary for the Department and now serves in that position.



Hafiz Mubarak Bola Kukoyi

Hafiz Mubarak Bola Kukoyi was born in Nigeria into an Ahmadi family. He is married and blessed with three children. Hafiz has served as the Local Ta'lim Secretary (circular) and the Ta'lim-ul-Quran Secretary & Waqf-e-Ardi for the Chicago Chapter for the nine years preceding 2019. He has been teaching in Tahir Academy since its inception.

Hafiz Mubarak's father decided to send him to Hifz (Holy Qur'an Memorization) school after meeting in Makkah with Sahibzada Mirza Rafi Ahmad who was his friend and advised him to send one of his eleven sons to Rabwah for the Hifz program. His father instead decided to send two of his sons to make the sacrifice no less than 10% as he was a Musi. Hafiz's brother (Hafiz Abdul Quddus of Baltimore) joined the Hifz school two years after him.

Hafiz Kukoyi recalls his first meeting with Khalifatul-Masih III during the Nigerian delegate's meeting with Khalifatul-Masih III at Jalsa of 1976. When Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III was informed that the young boy was staying back for Hifz school, Khalifatul-Masih III told him that he should come to him should he need anything.

Hafiz Kukoyi says being the only black kid in Rabwah at that time was not easy for him. He was lonely, and homesick and would get beaten up by the other kids. Before leaving for Pakistan his mother had admonished him not to get into trouble as he was always getting into fights at school in Nigeria. So, he was surprised when he went and

reported the situation with the boys at school to Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III and his advice was to fight back. Hafiz recalls, after that he started doing well in Hifz class.

During his Hifz education in Rabwah, he would visit Qasr-e-Khilafat (residence of the Khalifatul-Masih) anytime he wished, especially on Fridays as most students went home, and would get Eid presents ('eidi') from Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III like all other kids in Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III's family. Hafiz mentions that he would go horseback riding with Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III, recalling his favorite horse 'Ashkar.' Hafiz fondly remembers that Mirza Tahir Ahmad (who was not a Khalifa then) was blessed with daughters and so would take him along to the farm like a son, and taught Hafiz how to shoot and how to fish.

After completion of Hifz, in 1981 Hafiz Mubarak Kukoyi left Pakistan at the age of 14, finishing his secondary education in Ahmadiyya Secondary School in northern Nigeria. Hafiz was studying medicine in Egypt's Einushams University in Cairo when political turmoil forced him to leave. He tried

to resume medicine in Greece, but they did not have sufficient seats for non-nationals, and so Hafiz studied Electrical Engineering and learned Greek. He lived in Montreal, Canada, for two years, serving majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya in sports,

and learned French.

Hafiz came to the USA in 1992. In 2006 he went to the Caribbean Island of St. Lucia to study Medicine, graduating in 2011. In 2016-17 he did postgraduate studies in Lagos

teaching hospital in Nigeria, and then returned to the USA. Having travelled and lived in so many countries, Hafiz speaks six languages including Urdu and Punjabi.



International students in Rabwah with Khalifatul-Masih III and Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad at Hifz Madrasa Rabwah. Sitting criss crossed on the ground at far right in first row, Hafiz Mubarak Kukoyi



While studying in Rabwah, a group picture with Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad. Among children sitting on the ground, Hafiz Mubarak Bola Kukoyi at far right, and Hafiz Fazle Rabbi at far left.

TaQWA Team Members

The Department of Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardi USA

Established in 2005 as a humble start with a National Secretary and his three assistants, the department is now extended to more than 70 chapters of the Jamā'at with over

300 dedicated volunteers. In addition to the Alfurqan Faculty, every chapter has TaQWA team under the 11 Regional Secretaries and the following core team

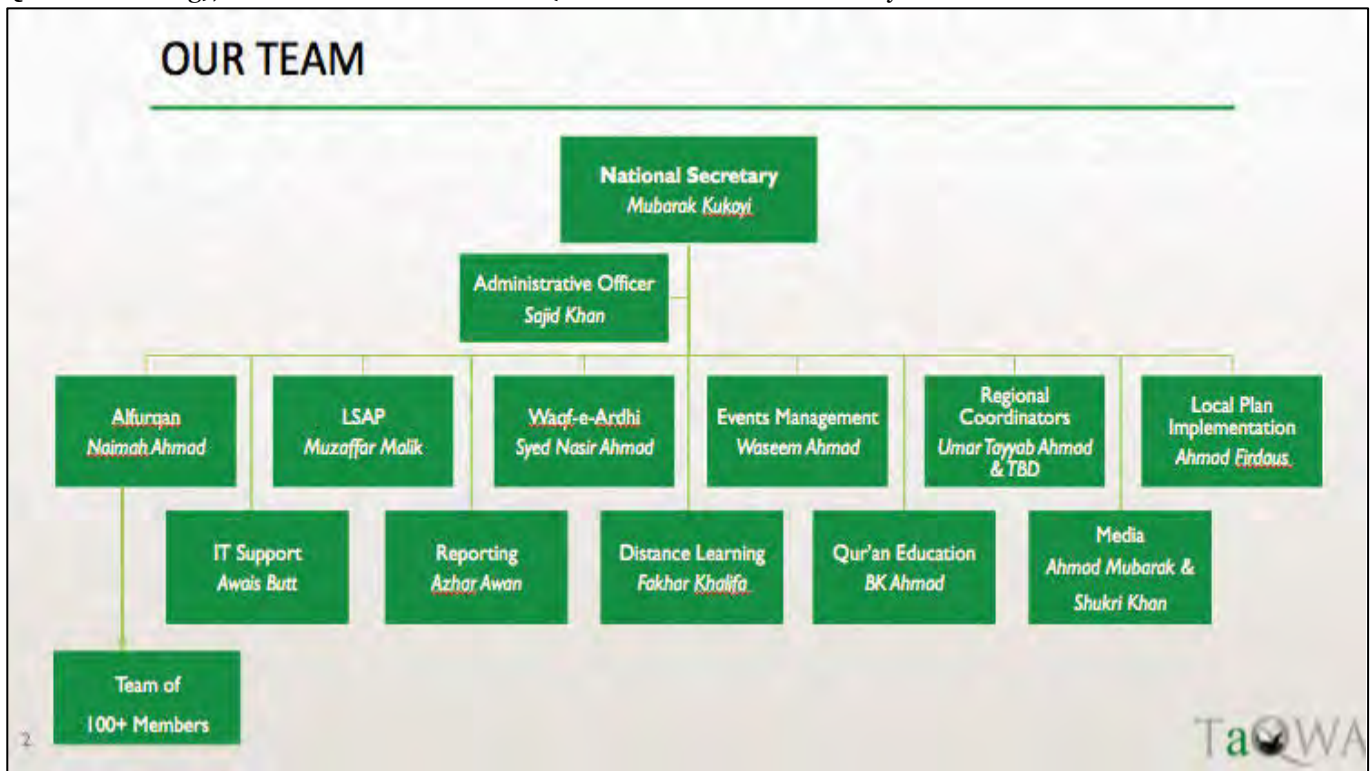
members supervising different departments within this larger organization.

National Team:

Hafiz Mubarak Bola Kukoyi (National Secretary TaQWA), Sajid Ahmad Khan (Assistant National Secretary), Waseem Ahmad (Assistant National Secretary National & Regional Events, Calendar), Syed Nasir Ahmad (Assistant National Secretary Waqf'e Ardi), Naimah Ahmad (Assistant National Secretary Alfurqan (Online Qur'an Learning), Muzaffar Ahmad

Malik (Assistance National Secretary LSAP and Finance), Ahmad Firdaus (Assistant National Secretary Local Plan Implementation and Local Qur'an Conferences), Ahmad Mubarak (Assistant National Secretary Media Team), Awais Butt (Assistant National Secretary IT), Nasir M Malik (Assistant National Secretary Hifz-ul-Qur'an), Azhar Awan (Assistant National Secretary

Reporting and Special Project), Fakhar Khalifa (Assistant National Secretary New Initiatives), Umar Tayyib Ahmad (Regional Secretary Western Regions & Liaison Eastern Regions), Halim Chaudhry (Former Regional Secretary East Coast Region), Dr. B. K. Ahmad (Assistant National Secretary Qur'an Education for men)



Regional Secretaries:

Fasih-ul-Mulk (Regional Secretary, HQ-South), Mudassar Khalid (Regional Secretary, HQ-North), Maghfoor Ahmad (Regional Secretary, New York Metropolitan), Naeemullah (Regional Secretary,

Central-East), Naseeruddin Mahmood (Regional Secretary, North-East), Nafis Rehman (Regional Secretary, South-East), Naseem Ahmed (Regional Secretary, East-Mid West), Tareq M. Malas

(Regional Secretary, North-West), Anwar Rafiq (Regional Secretary, South), Khalid Ahmed (Regional Secretary, South-West), Muhammad Shafiq Qaiser (Regional Secretary, West-Mid West)

Alfurqan Faculty:

The Alfurqan faculty is a group of multi-talented and devoted members who not only teach but give extra time for the tedious task of

providing data for the monthly and quarterly reports, helping TaQWA maintain an accurate student count. Most of these teachers are Lajna

members with responsibilities of their own households, Jamā'at work, and at times full or part time employment.

Some of the Scholars & Teacher Trainers of the Alfurqan Faculty

Syed Lutful Mannan, affiliated with Alfurqan since 2010, is among its long-standing scholars, teaching advanced translation and commentary of the Holy Qur'an. These classes have taken the form of study circles due to great interest shown by Jamā'at members from all over the USA.

Syed Lutful Mannan holds degrees in Engineering and English Literature. Pursuing personal interests, he has studied literature from various languages while working in the telecommunications industry for 38 years in Africa. He is devoted to the in-depth study of the Holy Qur'an through various commentaries and through the writings of the Promised Messiah.

Professor Hameed Naseem is another distinguished member of the faculty who teaches several Holy Qur'an translation and commentary classes.

Hamid Naseem learned the translation and comprehension of the Holy Qur'an through various religious study teachers in Ta'limul Islam High School and took lessons in Arabic grammar from 'Abd-ur-Rahman Jatt in Qadian. He studied Arabic at the King Fahd Center for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at the University of Arkansas where he completed a three-year program in classical Arabic grammar and pre-Islamic poetry.

Professor Hameed Naseem attained his M.Sc. (Hons.) degree in Physics before joining VA Tech for his Ph.D. in Engineering Science. He has been teaching at the University of Arkansas for over 30 years where he holds the rank of Professor of

Electrical Engineering. His research specialization is in solar cells.

Mirza Mahmood Ahmad teaches Qā'ida Yssanal-Qur'an and Holy Qur'an Nazirah (simply how to read Arabic) to children. He has served as a missionary in Pakistan, as a teacher/missionary in Uganda, as a missionary in Kenya, United Kingdom and the USA. Mirza Mahmood Ahmad currently is the Secretary Tabligh and Secretary Ta'limul-Quran & Waqf-e-Ardi for the Columbus, Ohio, Chapter.

Dr. Chairul Bahri, a member of Alfurqan faculty since 2009, completed his Ph.D. in Physics with a minor in Computer Science from Louisiana State University in 1994. He has been teaching the Holy Quran since his high school in Jakarta, Indonesia. He authored a book "Pelajaran Bahasa Arab" ('Lesson on the Arabic Language'), published by Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya Kebayoran, Indonesia, in 1981. He used this book in class to teach Arabic to Khuddam. He has taught religious knowledge and the Holy Qur'an in Indonesia, Canada, and the United States and has been a teacher for the Waqf-e-Nau blog talk radio since 2009. He served in Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya Indonesia, first as Nazim Ta'lim at local Majlis Kebayoran and later as National Muhtamim Ta'lim. In Canada, he served as Muhtamim Ta'lim, Muhtamim Atfāl, and Regional Qā'id in Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya Canada. Currently, he is serving as President of Georgia-Carolina Jamā'at.

Dr. Bashiruddin Khalil Ahmad, a certified Alfurqan Teacher and Male

Faculty Lead, is a neurologist by profession. He has served the Jamā'at in various capacities over the last 40 years. He was the president of Detroit Jamā'at from 1990-2000 and has also served as Assistant National Secretary Rishta Naata. Presently he is the Detroit Local Ta'lim and Ta'lim-ul-Quran Secretary and Assistant National Secretary Qur'an Education in the Ta'lim-ul-Quran department, and currently teaching Qā'ida Yssarnal-Quran to converts, Khuddam and Ansar.

Hajja Dr. Amtul Rehman Ahmad has been a part of the Alfurqan faculty since 2010, teaching courses in Holy Qur'an recitation (Tajweed/Tarteel) and translation with Arabic grammar, both in Urdu and English. She also teaches Holy Qur'an commentary.

A pediatrician by profession, Dr. Amtul Rehman also is National Ta'lim Secretary Lajna Imaillah USA and Sadr Lajna Phoenix AZ.

She has taken courses in Holy Qur'an translation and commentary in the past and continues to update her knowledge by joining the more recent Alfurqan classes in translation and recitation held under Jāmi'a professors. She has also worked with her father on his Arabic book "The First Step in Arabic Grammar."

Nusrat Shareef Ahmad has been teaching the Holy Qur'an to her siblings and cousins since she was 12 and has been a part of the Alfurqan faculty since 2008. She has been a teacher of many Alfurqan teachers. She is one of the three members nominated for the Exam Board that

conducts Teachers' Certification evaluations.

Nusrat Ahmad has a passion for learning the Holy Qur'an and has engaged in extensive independent study to learn more about the rules of recitation (Tajweed/Tarteel). Her knowledge of the Holy Qur'an translation from the Alfurqan courses she has taken further enhances her guidance in recitation.

Nurjamilah Bahri, a faculty member of Alfurqan since 2009, graduated from a 4-year program from Jami'a Ahmadiyya Indonesia in 1987. She has been teaching the Holy Quran since her teenage years and has taught in Indonesia, Canada, and the United States. She has been serving as Sadr Lajna of Chicago West and later Bloomington Jama'at. Currently, she serves as the National Secretary of Nāsirāt.

Rashida Momin Hamid has been serving the Holy Qur'an for many years. She has taught how to read the Holy Quran to more than 100 children, including some non-Ahmadi children of the New York area. She has been asked to proofread text of the Holy Qur'an meant for publication by non-Ahmadi bookstores/publishing houses?

Her education has been from Rabwah. Once, after passing her

10th grade exam, her mother took her to visit Amat-ul-Hafeez Begum, daughter of Nawwab Mubaraka Begum. Amat-ul-Hafeez Begum advised her to continue reading the Holy Qur'an and to keep Qā'ida Yassarnal-Qur'an with her copy of the Holy Qur'an for reference if she forgot any rule. Amat-ul-Hafeez showed Rashida Hamid her own copy of the Holy Qur'an which had a copy of the Qā'ida Yassarnal-Quran in it. Rashida Hamid has been nominated as one of the three Exam Board members for the evaluation of certified teachers.

Azra Naheed Ahmad has been affiliated with Alfurqan since 2011. She has a master's degree in Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She started taking recitation and translation courses on Alfurqan because of her love for the Holy Qur'an. Despite initially feeling skeptical of her abilities, her passion to learn the Holy Qur'an coupled with encouragement by the Jāmi'a professor teaching the translation class, led her on the path of extensive independent studies in Arabic grammar. Al-Hamdu Lillāh, she now teaches tajweed and tarteel recitation courses as well as multi-level classes in the grammatical analysis of the Holy Quran. Azra can also provide instructions in Pushto,

in addition to Urdu and English.

Tayyeba Hina, a certified medical assistant from South Virginia Jama'at, received her Alfurqan Teacher's Certification in 2015 and has been teaching since. Currently, 26 of her students are also certified teachers. Her maternal grandfather, Siraj-ud-Din, was a Dervish-e-Qadian and had the honor of calling out the first adhan at Manarat-ul-Masih.

Zahida Rehman Durani has a master's degree in Computer Science and received her Alfurqan Teachers' Certification in 2015. Thirteen of her students are now also certified Alfurqan teachers. She is the paternal and maternal great-granddaughter of Mian Roshan Deen, a companion of the Promised Messiah, and the paternal granddaughter of Darvesh-i-Qadian Fazl-ur-Rahman.

These are just a few notable mentions for the sake of an introduction to the Alfurqan Faculty. The list of teachers who offer their time to teach the Holy Qur'an is very long. Some of these teachers also serve as Tahir Academy principals, and most Alfurqan certified teachers give their time every week as Holy Qur'an teachers to Tahir Academy children of all levels.

Other Alfurqan Certified Teachers

Teaching since 2006: Nusrat Ahmad. **Teaching since 2008:** Naimah Ahmad. **Teaching since 2009:** Ikha Mansoorah. **Teaching since 2010:** Amatul Kafi Malik, Amatul Mateen Ahmad, Amtul Rehman Ahmad, Bushra Jamil, Husna Maqbool, Nosheen Tehmina, NurJamila Bahri, Quratul Ain Rafiq, Salima Ahmad, SHAHIDA NASAR (REGIONAL LEAD), Umerana Malik. **Teaching since 2011:** Aisha Sial, Amatulhamid Munira, Amna Ahmad, Bushra Zartash Malik, Bushra Zulfiqar, Dr. Sarwar Jehan.

Fahmida Hanan, MAQSOODA VIRK (REGIONAL LEAD), Namooode Saher Khan, Nighat Nasreen Ghani, Rashida Momin Hamid, Sadiqa Hayee, Samina Noor, Shazia Cheema, UZMA WAQAR (REGIONAL LEAD). **Teaching since 2012:** Amatul Noor Tahir, Anjum Qureshi, Aroosha Sadaf, Faiza Nauman, Mubashara Ahmad, NAEEMA MAHMOOD (REGIONAL LEAD), Qudisia Shafaq Lone, Rehana Shaheen Muhammad, Sadia Roofi, Safeta Cerimovic, Shahma Malik, Sobia Laiq, Yasmeen Nadeem.

Teaching since 2013: Ailia Shahid, Aysha Jadran, Fazilat Malik, Mubarka Shamas, Mubashira Bhatti, Mubashra Qadeer, Noushaba Butt. **Teaching since 2014:** Asma Nazir, Atika Virk, Azra Ahmad, Bushra Nazir, Jamila Butt, Mubarka Sayed, Nadia Siddiqua, Quratul Ain Mirza, Rubina Rafi, Sabiha Qureshi, SADAF ALI (REGIONAL LEAD), Sadia Choudhry, Shahida Tanwir. **Teaching since 2015:** Attiya Ghani, Bushra Monawar, Hamida Aziz, Iram Nosheen, Iram Zafar, Shabanam Ahmed, Shamsuda

Begum, Tayyeba Hina, Zahida Rehman, Zoha Moosa Raza.

Teaching since 2016: Ayesha Toseef, Farasat Tahir, Maryam Bhatti, Musawwara Jabeen, Nasreen Akhtar, Nuzhat, Tahir Chaudhry, Zakia Shah. **Teaching since 2017:** Amatul Jamil, Dr. Amatul Mujeeb, Fauzia Bukhari, FAUZIA SHAHID (REGIONAL LEAD), Hibba tul Momin, Huma Mubashara, Humera Malik, Naila Mubashir, Nasira Imran, NUSRAT MUNIR (REGIONAL LEAD), Rizwana

Mahmood, Saira Mansoor, Samina Mansoor, Shama Nusrat, Tahira Abaidullah. **Teaching since 2018:** Anila Sadiq, Aqila Sadiq, Asifa Kainat, Farhat Razzaq, Maliha Ahmed, Misbah Afzal, Nazia Moeed Khan, Qurat-ul-Ain Ahmed.

Teaching since 2019: Anem Aqeel Haider, Angelina Rohana Tucker, Kalsoom Ijaz, Mansoor Chaudhry, Maria Kanwal Qureshi, Rabia Ehsaan, Sabahat Azhair, Sadia Nasir, Sajida Qamer, Shamaila Butt, Sobia Jamil. **Teaching since March**

2020: Amtul Hameed Faizan, Amtul Hayee Mubashar, Ansa Munawar, Asma Rehman, Faiza Cheema, Khola Nusrat, Maryam Siddiq, Maryem Chaudhri, Mobeen Akhtar, Razia Salik Bhatia, Sadia Fatehuddin, Saleha Dawood, Shahida Parveen, Shazia Kanwal, Shymaila Manshad, T Farah Ahmad, Tahira Bushra, Tahmina Ahmed. (Very few of the certified teachers are not able to serve actively due to their domestic engagements.)

Alfurqan Male Faculty members

Teaching since 2006: Mirza Mahmood Ahmad. **Taught 2006-2011, and since 2019:** Fakhar Ahmad Khalifa. **Teaching since 2009:** Umair Ahmed, Dr. Hameed Naseem, Syed Lutful Mannan, Dr. Chairul Bahri.

Teaching since 2010: Dr. Naeemullah. **Taught 2010-2012, and since 2019:** Qudratullah Ayaz. **Teaching since 2013:** Abdur Rauf Rafiq. **Teaching since 2019:** Dr. B K Ahmad (MALE FACULTY LEAD),

Hafiz Maghfoor Ahmad (Regional TaQWA Secretary). **Teaching since 2020:** Pir Tayyab (Local TaQWA Secretary). **Translation classes in 2016:** Missionary Irshad Malhi, Missionary Rizwan Khan.



BELOVED HUZOOR'S PRAYERS



 تَحِيَّةٌ وَتَسْلِيمٌ عَلَى رَسُولِ الْكَرِيمِ وَعَلَى عِيَالِهِ السَّامِعَةُ لِمَقْرُونَةٍ
 عَالَمَةٍ كَيْفَ تَقُولُ فِي رَجَاءِ مَاتِهِ
 هُوَ الْتَمَسْنَا سِرًّا
 حَمْدًا
 18/11/11

محرم نعیم احمد صاحبہ
 السلام علیکم ورحمۃ اللہ وبرکاتہ
 آپ کا خط ملا۔ قرآن کریم کی کاغذ کے اجراء کا کام بہت باہرکت ہے۔ اللہ آپ کی
 نیک کاوشوں کے باہرکت مانگا پیدا فرمائے اور مشعل مزہبی کے ساتھ اس سلسلہ کو جاری رکھنے
 اور مزید بڑھانے کی توفیق عطا فرمائے۔ اللہ آپ کو اور اس سلسلہ میں خدمت کی توفیق پائے
 والوں کو ان کی خدمات کی بہترین جزا دے اور سب کو اپنے نفعوں سے نوازے۔ آمین

والسلام
 خاکسار
 قزاق سید
 خلیفۃ المسیح الخامس



Prayers of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V for Workers of Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V, responding to a letter by Naimah Ahmad regarding Alfurqan, prayed for all those involved in helping teach the Holy Qur'an in the following words:

Alfurqan.us

Alfurqan.us is a Holy Qur'an distance learning service running under the Department of Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an & Waqf-e-Ardi, USA, to teach

How Alfurqan started

In 2005, respected Fakhar Ahmad Khalifa started a telephone conference call service for Jamā'at members in Silicon Valley, California, to teach the translation of the Holy Qur'an. Its purpose was to include those members who, due to long commute, could not participate in the classes held at the mosque. Soon, this telephone conference class was joined by Jamā'at members living in the east coast as well. To facilitate this class, a special telephone conferencing system was installed in the Bait-ul-Baseer Mosque, integrated with the mosque's PA system.

Soon after, it was realized that there was a much greater need for

“Your letter was received. Initiating Holy Qur'an classes is a very blessed endeavor. May Allah bless your good works with fruitful results and may He grant the capacity to continue this work with

Holy Qur'an nazirah (reading without learning meaning), recitation, translation, and memorization to men, women, and

long distance learning in Jamā'at USA, and so, with guidance from National Secretary Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an and Waqf-e-Ardi, respected Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad, a team was designated to develop an online

learning solution for the US Jamā'at. The project was named Al-Furqan and a website was registered with the domain name alfurqan.us.

The present day Alfurqan has grown out from the initial seeds planted by those humble efforts to teach the Holy Qur'an via conference calls from the Bait-ul-Baseer Mosque. Today, about 100 female and eight male teachers, including respected faculty members from

perseverance and to increase it further. May Allah grant you and others who are serving in this cause with the best of rewards for their services and may He shower his blessings on all. Ameen.”

children of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya, USA.

Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya, Rabwah, are conducting both, group and one-on-one online classes, for students across the USA.

In 2017 the Alfurqan website was transitioned to a new and enhanced portal. Under the continued guidance and prayers of Khalifat-ul-Masih, Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih al-Khamis, efforts are continually being made to improve the class offerings and make the services more accessible to members.

Contact Information:

Website: www.alfurqan.us

Email: [Alfurqan.taqwa@gmail](mailto:Alfurqan.taqwa@gmail.com)

Admin Support: 210.883.6404



Audience at the 1992 Annual Convention USA.

تحريك جديد — Tahrik Jadid

Allah the Merciful states in the Holy Quran:

وَلَلْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لَّكَ مِنَ الْأُولَىٰ

that, “Surely, every hour that follows is better for thee than the one that precedes.” (93:5)

This prophetic verse continues to manifest ever since and has never ceased to advance the cause of Muhammad, the Chosen, to this day against all odds and the severest of opposition. In the Modern age, it has taken a new accelerated pace with the advent of Ahmad, may peace be upon him, who was given the glad tidings: I have no DNA of failure in my nature. On a continuum of this great prophecy adds this forecast of success, “I shall reach thy cause to the corners of the earth.” This revelation has two aspects: a) The message of Islam will engulf the world. And the more important aspect is the word “I,” as was declared by Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV at the Annual Convention of the Ahmadiyya Community in Canada in 1991. This preposition, I, carries a great message, and that is, IT is ALLAH and ALLAH alone who

would make this happen.

The success of Divine organizations and the satanic opposition goes hand in hand, but the Divine organizations see their triumph. About eight to nine decades ago, Jamā'at Ahmadiyya was confronted with similar onslaught of opponents.

Leading this opposition was a group called Majlis-e-Ahrar-e-Islam, a separatist Muslim movement. 'Ataullah Shah Bokhari, the then leader of this group, asserted that his organization would annihilate the Jamā'at and its members. He even proclaimed that not a single person would be left who would even remember the name of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the founder of Ahmadiyya community.

While these venomous attacks were being laid on Jamā'at, Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II prayed fervently to Allah for His guidance and succor. These prayers were accepted by Allah, the Merciful, and He revealed a scheme to our beloved Imam who relayed it in three consecutive Friday sermons to the

members. In the first sermon, he simply urged the members to make up their differences between each other and report to him by midnight that evening that all members were then without any squabbles and had made up. In the next two sermons, he presented a new scheme famously known as Tahrik-e-Jadid (the new movement/scheme).

The scheme consists of nineteen demands in all. Its main features are:

- 1) Simple living and observance of thrift in every walk of life,
- 2) subscription towards permanent fund of the scheme and
- 3) participation in missionary ventures of the movement by dedicating one's life for a period that suits one's circumstances.

The scope of this scheme was to maximize savings by individuals by adopting frugal lifestyles and sacrificing in the way of Allah. This scheme gave rise to a full branch of the Jamā'at system and is presently responsible for all the foreign missions throughout the world.

Worldwide Accomplishments of Tahrik-e-Jadid

A Statistical Outlook: Mosques/mision Houses/Schools/Hospitals

Number of countries where Jamā'at has been introduced = 206

Number of the Mosques in the World: = Over 16,000

Mission Houses: = 2,808

Printing Press: = Eight

Radio Stations: = 16

Schools Primary and Secondary: = 681 in 12 countries

Solar Energy Installations: = 210

Number of Water Pumps in operation: = 1,200

Translations of the Holy Quran: = 72 Languages

No. of Missionaries in the field: = 1,800

Number of Hospitals in operation: = 41

وقف جدید — Waqf Jadīd

As we are commemorating the one hundred years anniversary of Ahmadiyyat in America, I am going to give a report on the role the Waqf-e-Jadīd Scheme played in this historical event. Before we embark on the role the Waqf Jadīd scheme played in this historical event, let us look at the background of the Waqf-e-Jadīd Scheme, how it came about.

Background

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V gave a brief insight into the historical perspective of the Waqf-e-Jadīd (New Devotion) Scheme. The Scheme was started in 1957 by Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd, only for the Ahmadīs of Pakistan for two specific purposes. He made Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, later to be Khalifatul-Masih IV, a member of the scheme and specifically instructed him to focus on, firstly the moral training and propagation of Islam among the rural areas of Pakistan. Secondly, he instructed to concentrate on taking Islam to the Hindu community in the Sind province of Pakistan. In his initial assessment, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad discovered that religious awareness in the rural areas of Pakistan was in dire state.

The initiative to train and then send mu'allims (teachers/tutors) to the rural parts of Pakistan to accomplish the objectives of the scheme was started. This was an arduous task which was achieved by making huge sacrifices.

Speaking of the early mu'allims (teachers), who went into the rural parts of Pakistan, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V said that they carried medicines with them for their own use as well as for the people they met. Nowadays, there are mobile

dispensaries, and many doctors also visit. The Ahmadīs of Pakistan have made enormous sacrifices for this scheme for the moral training and outreach in the remote areas and continue to do so. The task has greatly expanded by now. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V gave this brief introduction aiming it at younger people as well as those who have come into the Community recently.

The Jamā'at in Pakistan is now self-sufficient; however in 1985 this scheme was extended to the whole world by Khalifatul-Masih IV so that with the help of everyone's contribution, in particular of the Jamā'ats in Western countries, the work of Waqf-e-Jadīd could be set in motion in India. Khalifatul-Masih IV had expressed grave concern over some anti-Ahmadiyya movement within India at the time and decided to counter it by the implementation of Waqf-e-Jadīd Scheme there.

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V said that as we all know that the Community is progressing at a great speed. As a result of this progress, our needs are increasing as well. With the Grace of Allah, people of the Community are also being blessed individually. Therefore, as ever, we need to be mindful of financial sacrifices so that we may help the financially weak Jamā'ats. The Jamā'at in India as well as those in Africa, make endeavors but they need the help of Jamā'ats of countries with strong economies.

History in the US

With that background of the Blessed Waqf-e-Jadīd Scheme, I will now give a history of the Waqf-e-Jadīd Scheme in America.

As the Ahmadiyya Movement in

America started enjoying some financial independence, the then acting Ameer of the USA, respected Sahibzada M.M. Ahmad, proposed to Khalifatul-Masih IV that the US pick the Waqf-e-Jadīd Scheme to compete in the world in terms of financial sacrifices to which Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV readily agreed. In the later 1980s when the USA took on the responsibility to compete on the worldwide stage, US had collected only \$27,000 for Waqf-e-Jadīd. Sahibzada M.M Ahmad made a vow that the USA would excel in this scheme in the world. Under the leadership of respected Anwer Mahmood Khan, Secretary Waqf-e-Jadīd USA at the time, the Jamā'at went from \$27,000 the first year to \$87,180.00, and stood first in the world that first year, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh.

After a few years, respected Waseem Sayed, Ph.D., was elected Secretary Waqf-e-Jadīd. Under respected Dr. Waseem Sayed, the Waqf-e-Jadīd scheme continued to expand, and in fact held number one position at international level more than twice and continued to be in the top three countries worldwide in donations, maintaining collections amounting to \$1.6 million a year in USA to date.

With the hard work of the Waqf-e-Jadīd secretaries and the sacrifices of the Jamā'at members, we are praying that more members will join the ranks of those who have come forward making the sacrifices, after hearing the calling of our beloved Khalifatul-Masih, so that America can go down in history as one of the country that had made great sacrifices for Jamā'at Ahmadiyya.

Tarbiyat and Waqf Jadīd Nau Muba’i’in for New Ahmadis

“I have dedicated the whole of my life... not to confine the spread of the light of truth to the oriental world but, as far as it lies in my power, to further it in Europe, America, ... where the attention of the people has not sufficiently attracted towards proper understanding of the teachings of Islam.” (Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Letter to Alexander Russel Webb, April 4, 1887)

In 1901, Mirza Hasan F. L. Ahmad Anderson from New York City became the first American to accept Ahmadiyyat through correspondence with Mufti M. Sadiq



Dr. Sadiq reached Philadelphia on February 15, 1920 and set up his first mission center in New York City in April 1920.



By the end of May 1920, he had made twelve new converts to the

Ahmadiyya Movement, including Mrs. S. W. Sobolewski, who was the first American woman to accept Ahmadiyyat in fulfillment of a prior dream.

In September 1923, Sadiq left the United States for India. He was replaced by Muhammad Din, another missionary to the Community. During his three years, Sadiq had converted over one thousand Americans to Islam. Between 1921 and 1925, there were 1,025 converts to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, many of whom were African American from Chicago and Detroit. By the 1940s, the Ahmadiyya movement had between 5,000 and 10,000 members in the United States. By the 1980s, there were roughly 10,000 Ahmadi Muslims in the country, of whom 60% were African Americans. The remainder consisted of immigrant populations from Pakistan, India and the African continent. Today, there are roughly 15,000 to 20,000 Ahmadi Muslims across the country. Although Ahmadi Muslims have a presence across most United States, sizeable communities exist in New York City, Chicago, Texas, Maryland Virginia, Detroit, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and in Dayton, Ohio.



Mirza Munawar Ahmad



Abdul Ghafoor Soofi

Ahmadi Missionaries played and play a key role in training of new members. Some key pioneer American Missionaries: Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, Maulawi

Muhammad Din, Sufi Mutiur-Rahman Bengalee, Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir, Muhammad Yusuf Khan (honorary missionary), Ghulam Yasin Khan, Mirza Munawar Ahmad, Abdul Qadir Zaigham, Syed Jawad Ali Shah, Nur-ul-Haq Anwar, Aminullah Khan Salik, Nafis-ur-Rahman A.G. Soofi, Abd-ur-Rahman Khan Bengalee, Ata Ullah Kaleem, Syed Mir Mahmood Ahmad Nasir, Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad.

Many more served in early days and many continue to serve the cause until today. May Allah bless them all for their service.

Recent National Additional Secretary Waqf-e-Jadīd/Tarbiyat Nau Mubaeen include

Dr. Basiyr Rodney, Saint Louis
Abu Bakr Bin Saeed, Milwaukee
Abdur-Rahim Latif, New Jersey*

The department works to welcome, acclimate members to system of Jamā’at and facilitate their training through various programs for the first three years.

In keeping with these aims, the department welcomes, arranges local and national events, programs, classes for new members, facilitates participation in National Jalsas and Ijtimas, coordinates annual delegation to UK Jalsa Salana and meeting with Khalifat-ul-Masih.

Current stats and demographics

392 American joined Ahmadiyyat within last 3 years.

Ethnicities of new members span

- Afghani
- African-American
- African-Gambian
- African-Liberian
- Albanian
- Arab

- Asian
- Bangla
- Belizean
- Caucasian
- Croatian
- Filipino
- Haitian
- Indian
- Jamaican
- Latino
- Lithuanian
- Native American
- Nepali
- Nigerian
- Pacific Islanders
- Pakistani
- Russian
- Samoan
- Sri-Lankan
- Trinidadian/Guyanese
- Turkish
- Vietnamese

On the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at Centennial in 2020, Khalifat-ul-Masih V wrote in his message:

Assalamo Alaikum wa

Rehmatullah.

You have requested for a message to Jamā'at-e-Ahmadiyya USA, expressing gratitude to Allah on the completion of 100 years, and to celebrate the Centennial of the USA Jamā'at.

Exactly 100 years ago today, on February 15, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq arrived there with the message of the Promised Messiah and the spirit and enthusiasm with which he worked, and many virtuous souls entered the fold of Islam Ahmadiyyat, unfortunately their progenies went far away from Ahmadiyyat, and the Jamā'at could not retain them. With this background, therefore, my first message is that with the same spirit and enthusiasm, using all your faculties, you should get involve today once again in giving the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat to the people of America. And secondly, you should find and bring back the lost generations of those virtuous souls that we could not retain earlier. We should connect with them and bring them back in the lap of Ahmadiyyat, as I have already asked

you during one of my visits, after watching the pictures of the earlier converts in an exhibition.

Therefore, these Centennial days should not be just to celebrate the past 100 years, but these should be to devote yourself in spreading the teaching and preaching of Ahmadiyyat with a renewed vigor and fervor. These days should be used to regenerate the dynamism and the spirit of Mufti Muhammad Sadiq to find the righteous souls, so that as the Jamā'at expands here, in the same way their moral and spiritual training is also taken care.

May Allah grant you the ability to do so, and may Allah grant you the strength and determination to achieve this as one united Jamā'at all together, so that very soon this country comes in the fold of Islam Ahmadiyyat and it is enlightened in the light of Allah and His Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be on him).

May Allah have mercy on us and enable us all to fulfill these aims in best and most beautiful manner.



Exhibition and bookstall at the 1992 USA Annual Convention

جايداد—Property—Ja'idad

يُبْنِيْ اٰدَمَ حُدُوًا زَيَّنْتُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَكُلُوْا وَاشْرَبُوْا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوْا ۗ اِنَّهٗ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِيْنَ

O children of Adam! look to your adornment at every time and place of worship and eat and drink but exceed not the bounds; surely, He does not love those who exceed the bounds.7[Al-A'rāf]:32

مَنْ بَنَى مَسْجِدًا يَبْتَغِيْ بِهٖ وَجْهَ اللّٰهِ، بَنَى اللّٰهُ لَهٗ مِثْلَهٗ فِي الْجَنَّةِ

One who builds a mosque seeking pleasure of Allah, Allah makes a similar one for him in paradise.

(Bukhari. Book on Salat)

وسع مكانك

Expand your house. (Tadhkirah)

Note: Dates are based on differing parameters and therefore they may appear different in different listings.

Summary Listing of AMC Properties: 1922-2016

Prepared by Daud Ahmad, Former National Property Secretary USA

Year	Transaction	Type	Remarks
1922	Chicago, IL (Al-Sadiq Mosque) Residence converted to Mission House (Mission House)	Existing Building	First Ahmadiyya Mission House in USA
1949	Washington, DC (Fazl Mosque) Residence converted to Mission House	Existing Building	Served as National HQ during 1949-94.
1950	Pittsburgh, PA Small residence.	Existing Building	Donated by a Local Ahmadi.
1952	Dayton, OH residential plot. First ground up Ahmadiyya Mosque constructed here in 1972.	Existing Building	
1972	Saint Louis MO residence used as Mission House.	Existing Building	
1975	Baltimore, MD Residential unit. Donated by a local Ahmadi. Adjacent house acquired in 2004.	Existing Building	Properties disposed later.
1980	Detroit, MI (Bait-ul-Muzaffar)	Existing Building	Gutted in arson, rebuilt in 1985. Being rebuilt again.
1982	Willingboro, NJ 2.5-acre lot + building	Existing Building	
1982	Philadelphia, PA (Nasir Mosque).	Existing building	Residential building,
1983	York, PA Commercial unit	Existing Building	Later disposed.
1984	Zion, IL, 2 lots with a residential building	Existing Building	(Zion Mosque)
1984	Milwaukee, WI (Bait-ul-Qadir)	Existing Building	Commercial building
1984	Detroit, MI 7-acre lot in Troy.	Land parcel	Detroit lot part of 5-Mosque scheme, later acquired by City.
1985	Sharon, MA (Boston) Two 1-acre residential lots donated.	Land parcel	Part of Qādiān Village., developed by Ahmadi family.
1985	Glenn Ellyn, Chicago IL 5-acre lot	Land parcel	Chino, Chicago and Queens parts of 5-Mosques Scheme.
1985	New Orleans, LA Res. Building	Existing Bldgs	Used as Mission House
1985	Queens, NY School Building	Existing building	Chino, Chicago and Queens parts of 5-Mosques Scheme.
1985	Tucson, AZ Yousuf Mosque. later demolished as part of land acquired by City.	New Mosques	Yousuf Mosque donated. Rebuilt on reduced lot later
1985	Chino. CA/ LA 5-acre lot	Land parcel	Chino, Chicago and Queens parts of 5-Mosques Scheme.
1986	Cleveland. OH, (Bait-ul-Ahad) Church building	Existing building	
1986	Silver Spring, MD 9-acre lot (Bait-ur-Rahman)	Land parcel	Part of 5-Mosques Scheme
1987	North Jersey, NJ (Bait-ul-Wahid) Commercial unit	Existing building	NJ property disposed in 2016.



1987	Tucson, AZ Yousaf Mosque reconstructed	New mosque	
1987	Portland, OR (Rizwan mosque)	New mosque	
1989	Chino, CA / L.A Bait-ul-Hameed constructed.	New mosque	
1989	Rochester, N.Y (Bait-un-Naseer) / Mission House	Existing building	Commercial building
1990	Houston, TX Lot donated	Land parcel	
1990	Charlotte, NC Residential unit	Existing building	Later disposed.
1991	Milwaukee, WI Commercial unit	Existing building	
1991	Houston, TX (Bait-us-Samee) Phase I hall and missionary house completed.	New mosque	
1989	Bay Point, CA (Dar-us-Salaam).	Existing building	2-acre lot with residential unit
1992	Saint Louis, MO residence used as Mission House.	Existing building	
1993	Miami, FL Lot with residence	Existing building	
1994	Silver Spring, MD (Bait-ur-Rahman) Phase I mosque construction completed.	New mosque	
1994	Chicago, IL Sadiq Mosque reconstructed on an expanded lot.	New construction	Original House demolished, new mosque built.
1995	Syracuse, NY (Bait-ul-Ihsan)	Commercial bldg.	
1995	LA West. (Bait-us-Salaam) Small residential unit	Existing building	
1996	San Jose, CA. (Bait-ul-Baseer) Church building	Existing building	
1996	Dallas, TX. (Bait-ul-Ikram) Phase I	New mosque	Mosque completed
1997	Albany, NY. Bait-un-Noor. School bldg on 4-acers.	Existing building	Donated property
1997	Central Jersey, NJ. (Bait-ul-Hadi) Church building	Existing building	
1997	Chicago, IL (van Buren) Small commercial unit	Existing building	
1997	Bait-ur-Rahman. 1-acre lot with a residential unit.	Existing building	
1998	Dallas, TX 4.5-acre lot	Land parcel	
1998	Portland Mosque	New mosque	
1998	Chicago, IL Reconstruction of Sadiq Mosque	Reconstruction	Funded by UK Markaz.
1999	Chantilly, VA 4.5-acre lot	Land parcel	
1999	Bait-ur-Rahman 7.7-acre adjacent residence.		
2000	LA West Adjacent house to Bait-us-Salaam.	Existing building	
2000	Sharon, MA Mission house construction.	New mosque	
2001	Farmington/ Detroit, 5-acre lot	Land Parcel	
2001	Tucson, AZ Plot adjacent to mosque.	Land parcel	
2001	Seattle	Existing building	Seattle building sold in 2015
2001	Columbus, OH (Bait-un-Nasir) Church on 7 acres.	Existing building	
2002	Tucson, AZ 525-acre agriculture land.	Land	Land donated by non-Ahmadi
2002	Atlanta GA office condominium for Mission House.	Existing building	
2003	Brooklyn, NY. (Bait-ut-Tahir) Synagogue building	Existing building	
2003	Philadelphia PA House next to Mission House.	Existing building	
2004	Long Island, NY (Bait-ul-Hadi) Church building	Existing building	
2004	Glen Ellyn, IL Bait-ul-Jami' completed.	New mosque	
2004	Houston, TX (Bait-us-Samee) completed.	New mosque	
2005	Research Triangle, SC 7.1-acre lot.	Land	
2005	Miami, FL (Bait-un-Naseer) Church building	Existing building	
2005	Seattle, WA Church building	Existing building	
2005	Bronx, NY Adjacent house to Mission House	Existing building	
2005	Syracuse, NY Commercial building	Existing building	
2005	Phoenix, AZ. (Bait-ul-Amn) Residential building.	Existing building	
2005	Yardley, PA. (Philadelphia) Church on a 5-acre lot.	Existing building	Sold 2007.
2006	5 small adjacent residential plots for new mosque construction.	Lot	Donated Property.
2006	Harrisburg, PA 4.5-acre lot / house	Existing building	
2006	Pittsburg, PA. (Masjid Al-Noor) Masonic Temple	Existing building	
2006	Detroit, MI House next to Bait-ul-Muzaffar.	Existing building	
2006	Orlando, FL Mission House.	Existing building	Office condominium
2006	Zion, IL House adjacent to Zion Mosque	Existing building	
2007	Philadelphia, PA 2-acre lot.	Land	For mosque construction



2007	Austin, TX. (Bait-ul-Muqet) Church building	Existing building	
2007	Hartford, CT. (Bait-ul-Amn) Church building	Existing building	
2007	Willingboro, NJ New mosque building completed.	New construction	
2007	Columbus, OH (Bait-un-Nasir) New Mosque	New construction	
2007	Central Jersey Mosque expansion	New construction	
2008	Queens, NY (Bait-uz-Zafar) Synagogue building	Existing building	
2008	Detroit, MI. Masjid Mahmood.	New construction	New mosque completed
2008	Saint Louis, MO. (Bait-ul-Hafeez).	New construction	New mosque completed.
2009	Saint Paul, MN 2-acre lot for mosque construction.		(later sold)
2009	Nashville, TN. (Masjid Mahmood) Church building	Existing building	
2009	Triangle 8.5-acre lot with residence	Existing building	Triangle property sold in 2018.
2009	Silver Spring MD, Bait-ur-Rahman Office complex and halls addition completed.	New construction	
2010	Buffalo, NY. (Mahdi Mosque) Church building	Existing building	
2010	Oshkosh, WI (Qamar Mosque)	Existing building	Commercial building
2010	Zion, IL House next to Zion Mosque+	Existing building	
2010	Brooklyn, NY Residence next to Bait-ut-Tahir	Existing building	
2011	Silver Spring, MD Guesthouse at Bait-ur-Rahman		
2012	New Orleans, LA. (Dar-ul-Aman) Office building	Existing building	
2012	Harrisburg, PA. (Hadee Mosque) Church Building	Existing building	
2012	Richmond, VA. (Anwar Mosque)	Existing building	Commercial Building
2012	Dayton, OH Fazl Mosque reconstruction	New construction	Major expansion
2013	Charlotte, NC 2-acre lot	Land	
2013	Lexington, KY Commercial building	Existing building	Later disposed
2013	Las Vegas, NV Residential building; Mission House	Existing building	
2013	Coon Rapids MN Nusrat Mosque Commercial unit.	Existing building	
2013	Binghamton, NY. (Bait-ul-Hamd)	Existing building	
2013	Saint Louis, MO Missionary house reconstructed.	Reconstruction	
2014	Miami, FL. Small residential plot next to mosque.	Land	
2014	Chicago, IL School Building next to Sadiq Mosque.	Existing building	
2014	Woodbridge, VA 5-acre lot	Land	Woodbridge lot disposed.
2014	Dayton missionary house.	Reconstruction	Rehabilitation completed
2015	Boston, MA 2-acre lot next to Mission House	Land	Future mosque construction
2015	North Jersey, NJ (Bait-ul-Wahid) Commercial unit	Existing building	
2015	Atlanta, GA (Bait-ul-'Ata) Commercial warehouse.	Existing building	
2015	Seattle, WA. (Bait-ul-Ihsan) Church building	Existing building	
2015	Coon Rapids MN Residence.	Existing building	Next to Nusrat Mosque
2015	Baltimore, MD. (Bait-us-Samad) Church Building.	Existing building	
2015	Philadelphia, PA New mosque shell completed.	New construction	
2015	Queens, NY, Residential unit next to mosque.	Existing building	
2015	Tucson, AZ. Missionary house	Existing building	Next to Yousuf Mosque
2015	Pittsburg, PA Residential unit	Existing building	
2015	Silver Spring MD Residential unit	Existing building	Near Bait-ur-Rahman
2015	Glen Ellyn, IL Residential unit next to mosque	Existing building	
2016	Zion, IL 9-acre lot for complex development.	Land	

Listing by the Property Department

Property Name	Street Address	City	State	Purchase Date
Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque	15000 Good Hope Road	Silver Spring	Maryland	Dec-30-1987
Missionary House	15000 Good Hope Road	Silver Spring	Maryland	Dec-30-1987
Guest House	15000 Good Hope Road	Silver Spring	Maryland	Dec-30-1987
MTA House	1430 Briggs Chaney Road	Silver Spring	Maryland	Jul-19-2016
Lajna House	1420 Briggs Chaney Road	Silver Spring	Maryland	
Muslim TV Ahmadiyya	1440 Briggs Chaney Road	Silver Spring	Maryland	
Missionary House	1501 Briggs Chaney Road	Silver Spring	Maryland	Dec-20-2017



Missionary House	15031 Good Hope Road	Silver Spring	Maryland	Mar-16-2018
Anwaar Mosque	2617 Turner Road	Richmond	Virginia	Jun-29-2012
Mubarak Mosque	4555 Ahmadiyya Drive	Chantilly	Virginia	Dec-21-16
Missionary House/Office	4551 Ahmadiyya Drive	Chantilly	Virginia	Dec-21-16
Fazl Mosque	2141 Leroy Pl NW	Washington	DC	Dec-14-1953
Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque	188-15 McLaughlin Avenue	Hollis	New York	July-18-2008
Guest House	188-48 85th Road	Holli	New York	Dec-18-2012
Bait-un-Nur Mosque	941 River Road	Schenectady	New York	Mar-12-2004
Bait-ut-Tahir Mosque	1477 W Eighth Street	Brooklyn	New York	May-28-2003
Missionary House	1473 W Eighth Street	Brooklyn	New York	Dec-29-2010
Al-Sadiq Mosque	4448 S. Wabash Avenue	Chicago	Illinois	Feb-13-1987
Community Center	4421 S. State Street	Chicago	Illinois	Jun-26-2014
Van Buren Center	2134-36 W Van Buren	Chicago	Illinois	Oct-01-2003
Bait-ul-Jami Mosque	2 S. 510 Route 53	Glen Ellyn	Illinois	May-29-1984
Missionary House	22 W 109 McCarron Road	Glen Ellyn	Illinois	Dec-12-2014
Zion Mosque	2103 Gabriel Avenue	Zion	Illinois	Nov-02-2008
Land for mosque	9925 SW 35th Drive	Portland	Oregon	Aug-05-1985
Bait-ul-Muzaffar Mosque	8218 Wyoming Avenue	Detroit	Michigan	Jun-18-1976
Missionary House	8225 Wyoming Avenue	Detroit	Michigan	Sep-30-2016
Missionary House	2989 Alexander Avenue	Rochester Hills	Michigan	Feb-17-2006
Mahmood Mosque	1730 W Auburn Road	Rochester Hills	Michigan	Dec-06-2006
Bait-ul-Ahad Mosques	297 Warrensville Center Rd	Bedford	Ohio	Mar-18-1987
Fazl-i-Umar Mosque	637 Randolph Street	Dayton	Ohio	May-08-2006
Missionary House	653 Randolph Street	Dayton	Ohio	May-08-2006
Bait-ul-Qadir Mosque	5600 W Found Du Lac Av	Milwaukee	Wisconsin	Apr-20-1992
Bait-ul-Hadi Mosque	27 South Street	Old Bridge	New Jersey	June-09-1998
Al-Nasir Mosque (2 bldngs)	500 bridge Street	Willingboro	New Jersey	Oct-12-1984
Bait-ul-Amn Mosque	410 Main Street	Meriden	Connecticut	Feb-28-2007
Bait-ul-Hafeez Mosque	4529 Emerson Avenue	St. Louis	Missouri	Jan-05-2004
Guest House	4541-43 Emerson Avenue	St. Louis	Missouri	Jan-05-2004
Bait-ul-Ihsan Mosque	6650 Old Collier Road	East Syracuse	New York	Nov-10-2005
Vacant Land 500 Acre Land	408-11-036 A	Tucson	Arizona	Dec-24-2001
Hajira House	1111 N. Queen Avenue	Tucson	Arizona	Aug-08-1989
Community center)	1114-1116 N 11th Street	Tucson	Arizona	Nov-14-2012
Missionary House	1136 N. 11th Avenue	Tucson	Arizona	Oct-02-2015
Bait-ul-Amn Mosque	2035 W. Elliot Road	Chandler	Arizona	May-19-2006
Ahmadiyya Mosque	7063 Wentzville Road	Mechanicsburg	Pennsylvania	Oct-20-2006
Hadee Mosque	245 Division Street	Harrisburg	Pennsylvania	Oct-19-2010
Community Center	334 S. George Street	York	Pennsylvania	Oct-19-2016
Qamar Mosque	300 N Eagle Street	Oshkosh	Wisconsin	Nov-23-2010
Bait-ul-Muqet Mosque	800 Deep wood Drive	Round Rock	Texas	June-06-2007
Bait-ul-Ikram Mosque	1850 Hedgcock Road	Allen	Texas	Apr-15-1996
Community Center	11875 West Little York Road	Houston	Texas	leased Space



Bait-ul-Baseer Mosque	926 Evans Road	Milpitas	California	Mar-07-1997
Dar-us-Salaam Mosque	520 Pacifica Avenue	Bay Point	California	Mar-14-1989
Bait-us-Samee Mosque	1333 Spears Road	Houston	Texas	Feb-13-1990
Missionary House	1333 Spears Road	Houston	Texas	Feb-13-1990
Guest house	1333 Spears Road	Houston	Texas	Feb-13-1990
Community Center	1333 Spears Road	Houston	Texas	Feb-13-1990
Bait-us-Salaam Mosque	13221 Prairie Avenue	Hawthorne	California	Sep-29-2000
Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque	11941 Ramona Avenue	Chino	California	Mar-15-1985
Missionary House	11941 Ramona Avenue	Chino	California	Mar-15-1985
Kitchen Facility	11941 Ramona Avenue	Chino	California	Mar-15-1985
Bait-un-Nasir Mosque	3360 Toy Road	Groveport	Ohio	Feb-21-2013
Nasir Mosque	5120-22 N 10th Street	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania	Sep-18-2003
Lajna Hall	5119 N Warnock Street	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania	Sold
Bait-un-Nasr Mosque	4 Nasir Ahmad Road	Sharon	Massachusetts	July-20-1992
Bronx Mosque	3421 White Plains Road	Bronx	New York	Mar-12-2004
Mahdi Mosque	9610 Colvin Blvd	Niagara Falls	New York	Oct-28-2010
Bait-ul-Huda Mosque	64 Union Avenue	Amityville	New York	Oct-26-2010
Bait-un-Naseer Mosque	1609 East. Main Street	Rochester Hills	New York	July-09-2005
Community Center	459 West Macarthur Blvd	Oakland	California	leased Space
Mahmood Mosque	101 Maple Street	Smyrna	Tennessee	July-28-2009
Al-Noor Mosque	747 South Avenue	Wilkinsburg	Pennsylvania	Feb-18-2015
Missionary House	1513 Odell Avenue	Baltimore	Maryland	Feb-07-2018
Bait-un-Naseer Mosque	208 NW 7th Court	Hallandale Beach	Florida	Mar-08-2007
Dar-ul-Aman Mosque	2113 38th street	Kenner	Louisiana	May-15-2013
Bait-ul-Hamd Mosque	10 Sheedy Road	Vestal	New York	Dec-18-2012
Bait-ul-Aafiyat Mosque	1215 W. Glenwood Avenue	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania	Dec-19-2007
Community center	830 Old Apex	Cary	North Carolina	leased Space
Nusrat Mosque	11450 Robinson Drive	Coon Rapids	Minnesota	Sep-24-2013
Community center	11648 W. 135th Street	Overland Park	Kansas	leased Space
Bait-ut-Tauhid Mosque	6574 West Cheyenne Ave	Las Vegas	Nevada	Feb-13-2014
Bait-ul-'Ata Mosque	1800,1796 Willow Trail Pkwy NW	Norcross	Georgia	Nov-25-2014
Bait-ul-Aafiyat Mosque	9501 Satellite Blvd, ste 103	Orlando	Florida	Nov-21-2006
Charlotte Mosque	5314 Mount Holly-Huntersville Road	Charlotte	North Carolina	
Missionary house	11351 Jay Street NW	Coon Rapids	Minnesota	Oct-09-2013
Bait-us-Samad Mosque	7302 Pulaski Highway	Baltimore	Maryland	July-30-2015
Bait-ul-Ihsan Mosque	23515 Old Owen Road	Monroe	Washington	Sep-02-2015
Bait-ul-Wahid Mosque	131 Wangara Road	Hawthorne	New Jersey	Sep-14-2015
Town House	1227 Elm Grove Circle	Silver Spring	Maryland	Mar-22-2005
MTA Studio	11900 Bournefield way 100	Silver Spring	Maryland	leased Space
Masroor Mosque	5640 Hadley Road	Manassas	Virginia	Jun-07-2017
Khalifat-ul-Masih house	214 Trails Way	Joppa	Maryland	Sep-27-2017
Vacant Land (Two lots)	2800 Lewis Avenue	Zion	Illinois	Mar-29-2016

Vacant house	31 Sycamore Road	Chauncey	Ohio	Nov-08-2004
Vacant Land	4081 Dale Blvd	Woodbridge	Virginia	May-08-2014
Vacant Complex	423 Division St	Harrisburg	Pennsylvania	Jan-11-2012
Vacant Land	5417 Spence Farm Road	Holly Springs	North Carolina	Sep-14-2005
Yusef Mosques	250 W Speedway Blvd	Tucson	Arizona	Dec-24-2012
Vacant Land	3021-3023 Dr. Martin Luther King Ave	St. Louis	Missouri	
Vacant land	2921-23 N. Broad Street	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania	Nov-04-2015
Bait-ul-Qayyum	2801 Miller Ave	Fort Worth	Texas	Oct-15-2018
Purchase	7419 Passion Blvd	Pico Rivera	California	Jul-11-1905
Khalifat-ul-Masih's House	216 Trails Way	Joppa	Maryland	Sep-27-2017
Bait-uz-Zikr	370 Main Street	Fitchburg	Massachusetts	Leased Space
Missionary House	746 South Avenue	Wilkinsburg	Pennsylvania	Feb-18-2015
Ahmadiyya Center	2860 S. Pike St	Allentown	Pennsylvania	Feb-27-2019



1992 Annual Convention USA

وقف نو—Waqf Nau

Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary, National Secretary Waqf-e-Nau, USA



In his Friday sermon, delivered on April 3, 1987, at the Fazl Mosque, London, under Divine guidance Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (ra) announced the blessed scheme of Waqf-e-Nau. At this occasion, while explaining the aims and objectives of the scheme, he stated,

“While we are making efforts to get an increased number of spiritual children through preaching before entering into the next Century, we should also devote in the way of Allah, our children who will be born during the next two years. ... I am presenting this scheme so that a great army of devoted children may be entering the next Century free of the worldly desires but as slaves of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Mustafa^{sa} so that we are presenting young children as a present to God Almighty. There is a great need of such a devotion, because, during the next 100 years Islam and Ahmadiyyat

will spread so much everywhere in the world that we need thousands of trained servants for that. We need such devotees who for the sake of God Almighty will become slaves of Muhammad Rasulullah^{sa}. We need devotees in large numbers from all sections of life and from all countries. ... As I have mentioned there is great need for a large number of devotees in the next Century of Ahmadiyyat. From all walks of life, the devotees should come so that we could present them to God Almighty with the intention that these are the devotees from whose abilities the people of the next Century have to benefit. So, this is a present which we have to give to the people of the next Century. Thus, whosoever has the ability to do so, should get ready to present this gift. God Almighty has directed me to present to you this scheme that you should

promise that whosoever gets a child during the next two years he will present it to the Jama'at for the sake of Allah. ... If people, while praying, will devote their children, which will be born during the next two years, then a beautiful and well trained Waqifeen (Devotees) will get ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of God in a short period of time. May God Almighty Divinely help us to do so.”

Initially, the scheme was to last for two years after the date of the announcement, but at the request of a large number of Ahmadis, the scheme was extended.

National Waqf-e-Nau department, USA, was established to develop infrastructure and formulate programs to carry out the desired objectives of the blessed scheme. Election and training of local Waqf-e-Nau secretaries was the key focus during the initial years. Parents were made equal stakeholders for the spiritual grooming and religious training of

Wāqifin-e-Nau throughout the country.

Over the years, National Waqf-e-Nau department has evolved a regional mapping to conveniently and regularly hold events to instill the spirit of dedications and learning in Waqf-e-Nau boys and girls.

Considering the distance and resources' availability in the country, comprehensive schedule was developed to assist Wāqifin-e-Nau in learning the prescribed syllabus. Weekly Online Radio class is held regularly since 2009 to help Wāqifin-e-Nau and Waqifāt-e-Nau in learning the prescribed syllabus. Written materials and class notes are

prepared by teachers and posted on the department's website; www.waqfenau.us.

National Waqf-e-Nau department collaborates closely with Mu'awina Sadr; Lajna Ima'illah USA and extend all logistical and material support for the effective execution of programs geared towards the training of Waqifāt-e-Nau. During the Regional Ijtimā'āt (gatherings), Waqifāt-e-Nau programs and educational competitions are held in parallel. One-week camp is held every year during the summer break for Waqifāt-e-Nau.

At the auspicious occasion of Jalsa Salana USA, seven events are

held every year including Waqf-e-Nau boys' and girls' special programs, rededication workshop and stalls for Waqf-e-Nau children and parents, test and interview for Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada applicants. Waqifāt-e-Nau hold their own sessions along with rededication workshop on Lajna side.

Department reaches out to all Wāqifin-e-Nau who have completed their education to submit professional particulars form. After careful review, their information is sent to London Markaz for further guidance.

Instructions to USA Jamā'at by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V Ayyadahullahu Ta'ala Binasrih-il-'Azeez

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V, Ayyadahullahu Ta'ala Bi-Nasrih-il-'Azeez has blessed National Waqf-e-Nau Department, USA with enlightening guidance for the department to operate better. In his address to the US Jamā'at, broadcast live from London, on the occasion of Jalsa Salana USA in September 2006, Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih V gave the following advice to the Waqf-e-Nau children of USA,

"Taking advantage of this occasion, I will say a few words to the Wāqifin-e-Nau. Just before coming here when I turned on the TV, I was delighted to see that this year there are five Wāqifin-e-Nau from America going to Jāmi'ah Ahmadiyya in Canada to be trained as missionaries. May Allah keep on providing us more like them."

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih (ABA) further said, "These Wāqifin-e-Nau should remember that their parents

made a promise to Allah. Their parents, after having made that promise with Allah, would have prayed, and would have provided you with good upbringing till this age where you are about to step into a new phase of life as young men and women. You should always keep in mind the importance of this Waqf-e-Nau. As a result of your training, you may be mindful of the fact that you have to fulfill the promise that your parents have made with Allah. You have to safeguard yourselves against the so-called freedoms of the west. You have to become shining examples while preserving your individualities. You have to renew the pledge that your parents had made and that you will try, with all your faculties, to honor this pledge."

On 10 September 2017; Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V, Ayyadahullahu Ta'ala Binasrih-il-'Azeez provided following guidance to USA Jamā'at.

"Jamā'at USA should prepare at least 10 Wāqifin-e-Nau to join Jamia Ahmadiyya every year."

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (ABA) further instructed, "Wāqifin-e-Nau should also go into Medicine, Teaching and with my permission join public services as well."

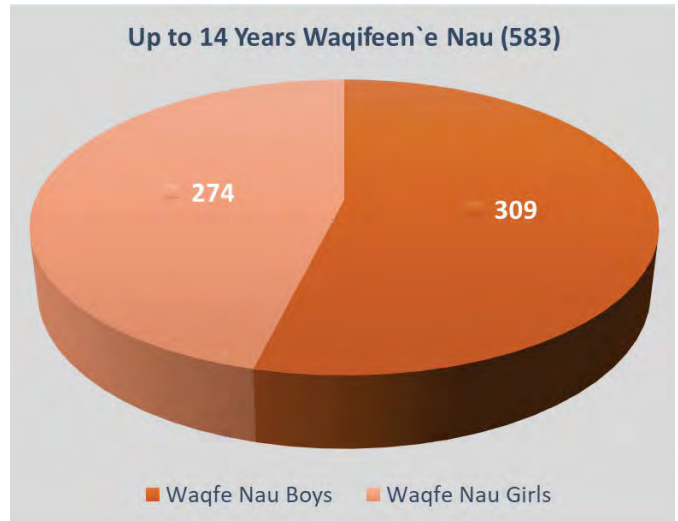
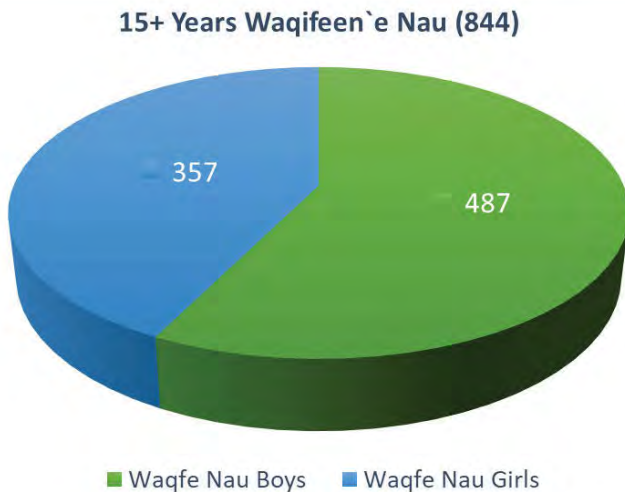
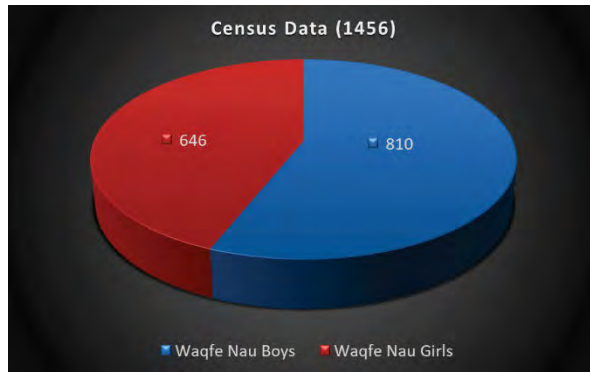
Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (ABA) said, "Those Wāqifin-e-Nau who after completing or leaving their education start their own work should be clarified that only the Waqf-e-Nau title is not enough. If they want to start their own work or job, they should have to seek permission from me. If after telling them they do not seek permission, then their case should be presented to me for further guidance, but no one is allowed to take them out of the Waqf-e-Nau scheme. Always remember that one who has permission from me, no one is allowed to exclude them."

US Wāqifin-e-Nau Census Data

National Waqf-e-Nau Department, USA puts special emphasis on the collection and regular update of particulars about

each Waqf-e-Nau across the country. Special events such as regional Ijtimā' and Evaluation Day are leveraged for this purpose.

Following is an updated census of Waqf-e-Nau boys and Waqifāt-e-Nau girls with valid Waqf-e-Nau ID.



Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V Ayyadahullahu Ta`ala Binasrih-il-‘Azeez’s visit to USA Jamā‘at

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V Ayyadahullahu Ta`ala Binasrih-il-‘Azeez visited USA in 2008 for the first time in his Khilafat. The USA Jamā‘at has been blessed with repeat visits in 2012, 2013 and 2018. Following is a snapshot of his visits to USA Jamā‘at and special classes with Wāqifin-e-Nau USA.

Waqf-e-Nau Class—Masjid Bait-us-Samee (Houston, TX)—Friday October 26, 2018



Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V Ayyadahullahu Ta`ala Binasrih-il-‘Azeez graced the occasion of special class with Wāqifin-e-Nau and Waqifāt-e-Nau at Masjid Bait-us-Samee, Houston Texas on October 26, 2018. More than 85 Wāqifin-e-Nau got the opportunity to sit in the presence of Khalifatul-Masih (أيده الله تعالى) for almost an hour. A separate and dedicated class was held for Waqifāt-e-Nau.



Alistam.org
Photo by Ajaz Khan

Waqf-e-Nau Class—Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman (Silver Spring, MD)—Tuesday October 30, 2018



© Alistam.org
Photo by Ajaz Khan

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V Ayyadahullahu Ta`ala Binasrih-il-'Azeez granted approval for the class with Wāqifin-e-Nau and Wāqifāt-e-Nau at Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman, Silver Spring, MD on Tuesday October 30, 2018. More than 200 Wāqifin-e-Nau participated in the class.



At Bait-ur-Rahman (left) and at Masjid Bait-ul-Hameed LA (right)

Special Waqf-e-Nau Class—Baitul Hameed Mosque (Chino, CA)—May 8, 2013

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V Ayyadahullahu Ta`ala Binasrih-il-‘Azeez granted approval for the class with Wāqifin-e-Nau and Waqifat-e-Nau at Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque in Chino, CA on Wednesday May 8, 2013.



At Masjid Bait-ul-Hameed LA



At Masjid Bait-ul-Hameed LA

Special Waqf-e-Nau Class – Bait-ur-Rahman (Silver Spring, MA) – Friday June 22nd, 2012



Waqf-e-Nau Class with Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (May Allah be His Helper) at Jalsa Salana USA 2008

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V Ayyadahullahu Ta`ala Binasrih-il-‘Azeez granted kind approval for a special class with Wāqifin-e-Nau boys of USA at the auspicious occasion of Jalsa Salana USA 2008 in Harrisburg, PA.



Weekly Online Class – Web Radio

Waqf-e-Nau, USA Web Radio Class is held on every Saturday at 11:00 AM (EST). Written materials and class notes are prepared by teachers and posted on the website reference by Waqf-e-Nau children and parents.



Waqf-e-Nau children and parents are regularly reminded about the Online class over email

Four Online classes were held during the reporting period

On average, 100 Waqf-e-Nau families attended the class every week

During the last 10+ years, over 103,100+ individual

classes have been delivered worldwide either in live broadcast or via our archive utility and an additional 57,000+ people have visited our classes channel for simple review

Waqf-e-Nau Regional Ijtimā’

Waqf-e-Nau regional Ijtimā’ is held in every region to emphasize the importance of Waqf-e-Nau scheme.

There are 18 regions; each region holds 2 regional Ijtimā’ per year

Parents and Wāqifīn-e-Nau actively participate and speak on disparate topics such as ‘Reasons for dedicating children,’ ‘How to instill the spirit of devotion,’ ‘Importance of Rededication,’ etc.

Biodata and other critical information are updated about Wāqifīn-e-Nau in the central database

Waqf-e-Nau department reviews academic achievements, health records and career inspiration, etc.

Collaboration with Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada

Collaboration with Jamia Ahmadiyya, Canada is a regular agenda item of National Waqf-e-Nau department, USA. Jamia orientation programs are also held regularly in different Jamā’at to increase admissions of Wāqifīn-e-Nau.

Graduated from Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada and Serving in the Field

Following is the list of current and graduated students from USA Jamā’at:

S#	Full Name	Graduation	Waqf-e-Nau ID	Current Posting
1	Talha Ali	May 2013	01210-A	Philippines
2	Luqman Ahmad	June 2016	00913-A	St. Paul, MN
3	Qasid Ahmed Nasir	Sep 2017	02935-A	Pittsburg and Cleveland
4	Tariq Naseem Ahmed	Sep 2017	02507-B	Baltimore - Special Assignment National Tarbiyat department
5	Umar Ahsaan Nayyar	Sep 2017	07597-A	Headquarters – Special Assignment Waṣīyyat department
6	Faheem Arshad	Sep 2017	08753-A	Phoenix, Tucson and Las Vegas
7	Musawar Ahmad	Sep 2017	07638-A	Guatemala

Wāqifīn-e-Nau in Full-Time Service to USA Jamā’at (Non-Missionaries)

Following Wāqifīn-e-Nau are in full-time service to USA Jamā’at after completing their education:

Talha Chaudhry (Waqf-e-Nau ID 2203A) is serving in National Finance department

Ali Iqtidar Bajwa (Waqf-e-Nau ID 06984A) is serving as Assistant National General Secretary

Adeel Muneeb (Waqf-e-Nau ID 01749A) is serving in National Property department

Asim Malik is posted in USA with Alislam team

Currently Studying in Jami'a Ahmadiyya Canada

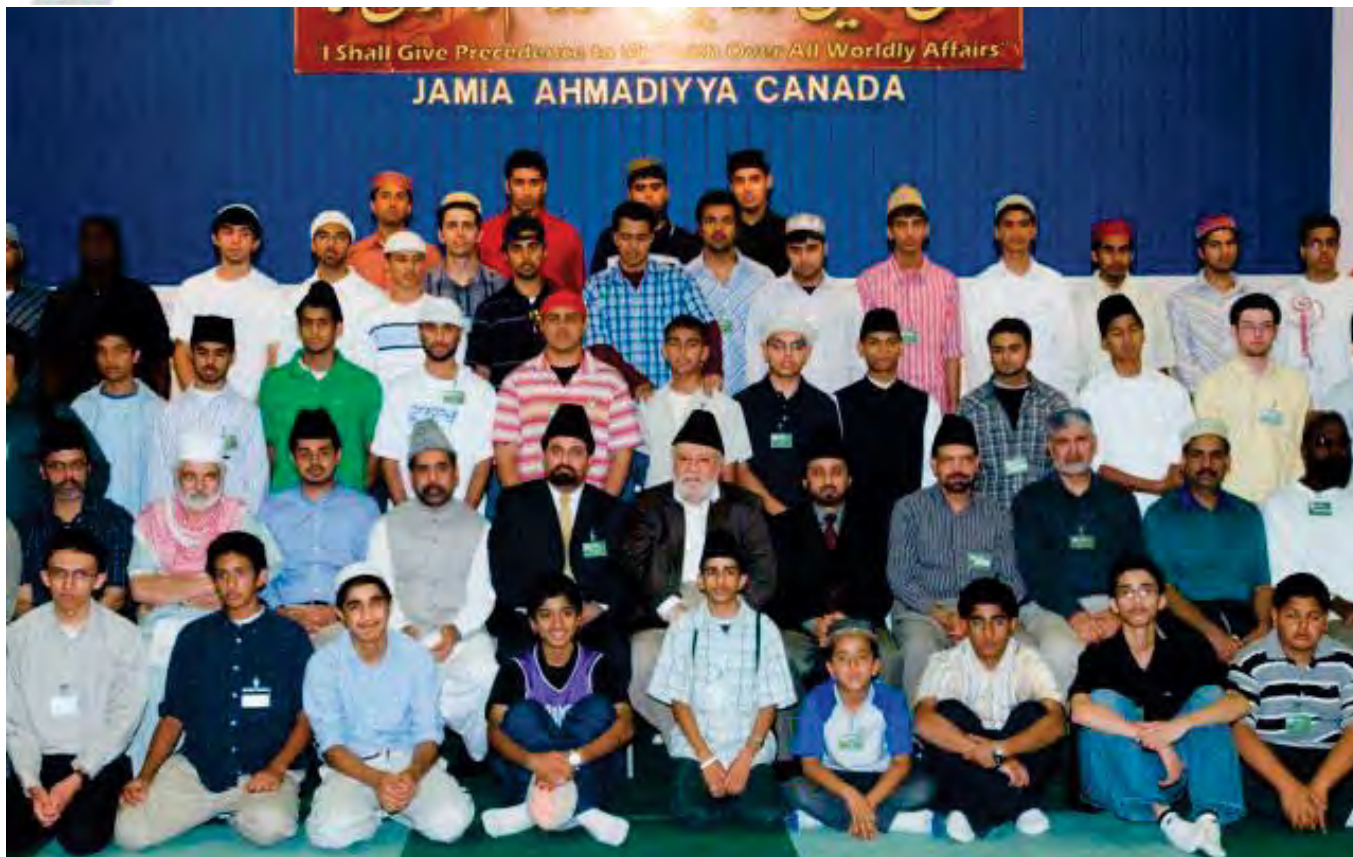
S#	Student ID	Full Name	Admission Date	Graduation Date	Waqf-e-Nau ID
1	130196	Usama Ibrahim Rehman	September-2013	30-Jun-2020	03293-B
2	140204	Syed Adil Ahmad	September-2014	30-Jun-2021	00842-C
3	140206	Daanyal Ahmad Qureshi	September-2014	30-Jun-2021	01365-B
4	140207	Jaleese Ahmad Dar	September-2014	30-Jun-2021	02725-B
5	150220	Muzzamil Lorenzo	September-2015	30-Jun-2022	04074-A
6	160224	Adeeb Ahmed	September-2016	30-Jun-2023	04523-B
7	160226	Danial Mahmood	September-2016	30-Jun-2023	04822-B
8	160229	Mahir Mahmood	September-2016	30-Jun-2023	04822-B
9	160232	Munib Harun Iqbal	September-2016	30-Jun-2023	04659-B
10	160233	Nazir Ahmad	September-2016	30-Jun-2023	05046-B
11	160238	Junaid Aslam	September-2016	30-Jun-2023	01190-C
12	170259	Asadullah Chaudhry	September-2017	30-Jun-2024	00355B
13	170257	Syed Zeeshan Ahmad Akif	September-2017	30-Jun-2024	04806-B
14	180266	Danyal Ahmad Choudry	September 2018	30-Jun-2025	04822B
15	180269	Humza Abaidullah	September 2018	30-Jun-2025	11456A
16	180281	Umer Usman Choudhary	September 2018	30-Jun-2025	05476B
17		Yasir Ahmad Khan	September 2019	30 Jun 2026	6246B
18		Talha Ahmad	September 2019	30 Jun 2026	10907A
19		Muneeb Ur Rahman Mirza	September 2019	30 Jun 2026	5880B

Annual Boys' TRIP - JAMIA AHMADIYYA, NORTH AMERICA

Every year, National Waqf-e-Nau department, USA arranges a visit of Waqf-e-Nau and Non-Waqf-e-Nau boys to Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada. The first visit was held between June 23 – 25, 2006.



Fourteen visits have been arranged by National Waqf-e-Nau department, USA so far which has encouraged and motivated many boys to join Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada.



During the visit, participants are given the opportunity to learn about the environment and understand the requirement to become a missionary.





Delegates led by National Secretary travels from different parts of the country. Amicable arrangements are made by the hosts for comfortable boarding & lodging of guests.



Annual National Boys Jamia Orientation Camp

A weeklong Jamia orientation camp is held every year in USA where Jamia students teach different courses to potential candidates for admission in Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada. The whole program is designed in a format similar to education in Jamia where study, physical activity, spiritual development and personal life is kept balanced. Thirteen orientation camps have been arranged so far resulting in increased number of admissions in the Jamia Ahmadiyya.

Jamia Awareness Program

In compliance with the wishes of Ḥaḍrat Ameer-ul-Mo`mineen Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih V Ayyadahullahu Ta`ala Binasrih-il-‘Azeez, Waqf-e-Nau department

sponsors visit of Jamia Ahmadiyya Canada teams to numerous Jamaa`at in USA. The key objective of such visits is to expand awareness about life at Jamia Ahmadiyya among the

community members. Every year, 3 to 4 such visits are arranged by the department.

Waqf-e-Nau Events at US Jalsa Salana



Following programs are held by National Waqf-e-Nau Department, USA on the auspicious occasion of USA Jalsa Salana every year

1. Waqf-e-Nau Boys Program
2. Wāqifāt-e-Nau (Girls) Program

3. Waqf-e-Nau Jamia Ahmadiyya, Canada Admissions Written Test
4. Waqf-e-Nau Jamia Ahmadiyya, Canada Admissions Interviews
5. Waqf-e-Nau Boys Rededication Workshop

6. Wāqifāt-e-Nau (Girls) Rededication Workshop & Career Counseling Workshop
7. Waqf-e-Nau Local Secretaries' Meeting

Rededication Status

1. 377 Wāqifīn-e-Nau have rededicated themselves in USA
2. Discussion on the rededication status is a

constant agenda item of monthly teleconference call with national, regional and local teams.

3. We regularly run rededication drive to connect and motivate eligible Wāqifīn-e-Nau to rededicate themselves

Nationwide Waṣīyyat Drive

Under the directions of Respected Ameer USA to encourage Waqf-e-Nau boys and girls to join the blessed System of Waṣīyyat, a concerted effort is being made to

help Waqifeen-e-Nau with the process. In response to continued follow up on the thread by National Secretary Waqf-e-Nau, 58 Wāqifīn-e-Nau are confirmed Musiyan.

Moreover, a comprehensive presentation on the 'Blessed System of Waṣīyyat' has been shared with Waqf-e-Nau secretaries to leverage the momentum at local level.

MAGAZINE "MARYAM" AND "ISMAIL" Distribution Service

Under the direction of Waqf-e-Nau, London office we are receiving the hard copies of International

Waqf-e-Nau Magazine 'MARYAM,' a dedicated publication for Wāqifāt-e-Nau. 150 copies are mailed to older

Wāqifāt-e-Nau (girls) who have an approved Waqf-e-Nau Number issued by Wakalat-e-Waqf-e-Nau

and we have their current home mailing addresses available in our Waqf-e-Nau USA database.

Since 2015; we are receiving "ISMA`IL," the dedicated magazine

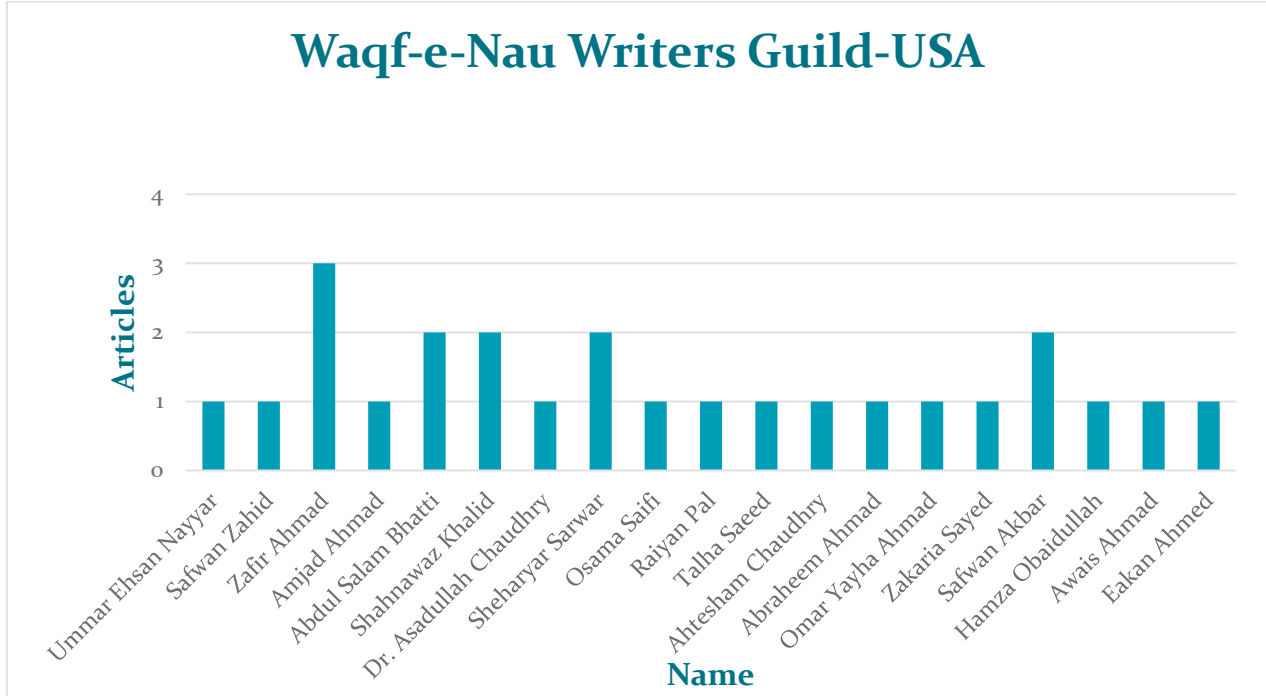
for Waqf-e-Nau boys, published from London. 350 copies are mailed to older Waqf-e-Nau boys who have an approved Waqf-e-Nau Number issued by Wakalat-e-Waqf-e-Nau.

National Waqf-e-Nau Department has the "Bulk Mailing Permit" for economical distribution of these magazines, Al-Hamdu Lillah.

Waqf-e-Nau Writers Guild - USA

National Waqf-e-Nau Department, USA established Waqf-e-Nau Writers' Guild in September 2016

High quality articles on disparate topics are sent regularly to London office for printing in Isma'il magazine



Nineteen (19) writers have been inducted in the guild.

National Waqf-e-Nau Teleconferences

Monthly teleconference is held with local secretaries, regional secretaries and assistant National secretaries to review the performance of the department, set realistic goals for the month and strategize on the execution plan.

Prior to the Teleconference, agenda and associated documents are shared with the team for meaningful deliberation and productive discussion.

ASSISTANT NATIONAL SECRETARIES

WAQF-E-NAU, USA 2019-2022

There are ten Assistant National Secretaries Waqf-e-Nau. The assignment of the work of Assistant Secretaries and contact details are as follows:

Mahmood Ahmad Bio-data updates, Progress reports of Wāqifin-e-Nau, Jamia Liaison

H: 706-860-1629 C: 501-786-4666 mahmood.ahmad.57@ahamdiyya.us. Jamā'at: Georgia-Carolina

Hammad Malik Reimbursement to Waqf-e-Nau workers for their expenses. In charge of teleconference and gazette reports, bulk distribution of magazines

H: 732-317-3639 C: 201-388-9857 hammad.malik@alumni.utexas.net. Jamā'at: Central Jersey

Mansoor Ahmad Organization of Waqf-e-Nau Ijtimā'āt, Calendar of Events, Special Classes and Special Events, Coordination Desk. Trophies, Awards & Recognition,

H: 717-691-7934 C: 717-802-5455 mansoor.ahmad@ahmadiyya.us. Jamā'at: York

Rizwan Alladin: In-charge Career Counseling, National Convention of College Students for 17 & above Waqf-e-

Nau Boys & Girls. H: 631-940-0522 C: 516-302-6604 rizwan.alladin@ahmadiyya.us. Jamā'at: Long Island

Syed Uzair Ahmed Incharge-IT & Communications, Coordinator Waqf-e-Nau Writers Guild. Management of "Waqf-e-Nau Evaluation and Parents Day"

H: 425-605-0963 C: 1.425.214.3849 uzair.ahmed@ahmadiyya.us. Jamā'at: Seattle

Zafarullah Khan MTA Liaison & Producer of Waqf-e-Nau USA programs and events. Publishing of Urdu & English reports in Jamā'at magazines, electronic media, etc. Linguistics particularly Urdu learning among Wāqifīn-e-Nau. Chief Editor Nawaa-e-Waqf-e-Nau, the "Waqf-e-Nau USA Newsletter"

H: 703-497-4060 C: 484-472-3721 zafarullah.khan@ahmadiyya.us. Jamā'at: South Virginia

Mahmood Hanif Rededication (Tajdeed-e-Waqf). Coordinator for full-time Service to Jamā'at assignments after completion of education.

H: C: 201-838-9338 mahmood_hanif@ahmadiyya.us. Jamā'at: Central Jersey

Waqf-e-Nau Classes and Curriculum Implementation Desk, Monitoring the progress of Local Waqf-e-Nau Committee meetings and activities.

Tariq Murtaza Increase participation of adult Wāqifīn-e-Nau. Collection of Activity Reports from local Jamā'ats, Compiling National Reports in compliance with Center directives. Waqfenu.us website administrator. Close coordination with Local Waqf-e-Nau secretaries for regular updates and accuracy of National Database

H: C: 408-550-6271 tariq.m.malik@ahmadiyya.us. Jamā'at: Austin

Rashid Waraich Preparing Wāqifīn-e-Nau to join Federal, State and County positions if not joining Jamia Ahmadiyya. Training of local Waqf-e-Nau Secretaries & Regions overview. Coordinator for Khalifatul-Masih's (may Allah support him with His mighty help) permission, after completion of studies, if not serving Jamā'at.

H: C: 510-693-8732 rashid.waraich@ahmadiyya.us. Jamā'at: Austin



Mu`awin Sadr Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya for Wāqifīn-e-Nau

Usama Awan (Waqf-e-Nau ID 12522A) is serving as Mu`awin Sadr Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, USA to ensure that Wāqifīn-e-Nau are keeping up with their syllabus and spiritual training. He is part of Waqf-e-Nau committee.

Mu`awina Sadr Lajna Ima`illah for Wāqifāt-e-Nau

Sister Mabroor Jattala is already serving as Mu`awina Sadr Lajna Ima`illah, USA to drive programs for Waqifāt-e-Nau.

SEVENTEEN REGIONAL SECRETARIES WAQF-E-NAU

Following is the list of Regional Secretaries and their contact information.

S#	REGION	NAME	JAMA`AT
1	Northwest	Idrees Munir, Ph. D	Silicon Valley, CA
2	Pacific Northwest	Babur Afzal Butter	Seattle, WA
3	Southwest	Saifur Rahman	Los Angeles, CA
4	Texas	Ausaf Malik	Austin, TX
5	Chicago (West Midwest)	Muhammad Azhar Ahmad	Chicago Northwest
6	Milwaukee	M. Layeequddin Ahmed	Milwaukee, WI
7	Detroit (East Midwest)	Mahmood Ahmad Qureshi	Detroit, MI
8	Florida	Mirza Inam Haris, MD	Orlando, FL
9	Atlanta	Nafis Rahman	Atlanta, GA
10	Virginia South	Ijaz Ahmad Qamar	Southern Virginia
11	Virginia North	Faheem Ahmed, Ph. D.	Northern Virginia
12	Maryland	Ahmad Salam	Laurel, MD
13	NY Metro	Nadeem Ahmad, MD	Brooklyn, NY
14	New Jersey	Mubashir Ahmad Mirza	Central Jersey
15	Pennsylvania	Mansoor Ahmad	York, PA
16	Rochester	Tahir Ahmad Khokhar	Rochester, NY
17	New England	Nasrullah Taha	Boston, MA



Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV with the Waqifeen Nau children during the Jalsa Salana, USA, June, 1997

Wāqifāt-e-Nau in America

“Our Journey-Small and Steady Steps”

At the beginning of Ahmadiyya’s second century, under Divine guidance, Khalifat-ul-Masih IV launched the new scheme of “Tahrik Waqf-e-Nau.” In his Friday Sermon on 3 April 1987, Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV said:

“پس میں نے سوچا کہ ساری جماعت کو اس بات پر آمادہ کروں کہ اگلی صدی میں داخل ہونے سے پہلے جہاں روحانی اولاد بنانے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔ دعوت الی اللہ کے ذریعے وہاں اپنے آئندہ ہونے والے بچوں کو خدا کی راہ میں ابھی سے وقف کر دیں اور یہ دعا مانگیں کہ اے خدا! ہمیں ایک بیٹا دے لیکن اگر تیرے نزدیک بیٹی ہی ہمارے لیے

مقدر ہے تو ہماری بیٹی ہی تیرے حضور پیش ہے۔ مافیٰ بطنی جو کچھ میرے بطن میں ہے یہ مائیں دعائیں کریں۔”

“I thought that I will convince the whole Jamā’at that as we are trying to increase our spiritual progeny before the next century through propagation, we should also offer our yet to be born children as Waqifeen in the cause of Allah, right now and we should say, O Allah! Give us a son but if you have decreed to give us a daughter then we offer our daughter to you. *MA Fee Baatane*. Whatever is in my womb, this should be the prayer of the mothers.”

These words of Khalifat-ul-

Key Milestones

The early years of Waqf-e-Nau were a learning period, both for the new Waqf-e-Nau administrators and the families, with many key milestones:

- Khalifat-ul-Masih IV delivered five Friday Sermons detailing the moral training and development of Waqifeen (April 3, 1987, February 10, 1989, February 17, 1989, September 8, 1989 and December 1, 1989).
- The USA Jamā’at National Waqf-e-Nau Department advised Ahmadi ladies to serve as teachers at the local level through meetings with mothers of the young Waqifeen. With time, these meetings evolved into classes for the Waqifeen.
- The Waqf-e-Nau syllabus that was followed by Waqifeen worldwide was initially available only in the Urdu language. As such, parents who could not read Urdu were assisted, until the syllabus was translated into the English language.

- In 2000 during the Presidentship of National Sadr Lajna, Dr. Shanaz Butt. Respected M. M. Ahmad (late Amir Jamā’at USA), approved the appointment of National Lajna Waqf-e-Nau secretary. Sister Sadiqa Mian was appointed the first National Lajna Secretary for Wāqifāt-e-Nau. With the approval of Respected Amir, a program was introduced to educate Waqf-e-Nau girls who were older than 10 years of age.
- 2000-2004
 - monthly reporting and quarterly assessment forms were prepared for better evaluation and record keeping
 - The National Lajna Waqf-e-Nau Secretary and the Lajna Translation Department translated the five Friday Sermons by Khalifat-ul-Masih IV. A summary of Khalifat-ul-Masih IV sermons about Waqf-e-Nau

Masih emphasize that girls, too, will be dedicated towards the blessed scheme of Waqf-e-Nau. In response to this call of the Khalifa^h, Ahmadi families worldwide dedicated their sons and daughters under this noble scheme.

As of January 2020, USA Jamā’at has 638 Wāqifāt-e-Nau, with a breakdown as follows:

- Under Age 7: 72
- Ages 7-14 (Nāsirāt): 198
- Ages 15+ (Lajna): 362

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, more than 50% of Wāqifāt-e-Nau (ages 15+) have completed their Rededication.

- was provided
- The Waqf-e-Nau Program was still evolving, the Lajna National and Local Waqf-e-Nau secretaries actively worked with the parents and children to improve the program
- With the help of the national Lajna Waqf-e-Nau secretary an outline of Waqf-e-Nau syllabus (up to 17 years of age) was incorporated into the National Lajna Program for easy access (Lajna Annual Progress Report 2000-2003)
- Since 2004, under the guidance Khalifat-ul-Masih V, the Waqf-e-Nau program resided completely under the Jamā’at.
- The USA Jamā’at National Waqf-e-Nau Department began holding Annual Ijtimā’āt at the regional level, with a competitive focus on Tilāwat, Poem and Speech. These Ijtimā’āt now occur on a Semi-

Annual basis and Waqifeen-e-Nau are also test on their knowledge of the syllabus.

- In connection with the Khilafat Centenary Celebrations in 2008, Wāqifāt participated in the essay competition and the winners were acknowledged at Jalsa Salana USA.
- In 2008 on Jalsa Salana USA, a Waqf-e-Nau booth was also arranged in the Ladies Jalsa Gah for the first time. Since then, the booth has been a regular feature.
- In the early days, communications were carried out by postal mail or telephone. Slowly, communication moved to email system. The first organized email distribution for Waqf-e-Nau began in 2009 for the Online Radio Weekly Classes and announcements.
- Beginning in 2011, on Jalsa Salana USA and Jalsa West Coast USA, separate programs for Wāqifāt-e-Nau are taking place during Special Events segment, in which Sadr Lajna USA also addresses the Wāqifāt in these programs.

- In 2012 on Jalsa Salana USA when Khalifat-ul-Masih V visited America, a group of Wāqifāt recited a group poem at the conclusion of the Ladies Session in the presence of Khalifat-ul-Masih.
- In 2014, under the guidance of Khalifat-ul-Masih, Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA, Saliha Malik appointed Mabroor Jattala as National Mu'awina Sadr in-charge of Wāqifāt-e-Nau. Shortly thereafter, Sadr Lajna USA requested the local Lajna sadraat to appoint a local Mu'awina Sadr for this purpose if there was a sufficient number (4+) of Wāqifāt in their majlis.
 - National Sadr Lajna's priority was and still is to make sure that Wāqifāt-e-Nau were keeping up with their syllabus through disciplined classes, older Wāqifāt are engaged in Lajna programs and local Sadr Lajna is informed about Wāqifāt matters
 - Tarbiyat of Wāqifāt, awareness on the misuse of Technology and

maintaining Islamic values

- A Waqf-e-Nau section is added to the monthly report for completion by local Lajna Sadr
- In 2014 on the occasion of Jalsa Salana USA, separate Rededication Workshops were begun for Wāqifāt over the age of 14 years.
- In 2015, under the guidance of USA Jamā'at Waqf-e-Nau Department and Sadr Lajna USA, the first Annual National Wāqifāt-e-Nau Camp was inaugurated.
- In 2017, the Annual National Wāqifāt-e-Nau Camps were expanded to incorporate the Annual Career Planning Seminar. These seminars helped provide guidance on career choices for Wāqifāt as encouraged by Markaz.
- In addition to the many new strategic initiatives, older Wāqifāt were trained by assisting in various national, regional and local assignments, and also served on local Lajna Amila.

Special Events with Khalifat-ul-Masih

The first sitting of Waqf-e-Nau USA children with Khalifat-ul-Masih IV was held on the occasion of Jalsa Salana USA in Silver Spring, Maryland in June 1997. As pictured, many Wāqifāt were in attendance.

With Khalifat-ul-Masih V, Wāqifāt USA were blessed to have six classes during Khalifat-ul-Masih's visits to America in 2008, 2012, 2013 and 2018. These Special Classes were organized under the guidance of the Jamā'at National Waqf-e-Nau Department and Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA (who was helped by in-Charge Wāqifāt-e-Nau):

- 2008 – On the occasion of Jalsa

Salana USA in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, approximately 50 Wāqifāt ages 10 and up attended a class with Khalifat-ul-Masih. This was Khalifat-ul-Masih's first visit to the United States and Khalifat-ul-Masih first class with Wāqifāt-e-Nau in America.



- 2012 – During Khalifat-ul-Masih 2012 USA Tour, Khalifat-

ul-Masih held two classes with Wāqifāt at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland:

- June 22, a Gulshan-e-Waqf-e-Nau class in which about 30 Wāqifāt (ages 10-12) attended and there was a slide show on visits of the Khulafa to America.
- June 23, a class for Wāqifāt ages 12+ in which more than 50 Wāqifāt attended and there was a presentation on "The Second Advent of Jesus, According to the Holy Qur'an and Holy Bible."



2013 – During Khalifat-ul-Masih West Coast USA Tour, Khalifat-ul-Masih held a Wāqifāt class on May 7 at Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque, Chino, California, which 39 Wāqifāt attended and included a presentation on “Character of the Holy Prophet,” “Holy Prophet Raised the Status of Women” and a Virtual Tour of the West Coast. After this program, Khalifat-ul-Masih remarked that American Wāqifāt are the best speakers as compared to other Wāqifāt and that Sadr Lajna Ima’illah USA should prepare a

Lajna MTA Team.



2018-During Khalifat-ul-Masih 2018 USA Tour, Khalifat-ul-Masih held two classes with Wāqifāt, organized under the guidance of the Jamā’at National Waqf-e-Nau

Department and Sadr Lajna Ima’illah USA (who was helped by the National Mu’awina Sadr in Charge Wāqifāt-e-Nau):

26 October, a Wāqifāt class was held in Houston, Texas and was attended by 105 Wāqifāt on the theme “MTA: A Link to Khilafat” and included presentations on “I Will Cause Thy Message to Spread to the Corners of the Earth,” “MTA: A Link to Khilafat” and “History of Texas.”

- o 30 October, a Wāqifāt class was held in Silver Spring, Maryland and was attended by 208 Wāqifāt on the theme “Khilafat: Our Lifeline” and included presentations on “Attachment with Khilafat” and “Khilafat: Our Lifeline.”



Picture by Ajaz Khan

Annual National Wāqifāt-e-Nau Camps

Under the guidance of Jamā’at National Waqf-e-Nau Department and Sadr Lajna Ima’illah USA,

National Mu’awina Sadr in Charge Wāqifāt began Annual National Wāqifāt-e-Nau Camps in 2015. The

Camps target Wāqifāt ages 12 and above, with central goals to provide a friendly learning atmosphere,

increase sisterhood bonding, Syllabus review in 3 classes (ages 12-14, ages 15-17, ages 18+; strong emphasis on Holy Qur'an, Salat, Hadith, Prayers, Attributes of Allah Ta'ālā, Qaseeda), contemporary issues, sewing classes, cooking classes, Health Seminars, writing letters to Khalifat-ul-Masih and field trips. A few highlights of the Annual Camps are below:

- 2015: From 24-31 July, the First Annual National Wāqifāt-e-Nau Camp in the United States was held at Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque in Queens, New York and was attended by 60 Wāqifāt. A detailed commentary of Surah Al-Kahf and Surah Al-Fajr were presented, as well as a health seminar on "Physical Fitness is Important for Spiritual Fitness."
- 2016: From 15-22 July, the

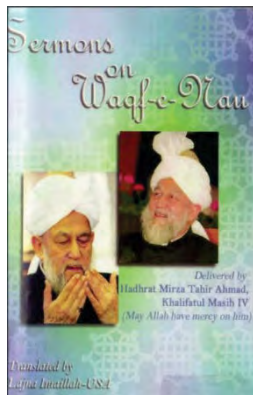
Second Annual National Wāqifāt-e-Nau Camp was held at Al-Nasr Mosque in Willingboro, New Jersey and was attended by 50 Wāqifāt. A workshop was held on "Nature v. Nurture: Role in Character-Building," reading of "Our Teaching" as well as a health seminar on "Role of Exercise in Our Daily Life."

- 2017: From 5-12 June, the Third Annual National Wāqifāt-e-Nau Camp was held at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland and was attended by 74 Wāqifāt. This Camp also included the First Annual Career Planning Seminar for Wāqifāt ages 16 and above and was attended by 35 Wāqifāt and 15 observers. A health seminar was also held on "Personal Hygiene."
- 2018: From 22-29 June, the

Fourth Annual National Wāqifāt-e-Nau Camp was held at Al-Nasr Mosque in Willingboro, New Jersey and was attended by more than 80 Wāqifāt. Workshops were held on "Is There a Living God?" and "Digital Addiction: Is It Real," as well as a health seminar on "The Importance of Sleep" and "Establish Good Self-Esteem to Avoid Depression and Anxiety."

- 2019: From 21-28 June, the Fifth Annual National Wāqifāt-e-Nau Camp was held at Bait-ul-Aafiyat in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and was attended by more than 91 Wāqifāt. This Camp also included an introduction to learning the Spanish language. A health seminar was also held where a team of Lajna doctors arranged CPR training and certifications for 73 Wāqifāt.

Waqf-e-Nau Publications Submitted by Lajna Ima'illah USA



Lajna Ima'illah USA's Translation Department translated the following Waqf-e-Nau topic sermons from Urdu to English:

- Waqf-e-Nau Friday Sermons of Khalifat-ul-Masih IV on:
 - 10 February 1989 (published in the Ahmadiyya Gazette, USA in

January 2004)

- 17 February 1989
- 8 September 1989
- 1 December 1989 (published in the Ahmadiyya Gazette, USA in October 2003).

A summary of these sermons was published in Al-Hilal magazine and latter published the booklet (2005) for the benefit of English-speaking children and their parents.

The articles were also published in Al-Hilal Magazine:

Issue 2 of 2001 "Waqf-e-Nau Children Special Mujahidin and Leaders of the Next Century"

Issue 2 of 2003, "How we can become better Waqf-e-Nau"

(Lajna Annual Report 2003-2004)

May Allah continue to guide Wāqifāt-e-Nau USA to fulfill their all obligations and become true servants of Islam and Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya.

January 20, 2020

Compiled by National Nā'ib Sadr II –In charge Wāqifāt-e-Nau USA and Lubna Malik

Under the guidance of National Sadr, Dhiya Tahira Bakr



Agriculture—زراعت



As the National Secretary of Agriculture USA, it gives me pleasure and renews hope to write this article for our one-hundred-year anniversary. As we prepare for our next one hundred years may we realize how far we have to go. My prayers are that we may come together one day as Ahmadi Muslims, no matter our background, language, food preferences, or profession. To this end we are given the Quran, Hadith, The Promised Messiah, and Khulafa to guide our journey; our senses to process, a conscience to inherently know right from wrong, and a beautiful world with example after example of true and unadulterated worship of the Almighty Allah.

In creation we can observe a one-hundred-foot tree, a field of corn, a trillion-dollar company, a Prophet all began as seeds. A seed has no choice in what it becomes as Allah, the Almighty, has set it upon a path to grow. Its growth depends on the external environment before,

during, and upon reaching the fulfillment of purpose. Meaning it came from a healthy place, landed in the right soil, received the proper nutrients, and fulfilled its purpose by bearing fruits, seeds, and beauty. Like a child, a convert, a marriage, a relationship is a seed set upon a path to grow. It is the relationship between created and Creator that fosters the environment to grow beautifully internally, externally, in our homes, and in our communities.

Applied concepts of the Department of Agriculture as stated in the Rules and Regulations:

1. He shall work for the general uplift and welfare of members of Jamā'at who are involved in agricultural pursuits.
 - a. This is our seed from a healthy place.
 - b. Each Local Secretary is the right soil.
 - c. Our prayers, expertise, and growing together are the proper nutrients.

- d. Fulfillment of our Agricultural purpose will be realized when we put these into practice.
2. He shall provide necessary information concerning new techniques and development in agriculture, seeds, fertilizers, insecticides etc. to the concerned members.
 - a. Is our seed from a healthy place?
 - b. Each Local Secretary is the right soil.
 - c. Our prayers, expertise, and growing together are the proper nutrients.
 - d. Fulfillment of our Agricultural purpose will be realized when we put these into practice.

My hopes and prayers for our Agriculture Department is that we foster growth between each other, plant seeds of brotherhood and love wherever we go, and fulfill our purpose that Allah Ta'ālā may be pleased with us in this life and the hereafter.



San'at-o-Tijarat—Trade & Industry—صنعت و تجارت

San'at-o-Tijarat is a key function for our Jamā'at in edifying the commerce and trade portions for our members. The overall mission of San'at-o-Tijarat is fairly expansive and quite broad in outlining various salient and key areas.

Since the time of Holy Prophet

(may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), trade has been closely associated with Islam and its growth. In the city of Mecca, the Quraish tribe were leaders in commerce with their influence and connections extending to Abyssinia and Syria. Prophet Muhammad was himself was a member of Quraish and a

merchant before preaching the revelation he received from God. Quraish used its power to develop networks of trade and support throughout the Arabian Peninsula and beyond. Slowly, Islam spread through economic, diplomatic and other empire-building means.

Islam has been at the forefront of trade's development and progress.

The cardinal areas of the San'at-o-Tijarat encompass the following:

- Promoting the entrepreneurship to achieve high strata and greater value in business.
- Facilitating in improving the employment rate for our members especially for refugees and recently arrived immigrants in their re-settlement.
- Facilitating in establishing contacts between various businessmen, traders, and professionals.
- Providing platform for sharing knowledge and guidance in various fields.
- Helping to start businesses by providing technical insight.
- Developing and initiating a youth-oriented program in inspiring them to seek higher education and to become industry leaders.

We are programmed to teach and consult with start-ups, floundering businesses and even those who are flourishing in their respective businesses. Below we have outlined some thoughts about becoming successful and how to achieve such outlier success. But much of it depends on individual efforts in adapting a culture which impels you to succeed.

- **Compound yourself**

Compounding is magic. Few businesses in the world have true network effects and extreme scalability. People should aim for their lives to follow an ever-increasing up-to-the right trajectory. It is important to move toward a career that has a compounding effect---most careers progress linearly.

We think the biggest competitive advantage in business for your career is long term thinking. One of the notable aspects of compound growth is that the furthest out years are the most important. In a world where no one takes a truly long-term view, the market richly rewards those who do.

Trust the exponential, be patient, and be pleasantly surprised.

- **Have almost too much self-belief**
Self-belief is immensely powerful. Cultivate this early. If you want to see what conviction looks like, see the face of Elon Musk when he talks about The SpaceX factory.

Managing your own morale and your team's is one of the hardest challenges of most endeavors. It is almost impossible without a lot of self-belief. And unfortunately, the more ambitious you are, the more the world will try to tear you down.

Don't hate criticism of any sort and don't avoid it. Listen to it with assumption that it's true. Truth

seeking is hard and often painful., but it is what separates self-belief from self-delusion.

- **Learn to think independently**

Schools are not set up to teach entrepreneurship, in fact it generally rewards the opposite. You have to cultivate it through learning and experience. You will fail many times and you'll be right after experiencing the failure. You will figure out what to do in situations that seem to have no solution. Grit come from learning and teaches you how to be successful under those conditions.

- **Get good at "Sales"**

Self-belief itself is not sufficient—you also have to convince others of what you believe. Nothing ever happens in this world until someone sells something.

All great careers to a large degree become sales jobs. You have to evangelize your plans to your customers, your employees, stakeholders, the press, your bankers and investors. This requires an inspiring vision, strong communication skills, some degree of charisma, and evidence of execution ability.

If you're thinking is clear, then use plain, concise language.

Selling feels good if you believe in what you are selling. Selling snake oil feels awful.

Show up in person whenever its

important. It may make career making turning point.

- **Make it easy to take risks**

Most people overestimate risk and underestimate reward. You have to try many things and adapt quickly as you learn more.

Don't save up for too long. We have often noticed a problem with founders that have spent a lot of time working for other large companies. When people get used to a comfortable life, a predictable job, and a reputation for succeeding at whatever they do, it gets very hard to leave that behind. Even if they do leave, the temptation to return is great. It's easy—and human nature—to prioritize short-term gain and convenience over long-term fulfillment.

- **Focus**

Focus is a force multiplier on work. It is much more important to work on the right things than it is to work many hours. Once you have figured it out what to do, be unstoppable about getting your small handful of priorities accomplished quickly.

Extreme people get extreme results. Working a lot comes with

huge life tradeoffs, and it is perfectly rational to decide not to do it. But it has lots of advantages. As in most cases, momentum compounds, and success begets success.

- **Be bold**

We believe that it is easier to do a hard start-up than an easy start-up.

If everyone else is starting meme companies, and you want to start a gene-editing company, then do that and don't second guess it.

Follow your curiosity. A big secret is that you can bend the world to your will a surprising percentage of time—most people don't even try and accept the status quo.

Airbnb is our benchmark for a long/hard slog. We would not recommend trying to reproduce (keeping maxed-out credit cards in those nine slots three ring binder pages' kids use for baseball cards, eating dollar store cereal for every meal, battle after battle with powerful entrenched interests, and on and on) but they managed to survive long enough for luck to go their way.

Hopefully this is a personality trait that can be even further improved. We have never met a very

successful pessimistic person.

- **Be hard to compete with**

Companies are more valuable if they are hard to compete with. To do that you have to build up leverage. For example, you can do that with personal relationships, by building a strong personal brand, or by getting good at multiple different fields.

The mimetic behavior is usually a mistake—if you're doing the same thing everyone else is doing, you will not be hard to compete with.

- **Build a network**

Great work requires teams.

An effective way to build a network is to help people as much as you can. It is not surprising how often something good will happen because of something you did to help a founder years ago. One of the best ways is to take care of people who help you.

A particularly valuable part of building a network is to get good at discovering under-discovered talent. Quickly spotting intelligence, drive and creativity gets much easier with practice.

Finally, remember to spend your time with positive people who support your ambitions.

Key Programs of Şan'at-o-Tijarat

Mentoring Program

We know that many mentoring programs exist in our country and our Jamā'at where members can benefit in their individual capacity. Our plan is somewhat different:

We choose mentors that have figured out how to balance being engaged in the Jamā'at and flourish

professionally. We will require a rigorous interviewing process. For mentee we will also institute the same process to gauge their commitment and interest. We will be selective in picking the mentors to ensure that mentors can instill sense of balance across Jamā'at and the professional lives of our younger

generation. We will also use many Apps available to establish video chats and track the progress. Also, in the works is a rating system for mentors and mentees to weed out that are not delivering on their commitment.

Hosting an Annual Professional Summit

We are considering holding multiple summits in different geographical locations every year. The idea is to gather Ahmadi professionals and motivate them to

excel professionally and also network. We are starting with a few tracks, i.e., Entrepreneurs (these are small business owners), IT Professionals, Finance Professionals

& Highly successful top professionals. We have been in touch with a few marquee (outside) leaders to speak at the conference to attract the members, students,

working Khuddam, and even Atfāl.

We have verbally received commitments from a Pakistani billionaire entrepreneur, a Venture Capitalist and one highly rated CEO of a major Fortune 100 company.

A few of the Topics which are being proposed under this program:

Creating a Closed Online LinkedIn Group

This group of Ahmadi professionals is the catalyst to share ideas, jobs news and network from

Refugees/Immigrants Settlement Program

We have contacted several government agencies who provide various settlement related help, such as:

Personalized career development programs

Youth Initiative

There is a large constituency of refugee and non-refugee children. We must pay special attention to their well-being and provide mentorship and guidance in acquiring higher education.

Many refugee families lack educational background and currently are employed in

menial jobs with long hours, including weekends. Therefore, the parental guidance and experiences lack desired oversight and tutoring capacities. These children are growing up under this influence which will invariably lead them to an average education.

With our mentoring help these children need to develop confidence and courage, strong and deep focus, unyielding commitment, strong passion for being the best, eradicating historical cultural barriers and striving to deliver the wishes of Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muşliḥ Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) who said, and we paraphrase "A BLESSED WISH."

Decision making with effectiveness

Dispute resolution
Emotional intelligence
Influence
Interpersonal skills,
Leadership

Managing up
Self confidence
Strategic thinking
Team building
Tolerance of change and uncertainty

all over the country. This will eventually replace many of the existing WhatsApp groups that

Classroom and work-based learning opportunities

Career coaching and mentoring, credential recognition

Vocational English language training

others have created to fill the void.

Department of Commerce & Department of Labor both have agreed to provide settlement assistance.

"I don't know how others may feel but whenever I travel by train, I begin to wish that this train could have been invented by an Ahmadi who would also own this train. And when I fly by an airplane, I wish that this plane could have been invented by an Ahmadi who would also own the plane. When I was in Karachi, I mentioned to a few friends that if making a plane is beyond our capacity then I wish that someone can just make a boat which could travel in the ocean and when I would sit in it, I could proclaim that it is made by Ahmadīs. It is important that we begin to think about these things and try fulfilling my desires and wishes."

Many ethnic groups who come from the similar backgrounds and extreme poverty have achieved tremendous successes by embracing high education and mastering the

world of business and management.

Our youth initiative is to uplift and inspire our younger generation to excel in education and become industry leaders in their chosen field.

Parents must become a rousingly positive force and must not suppress the imagination and thinking of their children. They must regularly encourage their children to explore and exploit opportunities and dream BIG.

We are creating 2-minute TED TALK style videos for the youth, delivered by the most renowned and most accomplished Ahmadi professionals in citing their life stories, hardships they endured during their educational years, financial difficulties but still they stayed true, flourished and dominated the business world. Through this mechanism our youth will heed the advice of our professionals and vigorously proceed to seek higher education.

Through our mentoring plan we will maintain a tracking system to

evaluate the efficacy of this endeavor and provide follow up and educational assistance as needed.

How to Invest in Startups

There is a lot of advice about how to be a good startup founder. We will further discuss about this topic during our summit.

But there isn't very much about

how to be a good startup INVESTOR.

It is easier right now to be a capital taker than a capital giver.

To do well as an investor, one

need to do three things: get access to good investment opportunities, make good decisions about what to invest in, and get the companies you want choose you as an investor.

The Goal: A Process of Ongoing Improvement

Our Şan'at-o-Tijarat plan, while providing some specific key programs extensively concentrates on avoiding the old cultural habits and adapting newer/energetic and most current ways of advancing careers. Our focus on education is paramount.

Many Chief Executive Officers and American business titans primarily all come from poverty-stricken areas of South Asia. Chairman of Microsoft, Chairman of Google, Chairman of Pepsi, Chairman of Deloitte, Chairman of IBM, Chairman of Motorola, Chairman of Micron Technologies,

Chairman of Novartis, Chairman of Nokia, Chairman of Adobe and dozens of Venture Capitalists. Most everyone was on welfare while going to school and worked in hourly jobs to earn some money. Today they are on top of American businesses earning in billions.

We have attempted to show that no exceptional brain power is needed to construct any new paradigm. What is needed is just the courage to face inconsistencies and to avoid running away from them just because "That's the way it was always done"

We have also attempted to

design a Şan'at-o-Tijarat plan to show the meaning of education. We believe that the only way we can learn is through our deductive process. Our young who are our next leaders must lead with confidence, knowledge and courage. Our future generation must gain competitive advantage by grooming themselves with education and in the process fulfill the wishes of Muşliḥ Mau'ūd.

We are an optimistic bunch., Always thinking of better ways to overcome hurdles. It is human to fear, but during those times, against our will comes wisdom through the ultimate grace of God.



Chaudhary Hameedullah, Wakil A'la Tahrik Jadid at the 2008 US Annual Convention

Internal Audit

لِلّٰهِ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْاَرْضِ ۗ وَاِنْ تُبْدُوْا مَا فِيْ اَنْفُسِكُمْ اَوْ تَخْفَوْهُ يُحٰسِبِكُمْ بِهٖ اللّٰهُ ۗ

فَيَغْفِرُ لِمَنْ يَّشَاءُ وَيُعَذِّبُ مَنْ يَّشَاءُ ۗ وَاللّٰهُ عَلٰى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيْرٌ ﴿٢٨٥﴾



To Allah belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth; and whether you disclose what is in your minds or keep it hidden, Allah will call you to account for it; then will He forgive whomsoever He pleases and punish whomsoever He pleases; and Allah has the power to do all that He wills. (2[Al-Baqarah]:285)



In the Holy Qurān, Muslims have been reminded time and time again that ownership of all resources is with Allah Almighty and whosoever has been granted the stewardship of resources will be held accountable for it. Concept of accountability is parallel with the concept of trustworthiness and therefore, the concept of accountability is front and center in the financial systems of Ahmadiyya Jamā'at. Internal Audit department is a critical component of such accountability.

Tahrīk-e-Jadīd Rules define the Internal Auditor's responsibilities as:

The Internal Auditor (as provided in Rule 208) shall be responsible to the National Amir / President. Keeping in view the rules and regulations of Tahrik Jadīd and the instructions given by the Markaz, he shall audit the accounts of the national Jamā'at and the local Jamā'ats in the country and submit his report to the National Amir / President.

There is a great deal of wisdom in the design of overall financial management system of Jamā'at. Notwithstanding the core expectations of honesty, integrity and transparency by all those who are involved in handling any aspect of financial matters of Jamā'at, like

any fiscally responsible organization, it is vital that appropriate checks and balances are in place to mitigate risks in financial matters. Segregation of duties among various departments such as Finance Secretary, Muhasib (Accountant) and Amin (Treasurer) serves as a sound system of internal control. Internal Audit is a completely independent function whose overall objective is to provide assurance to the National Amir that the Jamā'at's financial systems including Chanda collection and expense reporting are appropriately designed, are functioning effectively and comply with the policies and procedures as established by the Markaz. Internal Audit helps the Jamā'at by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance at the National Headquarters and throughout all local chapters with a view to ensure that Jamā'at's resources are used appropriately and there is proper accountability for all collections and expenditures.

Critical steps involved in achieving these objectives include:

- Periodic review of key policies and procedures regarding systems of income and expense reporting
- Periodic assessment of controls that are designed to implement

policies

- Identification of any needed improvements to enhance operational efficiency
- Safeguarding of Jamā'at's assets
- Regular audits at the National Headquarters and Local Chapters to ensure that expenses are in accordance with approved budgets
- Identification of any wastage of Jamā'at resources
- Consistent and regular communication with the National Amir to report any audit findings and remedial actions needed

In the US Jamā'at, the Internal Audit department has been set up to ensure that system of accountability is firmly in place. Internal auditors at the local chapter level are required to perform quarterly audit and are provided audit training and detailed audit programs to carry out their responsibilities. The Internal Audit department is striving to drive the highest level of integrity, accountability, efficiency and prudent fiscal discipline so that all donors who make financial sacrifice purely for the pleasure of Allah Almighty are assured that the Jamā'at's resources are safeguarded well and controlled in a responsible manner.

دَارُ الْقَضَا



Members of the Qada Board USA with Khalifat-ul-Masih V

Seated: Falah Shams, Missionary Dr Zaheer Bajwa, Missionary Mubasher Ahmad, Mubarik Malik (Nazim Dar-ul-Qada), Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad (Ameer USA), Khalifat-ul-Masih V, Qudus Malik (Chairman Qada Board), Missionary Syed Shamshad Ahmad Nasir, Mobashir Ahmad Khan, Qasim Rasheed, Syed Sajid Ahmad
Standing: Saleem Bhatti, Usman Nasir Chaudhary, Mujeeb, Missionary Salman Tariq, Missionary Adnan Ahmad Bhalli, Dr. Rashid Waraich, Missionary Yahya Luqman, Bashir Shams, Kalimullah Khan



US Delegation with Khalifat-ul-Masih V in London at International Dar-ul-Qada Refresher Course

Seated: Dr. Abdul-Waheed Khan, Qasim Rasheed, Missionary Syed Shamshad A. Nasir, Falah Shams, Qudus Malik (Chairman Qada Board), Khalifat-ul-Masih, Mubarik Malik (Nazim Dar-ul-Qada), Missionary Mubasher Ahmad, Missionary Dr Zaheer Bajwa, Saif-ur-Rahman, Usman Nasir Chaudhary.
Standing: Abd-ul-Latif, Mahmood Ahmad, Abd-ul-Ahad Chaudhary, Missionary Yahya Luqman, Mobashir Khan, Noor-ud-Din Mahmud, Bashir Shams, Ataul-Karim, Missionary Salman Tariq, Rashid Waraich, Dhul-Waqar Yaqub

The institution of Dar-ul-Qadā was formally established in 1919 when Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood

Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih II^{ra}, (second Caliph or successor of the Promised Messiah^{as}) laid the foundation of the administrative structure of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The first formal announcement of this administrative structure was made in Daily Al-Fazl on January 04, 1919. Khalifat-ul-Masih II gave the following instructions regarding the establishment of Dar-ul-Qaḍā:

“The task of Qadis (the judges) is to render decisions, and that of Qadi-al-Qada (Chief Judge) is to hear the appeals, and all decisions of Qadi al-Qada can be appealed to the Khalifa of the time except cases in which the Khalifa of the time is a party himself. In such cases, the decision of Qadi al-Qaḍā will be absolutely final. (Daily Al-Hakam, January 07, 1919, p. 5).

Khalifat-ul-Masih II further explained the aims and objectives of Dar-ul-Qaḍā in his address delivered on the second day of the 1919 Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention). He said:

“When our Jamā’at members get embroiled in conflict somewhere, they go to the courts which is an insult to the Jamā’at. In the beginning, when a conflict is just at its initial stage, they don’t come to the Jamā’at because they do not wish to bother the Jamā’at with a trivial problem. But when the conflict grows, they hesitate to contact the Jamā’at because they now worry that the Jamā’at will ask them why they waited so long to bring the conflict to the attention of the Jamā’at. Eventually, the conflict grows to such an extent that

even if we ask them to resolve their differences, they refuse and eventually leave Ahmadiyyat. This problem arises because the Department of Dar-ul-Qaḍā has not yet been established everywhere. If some people had been educated about certain issues and appointed in various places, then this problem would not have arisen. Now we have established the Department of Dar-ul-Qaḍā in Qadian. In the future, some members should be educated about relevant issues and appointed in various Jamā’ats so they can adjudicate local disputes and discords. In this way, conflicts won’t grow and cause disharmony. Dar-ul-Qada in Qadian will still be able to entertain appeals from such local decisions” (*Irfan-i-Ilāhī*, December 28, 1919, p. 80).

Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II directed that Dar-ul-Qaḍā shall decide cases of a civil nature only were doing so does not contravene the law of the land. Decisions made locally could be appealed at Dar-ul-Qaḍā in Qadian.

Mirza Bashir Ahmad in his book “Silsila Ahmadiyya” under the “Establishment of Department of Dar-ul-Qaḍā” has mentioned that Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II established a modern “Department of Dar-ul-Qaḍā” to decide internal conflicts within the Jamā’at. He wrote that the biggest benefit of decision-making through Dar-ul-Qaḍā is that (a) the conflict is resolved within the Jamā’at, (b) money and time is not wasted in worldly courts, (c) Jamā’at members are protected from the undesirable immoral influences prevalent in such courts, and (d) the risk of

acrimony between the parties as a result of a court decision is avoided. Hadrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad further said: “The Dar-ul-Qaḍā has created an inexpensive, easy and fine method of resolving internal conflicts within the Jamā’at. This system of the Jamā’at has two unique features. First, all cases in Dar-ul-Qaḍā system are decided according to Islamic Sharia. Second, not only are the parties not charge any fees but every case is decided for free at the expense of the Jamā’at because this is the old Islamic custom.” (Silsila Ahmadiyya, pp. 356-357)

The Department of Dar-ul-Qaḍā is currently established in sixteen Jamā’ats of the world. These Jamā’ats are India, Pakistan, UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Mauritius, Indonesia, Norway, Sweden, Bangladesh and Malaysia. The Dar-ul-Qaḍā of a country comes under the direct supervision of Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih except for matters of administrative nature which fall under the Ameer of the country. Officials of Dar-ul-Qaḍā of a country are: Sadr, Nazim, members of Dar-ul-Qaḍā Appellate Board and Qadi Awwals (the judges). The day-to-day management of the Dar-ul-Qaḍā rests with Nazim Dar-ul-Qaḍā.

In the U.S., Dar-ul-Qaḍā was first established by Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV during the Imarat of Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad in 1984. Sahibzada M.M. Ahmad (1984-1990) was appointed as the first Sadr of Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA. Dr. Laeeq Ahmad was its second Sadr and he served from 1990 till 2001. Sahibzada Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad served as the third Sadr of Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA. He was the longest serving Sadr of Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA and he served from 2001 till 2016. Attaul Qudus Malik is serving as its current President.



Dr. Laeeq Ahmad

Similarly, Allah Bakhsh Chaudhary was appointed as the first Nazim of Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA. He was the longest serving Nazim of Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA and he served from 1984 till 2007. Aziz Vance was its second Nazim and he served from 2007 till 2010. Mubarik Ahmad Malik has been serving as the Nazim since 2010. Presently, there are 6 Members of Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA Appellate Board for the term ending December 2021 and 18 Qadi Awwals (judges) for the same term. 18 Qadi Awwals represent 11 Regions: Headquarter Region, LA East Region, Upstate New York Region, South East Region, Texas North Region, New England Region, Texas South Region, Pacific Northwest Region, Midwest Central Region, New York Metro West Region, and Midwest West Region.

Members of Dar-ul-Qaḍā Appellate Board & Qadi Awwals are appointed with the approval of Khalifat-ul-Masih. Names of Jamā'at members who are knowledgeable in the Holy Quran, Sunnah, Hadith, and Fiqh Ahmadiyya are recommended to Khalifat-ul-Masih for approval. The term for members of Dar-ul-Qaḍā

Appellate Board & Qadi Awwals is three years and it starts in January.

Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA has completed 146 cases of various types (mostly khula cases numbering 110) since 2008. Types of disputes considered by Dar-ul-Qaḍā are: Matrimonial Disputes, Financial Disputes, and Domestic Disputes of routine nature. It is mandatory for parties to sign "The Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA Arbitration Agreement." The Qadi Awwal's decision can be appealed by both parties in writing by informing the Nazim Dar-ul-Qaḍā.

Following are the types of cases which cannot be heard by Dar-ul-Qaḍā:

1. If any of the parties refuse to sign the "Arbitration Agreement," Dar-ul-Qaḍā cannot accept that case.
2. If any of the parties have taken their dispute to a worldly court, Dar-ul-Qaḍā cannot hear that case.
3. If a dispute has reached the level of police intervention, Dar-ul-Qaḍā cannot hear that case
4. The cases of limited companies cannot be heard by Dar-ul-Qaḍā.
5. No complaint/appeal of an ex-communicated Jamā'at member against another Jamā'at member or department can be heard by Dar-ul-Qaḍā without Khalifat-ul-Masih's special permission.
6. The Dar-ul-Qaḍā cannot interfere in Jamā'at's administrative affairs.
7. An issue between husband &

wife cannot be heard by Dar-ul-Qaḍā.

Activities of Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA include Monthly Reports to Khalifat-ul-Masih started since beginning of year 2011, and Dar-ul-Qaḍā Monthly Training Conference Calls started since August 2017. These calls are held every third Saturday of the month. We have discussed so far complete "Fiqh Ahmadiyya" on Personal Law (covering topics on Nikah, Talaq, Khul' and Wirasat). Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd Ke Qada'i Faisaly are also covered in this call. These calls are well attended.

A 2-day Dar-ul-Qaḍā Refresher Course was held in April 2017 under the instructions of Khalifat-ul-Masih. Respected Zaheer Khan Professor Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya UK and Expert, Fiqh 'i Masa'il, Muslim Television Ahmadiyya was sent from Markaz. Attendance of Qadi Awwals and members Dar-ul-Qaḍā Appellate Board was 93.5%. Total attendance was 60.

In January 2019, 21 members of Dar-ul-Qaḍā USA were honored to attend the first ever International Dar-ul-Qaḍā Refresher Course which was held to celebrate the centenary of the establishment of Dar-ul-Qaḍā in Qadian pursuant to the instructions of Khalifat-ul-Masih at Bait-ul-Futūh Mosque, London, UK. 121 Delegates from all 16 countries where Dar-ul-Qaḍā has been established so far attended the course. The highlight was a historic address delivered by Khalifat-ul-Masih at this occasion.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Medical Association, USA

Lutf Rehman



With the permission of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III, Ahmadi doctors in the US formed a medical

association in the USA in 1980. It was named Ahmadiyya Medical Association. Dr. Ahsan Ullah Zafar was elected the first president of the association.

In 1984, a formal constitution was written for the organization, and it was approved by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV. The constitution called for all USA doctors to be full members of the organization. Allied health professionals such as pharmacists, nurses and others were made

associate members. Only full members in good standing could be elected to any office of the organization.

Since its inception, the organization has worked to mobilize the US Ahmadi doctors to carry out the humanitarian work for people who need help. Since 1990, the organization has worked closely with Humanity First USA and its doctors have participated in numerous humanitarian missions as part of relief efforts of Humanity First USA.

Tahir Heart Institute, Rabwah, Pakistan



In the late 1990s, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV announced the plans for building a cardiac institute in Rabwah, Pakistan. USA doctors donated generously towards this

cause and later also participated in establishing various specialties in the hospital and provided medical know how and work to run it. Especially the cardiac surgery and

cardiology program has been closely supported by the US doctors over the last 15 years. Dr. Ata ur Nur Khalid Nuri, Dr. Muhammad Ali Mumtaz and Dr. Mubashar A. Mumtaz have

been instrumental in establishing and then running a Cardiac surgery program at the Tahir Heart Institute Rabwah. The hospital has the capability to perform adult and pediatric cardiac surgery procedures. Dr. Abdul Quddus Shahid, and Dr. Nasir Tanoli have accompanied the surgeons to provide anesthesia for the patients.

Many Ahmadi cardiologists from the USA visit Tahir Heart from time to time and spend a week or two helping perform various cardiology procedures and treatment of patients. Some among them are Dr. Khalid Minhas, Dr. Mansoor Qureshi, Dr. Saqib Samee, Dr. Naveed ul Haq, Dr. Reyaz ul Haq, Dr.

Afzal ur Rehman, Dr. Faheem Ahmad, Dr. Ahmad Munir, and Dr. Muqtada Chaudhry.

Ahmadi doctors from the USA have also helped establish a state-of-the-art radiology department for the institute. In addition to training the local staff, they have also provided direct reading of various studies such as CT scans and Ultrasounds. Dr. Amina Tariq has led this effort for the last eight years.

Many doctors from the USA have donated equipment and expertise to establish other programs. Tahir Heart Institute now has capability to perform dialysis for patients of renal failure. Dr. Mir Maqbool Ahmad and Dr. Abdus

Salam have helped at the dialysis center.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Medical Association has helped establish a sleep lab to evaluate and treat patients of sleep disorder at the Tahir Heart Institute in 2014. Dr. Naeem Lughmani led this effort.

Some other Ahmadi physicians who have spent time at the Tahir Heart Institute and provided help are Ata ur Rehman, Maqbool Ahamad, Abid Haq, Ayesha Haq and Jaffer Mobeen.

Begum Zubeda Bani Hospital in Rabwah is providing OBGyn services for many decades. Dr. Shehla Khan has visited the hospital and provided services.

Nasir Hospital Guatemala



Guatemala is another country where Ahmadi doctors from the USA have been very active. Since 2010, we have been running gift of health missions from the platform of Humanity First, three to four times a year. Later, gift of Sight missions were also added. A large number of Guatemalans were treated during these mission trips.

With the permission of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V, Humanity First USA started building Nasir Hospital in Guatemala in 2016. The hospital was completed and inaugurated in 2018. Once again US Ahmadi physicians donated generously towards the building of the hospital. In October of 2018, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V inaugurated the hospital. In addition to others more

than 75 US Ahmadi physicians attended this blessed ceremony. Many doctors from the USA have visited the hospital at various times and helped to establish protocols and procedures at the hospital. From 2019 to 2021, Dr. Amatul Basit Khalid led the hospital as Chief Medical Officer and Administrator.

Various Ahmadi doctors who

have provided help at the Nasir Hospital are Dr. Amina Tariq (Radiology), Dr. Abdus Salam Malik, (Nephrology), Dr. Abdul Qudus Shahid (Pain management), Dr. Saquib Samee (Cardiology) Dr.

Shahid Mahmood (Lab services), Dr. Ahsan Khan (Ophthalmology), Dr. Tayyaba Ali (Ophthalmology), Dr. Shehla Shabnam (OBGyn), Dr. Samra Khalid (OBGyn), Dr. Nasir Tanoli (ICU), Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhry

(Orthopedics) Dr. Amtur Rehman (Pediatrics), Dr. Nadeem Khan (Gastroenterology), and Dr. Anwar Ahmad (Neurology).

Marshall Islands

In 2013 Two of our physicians visited Marshall Islands as part of a mission trip to provide direction and

assistance in the healthcare of the people of this small nation. Dr. Agha Shahid Khan, who is a neurosurgeon, performed a critical

surgery upon a patient of head injury. Dr. Haroon Nasir Khan also went to the islands and helped in the care of patients.

Charity Clinic

Under the direction and leadership of Dr. Younus M. Ismail, a charity clinic was established in a small rural town of Alabama in 2013. This was the first charitable clinic by Ahmadi doctors anywhere in the USA. The clinic provides outpatient services including basic lab work for any patient regardless of their ability to pay.



Free Health Consult

Ahmadiyya Muslim Medical Association collaborated with Ansarullah USA and started providing free phone consults to anyone anywhere in the USA in 2015. This service is still running.

Scholarships and Interest-Free Loans

Many physicians come to the USA from overseas, especially

Pakistan. We provide support services for them. We give Qarza-e-Hasana (interest-free loans) to those among them who need financial help before they can find a residency position in this country.

Martyr

One of our members, Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar, who was a cardiologist was martyred while visiting Tahir Heart Institute in 2014. He was attacked while visiting the graves at

the Bahishti Maqbara and was shot to death.

Website

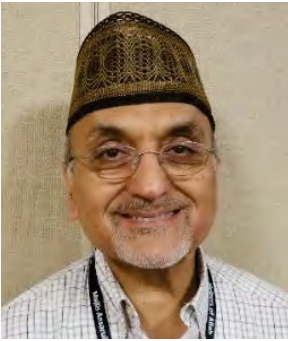
We also run a website, www.ammausa.org.

Presidents

Following is a list of the presidents of Ahmadiyya Muslim Medical Association, USA since its inception.



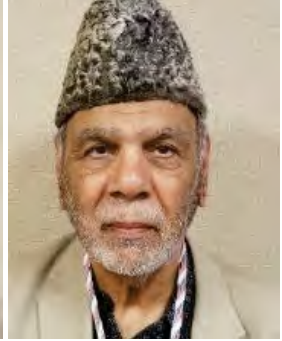
Dr. Ahsan Zafar
1980 to 1984



Dr. Naseer Tahir
1984 to 1986



Dr. Nadeem Ahmad
1986 to 1988



Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhry
1988 to 1992



Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah
1992 to 2003



Dr. Muhammad Ali Mumtaz
2003 to 2010



Dr. Lutf Rehman
2010 to Present



2014 Shura (Advisory Council): Top: Members. Bottom: Missionaries.

Majlis-e-Şihhat USA

Importance of Health and Hygiene in Islam:

The importance of health and hygiene in Islam is evident in Allah Ta'ālā mandating cleanliness for believers as essential for spiritual elevation. As a result, the Holy Prophet Mohammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) demonstrated the perfect example of taking care of hygiene and diet in his life. Similarly, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) has expounded on this subject in his book *The Philosophy of the teaching of Islam*:

“It should be understood that according

to the Holy Quran, the natural state of man is intimately related to his moral and spiritual states. So much so that even his eating and drinking habits affect his moral and spiritual states... That is why the Holy Quran emphasizes the physical cleanliness, physical moderation for prayers, inner cleanliness, and devotions. After careful consideration, one concludes that this is the true philosophy and that

physical organs have great effect on the soul.”

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) goes on to say:

“Our experience shows that various diets definitely affect the faculties of mind and soul.”

Spiritual faculties are activated through physical body; taking care of the physical body is part of worship. This is the drive behind the Ahmadiyya Community continuing the tradition of organized sport activities under the Department of Majlis-e-Şihhat.

USA Majlis-e-Şihhat Establishment:

Majlis-e-Şihhat has been established in the USA under the directive of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V, may Allah Ta'ālā be his Helper. Its goal is to promote the love of sports and healthy life choices among Ahmadi families in America. It aims to promote exercise for families and healthy diets, incorporating Halal (allowed) and Tayyib (agreeable) foods. Its goal is to make Ahmadiyya Muslim Community recognized as the healthiest of communities, because healthy individuals produce healthy generations. Physical well-being is incorporated under Majlis-e-Şihhat by organized events at the

regional, national, and international level, playing an important role in motivating people to compete for excellence.

In 2009, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih VABA, directed Nā'ib Ameer, Respected Wasim Malik to establish Majlis-e-Şihhat in the USA. Since that time, Majlis-e-Şihhat has been established with initial focus on developing a national cricket team to represent the USA Jamā'at. Department of Majlis-e-Şihhat is listed on www.Ahmadiyya.US under Departments. Links to Masroor Cricket Club, Masroor Hunting and

Gun Club, Noor Hiking Club and Muslim Biking Club are available on the USA Jamā'at Website which include membership sign up pages. The goal is to connect members from different regions having same interest to share information and visit each other's area for joint activities.

Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya (MKA) USA has been continually active for sport activities. There is a need to establish coordination between MKA and Majlis-e-Şihhat to enhance collective efforts.



USA Jalsa Salana Exhibition.

Wasim Malik, Bashir Shams, Mirza A. Rashid from UK Majlis-e-Şihhat, Dr. Hamid and Kalimullah.

Memorable Sports Photos



Basketball players with Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III



Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmed (Khalifatul-Masih IV) inspecting Tug of War Rope at Khuddam Ijtima



Left: Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV bowling in Cricket. Right: Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV Playing Cricket



Left: Volleyball in Rabwah. Right: Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad RA Inaugurating All Pakistan Kabaddi Tournament in Rabwah



Basketball players in Rabwah, Fazl-e-Umar Basketball Club in 1987 – Respected Azhar Hanif in his youth



Left. US Players from Atlanta during Mulaqat with Khalifatul-Masih V, may Allah be his Helper.

Right. Proud moment for runner up team members with Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad Khalifatul-Masih V

Cricket

Since the first trip to London in 2009, USA Cricket players have been working hard to organize and develop this sport among Ahmadi youth. Starting with a few players the number of players has been increasing every year. By the Grace of Allah Ta'ālā, 160 players from all over the USA participated in the most recent Tournament which was hosted by the Houston Jamā'at on January 20-23, 2020.

Majority of our Cricket players participate in local leagues for practice. Two national tournaments are held every year which play major part for selection of national teams to participate in London tournament. MKA holds one Tournament in the Fall and Majlis-e-Şihḥat conducts one in Winter months. In the past Tournaments have been held in Maryland, San Francisco, Dallas, Willingboro NJ,

Other Sports

Majlis-e-Şihḥat Department has links to other sports and outdoor activity clubs where like-minded people can join the club. WhatsApp groups keep in touch with their respective membership to share

Miami, Atlanta and Houston. New Jersey Jamā'at has hosted many Cricket tournaments organized by MKA. Miami Jamā'at has graciously hosted Majlis-e-Şihḥat tournaments for many years. This year the tournament was moved to Houston where the dedicated support by the Jamā'at president and the Jamā'at members was greatly appreciated. May Allah Ta'ālā bless all those Jamā'at s that have been supporting the sports events.

The main reason for promoting cricket was the opportunity to participate in the Annual Masroor International Cricket Tournament in London. With an initiative from Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V, a platform has been established to hold the annual cricket tournaments in London hosted by the UK Jamā'at. Ahmadi teams from all over the world are invited to participate in the

their experiences and make announcements for upcoming events. The links for these clubs are found on Ahmadiyya.us under Majlis-e-Şihḥat which is located under Departments. May Allah

tournament. Twenty-four teams participated in 2019 tournament, with over 400 players who experienced building brotherly bonds amidst healthy competition. They enjoyed amazingly wonderful hospitality, including transportation, lodging, and Diyāfat provided by the UK Jamā'at. This tournament will be held every other year, rotating with International Soccer Tournament.

At the local level Jamā'ats in Maryland, New Jersey, Atlanta, Houston, Detroit, South Virginia, Harrisburg PA, Los Angeles and many others have starting to make facilities for sports like badminton, volleyball, basketball, ping pong, and some have incorporated fitness centers within their respective mosques/ mission houses.

Ta'ālā continue to shower His blessings in the Majils-e-Şihḥat initiative and allow for its members to reap the spiritual and physical blessings associated with it. Ameen.



Left: Captain Hamayun Mirza receiving runner up trophy from UK Ameer

Right: Respected Dr. Hamidul Rahman, Nā'ib Ameer USA, visiting Masroor International Tournament in 2018



Team USA 2017



Left: Teams USA 2019. Right. Winning Team with Respected Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar at 2016 US Jalsa Salana, Harrisburg, PA



Irfan Mehmood Man of the Match 2019



Man of Match Hamid Ahmad 2019



Team USA with Khalifatul-Masih IV



Team USA with Khalifatul-Masih IV



Left. Team USA in London 2019. Middle. Players in Bait-ul-Fatuh
Right: Bashir Shams and Dr. Khalid Minhas with Chairman Majlis-e-Şihhat Wasim Malik in Miami



Team USA 2018 With Khalifatul-Masih V



Team USA in Masjid Mubarak, Islamabad, UK



Houston Tournament 2020. Left. Champion South Virginia Team. Right. Runner up New Jersey Team.



Miami 2018 Champion South Virginia Team

Noor Hiking Club:



This group is very active and has already made many national and international hiking expeditions. The goal is to have all Ahmadi brothers who have interest in hiking join together and make group tours of national and international trips. One ideal opportunity would be to visit Haifa, Israel, where hiking with great history is in abundance. Photos of Professional Hikers from MD:



Left. Exhibition at the US Jalsa Salana, Harrisburg, PA. Right. Hunting club activity.

Masroor Hunting and Gun Club:

There are members who enjoy outdoor gaming and the share their accomplishments with pride. The goal is to coordinate hunting trips in different regions. The members have a very active WhatsApp group where they share helpful information regarding hunting and information about the use and safety of guns.





Bicycling Club:



Biking is a very popular activity among Americans, and there are a number of excellent trails in every state. There are Ahmadi members with intense interest in bicycling in various Jamā'at s. The goal for this club is to get members together and visit each other's area to explore biking trails together. This club was started a while ago and after a break they are activating to get membership enrolled. Opportunities call for domestic and international expeditions. The following are a few photos from the old club members.



IT Department

USA Jamā'at has embraced technology as it became mainstream in adoption. The first major effort was to introduce the AIMS system into the Finance department. This created the first formal IT initiative in the USA Jamā'at and the Finance Department has been supporting the AIMS system ever since. Later, as the needs were evolving, it was seen that Jamā'at should also look into a secure email system for managing the communication between the office holders at National Headquarters, Local Chapters and Missionaries. Additionally, various National Secretaries were dabbling with technology in their own sphere. This increased the USA Jamā'at's IT footprint considerably.

Finally, a Shūrā proposal in 2018 led to the creation of a formal Information Technology Department under the leadership of a Nā'ib Ameer. Having been created

with the mandate of Shūrā Proposal, blessings of Khalifat-ul-Masih, and the leadership of Amir of USA Jamā'at, the IT Department henceforth was made an integral component of Jamā'at USA's organization umbrella.

Based on the Shūrā Proposal adoption, the IT Department is organized under the leadership of a Nā'ib Amir. This allows for the IT Department to have direct access to Amila and contribute effectively in the organization. With a view to putting together the IT team, the effort entailed conversations and interviews with IT professionals possessing high level of expertise in varying technologies, software, hardware, etc. Pursuant to the preceding exercise, the IT department is organized into four main sub-sections: 1) Support for handling the day to day needs of Jamā'at; 2) Development for

working on the evolving needs of Jamā'at; 3) Security to ensure Jamā'at policies remain in line with the evolving security challenges; and, 4) Infrastructure for managing and supporting the Jamā'at IT Infrastructure. Each sub-section is headed by a team lead who directs the activities within his purview.

The US IT Department is still at its nascent stage, though. It has, nonetheless, been identified as a critical Jamā'at need. With the first of its kind anywhere in the world, the US IT Department has the potential for offering guidelines for similar setup elsewhere in the world. The IT Challenges continue to evolve. US Jamā'at has met this challenge with an organized effort and placing industry leaders in a team for providing timely information and technical advice Ameer of the USA Jamā'at.

Ahmadiyya Architects and Engineers' Association (AAEA):

Presidents

1. Manzoorur Rahman (to 1994)
2. Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq (1994 – circa 1998/2000)
3. Dr. Daud Ahmad Mir (1998-circa 2005/2006)
4. Shafiq Malik (2006-2013)
5. Junaid Malik (2013-present)

Lajna Ima'illah

Ahmadi Women in America

Our Journey through First 100 Years



خدمتِ دین کو اک فضلِ الہی جانو
اس کے بدلے میں کبھی طالبِ انعام نہ ہو
(حضرت مصلح موعودؑ)

Consider the service of faith a blessing of God, never expect a reward for it in return.

Hazrat Muslih-i-Mau'ud (The Promised Reformer), may Allah be pleased with him

Introduction

In the words of Hadrat Muslih Mau'ud, Khalifat-ul-Masih II^{ra}; "Service to the religion itself is Grace of Allah, never ask for any reward in exchange."

Hundred years of Ahmadiyyat in America is a time to reflect on our progress and be reminded of the prayers, sacrifices, efforts and the Institution of Khilafat that keeps Ahmadiyyat moving forward. This period personifies the words of surah Al-Fatiha; "In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful. All praise belongs to Allah, Lord of all the worlds, The Gracious, the Merciful, Master of the Day of Judgment. Thee alone do we worship and Thee alone do we implore for help. Guide us in the straight path, the path of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy blessings, those who have not incurred Thy displeasure and those who have not gone astray." From years 1920 to 2020 many changes, hardships, some tragedies and discoveries have occurred in America all the while; Lajna Ima'illah USA has been blessed to be involved with ensuring that Ahmadiyyat remained on a steady course to infuse love, reform, inclusion, sisterhood/brotherhood, justice, unity and peace in the American society. From a religious aspect Lajna Ima'illah with Nasirat-ul-Ahmadiyya took Islam to the American people to promote the Oneness of God, present the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as the Seal of all Prophets and the champion for women rights. Also, Lajna and Nasirat delivered messages and programs that announced the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), showed the truth of the Holy Qur'an, beauty of Islam and served mankind. 100 years of Ahmadiyyat in America has been a journey that continues on with our new generations striving to bring the Victory of Islam, In Sha 'Allah. We must not forget where we started or lose sight of where

we are going. Our Lord, perfect our light for us and forgive us, surely, Thou hast power over all things (66:9)

The Beginnings 1920's

"The Ahmadi were particularly successful among African Americans and Ahmadi women in full Islamic dress were among the most visible in the fledging American Muslim community"

Muslim Women in America; The Challenge of Islamic Identity Today

Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II sent Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq^{ra} to America as the first Ahmadi missionary to preach and call the people to Ahmadiyyat, the true and heavenly interpretation of Islam. Muslim immigrant communities existed in America at the time, however, with the arrival of Dr. Mufti Sadiq^{ra} in 1920 (African American Journey), America entered an era of Ahmadiyyat.

Madamme RahatUllah (Mrs.Garber)

"Sadiq's most active female convert and proselytizer in New York was Madamme RahatUllah (Mrs.Garber). According to Sadiq, "has (she) been bust in New York and has already secured one American convert and one Muslim to the Ahmadiyya order. Madamme will start lecturing in New York assisted by Mrs. Emerson (Allahdin)"

Moslem sunrise, vol 2., 1921

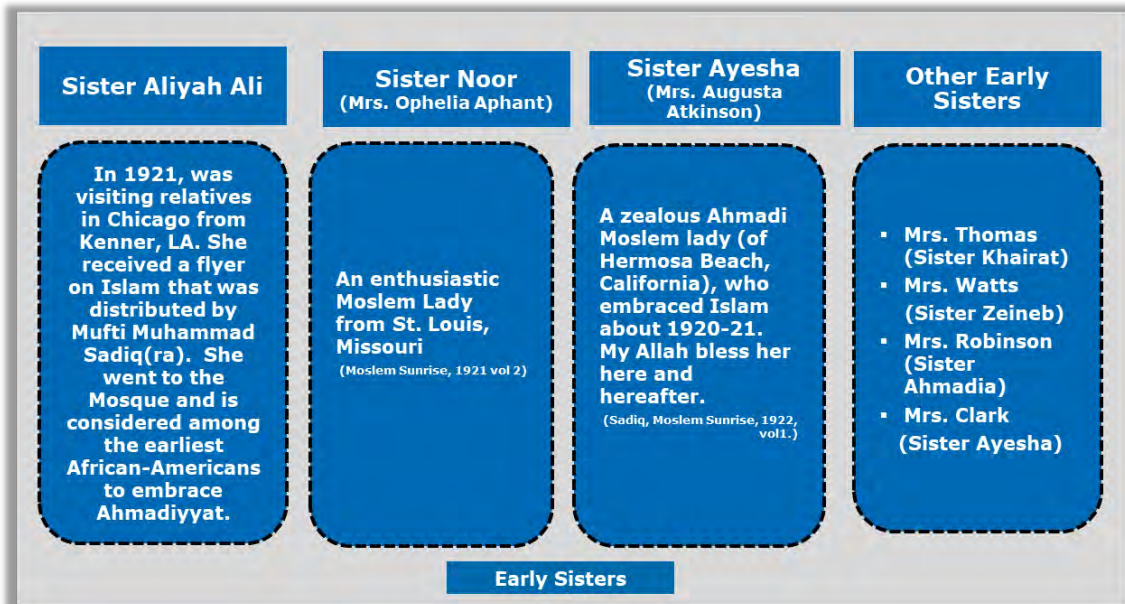
Sister Fatima Mustafa (formerly Mrs. S. W. Sobolewski), from New York, was the first American woman who entered Ahmadiyyat under the guidance of Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq. The first issue of Muslim

Sunrise also mentions Madam Sidica-tun-Nisa Rahatulla (formerly Ella May Garber) from Chicago as one of the earliest converts who embraced Ahmadiyyat after hearing Dr. Mufti Sadiq^{ra}.

Sister Aliyyah Ali holds the distinction of being one of the earliest African American converts to Ahmadiyyat.

Originally from Kenner, Louisiana (near New Orleans), she spent most of her adult life in Chicago, where she first heard of Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq in 1920 (African American Journey). Sister Aliyyah formally joined the Ahmadiyya Movement soon after that and remained an active and dedicated member till her death at the age of 93 years (Lajna History).

American Ahmadi Women in Early Days



Ahmadi women have been an integral part of the history of the Ahmadiyyat in United States of America. These early Ahmadi women played a pivotal role in spreading the teachings of Islam, their assistance being crucial in its establishment, development and expansion later as Lajna Ima'illah USA.

During the early days of Ahmadiyyat in the US, these women made tremendous sacrifices. These courageous and pious women left everything they had in their previous lives and joined Islam. The common belief is that Lajna in America was mainly established by Ahmadi born women from Southeast Asia including Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. While the contribution of Ahmadi women from Pakistan and India cannot be overlooked, the earlier pioneers of Lajna in the US were American born African American and White women. They made personal, social and material sacrifices. As Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq continued to preach the true Islam, many other noble sisters in Detroit entered Ahmadiyyat and were soon joined by Syrian and Middle Eastern converts.

The early Ahmadi sisters started "Sewing Circles" (USA Khilafat Centenary Souvenir, 2008) to learn Islam, offer congregational prayer, make handicrafts for fund-raising, and building sisterhood. African Americans were

the primary members of the Ahmadiyya Movement and even though they were not wealthy, they had large hearts and would contribute generously for the welfare and sustenance of the Ahmadiyya Movement, at home and abroad.

In the 1930s and 1940s, Lajna sisters raised funds through bake and craft sales for Mission House bills and other needs. Women played a key role in financial contributions from their personal funds (called monthly dues or Chanda) and Sewing Circles activities. To finance every project, Lajna members sold crafts, the work of their hands and hearts. Some had artistic talent, which they taught during their Lajna (Sewing Circle) meetings. They fashioned jewelry, baskets, ceramics, clothing, hats, dolls, dishes, candles, quilts, doilies, throw rugs, and dried flower arrangements. They painstakingly copied Arabic calligraphy for pictures and wall hangings. As the message of Promised Messiah^{as} spread to new states and towns, the number of these Sewing Circles grew over time. (USA Khilafat Centenary Souvenir, 2008)

From 1928 to 1935, Sufi Mutiur-Rahman Bengali M.A. Missionary USA, instructed women on adopting Islamic teachings, the Arabic primer, Salat and the Holy Qur'an. In 1935, upon his return from India, in his first Jalsa Salana speech, he announced that American

Ahmadi women would henceforth call their Sewing Circles, “Lajna Ima’illah” a name that was used internationally. This was of special significance for American sisters because it implied a Society of the Maidservants of God honoring its pledge,

“I affirm that I shall always be ready to sacrifice my life, property, time and children for the cause of faith and nation. I shall always adhere to truth and shall always be prepared to make every sacrifice for the perpetuation of the Ahmadiyya Khilāfat, In Shā ‘Allāh.”

First Nine Chapters

- Detroit
- Chicago
- Toledo
- Cleveland
- Columbus
- Indianapolis
- New York
- Indiana
- St. Louis

In America, Amtul Raheem, [Atiyyah Rehman], wife of Sufi Mutiur-Rahman, carried out exceptional work to awaken religious responsibility in Ahmadi women. For this purpose, she spent one month in Indianapolis and one month in Pittsburgh alternatively, the earliest chapters. She held four meetings every week. She taught sisters Salāt, recitation of the Holy Qur'an and conducted other activities such as religious discussions on women's education. Because of her hard work and propagation efforts, Ahmadiyyat was reinforced in these two places (Al-Fazl, December 24, 1941).

Amatul Hafiz Nasir had been the first National Lajna Sadr, appointed in 1949 by the Missionary-in-Charge who also happened to be her husband. **Amatul Hafiz Nasir** worked tirelessly for Lajna members in the first Majalis (chapters) in USA including Dayton, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Chicago, New York and St. Louis (USA Khilafat Centenary Souvenir 2008).

At the third Jalsa Salana in 1950, in Pittsburg, Missionary Khalil Nasir advised the Lajna delegates that it was time to "elect" a National Sadr (President). Lajna delegates held their first election meeting on September 2nd to elect a National President (Lajna

History, USA). The delegates unanimously agreed that since Amtul Hafiz Nasir had lived at the Central Headquarters in India (later Pakistan), she was more familiar with Lajna procedures than American sisters (USA Khilafat Centenary Souvenir, 2008). Amtul Hafiz Nasir was elected and then re-elected twice at the following conventions. This was the first definitive step towards the foundation for centralized leadership for Lajna USA. It led to formal definition and execution of Lajna auxiliary at national and local level. Since the first formal appointment in 1950, Lajna has been blessed with noble National leadership till today.

The National Lajna Meeting at the 1950 Jalsa (convention) also introduced the first formal Lajna National Program structured around education, propagation of Ahmadiyyat, and Lajna finances. This program emphasized the teachings of modesty in dress. Lajna was asked to hold different events to introduce true Islam in their respective non-Ahmadi women communities. Under this Program, Lajna also crafted and sold different household articles to meet the financial needs of a growing Jamā'at. Our younger membership today, can understand the essence and history behind the “Handicrafts” department in Lajna and gain inspiration from these stories of adversity and sacrifices by early sisters.

In 1961, Sister Saeeda Lateef, National Sadr at the time received the English Translation of Lajna Constitution, rules and regulations. Implementation of Lajna Constitution is a major milestone in USA Lajna history as it provided the formal organizational structure and functional framework of Lajna Ima’illah as we know it today. It provided structure to Lajna programs, and the expansion of national officer categories from four to eleven, with eleven counterpart officers in each local Lajna. The same year (1961), the Nāsirāt-ul-Ahmadiyya (young girls age seven to fifteen auxiliary), was organized nationally. Sister Jameela Hamid, of Philadelphia, was appointed as the first National Nāsirāt Secretary from 1975-1978. Since then, Nāsirāt is fulfilling its mission under the guidance and maternal umbrella of Lajna.

During the 1980s, Lajna experienced tremendous growth in numbers as large number of Ahmadi immigrant families arrived in USA. **Sister Salma Ghani** became National Sadr in the 1980s. She faced the huge task of bringing Lajna together as new sisters were migrating from Pakistan to America. Salma Ghani pooled Lajna resources, talents and experiences and paired Pakistanis and American sisters together to become true sisters. American sisters were encouraged to become informed about Pakistani culture, language (Urdu), and lifestyle and vice versa. Sister Salma established a “Target-City Preaching Program in Zion (IL) and Washington D.C. Sisters in these cities held numerous

I solemnly promise that I shall always keep myself ready to serve my faith, my nation and my country, and shall always be prepared to make every sacrifice for the perpetuation of Ahmadiyya Khilāfat



Insha Allah



propagation programs for the public which included appearances on radio, and advertisements in newspapers. As Ahmadi immigrants from Africa, Europe, and other Asian countries gradually became part of the American Lajna, they easily melded into the already working intercultural sisterhood.

Lajna Leadership—Lajna USA Sadraat To-Date

- 1 **Amtul Hafiz Nasir (1949-1954)**
Served for five years
- 2 **Aliyah Ali (1954-1956)**
Served for two years
- 3 **Zakiyyah Ashraf Mahmud (1956-1957)**
Served for one year
- 4 **Moneerah Ahmad (1957-1958)**
Served for one year
- 5 **Saeeda Lateef (1958-1963)**
Served for five years
- 6 **Aliyyah Shaheed (1963-1966)**
Served for three years
- 7 **Saeeda Lateef (1966-1967)**
Was re-elected and served for one year
- 8 **Nycemah AmeenYaqub (1967-1969)**
Served for two years
- 9 **Dr. Lubna R. Ijaz (1969-1971)**
Served for two years
- 10 **Aliyyah Shaheed (1972)**
Was specially appointed for one year (by International HQ)
- 11 **Nycemah Ameen Yaqub, (1972-1975)**
Was re-elected and served for three consecutive year
- 12 **Rashidah Saeed (1975—1981)**
Served for six years
- 13 **Salma Ghani (1981-1991)**
Served for ten consecutive years
- 14 **Amatul Hakim Abdullah (1991-1995)**
Served for four consecutive years
- 15 **Salma Ghani (1995-2000)**
Was reappointed by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IVth for one year then reelected for three years
- 16 **Dr. Shahnaz Butt (2000- 2010)**
Served for ten consecutive years
- 17 **Saliha Malik (2010 - 2018)**
Served for eight consecutive years
- 18 **Dhiya Tahira Bakr (2018-Current)**

With the prayers of Khulafā, over the next decades, Lajna Imā'illāh USA has achieved new heights of faith and sacrifices. (Centenary Celebration Souvenir)

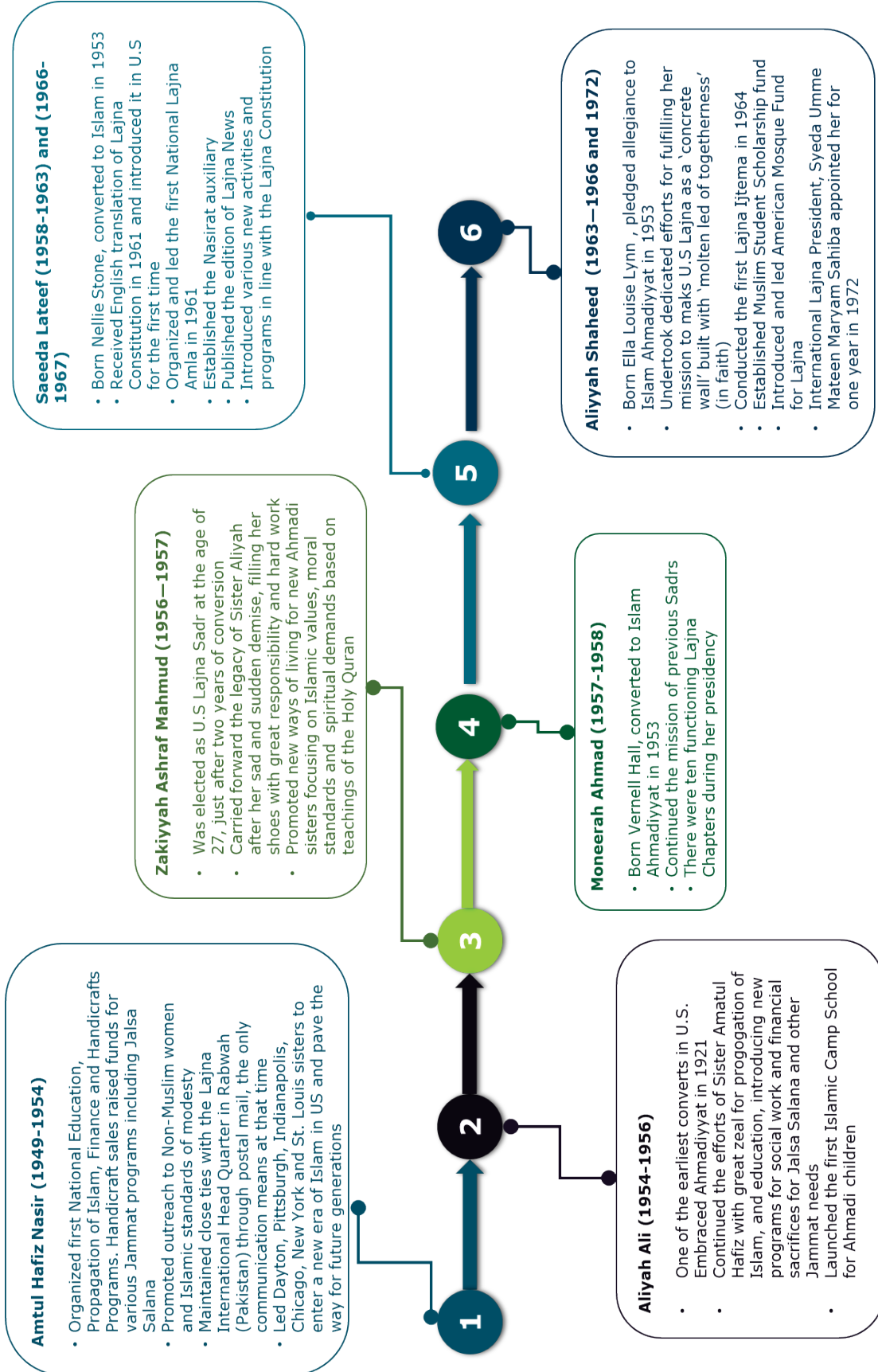
**This souvenir is in loving memory of
the pioneer Lajna members
who remained steadfast and faithful
on the path of Ahmadiyyat.**

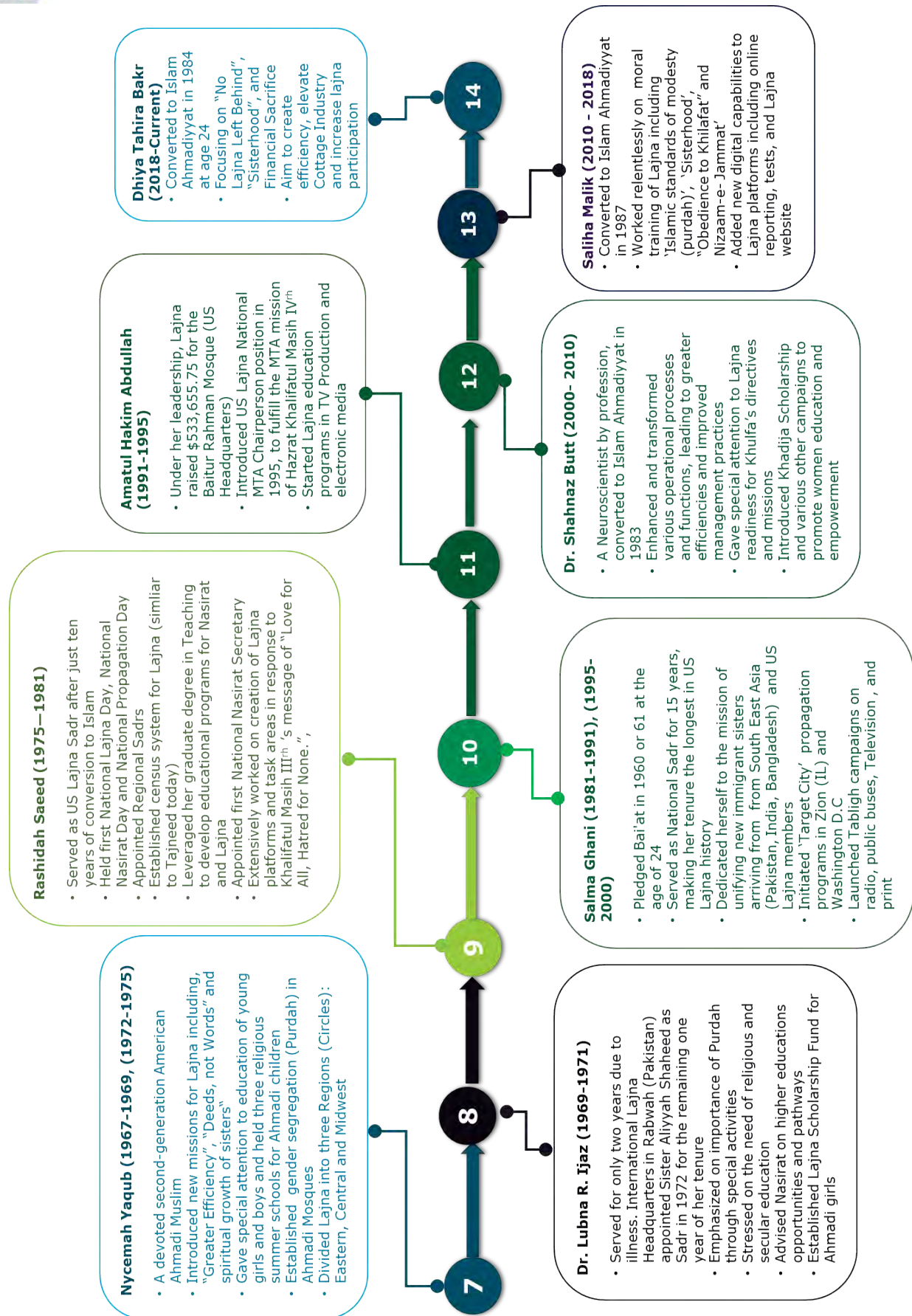
οὐ τρεῖς ἄνθρωποι ἠκούσαντες

Prepared by National Nā'ib Sadr II, Mabroor Jattala and team (Attiya Salik and Sadiqa Mian)

Under the guidance of National Sadr, Dhiya Tahira Bakr and Honorary Member, Mubarika Shah

Lajna USA Sadraat Over The Years



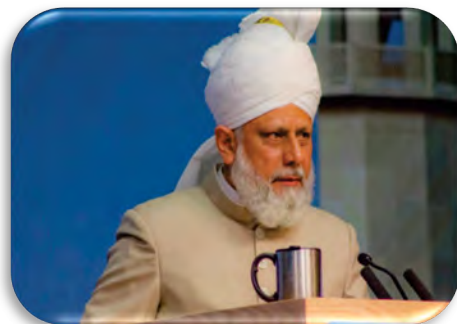


Visits from the Khalīfas of the Promised Messiah

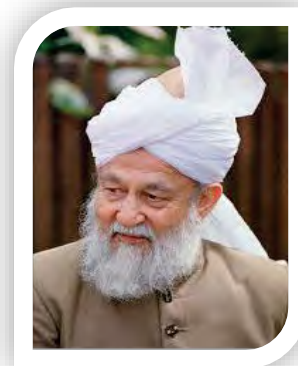
July 25, 1976 was a blessed day for American Ahmadi Muslims and for Americans in general. It was the first time in the history of the United States that the Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at, Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih III stepped on the U.S. soil. The Jamā'at members were overwhelmingly delighted to welcome their beloved Imam. In his concluding address at Jalsa Salana, Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih III advised the settlers in America to inculcate Islamic values in themselves and train the next generations (Khilafat Souvenir USA 2008). Lajna rejuvenated and strengthened their bond with Khilāfat during this historic visit. Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih III was accompanied by his wife Hadrat Şāhibzādī Sayyida Mansoorā Begum who met Lajna sisters during these visits. She also addressed the Lajna at Jalsa Salana 1976 and advised Lajna to offer a model true example of Islamic teachings (Khilafat Souvenir USA 2008).



Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalifat-ul-Masih IV visited the United States on multiple occasions in 1987, 1989, 1991, 1994, 1997 and 1998. He urged Ahmadi women to strengthen their Ahmadi Muslim identity. He was accompanied by his wife Hadrat Şāhibzādī Sayyida Asifa Begum on some of his visits to USA.



In 2008, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad Khalifat-ul-Masih V made his first journey to USA and visited again in 2012, 2013 and 2018. In 2008 and 2012, Khalifat-ul-Masih spoke to Lajna at the US Jalsa ladies' session reminding them



of their obligations as Ahmadi Muslim women in the face of contemporary challenges. Khalifat-ul-Masih V was accompanied by his wife Hadrat Şāhibzādī Sayyida



Amatus Sabooh Ahmad. During each of her trips she met with



Khalifat-ul-Masih Welcome

Lajna sisters, held question and answer

sessions and engaged with the young Lajna members. Apa Jan (as she is lovingly referred to) reminded Lajna on offering prayers, and roles and responsibilities of an Ahmadi woman.

During the visits of Ahmadi Khulafā, Lajna and Nāsirāt USA has been at the forefront of hospitality and service. Lajna USA is blessed with true inspiration to serve their faith and gain spiritual guidance from the Imam.

Tajneed and Regional Growth

In 1935-1936, Sister Aliyya Muhammad of Pittsburgh, PA was appointed as the first local Sadr of **Lajna Imā'illāh USA**. This appointment introduced the first local Lajna Majlis (chapter) Mid-West.

From 1957-1960, the US National Lajna carried out a major effort to establish local Lajna Majalis (chapters) in every city with a functioning Ahmadi mission. By the end of 1960, there were even 11 active local Lajna chapters throughout the United States, each with their local programs based on the National Lajna's instructions. (Muslim Sunrise 1976-Special Convention Issue)

In 1973, Lajna USA was subdivided into three Regions to allow greater engagement and collaboration between local chapters. The first three regions were Eastern, Central and Midwest. Eastern regions which had seven Lajna Majalis, Central had four, and Midwest had five Lajna Majalis.

By 1990s, 35 local Majalis (chapters) were divided into seven regions. In 2002-2003, this number grew to 49 Majalis with 10 regions, reflecting the rapid increase in Lajna membership (Tajnīd). Al-Hamdu Lillah. Lajna expanded to 74 Majalis in 2018. With the focus of unifying geographically close Majalis, the number was revised to 71 Majalis in 2019.

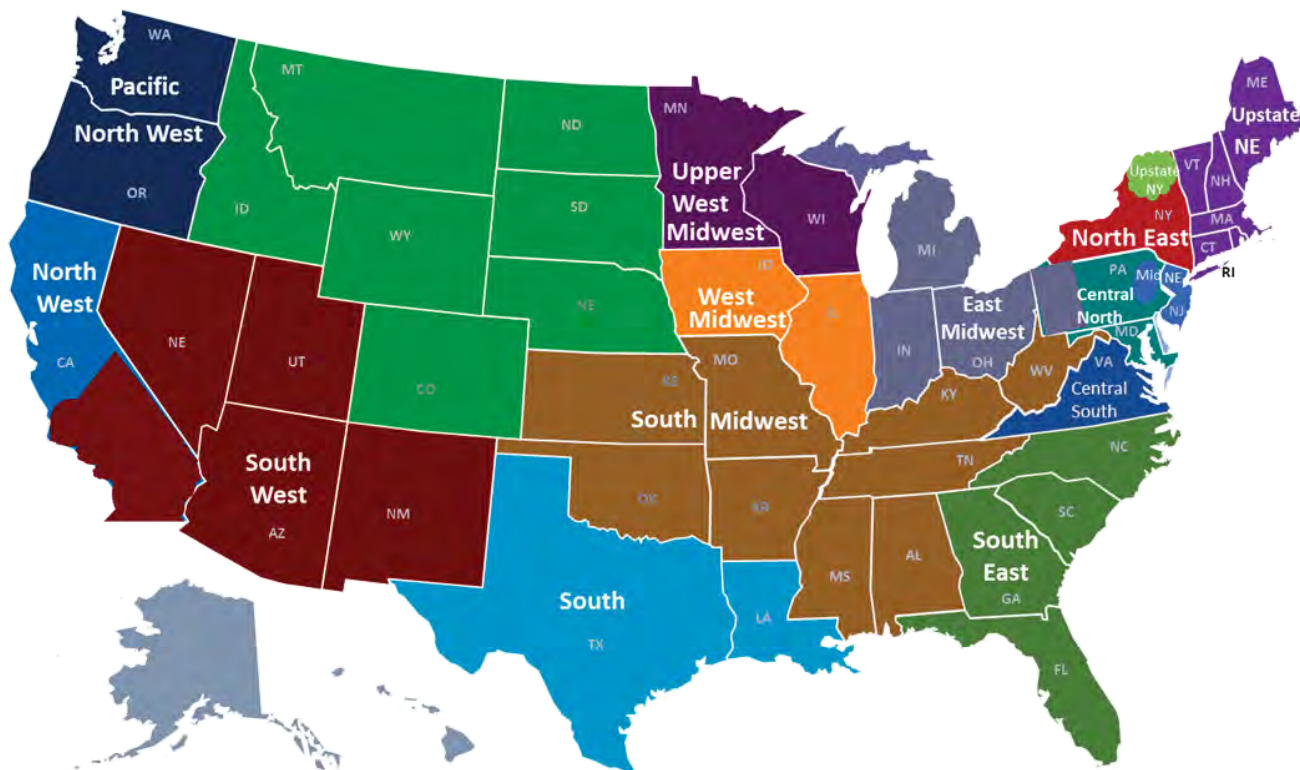
Today Lajna USA is established in 71 Majalis all around the country, in 15 regions (Lajna Annual Report 2018). Lajna US Tajneed has been steadily growing over the past ten decades as new sisters are entering Ahmadiyya and coming to USA from all over the world.



Lajna Today

- *Lajna Imā'illāh USA Regions: 15*
- *Lajna Imā'illāh USA Majalis: 71*
- *Lajna Imā'illāh Tajneed: 6,288*
- *Nasirat Tajneed: 1,032*

Lajna US Regions—2020



Financial Sacrifices and Contributions

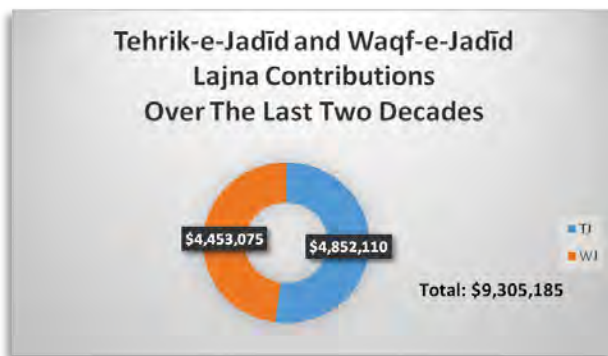
From the earliest days of Lajna to today, Lajna Imā'illāh USA is on the fore front of making financial sacrifices. In the earliest days of Ahmadiyya movement in USA, Lajna raised funds through sales of handicrafts to meet the financial needs of an infant Jamā'at.

Earliest Sacrifices

In 1923, the first financial task assigned by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II^{ra} exclusively to Lajna Imā'illāh worldwide was to raise fifty thousand Rupees to build a Mosque in Berlin, Germany. Within a short time, Ahmadi women raised seventy thousand Rupees. Ahmadi women members of the Sewing Circles in America participated with great enthusiasm, some sisters contributing as much as \$10. The sum is paltry today, but when put in context – in 1923 five dollars could purchase an acre of land- the contribution was substantial (Lajna History)

The foundation stone of the mosque was laid on August 5, 1923. Unfortunately, the mosque could not be built in Berlin at the time due to the recession. However, the funds raised by Lajna were used to build the Fazl Mosque in London, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh (Friday Sermon: October 17, 2008)

History is full of inspiring stories of Lajna's allegiance to its oath of "sacrificing property, time, and children for the cause of the faith," and offering their material belongings, most prominently gold jewelry, whenever and wherever there is need.



Tahrik-e-Jadid and Waqf-e-Jadid present various accounts of Lajna USA financial sacrifices. As recorded in history, the Lajna Tahrik-e-Jadid Chanda (contribution) in Cleveland and Indianapolis in 1937-1938 exceeded the men's Tahrik-e-Jadid collections. In 1952, Dayton, the Tahrik-e-Jadid Secretary, Sister

Lateefa Kareem, gave all of her estate, including a house and land, to the Jamā'at. A mosque was later on built on the land.

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, over the last two decades, Lajna USA has raised more than \$9.3 million combined for Tahrik-e-Jadid and Waqf-i-Jadid. Nāsirāt are not left behind, this last year (2017-18) Nāsirāt raised \$40,869 and girls under seven raised \$52,452 for Tahrik-e-Jadid. (Lajna Annual Report 2018)

Under the presidency of Sister Amatul Hakim Abdullah, in the early 1990s, Lajna pledged \$300,000.00 towards the Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque Fund (USA Headquarters), and significantly exceeded their pledge, by paying \$533,660 into the fund.



Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman

Lajna USA members sponsored the Qadian, India Guest House with a contribution of \$7,000 in 1982. It is to be noted that the real value of US dollar was much higher than today.

In 2000-2001, following Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih IV's appeal to raise funds to build one orphanage in Pakistan (Dar-ul-Yatāma Fund). Lajna USA pledged \$10,000 and collected over \$75,000.00 within a year towards this cause.

In 2002, Lajna proposed a new project "From our Children to your Children" combining Khidmat-e-Khalq and Tarbiyat elements. The program was proposed by former Respected Amir, Dr. Ahsan Zafar. Since then, this project collects funds for children in a developing country chosen by Khilāfatul-Masih.

By the grace of Allah Lajna Ima'illah USA also collected \$200,000 for the London Mosque.



In **2012** Khalifat-ul-Masih gave Lajna USA a new special Khidmat-e-Khalq project to raise \$75,000 in two months to build a model village in Africa. Lajna USA collected more than 200% of the amount desired by the Khalifatul-Masih for two model villages, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, since then Lajna USA contributes \$75,000 every two years to improve living conditions in one village in Africa. (Lajna History USA)

With the growing number and needs of Lajna USA, Lajna purchased a piece of land for \$400,000, adjacent to Bait-ur-Raḥmān (MD) for a National Lajna Hall in the past three years. The vision for this Lajna Hall is to provide Lajna a central facility for Lajna events, national programs, Shūrā and to serve as Lajna guest house. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, Lajna USA is determinedly raising funds to fulfill this mission.

Zion Mosque Project: In October 2019, Amir Jamā'at USA, Ṣaḥībzāda Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, offered Lajna Ima'illah USA the opportunity to build Zion Mosque, as the first Lajna funded US Mosque. National Sadr Lajna USA, Dhiya Tahira Bakr, shared this message with sisters at the 2019 Shura. Lajna USA was overwhelmed with joy and emotions for receiving this honor and to be blessed with this responsibility. Lajna USA started the fund-raising efforts right away with great zeal and determination.

2020 will be remembered as a year of hardship, economic failure and social turmoil. The devastation of Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in 2020 was nothing less than another world-war for mankind. Speaking on the subject, Hazrat Khilāfatul I Masih V Mirza Masroor Ahmadaba in his address to the Muslim community on

Mar 21, 2020 said:

“This virus has forced people to think about returning towards God. The true God and the Living God is that of Islam. He is the One Who has announced that He will guide those Who make an effort in coming towards God. He has stated that he will come fast towards those who take even one step towards Him and has said that He will take them into His shelter.”

Lajna USA is acting upon beloved Khalifatul-Masih's message in complete obedience with all sincerity in the challenging times of the pandemic. Despite the tough times, Lajna did not lose sight of their goal.

By the Grace and Mercy of Allah, Lajna Ima'illah USA exceeded their target of 1.2 million dollars on December 31, 2020, raising 1.3 million dollars for the Zion mosque.

Community Services & Welfare

Lajna Award for Community Service



In 1974, Mubaraka Malik from Milwaukee received an award from 38th President of United States, Gerald Ford, for her outstanding community support work over thirty years.

Lajna Imaillah into the 21st century. USA Jalsa Salana 50 years

The 2019 Visionary Women of Baltimore County Award

Aziza Khan as the "Woman of the Year", a long-time refugee advocate and mentor to women and their families spreading "love for all and hatred for none"

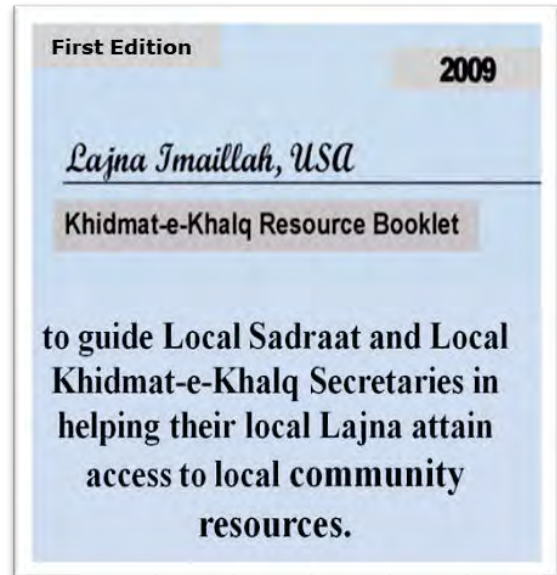




Khidmat-i-Khalq (Community Service) is another area, where Lajna has made numerous contributions. Over the years Lajna has led, managed and supported various International and National Programs, some examples include Model Village Programs in Africa, Children’s Eid Gift Fund, Maryam Shadi Fund, Title One School support programs, Medical Volunteers for Pakistan and now Nasir Hospital in Guatemala (under Humanity First banner) (Khidmat-i-Khalq Reports,

Annual Lajna Reports, 2002-2012).

In March 2014, Lajna launched **Senior Care Project** to help and volunteer our services to take care of our seniors. Support coordinators are assigned to assist the volunteer program, leveraging various community resources.



For the Harvey Strom (2017) hitting Houston and southern parts of Texas, Lajna USA actively participated in relief efforts with Humanity First and at individual level.

Khidmat-i-Khalq Initiatives 2000-2018

Social & Community Services

- Work with a large number of charitable organizations
- Educational Support
- Financial & Economic support & education campaigns
- Support local and State programs: Campaign
- Humanity First Ambassadors
- Maryam Shadi Fund

Food Assistance

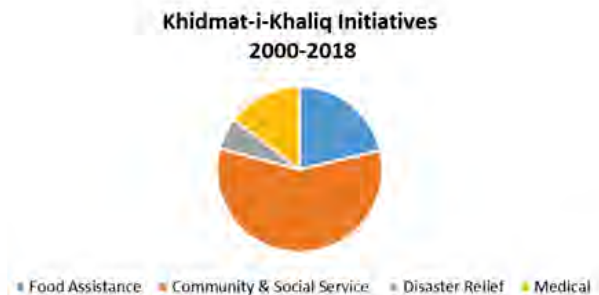
- Food Pantries
- Work with Soup kitchens
- Food drives and distributions

Medical Assistance

- Doctors with No Borders
- Humanity First Gift of Sight and Gift of Health
- Humanity First Guatemala Nasir Hospital
- Tahir Heat Institute

Disaster Relief

- Support Humanity First Disaster Programs
- Local Red Cross Relief Programs



Spiritual & Organizational Growth of Lajna USA

The Veil

Lajna Poem in the Lajna News, January 1980



*How it does warm my eyes to see
A Muslimah in burqa
Blowing in the breeze*

*For she obeys her Allah
In all that He commands
Firm in her stand*

*She knows she does not have the choice
Of which command she prefers
But to obey Allah's voice*

*She must be modest in mind
Her virtues to employ
To mold the character of the trustees
Charged to her by Allah*

*So she puts on the garment of protection
That keeps her close to Islam
That shows she's Allah's selection
And by His Grace
Practices her Iman*

Aanasa Ahsan
Milwaukee Lajna

complete (with face veil), or modified (full covering except for the face).

Lajna USA Distinctions

- "Best Lajna Outside Pakistan" in 1974, 1975, 1981 and 1984
- "Second Best Lajna" in 1963, 1982 and 1985

Source Lajna History

American society went through major transformation in 1960s and 1970s as various movements erupted against

social injustices including Women's Liberation movement. During this time, Lajna sisters preserved their modesty and close association with Jamā'at. They spoke about women's rights affirming the high status of women in Islam without the need of social movement, as their roles as mother, sisters and daughters were already elevated. This did not mean that they were not involved in community activities. Lajna USA throughout its history has actively participated in community welfare, social services, propagation and annual convention programs.

Today, in the Digital era, Lajna USA regularly conducts educational programs on Islamic view of women's rights, social freedom, misuse of Technology and Lajna responsibilities.

The early pioneers of Lajna USA inculcated true spirit of piety, devotion and sacrifice for the generations to come. From few hundreds to thousands today, Lajna USA is achieving and reaching out to high moral standards established by their ancestors. Lajna USA was blessed with guidance and prayers of Hadrat Sayyida Maryam Siddiqah (Chhotē Apa) wife of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masīh II^{ra} during its infancy. Hadrat Sayyida Maryam Siddiqah had close bond with Lajna USA throughout her life, especially during her tenure as International Lajna Sadr. She wrote letters full of prayers and advice to Lajna USA, who consulted her in crucial matters. She picked the name "Ayesha" for the first Lajna USA magazine. Communication between US Lajna and Rabwah was through postal mail, telegrams and occasional telephonic messages through the Washington D.C missionary office. It was the prayers, guidance and support from Hadrat Sayyida Maryam Siddiqah that enabled the early and rapid spiritual maturity of Lajna USA.

Matters like Purdah were very new to most of the early sisters but they accepted them with open hearts and minds. This spirit prevailed for all Tarbiyat and Ta'lim matters as sisters grew their spiritual journey. By the beginning of the 1980s, majority of the sisters in Lajna USA were observing some form of purdah, whether it was

A Poem

This poem was included in the message to International Lajna Imaillah, Rabwah on its 50th Anniversary Observance, (1972). It is being reproduced here for reflection.

*Are you an active member of
Lajna Imillah ...
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented that your name
is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings?
Support the schemes
and mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay home and criticize and
knock?
Do you ever go to visit a member who
is sick,
And lend a helping hand?
Or leave the work to just a few
then talk about the clique?
Get involved, sisters, with the schemes
of Lajna Imillah
Come to the meetings and help with hands and hearts.
Don't be just a member,
But take an active part
Think this over, sisters
You know right from wrong.
Are you an active member of
Lajna Imillah
Or do you just belong?*

Aliyyah Shaheed
Former Sadr Lajna USA

Jalsa Salanas USA

Annual Jalsas (Annual National Ahmadiyya Conventions) are an integral part of spiritual growth for all Ahmadi Muslims including Lajna. Jalsas in the earlier years (1948-1969) were held in various cities on a rotating basis; primarily in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Dayton, Cleveland (twice) and St. Louis (once). During these years, Lajna sisters stood on the front lines of service, doing all the shopping, cooking, serving food and cleaning for hundreds of delegates. Since the majority of delegates stayed in members' homes for the three-day Jalsa, the sisters were also responsible for guests' living accommodations. The women cooked dinners and baked pastries – standing for hours till their ankles and feet swelled. The sale of these foods and crafts subsidized the financial needs of Jamā'ats in America for years. In early days, Ahmadi men and women in local Jamā'ats also defrayed the expenses of the Jalsa Salāna. When a convention was held in a particular city, members of that Jamā'at and Lajna were the ones solely responsible for providing food, housing and other accommodations for hundreds of guests. The Ahmadiyya National Headquarters fund had no money for this purpose. American Ahmadi women also raised money for the missionary's travel expenses.



Jalsa Salana 1948

With the approval of the Missionary in-Charge (who lived in Dayton, Ohio), National Lajna arranged for the 1970 Jalsa to be self-contained at one site – a hotel. The hotel would provide complete accommodations – meals prepared by the hotel staff, lodging, meeting halls, and a public address system (Centenary Celebration Souvenir 2008). The early sisters despite their limited resources contributed to prorogation of Islam and their own spiritual growth through active participation in the annual Jalsas.



Ladies Jalsa Gah Exhibitions

Jalsa Exhibitions: From early on, Lajna took an additional responsibility of creating and selling handicrafts and culinary items that supplemented the Jamā'at funds that kept the mission financially afloat. Exquisite handicrafts and outstanding cuisine preparations were the sisters' hallmarks of excellence. The sale of these items at bazaars, rummage, and bake sales, helped provide money for utilities, appliances, fences, carpets and literature. They sent many handicrafts to Qādiān, and Rabwah for Lajna Exhibition sales there to meet financial needs of Jamā'at needs especially for Jalsas.

The Exhibition at the Annual Jalsa is traditionally a popular aspect of the gathering. The Exhibition has grown over the years. The proceeds from Lajna fundraising activities at Jalsa go to various noble causes, such as Sayyidīnā Bilal Fund and needy sisters' causes.

Hospitality: Since the inception of Jalsa Salana, the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) made serving the guests the very heart of the event. In fact, hospitality was a great and continuous focus of the Promised Messiah's teaching. Jalsa Salana is an opportunity for us to host the guests of the Promised Messiah^{as} and strengthen our relationships as sisters in faith.

Ladies Session at Jalsa: Over the years Khulafā have blessed Lajna USA with their presence and special addresses at Jalsa. Lajna speakers deliver spiritual and thought-provoking speeches during ladies Jalsa session.

Various Recognitions: Since 2004, Lajna welcomes the sisters who join the fold of Ahmadiyyat in the year and presents them with a token of appreciation on the stage. Lajna members earning Qur'an Teaching Certification and those achieving educational excellence in their field; and Lajna and Nāsirāt members, who make contributions through Jihad of the Pen are recognized during the Ladies sessions. In addition, Nāsirāt who complete their first recitation of the Holy Qur'an are also acknowledged who receive a copy of the Holy Qur'an.



Hadhoor(aba) visiting Hospitality Desk at Ladies Jalsa Gah

“Langar Khāna Masih-e-Mau'ūd (may peace be upon him):” Serving



Hadhoor^{aba} Address to Lajna (2012)

food at Jalsa Salana (annual convention): The objective of the Promised Messiah to establish “Langar Khāna Masih-e-Mau’ūd “ was to ensure that those who travel in search of truth and guidance are well taken care of, not only spiritually but also physically.

In the traditions of Jamā’at-e-Ahmadiyya, hundreds of women volunteers served food to the guests of the Promised Messiah^{as}, and Nāsirāt enthusiastically volunteer for the āb rasānī, providing water to thousands of guests in the Ladies Jalsa Gah. As the Jalsa has evolved over the years, today operations of Ladies Jalsa areas such as Booths, Children Jalsa Gah, Ḍiyāfat Hall, Registration, Hazāri Nigrani and MTA are seamlessly executed, driven by highly motivated volunteers. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh!

Lajna and Nāsirāt Ijtimā’āt

Ijtema Themes over the last 10 Years



First National Lajna USA Ijtimā was held on September 5, 1964, at the Cleveland YMCA. Sister Aliyyah Shaheed of the Pittsburgh, National Lajna President, conducted the program.

Since the inception of Ijtimā’āt these events are key spiritual occasions for Lajna and Nāsirāt.

As Lajna expanded to the regional level with the appointment of Regional Sadrs Ijtimā’s fell under



Nasirat Ijtemas

Regional banners. With the growth and spread of Lajna throughout the US, today four main regional Ijtimā’āt are held including East Coast, West Coast, Midwest and South Ijtimā’āt. From an initial attendance of a handful Lajna and Nāsirāt at the first National Ijtimā, today attendance has grown to nearly three thousand at Regional Ijtimā’āt.

The formats of our Ijtimā’āt have improved over the years. In early 1990s, Lajna and Nāsirāt Ijtimā took on a new layout to provide sisters a platform open discussions, group activities and workshops. Each year Ijtimā’āt have defined themes and both Lajna and Nāsirāt contribute towards the spiritual awakening activities based on the given theme.

Special workshops and interactive activities are conducted for high school and college students; particularly on social challenges they face on a daily basis.

Lajna Ijtimā of year 2001 was a historic one, as it happened right after 9/11 tragedy. The theme was “Jihad,” much needed topic at the time that needed true Islamic interpretation. Different facets of this very important but often misunderstood concept of Islamic teachings and Jihad-e-Akbar were discussed. Each Region added its own style and flavor to the discussion.



These Ijtimā’āt provides a great opportunity for Lajna and Nāsirāt to learn from each other and participate in various competitions including memorization of Holy

Qur'an, Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) poems and speeches. The contestants for these competitions are first qualified, at the local Ijtimā'āt to compete at the

regional level.

By the Grace of Allah, in the last eight years alone, Lajna USA held more than 60 Regional Lajna and

Nāsirāt Ijtimā'āt and majority of the local Majalis also held their own local Ijtimā'āt.

Lajna National Mentoring Conference (LMC)

Another annual gathering for Lajna US is "National Mentoring Conference" to mentor and guide Local Sadraat and their respective office holders. These mentoring events keep local Lajna leadership abreast with Program implementation and special directives of Khilāfatul-Masīḥ. Since its start in 2002, every year hundreds of Lajna from all Majalis benefit from this program and pass on their learning to the Lajna members in their respective Majalis.



Lajna Mentoring Conference

Zion City Project

In 2001, in response to the instructions of late Amir Jama' at USA, Hadrat Şahibzāda M.M. Ahmad, to convert the city of Zion as the first Ahmadiyya City in the USA, Lajna USA made a commitment to contribute towards fulfillment of the former Amir's vision. Towards this goal, Lajna organized a symposium in Zion in May 2001 titled, "The Messiah^{as} Concept: Should You Care?" In May 2003, a workshop for teenage girls, entitled, "Girl Talk" was conducted followed by summer camps entitled "Camp Bismillah" in Zion. The Camps also provided services to the community children of Zion.

Bismillah Camp -Zion



'A wonderful addition to our community': Zion Muslims unveil plans for new mosque.

(Chicago Tribune, Nov 14, 2018)



An artist's rendering of Zion mosque

Ta'lim and Tarbiyat

In 1987-88, Khalifatul-Masih IV Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad asked Lajna Ima'illah USA to prepare an index for the second edition of the historic 5 Volume Commentary of the Holy Qur'an. Eleven sisters (supported by many other helpers) prepared a comprehensive index. Their labor of love was



Some Lajna Taleem & Tarbiyat Workbooks

First Lajna USA, Lajna **Ta'lim** and **Tarbiyat** program was consolidated in form of booklet in early 1950s. The programs evolved over the years under the directions of International Lajna headquarters. National **Ta'lim** and **Tarbiyat** programs started to mature at National level in 1990s. In 2004, National Ta'lim & Tarbiyat Syllabus standardized the curriculum at National level in shape of a workbook. The Ta'lim volume of the Workbook educates Lajna in recitation and understanding of Holy Qur'an, Hadith, and Islamic education. The Tarbiyat volume of the workbook covers Islamic fundamentals of life with emphasis on Friday Sermons of Khalifatul-Masih. The program provides guidelines and responses to social issues e.g., Dangerous Impacts of Social Media, Raising Children and High Regard for Khilafat. So far 8 workbooks (for every two years) have been published.

Lajna USA's love and high regard for the Holy Qur'an translated into a Shūrā proposal to help sisters to correctly recite Holy Qur'an. Ta'lim Department started the Holy Qur'an Teaching Certification Program in 2009 to fulfill this mission. So far (by the end of 2018), 127 Lajna are certified as Al-Furqan Qur'an teachers, with a rapidly growing pool. Hundreds of children and Lajna members are benefitting from Lajna Qur'an Certified teachers.

Another big goal for Lajna is propagation of Holy Prophet's message and removing societal biases about him. In 2004, Ta'lim and Tabligh introduced Jalsa Sirat-un-Nabi to educate Ahmadi and Non-Ahmadi sisters about the Life of Holy Prophet and true Islam. In the last year (2018-2019), Lajna USA conducted more than 709 Jalsas Sirat-un-Nabi.

Tarbiyat Department is playing a vital role in the moral development of Lajna in an incredibly challenging environment. When USA is going through a moral decline, Lajna Tarbiyat Department is involved at the ground level to educate Lajna and Nāsirat about the moral standards desired by Khalifatul-Masih. It has conducted hundreds of Tarbiyat programs and published several books to train present and future mothers of Lajna USA. Some significant titles are 'Pathway to Paradise' (1996), 'Paradise under Your Feet' (2016), 'Garments for Each Other' (2017), and 'Social Media' (2019).

In the recent years, Lajna USA has taken over the mission to educate and promote Salat. Special Ta'lim and Tarbiyat programs are delivering results to ensure 100% of Lajna performs and understands Salat.

An index and the following listings have been added to the present edition at the end of the fifth volume:

- Table of Contents
- Alphabetical listing of Chapters of the Holy Qur'an
- Important Arabic words and expressions explained in the Commentary
- The Index of subjects



The Publishers acknowledge and sincerely thank the following members of USA Jama'at in particular and their helpers in general for the careful and the hard work in preparing these listings and the index so exhaustively:

Aisha Sharif, Nyceemah Yaqub, Aisha Hakim, Shakura Nooriah, Salma Ghani, Kadija el Hadi, Rafia Ramah, Khulat Alladin, Dhiya Tahira, Uzma Saeed, Farzana Qader, and Fatima Haneef

Publishers Note: 5-Vol. Commentary of the Holy Quran 2nd Edition

recognized by Khilafatul-Masih IV in his Jalsa Salana address and recorded in the introduction to the second edition in the commentary (50 Year Centenary Celebration Souvenir 1948-1998).

For Khilafat Centenary Celebrations of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in 2008, upon USA Lajna's request, Khalifat-ul-Masih V graciously granted approval for Lajna USA to translate Khulafa's speeches. Lajna USA started the enormous task of translating speeches by Khalifat-ul-Masih II, III, IV and V to Lajna. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, Lajna is making progress to achieve this mission.

Tabligh & Community Outreach

Tabligh is a vital mission area for Lajna, from very early days of Sidica-tun-Nisa Rahatullah (Mrs. Garber) who promised two converts in the early days of her Bai'at (Moslem Sunrise, Vol 2, 1921), to today Lajna US is actively propagating the message of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Tabligh teams all around the country are reaching out to their respective communities to spread the message of Allah.

In 1974 Mubaraka Malik, a convert belonging to Lajna Ima'illah Milwaukee, presented a copy of the Holy Qur'an to President Gerald Ford at the White House (Lajna History USA/ 50 years Celebrations 1989).

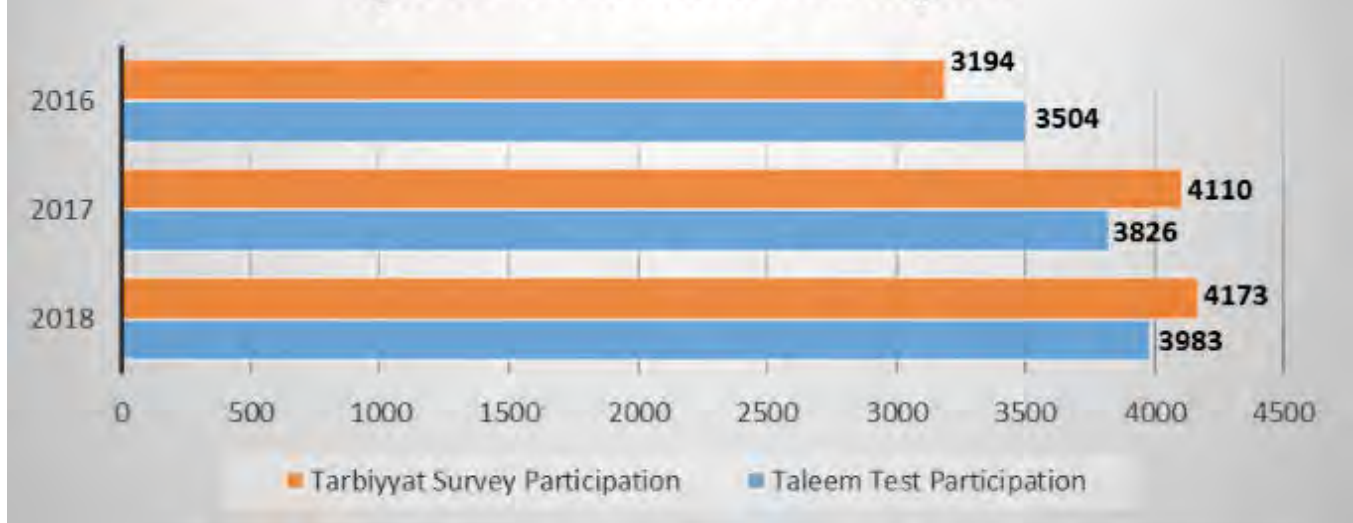
Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, each year a number of new sisters join Ahmadiyya, while others attend Lajna Programs that pave the path for future Bai'ats and remove misconceptions about Islam.

Lajna at the forefront of Tabligh



Sister Mubaraka Malik, of Lajna Ima'illah Milwaukee, presenting a copy of the Holy Qur'an to President Gerald Ford (1974)

Spiritual Growth Examples





Lajna Tabligh Efforts Over the Years

1935

- Indianapolis sisters presented copies of Holy Quran to State Prosecutor, the Governor, the Mayor and Attorney General of Indianapolis
- Propagated Islam through Radio and Newspapers

1936

- Dayton sisters visited Churches on occasions like Easter Sunday, to distribute "Jesus in India" and other Jammata literature

1964

- "Annual Propagation Day" was instituted to hold events to proselytize Islam
- Lajna mailed hundred of literature leaflets and placed Holy Quran with Ayesha magazine in libraries

1975-80

- Special Committees formed to respond to attacks on Islam
- Printed bumper stickers announcing "The Messiah has Come"

1980s

- Conferences on Concept of God and Misconceptions about Islam
- Publications of Articles, and outreach to electronic media
- Lajna advertised "Message of Promised Messiah" on over 100 buses
- Posters in 1000 public buses in Pennsylvania and 35 buses in Zion
- Over 1500 letters mailed to Government Officials demanding Human Rights of Ahmadis in Pakistan

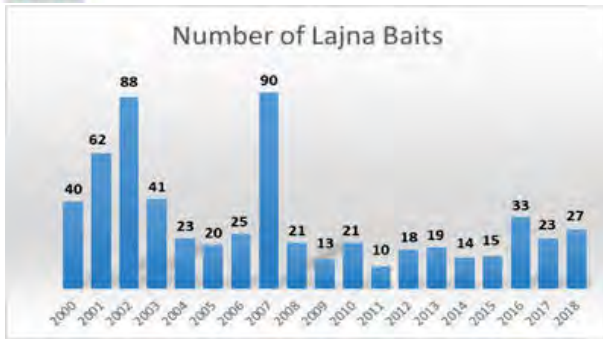
1990s

- Distribution of audio tapes and Jammata publications in Libraries
- Invitations to non-Ahmadi sisters to Mosques

2000- 2019

- Acceleration of Tabligh and outreach efforts after the 9/11 tragedy
- Outreach to local women through Various programs and events like seminars, talks and Mosque events
- Active participation in local and community events to remove misconceptions about Islam
- Use of Social media and digital presence
- First Women Peace symposium

	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Tabligh Events	332 events and 16000+ Tabligh Interactions	203 events and 16,000+ Tabligh Interactions	91 events and 17000+ Tabligh Interactions
Literature Distributed	11,393 Flyers, Books and other Literature	12,721 Flyers, Books and other Literature	21,239 Flyers, Books and other Literature



Each year a significant number of guests attend the Ladies session of the Annual Jalsa Salana, reflecting the Lajna friendships and outreach. Lajna Tabligh programs address the most critical social issues of the time, for instance this past year, Lajna interactions with non-Ahmadī sisters highlighted women empowerment in Islam, Islamic point of view for #MeToo movement, and love for the country.



Media Watch: In 2005, Khalifat-ul-Masih directed Lajna USA to formulate the Media Watch Team in response to negative campaigns against Islam. Media Watch publishes a large number of articles and commentaries in various media to respond to negative content against Islam, and present Islamic point of view on contemporary matters.



Over the last ten years, Media Watch has published

Umur-e-Talibaat

On December 19, 2008, Khilāfatul-Masīh stated during his Friday Sermon, “I have been saying to Ahmadi students for a few years now that they should come forward in the fields of all kinds of research.”

In 2018, our Beloved Khalifat-ul-Masih directed Lajna Imā’illāh USA to establish a new department for Lajna students, Umur-e-

Talibaat.

Umur-e-Talibaat Department is dedicated to support Lajna students on their educational path with Islamic wisdom and guidance. It provides academic advisory support, fosters sisterhood and sense of camaraderie among Lajna members attending the same program or school.

more than 1200 articles and responses to on-going social issues.

Public Affairs: In September 2015 and 2016, under the guidance of Jamā’at Public Affairs (PA) department, Local Sadraat and sisters from National PA Team, led by National Lajna Sadr, observed a “Day on the Hill” (DOH) in Washington D.C. where they met members of US Congress. In December 2016, National Mu’awina Sadr in charge of Public Affairs was appointed upon approval from Khalifat-ul-Masih; subsequently, local Mu’awinaat Sadr for PA were appointed in many Majalis. On a limited level, Lajna PA supported Jamā’at DOH in February 2017 by meeting with female members of Congress, and in February 2018 with female US Senators and female members of Congressional Black Caucus.



In September 2017 and 2018, a few Lajna members met with female member of US Senate and supported Muslims for Life blood drive on Capitol Hill. In 2019 Lajna PA complied with direction from Khalifat-ul-Masih that greater Lajna presence is required on the Hill.

Starting this year, Tabligh Department in collaboration with Public Affairs department is holding its first Women’s Peace Symposium (in all Majalis) to promote “Role of Women and Promoting Peace in the Society.”

Talibaat manages Khadija \$84,800 to Lajna students. of Ahmadiyya Muslim Student Scholarship (previously managed by Umur-e-Talibaat serves Lajna Association for Women (AMSAW) Ta'lim Department). Since its inception it has awarded more than students through its sub department

Ahmadiyya Muslim Student Association for Women (AMSAW)

AMSAW

".... remaining within the limits of sanctity and security and maintaining their sacred status as Ahmadi ladies, they must attain their education and deliver the message of Ahmadiyyat to others"

Message from Khalifatul Masih, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba)

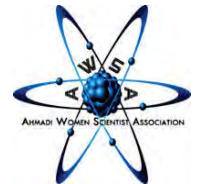
Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih V, visited US West Coast in 2013. In his Wāqifāt-e-Nau

class he instructed Lajna to have their own Lajna student body (AMSAW) to guide Ahmadi female students in the attainment of secular and religious education, in the selection of professions, and in the propagation of Islam Ahmadiyyat.

AMSAW USA is diligently meeting its goals of promoting awareness to Islam, service to Jamā'at and community, mutual support, and moral and career guidance. Currently, there are two active AMSAW chapters at Temple University and Rutgers University and George Mason AMSAW is pending approval.

Ahmadi Women Scientific Association (AWSA)

Lajna USA has made contributions in Science and Technology. Dr. Lubna Ijaz, the eighth National Sadr's pioneering work in Solar and Renewable Energy earned her acclaim in the 1970s and 1980s, Dr. Lubna was offered a position in President Bill Clinton administration in the early 1990s to promote Solar and Renewable Energy Technologies in Third World Countries (Lajna History).



Under the guidance of Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih V, Ahmadi Women Scientific Association (AWSA) was established in 2010 as a separate entity from the Association of Ahmadi Men Scientists (AAMS). AWSA is dedicated to motivating and encouraging the Lajna youth to new areas of research and science and support talented Ahmadi women scientists to become leaders in their respective specialized fields. The AWSA members include distinguished Lajna scientists, medical researchers and professionals.

Şihḥat-i-Jismani (Health & Fitness)

Şihḥat-i-Jismani (Health & Fitness) department has been striving to help Lajna to make physical and spiritual health a major priority, while always keeping in mind that the strongest medicine and healing can be found in faith. The department holds Lajna and Nasiraat sports events at local and regional levels, organizes special health booths at Ijtimā'āt, and distributes valuable health information at local level. In 2010, the department started monthly Health Webinars program. This program has played a pivotal role in creating health awareness among Lajna USA. Under this program, renowned Ahmadi Lajna doctors conduct monthly webinars to provide guidance and resources for critical health topics.

Wāqifāt-e-Nau

As of January 2020

USA Jama'at has 638 Wāqifāt-e-Nau;

- Under Age 7: 72
- Ages 7-14 (Nasirat): 198
- Ages 15+ (Lajna): 362

Under Divine guidance of Allah,

Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV launched the new scheme of "Taḥrīk Waqf-i-Nau:" on April 3, 1987, at the blessed start of a new century of Ahmadiyyat. In response to the call of the Khalifah, Ahmadi families worldwide dedicated their sons and

daughters under this noble scheme.

In 2000 Respected M. M. Ahmad (late Amir Jamā'at USA), approved the appointment of National Lajna USA Waqf-i-Nau: secretary. With the approval of Respected Amir, a program was

Some Health Webinars

- *COVID 19, Question and Answers*
- *Know the symptoms - Stroke, Heart Attack and Breast cancer*
- *Adverse Effect of Childhood Obesity and Guidelines for Prevention*
- *The Detrimental Effects of Excessive Screen Time Among Children and Guidelines on Minimizing them"*
- *Role of Stress Management in the Prevention of Disease*
- *Social media Anxiety and Childhood Depression"*

introduced to educate Waqf-i-Nau girls who were older than 10 years of age. The Waqf-i-Nau: syllabus was abridged and incorporated into the National Lajna Program for easy access with the help of the National Lajna Waqf-i-Nau: secretary.



Waqf-i-Nau Class with Hadhoor (ABA) -2013

In 2014, Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V directed Sadr Lajna Imā'illah USA to appoint a National Mu'awina Sadr for Wāqifāt-e-Nau in the United States.

The Wāqifāt-e-Nau USA were blessed to have six classes with Hadrat Khalifatul-Masīḥ V, during his visits to America in 2008, 2012, 2013 and 2018.

National Wāqifāt-e-Nau Camp was introduced in 2015, a week-long Tarbiyat gathering for Wāqifāt-e-Nau across USA. In 2017, the Annual National Wāqifāt-e-Nau Camps

program incorporated the Annual Career Planning Seminar to offer career selection guidance to the Wāqifāt-e-Nau.



Wāqifāt-i-Nau Class with Khalifat-ul-Masih-2018

Lajna in a Digital World



Lajna Website Snapshot

In early 2000s, Lajna embraced technology as a primary operational

platform. From the early days of reporting via postal mail in 1950s, to reporting via facsimile in 1990s; Lajna reporting evolved to digital reporting resulting in 100% paperless operations in 2011. A Mail Server and Lajna Portal was implemented in 2008, followed by Lajna Website Launch in 2009.

Digital enhancements enable online reporting, online Ta'lim tests

and online Tarbiyat surveys resulting in greater participation and engagement of Lajna all across USA.

May Allah enable Lajna Imā'illah and Nāsirāt-ul-Ahmadiyya USA to continue their spiritual journey to meet the challenges of this day and age. May Allah bless them to raise coming generations to serve Islam as desired by Khilāfatul-Masīḥ, Āmin.

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY LAJNA IMA'ILLAH USA 1920 – 2020

List compiled by National Nā'ib Sadr III, Sadr Aziza Rahman



HANDBOOK FOR MUSLIM WOMEN
Published: 1975

This booklet was published for sisters entering Islam Ahmadiyyat. It contains basics of Islam and religious teachings such as how to perform Salat, fast in Ramadhan, pay Zakat and perform Hajj.



BRIGHT LIGHTS OF THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT
Published: 1983

This book is a series of stories for children, compiled from Ahmadiyya literature archives. This set of inspirational stories are about some of the very special people, events and places that make up the foundation of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at.



PATHWAY TO PARADISE
Published: First edition 1996;
Second edition 2014

This booklet was published as a result of a 1992 Majlis-e-Shura proposal, identifying the need for another booklet on Islamic teachings for new converts and Lajna members. Based on the learning needs of

Ahmadi women, gathered through a national survey, this booklet captures teachings of Islam for Muslim women, matrimonial and family matters, and responses to contemporary issues. It is comprehensive guidebook on religious matters for Ahmadi women of all ages.



CONDITIONS OF BAI'AT: INITIATION INTO THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM.
Published: 2004

This book supplemented Lajna National Tarbiyyat program focusing on the Ten Conditions of Bai'at. The book provides comprehensive background, understanding and interpretation of the conditions of Bait

with relevant Quranic verses, Ahadith, writings of Promised Messiah^{as} and sermons of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}.



SERMONS ON WAQFE NAU DELIVERED BY HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH IVth
Published: 2005

This book contains the five Friday Sermons delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IVth on the blessed scheme of Waqfe Nau, including the Friday Sermon of April 3, 1987 in which he launched this scheme. These sermons were translated from Urdu into English for this book.



DAUGHTERS OF EVE – A COLLECTION OF 5 SERMONS DELIVERED BY HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH IVth
Published: 2005

This book is the English rendering of "*Hawwa kee Baitiyaan*" compiled by Lajna Ima'illah Karachi, Pakistan. These sermons elaborate on the important task of training children.



Faith Affirmed
Published: 2008

This book captures testimonials of women living in America who accepted Islam Ahmadiyyat. It was published as part of the Khilafat Centenary Celebration 2008.



PURDAH – THE PATH TO SUCCESS FOR EVERY MUSLIM WOMAN
Published: 2015

This book is a compilation of four selected sermons delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IVth and Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} on the importance of purdah. The sermons were translated from Urdu to English.



PARADISE UNDER YOUR FEET – A HANDBOOK FOR AHMADI MUSLIM MOTHERS ON TARBIIYAT OF CHILDREN
Published: 2016

The purpose of this book is to help and remind Ahmadi mothers of the golden principles of *Tarbiyat* of their children and how to set the best examples for their children's spiritual journey. It is a compilation of wisdom and guidance from the Holy Qur'an, Ahadith, Sunnah, writings of the Promised Messiah^{as} and his Khulafa, combined with years of experiences of Ahmadi mothers. It provides *tarbiyat* guidance to Ahmadi mothers well before the birth of a child to his or her young adulthood, with special emphasis on the challenges of raising Ahmadi Muslim children in western societies.



GARMENTS FOR EACH OTHER – SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM SERMONS OF HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH V (ABA) RELATING TO MARITAL HARMONY
Published: 2017

This book is a collection of excerpts from various sermons (translated from Urdu to English) and a key address of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aba} to Lajna on the subject of matrimonial harmony, inter-family relationships and role of husbands and wives for a serene spiritual household. It also covers a range of other related topics including finding a match, Islamic weddings and evils of vice rituals.



THE SOCCER SACRIFICE
Published: 2018

This book is a publication of the Children's Book Committee. This committee was formed as a result of Lajna Ima'illah Majlise-e- Shura 2014 to publish books for Ahmadi children.



SOCIAL MEDIA – A SELECTION OF ADDRESSES BY HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH V^{aba} – ENGLISH TRANSLATION
Published: 2019

This book is collection of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} sermon excerpts on social media issues and their resolutions. It was published by Lajna Ima'illah UK. Lajna USA had the honor to translate and print it in English.



I LOVE ALLAH
Published: 2020

A children book published by Lajna Children's Book Committee.



TALES TO LIVE BY
Published: 2020

A children book published by Lajna Children's Book Committee. It is a compilation of various stories adapted from "*Orhni Waaliyon ke Liye Phool*" by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II^{ra} and sermons of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}.

Lajna Periodicals

Prepared by National Lajna Isha'at Secretary, Ruqaiya Asad

Ayesha Magazine

National Isha'at Department, Lajna USA



- **Started** circulation almost 50 years ago as an official English publication of Lajna Imā'illāh U.S.A.
- **Published twice a year.**
- Aims to educate, enlighten and inform its readers on religious, social and political issues with particular emphasis on Islam and the role of women in Islam.
- Is named after the blessed wife of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), **Hazrat Ayesha** (may Allah be pleased with her), known for her knowledge and piety and is a role model for all Muslim women.
- Rose design reflects Promised Messiah(AS)'s comparison of Surah Fatiha, the first chapter of the Holy Qur'an, to a 'rose', sharing the same attributes of fragrance, delicacy, beauty and healing.
- Was originally printed in larger dimension with a simpler layout and style. Later, the size was reduced with more visual content (photos and charts).
- The Ayesha touches many contemporary and meaningful topics including interviews and biographies of inspirational figures.

Current Editor: Saadia Ahmad, under the leadership of Dhiya Tahira Bakr Sahiba, Sadr Lajna USA

Past Editors: Aisha Sharif (under the guidance of Sadr Lajna USA, Salma Ghani Sahiba), Ruqaiya Asad (under Sadr Lajna USA, Dr. Shanaz Butt Sahiba), Farzana Safiullah and Aziza Rahman (under Sadr Lajna USA, Dr. Shanaz Butt Sahiba and Sadr Lajna USA, Saliha Malik Sahiba).

Lajna Matters

National Isha'at Department, Lajna USA



- **Quarterly newsletter for Lajna Ima'illah USA and Nasiratul Ahmadiyya USA.**
- Evolution and expansion of earlier newsletter publications of Lajna Ima'illah USA such as the Lajna Quarterly News.
- First issue of Lajna Matters was published in 2001, under the guidance of Sadr Lajna USA, Dr. Shanaz Butt Sahiba.
- Contains quarterly updates, accomplishments of local chapter announcements, correspondence from beloved Huzoor(aba) and messages from Sadr Lajna USA and Amla members.
- As part of Lajna Ima'illah goal to help protect the environment it is a digital publication since 2010. The issues are published on Lajna website and emailed to the entire U.S. Lajna membership with only a few paper copies reserved for administrative purposes.
- To serve the Lajna Urdu speaking elders as well as a growing membership of immigrants, the Urdu version of the Lajna Matters was started in 2011

Al-Maidah



In 1994, Lajna started to publish **Al Maidah**, as a quarterly publication of Lajna news, updates and educational essays for Urdu speaking readers. It continued for few years. Today, Lajna Matters Urdu caters to the Urdu speaking sisters.

Current Editors (2010-2018): Bushra Mirza, for Lajna Matters English and Mabroor Jattala, for Lajna Matters Urdu.

Past Editors (2001-2010): Naureen Chaudhry was the first Editor. Asma Siddiqui, then National Isha'at Secretary also served as an editor along with Samrah Ahmad and Sameea Safi Sahiba



- **1922**
 - Ahmadi Muslim women in America begin meeting under the name "Sewing Circles" to learn Islam and disseminate its message
- **1923**
 - The "Sewing Circles" (Ahmadi Muslim women in America) also participates in the first financial task assigned by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II^{ra} exclusively to Lajna Ima'illah worldwide to raise fifty thousand rupees to build a Mosque in Berlin, Germany
- **1935**
 - Upon return from Qadian, Missionary Sufi Bengali renames Ahmadi women's Sewing Circles as "Lajna Ima'illah" thus establishing this women auxiliary in the USA
- **1948**
 - Support and participation in first US Jalsa Salana in Dayton, Ohio
- **1949**
 - Appointment of Amtul Hafiz Nasir as first National Lajna USA Sadr
- **1950**
 - First National Lajna General Meeting at the Annual Jalsa
- **1954**
 - The 2nd National Lajna USA Sadr (first African-American President), Aliyyah Ali is elected
- **1958**
 - Lajna's first newsletter, "Lajna News" is published
- **1961**
 - First National Amla meeting in Pittsburgh with thirteen office-holders
- **1962**
 - First of its type, Ahmadiyya Children Summer Camp held
- **1963**
 - First publication of Lajna Ima'illah, USA is launched and named as "American Lajna News and Other Events"
- **1964-67**
 - First National Lajna Ijtima on September 5, 1964 at the YMCA in Cleveland
- Institutionalization of "Annual Propagation Day."
- Establishment of gender separation (purdah) in Ahmadi Mosques in America
- Consolidation of National Syllabus into one booklet "Handbook For Women" for new female converts. Including portions of Fiqah-e-Ahmadiyya; rendered into English by Hadhrat Maryam Sadiqah^{ra}

- **1970**
 - The membership up to the mid 1970s is mainly African-Americans, with a handful of Pakistani and White Americans
- **1973**
 - National Sadr Lajna, Nycemah Yaqub, addresses the Capital Branch of the United Nations regarding the Ahmadiyya Movement and the work of Lajna
- October 1973, American Lajna sent its first representative, Sis. Amatul Elahee to an International Lajna meeting in Rabwah, Pakistan on 50 Year Golden Jubilee of Central Lajna
- Bylaws for Lajna Ima'illah USA's "Constitution, Rules and Regulations" is published
- **1974**
 - First delegation of eight American sisters attends Central (International) Jalsa in Rabwah
- National Lajna Sadr, Nycemah Yaqub (a delegate member) addresses Lajna at the Convention in Rabwah
- Mubarak Malik, a convert belonging to Lajna Ima'illah Milwaukee, presents a copy of the Holy Quran to President Gerald Ford at the White House
- **1976**
 - **First Historic Visit of Hadhrat Khilāfatul Masih IIIth**, American Lajna welcomes the Khilāfatul Masihth first time in the history of the United States that the divinely elected Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at stepped on U.S. soil.
- **1980**
 - **Historic Visit of Hadhrat Khilāfatul Masih IIIth**,
 - Lajna arranged special program with Begum Sahiba
 - In December 1980, the US delegation travels with Hadhoor^{ra} and Begum Sahiba on the same flight to attend Jalsa Salana in Rabwah

- **Rapid growth,**
 - In continuation of Tarbiyat initiatives to unify sisters from Pakistan and American Lajna
- **1981**
 - Lajna holds public conferences on the "Concept of God" and Misconceptions About Islam"
- **1982**
 - U.S. Lajna members sponsor the Qadian, India Guest House with a contribution of \$7,000
 - Lajna adopt a workshop format in national meetings, increasing individual involvement
- **1987**
 - **First Historic Visit of Hadhrat Khilāfatul Masih IVth**
 - Lajna is asked to develop Index for three thousand page Five Volume Holy Qur'an with Commentary under the guidance of Khalifatul Masih IVth
- **1989**
 - Three Lajna members create Media Kit for Jama'at's Centenary Celebration
 - Sponsorship efforts to promote participation in 1989 Centennial celebrations
- **1991**
 - **Historic Visit of Hadhrat Khilāfatul Masih IVth** address Lajna at USA Jalsa
 - 500 Copies of the speech made by Hadhrat Khilāfatul Masih IVth to Lajna Imaillah on June 29, 1991 are distributed
- **1995**
 - Lajna sisters began to learn television production for MTA
 - **New format** for Annual Lajna Ijtima to discuss new ideas, problems, national programs, and make suggestions for Lajna's spiritual development
- **1996**
 - Lajna Publication: Researched, wrote, and published 3000 copies of the "Pathway to Paradise"
- **1998**
 - Under the advice of Hadhrat Khilāfatul Masih IVth, special national lajna office-Review of Religions is established

- **2000**
 - Develops National questionnaire for Taleem and Tarbiyat Syllabus
 - Respected M. M. Ahmad Sahib (then Amir USA), approves National Lajna Waqf-i-Nau secretary
- **2001**
 - Dar-ul-Yatama Fund
 - Lajna Matters - the national Lajna newsletter published quarterly
 - Tabligh activities at National, Local and individual level after 9-11
- **2002**
 - Initiation of Children Eid Gift Fund "From Our Children to Your Children"
 - Al-Hilal magazine for children joint effort with Khuddam
 - Zion Mission (Camp Bismillah, Girls Talk, Adopt a Shelter etc.)
- **2003**
 - Religious knowledge workbook for Nasirat and New Ahmadies
 - First National Amla and Local Sadrs' meeting on West Coast
 - **Scanning Project:** A request is made that Lajna USA take on the responsibility of scanning copies of the Holy Quran that are available in different languages and place them on the website: <http://www.alislam.org>. The scanning for the following languages is completed: Swiss, Polish, Igbo and Greek
- **2004**
 - Taleem and Tarbiyat Workbook as part of National syllabus
 - Translation of Havva ke Baitiyan and sermons of Hadhrat Khalifatul-Masih IVth on Waqf-i-Nau
 - 10 Conditions of Bai't in English booklet published for Tarbiyat syllabus
 - Welcome to new Ahmadi sisters at the Jalsa for the first time
 - Appointment of Secretary Nau Mu'baeen and Auditor
 - National Majlis-e-Shura Lajna Ima'illah-USA according to rules
- **2005**
 - First annual Lajna Mentoring Conference (Houston, TX)
 - Media watch team under the instruction of Hadhoor^{ra}
 - First Quarterly National Amla meeting
- **2006**
 - In preparation for the 2008 Khilafat Centenary Celebrations, Hadhoor^{ra} assigns Lajna Imaillah USA the enormous task of translating all of the Urdu addresses that were made to Lajna by all the Khulafa
- **2007**
 - Online portals launched to ease registration for various National events, submit Shura proposals, delegates' election results, and tools to approve shura delegates online
- **2008**
 - **First Historical Visit and Address of Khilāfatul Masih V^{aba} to Lajna**
 - First Wāqif-e-Nau Class with Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}
 - Lajna Mail Server is developed
- **2009**
 - Lajna Website launched
 - Lajna Ima'illah- USA official logo is introduced
- **2010**
 - Ahmadi Women Scientist Association (AWSA)
 - First Regional Sports Tournaments in Detroit, MI and Willingboro, NJ.
 - Introduction of Monthly Health Webinars on Health (90 so far)
- **2011**
 - Taleem Online Tests, Surveys and Reporting
- **2012**
 - **Historic Visit of Khilāfatul Masih V^{aba} to USA and Address to Lajna**
 - First meeting of Under Graduate and Graduate students with Hadhoor^{ra}
 - Wāqif-e-Nau Class with Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}
- **2013**
 - **Historic Visit of Khilāfatul Masih V^{aba} to West Coast, USA**
 - First West Coast Wāqif-e-Nau class with Hadhoor^{ra}
 - AMSAW established
- **2014**
 - Appointment of first Lajna National Muavina Sadr in-charge of Wāqif-e-Nau USA
- **2015**
 - First National Wāqif-e-Nau Camp
- **2016**
 - Appointment of first Lajna USA National Muavina Sadr in-charge of Public Affairs
- **2017**
 - Historic Lajna Amla and Regional Sadraat trip to UK for an official Mulaqat with Huzoor^{ra}
 - Nasirat Ul Ahmadiyya - USA Logo introduced
- **2018**
 - **Historic Visit of Khilāfatul Masih V^{aba} to USA**
 - Wāqif-e-Nau classes with Hadhoor^{ra}; one in Houston and one in Maryland
 - Historic trip of Lajna 15-25 (about 100 members) to UK for Mulaqat with Hadhoor-e-Aqdas^{ra}
 - New office of Umooor-e-Talibaat - Student Affairs (April, 2018)
- **2019**
 - Promoted Cottage Industry through individual Lajna members' stalls at U.S. Jalsa
 - First Women Peace Symposium
 - Zion Mosque Project
 - First National Amla meeting exclusively on Salat subject
 - Initiated online Lajna Chanda collection system

Majlis Ansarullah USA

Introduction

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II (may Allah be pleased with him) formed a number of auxiliary organizations to promote the spirit of moral excellence of members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. These organizations were established to provide a specific framework for the ethical and religious education and training of different groups based on age and gender. Majlis Ansarullah (helpers of Allah) was formed by Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II (may Allah be pleased with him) in 1940; its members comprise all male Ahmadi Muslims over the age of 40.

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II (may Allah be pleased with him) outlined goals for the auxiliaries in

the following words (Al-Fazl, October 11, 1944):

“We have to reform the whole world. We have to bring the entire world to bow before God Almighty. Bring the entire world under the fold of Ahmadiyyat. Establish the kingdom of God all over the world. But this grand task cannot be performed until all members of our community—children, youth, or elderly—organize themselves internally and follow this code of conduct day and night... For this internal improvement and completion of organization, I have established the auxiliary organizations of Khuddām-ul-Ahmadiyya, Ansarullah, and Atfāl-ul-Ahmadiyya.”

Originally, the Ansarullah Majalis (chapters) all over the world were under the supervision of Sadr Majlis Ansarullah with its head offices at the Center, first in Qādiān and then in Rabwah. The Head of Ansarullah in each country was called Nazim-i-A‘la or Za‘īm-e-A‘la. Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him), announced in his Friday Sermon delivered on November 3, 1989, that in the future, Khalifat-ul-Masih would himself supervise all auxiliary organizations. He also mentioned that all over the world and at the national level, the heads of the auxiliary organizations would be designated as Sadr (President).

Early Years of Majlis Ansarullah, USA

A review of the historical records describes the presence of Ansarullah activity as early as 1959 where election of two office holders took place during the annual convention.

Election of Za‘īm A‘la is also mentioned in 1962. Records can also be found of an Ansar meeting at the Jalsa Salana of 1964. First Ijtima was held in May 1973 in Washington DC

and 50 members attended. Records of a visit by respected Choudhry Hameedullah, worldwide Vice President of Majlis Ansarullah, has been described in 1981.

Administration

The current total membership of Majlis Ansarullah, USA is 2,300. Of these, 480 are Mūsiyan (plural of mūsi, one who participate in nizam-i-Waṣiyyat) and another 45 have submitted their application for Waṣiyyat. Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V (may Allah be his support) made a historic appeal for new Mūsiyan in 2004. In response to that appeal, 350 members have applied for the Waṣiyyat since August 2004.

Majlis Ansarullah has 67 established chapters in 71 Jamā‘ats. Four Jamā‘ats do not have sufficient number of Ansar to form a Majlis (at least three dues paying members).

The entire US is divided into twelve regions (with approximately 200 members per region) and each region has a nazim who is responsible for facilitating management of the Majlis’s affairs at the regional level. Nazimin (plural of

nazim) are appointed by the Sadr, however, elections for the Zu‘ama (plural of za‘īm meaning local president) are held every two years.

Majlis Ansarullah has developed a website (<http://www.ansarusa.org>) which has been in use since 2000. This site has two sections: one open to the public and the other password-protected for administrative purposes.

Ijtimā‘āt and Majalis-i-Shūrā

The National Annual Ijtima of Majlis Ansarullah, USA has been held every year since 1982. There were 12 attendees at the first

national Ijtimā. Attendance at the 2011 national Ijtimā was more than 450. Besides the National Annual Ijtima, several local and regional

Ijtimā‘āt (plural of Ijtimā) have also been held regularly. The first Majlis Shūrā (consultative body meeting) of the Majlis Ansarullah, USA was held

in 1993 and since then Majlis Shūrā has been held every year.

Departmental Programs

Comprehensive programs are prepared every year for each department and these programs are

provided to Zu'ama at the beginning of the year at the Ansar Leadership Conference (ALC). The ALC has been

held every year since 2000.

Publications

In 1992, Fazal Ahmad, then Za'im A'la Majlis Ansarullah, USA, formally started a magazine for Majlis Ansarullah, USA and named it 'Al-Nahl' based on chapter Al-Nahl in the Holy Qur'an (one issue of Al-Nahl was published before 1992). "Nahl" means honeybee. The bee does not care about its age; it continues to carry out its assigned task until its last breath. The obvious thought behind this name was that Ansar should follow the example of the honeybee, regardless of their age, that is, to keep working till their last breath. By the Grace of Almighty Allah, Al-Nahl has been published regularly since then and is mailed to every member free of charge.

The following special issues of the magazine have been published:

- Centenary of the fulfillment of the prophecy of solar and lunar eclipses.
- Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque Issue at the occasion of inauguration of the Mosque.
- Khilafat Issue.
- Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him) issue.
- Philosophy of the teachings of Islam issue.
- Professor Sir Dr. Abdus Salam issue (320 pages).
- Waṣiyyat issue (112 pages)
- "Year in Review" issues have been published every year since 2004.

The other publication activities are as follows:

• A monthly newsletter called 'Ansarullah News,' was started in January 1995. By the grace of Allah, the newsletter has since been regularly published. The Newsletter is sent to all members free of charge—both in electronic and paper format.

• A small booklet "Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) in the Bible."

• "Letter to a Dear One" by Sir Chaudhri Muhammad Zafrulla Khan.

• A Prayer poster with photographs depicting all postures and positions of the prescribed prayer service, with Arabic text, English transliteration and English translation of prayers set in different colors for easy identification was published in 1995. The Tarbiyat (moral training) department of the UK Jamā'at purchased 500 prayer posters charts. Seeing the poster, Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him) commented:

"Jazakumullah for the prayer poster that you have compiled. It was delightful, MashAllah, and very useful. Here in the UK, it will be utilized to our benefit."

Due to large demand, this poster has been published twice.

• A children's book, Razzaq and Farida, written Dr. Yusef A. Lateef, was published in 1997.

• The books "Synopsis of Religious Preaching, Part I and

II" by Maulana Ata Ullah Kaleem were reprinted in one volume.

• "Approaching the West" by Mubasher Ahmad, M.A., LLB

• A collection of Ahadith, Words of Wisdom, with Arabic text, its English transliteration and Urdu and English translation has been published.

• Majlis Ansarullah, USA translated into English and published a book "Inspiring Events in the Field of Tabligh" originally published in Urdu by Imam Ataul-Majeeb Rashid.

• "Why Islam is my choice"- Personal Accounts of Spiritual Journeys of individuals who have converted to Islam.

• Published several flyers in English, Spanish, and Arabic.

• "Wonderful prayers from the Holy Qur'an," a pocket size booklet has been published twice and is provided free.

• Pocket size "Ten Conditions of Bai'at" have been printed twice and are made available free.

• Prayers for Khilafat Centenary were collated and printed and distributed free of charge.

• "Forty Gems of Beauty" was reprinted after adjusting spellings for the US audience.

• Homeopathic Remedies, translation of an Urdu booklet.

• "Points to Ponder"-short stories narrated by the companions of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him)

Property

- On May 25, 2003 Majlis Ansarullah installed a trailer at Baitur-Rahman Mosque premises to serve as the national office, meeting room, and bookstore.
- In 2007 Hazrat Khalifat-ul-

Masih V (may Allah be his support) approved building of Ansarullah Hall as part of Baitur-Rahman Mosque expansion. Building of the Ansar hall was recommended by the Majlis Shūrā of 1996. This proposal was approved by Hazrat Khalifat-ul-

Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him) in 1998. Majlis Ansarullah contributed \$500,000 towards Baitur-Rahman Mosque expansion. Ansarullah hall was inaugurated on October 16, 2009, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh.

Tabligh

Majlis Ansarullah is making a special effort to visit small towns. This effort was initiated in response to a directive given by Hazrat

Khalifat-ul-Masih V (may Allah be his support) that Tabligh efforts should focus on small towns and villages. Since 2009, members

visited more than 800 small towns across the US. Members continue to meet with city officials and distributed Jamā'at literature.

Education

Educational programs pay special attention to proper recitation of the Holy Qur'an as well as reading and study of the books of the

Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). Two tests based on the education syllabus are conducted every year. In 1997, only 31 (2%)

members participated in the first test for that year, while more than 810 members participated in 2012 (33%).

Moral Training

The moral training program is focusing on creating and maintaining salat centers, activating inactive Ansar, and addressing social and cultural issues in Majalis. The Majlis is emphasizing the Importance of:

- Offering salat in congregation,
- Regular recitation of the Holy Qur'an,
- Becoming role models for family members and children,
- Establishing strong affiliation

with Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih and the Jamā'at, and Joining the Nizam-e-Waṣīyyat (institution of the Will).

Health

Majlis Ansarullah continues to provide homeopathic kits as well as replenish existing kits. This program

was initiated in 2002 and to date the total number of homeopathy kits supplied to various Majalis is 39.

During 2009 approximately 2200 patients received homeopathic remedies.

Social Services

- The Ansar Tahir Scholarship Program was initiated in 2005 to help Ansar further their education or acquire new skills to enhance employability. Since the inception of this program, several scholarships totaling \$70,000 have been awarded.

- Majlis Ansarullah continues to provide a Muslim Television Ahmadiyya (MTA) dish and receiver system or MTA Box to those Ansar who cannot afford to purchase one. This program was initiated in 1994.

- Majlis Ansarullah continues to support various projects that provide food/clothes to the needy in various areas.
- Majlis Ansarullah also continues to assist needy members financially.

Financial Sacrifices

Income Budget/Collection for financial sacrifices of Majlis Ansarullah continues to be strong

both for Majlis Ansarullah and in support of the Jamā'at system. Some of the funds mentioned below may

not have been collected due to the direct effort of the Majlis Ansarullah, nevertheless, significant collections

for these funds would not have been possible without contribution by Ansar members. Contributions for two major initiatives were:

- Tahir Heart Institute \$ 2,010,466.30
 - UK Jalsa Gah \$115,000.00
- Other notable efforts:
- Purchased 100 chairs at the time of the inauguration of Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Silver

Springs, MD. These chairs are still in use at the mosque.

- In 2009 contributed \$76,000 to install hundreds of water wells in Africa.
- “Bicycles for Africa” scheme was initiated in 2010. Under this initiative 350 bicycles and 20 tricycles were donated to Burkina Faso on April 14, 2011 with total contribution of \$38,000.

- Provided funds (\$80,000) to establish model villages in Sierra Leon (Project: provide electricity using solar technology to 6 villages)
- Plan to provide funds (\$400,000) to purchase Mosque/Mission House in Haiti.
- Plan to provide funds (\$40,000) to purchase a water-well drilling truck for use in Burkina Faso.

Message from Şadr Majlis Ansarullah USA.



As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum Wa Raḥmatullāh

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, it has been 100 years since Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq embarked on the soil of the United States and seeded the plant of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in north America. Mufti Sadiq came with almost no money or material resources but with a clear mission in mind to introduce Americans to true teachings of Islam. With his unshaken faith in the truth of his mission combined with his charismatic personality and persuasive arguments, he won many hearts in a short period of time. This souvenir captures the glimpse of his accomplishments as well as subsequent growth of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community during the past 100 years.

Majlis Ansarullah USA consists

of Ahmadi Muslim men of age forty and up. The relationship of Majlis Ansarullah to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is like a child is to his parents, and so Majlis Ansarullah is a significant part of the growth of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in USA. While this souvenir as a whole highlight many of the achievements of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA but the next few pages capture the brief history of Majlis Ansarullah USA through the eyes of the respective heads of Majlis at different times.

Although there are accounts of Majlis Ansarullah being active in USA in as early as 1967, it was formally established by the appointment of Dr. Masoud Malik as Za‘im-e-A‘la, the formal head of Majlis Ansarullah USA by Khalifat-ul-Masīh the third in 1981. He continued to serve in this capacity until 1986 when Khalifat-ul-Masīh the fourth appointed Fazal Abdullah Ahmad as Za‘im-e-A‘la. In 1989, in the middle of Fazal Abdullah’s term as Za‘im-e-A‘la, Khalifat-ul-Masīh the fourth changed the title of Za‘im-e-A‘la to Sadr Majlis as the formal head of Majlis Ansarullah USA. Subsequently, Karimullah Zirvi, Nasir Malik, Wajeeh Bajwa and Faheem Younus Qureshi served as Sadr Majlis Ansarullah, USA and since 1918, this humble one is serving in this capacity.

With the utmost feelings of humility and gratitude, I take pride to be able to serve in this capacity at such an important juncture in time for Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA. On behalf of the whole Majlis, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA for achieving such an important milestone by completing and thriving for 100 years. Every member of Majlis Ansarullah finds himself lucky to witness the centennial celebration year of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and pray for its continued growth and mounting successes in the years to come.

As Sadr Majlis Ansarullah USA, I not only wish boundless future success to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA but also offer complete cooperation and unconditional support in its future journey towards everlasting progress. May Allah Ta‘ālā continue to grow Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and help it achieve its mission of winning the hearts of its fellow Americans by demonstrating the true values of Islam through their words and actions. Ameen.

Wassalām,

Imran Hayee, humbly serving
Majlis Ansarullah USA

A brief historical overview of Ansarullah USA since its inception

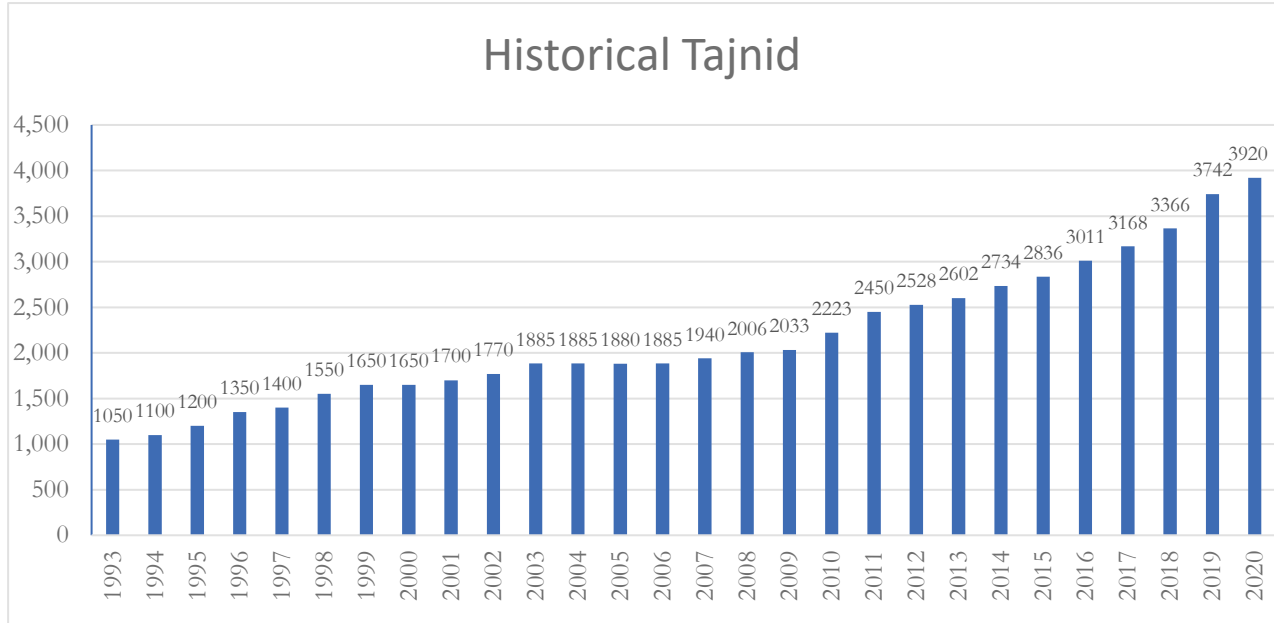
In his famous lecture 'The Beginning of Differences in Islām,' expanding on the importance of history in the progress of a nation, the founder of Majlis Anṣārullāh, Ḥaḍrat Muṣṭafī Mau'ūd, Khalīfatul-

Masīḥ II (may Allāh be pleased with him) said:

“Awareness of history is a very significant stimulant in the progress of nations. Any nation that is unaware of its historical traditions

can never move towards its progress. Being familiar with one's ancestors guides one to many lofty objectives.”

Ansarullah USA-Tajnid trends since 1993 (the year Majlis started tracking Tajnid data)



Ansarullah USA leadership over the years:

Dr. Masoud Ahmad Malik

Za'im A'la, Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA (1981-1985)



Dr. Masoud Ahmad Malik was appointed as Za'im A'la of Majlis Ansarullah USA by the Sadr of Central Majlis Ansarullah, Rabwah (Pakistan), Hadrat Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad (may Allah's blessings be on him). With his appointment, Majlis Ansarullah was established in

the US for the first time. There was no previous model or structure to build upon, so a small team of assistants was put together to start laying the foundation for the Majlis in the US.

During these years, the auxiliaries were primarily led by the Central Ṣadr who was stationed at the Center in Rabwah, Pakistan. In each respective country, the Amīr was considered to be an ex officio Nā'ib Ṣadr of the auxiliary. In the years to come, some countries appointed a separate national head of the Anṣārullāh.

During Dr. Masoud Malik's term, Ansar Chanda collections were started in the US for the first time.

Ansarullah USA was tasked by Hadrat Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad to distribute and send copies of Hadrat Sheikh Muhammad Ahmad Mazhar's book 'English traced to Arabic' in the US.

Central Majlis Ansarullah advised Majlis Ansarullah USA to introduce 'Monthly Ansarullah' periodical, published in Rabwah (Pakistan) to the members of Ansarullah in the US. This periodical was mailed to members across the country.

The first national Ijtimā of Majlis Ansarullah was held at the Fazl Mosque of Washington DC on the weekend of May 8, 1982. A total of 55 members from the east coast

region participated in this Ijtima. From this Ijtima onwards, annual Ijtimā'āt were held in DC, New York, and Dayton Ohio in the subsequent years.

After seeking approval from Central Ansarullah Sadr, a delegate from the Majlis Ansarullah USA was sent to participate in the Central Ansarullah Ijtima in 1982

(Respected Fazal Ahmad of Boston Majlis was the first delegate).



National Ijtimā' of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA, held on May 8-9, 1982. Dr. Masoud Ahmad Malik, Za'fīm A'lā, Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA, addressing the participants of the 1st National Ijtimā' of the Majlis

Fazal Abdullah Ahmad

Za'im A'la, Majlis Ansharullah, USA (1986-1992)



Fazal Ahmad served Majlis Ansarullah USA first as Za'im A'la, and then in November 1989, Majlis Ansharullah, USA came under direct

supervision of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV and title of the head of the Ansharullah organization was changed to Sadr Ansarullah.

Fazal Ahmad was born a Catholic, but by the grace of Allah, he joined the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and his life changed completely.

He was ably assisted by Dr. Karimullah Zirvi as Nā'ib Nazim A'la of Majlis Ansharullah, USA who helped him with running of the day to day business of the Majlis.

Fazal Ahmad felt the need for a publication specific for Majlis Ansarullah USA, and after some discussion, it was decided that Majlis will publish a magazine by the name of "Al-Nahl." The magazine is still published regularly and enjoyed by Ansarullah USA members around the US even today.

Through these early years of establishment, Ansarullah USA was beginning to gain momentum and broader membership participation and programs around the country.



Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (may Allāh's blessing be on him) enjoys a lighter moment with American Anshar at Baituz-Zafar Mosque in New York in 1987. Amīr and Missionary in charge Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad is sitting on Ḥuḍūr's left while missionary and current Amīr Jamā'at Australia, Inam-ul-Haq Kausar is sitting on Khalifat-ul-Masih's right.



Masoud Malik, Missionary Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad are seen in this group photo with Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul Masīḥ IV (may Allāh's blessing be on him) during his 1987 tour of USA. Picture taken in New York.



Seating from right to left: Munir Hamid, Masoud Malik, Muzaffar Ahmad Zafar, Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul Masīḥ IV (may Allāh's blessing be on him), Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, Abid Hanif, and Hamza Zainuddin.
Among the standing, you will find Nasir Malik, Syed Sajid Ahmad and Imtiaz Chaudhry.



12th National Ijtimā' of Majlis Anşārullāh, USA held on May 8-9, 1993 at Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque in New York

Dr. Karimullah Zirvi

Şadr Majlis Anşārullāh, USA (1993-1999)



Dr. Karimullah Zirvi was elected as Sadr Ansarullah USA in 1992. He had the honor of being Nā'ib Sadr Ansarullah and Nā'ib Nazim-e-Ala prior to that, working alongside Fazal Abdullah Ahmad.

One of the first focus areas for Dr. Zirvi was to increase Ijtima attendance. Through letter writing and making phone calls to general membership around the country, the attendance increased year over year. By the grace of God, the last Ijtima under his tenure, there were 350 to 400 Ansar who attended the national Ijtima. At that time, the total tajnīd of Ansarullah was estimated at 850.

A directory of Ansarullah with their addresses and phone numbers was compiled and printed in book format for ease of communication.

West Coast Annual Ijtima was established and regional Ijtimā'āt were established. Ijtimā' at local

level were also started. During the first year, attendance was low but by the end of his tenure, local Ijtimā'āt were well established and had good attendance everywhere.

First Shūrā of Majlis Anşārullāh, USA was held in 1993 at Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque in New York. The attendance was 15-20 Anşār. Efforts were made to establish Shūrā on the pattern of the Jamā'at's Shūrā. By the grace of God, by the year 1999, Shūrā of Majlis Anşārullāh was well established and well organized. Shūrā delegates from almost all Majālis participated in Shūrā and recommendations approved by Hadrat Khalīfatul-Masīh IV were fully implemented. Shūrā was held for two days separately from the Ijtima. However, later on, it was decided that to save travel expenses Shūrā should be held with the national Ijtima. Thus, Shūrā was held on Friday and Ijtima was held on Saturday and Sunday.

When Bait-ur-Rahmān Mosque was completed, it coincided with Shūrā of Majlis Anşārullāh, USA, so Dr. Zirvi requested the late Hadrat Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad, Amīr Jamā'at USA, to grant permission to hold the Shūrā at the new venue. He wrote back that Shūrā cannot be held at the mosque because there were no

chairs. Majlis Ansarullah offered to buy 200 chairs for the mosque on behalf of the Majlis. He appreciated this offer and permitted Ansarullah to hold the Shūrā at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque. Thus, the first event which took place at Bait-ur-Rahmān Mosque was Shūrā of Majlis Anşārullāh, USA that was held in 1994. Those chairs are still being used at Bait-ur-Rahman.

During Dr. Zirvi's tenure, special efforts were made to publish a good quality magazine of the Majlis. The Center at London had asked the U.S. Jamā'at to publish a special issue of the Gazette about Professor Dr. Abdus Salam. The late Hadrat Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad, Amīr Jamā'at, USA, asked Sadr Ansarullah to publish a special issue of Al-Nahl about Professor Dr. Abdus Salam. It was a tremendous task to collect all the information for the special issue. Many calls were made to the family members of Professor Dr. Abdus Salam and the Director of the (Abdus Salam) International Center for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy was also contacted to collect information about Professor Dr. Abdus Salam's tenure at the institute. By the grace of God, a comprehensive and beautiful special issue of Al-Nahl about Professor Dr.

Abdus Salam was published. A copy of the special issue of Al-Nahl was sent to Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (May Allāh's blessing be on him). He liked the magazine and wrote that it was a very good issue as it included all the information in one resource. He further wrote that a copy of the magazine should be sent to all Mission Houses throughout the world.

Besides the Professor Dr. Abdus Salam issue, the following other special issues of Al-Nahl were also published:

The Essay Triumphed: Philosophy of the Teachings of Islām

Fulfillment of the Prophecy of Solar and Lunar Eclipses

A special issue of Al-Nahl about Ḥaḍrat Muftī Muḥammad Ṣādiq (may Allāh be pleased with him)

It was felt that at the Ijtimā, Ansarullah flag should be raised. A flag was arranged from Rabwah (Pakistan) and was placed along the USA flag at the Ijtimā.

It was also decided that the best local Majlis should be recognized at the national Ijtimā by giving the 'Alam-i-In'āmī. For this purpose, another flag and a flagpole were purchased. Thus, giving of the 'Alam-i-In'āmī to the best Majlis was initiated. In an Amila meeting the criterion for selection of the best Majlis was finalized and provided to all Zu'ama. Majlis Ansarullah was

established in all 29 locations where Jamā'at chapters were established.

The monthly Ansarullah Newsletter was started in January 1995.

The need for an Ansarullah hall was felt, and approval for the hall at Bait-ur-Rahman was obtained from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV. An a for Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA was approved by Majlis Amila after lengthy discussions in Amila meetings. T-shirts with the insignia were sold to Ansar, which helped increase the brotherhood bond and a sense of strong identity among the Ansarullah membership.



During the visit of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (may Allāh's blessing be on him) to New Jersey in 1997.

Salim Nasir Malik, Imtiaz Chaudhry, and Karimullah Zirvi are sitting in the front.



A group photo of Shūrā delegates of 1994 Majlis Shūrā of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA; Majlis Shūrā of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA was the first national event held at Bait-ur-Rahmān Mosque in Silver Spring, MD

Nasir Mahmood Malik

Şadr Majlis Anşārullāh, USA (2000– 2005)



Nasir Mahmood Malik started his tenure with a focus on inculcating open communication, team spirit, standardization, top-down accountability, and developing a “learning and evolving” mindset.

During his tenure, the annual Shūrā was combined with national Ijtima to reduce costs and increase participation. The national Amila meetings were also held among various Majalis to enhance direct interaction of national Amila with local Ansar membership and facilitate brotherhood.

To improve direct communication with Ansār

members, a monthly “Anşār” newsletter was started and the quarterly magazine “Al-Naḥl.” also continued its publication.

The Annual Leadership Conference (ALC) was initiated for National Amila, Regional Qā’ideen, and Zu’ama. At these ALCs, the leadership team communicated the annual calendar of events, goals, and priorities, and solicited support from all concerned. These ALCs were rotated among various Majālis. Through these ALCs, the Majlis connected with many Anşār throughout the country. In these ALCs, each participant was asked to introduce himself (family, job, hobbies, role in Jamā’at/Majlis, etc.) This exercise brought the Ansar together at a personal level.

Majlis Ansarullah standardized the program templates for local, regional, and national Ijtima’āt. In Ansarullah Ijtima’āt, the Amila introduced new competitions (Observation & Recall, Message Relay, English Poem, and Musical Chairs) and new formats for General

Knowledge, and Impromptu Speech competitions. Diyāfat competition at national Ijtima’āt, were introduced by requesting competing Majālis to manage Diyāfat at each meal time during the Ijtima. Criteria for grouping various Majālis into large, medium, and small, were established to evaluate their competitive performance. Several new categories were introduced to recognize exceptional contributions by various Ansar, Majālis, and regions. The “Lifetime Achievement Award” was also introduced for our lifelong, consistent, and exceptional Anşār contributors.

Ansar Tahir Scholarship for qualified Ansar was started to promote continuous learning and acquisition of new skills for job/career transitions. By the end of Nasir Malik’s tenure, the number of Majalis around the country increased from 37 to 55, the annual budget increased from \$ 160 K to \$ 220 K, and the national Ijtima attendance increased from under 200 to above 500 attendees.



A group photo at the 2000 West Coast Ijtima’ of Majlis Anşārullāh, USA



22nd National Ijtimā' of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA was held in 2003 at Bait-ur-Raḥmān Mosque in Silver Spring, MD



National 'Āmila members of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA with Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V on June 27, 2005

Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa

Şadr Majlis Ansarullah, USA (2006-2013)



During the tenure of Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa's tenure, the Ansarullah USA membership increased from 1800 to 2600. Similarly, the number of Majlis around the US increased from 60 to 71.

Majlis Ansarullah, USA registered the web domain "Ansarusa.org" in February 2002 to develop a website to provide resources and information to members and officeholders of the Majlis. Website of Majlis Ansarullah, USA at www.Ansarusa.org was divided into two sections: one section was open to the public and the other section was password-protected for administrative purposes. This domain was also used to provide official email addresses for all officeholders of the Majlis.

Publications was one of the active focus areas for the Majlis during this time.

Al-Nahl was regularly published during 2006 to 2013 and mailed to every member free of charge. Special issues during this period were:

Khilāfat Issue

Waşıyyat issue

The format of Al-Nahl was changed in 2012 from small booklet style to full page style.

A small booklet "Muhammad in the Bible" (may peace and blessings

of Allāh be on him) was republished in 2013.

A Prayer poster with photographs depicting all postures of the prescribed prayers, with Arabic text, transliteration and English translation was published in 1995; It was published again in 2008 due to demand.

"Pocket Du'ā" was published in 2013.

"Approaching the West," by Mubasher Ahmad, M.A., LLB was published in 2008 and then again in 2011.

"Why Islām is my choice," personal accounts of spiritual journeys of individuals who have converted to Islām was published in October 2007.

"Forty Gems of Beauty" was reprinted in December 2007 after adjusting spellings for the U.S. audience.

"Homeopathic Remedies," a translation of an Urdu booklet was published in 2012.

"Points to Ponder," short stories narrated by the companions of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) was published in 2012.

Health of Ansarullah membership was also a focus area. Majlis Ansarullah, USA provided homeopathic kits as well as replenished existing kits from 2006 to 2011.

Health Talk—an interactive program providing useful health information pertaining to Ansar—was made a part of the national Ijtima.

Social services: The Ansar Tahir Scholarship Program was initiated in 2005 to help Ansar further their education or acquire new skills to

enhance employability. More than 25 scholarships totaling \$75,000 were awarded from 2006 to 2013.

The Majlis provided MTA dish and receiver system or MTA Box to those Ansar who cannot afford to purchase one.

The Majlis provided support to various projects that provide food/clothes to the needy in various areas.

Income Budget and Collection for financial sacrifices of Majlis Ansarullah, USA continued to be strong both for the Majlis and in support of the Jamā'at system.

Ansar financial contributions increased from \$314,500 in 2006 to \$527,000 in 2013. An increase of more than 40%.

Contributions by Ansar members for two major Jamā'at initiatives during 2006-2013 timeframe were:

Ṭāhir Heart Institute: \$2.1 M

UK Jalsa Gah: \$ 115 K

Other notable efforts by Majlis Anşārullāh included:

In 2009 the Majlis contributed \$ 76 K to install several water wells in Africa.

"Bicycles for Africa" scheme was initiated in 2010. Under this initiative, 350 bicycles and 20 tricycles were donated to Burkina Faso on April 14, 2011 with total contribution of \$ 38 K.

Provided funds (\$ 80 K) to establish model villages in Sierra Leon. The project provided electricity using solar energy to 6 villages.

Committed to provide funds (\$ 400 K) for the purchase of Mosque/Mission House in Haiti.



Under the scheme of “Bicycles for Africa” 350 bicycles and 20 tricycles were donated to Burkina Faso in 2010



Participants of 2006 ALC held at Baitus Samee Mosque in Houston, TX



Majlis 'Āmila of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA with Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allāh be his helper) at Bait-ur-Raḥmān Mosque on June 23, 2008



Plaque outside the Anṣārullāh Hall opened at the 2009 Ijtimā' (left). Treats served at the opening of the Anṣārullāh Hall.



Members of Majlis-i-‘Āmilah, Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA visited the house and the grave of John Alexander Dowie during their visit to Zion on August 26, 2012.



National Majlis-i-‘Āmila and Nāzimīn of Majlis Ansarullah, USA with Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih V (may Allāh be his support), on July 2, 2012 at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



**Left: Ansar serving at “Feeding the Homeless/Hungry” drive held on March 10, 2012 by LA East Majlis
Right: Anṣār of Philadelphia Majlis serving food at an area homeless shelter on January 29, 2012**



Za‘īm of Dallas Majlis, Suhail Kausar, receiving ‘Ālam-i-In‘āmī from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masiḥ V (may Allāh be his support) at 2012 U.S. Jalsa Sālāna



33rd National Ijtimā' and 22nd Majlis Shūrā of Majlis Anṣārullāh, USA was held on October 10-11, 2014 at Bait-ur-Raḥmān Mosque in Silver Spring, MD, where 1,036 Anṣār from all over the USA attended the Ijtimā', the highest ever in any Anṣār National Ijtimā', surpassing the goal of 1,000.

Faheem Younus Qureshi

Şadr Majlis Ansarullah, USA (2014 – 2017)



Faheem Younus Qureshi was elected as Sadr Majlis Ansarullah in 2014. Based on the directives of Hadrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allāh be his helper), the Majlis Ansarullah USA selected four priority focus areas. Allāh Almighty blessed Majlis Anşārullāh, USA with much success, not only in those four areas, but in all areas.

Top Priority: Officeholders reporting their compliance with listening to Ḥudūr’s Friday sermons

First Priority: Establishing brotherhood by following the Qur’ānic injunction: “Save yourself and your families from a fire” (66:7)

Second Priority: Be the real helpers of Allāh and His creation

Third Priority: Strengthening our Communications

Fourth Priority—National Ijtimā

Listening to Khalifat-ul-Masih’s Friday sermon:

During the year 2014, the Majlis started tracking the compliance of Majlis Ansarullah, USA’s officeholders with listening to Ḥudūr’s Friday sermons. At the end of second quarter, only 29% of the Ansar officeholders submitted their compliance data. By the end of third quarter, however, that number shot up to 72% of the officeholders.

Establishing brotherhood by

following the Quranic injunction: “Save yourself and your families from a fire” (66:7)

Ḥudūr gave Majlis the task of focusing on self-reformation, for both ourselves and our families. With this inward focus, the Majlis designed, created, printed, and distributed over 2,000 copies of the Ansar Ta’lim and Tarbiyat Handbook containing real life scenarios to be discussed in local meetings. Guidance from the Holy Quran, Ahadith, quotes of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) and Khulafa were included to steer the discussion in the right direction.

Even though it is hard to attribute the progress on many fronts to these efforts, several areas of engagement and spiritual uplifting came to light:

The local meeting attendance increased

The number of Ansar who completed their Ta’lim tests increased

More than 130 additional Ansar joined the blessed system of Waşīyyat

Ansar Chanda participants increased from 1,800 to 2,100+

Financial contributions overall increased by \$ 60 K as compared to 2013 levels

More than 150 new Ansar members participated in the Tahrik Jadīd

Majlis also noted Ansar member participants in Waqf Jadīd cross 2,000 mark

Be the real helpers of Allāh and His creation

Mottos have to be backed up with actions. In order to be true to our motto of “Helpers of Allāh” the

Majlis embarked on a variety of initiatives designed to strengthen our spirituality and our commitment to serving humanity—both within and outside the Jamā’at.

More than 40 Ansar took part in teaching Quran classes at various Jamā’at platforms

Over a dozen new converts were helped with learning to recite the Holy Qur’an. Over 270 Anşār memorized the assigned verses of Sūrah Al-Şāf in 2014.

Three converts were assisted to attend the UK Jalsa and meet Hadrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his helper), four converts attended the National Ijtimā’ of Majlis Anşārullāh, USA, and five attended the 2014 Jalsa Sālāna of the USA Jamā’at.

The Majlis launched a health hotline—716-800-1889—where any member of the USA Jamā’at could call and get their basic health needs met by an Aḥmadī doctor. Over 50 members called this hotline during the first year to benefit from this service.

The Majlis assigned a team of Ansar who helped members complete their living wills at the National Ijtimā. What costs \$400-\$800 in the real world, was provided for free to 55 members.

Anşār members were encouraged to retool themselves—as needed—so they remain competitive in an ever-changing job market. Ansar Tahir scholarship pays up to \$4,000 towards such vocational training courses for Ansar members.

Strengthening our Communications

ALC was held regularly, as well as national Amila members and Nazimin visited several Majalis nationwide.

Ansarususa.org website was completely revamped. There were times when this website was the only one-stop shop for critical information. For example, when Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar was martyred in Pakistan, Majlis developed a dedicated webpage for him where all the news stories and other relevant information was archived. The webpage has received over 20,000 hits. National Ijtimā' page received over 10,000 hits. Departmental pages of Ta'lim, Finance, Publications, and Services each received over 2,000 hits individually.

Ansar publications, Al-Nahl (paper format), Ansar Connection (Email format), and Ansar newsletter (Paper format) were published regularly and mailed to all Ansar free of charge.

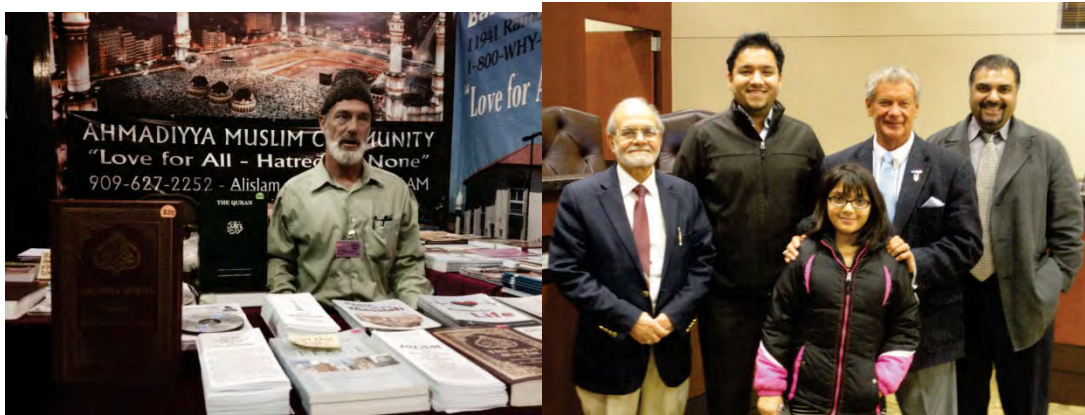
A book titled "The Disciple," authored by Rashid Arshed of LA Inland Majlis, was published.

In 2015, 1,000 copies of the Constitution of Majlis Ansarullah were reprinted in Qādiān to be provided to U.S. Ansar officers. All the outstanding updates approved by the Center were incorporated in this edition.

National Ijtimā

The year 2014 was a milestone year in this area. The Majlis set an ambitious goal to bring over 1,000 Anṣār to National Ijtimā in Silver Spring, MD. Postcard invites were mailed to every member's household. The Ijtimā team blocked hotel rooms, and the program team added interactive workshops to the Ijtimā.

By the grace of Allāh, 1,036 people attended the Ijtimā and 23% of them (according to the survey) attended it for the first time.



Ansar of Dayton Majlis and Missionary Azam Akram with the Mayor of Springboro Ohio.

A Nāṣir of LA East Majlis at the Qur'ān exhibition in LA County Fair arranged by the Majlis on August 29-31, 2014

Imran Hayee

Ṣadr Majlis Ansarullah, USA (2018 – to date)



Imran Hayee was elected Sadr Ansarullah for the first term between 2018-2019 and then re-elected for another term starting January 2020.

During the first term of his tenure, the Majlis was blessed with two meetings with Khalifat-ul-Masīh (May Allah be his helper).

Majlis Ansarullah USA continued to emphasize Ḥaḍrat Khilāfat-ul-Masīh's call for at least 50% of Chanda-paying Ansar to join the System of Waṣīyyat. After Amir Jamā'at USA, respected Sahibzada Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad gave us a powerful reminder at the 2016 annual Ijtimā of Majlis Ansarullah USA, we started to emphasize this effort and the number slowly kept increasing. By the end of December 2018, there were a total of 1,154

Ansar Mūsīan or new Waṣīyyat applicants (~40% of Chanda-paying Ansar). This number keeps growing, although slowly and is still well below the 50% target needed. Majlis Ansarullah USA will keep bringing its members attention to Khalifat-ul-Masīh's expectation in the coming years, Inshallah.

During the meeting with Hadrat Khalifatul-Masīh V (may Allāh be his helper), he emphasized that Majlis Ansarullah should involve as many Anṣār in vast spectrum of Tablīgh activities. In order to fully gauge these efforts and make better plans, following three goals were assigned

to local Majālis in the year 2018.



A Nāṣir of Cleveland Majlis in discussion at a bookstall held at Cleveland State University

Maximize the number of Anṣār participating in at least one Tabligh activity a month.

Organize a monthly group Tabligh activity to maximize the Tabligh efforts & enable participation.

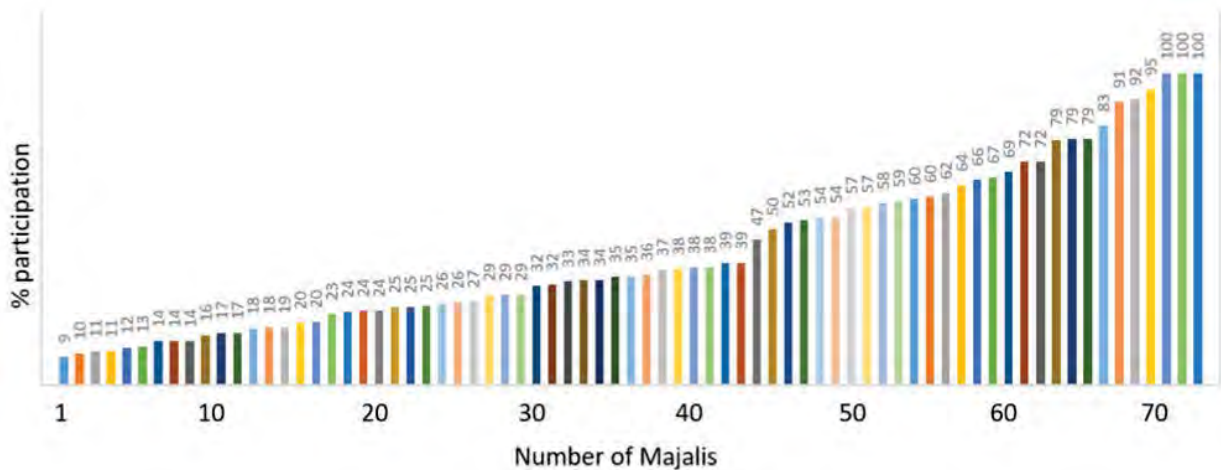
Bring guests to Jalsa Sālāna USA & Ansar National Ijtimā.’

With a few exceptions, majority of Majālis were able to conduct at least one group activity a month and many Majālis were holding several different group activities involving their Ansar in Tabligh. In total, 2,335 group activities were organized by Majlis Ansarullah in 2018.

During the year 2018, the department of Ta’limul-Quran

focused on making sure that all Ansar recited the Holy Quran with its translation and/or commentary regularly. Qa’id Ta’limul-Quran Ta’limul-Quran, Munir Malik worked very hard to motivate Ansar to recite the Holy Quran daily. Total of 8 Majālis reported 100% Ansar reciting the Holy Quran regularly. 16 Majālis reported 75-99% Ansar reciting the Holy Quran regularly. The rest of the Majālis reported that less than 50% of their Ansar members recited the Holy Quran regularly. On average 60-95% of Ansar were reciting the Holy Quran regularly.

Monthly meetings focus:



A graphical representation of percent participation in Ta’lim test by number of Majālis



Free health screening services at National Ijtimā 2019

The attendance in monthly meetings progressed well for the last few years. Starting 2019, more emphasis was given by the Majlis to engage the membership in healthy conversations to help grow spiritually as well as in knowledge.

The theme of each monthly meeting material focused on a recent Friday sermon by Khalifat-ul-Masih (may Allah be his helper). A synopsis of the sermon along with two discussion scenarios was included. The spiritual growth is desired not only in Ansar membership, but also to inspire our next generations to do the same as well as anchor themselves strongly around Ahmadiyya Khilafat. Health topics are also a standard section in the monthly material.

Free health services: Qā’id Dhahānat wa Ṣiḥḥat-i-Jisānī (Intellect and Physical Health) and his team provided health related

services throughout the year. In addition to our Health Hotline—716 800 1889— free clinics were held by Dr. Ashraf Meelu in Silver Spring, MD and by Dr. Jamal Zia in South Virginia throughout the year. Allopathic and Homeopathic clinics were held at National Ijtimā to help hundreds of members. Other services provided include health presentations at national and regional gathering, monthly meetings material, articles for publications, support equipment and funds for gymnasium and health related activity to Majalis.

During the year of 2018, Majlis Ansarullah spent \$35,540 at

national level and \$41,000 through local Majālis adding up to \$ 76,540 spent on Īthār activities such as Ansar Tahir Scholarship (8 scholarships), grave site expenses, direct financial help to refugees and other members in need including some non-Muslim families. Nā'ib Ṣadr Ṣāf Dom, Abdul Hadi Ahmad and Nā'ib Ṣadr, Dawood Munir led the efforts to provide financial assistance to the needy and Ansar Tahir Scholarships to the deserving.



New York Majlis conducted a blood drive at Baituz-Zafar Mosque, Queens, NY on September 30, 2018

In Īthār related activities. Out of total 73 Majālis, 72 Majālis participated in Īthār activities. Anṣār from local Majālis visited sick members a total of 3,419 times. This includes multiple visits to the same sick member. Similarly, a total of 3,613 visits to the elderly and 1,040 to constrained members. The constrained members were such members who could not come to the mosque because of their job, distance or any other constraint. In addition to the visits, Majālis arranged 120 Feed the Hungry programs.

Keeping with the spirit of brotherhood, members of Anṣār National ' Amila visited 67 Majālis during the year 2018. Almost all Amila members visited a Majlis with Nā'ib Ṣadrān and Mu'āwin Ṣadrān took the bigger share. We are grateful to our Zuma and local members who, at times, accommodated these visits even on

weekday evenings.

Ansar Tahir Scholarship pays up to \$4000 towards vocational training courses. During 2018, 8 scholarships were awarded to Ansar to improve their chances in the job market by undergoing vocational training. Many of them have successfully gained employment. Thanks to the National Amila members who served on the committee to review these applications in a timely fashion.



Chicago Ansar at an Adopt-A-Highway activity

Health Services Metrics	
Total number of calls to Health Hotline	150
Allopathic consults at National Ijtimā	100
Homeopathic treatments at National Ijtimā	200
Patients seen at free clinic by Dr. Meelu	264

Category	Spend
Help to refugee families	\$25,000
Help to Non-Muslim Americans	\$4,100
Help to new converts	\$1,200
Help to poor families in Pakistan	\$4,800
Help to a Khadim for CDL	\$4,000
Water for life	\$900

Ansar Housing Project:

Located in the southwestern Harford County, Maryland, is Joppatowne which is bordered to west by Gunpowder River and Little Gunpowder Falls—forming the Baltimore County line. Nearly 20 miles from downtown Baltimore and about an hour-long car ride from Bait-ur-Rahmān it is far enough from the loudness of a large city and yet at a close enough distance to

Jamā'at's headquarters. By the grace of Allāh, these characteristics make it an ideal location for Aḥmadīs who may be retired or planning to retire soon. Hence the choice of location for establishing the Ansar Housing Complex, "mini peace village," comprising of 48 townhomes and a community center.

In 2018, our beloved leader Hadrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad,

Khalīfatul-Masiḥ V (May Allāh be his helper) blessed the US with his presence during the months of October and November. On October 30th, towards the end of his visit Khalifat-ul-Masih visited the Ansar Housing Complex. Khalifat-ul-Masih's motorcade pulled up around 10 AM and was greeted by Majlis Ansarullah's National 'Āmila members and Nāzimīn A'lā. After

the initial greetings, Khalifat-ul-Masih proceeded to inspect one of the houses. Khalifat-ul-Masih inspected the entire house and was provided details regarding the size, materials and locality in general. Khalifat-ul-Masih left the house after leading silent prayer. Khalifat-ul-Masih graciously granted Majlis Ansarullah USA's National 'Āmila

members and Nāzimīn A'lā an opportunity to take group photo outside.

Next, Khalifat-ul-Masih visited the homes of each of the four families that have already moved in to the complex. Ḥuḍūr took the time to go to each home and greeted and prayed for all the new homeowners.

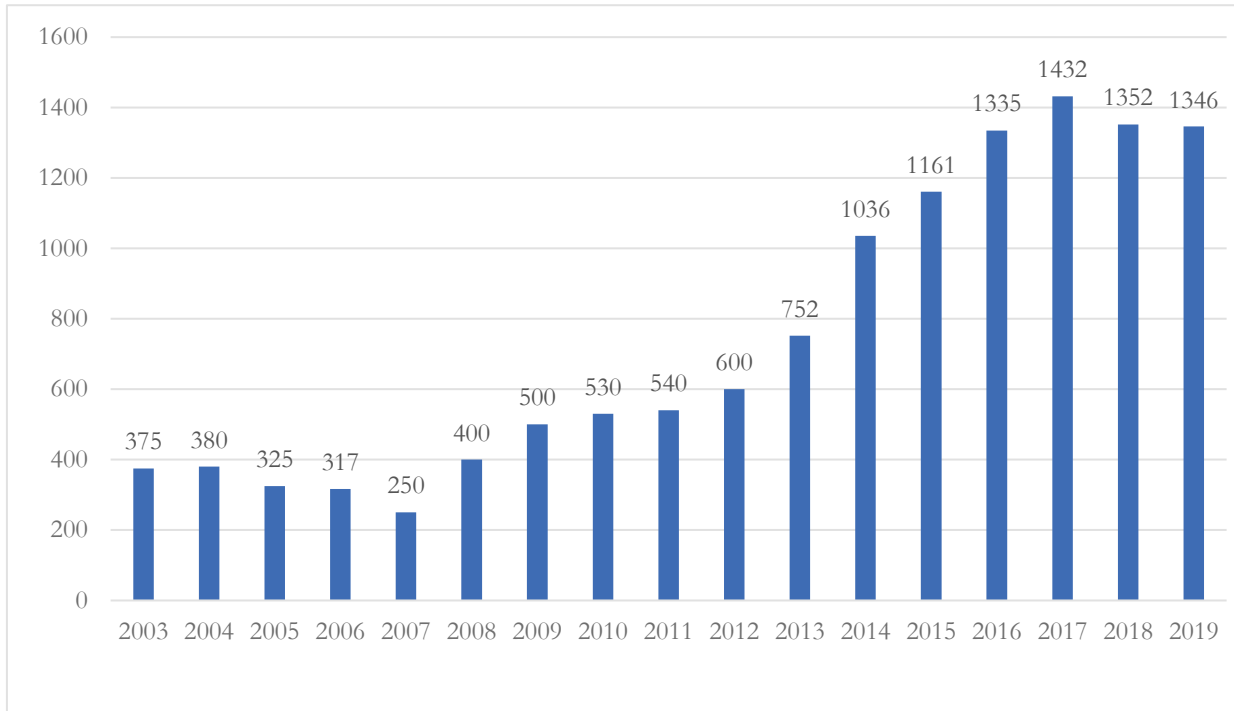
Residents had refreshments and snacks prepared for all the guests. By the grace of Allāh, Khalifat-ul-Masih accepted the invitation of all residents, visited and inspected their homes.

Khalifat-ul-Masih individually spoke to all residents and congratulated them on their move and this new phase in their lives.



National 'Āmila members and Nāzimīn A'lā of Majlis Ansarullah, USA with Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allāh be his helper) during Ḥuḍūr's visit to Anṣār Housing Complex October 30, 2018

Ansar Ijtima attendance trends: (since the year Majlis started tracking Ijtima attendance data)



Brief report of some recent meetings of the National Amila of Majlis Ansarullah USA with Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V

The national Amila of Majlis Ansarullah USA has had the honor of meeting with Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V (may Allah be his helper) on several occasions. Three of the last few meetings are briefly mentioned here:



National Amila with Khalifat-ul-Masih 2016

The first meeting took place in February 13, 2016. The Amila members traveled to London to meet with their beloved Imam.

Khalifat-ul-Masih enquired about activities from various Qā'ideen. Later, Khalifat-ul-Masih graciously allowed the Amila members to ask questions. Khalifat-ul-Masih expressed satisfaction with reporting of Majalis. He asked about the 'Alam-i-In'āmī winning Majalis. Ḥuḍūr advised that people in USA and in the West are drifting away from religion because they are not getting their religious needs fulfilled by the so-called religious leaders. We need to reach out to them and give them the message of real Islām and

Aḥmadiyyat. Ḥuḍūr encouraged members about congregational salat, recitation of Holy Quran daily, and joining system of Waṣiyyat. Ḥuḍūr emphasized that if the new converts are not from Muslim background, they should learn more basic things like Surah Al-Fātiḥa, Reading of the Holy Quran and claims of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) and the purpose of his coming.

Ḥuḍūr took time to talk to everyone who was not native English speaker which was a source of great blessings for those 14 Anṣār officeholders who were in attendance in the meeting. Khalifat-ul-Masih answered few questions. In

response to one question, Khalifat-ul-Masih said that the top priority for Ansarullah should be daily Prayers and respect of each other.

After the question & answer session, Khalifat-ul-Masih gave the awards to the best performing Qā'ideen, regions, and Majalis. 'Alam-i-In'āmī was also awarded to the best Majālis for 2015 by Khalifat-ul-Masih. Right after the award distribution, Ṣadr Majlis presented a humble gift to Khalifat-ul-Masih on behalf of Majlis Ansarullah, USA. The gift contained a U.S. flag and a rare replica of an original copy of the Holy Quran which exists only in two places in the world.



Second meeting took place on December 2, 2017 in London, England. A delegation of 98 officeholders of Majlis Anṣārullāh USA took this blessed journey. This was a very spiritually uplifting journey for all. Khalifat-ul-Masih gave Tarbiyat and administrative advice. He encouraged the Majlis to include more non-Pakistanis in Ansarullah. He advised members to listen to Friday sermons on a regular basis and keep a beard. Khalifat-ul-Masih wanted the non-Mūsī Ansar to read Al-Waṣiyyat three times. He also encouraged Majlis to support

the refugees in finding jobs and getting loans to start a business. Khalifat-ul-Masih V appreciated Ansar housing project and encouraged members to buy a house there. In the end, Ḥuḍūr graced the winning Majālis by giving them their awards, blessed each member with group photos and handshake.

Third meeting of National Amila members and Nāzimīn A'lā of Majlis Ansarullah, USA was held with Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allāh be his helper) on Tuesday, October 30, 2018. Khalifat-ul-Masih asked each Amila member questions

related to their respective departments and Nāzimīn A'lā about their respective regions and offered guidance.

Khalifat-ul-Masih inquired about tajnīd data of the Majlis.

Khalifat-ul-Masih encouraged the Ta'līmul-Quran department to pay attention to Waqf-e-Ardī. He encouraged the Tarbiyat department to focus on congregational salat. He stressed that all Amila members offer 5 daily prayers and at least three in congregation.

Khalifat-ul-Masih appreciated the choice of Kashti Nuh as the reading syllabus under Ta'līm

department. Khalifat-ul-Masih encouraged the majlis to emphasize Waṣīyyat at a much younger age. He encouraged Qa'id Finance to be gentle during collection of Chandas.

Ḥuḍūr also advised the Auditor to physically Audit the Majalis. Khalifat-ul-Masih advised the Majlis to adopt a big Ithar project. He encouraged publication department

to create content that interests the membership. He urged members to read Al-Ḥakam. The meeting ended with Due and a group photo with Khalifat-ul-Masih.



Ansar Ijtima 2001

Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya

Establishment of Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya

1902

Ḥaḍrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd always cherished a special concern for the youth of the community. It was this concern which leads him to start a literary organization called Tashheez-ul-Azhan.

1938

Ten zealous young men approach Ḥaḍrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II (ra) seeking his permission to form a youth organization; Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih II readily agrees. This group of young men first meet at the house of Sheikh Mahboob Alam on January 31. They resolved to do their utmost to defend the institution of Khilafat, and the Jamā'at in general, against any attacks made on it. Four days later on February 4, Ḥaḍrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II (ra) names this organization and Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya is born. He defines the aims of Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya:

“My idea of establishing this body is that the knowledge which has been acquired by us which is safely locked up in our hearts must continue to be passed on to the next generation, and thereafter it must become a continuous cycle so that the world at large may benefit.”

During the initial years, the organization differed from what it is today in the sense that it was limited in two ways—first in membership, and secondly in terms of the types of duties undertaken by it. It was limited in terms of membership because it was primarily viewed by Ḥaḍrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II as an organization for the exclusive

training of those young men who needed it. This meant that those youths who were sufficiently experienced in discharging responsibilities which pertained to the Jamā'at were positively discouraged from becoming part of this organization.

The first Ijtimā is held on December 25th in Qadian, India. Rather than having academic and sporting competitions, there was just one item on the agenda—an address by Ḥaḍrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II. During his address, Khalifat-ul-Masih II reaffirms the great responsibility held by the Khuddam and youth of the community.

“The success of a nation is dependent on its youth. If the youth of a nation become true custodians of its traditions, then that nation can survive for centuries upon centuries. However, if the generations of the future are negligent, then a nation can never achieve success and even the progress it makes can be transformed into failure.”

1939

In March 1939, Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya is established in the United States. The founding members are Mirza Munawar Ahmad, Khalil Ahmad Nasir, and Chaudhary Ghulam Yasin. They are photographed below along with Soofi Mutiur Rahman Bengali (Missionary), second from the right.

1940

On July 26th, Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II announces that within the next fifteen days, it is compulsory for every young man between the ages of

15-40 to register himself as a member of Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya. As a consequence of these instructions, branches of Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya were being formed in all parts of the world.

امریکن احمدی جماعتوں کے انظار
تمام جماعتیں اپنی اپنی جگہ نہایت اخص
وطن دہی سے خدمت اسلام میں مصروف
ہیں۔ جماعت شکاگو میں خدام الاحمدیہ کی
بنیاد رکھی گئی ہے۔ اور اجاب جماعت سے
اس امر کا بھی وعدہ کیا ہے کہ ہر ایک
خردسال میں کم از کم دو احمدی بنائے۔
میں انشاء اللہ عنقریب دورہ کر کے
دیگر جماعتوں میں یہ ہر دو مبارک کام
کروں گا۔



1940s-1960s

During this period, the only national office in place was that of Mu'tamid (General Secretary), working with the Missionary-in-Charge, who himself was Nā'ib Sadr of Khuddam under the International Sadr at headquarters in Rabwah. By 1948, Majalis were organized in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Dayton, and Baltimore. These years were a time of education. As more

and more information about Islam and Ahmadiyyat was translated into English and disseminated to Americans, there emerged a growing awareness among American Ahmadis of the purpose, aims, and structure of the organization. One book, *Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya-Its Formation and Importance*, was translated into English by Chaudhry Abdur Rahman Bengali. It laid out the purpose of Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya and the methods for establishing national and local branches complete with Qā'ideen, Zo'ama, and Nazimeen.

“I have an overall view of the things in my mind and one part of that is Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya. This is a spiritual training and spiritual education...today is the time for the training of young men. The period of training is a silent period. People assume that nothing is happening, but when after receiving training the nation steps into the field of action, then the world sees the results. In reality, a living nation that rises with the raising of the hand and sits down when the hand is lowered can make a great change in the world.” Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad

1968-1969

Munir Hamid is elected as the first National Qā'id, establishing a true nationwide network of Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya USA in 1968. In 1969, Hussain Abdul Aziz begins a newsletter called *Khadim*.

1970s

Between 1970-1975, two

National Qā'ideen succeed Munir Hamid, Muzaffar A. Zafr, and Noorudin A. Latif. In 1975, the first Atfāl Summer School was held in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1976, the first issue of a new Khuddam magazine, *Al-Tariq*, appears. In 1979, a new National Qā'id, Abdul Kabir Haq, is elected from Chicago.

1980s

Majlis Sultan-ul-Qalam is officially created with the bylaws signed on June 7th, 1980. In 1982, Nasir Malik took over as National Qā'id. He begins to launch new programs in time for the National Jalsa Salana of 1983. On August 8, 1983, the community is shocked to learn that Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad, National Mu'tamid of MKA USA was martyred outside his Detroit home. In 1985, *Tariq* magazine was restarted as part of the Ahmadiyya Gazette. In 1986, Syed Sajid Ahmed was appointed National Qā'id, becoming the first Sadr in November 1989, followed by Qamar Shams who becomes the second Sadr MKA USA in February 1990.

1990s

Munum Naeem is elected Sadr in 1994. Under his tenure, MKA USA begins using upcoming technology to their benefit, and creates a virtual “Khuddam Village.” The Qā'ideen Refresher Course (QRC) is launched and held at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in 1995. In 1999, Abdul Shukoor Ahmed is elected Sadr. Programs of MKA USA expand even further with Adopt-a-Highway programs, blood drives, flu shot drives, and walk-a-thons. The first Ahmadiyya Conference for Entrepreneurs (ACE) is held, and Majlis Sultan-ul-Qalam is re-established. The official website of MKA USA (mkausa.org) is

launched as an information and reporting center, specifically for Khuddam. Throughout the decade, a new Khuddam newsletter, *Mujahid*, remains the primary source of information for members of MKA USA.

2000s

In 2002, Naseem Waseem is elected Sadr. New initiatives are undertaken such as *Mujahid* Task Force and trying to secure a permanent National Ijtimā site. The Regional Amila system is enhanced to include the utilization of the Regional Amila structure. In 2006, Faheem Younus Qureshi is elected Sadr. In 2007, the mkausa.org website is relaunched with open access to everyone worldwide. The *Mujahid* newsletter is enhanced and made into a new quarterly magazine, printed and distributed to every Ahmadi home in the US. For the first time, National Ijtimā attendance reaches over 1,000 participants. The Mufti Sadiq Lifetime Commitment Award is created to honor our early converts. “By the Dawn’s Early Light” is published solely by MKA USA, and 3,500 copies are sold worldwide.

2010s

Rizwan Alladin is elected Sadr Majlis in 2010. A nationwide walk-a-thon is held, collecting over \$80,000 for charity. MKA USA produces its first iPhone app. In 2012, Bilal Rana is elected Sadr. For the first time, in 2015, National Ijtimā is concluded by an address by Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V (atba). Khuddam across the states travel to London to see Khalifatul-Masih V. In 2018, Madeel Abdullah is elected as Sadr. In 2019, MKA USA purchases MKA Headquarters.

First National Qa'id of MKA USA (1968-1970)

Munir Hamid



Early Childhood

I grew up in Pennsylvania. My mother and my father were not Muslims. My mother was the spiritual force in our family, but my father was not a religious person at all. My mother encouraged me to join any church-related activity, to the point that she even wanted me to become a minister of a church. Much of the spirituality in my early days was due to my mother, and I think she was indirectly responsible for my eventual conversion to Islam. Many Christians may question how Christianity can lead to Islam, but in my case that is what happened. The fact that I joined Islam at such an early age—15 years—also helped me strengthen my relationship with my

mother and family.

First Experience with Islam

Well, as a youth I was into experimenting with different things. Keep in mind, I grew up in an environment in which kids were experimenting with things like alcohol and even drugs. Often times I would hang out with my friends on the street asking for money to buy such things. One day I saw an old friend and asked him for some money. He told me that he wouldn't give the money because I would use it for some illicit purpose, but he would give me something better than money. He gave me a copy of *The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam* and told me to read it. He then invited me to attend a meeting in his house to discuss the book. Fearing that I would have to lie, I began reading the book, and once I picked it up I couldn't stop. I attended the meeting where I met missionary Nurul Haque Anwar and also Muhammad Sadiq. I was very impressed with their knowledge and wanted to accept immediately, but because I was a minor, I was asked to get it signed by my mother, so I took

the Bai'at form home to her.

Signing the Bai'at

Since I was not even 16 yet, I needed permission from a guardian. Finally, an uncle agreed to sign the paperwork and after joining the military I was stationed at Fort Andrews in Washington. One day, I called the missionary in Washington and he invited me over to come to the mosque. When I arrived at the mosque, I began to think about what I was doing, and after deliberating over my decision for a long time, mostly walking around the block, I decided to go inside. Once inside, I met the missionary and he greeted me warmly. He also greeted every other brother who walked in. I read two pamphlets: "My Faith" and "Why I Believe in Islam." After watching this beautiful personality and reading those pamphlets, I decided to sign the Bai'at form without any hesitation, in 1957. Later that year I received a letter from Ḥaḍrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II that changed my entire life. I used to carry the original in my pocket, but I noticed that it was fading so I made several copies of it.

National Qa'id of MKA USA (1982-1966)

Nasir Malik



Most Rewarding Aspect of Being National Qa'id

First off, I remember getting the assignment in 1982. It was an enormous responsibility and one that I was honestly fearful of. I just prayed to Allah that He guide me to discharge my position in the best possible manner. The most rewarding aspect of being National Qa'id was actually having the mere opportunity to serve the Jamā'at at

such a high level.

Challenges

The main challenge for me was getting accustomed to Jamā'at USA after spending most of my life working for the Jamā'at in Karachi. Karachi was probably the most organized Jamā'at in the world at the time. There was so much activity and movement there. Of course, having visited Rabwah as well, I had a very high image of what Jamā'at

organization was supposed to be like. But in the U.S. at the time, there remained huge challenges. Distances were great and the level of activity was not so great. There was a poor understanding among the Khuddam at the time of Nizam-e-Jamā'at. I had great difficulty in increasing the level of involvement among the Khuddam and educating them in Jamā'at administrative matters.

View of MKA Today

Mashallah, I think Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya has come a long way! During my National Qiyādat, we held four Ijtimās with an

average attendance of 147. Today, the number is closer to 1400! Most of the attendees during the time of my National Qiyādat were immigrants from Pakistan. Today, most of the attendees are second generation Ahmadi born and raised in the U.S, and many of them have come a long way in understanding Nizam-e-Jamā'at. Many of my peers observe that American society will ruin our second generation, but if you look at the level of dedication and closeness among the American Ahmadi youth today, this observation is simply not true. The Khuddam today are bullish about their obligations, and so long

as they hang on to the rope of Khilafat, they will do wonders for our Jamā'at, Insha'allah.

Life as a member of Majlis Ansarullah

Life is very different physically. I remember when I was young I used to drive many hours and stay up all night and it was no big deal, but now I can't do those things. Otherwise there is a big change in responsibilities. I take on a more advisory role for the Jamā'at.

National Qa'id (1986-89)/Sadr (November 1989-February 1990)

Syed Sajid Ahmad



Most Rewarding Aspect of Being National Qa'id

Observing clear and consistent heavenly support in all situations. This support confirmed that the hidden hand of the Almighty is helping this community at all times, producing pleasantly surprising results beyond our means and efforts, strengthening our belief in the truth of the Imam of the age.

Challenges

Two main challenges which I confronted were finding the right workers and collecting enough funds for meaningful activities. In due time, however, many members came

forward to help fulfill the heavenly promise to the Promised Messiah: "Men directed from the heavens will come to your help." Our budgets increased multifold, fulfilling the promise of the Almighty to Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih III: "I will give you so much that you will be quite satiated."

An Interesting Anecdote to Share

I had a non-Ahmadi friend visiting me at Rabwah and I was taking him to different places. It was about Maghrib time, and the time for his bus back to his home was approaching. On our way to the bus station, we stopped by to meet Hadrat Mukhtar Ahmad Shahjahanpuri. He was bed-ridden so I thought we could catch him at his home. He asked us who led the Maghrib Prayers at the Goal Bazar Mosque, and I told him that I did not know. He asked the same question about the mosque next to the Guest House. I did not know, I told him. What about the Masjid Mubarak, he asked. We did not know that either,

as we had not offered our prayers yet. These were the three mosques near his home at that time. He was furious that we had chosen to come and see him over the congregational prayers. Since then I always try to schedule my chores around prayers rather than my prayers around my chores.

Time Management

When I was elected to the office of the Za'im in the Fazl-i-Umar Hostel at Rabwah, Chaudhary Hameedullah, my math professor then, warned me that my studies should not be affected by my responsibilities towards Khuddam. Since then, I have always emphasized to the workers that they have to use their time efficiently and wisely to do justice to their responsibilities concerning their jobs, their families and their own health and well-being, and that they should make sure that none of them are affected adversely due to their increased responsibilities and dedication to the Community.

SADR MKA USA (February 1990-1992)

Qamar A. Shams



Most Rewarding Aspect of Being Sadr Majlis

To hold an office of the Jamā'at is in itself a blessed and a unique opportunity. Setting targets at the beginning of the year and having them fulfilled is certainly rewarding. However, having the opportunity to interact with Khuddam all over the country and then helping them establish Majalis in various parts of the country was a big achievement.

First Thought

My first thought was to figure out a way to establish here in the US what I had learnt in Rabwah. I began to work with people who were

familiar with the Nizām and tried to establish Qā'ideen throughout the country. Interestingly enough, I was the first MKA Sadr in the United States. In this capacity, I reported directly to Khalifatul-Masih rather than the International Sadr in Rabwah. During my time our focus was to increase attendance at the Ijtimā, but the budget was always an issue. However, through the hard work of several dedicated members, attendance at the National Ijtimā increased steadily.

Most Influential Person in your life

Khalifat-ul-Masih is the most inspiring person in everyone's life. However, I will specifically mention Khalifat-ul-Masih III. I attended almost all of his lectures which he gave to Majlis Khuddām-ul-Ahmadiyya in Rabwah on occasions of Ijtimā. He always encouraged students to go abroad and go for higher education and he set a goal that our next generation should be of a high class, technically and

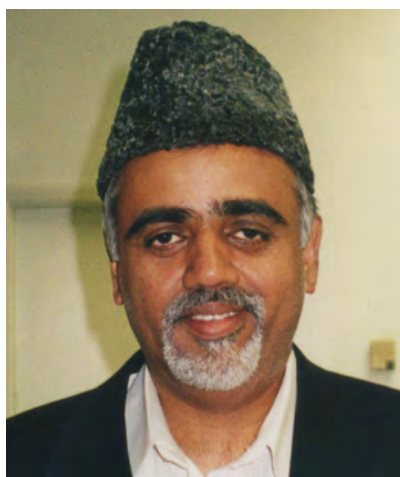
professionally.

Challenges facing MKA Today

Not having worked directly with Khuddam for a while, I may not have an accurate picture. However, the lack of education among our members is a concern that should be addressed properly. Here in America, we face many challenges, but there are also many opportunities that are open to Khuddam. Not only can they open their own businesses or fulfill their academic goals, but they can also apply for federal funding for their projects. In addition to serving the Jamā'at at times like the Jalsa Salana, Khuddam need to excel in education so that they can interact with the upper echelon of academia. This is the only way we can engage in Tabligh with such people. With education, not only can we have better Tabligh efforts, but we can also empower ourselves to lead better lives in this country.

Sadr MKA USA (1994-1999)

Munum Naeem



First Jamā'at Office held

Observing clear and consistent heavenly support in all situations. This support confirmed that the I came to the United States in 1978. I was living and working in Queens, New York at the time, but I moved shortly thereafter to Man Port, Florida where I worked for an airline. My first Jamā'at-related office came when I was in Los Angeles, California in charge of security of Ḥaḍrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV during the foundation ceremony

of Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque in Chino. In 1988, I moved to Houston, Texas. In Houston, my first job was Secretary of Centenary Jubilee. Shortly thereafter, I was elected as Qā'id Houston; we earned the "Best Majlis" award that year.

Challenges

I faced two main challenges: not being near the Jamā'at headquarters in Maryland and spending 80% of my time traveling. The time away from my family placed a tremendous strain on me, but I would always

recall what my grandfather and father told me: “If you serve the Jamā’at, Allah will take care of your generations.”

An interesting anecdote to share

In October 1993, then Sadr Qamar Ahmad Shams asked me to represent MKA USA at the International MKA Ijtimā in Germany. I remember Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV introduced all the Presidents of the Jamā’at and included me as one of them. I felt

embarrassed and upset because I was not the President of the Jamā’at, only the Sadr’s representative. In a later session, I mentioned to Khalifatul-Masih IV that I held no official office, but I was merely representing the Sadr. Khalifatul-Masih IV firmly responded: “Don’t worry--you will be one of these days.” That comment stuck with me my whole life. To my absolute astonishment, just one year later, I was elected Sadr. Khalifatul-Masih’s comment motivated me to work to my utmost capacity to serve the Jamā’at.

Sadr MKA USA (1999-2002)

Abdul Shukoor Ahmed



First Jamā’at office held

I arrived in the U.S. on March 23, 1988 and served as Nazim Waqar-e-Amal of the Washington, DC Majlis under the leadership of Qā’id Shahid Malik. It was a fairly challenging work considering I had been in the country for only 8 months and did not have many friends in the Majlis and/or Jamā’at. We scheduled a weekly clean-up on Thursday evening to prepare the mosque for Friday Prayers. The first lesson I learned quickly was to stay

positive and put all your effort in any task you may be assigned to complete. All tasks are important, and they must be completed to the best of your ability.

Most rewarding aspect of being Sadr Majlis

I had tried to be a good Khadim, and it was a tremendous honor to have the opportunity to serve as Sadr. The opportunity it provided me to learn (how to lead an organization), to serve (to make a difference in the lives of the membership), to develop leadership (mentoring most of our team members), and, above all, a sense of responsibility towards my faith and community. The training I received is worth more than I could have received attending Dale Carnegie’s Leadership Course.

Challenges

Every day was an opportunity to do something good, and every day had challenges / issues that prompted all of us (myself and our team) to adapt / innovate and to serve for the greater good of Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya. We had

Largest responsibility placed upon Khuddam

Obeying the institution of Khilafat and offering regular Salat. These two responsibilities, in my view, are essential for the success of Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya. Khuddam must sleep less, pray more, and remain vigilant. Heavy responsibilities lay upon their shoulders, and khuddam must be willing to embrace them with vigor and purpose.

several challenges:

- 1) Keeping Khuddam/Leadership motivated
- 2) Increasing participation of Khuddam/Atfāl in MKA programs
- 3) Bringing every Qā’id/National Amila Member to improve their performance
- 4) Creating innovative programs
- 5) Instilling a sense of purpose / responsibility in every Khadim/Tifl.

Being a member of Majlis Ansarullah

As they say, “Once a Marine, always a Marine.” I’ll always consider myself a Khadim who is ready to serve. I needed some time to get a few things taken care of which were neglected. I am getting ready to involve myself. I certainly hope to contribute as much as possible as Nasir.

Sadr MKA USA (2006-2010)

Faheem Younus Qureshi



Challenges during tenure

My mental dictionary auto-corrects the word “challenge” with “opportunity.” As Sadr Majlis, I faced numerous opportunities. For someone who believed his local Walmart to be “too far,” travelling across a huge country was an opportunity. Working until 2 AM and then trying to wake up for Fajr was an opportunity. Facing problems that I could only solve with prayers was an opportunity. Remaining cognizant of 61:3 (O ye who believe, why do you say what you do not) before making every speech was an opportunity.

Challenges MKA USA faces today

The generation that could read and understand the works of Masih-e-Mau’ud from primary sources is moving on and a new generation of US born and raised Ahmadi Muslims are emerging from their laps. MKA USA is standing at the cusp of this generational handshake. The opportunity for MKA USA today is to be able to blend the best of both generations, both cultures. There is a fragrance of the works of Masih Mau’ud that is hard to appreciate in translations. I feel that handicap, as a non-Arabic speaking Muslim, while reading Qur’an. For the next generation, there is a double handicap of not knowing Arabic and not knowing Urdu. We have the armamentarium to deal with the social ills but the code to open that treasure chest was written in these two foreign languages.

Most rewarding aspect

I believe during those days, despite me being away at times,

Allah took special care of my family. Being like wet clay in the hands of Khalifat-ul-Masih is the most rewarding aspect. Plus, I witnessed acceptance of prayers.

An interesting anecdote to share

In 2007, during my first National Ijtimā as Sadr Majlis, I was meeting and talking to people, trying to move them towards the lunch area. There was a long line. It was my habit to utilize the mealtimes to meet as many people as I could since Ijtimā schedules are so hectic and a Sadr could easily get disconnected from the members. Occasionally someone would say, “Sadr, please eat first” and I would brush’em off in a joke or something. Till a very special person came with a plate full of food, put a chair on the side, smiled, and with a loving authority said: “Sadr, you have to eat this.” I couldn’t say no. That person was Rizwan Alladin, Sadr MKA USA 2010-2012.

Sadr MKA USA (2010-2012)

Rizwan Alladin



First Jamā’at office held

My very first Jamā’at office was serving as Secretary for Ta’lim-o-Tarbiyat for Atfāl-ul-Ahmadiyya NY.

This was a post you hold as a Ṭifl. I used to make puzzles to put in our Jamā’at newsletter. I made a few puzzles but couldn’t keep up with it. When I entered Khuddām-ul-Ahmadiyya, I was assigned as a Saiq for my area in Long Island. It was difficult for me because I was only 16 and in my Halqa consisted of a good number of Khuddam who were near 40. How do you “manage” your uncles?

Challenges

I feel that Qā’ideen are the blood

of MKA and Khilafat is the heart. My biggest challenge was motivating Qā’ideen to lead their Majalis. Don’t get me wrong, the Qā’ideen serving during my tenure were amazing. My challenge was how I as a Sadr can effectively support and motivate them to lead their Majalis.

CHALLENGES MKA USA FACES TODAY

I think our Jamā’at, in general, is challenged by the pervasiveness of immorality of our society. We are so

exposed to these immoralities that we are dull to these things and they, in effect, make us lax in how we live our lives. MKA is in excellent hands and accomplishing new feats all the time. I hope no Khadim gets left out of this opportunity to take part.

Most rewarding aspect of

Sadr MKA USA (2012-2018)

Bilal Rana



Sadr MKA USA (2018-Present)

Madeel Abdullah



Challenges during tenure

The biggest challenge I've faced is how our Khuddam and Atfāl can stay connected to Khilafat and each other during the Covid-19 pandemic where many of our Mosques are closed. Al-Hamdu Lillāh, with the guidance of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih, we are able to stay connected via MTA in which we can see Khalifatul-Masih's Khutba every

being Sadr Majlis

The time I was able to spend with Khalifatul-Masih and having access to Khalifatul-Masih, being able to write a letter to Khalifatul-Masih and getting a response quickly and being able to discuss with him constructively how to grow MKA.

An interesting anecdote to share

Khalifatul-Masih V once reminded me that it is MKA's responsibility to protect Khilafat. What an immense responsibility as well as what an honor!

Friday. We also are able to hold virtual sessions locally, regionally and nationally. However, we all yearn for those days when we can have an Ijtimā.

Challenges MKA USA faces today

A challenge that we have always faced in the United States is the vast distances between each other. Los Angeles to Silver Spring is 3000 miles and three time zones away. Keeping our goals in mind of following the teaching of Hazrat Masih Mau'ūd is what helps bridge these distances.

Most rewarding aspect

Spending time with my fellow Khuddam and Atfāl and hearing the challenges we face and how we overcame them are very gratifying to me.

An interesting anecdote to share

I was appointed Sadr Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya USA in November 2018. Khalifatul-Masih V was visiting the USA during those days. I was completely blindsided by this appointment. Naturally I was very apprehensive and felt completely incapable. Khalifatul-Masih called me for a Daftari Mulāqāt (official meeting) the next day and sat me down for 45 minutes. Khalifatul-Masih reviewed my Amila and approved the Amila. Then Khalifatul-Masih went into details about how Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya should operate in the United States. A feeling of relief overcame me as I had my marching orders. Al-Hamdu Lillāh.



About the lifetime commitment award

The award is given on behalf of MKA USA to honor individuals who symbolize the spirit of Mufti Muhammad Sadiq. These are individuals who entered the fold of Ahmadiyyat at a time when the

Ahmadiyya community was still in its infancy in the US in many respects. They are therefore, like Mufti Sadiq, the pioneers of Ahmadiyyat in the US. The award recipients also, like Mufti Sadiq,

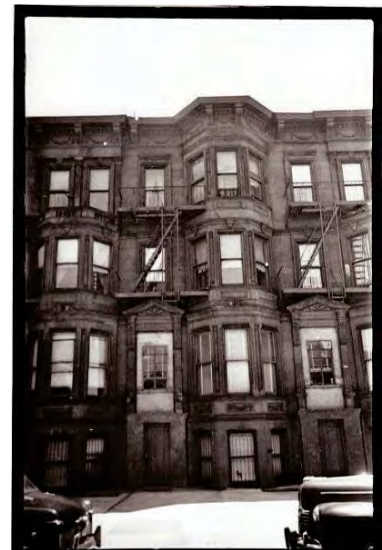
faced tremendous difficulties. Yet they sacrificed their time, energy, wealth, and indeed their entire lives so that they could withhold and spread the message of Islam in the United States.

The relationship of this award with MKA USA

It was during their Khuddam years that most of the recipients of this award entered into Islam/Ahmadiyyat. The Ahmadi youth in the US owes a great debt of gratitude to the noble souls who sacrificed so much for the sake of community. They symbolize what Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya strives for-service and sacrifice. In doing so they have created shining examples for our youth to gain inspiration from.



Mufti Muhammad Sadiq holding a copy of the Holy Qur'an



First residence of Mufti Muhammad Sadiq in New York at 1897 Madison Avenue.

The Mufti Muhammad Sadiq Lifetime Commitment Awardees


2007 Abid Haneef
 2007 Rashid Ahmed American
 2008 Yousef Lateef
 2008 Abdur Rahman
 2008 Bilal Salam
 2008 Sister Aliya Shaheed
 2008 Dr. Bashiruddin Usama
 2008 Aminullah Ahmad
 2009 Mohsin Mahmud
 2009 Munir Hamid
 2009 Nooruddin Abdul Latif
 2009 Ahmad Saeed
 2009 Munir Ahmad
 2009 Abdul Karim
 2009 Abdur Raqib Wali

2009 Hamza Zainuddin
 2010 Hasan Abdullah
 2010 Ahmad Haleem
 2010 Abdus Sami Khaliq
 2010 Hussain Abdul Aziz
 2010 Jalaluddin Abdul Latif
 2011 Fazal Ahmad
 2011 Bashir Mehmud
 2012 Abu Bakr Ladd
 2012 Dhul Yaqub
 2012 Hassan Hakeem
 2012 Nasrullah Ahmad
 2013 Ramadhan Ali
 2013 Saleem Mohaimin
 2014 Ibrahim Naem

2014 Rashid Ahmed American
 2015 Jameel Ghauri
 2015 Samad Naseer
 2016 Jonathan Mohammad Ahmad Ghaffar
 2016 Rahman Abdul Aleem
 2016 Karl Reichhold
 2017 Muhammad Sabir
 2017 Omar Shaheed
 2018 Habeeb Shafeek
 2018 Muhammad Bashir (posthumous)
 2019 Rafiq Lake
 2020 Khalid Waleed


A SNIPPET FROM THE REAL REVOLUTION


The real revolution was a magazine started by Majlis Khudammul Ahmadiyya USA



**TABUK, 1352
SEPT, 1973**

**IKHA
OCT.**






VOL. 1 NO. 5

REAL REVOLUTION 15¢

VOL. 1 NO. 5



سُورَةُ الْبَقَرَةِ رِسْمَةٌ
CHAPTER II
SURA-TUL-BAQARAH.
(REVEALED AT MEDINA).

CH. 2 AL-BAQARA PT. 2

R. 23. 184. O ye who believe ! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may become righteous.¹⁸⁰

185. The prescribed fasting is for a fixed number of days, but whoso among you is sick or is on a journey shall fast the same number of other days: and for those who are able to fast *only* with great difficulty is an expiation—the feeding of a poor man. And whoso performs a good work with willing obedience, it is better for him. And fasting is good for you, if you only knew.¹⁸¹

186. The month of Ramadan is that in which the Qur'an was sent down as a guidance for mankind with clear proofs of guidance and "discrimination". Therefore, whosoever of you is present *at home* in this month, let him fast therein. But whoso is sick or is on a journey, shall fast the same number of other days. Allah desires to give you facility and He desires not hardship for you, and that you may complete the number, and that you may exalt Allah for His having guided you and that you may be grateful.¹⁸²

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٤﴾

أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ فَمَن كَانَ مِنكُم مَّرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ وَعَلَى الَّذِينَ يُطِيقُونَهُ فِدْيَةٌ كُلَّمَا مَضَىٰ يَوْمٌ فَسَدَّ حَبْرًا فَجُودِيَةٌ لَهُ وَأَن تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٨٥﴾

شَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن سَبَأَ فِي شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ فَلْيَصِمْهُ وَهُنَّ كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَكَرَّهِيَ لَكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِيُكْمِلُوا الْوَعْدَ لَكُمْ وَيَذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾



ANNUAL CONVENTION, AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM
AUGUST 31, SEPTEMBER 1-2, 1973 ON PAGES 9 AND 10.

ISLAMIC CALENDAR ON PAGE

5
1

"Nations can never be reformed unless the youth are reformed... This can only be done by impressing upon the youngmen the importance of imbibing the real spirit of Islam so that they may enjoy the essence of Ahmadiyyat—The True Islam". (Khaija-tul-Maash-II).

Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya USA—Historic Photos



Many of the pioneering members of MKA USA traveled to Rabwah, Pakistan in 1975 on the occasion of Jalsa Salana. Seen with Ḥaḍrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih III (center) are: Sadiq Muhammad, Hanif Ahmad, Muzaffar Ahmad Zafr, Jalal Nuruddin, Abu Bakr of Zion, Jamilur Rahman, and Ahmad Khalid.



Dhul-Waqar Yaqub with Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih IV during a Majlis-e-Shura session of Jamā'at USA



MKA Regional Ijtimā held in St. Louis, Missouri during the mid 1970s



Early members of Detroit Jamā'at, 1953



1956 Jalsa Salana USA held at Prince Hall Auditorium in Cleveland, Ohio.

Included in the photo: Hanif Ahmad, Abdullah Muhammad, Mubarak Ahmad, and Abdul-Malik. After signing Bai'at in 1948, Abdul-Malik was given permission to establish a mission in Milwaukee, thus laying the foundation for the Milwaukee Jamā'at.



Zuhr Salat at the 1972 Jalsa Salana. Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois.



**Left: Munir Hamid with Jalaluddin Abdul Latif (1970)
Right: Yahya Shariff, Al-Haj Abdul Karim, and Abdul Karim.**



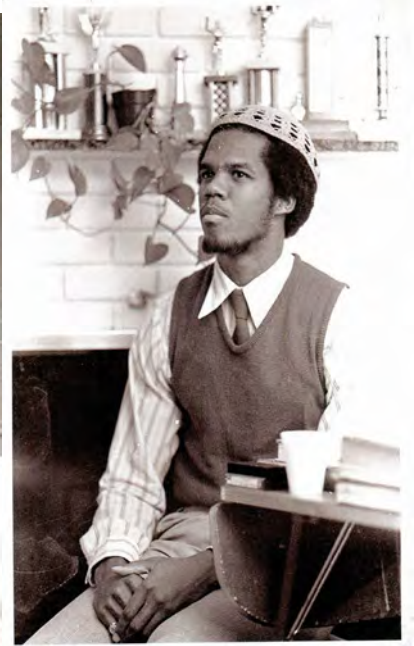
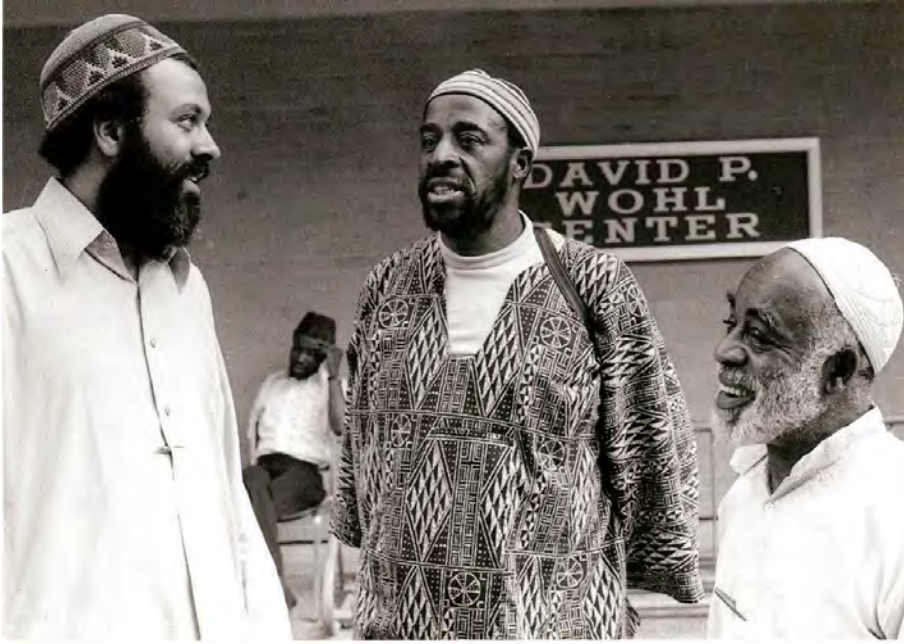
Group of Khuddam with Muhammad Sadiq in the 1970s.



Members outside of the Fazl-e-Umar Mosque in Dayton, Ohio (1960s). This mosque was the first purpose-built mosque constructed by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at in America and by converts to Islam.



Fazl-e-Omar Mosque, 1980s. Some members appearing in the photograph below are: Ahmad Khaliq, Ahmad Wali of St. Louis, Abdul Karim, Muhammad Qasim of Dayton, Munir Ahmad of St Louis, Maulana Muhammad Sadiq Shahid, Mian Ibrahim, Rashid Ahmad American, Munawar Saeed and Muzaffar A. Zafr



Right: Maulana Azhar Haneef, the first American-born Ahmadi Muslim to serve as a Missionary in the United States, is seen here during his khuddam years. Photo taken during the early 1970s.

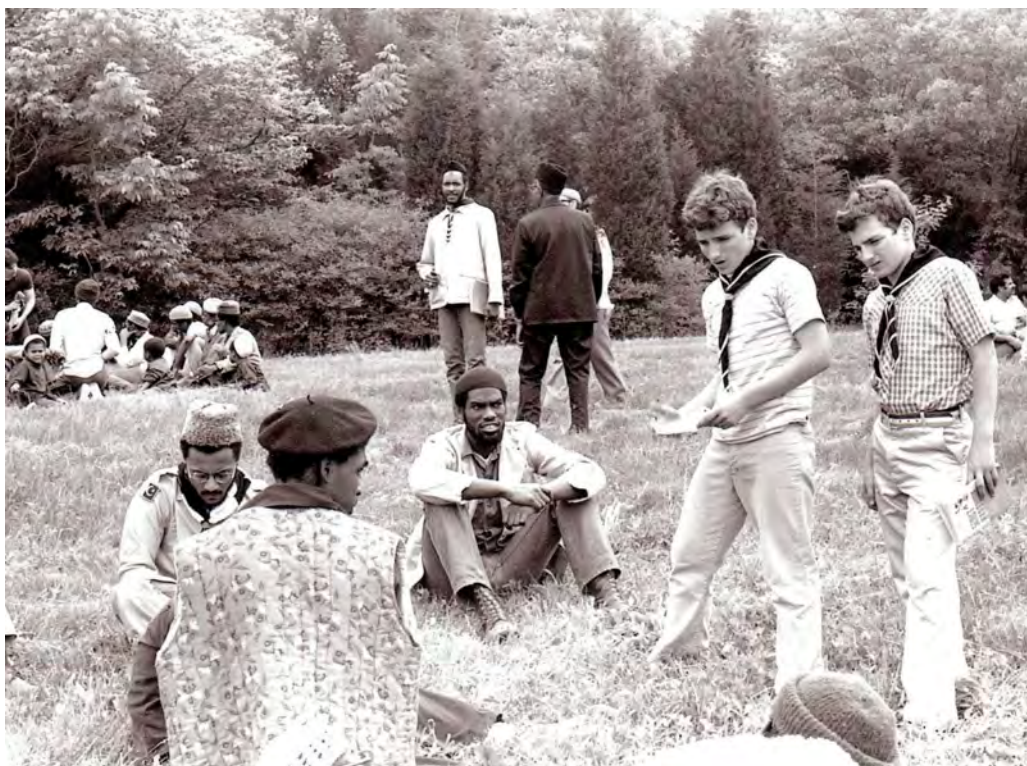
Left: Jalaluddin Abdul Latif, Yusef Abdul Lateef, and Muhammad Sadiq. In 1948, Yusef Abdul Lateef became Muslim and accepted Ahmadiyyat. He once explained: “At the age of 27, while living in Chicago, Illinois, I met by chance, Talib Dawud, an Ahmadi Muslim. There was something about his appearance and mannerisms that prompted me to ask him, ‘What are you into?’ as was the colloquial expression at that time. Without hesitation, he said that he was Muslim, and that he was a member of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. From that moment we became friends and within a few hours of meeting him, he gave me some literature, which contained some of the writings of Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi.”



Dhul-Waqar Yaqub, Muhammad Sadiq and Bashir Malik at a National Ijtimā during the mid 1970s in New Jersey. Dhul-Waqar Yaqub is seen holding a copy of Tariq, the national magazine of MKA, which was started in 1976.



Khuddam from America visited Rabwah, Pakistan in 1973. Seen here are: Abdus Sami Khaliq, Muhammad Habeeb Shafeek, and Hussain Abdul Aziz.



Khuddam at a National Ijtimā in the mid-1970



MKA USA Majlis-e-Shura meeting held at the American Fazl Mosque in Washington, DC (1976). Photographed above are: Mubashir Ahmad, Ata Ullah Kaleem, Chief Missionary USA and Yahya Sharif, National Qā'id.



Munir Hamid (center), was known to be fond of saying, "let the workers, work."



Photographed above: Bilal Abdus Salam, Sharif Bajwa, Jamal Ahmad of Boston, and Ahmad of Philadelphia.



Omar Shaheed, National Qā'id Yahya Shariff, Mubashir Ahmad, Abu Bakr Ladd, Mian Ibrahim, Umar Bilal Ibrahim, Abdul

Karim and Abdullah (mid-1970s).



Nasirullah Ahmad, Yahya Sharif, Dhul-Waqar Yaqub, Yusuf Amin, Umar Farooq Qadafi and Abdul Karim at the 1977 National Ijtimā. Yaqub recalls, "During that time I was serving as Nā'ib Sadr and was given the charge of preparing the site. For 6 weeks in a row, myself, Abu Bakr (now in Zion, IL) and Umar Farooq drove 200 miles round trip to prepare the site."



MKA Shura held in Washington DC around 1977. Umar Bilal Ibrahim, Abdul Karim, Maulana Mubashir Ahmad, Muhammad Sadiq Shahid, Abdus Sami Khaliq, Yahya Shariff Abdullah, Abu Bakr Salahuddin, and Abdul Khabir Haqq.



1977 National Ijtimā with Yahya Shariff (National Qā'id), Nuruddin Abdul Latif, Khalil Ahmad and Yusuf Ali



Left: Missionary MS Shahid and Yahya Sharif.

Right: Umar Bilal Ibrahim and Nasirullah Ahmad. Ibrahim accepted Islam-Ahmadiyyat in 1969. He served as a Regional Qā'id for MKA from 1972-1978



National Ijtimā held in Athens, Ohio (1977)



National Ijtimā, 1978.



National Ijtimā held in New Jersey, 1978. Seen below are: Missionary Masood Ahmad Jehlami, M.S. Shahid, Missionary-in-Charge, Yahya Shariff, Umar Bilal Ibrahim, Habeeb Shafeeq, Abu Bakr, Umar Faruq Qadafi, and Rahman Malik.



Rashid Ahmad American, Umar Farooq Qadafi, Muhammad Bashir, Missionary Mubasher Ahmad, Abdul Kabir Haqq (National Qā'id), Nasirullah Ahmad, Munir Hamid, Nuruddin Abdul Latif, Saleem A. Muhaimin, and Rahman Malik (1979).



Abdul Karim, Muhammad Sadiq, Mustafa Abdullah, Nasirullah Ahmad, Umar Farooq Qadafi, Abdul Kabir Haqq, Abu Bakr, Hafiz Nasiruddin, and Muhibb Dyer (1979).



National Ijtimā (1979).



MKA Shura held in Brooklyn, New York (1980). Top row: Abdus Sami Khaliq, Jalal Abdul Lateef, Habeeb Shafeeq, Saleem A. Muhaimin, Abdullah. Middle row: Abdul Karim, Nuruddin Abdul Latif, Umar Bilal Ibrahim, Abdul Kabir Haqq (National Qā'id), Missionary Major Abdul Hameed. Bottom row: Syed Sajid Ahmad, Dhul-Waqar Yaqub, Saadat Abdullah, and Imdad Ali Syed.



Jamil Ahmad, Saleem Muhaimin, Yahya Shariff, Abdul Kabir Haqq, Abu Bakr Ladd, Jalaluddin Abdul Latif, Nasirullah Ahmad, and Sardar Rafique Ahmad Jamali.



Left: National Ijtimā (1979) with Ataul Jalal Nuruddin and Abu Bakr of Zion. Right: Ahmad Bashir, Abdul Karim and Ahmad of Philadelphia. Tariq Hamid, son of Munir Hamid, is the small boy in the corner.



Majlis-e-Shura held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (mid-1970s), with Wajid Izrafil, Khalid Walid, Umar Farooq Qadafi, Yahya Shariff, Abdus Sami Khaliq and Ataul Jalal Nuruddin



Abdul Latif, Mubashir Ahmad, Yahya Shariff, Muhammad Sadiq, Shahid Missionary-in-Charge and Yusuf Amin (late-1970s).



Jalal Nuruddin, Bashir Muhammad, Kalim Nasir, Abdul Jeelani, Anser Ahmad, Sardar Rafique, Ahmed Jamali, Abdul Kabir Haqq, Tariq Sharif, Abu Bakr Ladd, and Yahya Shariff.

Humanity First USA

<https://usa.humanityfirst.org> — Established 2004



بدیں شادم کہ غم از بہر مخلوق خدا دارم
ازیں در لذتم کز دردے خیز و زدل راہم
مرا مقصود و مطلوب و تمنا خدمت خلق است
ہمیں کارم ہمیں بارم ہمیں رسم ہمیں راہم
غم خلق خدا صرف از زباں خوردن چہ کار است ایں
گرش صدجاں پپاریم ہنوزش عذر می خواہم

I am pleased that I grieve for the creation of Allah;

The pain it causes in my heart keeps me motivated.

My purpose, yearning and heartfelt desire is to serve humanity;

This is my job, this is my faith, this is my habit, and this is my way of life.

What is the point in grieving for Allah's creation through words only;

Sacrificing even hundred lives for this cause may still be not enough.

ABOUT HUMANITY FIRST

Mission Statement

Humanity First is an international not-for-profit humanitarian relief organization established to promote and safeguard human life and dignity. It is a non-political, non-religious, non-sectarian international relief and development organization that works with the world's poor and vulnerable people.

Humanity First was formally established in the UK in 1995, and now has registered operations in more than 50 countries. Humanity First USA was established in 2004 as a 501(c)(3) organization. Humanity First has been working on human development projects and responding to disasters. It provides humanitarian aid to those affected by natural disasters and implements

sustainable solutions at the grassroots to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life.

Humanity First USA spends approximately 90% of the donations directly on projects and is able to deliver significantly more aid value in the field because of volunteers, collaboration and global sourcing.

Objectives

- Relieve suffering caused by natural disasters or human conflict
- Promote peace and understanding based upon mutual tolerance and respect
- Strengthen people's capacity to help themselves

WHAT WE DO

Food Security

Humanity First USA believes that Food Security is a basic human

right. More than a billion people around the world are facing food insecurity or hunger in simple terms,

primarily due to poverty. We work with our partners not only to address immediate needs of populations but

also implement interventions which aim to eradicate causes of food and nutritional insecurity through sustainable solutions.

With a vision to make America hunger-free, our Food Security program seeks to reduce hunger and food wastage, provide food to our communities, and raise awareness in the USA. Humanity First USA accomplishes the goal by establishing & supporting food pantries, organizing food drives, setting up soup kitchens, sponsoring healthy eating and gardening programs at schools in underserved communities, advocating for healthy eating and food conservation, and partnering with other organizations who share a common vision to make America hunger-free.

Knowledge for Life

Humanity First USA aims to make education accessible and affordable for children universally. We offer a range of solutions including establishing primary and secondary schools, upgrading existing schools, establishing science

& IT labs in schools, and establishing libraries. Through technical and vocational training, Humanity First provides youth with skills much needed for developing economies.

The Our Kids, Our Future initiative in the US works with underserved schools in impoverished communities in the US to implement learning enhancement projects for children.

Global Health

Humanity First USA strives to improve healthcare systems, services and achieve health equity for under-served communities and individuals around the world. Healthcare infrastructure in the developing countries lacks resources to reach all its population and provide quality care. We ensure that our projects not only provide direct relief to individuals and communities in need, but also build capacity of local healthcare system and professionals.

Water for Life

Humanity First USA believes

that safe and clean drinking water is a fundamental human right. We deliver sustainable solutions to combat scarcity of safe and clean drinking water in impoverished communities in Latin America, Africa, and South Asia. We not only ensure efficient delivery of our projects in developing countries, but also invest in building capacity by training local engineers and technicians; and introducing modern tools and technologies.

Disaster Relief

Humanity First disaster relief teams follow the internationally recognized standards outlined by the Sphere project in 'Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response' handbook. The activities are focused on disaster readiness and mitigation, disaster relief and post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction. Our aim is to minimize human suffering and material losses working in collaboration with partner humanitarian agencies.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



One hundred years ago, one man set sail on the ocean blue under the direction of Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him), Khalifatul-Masih the Second. His journey was simple: to get across the Atlantic Ocean and step foot on American soil. This man carried no reputation except the reputation given by God that he is a servant. This man wanted to complete his Doctorate, but he only possessed education from a town far away in Qadian, India. He only owned the clothes on his back and the turban on his head. During his journey, he persuaded many people on the tenets of peace through Islam. Before he arrived in Gloucester, New Jersey, this man had a following. His name was: Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him).

He would travel the streets in America showing the path of peace and tranquility to the people he met. His simple journey started to what will become the oldest Muslim organization in the United States of America: The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. America gave Mufti Muhammad Sadiq his Honorary Doctorate, his reputation, his education and gave him what Benjamin Franklin said 250 years earlier, "I want Philadelphia to give

every Mohamaden a pulpit for their message."

This message, path of peace became endowed in the spirit of every Ahmadi Muslim in this country and overtime through the legacy of our African American pioneers, the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam grew. It connected people across all cultures, races, genders, and classes. It was now time for it to fulfill its salvation to peace: Humanity First.

The New York Times report in October 1930, one year after the Great Depression had put over 25 million Americans out of a job and our economy in severe ruins, newspapers called for the urge of Humanity First. They called the need for Americans to be humane to one another and to respect one another. On June 8, 1946, The New York Times emulated this headline: "Humanity First is Urged. World Needs unselfish nations."

In addition to fulfilling our obligations towards Allah, the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him) emphasized upon this urge to serve His creation by keeping 'Humanity First,' or serving without any bias.

He underlined it to be the very essence of what it means to be an Ahmadi Muslim. He stated:

"The teachings of the Holy Quran can be divided into two major categories. The first being unity of God, love and obedience to Him. The second is to treat kindly your brothers and fellow beings... be kind and merciful to humanity... always work for the good of mankind."

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) incorporated teachings of the Holy Quran and his master the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as the 9th condition of Bai'at which states:

"That he/she shall keep himself/herself occupied in the service of God's creatures for His sake only; and shall endeavor to benefit mankind to the best of his/her God-given abilities and powers."

This was the message, love for Allah and His creation, which Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him) brought to America. Through peace and effort, the humanitarian work of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the United States of America has become documented. This documentation was not begotten out of worldly achievement. It was a triumph that neither gave birth nor was begotten. This reputation to become America's FIRST and oldest Muslim organization gave rise to what the smiles glimmer and the full stomachs whisper: Humanity First.

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih the Fourth, Mirza Tahir Ahmad (may Allah have mercy upon him) initiated activities of Humanity First in 1992 in the United Kingdom. It was in response to the then Bosnian Crisis where relief activities continued until it was formally registered in the UK in 1995. The primary goal for this organization was envisioned to serve without any distinction, hence was named "Humanity" First with the primary objective of "Serving Mankind" globally.

Under the leadership and guidance of Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper), Khalifatul-Masih the Fifth, Humanity First USA was established in 2004 along with rapid expansion to many other parts of the world. Today, Humanity First has grown to 53 countries while providing relief to over 4.5 million people worldwide.

At his address during Humanity First conference in 2018, Hazrat

Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper), Khalifatul-Masih the Fifth, laid out the reason for existence of Humanity First in the following words:

“Our religion of Islam has taught us two overarching means of serving mankind. The first way is to bring people towards their Creator and to inspire them towards fulfilling His rights... The second primary means of serving mankind is to help people in their time of need and to utilize whatever resources are available, in order to bring ease and comfort to those who are deprived or facing trials and tribulations. Indeed, it was to fulfil these two principal objectives that Allah the Almighty sent the Promised Messiah, in servitude to the Holy Prophet of Islam (peace be upon him) and established the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community...

Of course, Humanity First was established in order to fulfil the

second objective of the Promised Messiah's^{as} advent. Hence, the sole ambition and aspiration of Humanity First should always be to alleviate the physical and mental suffering of mankind... As an organization, the core duty of Humanity First is to fully utilize its resources, and the capabilities and skills of those who serve it, to help the deprived and the destitute. Wherever people are facing material suffering and deprivation of any kind, Humanity First should seek to be at the forefront of providing aid and assistance. No matter where in the world, or which communities they hail from, Humanity First should seek to provide relief to those mired in poverty or hardship.

This is your mission. This is your duty. This is your faith.”

The last few words in above statement summarize everything about us. Establishment of Humanity First is another way for all

of us to serve Allah by serving His creation. Today as we celebrate the Centennial of our community in the USA, I would like to thank the whole membership for their great support through volunteering, donations, and extending a helping hand in whatever way possible. Humanity First USA is one of many but a significant initiative of the story of our journey in this great country.

On behalf of the whole Humanity First family of volunteers, donors, and supporters, I would like to congratulate the membership of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA on the centennial of our community. May Allah Almighty take us from strength to strength and enable us to bring more and more people closer to their Creator and enable us to serve those in need, Ameen.

Sincerely,

Munum Naeem

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HUMANITY FIRST USA

Respected Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad

Chairman of the Board

National President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA

Respected Munum Naeem

Secretary of the Board

President and Executive Director

Respected Imran Hayee

Member of the Board

National President of the Men's Auxiliary (MAA) of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA

Respected Dhiya Bakr

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National President of the Women's Auxiliary (Lajna Ima'illah) of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA

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National President of the Men's Auxiliary (MKA) of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA

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Respected Fiona Okeeffe Ahmed

Member of the Board

Respected Irfan Alladin

Member of the Board



2004-2019

HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR INITIATIVES BY HUMANITY FIRST USA

PEOPLE SERVED WATER FOR LIFE 2.1 MILLION

LEARN A SKILL 22,000

KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE 96,000

GLOBAL HEALTH 265,000

DISASTER RELIEF 710,000

FOOD SECURITY 680,000

2004-2006

Humanity First International began as a vision from Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih the Fourth (may Allah have mercy upon him) whose passion for the service of mankind outweighed distinctions in race, color, creed, and religion. His founding principles led a team to the once former country of freed African American slaves who had just embattled a fourteen-year civil war in Liberia, no distinction in color was made to the thousands of displaced populations who received five tons of relief items, 220 pounds of rice, and hundreds of patients and thousands of victims were served. These convictions to serve humanity helped the Asian Tsunami Relief serving 60,000 hot meals, 7,500 patients and over 30,000 people

were served during this crisis.

During 2005 floods in Guyana, Humanity First served more than 8,000 meals, treated 4,500 patients in medical camps, and over \$700,000 worth of medications and food supplies were distributed amongst the affected populations.

No pride ever stood great in the eyes of these volunteers whose religious sect remains forbidden to practice religion in Pakistani society, these volunteers helped 75,000 earthquake victims and served over 356,000 meals.

During Hurricane Katrina in 2005, 18 volunteer doctors and more than 50 non-medical volunteers responded to the disaster. More than 1,000 people were provided medical

care in shelters in collaboration with American Red Cross. 8 truckloads of relief supplies were delivered to shelters and transportation was provided to hundreds of victims.

Humanity First installed a wireless network and computer hardware at the Baker City school system in Louisiana to facilitate displaced students and provided winter coats and clothing to 300 students at Plaquemine Parish in Louisiana.

In 2005, 4 schools in underserved communities in Chicago, San Jose, Baltimore and Portland were supported to enhance learning abilities of their students through 'Our Kids Our Future' program.

150,000 PEOPLE SERVED IN VARIOUS DISASTERS 2007

No life is more powerful than the one that holds life so dear. In 2007, Humanity First USA installed 100 hand pumps to pump water and performed 250 eye operations for free. Our team of select nurses and surgical staff from John Hopkins

University treated hundreds of patients across Accra, Doboase, Elmina, and Asokore, Ghana. We dug water wells in Indonesia and created boarding facilities for Indonesian students. We helped over 2000 people in Peru. Our

efforts around the world awarded us a \$1.17 million grant from the Qatar Foundation to rebuild two schools and 5 places of worship in New Orleans are impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

10,000 PEOPLE SERVED THROUGH VARIOUS PROJECTS

2008

With 2008 being Khilafat Centenary year, Humanity First USA assisted 1.26 million people in Muzzafarabad, Pakistan through the construction of schools and water

purification system units.

Twenty fabricated shelters in Peru, six hundred pounds of relief supplies to the people of Houston, Texas and eleven water treatment

plants were installed in Brazil.

During Hurricane Ike in Houston, Texas, Humanity First USA delivered more than 600 pounds of relief supplies to a number

of counties around Houston including Harris, Chambers and the Seabrook/ Clear Lake, Freeport Lake, and Galveston areas.

Humanity First USA partnered with 2 schools in San Jose and Chicago and helped improve upon their libraries and implemented

various learning projects. Humanity First soup kitchen in Philadelphia continued to serve the homeless on weekly basis.



11,500 PEOPLE SERVED, MOSTLY THROUGH FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS

2009

In 2009, Saint Louis Missouri, one of the oldest towns in America grew its Sadiq Organic Farm. This farm provided organic fruits and

vegetables to low-income families in America. This year a team of twelve doctors visited the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, the Ahmadiyya

Hospital, and many other hospitals in Ghana to improve surgical care.

550,000 PEOPLE SERVED. OVER 500,000 THROUGH WATER FOR LIFE PROGRAM

2010

The year 2010 marked a new beginning.

It created a new decade of discovery. Humanity First Volunteers from John Hopkins University Hospital traveled to

Ghana and donated ten tons of medical supplies and provided local surgical care training valued at \$225,000.

Under the direction of Dr. Ahsan Khan, the First Gift of Sight Mission

was established in Guatemala and 25 ophthalmic procedures were conducted pro bono at the Universidad Francisco Marroquin.

With a series of devastations that have been happening to Haiti,



Haiti suffered a 7-magnitude earthquake which teared apart the country.

This earthquake allowed Humanity First volunteers to help 50,000 people, provide 3,300 families water and hot meals to over 8,000 meals. 27,000 people were provided medical care through many

mobile medical camps. Shelter was given to our most precious collection of 700 orphans and 5 orphanages serving over eight weeks in Haiti.

Eruptions at Mt. Merapi led Humanity First to help 36,000 refugees and devastating floods in Pakistan left families without water or food. With tons of food

distributed, thousands of families were provided rations for over 12 weeks, 150 food tons were provided to care for the sick and need.

At home, we helped four schools and run several soup kitchens in the US.

255,000 PEOPLE SERVED. 90% OF BENEFICIARIES THROUGH WATER FOR LIFE AND DISASTER RELIEF

2011

Water is the biggest source of conflict in the world, yet it represents the same denomination that the human body represents: 70% water.

With water so abundant in the world, this greatest source of tension caused a depletion of reserves in Tharparkar, Sindh that led a team of experts from Humanity First USA to

create 100 wells for our impoverished population.

The Cloud Forest Medical Clinic in Haiti served over 60,000 people helping fight the Cholera outbreak and raised money even a handsome check from Former President Bill Clinton for \$3,000.

Over 6,500 families and 10,000 individuals were helped during the

Horn of Africa Drought serving over 41,000 people. A vocational college established in Monrovia, Liberia assisting the local population with vocational training.

Humanity First USA completed 123 learning projects and inspired 6,600 children through 'Our Kids, Our Future' program in the New Orleans area.

158,000 PEOPLE SERVED. OVER 120,000 BENEFICIARIES OF WATER FOR LIFE

2012

In 2012, the Gift of Health medical team helped 1,920 patients through mobile medical camps and assisted 387 Guatemalans during the Gift of Sight clinics, and established schools in Haiti, and Mali. Humanity First served more than 9,000 meals during Hurricane Sandy relief. 80 houses damaged by water were

guttled and cleaned up saving the residents more than \$400,000. Homeland Security of Indiana District Task Force 1 and City of Long Beach N.Y appointed Humanity First to lead the recovery efforts in Long Beach, N.Y. 35 tons of aid was delivered to homes and distribution centers with the help of

1,250 volunteers who invested more than 21,000 hours.

'Feed the Hungry' in America (FHA) program was launched and food banks were established in Willingboro, N.J., Harrisburg, Pa. Dayton, Ohio, and Silicon Valley, CA.

184,000 PEOPLE SERVED DURING THE YEAR

2013

In 2013, through 29 water wells and 204 hand pumps in in Ghana, Liberia, Mali, and Pakistan, more than 180,000 people were provided with clean drinking water. US volunteers from Gift of Health and Sight missions helped over 8,000 patients in Guatemala. Our schools and skills development centers in Guatemala, Haiti, Liberia and Mali continued to serve over 1,300 youth.

A devastating and deadly tornado ripped through the city of Moore, Oklahoma. Humanity First responded immediately, sending volunteers from several states, as well as Canada. Humanity First was able to help hundreds of people most of who had no help or were uninsured and couldn't afford to start cleaning up or demolition of damaged remains of their homes.

Humanity First worked with the City of Moore officials in organizing volunteers and distribution of supplies. During 3 weeks of response more than 59 volunteers invested more than 1,300 hours. Humanity First USA continued to help victims of Hurricane Sandy by giving out \$10,000 in gift cards to victims to rebuild homes and purchase essentials.



There were 6 food pantries and 2 monthly soup kitchens under Feed the Hungry in America initiative. In 2013, more than 20,000 meals were served.

Through Our Kids Our Future

program, Humanity First offers mini grants for educational programs, tutoring, organizing school supply drives, book drives, food drives and coat drives. We supported 3 schools with grants helping more than 500 students.

There were 5 Humanity First Student Organization in different universities from where students raised funds, spread awareness and participated in Humanity First missions.

450,000 PEOPLE SERVED THROUGH MAJOR BANNER PROGRAMS INCLUDING 67% BENEFICIARIES OF WATER FOR LIFE

2014

In 2014, no crisis was a tall order than the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. With the world living in fear and apathy became contagious, Humanity First volunteers went into the midst of this crisis showing their empathy by helping over 200,000 people infected with Ebola. They helped another 130,000 people in Sierra Leone providing relief and medical care. Humanity First screened over 1.1 million Ebola patients in Sierra Leone.

While a team of experts were in West Africa, another team went into Tharparkhar Pakistan to assist the 250,000 residents with the famine crisis. Humanity First built 45 water wells and helped 1,300 malnourished infants. They

furthered their efforts helping 2000 people in the Kashmir Floods and over 75,000 people in Pakistan with the access to water.

Humanity First did not only engage itself in disaster efforts, but rather Humanity also First USA created many knowledge-based programs to educate the population giving them freedom to think and to develop themselves in societies where education was only reserved for the wealthy. Creating a Gift of Knowledge program in Guatemala, Humanity First staff that are locally trained teachers used the “student center approach” and educated over 175 educators and also provided scholarship opportunities to schools in Guatemala.

A village in Mali that had one college graduate and one 6th grade completed person in the whole village, now had hundreds of students being educated in Bilal Primary School. These schools transcended to Haiti, Tanzania and the United States. With a computer institute in Mali and physicians from Humanity First providing medical training and course lectures on advanced medical practitioner topics in Ghana, Humanity First helped improve the medical situation in America. Back at home, Humanity First America engaged in providing over 25,000 pounds of food in our Feed America initiative





768,000 PEOPLE SERVED THROUGH VARIOUS BANNER PROGRAMS

2015

Other than disaster relief response, humanitarian work in Humanity First became popularized through education. With the opening of the Masroor School in January 2015, over 200 students have now received an education. This also paved the way for the Gift of

246,000 PEOPLE SERVED

2016

Education-paramount to the convictions of every teacher in the world and to every student in the classroom has become one of the most conflicted areas of reach for many societies. Humanity First has continued to spread its wings by educating children around the world. In Guatemala, 2500 students received an education due to the

Knowledge program that helped 100 teachers. In Haiti, the Humanity First School teaches 217 children and these schools have become institutions for schools in Mali, Mexico, and Tanzania.

Our newest project is creating a

state-of-the-art hospital in Guatemala. Disaster response showed there is a growing need for community health and the learn a skill program. In Pakistan, over 100 water wells were installed to help over 100,000 people.

efforts of Humanity First. In Mali, there are now 1000 students across six schools getting an education.

While education remains a priority, global health initiatives assisting the construction of hospitals and providing medical training to West African countries has become our newest norm.

Another great source of distress is the access to clean drinking water. Humanity First USA played its role in Mali by providing the access to drinking water to over 100,000 local villagers and built helped efforts of Humanity First Pakistan to build 260 water wells in Pakistan. Efforts of Humanity First USA continues to spearhead their service to mankind.

259,000 PEOPLE SERVED MAINLY THROUGH FOOD SECURITY, WATER FOR LIFE AND DISASTER RELIEF

2017

A new year of discovery. Humanity First USA engaged in established humanity first health

centers around the world. In Mali alone, Humanity First USA gave medical attention to 14,000 patients.

Our eye surgeons provided free Gift of Sight programs to the residents of Burkina Faso and allowed one

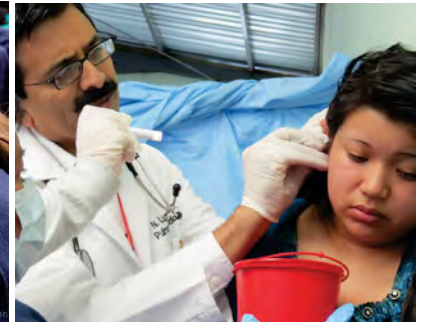
thousand people to see again.

In Guatemala, the Gift for Health helped 5,000 people while Water for Life helped over 75,000

people in Mali and Burkina Faso.

We assisted 2,500 people when Hurricane Harvey hit Houston and provided over \$15,000 in supplies

all over America helping people manage their disasters. During our Food Security Program, we provided over 80,000 meals in this year.



206,000 PEOPLE SERVED. MOSTLY THROUGH DISASTER RELIEF, GLOBAL HEALTH AND WATER FOR LIFE

2018

His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his helper) Khalifatul-Masih the Fifth inaugurated the 27 bed, double OR with multiple clinic Nasir Hospital in Guatemala. This hospital boasts services from over 400 physicians world-wide who volunteer their free medical expertise providing varieties of treatments. The hospital was inaugurated on October 24, 2018.

Furthermore, additional two health centers in Mali and Indonesia continued to serve local populations. There were over 70 Gift of Sight surgeries held in Guatemala. Humanity First USA helped over 25,000 people with medical care globally.

By 2018, we have established 9 schools in Guatemala, Haiti, Tanzania, and Mali. Furthermore,

Humanity First was operating vocational centers in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Mali, and Guyana. Through school support programs, we helped 5 schools in the US and 2 schools in Mexico. Humanity First USA helped 3,400 students and trained over 800 youth.

In 2018, we also established HF Guyana which had been dormant for several years.

155,000 PEOPLE SERVED

2019

With over 434,519 beneficiaries in the world in 2019, Humanity First USA has impacted the growth in over 12 countries helping over 32,000 people in Global Health including over 10,000 in Nasir Hospital

Guatemala. On one hand we were operating 13 schools, on the other we helped build 85 hand pumps to help 171,800 people.

70,000 meals were prepared for

our poor and needy in the United States and we worked hard to provide 192,600 meals worldwide.

Humanity First USA and Canada teams responded to Hurricane

Dorian in the Bahamas at the request of World Health Organization (WHO). Our teams were assigned to take charge of Coopers Town at the

Great Abaco Island where health infrastructure was destroyed. Humanity First team was able to rehabilitate the medical center and

establish local health infrastructure for the devastated town and saved many lives which otherwise would have been lost.

435,000 PEOPLE SERVED PRIMARILY THROUGH FOOD SECURITY AND WATER FOR LIFE PROGRAMS ESTABLISHMENTS

As part of our banner programs Humanity First USA operates many short-term projects and missions throughout the year. Additionally, we have established several institutions which are serving local populations in the USA and internationally on an ongoing basis, such as:

Food Security

➤ Eighteen (18) Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens, mostly in the USA

Schools

➤ Thirteen (13) Primary Schools in 5 countries

Vocational Institutes u Three (3)

Sewing Schools, Two (2) language Institutes, and One (1) Vocational & Technical College Global Health u One (1) Hospital, and Two (2) Medical Centers

Water for Life

➤ Installed 1065 hand pumps

➤ Dug almost 200 water wells

WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM SERVING OVER HALF A MILLION PEOPLE IN MUZAFFARABAD, KASHMIR





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Associations of Ahmadi Muslim Scientists USA

The Association of Ahmadi Muslim Scientists, USA (AAMS-USA) was founded in 1995.

The AAMS-USA Constitution was drafted in early 1996 and approved by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV in late 1996.

The 1st election was held on June 24, 1995 and was presided by respected Nā'ib Ameer USA, the late Dr. Muzaffar Zafr.

The 1st President was Dr. Karimullah Zirvi, PhD, who served from 1995 to 1999. The Amila consisted of:



General Secretary: Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa, PhD.

Dr. Muhammad Abdul-Khaliq served one term as president.

The 2nd election was held on June 26, 1999 and was presided by respected Nā'ib Ameer USA, the late Munir Hamid.

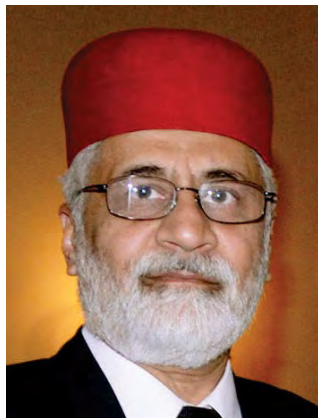
The 2nd President was Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa, PhD, who served from 1999 to 2005. The Amila consisted of:

General Secretary: Dr. Munib Zirvi, MD, PhD

Finance Secretary: Dr. T. Abul Aleem

The 3rd election was held on September 2, 2005 and was presided

by respected Nā'ib Ameer Dr. Nasim Rehmattullah.



The 3rd President was Dr. Arshad M. Khan, PhD, who served from 2005 to 2012. The Amila consisted of:



Finance Secretary: Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa

The 4th President was Dr. Sohail Husain, MD, who has been serving since 2012.

Blog (official?):

An AAMS-USA blogspot was created in 2007 and updated through 2013. The blog contained many articles covering a range of subject matter. The link for the blog is here: <http://aams-usa-forum.blogspot.com/2007/>

Our first newsletter was published in 2008. Its editor was Dr. Arshad Khan. In this newsletter,

Khalifatul-Masih V's powerful [message](#) in 2008, from Ghana on the occasion of the Khilafat centenary celebrations, to the worldwide community of generation of budding young Ahmadi Muslim scientists was highlighted. The message was, *"Allah told the Promised Messiah that people of your sect [Jamā'at] will progress in knowledge. Therefore, I advise the youth: immerse yourself in your studies to the exclusion of everything else. Advance so much in every field of education that your minimum target becomes the Nobel Prize. That requires hard work over a long period. When nations want to develop and progress, they make plans on a long-term basis. I pray that Allah may grant you the strength to do so. Remember, it is you who will lift your country up to the ranks of developed nations. That indeed is patriotism and love for your country. For an Ahmadi Muslim, love for one's country is a part of their faith."*



The main activities of the Association at the time were to hold general meetings at Jalsa for networking and sharing information, as well as providing career advice and general support to the pipeline of Ahmadi Muslim

students in science.

Upon the instruction and guidance of beloved Khalifatul-Masih V, the Association was divided into separate Men's (retaining the name AAMS-USA) and Women's Association (AWSA) in 2011. Dr. Shanaz Butt was approved as the founding president of AWSA in 2011.

The first Holy Qur'an and Science Symposium was held in 2013 at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, MD. A total of 184 were in attendance. Beloved Khalifatul-Masih delivered a message for this auspicious occasion, which was read out in the opening session. Then respected Nā'ib Ameer Naseem Mahdi

presided over the opening session and delivered a short talk. Ahmadi Muslim Scientists from various backgrounds then delivered talks about their research. Then respected Ameer, Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, addressed the audience highlighting that science really emanates from God. The day was concluded with prayers led by Nā'ib Ameer Masoud Malik.

From humble beginnings, the annual Holy Qur'an and Science Symposium gained a lot of attraction. The second annual Holy Qur'an and Science Symposium was held in 2014 again at Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, MD. By the Grace of Allah, around

400 men, women, and children were in attendance. More women were in attendance than men.

The following year, we had a change in venue. The 3rd Annual Holy Qur'an and Science Symposium was held in 2015 in Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque in Queens, NY. Approximately 500 guests were in attendance. Efforts were made to invite professors from local universities and colleges. Thirty outside guests were in attendance, including a reporter from the largest Bengali newspaper in the USA. Our relationship with Bengali media allowed us to arrange a program that played on Bangla cable channel with some of our panelists.

Ahmadi Women Scientists Association (AWSA)



Hands on chemistry kitchen by Nasirat at the 7th Annual Quran and Science

Brief History of AWSA:

1. October 2010-letter from Khalifat-ul-Masih V to Dr. Shanaz Butt, then Sadr Lajna Ima'illah-USA-to consider the feasibility of forming an Ahmadi Women Scientist Association.

2. Khalifat-ul-Masih V approved Dr. Shanaz Butt as Founding

president of AWSA following elections at Jalsa 2011.

3. AWSA logo was created.

4. AWSA Constitution was prepared in 2012.

5. Science booth (experiments for children) and open Forums were held in the first 2 years at Jalsa to encourage participation and

membership.

6. Partnered with Lajna USA to use their website

Current Activities of AWSA:

Dr. Nusrat Sharif, PhD became the President of AWSA in December 2017. The key events that were organized were the Holy Quran and Science Symposium in collaboration

with AAMS. The 6th and 7th Annual Quran and Science Symposium was organized in Bait-ur Rahman and a great proportion of audience was Lajna and Nāsirāt. The Symposium highlighted a combined career development session for the first time. The incentive of membership dues to AWSA was first implemented at the 6th Quran and Science Symposium and T-shirts with AWSA logo were given to the members. The 7th Annual Quran and Science Symposium was unique in being the last large gathering

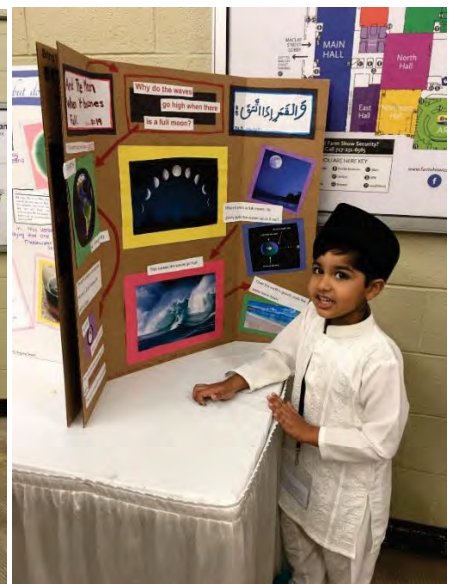
event organized in Bait-ur Rahman prior to coronavirus lock-down. These events also involved hands-on experiments by young Nāsirāt in the science kitchen set up.

Abdus Salam Science Fair was organized at Jalsa Salana USA both in 2018 and 2019 and involved poster presentations by Nāsirāt and Lajna. The winners were awarded cash prizes for the first time along with certificates of participation. A similar Abdus Salam Science Fair event was organized for the first time

in West Coast Jalsa Salana in December 2019.

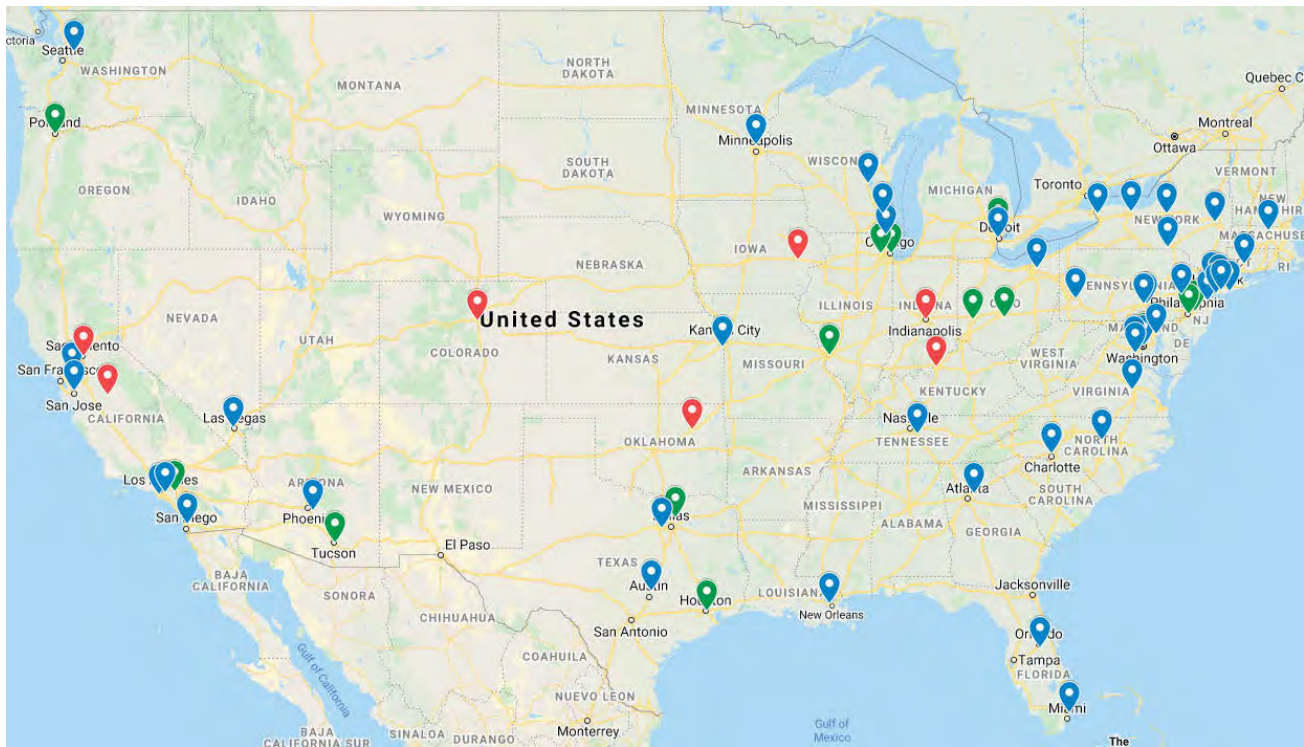
Career guidance/counselling is provided at different panels, one such was at the 5th National Wāqifāt-e Nau camp held on June 21-28 at Baitul-Aafiyat mosque, Philadelphia.

Some pictures of Nāsirāt at the Abdus Salam Science Fair on the occasion of 77th Jalsa Salana USA held in July 2019.



Symposium held on March 7, 2020 at Bait-ur-Rahman mosque in MD.

Chapters of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the US



Location of the chapters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the US

Green markers indicate purpose-built mosques, blue markers indicate pre-existing buildings used as mosques, red markers represent rented or temporary activity centers. (Courtesy Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa)

The first Ahmadi Muslim missionary, Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, landed off a ship in Philadelphia PA on 15 February 1920. Americans had joined the Ahmadiyya Islam before his arrival. Many more joined through his tireless efforts. During his stay in the US, he lived in New York, Detroit and Chicago but established his “mission” and mosque in Chicago on Wabash. The building deteriorated over time and decades after it was demolished, and a new mosque was built at the site. In the coming decades, at first the members in the US were organized into “missions” and then later into chapters (or Jamā'ats).

The number and boundaries of missions and chapters have changed over time due to administrative needs. Most of the chapters have acquired permanency with the construction of mosques or

establishment of activity centers that serve also as mosques. Sometimes chapters have been split and at other times chapters have been consolidated in consideration of the shifting member populations and due to the construction of new mosques or acquisition of new activity centers.

There are many Muslim organizations in the US. The Ahmadiyya Muslims can rightfully claim to be the most vastly organized Muslim community in the US with around seventy chapters organized and administered centrally. Muslims in general have hundreds of mosques and centers in the US but they are mostly administered by local individual organizations. Ahmadis are organized under the system of Ahmadiyya Khilafat headed by the Khalifa overseeing the activities of Ahmadi Muslims all over the world. This set up provides an

advantage to the US Ahmadi Muslims to be a part of a worldwide organization to share resources worldwide under the direction of their Khalifa.

Every chapter has its own local administration elected by local members that runs under the direction of the national leadership elected by delegates from local chapters. Local resources are shared nationally, and national resources are shared nationally and globally under a well-established system under the system of Khilafat.

Mosques are built and centers are established after rigorous consultations to meet the needs of the members in the area. Members living far from mosques and centers are affiliated to the closest one to them that can serve their needs the best. Members have resided in every state in the US. (Syed Sajid Ahmad)

Progression of Chapters in the US

Dr. Muhammad Abdul-Khaliq, Dr. Mahmud Ahmad Nagi

Two dedicated companions of the Promised Messiah; Mufti Muhammad Sadiq and Maulvi Muhammad Din, started the propagation of Islam in USA. US is a vast country, about three thousand miles from east to west. As the number of members increased, there was need for establishing mission houses and chapters across the country to organize members for their education and training.

Dr. Mufti Sadiq first went to New York and then alternated between Chicago and Detroit finally settling in Chicago. The address of the Mission House in Chicago was, 51 East, 18th Street. He established Propagation Mission at 27 La Belle Ave Highland Park, Michigan. He thought appropriate to shift Mission House from New York to Chicago. (Al-Fazl, 20 Dec. 1920). A house was procured at 45 St. Wabash Ave in July 1922 and converted into Mission House and a mosque. (Al-Fazl 23 October 1922). The mosque was named as Chicago Mosque. (18 Sept 1922).

During the tenure of Mufti Muhammad Sadiq as first US missionary, following chapters in US were established: Detroit, New Orleans, Florida, South Carolina, Indiana, West Virginia and New York. (Muslim Sunrise, January 1924, p. 45-6)

Sufi Mutiur-Rahman Bengali hired a place in the middle of Chicago City to extend preaching of Islam to larger audience. He started delivering lectures there. On 3 November 1929, he invited Professors, Lawyers and other dignitaries of the city. (Al-Fazl 20 December 1929)

Due to efforts of Missionary Mutiur Rahman Bengali, following

seven strong Jamā'ats were established in seven cities of the US in late 1932. They are Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Washington, Steubenville, Youngs Town, Cleveland and Homestead. (Al-Fazl, 3 November 1932), St Louis end of 1946 Fourteen people pledged allegiance to the Promised Messiah. (Al-Fazl, 14 February 1947) and Kansas City in July 1933 where 20 people entered Ahmadiyyat and a new Jamā'at was established. (Al-Fazl, 5 December 1933).

Islam in Evans City PA: It was through Dr. Yusof Khan that I (Sheikh Nazeer Elahee) first exposed to Islam in 1928, almost half a century ago, in Cincinnati. I was later instructed in the Islamic teachings and then appointed to lead our missions successively in Pittsburgh, Youngstown and finally in Dayton, Ohio where I served for several years. In 1936, I was instructed to proceed to Indianapolis, Indiana where I was stationed until 1943 when I went into military service.

By Allah's grace, I am continuing to serve the cause of Islam here at Evans City since my retirement from the Armed Services. (Muslim Sunrise, 1975, issue 4, p. 13)

By the grace of God, in the beginning of 1947, a new Jamā'at was formed in New York consisting of 20 peoples. Later it increased by another 19 people. Similarly, this year five people accepted Islam in the city of Boston which resulted formation of new Jamā'at. (Al-Fazl 18 June 1947 and 13 August 1947)

Following four Jamā'ats were established at the time of Sufi Mutiur Rahman Bengali: Baltimore-President Abdul Karim who died in early 1947, Dayton-first Jamā'at who

arranged for National events, Indianapolis and Philadelphia. (Al-Fazl, 24 February 1947)

Following missions were opened by Sufi M.R. Bengali: Indianapolis Indiana, Dayton, OH and Pittsburgh PA (Mirza Monawar Ahmad made Pittsburgh as HQ, address: 2532 Center Ave, PA. (Muslim Sunrise, 1946 Issue-3, p. 23)

A new Jamā'at "New Jersey" was formed in early 1947. (Al-Fazl 11 April 1947)

Sufi M.R. Bengali opened Youngstown, OH, Cleveland, OH, St. Louis, MO and Kansas City, MO. (Muslim Sunrise 1946 Issue-3, p. 23)

Sufi M.R. Bengali was joined by a group of missionaries from 1946-1948: Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir, Mirza Monawar Ahmad, Ghulam Yasin and Shukar Ilahi Hussain. (Muslim Sunrise 1975 issue 4, p. 12-13)

A new Jamā'at New Jersey was formed in early 1947. (Al-Fazl 11 April 1947)

In January 1955, a mission started working in a rented house at Harlem of Manhattan (NY). The propagation work continued in spite of great difficulties. The mission continued to work at different rented houses. Then a house was procured in Brooklyn (NY). Missionary Chaudhri Ghulam Yasin had been working here for 15 years. (Tabshir file USA)

Khalifat-ul-Masih II asked Missionary Chaudhri Khalil Ahmad in August 1949 to buy a house for the Mission in Washington. A three-story building was procured for \$42,000 for Mosque and Washington Mission. Another \$3,000 was spent on its repair. In May 1950, headquarter was shifted from Chicago to Washington. (Al-Fazl, 27 June 1950)

A new Jamā'at was established in Milwaukee near Chicago in the year 1950. (Al-Fazl 10 September 1950)

In 1950, US missions were confined to East and Mid-West States. In 1951, the propagation work expanded to California State. A new mission and a small Jamā'at was formed in Los Angeles, CA. Similarly, in South of USA, a Chapter started working in Kentucky and another mission was coming up in the state of Louisiana. (Al-Fazl 29 May 1951)

In Dayton a piece of land was donated by a family (Brother Wali Kareem and his wife Latifa Kareem) in September 1949. The foundation stone of the mosque was laid by Chaudhri Khalil Ahmad Nasir in March 1953. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA 1953, V. 4)

Missionary Syed Jawad Ali Shah was posted in Detroit in 1956 to help establish a mission there. A house was rented on 21 June 1956 and propagation work started. (Tabshir Report USA)

Brother Russel Shafiq who had been President of Dayton Jamā'at died in 1959. (Al-Fazl 27 September 1959)

Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Dayton came into being in the year 1933. Land for the mosque was donated. The construction work on the mosque started in 1953. The mosque was completed on 23 March 1965. The whole expenditure on the mosque amounted to \$ 16500/- (Al-Fazl, 13 May 1965)

In the middle of 1968, another Chapter started functioning near Chicago, named Waukegan City. Fourteen people joined Ahmadiyyat. (Al-Fazl 23 November 1968)

Following ten missions reported their activities: New York, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Washington, Louisville, Milwaukee and Dayton.

(The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, March 1969, p. 3)

Boston as new mission was reported. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, April 1969, p. 4)

Following new missions were also reported Baltimore, Indianapolis, Waukegan, Cincinnati and Athens. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, May 1969, p. 3)

The foundation of new mosque in Athens was laid on 7 September 1970. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, Aug-Sept 1970, p. 2)

New York Mission up till 1973 was working in rented houses. A two-story building was bought in February 1973 situated in Brooklyn. Mission House was inaugurated by Sahibzada M.M. Ahmad on 23 March 1977 (Promised Messiah Day). (Tabshir File USA-Chapter 7)

God gave opportunity to US Jamā'at to procure a three-story building in Philadelphia which is the largest city of Pennsylvania state and fourth largest in USA for \$ 42000/-. The mission was inaugurated by Missionary Ata-Ulla Kaleem on 4 June 1982 during Friday sermon. (General file America Diaries 1972, p. 77)

Following chapters are listed in Muslim Sunrise, March 1976:

Athens OH, Baltimore MD, Boston MA, Concord (San Francisco) CA, Cincinnati OH, Chicago IL, Cleveland OH, Dayton OH, Detroit MI, Indianapolis IN, Jackson MS, Kenosha WI, Los Angeles CA, Milwaukee WI, New York NY, Philadelphia PA, Pittsburgh PA, St. Louis MO, Streamwood IL, Trenton NJ, Teaneck NJ, Troy OH, Washington DC, Waukegan IL, York PA.

The following presidents of Jamā'ats and missionaries in USA attended meeting with Missionary in Charge Mir Mahmud Ahmad in the chair:

Muzaffar Ahmad, National President Dayton

Rashid Ahmad, regional President Milwaukee

Abid Hanif, Boston

Major Abdul Hamid, Missionary East Coast (NY)

Mian Muhammad Ibrahim, Missionary MW and Lakes (Dayton)

M. Abdur Rashid Yahya, Missionary, S. East Region (Washington)

Muhammad Sadiq N.J.

Syed Sharif Ahmad, Concord (San Francisco), CA

Munir Ahmad, St. Louis, Missouri

Jamilur Rahman, Pittsburgh, PA

Jamil Ahmad, Cleveland, OH

Abdul Hafiz, Baltimore

Ali Razaa, Kenosha, WI

Abdul Kabir Haque, Chicago

Yahya Sharif, Dover, PA

Mubashar Ahmad, Central Financial Secretary

Dr. B.A. Munir, Athens OH

Yusaf Amin, Troy-OH

Hussain Abdul Aziz, Philadelphia, PA

Abdul Mannan Malik, Willingboro, NJ

Umar Bilal Ibrahim, NY

Abu Bakr, Racine, WI

Nasir M. Malik (V. Pres) Detroit, MI

Among terms discussed were the feasibility of establishing schools for children, training of American Ahmadis as honorary missionaries and prospects of holding an Int. Conf. on the Crumbling of the Cross in America in 1980. (Ahmadiyya Gazette April 1979, p. 5)

In 1983, Khalifat-ul-Masih III gave task to US to build 5 mosques and 5 Mission Houses in USA. (Al-Fazl 17 August 1983)

The mosque was inauguration

on 13 March 1983 by Missionary Ata Ullah Kaleem. The mosque was built, and total expenditure was born by Qureshis. The mosque was named Yousaf Mosque and is working as US Mission. (General file America 1983, p. 49)

Detail of Procured Mission Houses and Mosques

1. A house in was bought in New York for \$ 24900 for mission house. It was inaugurated by Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad on 23 March 1984. (General file America 1984, p. 90)
2. A house and 5-acre land were procured in Glenn Ellyn for \$ 262500. (General File Mission Houses and centers, p. 7)
3. In Zion a Flat and a house was bought for \$ 30,000. It has Hall and Flat on the first floor. There is adequate space for car parking. (File Mission Houses and Centers America, p. 1)
4. A 2.5 Acre piece of land was bought by Dr. Ahsan Ullah Zafar for \$ 62500 in Willingboro and donated. (General file America 1984, p. 280-81)
5. A6-acres piece of land was acquired in Detroit. (File Zafar Sarwar 1984-5, p. 17 and General file America 1984, p. 245)
6. Four Acres land was bought in Los Angeles.
7. A beautiful building was procured for \$ 450,000 in Queens after selling old New York mission house. (General File Mission America 1984, p. 245-6)
8. Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Cleveland bought a piece of land for \$ 50,000. (Letter Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad 1985-11-30, File Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, 1985, pp. 60-2)

9. Land area approximately one acre (0.82 acre), cost \$17,000 in 1985. Portland Rizwan Mosque built and inaugurated in 1987.

Khalifatul-Masih IV inaugurated Mosque/Mission Houses at the following sites.

1. Mosque at Willingboro
2. Mosque and Mission House in Philadelphia, PA
3. Mosque at Tucson.
4. Rizwan Mosque in Portland OR.

(File No. 3, London, p. 4)

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV laid foundation stones of following Mosques/Mission Houses: Mosque and National Headquarter at Washington D.C., Detroit and Los Angeles.

Abid Hanif bought land for Mosque and Mission House in Boston. (London File no. 3, p. 2-5)

Functional Jamā'ats in the US:

1. Chicago
2. Rochester
3. New York
4. Pittsburgh
5. Detroit
6. Philadelphia
7. Dayton
8. Boston
9. Streamwood
10. Cleveland
11. Tucson
12. Los Angeles
13. New Orleans
14. Milwaukee
15. St. Louis
16. Waukegan
17. York
18. Washington D.C.
19. Willingboro
20. Baltimore

There were other chapters: Miami FL, St. Paul, MN, San Jose CA, Seattle, WA (Ahmadiyya Gazette USA Jan-Feb 1990, pp. 13-4), Portland OR, etc.

The number of mosques has continued to increase in the US with

the purchase of existing buildings and construction of new mosques from ground up. Below is a listing of mosques numerated in 1990. It appears that some parts of the information need a thorough review.

- 1925 Sadiq Mosque, Chicago IL
 - 1950 Fazl Mosque, Washington, D.C.
 - 1952 Fazl-e-Umar Mosque Dayton, OH
 - 1974 Sadiq Mosque, St. Louis, MO
 - 1983 Yousaf Mosque Tucson, AZ
 - 1985 Bait-uz-Zafar New York, NY
 - 1985 Bait-ul Hameed Los Angeles, CA
 - 1987 Bait-ul-Wahid Willingboro, NJ
 - 1987 Bait-ul Ahad, Cleveland, OH
- Mosques with Mission Houses

Date	Place	Approx. Value
1925	Chicago, IL (1925)	30,000
1950	Washington, DC	1,500,000
1952	Dayton-OH	*30,000
1974	St. Louis, MO	40,000
1982	Philadelphia, PA	42000
1983	Tucson, AZ	*82000
1983	Chicago, IL	400,000
1984	Baltimore, MD	40,000
1984	Willingboro, NJ	*300,000
1984	York, PA	25000
1984	Zion, IL	40,000
1985	Los Angeles, CA	1,350,000
1985	New York	600,000
1987	New Orleans	40,000
1987	New Jersey	230,000
1988	San Francisco CA	250,000
1988	Dayton OH	20,000
1990	Houston TX	50,000

*Mosques donated. Others were purchased. (Ahmadiyya Gazette USA June-July 1990, p. 7). The list missed 1987 Portland Rizwan Mosque, \$300,000. Please consult other lists in this compilation for further information.

Alabama / Tennessee

Dr. Lutf ur Rehman/Younus M Ismail



Masjid Mahmood. 101 Maple Street, Smyrna, TN 37167

State of Tennessee lies in the middle of the Bible Belt of America. In fact, it is considered to be the buckle of this belt. It is a very conservative and deeply religious society. Members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community have been living in this part of the country for more than thirty years. Gradually over the years the number of members has grown and now we have an active community of more than 100 members. In August of 2009, we acquired a church and converted it into a mosque. Some renovations were required, which were completed in January of 2010. On 20 March 2010 the mosque was formally inaugurated with prayers and celebrations. Many prominent Jamā'at figures were present. Among them, Missionary Naseem Mahdi, Missionary Azhar Hanif, Malik Masoud and Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad (Present Amir) traveled from different parts of the country. Many non-Ahmadi guests were also part of this ceremony.

By the grace and mercy of God, the Almighty, Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Alabama/Tennessee chapter was established in 1992. There were some families in the area who lived here for many years. Dr. Hussain Sajid was the earliest Ahmadi in the area who lived in Murfreesboro with his wife and three children since early eighties. In 1987, Dr. Mian Muhammad Abbas moved to Huntsville, AL with his family. Two other families lived in Huntsville at that time.

In the state of Tennessee and Alabama, a total of 5 Ahmadi families were living in the late eighties. They started meeting in houses on monthly basis just like a Jamā'at meeting. Religious presentations were made, and instructions were provided to children. In 1992 Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Alabama/Tennessee chapter was officially initiated. A missionary traveled from Washington headquarters and conducted elections of Jamā'at. Dr.

Mian Muhammad Abbas was elected President. At that time there were a total of seven families in Alabama and Tennessee. Kentucky was also included in this newly formed Jamā'at. This is a large area spread over three states, hundreds of miles apart. Meetings were organized on monthly basis and were rotated between different cities.

Gradually additional families moved in the local Jamā'at area and the number kept on increasing. Main cities where Ahmadi families settled were Nashville, Huntsville, Chattanooga, Lexington, Somerset, and Memphis. Regular monthly meetings were held in houses on rotational basis. Members travelled hundreds of miles to participate. Annual picnic and annual Tarbiyat meetings are held since 2001. Children classes and overnight camps are also held under the care of Lajna.

There were 10 physician families in the local Jamā'at. They participated actively in Humanity

First, USA. In 2013, a Charity Clinic was established under the leadership of Dr. Younus M. Ismail in Section, AL, a small rural town. This clinic has been functioning since then and providing valuable financial support to Humanity First, USA, as well as serving the people of this small town who do not have health insurance. Jamā'at also participated actively in financial sacrifices for the building of Tahir Heart Institute in Rabwah in 2005, and then again for the building of Nasir Hospital, Guatemala, in 2018.

In 2008 a large family moved into Nashville consisting of more than 30 members. This family moved from Pakistan because of persecution. As a result of this and other families moving into Nashville, meetings were in Nashville on permanent basis. A need for our own mosque was becoming obvious. Jamā'at members started raising money with the permission of our National Ameer, Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar. In August of 2008 a suitable church building became available

and it was purchased for the Jamā'at Ahmadiyya, Alabama/Tennessee.

The newly acquired mosque was a church so no zoning permissions were necessary. The buying price was \$375,000. The total area of the church was around 5,500 square feet. It was an old building and required renovation. Over next few months renovations were carried out. Prayer halls were made. A separate bathroom was built for the Lajna. Meeting space was organized. Kitchen was completely renovated with new cabinets, appliances and counter tops. The cost of renovation was \$50,000. A sign was posted outside the mosque bearing the logo of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya and name of the mosque. Ameer USA wrote to Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V seeking a name for the mosque. Khalifatul-Masih graciously suggested "Masjid Mahmood." Official opening of the mosque was scheduled in March of 2009. Several prominent personalities of National Jamā'at, USA came for the occasion, including Missionary Naseem

Mahdi, and Missionary Azhar Hanif. Many local people and local media attended the ceremony. The account was published in the local media.

Our local Jamā'at has continued to increase over the years. Kentucky was separated and made a new Jamā'at in 2009. Our current membership is around 150 people. Chapter is still spread over two states, Alabama and Tennessee. The activity center of Chapter is now in Nashville, with regular Jum'ah prayers and meetings. Children classes are also held regularly. Tahir Academy was established in 2018. Members also go to regional and national meetings.

Presidents:

Dr. Mian Muhammad Abbas:
1992 – 1999

Saleem Ahmad Hayat: 1999 –
2003

Dr. Lutf ur Rehman: 2003 –
2019

Dr. Younus Muhammad Ismail:
2019 – Present.



Arizona: Phoenix

Phoenix is the capital and most populous city in Arizona, with 1,660,272 people (as of 2018). It is also the fifth most populous city in the United States, and the only state capital with a population of more than one million residents.

Phoenix is the anchor of the Phoenix metropolitan area, also known as the Valley of the Sun, which in turn is part of the Salt River Valley. The metropolitan area is the 11th largest by population in the United States, with approximately 4.73 million people as of 2017.

Phoenix is the seat of Maricopa County and the largest city in the state at 517.9 square miles (1,341 km²), more than twice the size of Tucson and one of the largest cities in the United States. (from Wikipedia)

Chapter History



Bait-ul-Amn located in Chandler Arizona. Front view from north.

Phoenix is known as a valley of the Sun. It is surrounded by mountains; winter is mild and the summer is hot. Phoenix is the capitol of the state of Arizona also known as state of Grand Canyon.

In 1981 the first Ahmadi family moved from Douglas AZ to Phoenix is the family of Munir Ahmad Malik with his wife and three children. Later in 1984 Syed Sajid Ahmad with his wife and two children moved from San Jose California. In 1985 Anis M. Shaikh with his wife and three children moved from Los Angeles.

With the presence of three families, Phoenix Jamā'at was established around 1986 and the first President of Phoenix Jamā'at was Syed Sajid Ahmad, and the first Secretary General was Munir Ahmad Malik. Since then, following are the

names of the Elected Presidents of Phoenix Jamā'at and the years they served in this capacity.

1986—1989: Syed Sajid Ahmad

1989—1999: Munir Ahmad Malik

1999—2007: Anis M. Shaikh

2007---2010: Latif Ahmed

2010---2019: Shahzad Amjad

2019-... : Zaheer Sajid

Current Missionary: Faheem Arshad since 2019.

When Phoenix Jamā'at was established in 1986, Jamā'at members few in numbers used to meet for Jum'a prayers and monthly meetings at each other homes and later at Dobson library hall or sometime renting place for Jum'a or Eid prayers. Around 1997 when Phoenix Jamā'at membership grew to around 40, we leased a place in

Chandler for our Jamā'at activities and have been using the leased place till August, 2006.

In September of 2006 by the sheer grace of God we bought our own Mosque that we have been striving, aspiring, and praying for a long time. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, Allah Tala granted to our humble supplications. Khalifat-ul-Masih named this mosque as BAIT-ul-AMN. Our Mosque address is 2035 West Elliot Road Chandler Arizona 85224. May Allah enable us to make the best use of our Mosque and keep it very populated all the time. Currently we are in the process of renovating our mosque and making it more practical and useful for our needs. Our current total Jamā'at Tajneed is now around 98 with 35 families.



Front views of Bait-ul-Amn (left). Back view from southwest.



Bait-ul-Amn, back view from southeast.

Arizona: Tucson



Introduction

The 2010 United States Census put the population of Tucson AZ at 520,116, while the 2015 estimated population of the entire Tucson metropolitan statistical area (MSA) was 980,263. Tucson is the second most-populated city in Arizona behind Phoenix, both of which anchor the Arizona Sun Corridor. The city is 108 miles (174 km) southeast of Phoenix and 60 miles (97 km) north of the U.S.–Mexico border. Tucson is the 33rd largest city and the 58th largest metropolitan area in the United States (2014).

Tucson, Arizona is in the southwest mountainous region of Sonoran Desert in United States of America. This city is one of the oldest

cities of southwest region, very rich with copper mines, Spanish culture and historic monuments. Geographically this city seems to resemble Rabwah, a city founded by Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan as a headquarter in Pakistan after 1947. Like Spain it was waiting for the message of true Islam.

Dr. Rasheed Khan a prominent surgeon was practicing here. Dr. Khan is the grandson of Hardhat Sufi Ghulam Mohammad, a Companion of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, and first missionary in charge of Mauritius.

Dr. Zafar Qureshi, a prominent anesthesiologist served and retired from American Navy as Lt.

Commander, moved to Tucson to practice here. Dr. Qureshi is the son of Qureshi Mohammed Yousuf of Bareilly and grandson of Hafiz Sakhawat Husain, a learned scholar of Islam. Dr. Qureshi felt the warmth of love of his hometown here in this city and decided to settle here.

These two medical practitioners opened a passage for their relatives to migrate and to make this city their new homeland, in a country which guarantees the religious freedom. As the time passed, a good number of these two families migrated to Tucson and settled here. All these immigrants from these two families have a great link and bond of Ahmadiyyat.

A new chapter of Ahmadiyyat emerges in Tucson:

During July 1977, Brother Ishaq M Qureshi migrated to USA and

settled in Tucson. He had served on several responsible posts of

Ahmadiyya Community in different cities of Pakistan. He started shaping

organizational structure of Jamā'at. Tucson Jamā'at elected M Ishaq Qureshi as president. His Aamla consisted of Dr. Zafar Qureshi as Nā'ib Sadr, Azhar Qureshi as General Secretary, Mabashir Qureshi as Finance Secretary and Amtul Rasheed Qureshi as Sadr

Lajna. Congregational prayers and Jamā'at meetings were being held at homes. Interfaith meetings were held and Christian and Sikh guests presented their views to promote peace and love among all human beings. Ta'lim-o-Tarbiyat of youngsters and propagation of True

Islam got a great momentum. Lajna, Khuddām and Ansar looking forward and waiting for the day when they will have a central place, a mosque. They were praying to Allah, sending letters to Khalifat-ul-Masih for special prayers. Prayers were heard by the Almighty Allah.



The First Mosque of Ahmadi Muslims on West Coast in Tucson

During 1979, Qureshi, Mohammed Yousuf visited USA. He was coming from Rabwah, Pakistan and his ears were missing Adhan and eyes were missing the mosque here in Tucson. He expressed his immense desire to build a mosque in

Tucson. Dr. Qureshi honored his desire and started to look around the options. There were two options, a land little away from the central city and a land on speedway in the heart of city and very close to I-10 Interstate Highway. Qureshi,

Mohammed Yousuf selected the land on Speedway stating that the mosque here will give an interstate message of peace through Speedway and I-10.

Dr. Qureshi offered to pay all expenses for land and for building

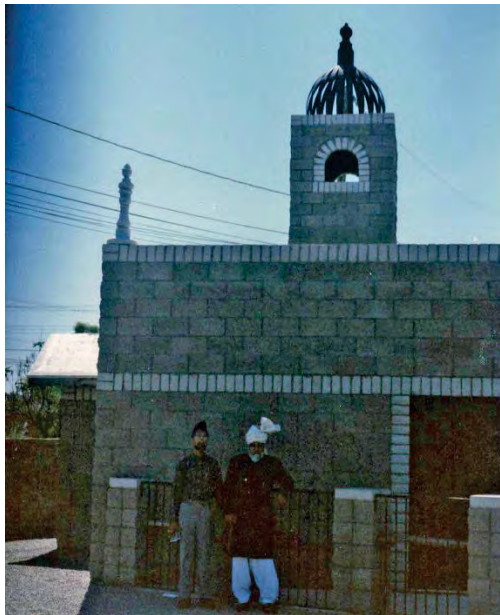
the mosque. After getting an approval from Khalifat-ul-Masih III, and the City of Tucson, work was started. There was a surge of Waqar-e-'Amal among Jamā'at members. Serenity and joy were reflecting from the faces of volunteers; Br.'s Sohail, Tariq, Azhar, Qadeer, Ibrahim, Arshad, Sajid and late Mubashir Qureshi. Muneer Malik played a key role to keep of all accounting of this

noble project.

As per instructions of Khalifat-ul-Masih, Maulana Ata-Ullah-Kaleem, Missionary and Ameer Jamā'at USA laid down the foundation brick of the mosque in 1982. Then the building was rising over the ground and those moments were being preserved in pictures. When these pictures were shown to

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih III, he desired to put a dome over the mosque. Khalifat-ul-Masih III declared about this mosque in Jalsa-e-Salana Rabwah in 1983. The Masjid was inaugurated on March 13, 1983, by Maulana Kaleem as the First Mosque of Ahmadi Muslims on the west coast.

Re-emergence of a more beautiful mosque, the Yousuf Mosque



Left: First mosque that was demolished due to road expansion.

Right: New mosque at the site of the old mosque on the remaining lot reduced by the expansion of the road.

Later another larger mosque/activity center with the same design has been built to the east of this mosque.

In 1984, the city decided to expand the road, and contacted the Jamā'at to offer compensation for the land. Jamā'at formed a committee under the presidentship of M. Ishaq Qureshi. Other members were Dr. Zafar Qureshi, Syed Sajid Ahmad, Muneer Malik, Late Mubashir Qureshi and Azhar Qureshi. Headquarter considered the recommendations of the committee and allowed to demolish the structure to construct a new one in its place.

There was a vision of Jamā'at to have more beautiful mosque. Naseer, an architect in London who designed the Masjid Basharat of

Cordova, Spain, designed the new mosque, the Yousuf Mosque of Tucson. Construction begins in 1986 and was led by the then Missionary in Charge, Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad who laid the first brick from Masjid-e-Aqsa Qādiān. Before the historic inauguration, a huge team was formed to do Waqar-e-Amal for the new Mosque. All members including men, women and children went out to their way to make sure that the mosque was completed on time before the arrival of Khalifat-ul-Masih IV.

The Mosque was completed and was waiting to be inaugurated by the blessed hands of Khalifat-ul-Masih

IV. He opened the doors of Yousuf Mosque on October 21, 1987. In his speech he said, "I promised Late Qureshi (Yousuf) that whenever I visit America next, I will visit Tucson, and I am here today because of that." A press conference was held in his honor. Mayor of Tucson presented him a key to the city. Local Newspapers and TV media gave a proper and positive coverage.

Again, Jamā'at got a center place to continue their activities. In addition to regular prayers, Friday prayers, auxiliary meetings, Eid gatherings this mosque also hosted inter religions meetings, meetings for solidarity and peace.

Presidential Leadership of Tucson Jamā'at

M. Ishaq Qureshi was president Jamā'at for 24 years. He founded the Tucson chapter, organized it and gave a great strength. He deserves a lot of credit to raise Tucson Jamā'at up and high to this level. He insisted young members to come forward and take leadership.

M. Akram Kashmiri was elected as president of Jamā'at in 2003. After getting approval from center,

he took over the charge and tried to infuse a new energy and momentum into Jamā'at. His services to Langar-e-Masih-e-Mau'ūd are well appreciated throughout USA. He tried to put a new energy in members. During his leadership, Khuddam became more active. He contributed his services to Jamā'at on this post from 2003 to 2019.

M. Anwar Qureshi was elected as

president of Jamā'at in 2019. After getting an approval from Jamā'at, he is trying his best to keep up all the things in order, giving more opportunities to members to come forward and to share the leadership. He is very prompt in reminding the members for their responsibility and keeping them update. His simplicity is very much appreciated by all members. We all wish him a great success.

Other Auxiliary Bodies:

Ansarullah, Lajna Imā'illāh, Khuddam, Atfāl, all these auxiliary bodies are very active, hosting local and regional Ijtimā.

Lajna is very active in hosting and training different activities and arranges different training

programs.

Khuddām are very much organized, participate in propagation programs and play games at Jamā'at's community center.

Anṣār have a very wide range of

discussion forum. In their meetings they try to sum up the current problems. Ansarullah got shield for 3rd position in medium Majalis of USA in 2017 from the hand of Khalifat-ul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) in London, U.K.





Community Center and Social Activities

Another land next to mosque was purchased by Dr. Zafar Qureshi in 2004 to build a community center and donated to Jamā'at. This building is structurally looking alike Yousuf Mosque. It has 4 rooms to use for different offices, one big hall and a full flashed kitchen. Main Hall is used for Eid Prayers for men and

ladies stay in the main hall of mosque. This house has indoor games, main attraction for Khuddam. This house has hosted many social events including Iftar parties, Thanksgiving celebrations and Interfaith Symposiums attended by people of different faith. This house is named 'Hajra House' on the

name of grandmother of Dr. Zafar Qureshi and this house is considered a symbol of love. It hosts almost all the parties. This place is used for Blood drives, 4th of July feast and Coffee and Cake meetings since last several years.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Cemetery in Tucson

As everyone must go back to his/her Maula-e-Ḥaqīqī, True Friend, Allah, Jamā'at was blessed to have purchased a parcel 151 graves at

South Lawn Cemetery in Tucson. 51 graves are allotted for Mūsiyan, out of which 13 graves were paid by Headquarter. This cemetery is

hardly 5 miles away from Yousuf Mosque.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission House in Tucson

A four-bedroom house fully furnished, very close to the mosque is ever ready to accommodate our

missionaries and the guests. Recently when Faheem Abdullah was appointed as Missionary in

Charge for Tucson and Phoenix resided at the Mission House.

Tahir Academy in Tucson:

Since 1977 when Jamā'at was being organized and prayers and

meetings were being held at the

houses, Lajna Imā'illāh was actively undertaking the responsibility to teach young generations about Ahmadiyyat in Islam. Islam as a

message of peace was a very different version of Islam for people here in Tucson. Now Tahir Academy has taken over this responsibility and

very successfully working on this mission to groom the young generation.

Participation in Book Fair at University of Arizona

University of Arizona is one of the pioneer University of west coast of USA and hold a very high position in the field of Astronomy and space science. It holds a 3 days book fair every year in March. It is a huge celebration participated by several

hundred organizations and visited by thousands of people. Ahmadiyya Jamā'at participates in this fair very dynamically. Our stall spread over 3 to 4 spots. Translations of Holy Quran in several languages, other literature is a great source of

attraction. Jamā'at members with a heart touching smile remain ready to answer any question under the banner 'Love for All, and Hatred for None.'

Additional assets of Ahmadiyya Community in Tucson

There is a duplex next to the mosque housing Ahmadi Muslim tenants. It was purchased and donated to Jamā'at by Dr. Zafar Qureshi. In between this house and our mission house, there is a private residence of an Ahmadi family. In this way these four properties are in

a row and Hajra House is in the back of Yousuf Mosque.

Additionally, the Jamā'at has a parcel of 537 acre of land donated to Jamā'at in a city near to Tucson which has a potential of opportunity and growth for Jamā'at and for the

coming future generations.

Ahmadiyya Jamā'at Tucson holding the flag is moving onward on the path of true Islam. May Almighty Allah be with us to give us a strength to win the hearts of people with love for Ahmadiyyat in Islam, Amen.



Yousuf Mosque and Hajra House with identical look sit adjacent to each other on a main thoroughfare in Tucson AZ.

(Photo: Syed Sajid Ahmad)

California: Bay Point



Hazrat Khalifatul-Masseih IV addressing members at Dar-us-Salaam Mosque in 1989

The Population of Bay Point is around 20,000 persons and the members of the Chapter that live in this area now number around 250. The Bay Point Chapter was created in 2003. It covers all of Contra Costa County as well as Sonoma and Solono Counties.

The first president of this Chapter was Naveed Ashraf until 2010. Missionary Irshad Malhi served as the regional missionary based in the town of Bay Point formerly part of West Pittsburg residing in the Mission house at 520 Pacifica Ave, Bay Point, California. During this period, a major project for the re-beautification of the mission house and mosque property was undertaken. A new lawn was installed, fencing was replaced, and the parking lot was completed that

was a dirt area. A new asphalt parking lot was installed.

In July of 2010, Khurram Shah was elected as the President of the Bay Point Chapter.

Missionary Mubasher Ahmad was assigned as the new regional Missionary for Northern California region in 2010 and resided in a rented house in Milpitas (Silicon Valley) until 2013.

In late 2013, Missionary Salman Shaikh was assigned to the Northern California Region and was based out of Bay Point. In 2014, Khalifatul-Masih V assigned four new graduates of Jami'ah Ahmadiyya Canada with the responsibility to come to Bay Point and distribute flyers. They were Missionary Azhar Goraiah, Missionary Galib Baten, Missionary Adnan Haider and

Missionary Fahad Khawaja. Over 250,000 flyers were distributed mainly in the Bay Area and other areas of California, Nevada and Arizona.

During this period, Khadim Shah and other Da'een Ilallah (Callers to Allah) put up four Tabligh (outreach) stalls every week at various flea markets over a period of fifteen years.

The Bay Point Chapter excelled in the blood drive efforts that were launched by national headquarters often taking the lead nationally.

In 2015, the San Francisco/Oakland Chapter was divided between Silicon Valley and Bay Point Jamā'at with the majority of the members joining Bay Point.

California: Los Angeles

Introduction

The Los Angeles Jamā'at, formerly known as LA East, LA West, LA Riverside, and LA Inland is the largest Jamā'at in California. It covers an expanse of land from the southern deserts of Riverside County to the cascading mountains of the Angeles National Forest. Its geographic area includes world-renowned coastlines and beaches of the Pacific Ocean, notable desert landscapes like the Mojave Desert and Joshua Tree National Park, as

well as being home to numerous mountain peaks including the tallest peak in Southern California Mt. San Gorgonio. It is home to notable areas like Los Angeles, Hollywood, Venice, Riverside, and Orange County. Throughout the decades the Los Angeles Jamā'at has had a storied history; from the seeds planted by just a few members to growing into one of the largest Jamā'ats in the USA, the Los Angeles chapter. From its humble beginnings in a bustling

city to its construction and reconstruction of a grand mosque in a rural farming town. It has borne many different names and has been home to exemplary pioneers of the Jamā'at. It is known for its unique temperate climate and unique attitude of hospitality. After decades of change, the story of the Los Angeles Jamā'at is presented in the following sections.



Visits:

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV

Visit Los Angeles Chapter (1987, 1989, 1994)

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V

Visit Los Angeles Chapter (2013)

Noble Personalities:

Mirza Mubarak Ahmad, Wakil-ut-Tabshier

Mirza Wasim Ahmad, Ameer and Nazir e-A'la, Qadian

Hazrat Sahibzada MM. Ahmad
 Maulana Abdul Malik Khan
 Dr. Abdul Salam
 Hafiz Saleh Mohammad Aladin
 Mr. Lubus, Ameer Jamā'at Indonesia
 Abdullah Wahgsrhauser, Ameer Germany
 Mir Mahmood Ahmad
 Maulana Ataullah Kalim
 Hafiz Jibr, Nā'ib Ameer Ghana
 Mahmood Ahmad Bengali,

Ameer Australia.

Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Advocate

Presidents

First Los Angeles Jamā'at:

Rahmat Jamal
 Dr. Hamid ur Rahman

Los Angeles East

Jamā'at(1996-2019):

Dr. Hamid ur Rahman
 Dr. Ahsan Mahmood Khan

Los Angeles West Jamā'at (1996-2019):

Chaudry Jalal Uddin
Zahid Main

Santa Maria Jamā'at (1992-1993):

Ikram Ulhaq Jattala

Los Angeles Inland Jamā'at (2007-2019):

Asim Ansari
Faheem Ahmed

Los Angeles Riverside Jamā'at (2016-2019):

Muzaffar Siddiqi

Combined Los Angeles Jamā'at (2019-):

Naser Noor

Missionaries

Mufti Ahmad Sadiq (1981-1983)
Chaudhry Munir Ahmed (1983-1990)

Inam ul Haq Kauser (1990-2004)
Syed Shamshad Ahmad Nasir (2004-2014)

Mohammed Zafarullah Hanjra (2014-2017)

Malik Tariq Mahmood (2015-)
Irshad Malhi (2017-)

Lajna Auxiliary Sadr:**First Los Angeles Jamā'at:**

Amtul Hakim Khan
Dr. Aziza Rahman
Shameem Sheikh

Los Angeles East Jamā'at:

Dr. Aziza Rahman
Waheeda Malik
Dr. Amtul Mujeeb
Sadiqa Rashid Malik
Hina Mahmud

Los Angeles Inland Jamā'at:

Mubarka Sadiq
Naila Ahmed

Los Angeles Riverside Jamā'at:

Sadiqa Rashid Malik

Ansar Za'im:**First Los Angeles/ LA East Jamā'at:**

Inyatullah Khan
Dr. Tahir Khan
Chaudry Mahmood
Rashid Mian

Los Angeles Inland

Imran Jattala
Fawad Khan

Los Angeles Riverside County

Ramzan Jattala
Moinuddin Siraji

Los Angeles West

Ibrahim Naiem

Compinbed Los Angeles Jamā'at:

Muzaffar Siddiqi

Khuddam Qa'id:**Los Angeles/LA East Majlis:**

Anwer Khan
Ramzan Jattala
Ashraf Rajpoot
Jawaid Matin
Dr. Waseem Sayed
Aftab Khan
Amjad Khan
Monas Chaudry
Yaser Khan
Arshad Khan
Anas Chaudry
Saif ur Rahman

Ijaz Sayed
Usama Muzaffar
Dr. Tahir Khan
Hassan Syed

Los Angeles West Jamā'at

Armaghan Malik
Manar Ahmad
Mansoor Ishfaq

Los Angeles Inland Jamā'at:

Nauman Mubashar
Fahad Rajpoot
Fawad Khan
Syed Talha Ahmad
Luqman Malik
Amaan Khan

Los Angeles Riverside Jamā'at:

Usama Muzaffar
Anique Tahir
Abu Bakar Rana

Combined Los Angeles Jamā'at:

Faiq Malik

History

- a) On radio
 - i) Voice of Islam Radio Show Chino Mosque
 - ii) Ladies Voice of Islam Radio Show
- b) On TV
 - i) Fox News
 - ii) Fox 11 News
 - iii) KCAL 9 News
 - iv) KTLA News
 - v) ABC 7 News
- c) f) In print media
 - i) Chino Champion
 - ii) Los Angeles Times
 - iii) Daily Breeze (San Bernardino County)
 - iv) Orange County Register

Los Angeles Jamā'at Timeline:

The 1950s:

Initial Seeds in Los Angeles

The decade of the Fifties saw Los Angeles as a burgeoning region. Americans replaced anxieties of the second great war with the merit in hard work and rebuilding prosperity in the region. It was under this newfound spirit that the story of the Los Angeles Jamā'at begins. In 1954 the first Los Angeles Ahmadi Mission house was established by the late Rahmat Jamal in his home. The first establishment was a small one-bedroom residential but quickly grew into a larger house in West Hollywood less than a mile from the famous Sunset Strip. This mission house would have been a quick stop in between Santa Monica beach and the heart of Downtown Los Angeles. This house was established due to the great sacrifices of local members, notably by Rahmat Jamal and his family. Meetings and Jum'ah prayers were advertised in the Los Angeles Times as well as in a weekly radio program established by local members. These adverts garnered great interest from community leaders and academics from the nearby UCLA campus.

The 1960s

This decade saw slow growth as the small membership struggled for organization in the evolving environment around them. They continued to remain focused and pave the way for the decades to come. It was after years of quiet work that one of the early major milestones of the Los Angeles Jamā'at would occur in the following decade.

The 1970s

The Official Establishment of the Los Angeles Jamā'at

The Los Angeles Jamā'at chapter was officially established in 1972. The first meeting of this newly formalized Jamā'at was held in conjunction with the celebration of Eid. In this meeting earlier members included Rahmat Jamal and his family, Ikram Jattala, Atika Sadeeqa, and the visiting Sharif Ahmad Bajwa. In 1972 the membership of the Los Angeles Jamā'at was roughly 15 members. The first elected Amila included Rahmat Jamal as President, Dr. Tahir Khan as General secretary and Ashraf Malik as Finance secretary.

Members of the Jamā'at in 1972

When the Los Angeles Jamā'at was finally established its membership included: Mr. and Mrs. Rahmat Jamal, Mr. and Mrs. Sahib Shahab, Mr. and Mrs. Ashraf Malik, Ikram Jattala, Tahir Khan, Atiqa Sadiqa and Khadija

Jawad.

Activities in the 1970s

The decade saw continuous meetings held in various members' homes as well as in local parks. This decade also saw the first weekly Dars-ul-Qur'an and Iftar dinners during the month of Ramadan. General Secretary Anwer Mahmood Khan organized the Dars to take place in varying members' homes. Among the hosts were Dr. Tahir Khan, Dr. Khalid Sheikh, Rashid Mian Syed, Sister Khadija Jawad, Zahoor Malik, Dr. Gulzar Ahmad, Lateef Malik, and Brigadier Mansoor. This decade saw continued activities while making use of its members' homes including laying down carpeting in one member's (Anas Shah's) garage as a makeshift prayer hall.

Prolific Visits to Los Angeles

In 1977, the LA Chapter was graced with a special visit from Mirza Mubarak Ahmad, Wakil-ut-Tabshir, in-charge of foreign missions. A gathering was held at Anwer Mahmood Khan's house where the special guest advised members to unite and remain productive in the cause of Allah to foster continued growth. Towards the end of this decade, in 1978, Los Angeles Jamā'at received two additional auspicious visits: one from Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad just four years before his becoming Khalifa. Here, he met with members in a garage established as a makeshift prayer hall. During his visit to Los Angeles, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad stayed at the residence of Dr. Gulzar Ahmad and his family at their home Culver city.

The other notable visit was from respected Missionary Abdul Malik Khan, father of Anwer Mahmood Khan who arrived with his wife. He delivered a notable Jum'ah Khutba in the prayer hall [makeshift garage] and he stressed the need for a bigger space for worship. This memorable address serves as a harbinger for the decade to come.

Shroud of Turin Exhibition in Santa Barbara

In the decade of the 1970s, an exhibition of the Shroud of Turin in Santa Barbara CA was held. Mir Mahmood Ahmad visited Los Angeles to attend the exhibition.

The 1980s

With the end of the previous decade and the start of the 1980s one thing became apparent: with the rapid migration of members into the bustling Los Angeles region a need for a larger space was imminent. The decade started with fervent letters of appeal for prayers

being sent to Khalifatul-Masih the 4th for the blessings of a mosque. From the previous decade, Los Angeles received support from missionary Mir Mahmood Ahmad Nasir who was stationed in San Francisco but had Los Angeles under his guidance, however, in this decade he was followed by Missionary Mufti Ahmad Sadiq who was stationed directly in Los Angeles for a short time. This decade also saw the arrival of Dr. Hamid ur Rahman and his family.

First West Coast Jalsa

The year 1980 saw the blessed institution of Jalsa grace the West Coast region. The first-ever West Coast Jalsa was held in San Francisco presided by the US Ameer and Missionary In-Charge, Mir Mahmud Nasir.

Visit to Mexico Under with Chaudhary Hameedullah

In 1980, Professor Chaudhary Hameedullah visited Los Angeles with specific instructions from Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad to visit Mexico for the purchase of a Roti (Indo-Pak style tortilla) Plant. Gulzar Ahmad arranged for Chaudhry Hameedullah's trip to Mexico and accompanied him on the trip along with his family.

Blessed Mention by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV

In the same year of 1982, the Auxiliary of Lajna in Los Angeles was blessed with a special mention by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV in his Jalsa speech commending their commitment to his advice to observe purdah, particularly in the west.

The Decree of 5 Major Mission Houses

In 1983, during a Khutba Jum'ah, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV announced that there would be five major mission houses in the US, one of which would be in the Los Angeles region.

In this same year, Missionary Chaudhry Munir Ahmad arrived shortly thereafter to be the dedicated missionary for the Los Angeles Jamā'at. This new missionary arrived intending to attain a parcel of land for the Jamā'at to lay the foundation for generations to come. During this time monthly general meetings were held in Culver City at a rented civic facility while Friday prayers were held in the homes of various members organized by the local Jamā'at.

A Parcel of Land for the LA Jamā'at Acquired

In 1984 after years of effort and sacrifice by the initial members of the Jamā'at, a permanent parcel of land was finally acquired; The property for the Chino Mosque was

purchased under the blessed vision of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV who advised Jamā'ats to seek out scalable land of about five acres.

The parcel of land was originally a horse ranch with many fruit trees and walnut trees. Much of the area was undeveloped with large parcels being used as working ranches and farms. The newly acquired land was roughly 35 miles from the major Los Angeles metropolis. This new destination would allow the Jamā'at to truly stretch beyond the concrete walls of the now-aging Los Angeles city proper.

Local Opposition to the Building of the Mosque

In the time following the purchase and planned development of this newly acquired parcel in 1984-85 the local Jamā'at community experienced newfound opposition to their plans to build a mosque. Community organizers and neighbors feared with prejudice the incoming mosque structure. These early Jamā'at members recall that on a few occasions community organizers would take busloads of residents from the local community to the county building during city planning meetings to oppose the building of the Islamic structure. During these public hearings, neighbors would claim unfounded fear of terrorism and mischief from the local Ahmadi Jamā'at. By the grace of Allah, after deliberation, the county ruled in our favor of the mosque construction.

In light of this newfound opposition, while the initial plan was to build a large double-story structure with a large minaret, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV in his wisdom advised building a single-story structure instead to avoid further distress of the mosque neighbors.

Meeting with the City Mayor

It was under this climate of opposition juxtaposed with the imminent construction of the mosque and a planned visit from Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV that local Jamā'at members went to the Mayor's office to appeal to the city to witness the arrival of Khalifatul-Masih and the blessings of the mosque. During this meeting, it is recounted by the members present, Missionary Chaudhry Munir, Ramzan Jattala, and Ahmad Sadiq, that the mayor made the statement, "[...] If it was up to me, you would never build a mosque over here[...]."

Many years later, when this mayor went on to become a state lawmaker, a friendship between the local Jamā'at and the former mayor blossomed. A notable moment recounted by many local members was the former mayor's acceptance of an invitation to the Jamā'at's Muslih Mau'ūd day program where he apologized to the Jamā'at members for his negligence

and misguidance in the years prior.

The Laying of the Foundation Stone

In 1987, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV blessed the Los Angeles region with a visit to lay the foundation stone for the Chino Mosque, the first Ahmadi Muslim mosque in the region. After this auspicious occasion, local members drove with the Khalifatul-Masih IV in a Qafila (caravan) to the Bay Area.

The Inauguration of Baitul Hameed

Mosque

In 1989 Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV returned to the Los Angeles region for the inauguration of the Chino Mosque which would become known as Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque. During this visit, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV also went to Big Bear, a local mountain that is home to Southern California's highest peak, where he enjoyed nature as well as going on a boat in one of Big Bear's lakes. Local members fondly remember the tour and the delicious barbeque with Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih the 4th.



Muslim sect builds new home in Chino

By CARLA WHEELER
Sun Staff Writer

CHINO — Minus the minarets, the cream-colored building would look like any other rambling California ranch house or mini-mall.

But within the walls of this structure, Muslim worshipers face Mecca and pray five times a day in their new \$1.5 million mosque at 11941 Ramona Ave.

Chino's only mosque belongs to the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Inc., a Muslim sect that believes Jesus survived the Crucifixion and moved to India. The movement claims a membership of 10 million people, who live in Pakistan, India, the United States, England and 120 other countries.

About 500 Ahmadis from as far east as Victorville, as far north as Ventura County and as far south as San Diego are expected to worship in Baitul Hameed Mosque, which means "the house where glorification takes place."

For them, the opening of their first house of God in Southern California is a dream come true.

Local Ahmadis were almost religiously homeless until now, meeting in homes for prayers or renting auditoriums for sermons and celebrations, said Anwar Khan, 44, of Chino Hills.

"I think I've almost achieved

my goal in the United States by living close to a mosque, working close to a mosque and (taking) my children to a mosque," Khan said.

Like many other Ahmadis, Khan moved to the Chino area recently to be near the mosque. Only a handful of followers lived in the area when the mosque was proposed four years ago, but now 60 families live here, he said.

Mosques are important to Muslims, who believe God is more pleased when people form a brotherhood and worship together rather than separately, said Khan, who donated \$10,000 to help build the Chino mosque.

"Congregational prayers have more reward from God," said Kahn, an executive with Beckman Instruments in Brea. "Congregational prayers have 27 times more reward than praying alone."

Though the mosque is a reality today, the Muslims faced rough waters along the way. When the Ahmadis announced in 1985 that they planned to build a two-story mosque in a semi-rural neighborhood, about 50 residents balked.

Some neighbors claimed the architectural style of the mosque would clash with the ranch-style homes nearby. They also were worried that the worshipers might be too noisy.

But within six months, the sect and neighbors had reached a compromise. The Ahmadis scaled back plans from a two-story,



DAVID SCHREIBER/The Sun

FINAL WORK: Ashraf Rajpoot, left, designer and contractor, and painter Chris Hillman, right, put finishing touches on the minaret of the new Baitul Hameed Mosque in Chino.

16,000-square-foot building to a one-story, 11,000-square-foot mosque.

"The (neighbors') attitude changed from, 'They'll never build the place. I'll burn it down' - to 'Ho hum, who cares,'" said one neighboring resident, Thomas Stapp Sr. "(And) the hot-head rednecks have moved out."

Stapp said that architectural-ly the mosque is a "typical California" style except for the minarets. "We don't have any mushrooms (domes) in our area," he said. "I don't think (the mosque) is a beautiful building. (But) I don't find it personally objec-

tionable."

Joe and Carmen Canchola, who live next door to the mosque, do consider it a beautiful building and say the Ahmadis are good neighbors.

"They're so friendly to us," said Carmen Canchola, whose husband bought their Chino ranch in 1948. "I'm Catholic and we sing in church. These people just pray silently. Everything is fine to us."

The Cancholas say the Ahmadis come over and offer to help with the chores or do anything else that needs doing. "They're

See MOSQUE/D2



Continued Friendship and Repair within the Community

As mentioned earlier, the plans that were laid out to construct the Chino mosque were met with great community opposition. One of the sources of this opposition was an adjacent neighbor to the mosque property. It is recounted by local members that one day one of his animals was struggling, having gotten stuck in some way on this neighbor's property. Upon seeing this animal in distress local members rushed over to the neighbor's property to aid this animal. Upon seeing this selfless act, the neighbor was so impressed with the Jamā'at members that he not only relinquished his opposition and prejudice but would from that day regularly offer any help to the Jamā'at, routinely offering to cut the grass on the mosque property.

Description of the Original Chino Mosque Construction

In 1989 construction of the mosque was complete. The mosque compound hosted two single-story house structures in addition to the primary mosque building. The first house was to the immediate right upon entering the compound gate; this was the missionary's residence. The second, directly across from this structure was the guest house. Those that grew up in the Jamā'at over time will remember this guest house being the warm and welcoming residence of respected Rahmat Jamal. In addition to these two smaller structures, there was the main building of the mosque itself. This structure was constructed as a single story, with white exterior walls and a red-stone roof. The main mosque building was equipped with two prayer halls (men's and ladies'),

a men's and ladies' courtyard, an enclosed men's lobby, a conference room, an auditorium named the Tahir Hall as well as a kitchen and multiple administrative offices. In front of the lobby entrance, were sweeping brick steps that went from the lobby on one side and ending near the Tahir Hall on the other. All along with the parameter immediately next to the main mosque building was a ribbon of asphalt which was the width of two-way vehicle traffic. Aside from this ribbon of asphalt the remainder of the property was an open dirt lot that served many functions: it was a parking lot during large events like Eid and Jalsa West Coast, while another part of the site was where the Jalsa tent would be raised.

Khalifatul-Masih IV Recognized by Local Newspaper

We close this decade with a local newspaper, The Chino Champion, naming Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih the 4th as their Man of the Year.

1990s

Visit from Khalifatul-Masih the 4th

Near the start of this decade in 1994 the Los Angeles region was once again blessed with a visit from their beloved Khalifa. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV held question and answer sessions and was met with news reporters who followed his travels.

Los Angeles Jamā'at Chapters Divided into two: LAE and LAW

The Jamā'at was growing at a very rapid pace. In 1996, due to the number of members and geographic distribution, it was decided that the large Los Angeles Jamā'at should be divided. As a result, we see the

formation of Los Angeles East (LAE) which was established with a roughly 30-mile radius around the Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque in Chino and Los Angeles West (LAW) which included Los Angeles city proper, and everything within a 15 to 20-mile radius of the city as well as everything north the city. Soon after the LAW Jamā'at purchased a property in the city of Hawthorne a few miles southwest of Los Angeles city proper.

Bait-ul-Hameed featured in 'Mosques around the World'

In 1994 a pictorial for Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque entitled: 'Mosques around the World' was edited by Anwer Mahmood Khan under the auspices of the then Ameer Jamā'at USA, M.M. Ahmad. This publication featured a short portion of Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque as well as many other grand mosques.

Tahir Academy Begins

Shortly after the inauguration of the Baitul Hameed Mosque, regular Sunday classes were held for children with Anwer Khan, Mahmood Chaudhry, Saeed Saud, and Dr. Munir Khan as teachers. Soon after Rashid Mian Sayed took charge as the first Director of Bait-ul-Hameed Academy, now known as Tahir Academy.

West Coast MKA West Coast Ijtima Moved to LA

At this time the Jamā'at also grew at the auxiliary level. One auxiliary, Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya (MKA) saw this decade bring forth the West Coast MKA Ijtimā', which hosted members for all Chapters on the West Coast of the United States. First MKA regional (west coast) Ijtima was held in San Francisco May 24, 1981 (Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, September 1981).



Los Angeles Jamā'at Reached Santa Maria 1992/1993

During the decade of the 1990s, for a short term, the Los Angeles West Jamā'at expanded as far north as the Central California town of Santa Maria which would serve as the northernmost stop on the way to San Francisco to any weary traveler.

The 2000s

September 11th Terror Attacks

This decade started with continued growth but not without turmoil in the zeitgeist of the nation. With the September 11th, terror attacks in 2001 Muslims around the nation and certainly in the Los Angeles Jamā'at saw an increase in hate and discrimination. Mosques were threatened and in some cases vandalized prompting a mobilization of Jamā'at to perform regular

security duties at the mosque gates. Through this tension, however, the LA Jamā'at along with Jamā'ats across the nation saw increased and strengthened relations with the local communities and community leaders. Community figures and law enforcement became frequent guests of the mosque. This era showed members that we could not thrive by living behind mosque walls but rather needed to maintain open doors to our local communities to continue to preach the message of peace to all and to grow with the community rather than apart from it.

The Passing of Khalifatul-Masih the 4th and the Chino Mosque Fire

In 2004 it was in the early hours of the morning that sorrowful calls went out to each LA Jamā'at member's home. General Secretary Anwer Mahmood Khan related the sad news of the passing of beloved

Khalifatul-Masih the 4th. Members quickly readied their families to congregate at the mosque as soon as possible to mourn this great loss with the community. Members gathered in the prayer halls and observed non-stop coverage on MTA. Eyes wept as they viewed memories and past videos of beloved Khalifatul-Masih the 4th. After hours of coverage, during midday, members observed smoke slowing seeping out of the red-stone roof. This observation raised alarm and upon having a closer look it was confirmed that a fire had erupted in the attic of the mosque. A handful of members rushed to the prayer halls to inform the membership that the mosque was indeed on fire and members needed to evacuate. Members evacuated the prayer halls in an orderly fashion as numerous calls went out to emergency responders for help. After a brief wait, emergency responders arrived but by then the mosque roof and a

large part of the compound were fully engulfed in flames and plumes of smoke. A few members courageously tried to run into the building with fire extinguishers but were overcome with smoke inhalation and had to retreat to leave the matter to emergency responders. For hours, the congregation of members, men, women, and children watched in disbelief as emergency responders fought the blaze. The blaze was finally brought under control with the loss of many of the administrative offices, much of the roof, and the kitchen. By the grace and mercy of Allah, the prayer halls and the Tahir Hall were untouched by the blaze even though the blaze came within inches of the structures. During the fight, MKA, under the local Qā'id khuddamul Ahmadiyya Arshad Khan brought pizza for the first responders much to their surprise. Once the fire was extinguished and after a brief investigation it was discovered that the fire was caused by an electrical short in the attic.

News Coverage of the Chino Mosque Fire

This fire which billowed hundreds of feet of smoke into the sky received heavy news coverage from many media outlets. During the broadcast, the media outlets covered the fire and explained that members had gathered together to mourn the passing of beloved Khali'atul-Masih IV. Khalifatul-Masih IV's photo was projected on national television during this coverage.

The Promised Messiah's Photo

When going through the remains of the attic it was discovered that by a miracle of Allah, a photo canvas of the Promised Messiah's, which was in the epicenter of the blaze came out fully intact and unharmed.

Clean Up and Salvage Efforts after the Fire

After the emergency crews departed, once the remains of the mosque were cooled down, members of the Jamā'at pulled together and went through the debris to salvage what they could and clean up what was left of the remains. During this cleanup, members went through the books to determine which if any were damaged by the fire or by water damage. Many books were salvaged by the grace of Allah.

Restarting Without the Chino Mosque

Due to the extensive fire and smoke damage, much of the mosque property was deemed unsafe for congregational services. In light of this, members returned to the origins of the Los Angeles Jamā'at exhibiting the examples of the Los Angeles Jamā'at pioneers—offering Jum'ah prayers in the nearby Civic Centers, a neighboring Mormon Church, as well as Eid prayers in the Mormon Church. Members were gathered in this Mormon Church for congregation prayers when beloved Khalifatul-Masih the 5th was graced with Khilafat. In addition to this, members would offer salat on the front lawn of the missionaries' residence and offered prayers in various other residences. Every day of Ramadan was celebrated as a community with Ifrari being hosted by the local Chapter in a nearby rented Masonic Lodge until a part of the mosque property was reopened. Sunday Tahir academy classes were offered in a rented middle school. Additionally, Jalsa Salana West Coast was held at a nearby County Fairplex for many of the years that the mosque was being rebuilt.

Missionary Appointment

In 2004, after more than a decade in the Los Angeles region, Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser

received a new Jamā'at assignment and the Los Angeles Jamā'at welcomed Missionary Shamshad Ahmad Nasir.

Los Angeles East Jamā'at Reorganization into LAE and LAI

During the rebuilding period of the Baitul Hameed Mosque, the Jamā'at did not cease to grow. This continued growth led to a further administrative reorganization of the Los Angeles East Jamā'at. This fostered the creation of the Los Angeles Inland Empire Jamā'at (LAE or LAI) which was a culmination of parts of San Bernardino County and a portion of Riverside County, while Los Angeles East Jamā'at (LAE) retained parts of Los Angeles County, Orange County and parts of Riverside and San Bernardino County.

Mosque Reconstruction Completed

In 2009 after years of anticipation and countless hours of work including cleaning, planning, drafting, and coordination with the city, the reconstruction of the Baitul Hameed mosque was finally completed. Leading up to this, once construction commenced, members would visit the construction site routinely, often walking through the progress and showing their kids what would be raised upon the new frames. With the new construction, Bait-ul-Hameed saw its single-story height increased to be double story, while the Tahir hall saw its roof raised to county guidelines. In addition to this new second-story height, the original guest house and missionary house were demolished and relocated. The original site in the front of the mosque (where the missionary residence used to be) was paved over to become a parking lot, while the original guest house site would now become home to a

spacious lawn, fountain, and a covered outdoor patio area. The guest house and missionary residence were moved slightly to the side of the complex to be reconstructed as a two-story building; the lower level of this new building would be the missionary residence while the top floor would become a spacious guest house with multiple rooms and a fully

functioning kitchen. Next to this new missionary and guest residence was the construction of the new Langar-Khana (kitchen and dining) hall. Looking to the back of the mosque property the dirt lot was now fully paved over to become a marked parking area that has an expanse of the entire back of the mosque. A part of the rear-side of the mosque would become the Zahir Basketball Court.

Within the main double-story mosque compound itself, many of the administrative offices were expanded as well as the construction of a dedicated library, khuddam room as well as dedicated Tahir Academy classrooms. Additionally, multifunction rooms, elegant chandeliers as well as new carpets in both of the prayer halls were added.



2010s

Blessed Visit from Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V

This decade found the blessing of receiving beloved Khalifatul-Masih the 5th who during his stay would spend 2 weeks with the members of the Los Angeles Jamā'at. During this visit, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V arrived with a presidential escort from Los Angeles International Airport, where law enforcement momentarily shut down entire sections of the gridlocked highways to allow Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V's motorcade

uninterrupted passage. Upon entering the mosque gates Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V arrived to the hum of young atfal and nasirat reciting poems in concert. This was a landmark occasion that saw angels descend upon the Los Angeles region. During his stay, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V stayed in the missionary residence and held regular family meetings (mulaqats) as well as regular congregational prayers. Khuddam served 24/7 security along with Ansar and Lajna hosting accommodations for all guests. During his visit, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V was received by

state and city leaders at the renowned Beverly Hills Montage Hotel where Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V and the Jamā'at were honored with the key to the city, as well honored by guests like future California Governor Gavin Newsom and future Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. Numerous other officials including congressional leaders and faith leaders were present as well. After this grand reception, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V received a private tour of the world-renowned Getty Museum as well as visits to an iconic Malibu park and Big Bear in the Angeles National Forest. Many

local members had the honor of transporting Hazrat Khalifatul-

Masih V, preparing dishes for him, serving security, and accompanying

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V upon every step of his journey.





Arrival of Khalifatul Masih V (aba) in LA



Big Bear Lake Visit May 13, 2013

© Alislam.org
Photo by: Ajaz Khan

Los Angeles Jamā'at Reorganization: LAE, LAI, LAR

In 2014 the Los Angeles Jamā'at was further reorganized to separate Riverside County from parts of Los Angeles East and Los Angeles Inland

Jamā'at. The new Jamā'at would be known as Los Angeles Riverside Jamā'at. In this same year after a decade of service Missionary, Syed Shamshad Ahmad Nasir would be assigned a new Jamā'at and the local Los Angeles region would welcome Missionary Mohammed Zafarullah Hanjra. In 2015, Los Angeles would

receive a second Missionary assignment for the propagation of Spanish Tabligh and welcome Missionary Malik Tariq Mahmood. Lastly, after 3 years of dedication to the Los Angeles Jamā'at Missionary would be reassigned once more, and Missionary Irshad Malhi would settle in Baitul Hameed Mosque.

Los Angeles Jamā'ats Merged

Under the guidance of Ameer Jamā'at, in 2019 the Los Angeles Jamā'at was merged to become one large Jamā'at once more. The purpose of this merge was to unify the mosque property and community under one administration with an emphasis on the Jamā'at halqa (subchapter) system. This new Los Angeles Jamā'at would absorb what was the Los Angeles West, East Riverside, and Inland Jamā'ats. The auxiliaries of Ansar and Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyyat would follow suit in this

merge, while the auxiliary of Lajna would remain split amongst the previous Jamā'at lines.

Los Angeles Jamā'at Hosts a Multitude of National Events

This decade saw Los Angeles host many national events such as the Jamā'at National Amila meeting, the National Ta'lim-ul-Quran Conference, as well as leadership conferences for Khuddam, Ansar, and Lajna. In addition, the local Jamā'at also hosted auxiliary National Amila meetings for Khuddam, Ansar, and Lajna.

The Discovery of The Grave of a Companion of the Promised Messiah

Following a mention by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih the 5th, Imam Kauser returned to California with the task of obtaining the location of the gravesite of a companion of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Abdul Haq. Upon his arrival, missionary Kauser located and notated in his records the gravesite in the city of Pasadena. During his discovery, a congregation of local members accompanied Imam Kauser to offer prayers at the gravesite.



MKA Hosts its Regional Ijtimā' in the Mountains

To continue to find dynamic modes for the seeds of Allah to be sown in the hearts of its youth the khuddam body of the region held its Regional Khuddam Ijtimā in Big Bear Mountain, which as has been mentioned in the past, has a storied history of visits from khilafat. During these landmark regional Ijtimās, the Khuddam camped out in cabins with thawing snow all around them and upheld the spirit of

physical and spiritual competition.

Masjid Masroor Property

In 2017, Masjid Masroor property was purchased to be a dedicated mosque closer to the city of Los Angeles and to serve the special function of outreach to the Spanish-speaking population.

The 2020s

Global Pandemic

The 2020s saw the Jamā'at, once more, adapt to the ever-changing climate around the world. At the

time, the global pandemic Covid 19, the Corona Virus was finding its way through the global population. Due to this virus, much of the nation was under lockdown orders. Upon receiving these lockdown orders, the mosque congregation was halted to comply with the law of the land and services transition to be fully remote. Thankfully, due to technology, the Los Angeles Jamā'at continued its functions via online video conferencing. This would lead to many landmarks first, like remote General Meetings, weekly Dars-ul-

Quran, and many other functions. During this year for the first time since its inception, both Eid's, Ramadan, and Jum'ah, as well as West Coast Jalsa were halted until being allowed to reopen by the

government. During the outbreak of the pandemic, grocery stores and pharmacies were overrun, and the shutdowns adversely affected elderly members. In response to this, local Jamā'at mobilized to provide

support to its members in need. Making pharmacy and grocery runs as well as stocking up on food stores in the mosques of the region.



22-Member Compassionate Service Society (CSS) Delegation at 2017 Annual Convention in UK.

California: Merced



MERCED CHAPTER, CA members celebrating 100 year of USA Jamā'at on February 15, 2020.

Sitting Right to Left: Nasir Khan, Zahid Iqbal, Mohsin Zia, Aadil Zia, Shahid Sohail, Al Haj Abdur Raqeeb Wali, Ali Abdullah, Alexis Atwood (Abu Bakr) with two sons on lap, Yeshuah and Azariah.

Standing Right to Left: Saqib Khan, Safwan Zahid, Sameed Kahloon, Anas Kahloon, Taymoor Aadil, Nasir Wali, Raihan Wali, Furquan Siddiqui.

Merced is on Highway 99, close to I-5, and on the main lines of both the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroads.

The city had a population of 81,743. Incorporated on April 1, 1889, Merced, known as the "Gateway to Yosemite," is less than two hours by automobile from

Yosemite National Park to the east and Monterey Bay, the Pacific Ocean, and several beaches to the west.

Introduction & History

For history of the Merced Chapter prior to 1987, please refer to the history of the San Francisco Chapter.

Abdur Raqeeb Wali served as the the president of the Merced Chapter from 1987 till 2019. Due to Merced City growth, job opportunities are very positive for the next decade or two, which will also bring Ahmadis to this area (In Sha Allah). Due to great weather and low real estate value, it also makes possible for retirees to settle down in this area. There are currently 68 members.

Geographical area of Merced Chapter is from Modesto City to Fresno CA and its neighboring cities.

Both cities are 100 miles apart and Merced City is in center of these two cities. This area of California is called Central Valley.

We feel pride in developing Merced Chapter, because a disciple of the Promised Messiah; Muhammad Abdul Haqq (may Allah be pleased with him) settled in Fresno, California by 1910. (Details are mentioned in The Ahmadiyya Gazette, USA, March/April 2016, p 24-27).

We also had a legend, respected Umar Din Khan, retired Darvish Qādiān, living in Fresno, California, who passed away at the age of 97 in December 2016. He was at one time

car chauffeur for Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muşliḥ Mau'ūd, and then for Sahibzada Mirza Waseem Ahmad (late Amir of Qādiān, India). His army background and love for hunting made him a hunting partner of Mirza Waseem Ahmad and his official bodyguard and his gun retainer. Respected Khan was a Mūsī and according to his Waşiyat number he was in the first blessed 10,000 Mūsīyan of the whole world.

Our current Merced Chapter President is Abdur Raqeeb Wali. He embraced Ahmadiyya Islam in 1957 and married to daughter of a Dervish-i-Qādiān, which makes this chapter a bouquet of flowers with

many multiple races and new converts. Br. Wali is living in Merced City since 1977 and just retired after 30 years of service as an Imam at the largest federal prison for women in the area. Br. Wali said that all credit goes to late Syed Sharif Ahmad of New Jersey, later president of San Francisco Chapter, who wrote and invited Br. Wali to California from

Boston, Mass. In past 30 years serving as Imam of four different prisons, Br. Wali brought the message of Ahmadiyya Islam to 99,000 prisoners, who attended his classes and are registered in prison register records. Fifty pious souls entered Ahmadiyyat through his efforts.

At this time, we are building the basic Jamā'at infrastructure, which will enable us to grow and to buy a property for chapter activities specially for our daily prayers and Friday services.

All praise belongs to Allah! Lord of All the Worlds. (Shahid N. Sohail, General Secretary, Merced Chapter)



19 October 2005. Oakland CA Center was mainly managed by Abel Hanif (left). Standing with him are Mahershala Ali, Missionary Irshad Malhi and Syed Sajid Ahmad.



Dayton 1981. Left to right: Shakur Ahmad, Haji Aminullah, Mahboob Zafr brother Dr. Muzaffar Zafr, Dr. Muzaffar Zafr, unknown, Abdullah Hashir, KhalilAziz. Picture Courtesy Habeeb Shafeek

California: Sacramento

Introduction

Sacramento is the capital city of the U.S. state of California. Located at the confluence of the Sacramento River and the American River in Northern California's Sacramento Valley, Sacramento's estimated 2018 population of 501,334 makes it the sixth-largest city in California and the ninth largest capital in the United States. Sacramento metropolitan area had a 2010 population of 2,414,783, making it

the fifth largest in California.

Sacramento is a major center for the California healthcare industry, as the seat of Sutter Health, the world-renowned UC Davis Medical Center, and the UC Davis School of Medicine, and notable tourist destination in California, as the site of The California Museum, the Crocker Art Museum, the California State Railroad Museum, the

California Hall of Fame, the California State Capitol Museum, and the Old Sacramento State Historic Park. Sacramento is known for its evolving contemporary culture, dubbed the most "hipster city" in California. In 2002, the Harvard University Civil Rights Project conducted for Time magazine named Sacramento "America's Most Diverse City." (Wikipedia)

History

A few Ahmadi families were living in Sacramento area before 1983. In June 1983, Mahboob Ahmad Mubarik moved to Sacramento area for business purpose. Few months later, he contacted Missionary A.U. Kaleem in San Francisco area. Mahboob got information from the missionary of other Ahmadis living in Sacramento area. One of them was Sheikh Zafar who was working with GMC Motor in Fulton Avenue in Sacramento. A few times congregational Prayers were held at Sheikh Zafar's house. Mahboob Mubarik also met with Sheikh Zafar's cousins, Mr. Masood Khan, Mr. Basharat, Mr. Nafees and Mr. Waseem Sheikh. At that time congregational Prayers also used to be held in Masood Khan's house.

In 1984, a meeting was held with some existing Ahmadi brothers in a motel at West Capitol Ave in West Sacramento. The meeting was presided by the Missionary A.U. Kaleem. In the same year Sardar Zaman and his son Amjad Zaman from Pakistan and Mr. Hanif Koya from Fiji moved to Sacramento area. Sometimes congregational Prayers used to hold in Sardar Zaman's house.

From 1984 to 2000, more

Ahmadi families moved to Sacramento who stayed for a while and later moved to different areas of California and/or other states. In the mentioned period, occasional congregation prayers were held at various Ahmadis' houses.

At the beginning of 2001, Waheed Maroof moved to Sacramento for his job, he was looking for the local Jamā'at and contacted Missionary Irshad Malhi in Bay Point to know the contacts for the Sacramento area Ahmadis. Missionary advised to contact Naveed Basharat. Accordingly, Waheed Maroof contacted Basharat and found information about Ahmadis living in Sacramento. After a few months, Missionary Irshad Malhi, with several Jamā'at members from Bay Point chapter, came to brother Mohammad Munif's house to introduce themselves to all Ahmadis living in Sacramento area. Missionary encouraged to start Jum'a Prayers at houses and advised to join in monthly meetings and events at Bay Point mosque. Naveed Basharat volunteered to hold Jum'a Prayer at his house. Eventually some families started to attend Sunday meetings including other events in Bay Point. In the meantime, more

Ahmadi families moved to Sacramento area. As members increased, members of Sacramento area felt that travelling to Bay Point almost three hours up and down was too hard and difficult for regularly attending the events at Bay Point. Some of the Sacramento Ahmadis proposed to the US Amir at the time, Dr. Ahsan Ullah Zafar, in the 2002 West Coast Jalsa to have their own chapter that members can benefit from holding regular Jum'a, congregational prayers and other events locally. Respected Amir considered the proposal and was very kind to approve to create Sacramento as a chapter. Sacramento started functioning as its own chapter in February 2003. Until this time, Sacramento was part of the San Francisco Jamā'at. An election of the chapter was held, and Sardar Amjad Zaman became the first president of this chapter. Then a community center in Sacramento town was rented on hourly basis for two alternate Sunday meetings in a month. The Jum'a prayers started by rotation in a few members' houses. In a short period of time, all auxiliaries in Jamā'at were formed and started functioning. At that time Sacramento chapter had around

sixty members.

In between 2005 to 2006, some families including President Amjad Zaman moved out to different states. As President moved out, Waheed Maroof was appointed as President

of Sacramento chapter in early 2006. After a couple of years, since 2006 more Ahmadi families started to move into Sacramento. As more members came, Jamā'at became larger, for Jum'a prayers community center was rented hourly instead of

holding Jum'a at members' houses. Eventually more Jamā'at activities were being organized, like congregation salat, regular Amila meetings, Taraviḥ prayers with Iftar arrangements, etc.

Membership

Sacramento chapter needs a mosque, this chapter is putting effort to find a place or a structure for a

mosque. We request all to please remember in your prayer so that May Allah give Sacramento

capability to have a mosque soon. Ameen.

Muhammad Messenger of Peace Symposium

From 20013 to 2019, Sacramento chapter also organized "Muhammad Messenger of Peace" (MMOP) symposiums, "Muslims for loyalty" Parades, "Muslims for life" blood drives, "CCTI" and "Quran Exhibitions" including participating by setting preaching booth in different community fairs. Some of the activities were highlighted in the Local TV and Newspapers. Also,

Sacramento chapter was awarded prizes in each year from the different cities as a champion among the religious group in "Muslims for Loyalty" Parades.

Now, Sacramento Chapter has more than one hundred twenty members. Last year, in July 2019, Bilal Hasan was appointed as the president of Sacramento chapter.



California: San Diego



Left: Meetings were held in member's homes until 2010. Middle: 2005. First public symposium. Right: 2010. First Salaat Center for San Diego established.



2011. Formal opening of Salat Center

San Diego is 120 miles south of Los Angeles and adjacent to the border with Mexico. With an estimated population of 1,425,976 as of July 1, 2018, San Diego is the eighth-largest city in the United States and second-largest in California.

Historical Milestones

1979: First Ahmadi family Dr. Karimullah Zirvi (Editor of Ahmadiyya Gazette USA for many years)

1980: First Missionary to give lecture on Islam in San Diego: Ata

Ullah Kaleem
San Diego has been called “the birthplace of California.” Historically home to the Kumeyaay people, it was the first site visited by Europeans on what is now the West Coast of the United States. Upon landing in San Diego Bay in 1542, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo claimed the

Ullah Kaleem

The Tortilla connection: Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih III, sent Chaudhry Hamidullah (Wakil A'la, Tahrik Jadid, Rabwah) to San Diego, to

area for Spain. The Presidio and Mission San Diego de Alcalá, founded in 1769, formed the first European settlement in what is now California. In 1821, San Diego became part of the newly declared Mexican Empire. California became part of the United States in 1848.

travel to Tijuana Mexico to learn how tortillas (Roti) can be mass produced for Jalsas in UK and around the world.

1991: San Diego Jamā'at formally established. The late

Missionary Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad is known to have visited in early 1990s.

First President—Ibrahim Naeem

(African American)

Followed by Moyenuddin Sirajee (Bengali American)

Followed by Dr. Tahir Ijaz

(Canadian American)

Current President is Maaz Bajwa, since 2019.

Presidents



Left to Right: Ibrahim Naeem, Moyenuddin Sirajee, Dr. Tahir Ijaz, Maaz Bajwa.

Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, third successor to the Promised Messiah, in San Francisco in 1980



At dinner reception

Seated: Mir Mahmud Ahmad Nasir, Muzaffar and Zafr, Khlaifatul-Masih III

California: San Francisco



Nasiem Syed Ahmad shaking hands with Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III

San Francisco is a cultural, commercial, and financial center in Northern California and is the 16th most populous city in the United States, and the fourth most populous in California, with 881,549 residents as of 2019. It covers an area of

approximately 46.89 square miles, making it the second most densely populated large city in the U.S. A popular tourist destination, San Francisco is known for its cool summers, fog, steep rolling hills, eclectic mix of architecture, and

landmarks, including the Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, the former Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary, Fisherman's Wharf, and its Chinatown district. San Francisco is also the headquarters of five major banking institutions and various

other companies such as Levi Strauss & Co., Gap Inc., Fitbit, Salesforce.com, Dropbox, Reddit, Square, Inc., Dolby, Airbnb, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Yelp, Pinterest, Twitter, Uber, Lyft, Mozilla, Wikimedia Foundation, Quizlet, and Craigslist. San Francisco is considered to be amongst the highest income and richest cities in the country.

The very first known Ahmadi to have come to the San Francisco Bay Area was Aziz Ahmad on May 12, 1947 on the ship known as Marine Adder from Bombay, India. He later moved to Canada. Sayed Sharif Ahmad was living in Buffalo NY at the time. After receiving an offer from a company in California, he wrote to Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih and was encouraged to move to California. After his arrival, he posted an advertisement in the San Francisco Chronicle that if there were any Ahmadis in the area, they should contact him. This way he was able to connect with many Fijian and some Lahori Ahmadis. Amongst the other early arrivals in the area, were Majeeda Abdullah, Chaudhry Ghulam Qadir, and Abdul Khaliq Raja in 1966, Anwar Shah, Abu Hanif, Feroz Khan and Ilyas Khan in 1974, and Khadim Shah and Hadayat Shah in 1975. After getting married in 1976 with Syed Sharif's daughter, Syed Sajid left for Ghana and formally migrated to the San Francisco area in 1977. Arshad Ahmed moved to the Bay Area in 1976 and Shahid Abbasi and his brother, Intisar Abbasi, joined in 1978. Early, non-formal activities included meetings at Syed Sharif Ahmad's house at 1001 Newton Way, Concord and Eid Prayers in a hall near Oakland Zoo.

The first formal San Francisco chapter was formed in 1975 which consisted of all areas between the Bakersfield and Oregon border including Reno, Nevada. Syed Sharif

Ahmad served as the first President of the San Francisco Chapter. In 1978, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad visited the west coast and stayed with Syed Sharif Ahmad in Concord and Dr. Tahir Ahmed in Oregon. A meeting was also held in the house of Anwar Shah in West Pittsburg which was presided by Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (ra).

In 1979, Maulana Ataullah Kaleem established the chapter's center in Oakland. It was during this time that the Ahmadiyya Gazette and Noor were started by Sayed Sajid and Maulana Ataullah Kaleem from Oakland California. Mubarak Khan was elected the President, but he returned to Fiji within six months. Victor Latif Malik was then appointed President of the San Francisco chapter. At this time, the San Jose subchapter was also established with the following members: Syed Sajid Ahmed, Mehboob Mubarak, Ghulam Qadir, and Arshad Ahmed. Friday prayers were held at Syed Sajid's house in San Jose. In 1980, Mir Mahmood Ahmed Nasir replaced Maulana Ataullah Kaleem. The center was moved to Walnut Creek and Abdur Raqeeb Wali was elected as Chapter President, Syed Sajid as General Secretary and Arshad Ahmed as finance Secretary. First Annual Conference for the West Coast Region was held on Sunday May 25, 1980 in Masonic Temple at 897 Colusa Avenue in Berkeley. Amongst the speakers at this conference were Maulana Ataullah Kaleem, Mir Mahmood Ahmed Nasir, Rahmat Jamal, Abdur Raqeeb Wali, Anwer Mahmud Khan and Latif Victor Malik. Lajna Ima'illah held their special session presided by the missionary-in-charge. Lajna

speakers were Syeda Bushra Sajid, Shamim Akhtar Malik, Amatul-Latif Malik and Amatur-Rashid Qureshi. Participation was 17 from Los Angeles CA and 4 from Tucson AZ

and members from the San Francisco Chapter. (Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, June 1980)

Hadrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih III, visited the San Francisco Chapter in September of 1980 and stayed at the Amfac Hotel in Burlingame which is south of San Francisco and north of San Jose. Khalifatul-Masih III also visited and met with families in the Walnut Creek Mission House.

In 1982, Mufti Ahmed Sadiq replaced Mir Mahmood Ahmed Nasir as the missionary of the area but left for Los Angeles just after being there for six short months. At this time the Jamā'at Mission House was in Dublin California. In January 1983, the West Coast Regional Headquarters of the Jamā'at was shifted from San Francisco to Los Angeles. In the early eighties, the San Jose subchapter saw the addition of Khalil Ahmad Malik, Naseer Siddique, Chaudhry Mubashir Ahmad, Azhar Chaudhry, Shahid Chaudhry, and Samie Qureshi.

From 1982 to 1987, monthly meetings were held at California State University (CSU), Hayward, and later at the Fremont Public Library. Eid prayers and festivities were also held at CSU and YMCA in Hayward. In 1988, Eid-ul-Fitr was arranged in Hellyer Park in San Jose but had to be moved to the nearby home of Naseer Siddique because of adverse weather conditions. Syed Sajid Ahmad was appointed President of the San Francisco Chapter in 1983 but moved to Chandler, Arizona in 1984. After his departure, Jum'ah Prayers were held at Arshad Ahmed's house followed by Chaudhry Mubashir Ahmad's house for the San Jose area and at the homes of Khadim Shah and Anwar Shah for the Pittsburg area.

In 1987, the San Francisco Jamā'at was blessed with the honor of hosting Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih

IV (ra) during his visit to the region. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (ra) drove from Los Angeles and stayed in Courtyard by Marriot off of Highway 880 in Fremont. The missionary at that time, Munir Ahmed Chaudhry, assigned the duty of managing food arrangements for Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih and his delegation to Samie Qureshi. It is during this trip that Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV, after learning how far the members had to travel

for the monthly meetings, decided to split the San Francisco Chapter into the following three Chapters: San Francisco (including Sacramento, Reno, Oakland, Hayward, and San Francisco) San Jose and Merced. Ahmad Feroz Khan became President of the San Francisco Chapter, Arshad Ahmad President of the San Jose Chapter (now Silicon Valley) and Abdur Raqeeb Wali President of the Merced Chapter. At the conclusion of this trip, Hadrat

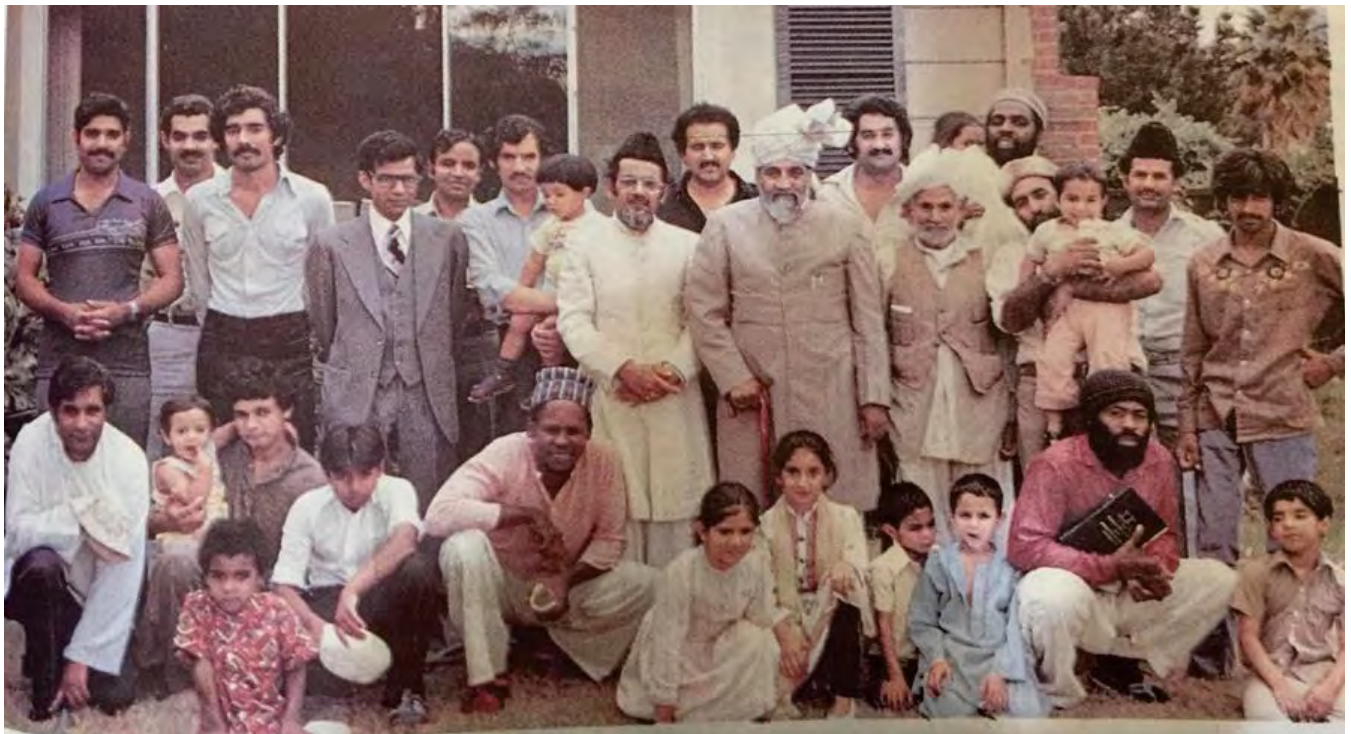
Khalifatul-Masih IV flew to Portland but landed in Seattle due to bad weather. Khalifatul-Masih IV later commented that it was his desire to see Mount Saint Helen from the top, and because of the diversion to Seattle, Allah fulfilled his desire.

(For the history of the Silicon Valley and Merced Chapters beyond this point. Please refer to the histories of Silicon Valley and Merced Jamā'ats).



Left: Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih III delivering sermon in the then San Francisco chapter, 1980.

Right: Arrival of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih III in the then San Francisco chapter, 1980.



Members of the then San Francisco chapter with Mir Mahmud Ahmad Nasir, regional missionary for the west coast and Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad, missionary In-Charge USA.

As stated earlier, Ahmad Feroz Khan was elected as the president of the San Francisco Jamā'at in 1987. It was during this time that Missionary Chaudhry Munir Ahmed and the Jamā'at began to search for a suitable site for a mosque. In 1988 a site was found in what was then called "West Pittsburg" an unincorporated town in Contra Costa County at 520 Pacifica Ave. This was a 2.25-acre property with a house, a workshop and a barn. Feroz Khan and Jamā'at members most of who were from Fiji worked tirelessly to convert the barn into a prayer hall. Khalifatul-Masih IV visited "West Pittsburg" and the San Francisco Chapter in 1989 and inaugurated this mosque. He also delivered Khutba Jum'ah and held Majlis Irfan at this location during his visit and met local Ahmadi families. Khalifatul-Masih IV resided at the Hilton Hotel in Concord.

In the following years more improvements were made to the Mission house and the prayer halls by Feroz Khan and other members of the Jamā'at. In 1989, Azhar Haneef was appointed as Missionary for this

area. In addition to many of his responsibilities, he used to edit video tapes at the local cable station and submit then for airing on the local community channel. During his stay, Azhar Haneef had a profound impact on the lives of many Ahmadi youth. In 1993 Shaikh Abdul Baki Shams was elected as president and his term continued for the following 9 years. In 1994, Khalifatul-Masih IV visited the San Francisco Jamā'at again. During this visit, Khalifatul-Masih IV met local Ahmadi families, held a Majlis Irfan Session and an Ameen Ceremony of a few children. In 1994 Azhar Haneef was transferred to another location and Major Zain ul Abedin (a Devotee) was assigned as a missionary for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapters.

In 1996 a place was rented on Telegraph Ave in Oakland for the purposes of Tabligh. Major Zain ul Abedin and other members would frequent this center for this purpose. Major Zain ul Abedin's "Waqf" ended in 1999 and then Missionary Irshad Malhi was assigned to the San Francisco Jamā'at as the Missionary for the North West Region. It was

during this period that a Jamā'at Center was opened in Oakland on West Macarthur Blvd. Muhummad Shareef, single handedly did all the construction work inside to make ladies and men's prayer areas. This center was manned by Major Zain ul Abedin and Missionary Irshad Malhi few days of every week. Besides Friday prayers, it was used for other Jamā'at activities including classes for Lajna and Tabligh activities. Many students from UC Berkeley and other non-Ahmadis would attend Jum'ah prayers regularly because of a large sign on the building advertising it as an Islamic Center. In 1998 an "Islam In America Conference" was organized by Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya. Missionary Azhar Haneef and Yusef 'Abdul-Lateef both travelled from the east coast to speak at this event.

In 2003, the San Francisco Jamā'at was split into three Jamā'ats, i.e., Bay Point, San Francisco/Oakland and Sacramento. For the history of these Jamā'ats, please refer to the history listed under those chapters.



San Francisco area members in a group photo during the 1980s.

Fiji-Origin Ahmadis in Oakland CA Area (By Dr. Hanif Koya)



“I shall cause they message to reach the corners of the earth.” This prophecy of the beloved Promised Messiah resonates more accurately with people of Fiji than any other nation on earth. Fiji lies at the very edge of the South Pacific rim from where you make a U-Turn to come back to where you started your journey from.

Fiji Ahmadis have been an integral part of and played a significant role in the inception and the build of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in San Francisco Bay Area.

In 1960, Hazrat Muslih Mau’ud, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II, first heard directly from his Fiji visitor, the late Haji Muhammad Ramzan Khan, a landlord of Nadi town, Fiji, how Ahmadiyyat reached Fiji in early 1930s. He sent Maulana Shaikh Abdul Wahid (Fazil) as the first missionary to Fiji. The mission to turn the tide on and win the members of the Lahori Jama’at over to mainstream Ahmadiyyat was abundantly clear which is what exactly happened and answered many of the questions that plagued debates among the Lahori faction who were eager to learn the truth of the split and creation of the Lahori faction.

It was Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV who opened a new door for us all and reduced the travelling distances and difficulties by his personal visits. His first foreign visit was to Fiji Islands in 1984 who visited Fiji twice.

Present Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, kept the tradition also made two visits to Fiji.

Aunty Mafeedan Lal a lady of charm and compassion. The late Mafeedan Lal who hailed from City of Suva, Fiji, had been in the Bay Area long before the rest of the Fiji Ahmadis arrived. She served as the contact point for all. She had a natural charm to attract people of all backgrounds and always served them integrity and deep concern. People freely socialized with her family and got all the support they needed to connect with the small band of Ahmadis in the Bay Area. We fondly called

her Aunty Mafeedan. It was my great fortune to connect with her and be her host in the 1900s till she breathed her last. With the kind patronage of late Aunty Mafeedan, I hosted Dars-ul-Quran at my place in Hayward for almost ten years.

Late Feroz Khan, a man of few words. Born, raised and educated in Suva, Fiji, late Feroz Khan was among the pioneer Ahmadis of Fiji.

In 1986, Feroz Khan was the Pittsburgh Jama’at President. Later, Feroz Khan was elected the first president of the Oakland Chapter.

4. Annie Koya’s testimonial on Late Mrs. Zubeida Khan, a lady with fanatic love for Jama’at.

It is the testimony of Annie Koya who came from an entirely different background and new to the Ahmadiyya Muslim etiquette and Islamic approach, it was late sister Zubeida who first met her at the Bay Point gave her a warm welcome and introduced her to rest of the Ahmadi sisters. They struck and instant bond and over the next years late sister Zubeida Khan was her mentor. When it was not possible to convince Feroz Khan, she solicited help from Zubeida to schedule a number Dars-ul-Quran at her home. It was also much easier to approach her and seek guidance on women issues from sister Zubeida Khan to keep Nasirat and Lajna members abreast.



Feroz Khan with Missionary Azhar Haneef.

California: Silicon Valley



Left: Hazrat Khalifatul-Masseih IV at the motel he stayed at in Yosemite in 1989.

Right: Hazrat Khalifatul-Masseih IV in Yosemite in 1989.

Silicon Valley, a region south of San Francisco in Northern California, is home to many large technology companies like Google, Apple, Facebook, and Intel. It includes cities like San Jose, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Redwood City, Cupertino, Santa Clara, Mountain View and Sunnyvale. San Jose is the Valley's largest city, the third largest in California, and the tenth largest in the United States. According to a study by Brookings Institute, the San Jose Metropolitan Area has the third-highest GDP per capita in the world, after Zurich, Switzerland and Oslo, Norway.

Until 1987, the Silicon Valley chapter was part of the greater San Francisco Bay Area chapter that included Reno, Sacramento, Pittsburg/Bay Point, San Francisco, San Jose and Merced areas. In 1987, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masseih IV (Allah's mercy be upon him) split this region into three chapters. The two new Jamā'ats created after this split were the Silicon Valley and Merced chapters. For the history of the Silicon Valley chapter prior to 1987, please refer to the history of San Francisco chapter.

In the beginning years until

Bait-ul-Baseer was purchased in 1997, Jum'ah Prayers and or Jamā'at meetings were held at Chaudhry Mubashir Ahmad's house for about four years. Then they went on to be held at Idees Munir's residence in Santa Clara, then a rented house in Milpitas, then at Faysal Sohail's house in San Jose, and finally in a rented office building on Hamilton Ave.

1989 was quite significant for the San Francisco Bay Area Jamā'ats as Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV visited the area this year. Khalifatul-Masih IV flew into Oakland Airport and stayed in Walnut Creek. By this time, the San Francisco Chapter had purchased the Dar-us-Salam Mosque in Bay Point. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV inaugurated the newly acquired mosque, met the members, and delivered the Friday Sermon from there. After delivering his Friday Sermon at Dar-us-Salam Mosque, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV left for Yosemite National Park. Naseer Siddique and Shahed Abbasi were jointly assigned the duty of arranging and managing everyone's meals during this trip. While in Yosemite, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV stayed at the Faith's Haven Motel.

Wasim Malik was elected president in 1993. In 1994, Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV visited Los Angeles and drove to Yosemite National Park and the San Francisco Bay Area. During this visit, Khalifatul-Masih IV stayed at the Hilton in Concord, met many families, and conducted the Ameen ceremonies of Noor Malik, Harris Qureshi, Fahad Sohail and Amir Naseer at Dar-us-Salam Mosque.

In 1998, the San Francisco Bay Area Chapters were blessed yet again to host Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV. This time, Khalifatul-Masih IV stayed at the Hilton in Fremont. During this visit, he inaugurated Bait-ul-Baseer which was bought by the Silicon Valley Chapter a year prior, all with local funds. Mayors of the city of Milpitas, San Jose, and Fremont attended this inauguration and Khalifatul-Masih IV was presented with the key to the city of Milpitas by the Mayor of Milpitas. Khalifatul-Masih IV delivered the last Friday Sermon in the US at Bait-ul-Baseer during this visit on July 10, 1994.

The Silicon Valley Chapter had the honor of hosting the West Coast Jalsa Salana in years 2002, 2003,

and 2004. During these years, Bait-ul-Hameed Mosque in Chino, California was going through extensive remodeling which made it difficult to hold the Convention. Annual Convention was held in 2002 at the Evergreen Valley High School in San Jose. In 2003, it was held at Milpitas High School, and in 2004, it was held at Bait-ul-Baseer Mosque in large marquees. Aftab Jamil served as Afsar Jalsa Salana in 2002 and Musawwir Momen served as Afsar Jalsa Salana in 2003 and 2004. The Bay Point and the Silicon Valley Chapters worked shoulder to

shoulder while preparing for and helping with all aspects of the Conventions. Hosting these Conventions was a huge undertaking for the Silicon Valley Chapter but with prayers and Allah's sheer mercy, they all concluded successfully without any setbacks, Al-Hamdu Lillah. The average attendance at these events was between 700-800 people.

Missionaries who served in northern California and covered the Silicon Valley Chapter:

1. Ata Ullah Kaleem 1979-1980

2. Mir Mahmood Ahmed Nasir 1980-1982

3. Mufti Ahmad Sadiq 1982-1983

5. Chaudhry Munir Ahmed 1984-1989

6. Azhar Haneef 1989-1994

7. Zain Ul Abedin 1995-1999

8. Irshad Malhi 1999-2010

9. Mubasher Ahmad 2010-2013

10. Salman Shaikh 2013-2016

11. Khalid Khan 2017-2021

12. Sabahat Ali 2021-Present



Members of Silicon Valley Jamā'at with Henry Manayan, Mayor of Milpitas



Hazrat Khalifatul-Masseih IV address at the inauguration ceremony of Bait-ul-Baseer in 1998



Milpitas Mayor Henry Manayan presenting Key to the City at the inauguration ceremony of Baitul-Baseer in 1998



At the occasion of the purchase of Baitul-Baseer in 1997. From left to right: Naseer Siddique, Nafees Ali Johar, Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmed (Amir & Missionary Incharge), Wasim Malik, Sajid Sohail.
To the left is men's prayer room and to the right is women's prayer room.
Dining room, kitchen and offices are behind the photographer.



Youth of Silicon Valley Jamā'at in the 1990s-LtoR Farhad Naseer, Salman Mirza, Yasir Mirza, Harris Qureshi, Noor Malik, Fahad Sohail, Amir Naseer, Mutahir Chaudhry, Unknown, Saad Ahmed

Help from Naseer Siddique is greatly appreciated with respect to the history of central California chapters.

Colorado

Compiled by Missionary Feroz Hundal

When looking at its rank by population, Colorado is the 21st largest state in USA.¹ Denver is the capital of Colorado, comes at 23rd in terms of the biggest cities in USA.² Yet, looking at it from the Jamā'at perspective, an established independent Jamā'at in this part of USA has not been done. Over the years, work has been done to make it, its' own Halqa (circle/area) or its Jamā'at, however, due to not having members reside here permanently, this has dissolved over time.

The normal cycle of people who would come to Colorado or Wyoming are people who would merely stay for a few years due to the scarcity presence of Jamā'at members. People generally come here for work purposes or study, yet, due to no mosque, no missionary presence, no cluster of Ahmadis, etc. people tend to migrate to other parts of USA, where there is a mosque, there is a missionary presence, or there is a good number of Ahmadis residing. Yet, at the same time, there are a few members who have been living here for 20 – 30 or even as much as 40 years.

Members of Colorado & Wyoming are not living close to one another; thus, the average driving distance is about ~1 hour one way – as members are scattered from North to South of Colorado.

Muhammad Ahmad, an ex-resident of Boulder, Colorado recalls that, “in 2003 or around that time,

Colorado used to be part of St. Louis Jamā'at. To make readers aware, the distance between Denver, CO and St. Louis, MO is ~850 miles [one way]. This would mean to drive constantly for 12 hours; only then would someone be able to reach the destination.

During that era, Murabbi Zafarullah Hanjra came to Colorado to see the members that resided there which totaled around 30 – 40 or so. A subsequent election was held, and a Halqa Sadr was elected for Colorado.”³

Before this Jamā'at members resided in Colorado, but no actual Jamā'at was setup, or an administrative system was established. In 2004, Muhammad Ahmad mentions that “his father [Munawar Akhtar] was elected as the president. Soon after, Colorado members began to have regular Jamā'at meetings [Masih-e-Mau'ud Day, Muslih Mau'ud Day, Khilafat Day, Seerat-un-Nabi [pbuh] meetings, Eid, etc.] – which were being held at a members' residences. After some time, these meetings would rotate between where members resided such as Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Denver and Boulder to accommodate the travel for members.

Members that were living in various parts of Wyoming such as Casper, Laramie and Cheyenne would also attend these Jamā'at meetings, along with members who

were at the Southern border of Colorado, residing in New Mexico. At one point, members who resided in Salt Lake City, UT [which is ~500 miles one way from Denver, CO [~8-hour drive one way]] would come and attend.

For bigger occasions like Eid, the Colorado chapter would rent out a bigger public community centers to accommodate all families.

At one point in time, Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya had done a few blood drives and flyer distribution in various parts of Colorado, to spread the message of Islam, Ahmadiyyat.

Colorado has always been in the middle where it never fully was able to be established as a Jamā'at of its own, instead it was always partnered or linked with other bigger Jamā'at's. As mentioned previously, it has been linked to the following bigger Jamā'at's of USA: St. Louis Region [St. Louis, MO] – Chicago Region [Chicago, IL] – Los Angeles Region [Los Angeles, CA] – Northwest Region [Seattle, WA] – Gulf Region [Houston, TX] – and currently, for the past 6 – 7 years, it has been part of Tulsa Chapter.

Missionaries visits to Colorado were generally scarce due to the distance, and the members being scattered. Normally, in the past there was 1 or 2 visits by the missionary covering the region in the whole year.”⁴

Early Settlers

Here, a list of names is presented of those members [some names given by Bushra Inam]⁵ who resided in

¹ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/states>

² <https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/biggest-us-cities/>

³ Voice Recorded of Muhammad Ahmad, Dated Dec. 22, 2020, Received via Telegram

message at 10:00am CST from 512-629-6092. Message received by Murabbi Feroz Hundal on 479-879-5640

⁴ Voice Recorded of Muhammad Ahmad, Dated Dec. 22, 2020, Received via Telegram message at 10:00am CST from 512-629-

6092. Message received by Murabbi Feroz Hundal on 479-879-5640

⁵ Phone call with Bushra Inam, Dated Nov. 15, 2020. Contact number 970-631-8700. Call received by Murabbi Feroz Hundal on 479-879-5640

Colorado Jamā'at in the early years [before 2000], along with the year they came.

No.	Name	Year of Arrival	City / State
1	Chaudhry Nuruddin Ahmad [Late]	1972	Fort Collins, CO
2	Rashida Ahmad [Late] [Lajna]	1972	Fort Collins, CO
3	Nabeel Ahmad Rana	1972	Fort Collins, CO
4	Dr. Rana Nauman Ahmad	1972	Fort Collins, CO
5	Sadaf Ijaz	1972	Fort Collins, CO
6	Tahir Ahmad Malik	1974	Fort Collins, CO
7	Bushra Naheed Malik [Lajna]	1974	Fort Collins, CO
8	Nasir Ahmad Malik	1974	Fort Collins, CO
9	Khalid Ahmad Malik	1974	Fort Collins, CO
10	Zainab Malik	1974	Fort Collins, CO
11	Bushra Inam [Lajna]	1988	Fort Collins, CO
12	Inam Elahi Sheikh	1988	Fort Collins, CO
13	Adnan Elahi Sheikh	1988	Fort Collins, CO
15	Farrukh Elahi Sheikh	1988	Fort Collins, CO
16	Farah Inam [Lajna]	1988	Fort Collins, CO
17	Owais Ahmad Malik	1989	Fort Collins, CO
18	Tassawar Ahmad Malik	1990	Fort Collins, CO
19	Anwar Rafiq	1990	Boulder, CO
20	Syed Abdul Hayee Lateef	1993	Fort Collins, CO
21	Dr. Tanveer Khan	1999	Colorado Springs, CO
22	Muzaffar Khan	1998	Greenwood Village, CO
23	Najma Khan [Lajna]	1998	Greenwood Village, CO
24	Tassawwar Khan	1998	Greenwood Village, CO
25	Faiza Khan	1998	Greenwood Village, CO
26	Rizwanul Haque		Casper, WY

Missionary Visit

Murabbi Salman Tariq who was based in St. Louis was covering Tulsa Jamā'at from 2014 – 2017. During this period, he recalls that “he visited a few times and Dr. Rashid Hussain was the Halqa President [Sadr] for Colorado and he would organize a program or Jamā'at meeting. Alongside the main Jamā'at program, missionary would do house visits and hold in-person children's classes.”⁶

“Sometime in 1994 Murabbi Inamul Haq Kauser visited Colorado from Los Angeles. He visited Boulder and Fort Collins. In Fort Collins he visited Mr. Inam Sheikh's house and formed a local branch of the Jama`at. The following local office bearers were elected:

President: Syed Abdul Hayee Lateef Shah of Fort Collins, CO

General Secretary: Anwar Rafiq of Boulder, CO

Secretary Finance: Inam Sheikh of Fort Collins CO

Secretary Tabligh/Ta'lim/Tarbiyat: Nabeel Ahmad Rana of Fort Collins, CO

Colorado was made a Halqa under Los Angeles Jama`at. A few years later Mr. Syed Abdul Hayee Lateef Shah

⁶ Voice Recorded of Murabbi Salman Tariq, Dated Nov. 25, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 3:00pm CST from 314-502-7853. Message received by Murabbi Feroz Hundal on 479-879-5640

moved to Virginia, USA.”⁷

“Later Mr. Rizwanul Haque moved with his parents to Casper, Wyoming. His father was nominated for being President for Colorado-Wyoming. Murabbi Azhar Haneef visited for elections in men and Muhammad Ahmad's father [Mr. Munawar Akhtar] was elected as President. On Lajna side elections were also held regularly, and Mrs. Bushra Inam was elected as President”⁸

Congregational Prayers – Meetings

Since Colorado Jamā‘at does not have its own property, nor its own mosque, members of the community have always opened their homes to hold these important gatherings of congregational prayers, Friday prayers, Eid prayers, and Jamā‘at meetings. The location has always rotated depending on the availability and in order to spread the blessings

of holding such events at various homes.

Members of Colorado Jamā‘at would congregate at the following cities to accommodate the travel of members residing in various parts of Colorado / Wyoming: Colorado Springs, CO; Fort Collins, CO; Boulder, CO; Denver, CO

Mr. Nabeel Rana, one of the pioneer members of Colorado recalls that, “in the early 1970s, when it was the time for Eid, we used to travel ~500 miles to Lincoln, NE”⁹ – as that was a central location at the time for the scarce Jamā‘at members residing in different parts of this part of USA.

AMSA-CO [Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association Colorado]

Mr. Nabeel Rana writes – “[Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association of Colorado (AM-SAC) was registered at the University of

Colorado for the first by Mr. Nabeel Rana and Mr. Anwar Rafiq during their tenure as students at the University of Colorado, Boulder. The

newly formed association organized numerous Tabligh [propagation] and outreach events on campus. A couple major ones are listed below]

Ahmadiyya Muslim Theological Exhibition:

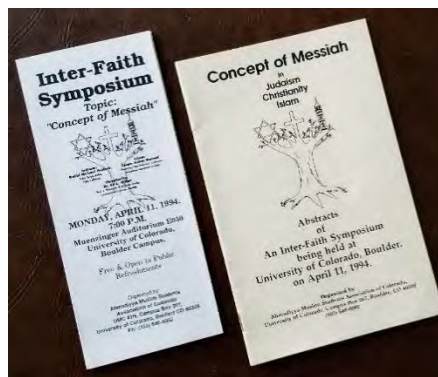
September 30, 1993 – This day long exhibition was also organized by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association of Colorado. It was held in a central major auditorium at the University of Colorado in Boulder and featured exhibits from the history of Islam and Ahmadiyyat

covering contemporary subjects of interest.

Approximately 200 non-Ahmadis and non-Muslims attended the exhibition during the course of the day and engaged in lengthy discussions with the organizers. (Mr.

Nabeel Rana and Mr. Anwar Rafiq during their tenure at the University of Colorado registered Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association of Colorado as an organization for the first time in Colorado) in 1993.”¹⁰

Interfaith Conference



Mr. Nabeel Rana relates about an interfaith symposium that “took place on April 11, 1994. Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association of Colorado organized for the first time at the University of Colorado in Boulder, an Interfaith Symposium inviting a Muslim, Christian and Jewish scholar to speak on the topic of "Concept of Messiah" followed by a Question-and-Answer session.

Respected Murabbi Azhar Haneef flew in from California to represent Islam in Boulder.

The event was very well received by the University population and over 250 non-Muslim guests attend the symposium. Media covered the event. [See attached picture of flyer and abstract].”¹¹

Bushra Inam, a longtime

⁷ Email from Nabeel Rana, Dated Feb. 11, 2021 @ 3:52pm EST. Email Address: nabeel.rana@gmail.com. Email received by Murabbi Feroz Hundal @ feroz.hundal@ahmadiyya.us

⁸ WhatsApp message received from Bushra Inam, Dated Feb. 04, 2021. Message received by Murabbi Feroz Hundal on 479-879-5640

⁹ Phone call with Nabeel Rana, Dated Feb. 07, 2021. Contact number 519-722-0841. Call received by Murabbi Feroz Hundal on 479-879-5640

¹⁰ Email from Nabeel Rana, Dated Feb. 07, 2021 @ 5:35pm EST. Email Address: nabeel.rana@gmail.com. Email received by Murabbi Feroz Hundal @ feroz.hundal@ahmadiyya.us

¹¹ Email from Nabeel Rana, Dated Feb. 07, 2021 @ 5:35pm EST. Email Address: nabeel.rana@gmail.com. Email received by Murabbi Feroz Hundal @ feroz.hundal@ahmadiyya.us

resident of Fort Collins, CO recalls, "Sometime later Murabbi Azhar Haneef was again invited to attend a

conference which was being held at the Colorado State University in Fort Collins. The topic of the conference was 'Ahmadiyyat – the True Islam'.

As it is customary, an interactive Question Answer session was held."¹²

Sermons on Righteousness

Mr. Nabeel Rana remembers that "in 1994 – 1995 Arrangement were made with the local cable TV company and through their community access, sermons of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (rh) played on the local cable TV along with an introduction to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at."¹³



Articles published in Local Newspapers

Mr. Nabeel Rana during his time in Colorado recalls that they would try their best to spread the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat to the public using different means available at the time. "Collegian": A weekly newspaper of Colorado State University. Published an article by Nabeel Ahmad Rana, "Understand all forms of religion" inviting readers

to study the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and think about accepting his call. Article published on June 16, 1992,

In addition to that, in 'Colorado Daily': A weekly newspaper of the University of Colorado. Published a letter in response to an article about [Jesus' rising from the dead]. Nabeel

Ahmad Rana wrote a comprehensive response titled, "Jesus did not rise from the dead!" on the subject expounding the Ahmadiyya Muslim point of view of Jesus' survival from the cross, travel to Kashmir and natural death. Colorado Daily, University of Colorado, Boulder, October 29 – 31, 1993."¹⁴

¹² WhatsApp message received from Bushra Inam, Dated Feb. 04, 2021. Message received by Murabbi Feroz Hundal on 479-879-5640

¹³ Email from Nabeel Rana, Dated Feb. 07, 2021 @ 5:35pm EST. Email Address: nabeel.rana@gmail.com. Email received by Murabbi Feroz Hundal @ feroz.hundal@ahmadiyya.us

¹⁴ Email from Nabeel Rana, Dated Feb. 07, 2021 @ 5:35pm EST. Email Address: nabeel.rana@gmail.com. Email received by Murabbi Feroz Hundal @ feroz.hundal@ahmadiyya.us

Connecticut: Hartford



By the grace of Allah and blessing of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV, Manzoor Mannan came with his family from London, UK in 1985 to Northvale, New Jersey, U.S.A., and immediately connected with North New Jersey Jamā'at. There, by Allah's will, he was elected and served as Tabligh Secretary and Qa'id Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya. We interfaced much with krk Jamā'at which afforded the unique opportunity to serve under and know Missionary Inamul Haq Kausar and President Nazir Ayaz.

In 1989, he moved with his family to Danbury, Connecticut, and for the first few months they kept going back to New Jersey for Jamā'at monthly meetings. Meanwhile, I Manzoor Mannan asked Missionary Kausar for information on Connecticut Jamā'at at which point

he said there was none but that there were a few families around. At about the summertime of 1989, Missionary Kausar and Manzoor arranged the first meeting at a local Jamā'at member Irfan Raheel's residence in Middletown, Connecticut, which Missionary graced with his presence. The purpose was to find and establish the heavenly Jamā'at of the Hazrat Promised Messiah as in Connecticut. As Allah had willed, Manzoor was elected to serve as the first President of Connecticut Jamā'at, and his wife Talhaht Razzaq Mannan was elected to serve as the first Sadr Lajna Imā'illāh.

Amid the humble beginnings of our Jamā'at, there were but a handful of members who attended our Jumu'ah prayers and meetings. We struggled hard and prayed intensely for each department to get

moving in the way of Allah for His sake. In those days, CT Jamā'at held its Salāt and Monthly Meetings at local Jamā'at member's houses including Irfan Raheel, Majid Ahmed, Miyan Muhammad Abdul Razzaq, and at Sadr house. All were kind enough to prepare food and accommodations for such gatherings.

As time passed, more and more believers came and the Jamā'at grew and strengthened, by Allah's sheer grace. Dr. Khurshid Razzaq a had become the Sadr Lajna for Connecticut Jamā'at and served many years in that capacity. After a few years, our gatherings were primarily and consistently hosted at Miyan Muhammad Abdul Razzaq's & Dr. Khurshid Razzaq abode in Middletown, Connecticut up until the Jamā'at purchased the Jehovah's

Witness Kingdom Hall in South Meriden as its official Masjid in 2007/8 which Khalifat-ul-Masih V had named Bait-ul-Amn, the House of Peace and Security.

In 1996, Muhammad Razzaq passed away, but his wife Dr. Khurshid Razzaq and her son Zaffar Razzaq continued hosting the Monthly Meetings as well as many Iftars and Eids. May Allah abundantly bless and reward all the families for hosting, accommodating and catering for the meetings, especially, Dr. Khurshid Razzaq, who selflessly hosted for the longest period and single handedly cooked for all. Her dwelling was utilized as our Masjid, and she also had the honor of serving as Sadr Lajna CT for over 12 years.

Almighty Allah had graced our Jamā'at to achieve the following:

Jumu'ah prayers at various houses and venues in Connecticut

Jamā'at Auxiliaries formed

Started Jamā'at and Auxiliary Chanda collections.

Tabligh Book Stall every Sunday at New Haven Flea Market. We sold books and Tabligh materials to many fellow Americans as well as Turkish, Bosnians, and others Contacted local Press & Media outlets including Public TV Channels and Danbury Times. We procured a one-hour long slot wherein MTA tapes of Khalifa IV Sermons and Q&A Sessions were shown to the greater public reaching hundreds of thousands.

10,000 + flyers, brochures, and leaflets published and distributed via the Danbury Times under the title of "The Messiah Has Come"

Dr. Mahmood Qureshi attended President Obama state of the union address in 2016

<https://www.ibtimes.com/state-union-address-2016-muslim->

mosque-leader-invited-connecticut-congressman-obamas-2254380

Formation of Jamā'at Library of Books, Literature, and MTA VCR tapes of Khalifa Rabia's sermons

In 1999, under the presidentship of Wahid Khan

After a few years President Waheed Khan had to leave for Phoenix, AZ, so we had to hold elections for a new President. This is when Dr. Mahmood Quraishi became the 3rd President of CT Jamā'at. Our present President Jamā'at name is Mansoor Khan.

May Allah, the Exalted empower the Jamā'at to fulfill its Divine purpose as He pleases and wishes and as the Holy Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him), his blessed Promised Messiah (peace be on him) and their Khalifah prayed and strove for, Ameen!



District of Columbia: Washington, D.C.



The Fazl Mosque in Washington, D.C. was established by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in 1950 and is the first mosque in the U.S. capital of Washington, DC. Its full title is the American Fazl Mosque. Located a few minutes from the White House, and neighboring several embassies, Fazl Mosque opened seven years prior to the Islamic Center of Washington DC and is the longest serving mosque in the nation's capital. The American Fazl Mosque was built as a private residence in 1912. The Colonial Revival-style building is designated as a contributing property to the Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Washington, DC chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is based in American Fazl Mosque.

Located in Dupont Circle, it served as national headquarters from 1950–1994. Renowned diplomat and jurist as well as a notable scholar of Islam Sir Chaudhary Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, who in addition to serving as president of the United Nations General Assembly and President of the International Court of Justice at the Hague, was a companion of the Promised Messiah, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835–1908), purchased the colonial walk up built in 1912 that would serve as AMC headquarters for more than 40 years, and which has hosted venerable guests such as Mirza Nasir Ahmad, third successor to the Promised Messiah.

The mosque served as the headquarters of the Ahmadiyya movement in the United States from 1950 until 1994, when it was moved

to Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Today, the DC chapter is a hub of activity facing our federal government, such as the annual Muslims for Life blood drive on US Capitol Hill, in which Members of Congress donate blood and speak about the good work of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. DC's Public Affairs team is also active in meeting with embassies from all over the world, and Ahmadis have met with White House and Congressional officials (to include the President) on a range of issues, including promoting religious freedom, which is a primary function of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Congressional Caucus.

The women's auxiliary of Washington, DC, Lajna Imā'illāh, meets regularly at the “Halqa” and

“Lajna” levels, and has vibrant relationships within the local community, hosting interfaith meetings, community service initiatives, and so on. DC's youth wing, MKA, has promoted the “Stop the CrISIS” anti-extremism campaign in front of the White House, and is active in tree plantings and other service projects. Tahir Academy meets twice a month, in addition to Atfal and Nāsirat classes. Recently, the DC chapter has given the mosque a facelift and started

Converts

Mr. Mujahid Abdul Azim: My journey to Ahmadiyya started back I Southeast DC, Anacostia, where I was born and raised Catholic. My siblings and I went to Catholic School. All the priests and nuns were whilst and most of us African American students would be considered “light.” I noticed that the “darker” African American students were treated differently. I soon started questioning this religion not only for that reason, but I had seen a priest kiss a nun on the mouth and that troubled me. I had become a cantor because of my voice, which allowed me to assist with preparation for Sunday Mass at the rectory. I had questions about God and the Trinitarian belief that Jesus was in the wafers that I placed on dishes along with the wine in chalices, representing that body and blood of Christ!

My parents read to us children (I was one of eleven) about the lives of the Prophets. I became very interested in the Prophets. I saw them as very holy men and I wanted to be like them. I wondered if any still lived and if I could meet one. I also began to study about other religions, like Buddhism, Judaism, Jehovah Witnesses, and others. I remember clearly when Mr. Ludd, father of my good friend Yakub, and a Muslim, told me once that those statues over there in the church are

“Coffee, Cake, and True Islam” to further open its doors to the local community.

Do you want to join us? Are you interested in moving to the Washington, DC chapter? With several top-tier universities (Georgetown, GWU, Maryland, etc.), and proximity to national headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, the DC chapter is an attractive landing spot for Ahmadi students and young professionals.

idols and should not worshiped. That was an introduction for me what idolatry was, and I thought about that especially when we kid made those status at the summer camp sponsored by the church!

I grew into my teens and early twenties, life become more problematic and my questions about God and my purpose in life continued. At night I would climb to a very high hill on the grounds of St. Elizabeth's Hospital grounds which overlooked that city of Washington from about 1000 feet above sea level and pray and ponder: Who is the One True God, what is my purpose, what is the right religion? The seriousness of these questions affected family, because I had married young and had four children who were to be raised Catholic but were being trained in an evangelist religion by their mother.

In addition to this, during the late 1960s, my career in music began to take shape. My teacher had told my parents to get me ready for medical school, because I would be a doctor. I was very good in science and could even operate on small animals and birds, which I learned on my own. But my family was far from wealthy and unable to afford medical school. So, my voice became the talent which led to my becoming a member and lead singer for the popular R&B vocal group. “The

The U.S. federal government is the nation's largest employer, offering exciting careers in virtually every field. Many Ahmadi serve our country in government positions or in consulting/contracting roles, or work for companies' DC offices. If you're thinking about moving here, or have any questions about our chapter, please write to info.wdc@ahmadiyya.us to learn more!

Moments.” Stardom presents many temptations and moral challenges. But by this time, I had found Islam. I met two brothers, Ada and Shaheed, of the Dahr Community. They taught me things about the Qur'an, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and the religion of Islam. I met them in the month of Ramadan and took my Shahada, in their house. And it was Islam that helped me to stay strong and disciplined in moral as I faced those challenges that come from being popular and sought after by fans.

I moved on the Islamic Center where I met Dr. Rauf, the Missionary, and began to learn more Arabic, and Sheikh Fatti, the Muezzin that taught me the Adhan, how to call prayer. I was there during the crisis that surrounded the Shi'ite efforts to take control of the Center. Still full of questions and the search for Prophets, I was drawn to visit the Ahmadiyya Mosque in DC. There my search concluded. I learned about the Promised Messiah and Mahdi that had been prophesied by previous scriptures and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) to com the Later Days. I learned that this was what the Second Coming of Jesus was about not that Jesus the Christ would descend from the heavens as a return of that one who had been on the cross. The

Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam was founded by this Promised Messiah to reform and in this sense was the religion of Islam to its true path, just as the Holy Prophet Muhammad, but in this sense was a Prophet and whose successor to the Holy Prophet.

Now I had found those holy men that I learn of when my parents read to us about the Prophets. There have been five Khalifas since the death of the Promised Messiah in 1908. I have met two of them. And I found a religious community that May not be perfect, but whose members pledge to practice the religion of Islam in the most perfect way possible. This means equality for all, where none is

superior to another because of color or culture.

My music today strives to impart messages inspired by Qur'an that could help others, especially the youth, that have those same questions I struggled with years ago: Who is The One True God, Creator of the heavens and earth and all between; What is right religion; and what is my purpose. I also recite(sing) in a Capello and beautiful poems of the Promised Messiah. It is Islam that has carried me through the trials and hardships of several marriages, and it is Islam that gives me the best way to stay in touch with my nine children, even those who are not Muslim. This

religion, the Holy Qur'an, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, and the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam are meant for all and speak to all. I try to help them hear and listen.

Mr. Nuruddin Al Hadith: I became an Ahmadi in early 1972 as a result of almost a lifetime of seeking an understanding of the existence of God (Allah) and my duties and responsibilities thereof. After many years of searching and inquiry it alternately became apart the religion of Islam, the purpose of the holy prophets and the teachings of the promised Messiah and Mahdi (Guide) was an alternate destination to the true faith.

Washington D.C. Jamā'at History

Compiled by Jaleel Akbar

The history of the Ahmadiyya Community in Washington DC began in 1949 when the Missionary In-charge of the United States at that time, Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir, was instructed by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II^{ra} to move the Jamā'at's headquarters from Chicago to Washington DC, as the capital of the United States had emerged from the post-World War II era as an internationally important city. A large house was found in the embassy district of the city on Leroy Place, Northwest, acquired with the financial assistance of Hazrat Chaudhry Muhammad Zafrullah Khanra, and the move was completed by May 1950. Hazrat

Khalifatul-Masih II^{ra} was pleased to name the new mosque as The American Fazl Mosque.

The designation "American" in its name helps distinguish it from its sister mosque, the Fazl Mosque, London. It is notable that both mosques were the first mosques in the capitals of the U.S. and the UK. Located a few minutes from the White House, and neighboring several embassies, the Fazl Mosque opened seven years prior to the Islamic Center of Washington and is the longest serving mosque in the nation's capital. The American Fazl Mosque property was built as a private residence in 1912. The

Colonial Revival-style building is designated as a contributing property to the Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It also had an added advantage of accommodating the new headquarters in a much larger square-footage area including many more rooms and facilities than the Sadiq Mosque in Chicago. The mosque served as the headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Movement in the United States from 1950 until 1994, when it was moved to Bait-ur-Rehman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland.



Early Missionary Work

The nature of the missionary work became more complex here than the previous era in Chicago, taking on an international character, by engaging with the embassies of various countries and the US State Department, as well as continuing with the work of propagation and religious training. Hazrat Chaudhry Muhammad Zafrulla Khan's work at the United Nations in New York also brought him to visits to Washington D.C. and he would travel between New York and Washington DC by car, driven by the younger brother of Dr. Khalil Nasir, Jameel Ahmad Akbar, arguably one of the earliest members of the Washington D.C. Jamā'at. During the decade of the 1950s, Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir was invited to speak and represent Islam at several international religious conferences held in Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, and several

European countries. The literary work of the US Ahmadiyya Jamā'at increased dramatically during this period. The publication of the Muslim Sunrise increased its pace as a quarterly journal hosting articles on comparative religions and current topics. Another major literary development in 1950 was the founding of the Ahmadiyya Gazette by Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir. In addition, more new books were published and made available through the missionary work at Washington D.C., such as an American edition of Ahmadiyyat or the True Islam by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II, An Interpretation of Islam by an Italian scholar, Professor Vaglieri, and the Reader's Digest reprint by the US Ahmadiyya Community of a popular and nationally famous writer, James A. Michener, titled Islam, The Most

Misunderstood Religion. There also appeared new booklets authored by Dr. Khalil Nasir as part of the preaching and propagation of the true beauties of Islam geared for an American audience. In 1955 Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II travelled to Europe and to London, during which visit Khalifatul-Masih held a conference of all missionaries stationed in Europe and America, for which Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir as Missionary In-charge of the United States travelled to and participated in supporting the London visit. Among other accomplishments, Dr. Nasir started the elections of the National Executives and the National Auxiliaries. Prior to his move to Washington DC, Dr. Nasir had initiated the first ever Jalsa Salana of the United States in 1948 taking place in Dayton, Ohio.

The Expansion of Missionaries at the Headquarters



Above is the 1989 picture of missionaries in the Washington DC area in the front lawn of the Fazl Mosque. Seated left to right: Syed Shamshad Ahmad Nasir, Inamul Haq Kausar, Chaudhry Munir Ahmad, Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, Abdur Rashid Yahya, Zafar Sarwar, Mubasher Ahmad.

The following decades, starting with the 1960s witnessed several more who served in Washington DC as Missionary In-charge and assistant or regional missionaries. Chaudhry Ghulam Yaseen served as a missionary in the United States for 16 years and took over as the Missionary In-charge in 1959 and continued to serve in this capacity until 1963. Syed Jawad Ali served in Washington DC starting in January 1963 and continued to serve as missionary until 1971. Aminullah Khan Salik worked as a missionary in Washington DC, New York, and Chicago from 1960 to 1963. Qureshi Maqbool Ahmad served as Missionary In-charge from 1967 to 1971. Chaudhry Sharif Ahmad Bajwa

served as Missionary In-charge in 1972. Muhammad Siddique Shahid Gurdaspuri served as Missionary In-charge from 1973 to 1977. He also had the honor to host the visit of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III in 1976, which was the first ever visit of any khalifa to the United States. Maulana Ataullah Kaleem served as Missionary In-charge in Washington DC from 1977 to 1983. He greatly expanded the religious training and publications of the US Ahmadiyya Jamā'at including the starting of the Urdu periodical *Al-Noor*, and authored the book *A Synopsis of Religious Preaching*. Abdur Rashid Yahya also served as an assistant missionary to Maulana Ataullah Kaleem starting in 1977 in

Washington DC, and served two tenures: 1977-1981, and 1986-1994. Syed Mir Mahmood Ahmad Nasir served as Missionary In-charge from November 1978 for two years. Among his accomplishments, he represented the Ahmadiyya Community at the United Nations Conference of World Religions. He also had the honor to host Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III's second visit to the United States in 1980. Both Maulana Ataullah Kaleem and Syed Mir Mahmood Ahmad Nasir took turns to serve as Missionary In-charge in the years 1977 to 1983, the details of which are not being given justice in this short article. Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad served as Missionary In-charge from 1983 to

his retirement in 1990. Zafar Ahmad Sarwar served as missionary in the United States including Washington DC starting in 1984 and served during the 1980s here. And Sheikh Naseeruddin Ahmad, who

previously served in Africa, served at the Fazl Mosque during the 1980s. The accomplishments of these missionaries has not been properly accounted for in this short article, which requires a separate detailed

writing. For brief references and pictures of these missionaries, the reader is referred to: Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA: 50th Jalsa Salana Souvenir.

The Washington DC Metropolitan Jamā'at



In addition to its role as the National Headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Community in the United States, the Fazl Mosque fully functioned as the mosque and center of activities for the local Washington DC chapter. Local American Ahmadi converts worshipped and remained active along with immigrant Ahmadis from Pakistan and India. Among the most prominent of early Ahmadi residents of the Washington DC area was Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar "M.M" Ahmad, son of Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad,^{ra} and grandson of the Promised Messiah. During the 1980s and 1990s, immigration of Ahmadis greatly increased and this resulted in a rapid increase in the size of the local Jamā'at, covering the

geographic areas of suburban Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland. The names of all the local converts has not yet been compiled, however, some well-known names can be mentioned. Among the early converts were Ahmad Haleem, Muhammad Ameen, Abdul Raheem Kolade, Noorudin Al-Hadith, Ishmael Hashim, and Mujahid Abdul Azim. The early converts among Lajna Ima'illah who resided in Washington DC were: Sister Rashida Taha (1952-1986), Sister Fatima Haneef Mahmood (starting in 1965), Sister Saeeda Lateef (early 1950s to 1958), Sister Shakura Nooriah (from the mid-1960s onwards), Sister Nusrat Al-Hadith.

The Washington Metropolitan

Jamā'at was led by the following Presidents: Muhammad Ameen, Munawar Saeed, Mubasher Ahmad, Chaudhry Allah Bakhsh, Masoud Ahmad Malik, Dr. Hidayat Khan, and Abdul Shukoore Ahmad.

The following picture shows a representation of the members of the Washington DC Metropolitan Jamā'at on the occasion of Eid in 1973: Among the pictured that the author is able to identify are: seated from left: Jamal Malik, unknown, Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad, Muhammad Siddique Shahid, Missionary In-charge, Muhammad Ameen, Yahya Sharif, unknown. In the third row standing: 4th from left is partially obscured; 5th from left: Mubasher Ahmad; 6th from left:

Jameel Akbar.

The Washington DC Jamā'at has been blessed with many noteworthy and respected guests, both belonging to various parts of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Community, including

many from the International Headquarters in Rabwah, Pakistan, as well as outside guests. Space does not permit the narration of those visits. However, it will be mentioned that as Hazrat Chaudhry Muhammad Zafrulla Khan was a

frequent guest during the 1950s and 1960s, his final visit was in November 1984 when he met with all the local Jamā'at members, and spoke at the Religious Founders Day meeting at University of Maryland in College Park.

Visits of Khalifatul-Masih



Seated left to right: Munawar Saeed, President of Washington DC Jamā'at; Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih III; Muhammad Siddique Shahid Gurdaspuri, Missionary In-charge; Rashid Ahmad "American," National President.

The Washington Metropolitan Jamā'at was graced by the first ever visit of any khalifa in 1976, when Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III arrived via Dulles International Airport and stayed at the residence of Sahibzada M.M. Ahmad. Khalifatul-Masih III held family meetings with all the members in the Fazl Mosque, was interviewed by the newspaper media, delivered speeches to the United States Jamā'at members in the Fazl Mosque, and generally assessed and directed the activities of the United States Ahmadiyya Community. Details of his visit have been recorded in *The Muslim*

Sunrise and *The Ahmadiyya Gazette*.

In 1978, the Washington DC area was also graced by the visit of Hazrat Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad, at that time in his individual capacity. A brief list of visits of Khulafa to Washington DC is given below:

1976 – Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad Khalifatul-Masih III. Muhammad Siddique Shahid served as Missionary In-charge.

1980 – Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad Khalifatul-Masih III. Syed Mir Mahmood Ahmad Nasir served as Missionary In-charge.

1987 – Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih IV. Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad served as Missionary In-charge.

1989—Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalifatul-Masih IV. Sahibzada M.M. Ahmad served as the Ameer of the United States Jamā'at.

1991 – Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalifatul-Masih IV. Sahibzada M.M. Ahmad serving as Ameer.

1994—Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalifatul-Masih IV. Sahibzada M.M. Ahmad serving as



Ameer. Inauguration of Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland, and the move of the National Headquarters there.

1996—Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalifatul-Masih IV. Sahibzada M.M. Ahmad serving as Ameer. US Jalsa Salana held at Bait-ur-Rahman.

1997—Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalifatul-Masih IV. Sahibzada M.M. Ahmad serving as Ameer. US Jalsa Salana held at Bait-ur-Rahman.

1998 - Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalifatul-Masih IV.

Sahibzada M.M. Ahmad serving as Ameer. US Jalsa Salana held at Bait-ur-Rahman.

2008 – Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad Khalifatul-Masih V, staying at Bait-ur-Rahman. Dr. Ahsanullah Zafr served as Ameer. Jalsa Salana held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

2012 - Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad Khalifatul-Masih V, staying at Bait-ur-Rahman. Dr. Ahsanullah Zafr served as Ameer. Jalsa Salana held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

2018 - Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad Khalifatul-Masih V, staying at Bait-ur-Rahman. Sahibzada Mirza

Maghfoor Ahmad serving as Ameer. Jalsa Salana held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

In conclusion, a brief summary of some highlighted events has been attempted here, and it's acknowledged that full justice has not been done. The Washington DC Metropolitan Jamā'at has a very rich storied history, much more so than described, which requires volumes to be documented properly. It is hoped that research will continue to be done by future scholars and published for the benefit of posterity.

**THE WASHINGTON MOSQUE
(OUR NEW HEADQUARTERS)**

IT IS WITH GREATEST JOY AND GRATITUDE TO ALLAH THAT WE ARE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WASHINGTON MOSQUE. GREAT NEED WAS FELT FOR A LONG TIME TO HAVE A MOSQUE IN THE CAPITAL OF THE NATION. FINANCIALLY IT WAS NOT AN EASY STEP TO TAKE BUT OUR BELOVED MASTER, HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH, DECIDED TO FULFILL THIS NEED IN SPITE OF THE HARDSHIPS AND SACRIFICES THROUGH WHICH THE MOVEMENT HAS BEEN PASSING FOR SOME YEARS. THE NET PRICE PAID WAS \$42,000 AND ANOTHER \$8,000 WILL BE NEEDED FOR NECESSARY REPAIRS AND FURNITURE. THIS IS A GREAT AND ARDUOUS STRAIN WHICH THE CENTER WILL HAVE TO UNDERGO IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THIS MOSQUE IN AMERICA. I APPEAL TO THE AMERICAN AHMADIES TO DO THEIR SHARE TO LIGHTEN THIS HEAVY BURDEN ON THE CENTER. THIS CAN BE DONE BY VERY GENEROUS DONATIONS. SO FAR OUR SHARE IN CARRYING THIS RESPONSIBILITY HAS BEEN VERY MEAGRE. FOLLOWING IS A REPORT OF THE DONATIONS SO FAR RECEIVED:

DONATIONS:

DAYTON MISSION	\$ 155.00
PITTSBURGH MISSION	349.00
SISTER AND BROTHER AHMAD ALI (INDIANAPOLIS)	100.00
SISTER KAREEMA (KANSAS CITY)	5.00
SISTER ALIYYAH (KANSAS CITY)	25.00
SISTER KAREEMA (CHICAGO)	5.00
CINCINNATI MISSION	25.00
	<u>\$ 664.00</u>

LOANS:

DAYTON MISSION	\$ 500.00
BRO. AMEER ALI (YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO)	200.00
	<u>\$ 700.00</u>

WE HOPE THAT MISSIONS AND MEMBERS INDIVIDUALLY WILL MAKE AN EARLY RESPONSETO THIS VERY NOBLE CAUSE AND SHARE THE BLESSINGS OF ALLAH IN ABUNDANCE.

Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, Vol. 1, No. 4, June 1950

Florida: Miami



Bait-un-Naseer, Miami, FL

Miami, officially the City of Miami, is the seat of Miami-Dade County, and the cultural, economic and financial center of South Florida in the United States. The city covers an area of about 56 square miles between the Everglades to the west and Biscayne Bay to the east. Miami is the sixth most densely populated major city in the United States with an estimated 2018 population of 470,914. The Miami metropolitan area is home to 6.1 million people, the second-most populous in the southeastern United States and the seventh-largest in the nation. The city has the third tallest skyline in the U.S. with over 300 high-rises, 55 of which exceed 490 ft (149 m).

Miami is a major center and leader in finance, commerce, culture, media, entertainment, the arts, and international trade. (Wikipedia)

Brief History

Photographs of Miami Jamā'at

events going back to 2011 can be found on our website <http://www.amcmiami.info/>.

Anecdotal evidence suggest that the first Ahmadi in Miami was Aziz Moinuddin. Mr. Moinuddin was a convert from India who spent some time abroad, including Saudi Arabia, before arriving in America and residing in New York. Unfortunately, the weather during the New York winter did not suit him and initially he planned to leave America altogether. However, an acquaintance of his told him that if his only complaint with America was the weather, he should try living in Miami as the weather there was much warmer. So instead of taking a flight overseas, Mr. Moinuddin took a flight from New York to Miami and the rest, as they say, is history. Mr. Moinuddin's wife and children joined him in Miami and thus the seed of a Jamā'at was laid. Mr. Moinuddin passed away some years ago and is buried in Miami so there

is no direct corroboration of this story. What is certain is that in 1984, after a few other families moved to the Miami area, Mr. Moinuddin became the first president of the Miami Jamā'at and served in that capacity until 1993. The first Miami Jamā'at meetings and congregational prayers were held in his home in Hialeah, Florida.

On April 23, 1993, the Miami Jamā'at was finally able to purchase a house in unincorporated Broward County, Florida and thus the first Ahmadi mosque in the state of Florida was founded. Abdul Basit also became president of Miami Jamā'at in 1993 and served in that capacity until 2001. Unfortunately, due to zoning restrictions, the building was sold on September 21, 2001, Miami's first mosque was abandoned and for three years, the Miami Jamā'at did not have a permanent home. The Jamā'at met in conference halls, parks, and recreational faculties. In 2001 Sharif

Khan began serving as president and in 2002, Syed Mehmood Ahmed began serving as president. In 2003, by the grace of Allah, the Miami Jamā'at was able to purchase a church in Hallandale Beach, Florida on September 28, 2004, which continues to serve as our Mosque. In 2005 the Miami Jamā'at, which had previously covered the entire state of Florida, was split into two and a new Jamā'at was created in Orlando, Florida for the members living in central and northern Florida. Dr. Syed Mubarak briefly served as president in 2008 after Mr. Mehmood Ahmed moved out of Florida but Dr. Mubarak was also replaced as president after he too moved out of Florida. In 2008 Munawar Chaudhry began serving as President and continued serving as president until earlier this year. Our current president is Dr. Tariq

Mehmood.

Miami has had the great pleasure and honor of hosting Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV on three separate occasions during his trips to America in 1978, 1987, and 1991. Miami has also participated in the Miami Book Fair every year since 1989. The Miami Book Fair is an annual literary festival which has become a model for other book fairs across the country. While the Jamā'at's participation was limited to just one booth in the beginning, in years past, up to five separate Jamā'at booths have been present at the fair representing topics such as the Holy Quran, the Review of Religions, a Spanish Language Booth, and a Lajna booth. Miami has also published the Al Nasser magazine locally for some time. Being the gateway to the Caribbean,

Miami has also been at the forefront of spreading the message of Islam and Ahmadiyyat to the Caribbean Islands.

In 2010, Miami was able to host its first permanent Missionary, Muhammad Saeed who stayed in Miami until 2017 when he was transferred to New Jersey. Miami now has the honor of hosting Missionary Abdullah Syed. Miami has hosted various national Jamā'at events such as National Amila meetings for the Jamā'at as well as auxiliaries. Being one of the few places in America with a regulation cricket pitch, the Masroor Cricket Tournament is also held in Miami and last year, Miami was also able to host the Basketball portion of the Masroor International Sports Tournament. (Imran Ahmad, Labeed Ahmad)



MFL Blood Drive and Atfal Food Drive on Eid Day at Baitul Naseer Mosque Oct 16, 2013 ©amcmiami.info



Khuddam Participated in the clean up activity at Hallandale Beach, May 26, 2013 ©amcmiami.info

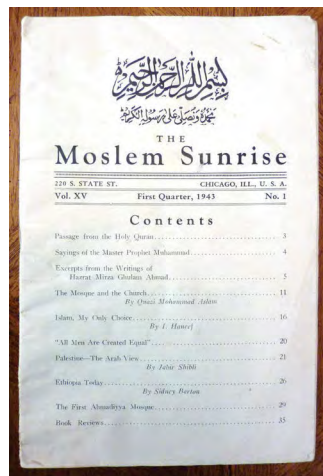


USA Ahmadiyya Cricket Team in Fort Lauderdale, Florida © www.Amcmiami.info





Left: Yusef Lateef receiving prize from Muzaffar Ahmad Zafr. Right: Mir Mahmud Nasir in conversation with Rahmat Jamal.



Left: Ahmadiyya literature with Nyla in Stanley ND who had seen Missionary MR Bengalee when he visited Ross ND decades ago. (Syed Sajid Ahmad)

Florida: Orlando

Introduction

City of Orlando, Florida, nicknamed “The City Beautiful,” is one of the world’s most visited tourist destinations. Tens of millions of people visit Orlando’s famous attractions. While being full of transient worldly joys, this city was missing the blessings of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) until the start of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in 2005.

Membership of the Orlando Jamā’at has grown from 35 members in 2005 to 155 in 2019 including 18 Amila members.

The Orlando Jamā’at spans from Sebring, located in South Central Florida, to Tallahassee, located in North panhandle region. The main cities that constitute the Orlando Jamā’at are Orlando, Tampa,

Gainesville, and Jacksonville. The Orlando Jamā’at Mosque, Bait-ul-Aafiyat, is in south Orlando minutes from Orlando International Airport and popular area attractions. As of 2019, there are three Ahmadi families that reside near the Mosque. By the Grace of God, Orlando Jamā’at comprised of three Halqas (Circles, Subchapters):

- Orlando Halqa (home of the Bait-ul-Aafiyat Mosque)
- Tampa Halqa which is approximately 100 miles west from Bait-ul-Aafiyat Mosque.
- Jacksonville Halqa which is approximately 160 miles northeast from Bait-ul-Aafiyat Mosque.

All Halqas have Halqa leaders and hold regular Jum’ah Prayers and

congregational Prayers, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh.

Before the establishment of Orlando Chapter in 2005, Ahmadi living in the Orlando area were part of the Miami Chapter and travelled to Bait-un-Naseer Mosque in Miami to participate in the Jamā’at events including Eid prayers.

With Allah’s blessing, collective efforts by Ahmadi families residing in the area, approval was granted to form the Orlando Halqa in mid-2004. Monthly Halqa meetings were held in Orlando and Jacksonville in the homes of the following Ahmadi families: Saleem Ahmad Hayat, Fazal ur Rehman Qureshi, Khalid Ahmed Solangi, and Tariq Waheed.

Establishment of Orlando Jamā’at

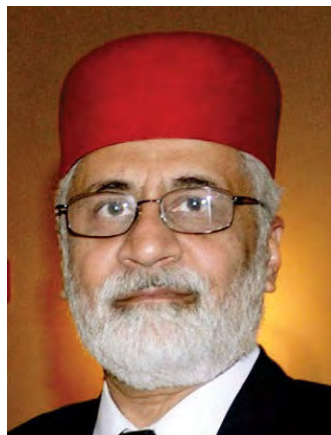
In 2005, early members convened at the home of Fazal ur Rehman Qureshi where the establishment of Orlando Jamā’at was announced and celebrated with prayer.

During the month of September 2005, at the home of Tariq Waheed’s family, Imam Daud Hanif, representative from the National Headquarters, officially announced the establishment of Orlando

Chapter with the following elected and approved officers: Saleem Ahmad Hayat (President 2005-2010), Tariq Waheed (General Secretary), Fazal ur Rehman Qureshi (Finance Secretary).



Saleem Ahmad Hayat
(2005-2010)



Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa
(2010-2019)



Fazal Ur Rehman Qureshi
(2019-...)

Baitul-Aafiyat Mosque

The newly formed Orlando Jamā'at worked diligently to find a place for a mosque where all members could gather for congregational prayers and hold Jamā'at events included Eid prayers

During mid-2006, the Orlando Jamā'at members previewed four different properties in the Orlando Area and decided to purchase and convert a property to a local mosque. These efforts were successful with the immense financial sacrifice by one of our Orlando Jamā'at members, Dr. Haris Inam Mirza.

The premise at 9501 Satellite Blvd, Ste 103, Orlando, FL was purchased on November 15, 2006, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh. Jamā'at requested Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his helper) to request for prayers and to name the Mosque. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V named the mosque Bait-ul-Aafiyat. After approximately two years, the headquarter paid the remaining amount of the property, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh.

In September 2008, the first remodeling of Bait-ul-Aafiyat

started and conversion of this premise in order to meet the needs of all local members. All renovations were done by Riaz Ahmad and Tariq Waheed (local Orlando members) who worked day and night. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, the renovations were completed in October of 2008.

In 2010, the second phase of the remodeling of the Bait-ul-Aafiyat was completed which included a kitchen area, Lajna Hall and an additional bathroom to meet the needs of the fast-growing Orlando Jamā'at.



Baitul-Aafiyat after Renovation

From top left (clockwise), Front View, Front door, Entrance and hallway to Lajna Hall, Kitchen and dining area and library.

Orlando Jama'at Timeline

2004-2019



Visits from National and International guests

Since the establishment of Orlando Chapter, we were blessed with the presence of the following respected members of the National Amila and Missionaries:

National Vice President, Dr. Faheem Younus, National Tabligh Secretary, Dr. Waseem Sayed, National TaQWA Secretary, Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Ahmad,

National Finance Secretary, Mirza Ahsan Ahmad, Missionary Mohammad Zafarullah Hanjra and Missionary Yahya Luqman.

We were blessed to host international guests:

Imam Feroz Alam from London in-charge of MTA Bangla desk, Muhammad Ismatullah from Japan, and Missionary Murtaza Mannan

from Germany

The chapter also hosted Ahmadi visitors for private visits from all over the country and the world: Australia, Japan, Sweden, England, Germany, Mexico, Guatemala, Qadian, Rabwah, Saudi Arabia, France, and Canada.

Financial Contributions

Financial sacrifices of the members of Orlando Jamā'at continue to grow, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh. In 2006, the total budget for Chanda Waṣiyyat/Aam and Jalsa Salana was \$25,000 and in 2019 the total budget for Chanda Waṣiyyat/Aam

and Jalsa Salana was \$155,000, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh.

Orlando Jamā'at members have contributed to Humanity First and have partaken in Humanity First Telethons past several years and

during one year they have raised up to \$4,788.

Moreover, four Ahmadi families pledged a unit each for the building of Nasir Hospital in Guatemala.

Prominent Members



Right to left: Habeeb Shafeek, Imtiyaz Rajayki, Fazal ur Rehman Qureshi

Mumtaz Feroza, wife of Dervish-e-Qadian, Late Chaudhry Munawar Ali Khan.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Rajayki son of

Companion of the Promised Messiah, Ghulam Rasool Rajayki.

Mohammad Habeeb Shafeek received "Lifelong Service Award." at the 38th National Majlis Ansarullah USA Ijtimā.

Fazal ur Rehman Qureshi is the grandson of Hazrat Hafiz Mohammad Ameen, an early companion (Sahabi) of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). Hazrat Hafiz Mohammad Ameen was born in 1861, joined Ahmadiyyat at the hands of the Promised Messiah in 1895, lived in Qadian for 52 years, and died in 1950. Hafiz Mohammad Ameen started holding Tarawih prayers in Masjid Aqsa,

Qadian, and continued to lead Tarawih for many years. (Hayat-e-Ameen, Qureshi Aatur Rehman, Darwesh-i-Qadian). Fazal ur Rehman Qureshi received the "Service to Local Majalis Award" in 2019.

Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa is grandson of a companion of the Promised Messiah (Chaudhry Muhammad Hussain Bajwa, Waṣiyyat No: 7), and son-in-law of Prof. Sir Abdus Salam, Nobel Laureate. Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa was Sadr Majlis Ansarullah, USA from 2006 to 2013.

Anisa Bushra Salam Bajwa, daughter of Prof. Sir Abdus Salam, Nobel Laureate.

Jamā'at Events and Waqf-e-Ardi

Majlis Ansarullah and Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya Regional Ijtimā'at were held and hosted by Orlando Jamā'at with the help of local Lajna members for many years.

Orlando Jamā'at members including Lajna committed their time to do Waqf-e-Ardi by traveling to Antigua, Guatemala, and Merida, Mexico.

The Orlando Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was invited to speak in defense of Islam as the religion of peace at the Space Coast Chapter of the "ACT! For America" monthly chapter meeting in the Brevard County Government Building, Vieira, Florida. Orlando Jamā'at President Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa

gave a presentation on Islām and its peaceful teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. At this time, all Lajna members also had ample opportunity to speak with female members of ACT! For America. All of us were asked questions about purdah, status of women, Shariah law, etc. The "ACT! For America" chapter leader expressed his gratitude by stating, "I am happy to tell you that I have received several very positive comments from my members regarding your presentation. Be assured, I intend to inform other leaders about the Ahmadiyya Muslim views and beliefs, with the hope of building bridges of understanding where there is now a divide."

Orlando Jamā'at members participated in Unity Day, held in Mulberry on September 11, 2013, that was held in memory of 9/11 victims, and as a show of peace and unity in the face of Pastor Terry Jones' continued plans to burn thousands of copies of the Holy Qur'an. Members donated blood at this event, as part of our 'Muslims for Life' campaign and were able to speak one-on-one with other attendees about Islam Ahmadiyyat, family values, women and education, purdah, peaceful resolutions to current world problems, loyalty to one's country, no matter what religious beliefs are.



Waqf-e-Ardi in Merida, Mexico Historical Tabligh Events



Orlando Jamā'at members with Mayor of Lakeland, Gow Fields, at the 10th Annual Unity Day in Mulberry, FL. *Right to left:* Fazal ur Rehman Qureshi, Tariq Waheed, Mayor Gow Fields, Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa, Khalid Ahmad Solangi, Habeeb Shafeek



10th Annual Unity Day in Mulberry, FL

Response to “Burn a Quran Event”

On the ninth anniversary of September 11, a Christian evangelical church, the Dove World Outreach Centre, Gainesville, FL, planned to hold an International ‘Burn a Koran Day.’ Members of the Orlando Chapter reached out to the church leadership to initiate a dialogue. However, the church did not respond to several requests for a

meeting. On September 10, 2010, an interfaith gathering was held in the largest church in Gainesville, Florida. This event was organized in response to Pastor Terry Jones of Gainesville, Florida, who was threatening to burn Holy Qur’ān on September 11, 2010. Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa, President of the Orlando Jama’at, was invited to speak at this

event. Total attendance was more than 2,000, and the event lasted from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. TV Channel Fox35 Orlando Station interviewed Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa (President Orlando Jama’at) and Habeeb Shafeek (Tabligh Secretary) in two segments on September 10, 2010, at 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM. Total viewers: more than 500,000.

Response to Orlando Nightclub Shooting



Local Media at Bait-ul-Aafiyat Mosque Orlando interviewing Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa (President) after the press conference about the nightclub shooting

On June 12, 2016, Omar Mateen, a 29-year-old security guard, killed 49 people and wounded 53 others in a mass shooting inside a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, On Sunday, June 12, 2016, Leaders of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community condemned the senseless killing of innocent people at a night club in Orlando. President of the Orlando Chapter, Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa said: “We are here today to offer our sincere prayers for the 50 lives that were lost so tragically in Orlando in the early hours of Sunday, June 12, 2016. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of

those whose lives were lost, as well as those who are still recovering from their injuries. Our community is deeply saddened-Whatever happened today was not Islamic in any way, shape, or form. We, as Ahmadi Muslims, stand together with all the peace-loving people of the world, no matter their faith or race. Our hearts are broken because our faith is once again blamed for this atrocity, even though the perpetrator’s actions could not be further from the teachings of true Islam; we explicitly condemn this act of violence and any other such acts

being carried out in the name of Islam, both domestically and internationally. We pray for the swift and full recovery of the injured, and our heroic law enforcement officers. We continue to offer our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the victims. The Khalifa of Islam, Mirza Masroor Ahmad, recently said how the misguided and the radicalized are creating havoc. He said: “We can all see how satanic influences are leading to brutality and murder. Innocent people are being slaughtered, and the perpetrators claim they will be

rewarded with a place in heaven.”

Islam teaches reverence for all

human life. This is a time to pray and act to stop such senseless violence in our nation. May Allah have mercy on

us all and enable us to live together in peace and understanding, Amin.”

Social Outreach/Service to Humanity

Orlando Jamā’at members have and continue to participate in the following projects/organizations:



Humanity First: Participated in hurricane cleanups as part of the Humanity First Disaster Relief program. Orlando Jamā’at hosted several families who had to evacuate

their homes during the hurricane Irma in 2017.



As part of the **Muslims for life** Campaign, Orlando Jamā’at has held multiple Blood Drives to help maintain blood supplies at local blood banks.

Loyalty Campaign, Orlando Jamā’at participates in July 4th celebrations in Downtown Orlando.



Habitat for Humanity (Jacksonville). Participated in building new homes for the needy in the Jacksonville area.

Service to Jamā’at by Lajna Ima’illa Orlando

Lajna History and achievements

Lajna Orlando has grown over the years from approximately 15 in 2005 to 49 in 2019. Lajna Sadr include Ghazala Hayat, Roohul Amin Rehman and Anisa Bushra Salam Bajwa. Lajna Orlando has received many national awards including 1st place in Khidmat-e-Khalq, Nāsirat, Public Affairs, and Amoores Talibaat, 2nd place in Ta’lim, Tabligh, Maal, Handicraft, and Diyāfat.

One of Orlando Lajna member, Rabeea Summer Rehman received the Humanity First Excellence in Service Award 2019. Rabeea Summer Rehman established the first chapter of Humanity First in Central Florida and has served as the President of Humanity First Student Organization (HFSO) at University of Central Florida (UCF).

Relationship with Government officials

Orlando Lajna Public Affairs have participated in the Ahmadiyya Muslims Day on the Hill in 2017 and

As part of the **Muslims for**

2019. Orlando Lajna have introduced Ahmadiyyat during meetings with the following officials: Senator Linda Stewart, Mayor Buddy Dyer, Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy, Congressman Darren Soto, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Commissioner Maribel Gomez Cordero and staff members of Congresswomen Kathy Castor, Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, and Frederica Wilson.

Lajna Tabligh



Orlando Lajna started Ladies’ Coffee, Cake & True Islam (CCTI) every Friday at Panera Bread

Orlando Lajna paid respects in response to Orlando Pulse nightclub shooting by displaying flowers and poster with Love for All, Hated for None’



Orlando Lajna has a long-standing relationship with the Episcopal Church of Resurrection and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County (UULC) by taking part and hosting interfaith events.

Orlando Lajna has an active Amoores Talibaat monthly book clubs & socials in which Talibaats meet to read and discuss the selected book followed by a social activity such as golfing, ice skating, blueberry picking, and/or visit to theme park.

Lajna Khidmat-e-Khalq

Weekly Meals on Wheels serving and feeding 6 houses

Weekly feeding 50-60 homeless people

Cooking and serving meals at Ronald McDonald House



Donating to Second Harvest Food Bank.

Humanity First Student Organization (HFSO) at University of Central Florida (UCF)

Ahmadi students at the UCF established a HFSP. Although HFSO of UCF was active in the service of the community for 2 years, they were officially established as a Registered Student Organization on February 2019. HFSO of UCF has been active in serving the local community through serving monthly dinners to residents living in Ronald McDonald House near Arnold Palmer Hospital, spending their evening in volunteering at the Harbor House facility for victims of abuse, collecting donations and making Homeless Care Packages, raising funds for Humanity First Programs, and much more. The HFSO of UCF organized a Gift of Health Medical Service Trip to Guatemala in December 2019 where students serve in Nasir Hospital. HFSO of UCF has grown in membership and is led by a board of 7 students.

[Rabeea Summer Rehman, Executive Director, HFSO of UCF]

Lajna Humanity First Ambassadorship

After the establishment of HFSO of UCF, Lajna Humanity First Ambassadorship was established to encourage Lajna activity in Humanity First efforts. Lajna have been active in donating funds, cooking, & serving weekly lunches to the homeless in Orlando. For the Humanity First International Telethon in 2018 & 2019, Orlando Jamā'at was able to raise a total of more than \$5,000 that benefited Humanity First programs and the Bahamas Hurricane Relief Efforts.

Local accomplishments

The Orlando Jamā'at established Tahir Academy in August 2019 with ten students.



The Inauguration of Orlando Tahir Academy: Tahir Academy children with (Left to the right:) Fazal Ur Rehman Qureshi, Imam Abdullah Mohammad Syed, Imam Tariq Naseem Ahmed, and Amin Ahmad Zain.

Conclusion

As membership expands rapidly, the Orlando Jamā'at looks forward to purchasing a bigger Mosque to accommodate the growing needs of the community. May Orlando Jamā'at become the

recipients of Promised Messiah's (peace be on him) revelation of "Wassi' Makanaka" ("expand your site") by having a larger place to provide space and facility to the Ahmadi Muslims to promote the

name of the Almighty Allah, his Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be on him), and Messiah and Mahdi of this age, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian (peace be on him), Amin.

Georgia/South Carolina: Atlanta



Bait-ul-Ata, 1800 Willow Trail Parkway, Norcross, GA-30093

Atlanta is the capital and most populous city in the U.S. state of Georgia. With an estimated 2018 population of 498,044, it is also the 37th most-populous city in the United States. The city serves as the cultural and economic center of the Atlanta metropolitan area, home to 5.9 million people and the ninth largest metropolitan area in the nation.

Atlanta was originally founded as the terminus of a major state-sponsored railroad. With rapid expansion, however, it soon became

the convergence point among multiple railroads, spurring its rapid growth. The city's name derives from that of the Western and Atlantic Railroad's local depot, signifying the town's growing reputation as a transportation hub.

During the American Civil War, the city was almost entirely burned to the ground in General William T. Sherman's famous March to the Sea. However, the city rose from its ashes and quickly became a national center of commerce and the unofficial capital of the "New South." During

the 1950s and 1960s, Atlanta became a major organizing center of the civil rights movement, with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph David Abernathy, and many other locals playing major roles in the movement's leadership. During the modern era, Atlanta has attained international prominence as a major air transportation hub, with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport being the world's busiest airport by passenger traffic since 1998. (Wikipedia)

Early years of Georgia / South Carolina Chapter

1989:

Mahmood Ahmad and family moved to Augusta, GA. In the same year Mr. & Mrs. Mohammad Iqbal Waliullah also moved from Pakistan.

1990/91:

Jamā'at expanded to three families in Columbia, SC. During this time meetings were held at member's home. Aslam Pervaiz was the first President of the chapter.

1996-2001:

During this time President of the chapter was Mahmood Ahmad. Below are the list of some of the

earlier families during this timeframe. Total membership was around 40 members during this time.

Augusta Based Families: Aslam Pervaiz, Mahmood, Waliullah, Muzafar.

Atlanta Based Families: Sister Moeed, Brother Shoaib, Jamil Ahmad Tahir, Muzafar Mansoor, Shakeel Ahmad Nasir

Around 1999

The activity center for GA/SC chapter moved from South Carolina to Georgia due to growing families in the GA region. There was still no

formal place and meetings were held in local libraries and home of the members.

2001-2005:

Nafis-ur-Rehman was the President of Jaamt during this time. With the increase in membership, central location of Jamā'at in the south, purchase of mosque was carried out in 2001. The mosque was the first official home of the local members and laid the foundation of growth for upcoming years. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV named this first mosque Bait-ul-Baqi. This mosque was purchased with the financial sacrifices of earlier members of the

Jamā'at. Abdul Ghayyur Manan served as the next President.

2006-2019:

Hazeem Pudhiapura was the next President of the Jamā'at. He was elected President at 34 years while still being Qā'id. Jamā'at has now grown to 120 members by 2006 due to opportunities in the IT field in Atlanta. Families from Canada and Pakistani origin along with few African American families made most of the most composition of Jamā'at at that time. Many members were located in the northern suburbs of Atlanta. Below is the highlight of main events during this timeframe:

Refugees

From 2010 many asylum seekers from Pakistan started to move to Atlanta. At one point we had around 25 asylee families. Many members helped them settle quickly. Newly arrived members were equally hard working and many members learned new skills quickly and settled in various professions. Asylee families also ensured that all their children adapted and succeeded in academics. Due to consistent hard work, many children graduated in professional education. Asylee members also brought rich traditions and good religious knowledge and practices of Ahmadiyya Community from Pakistan and improved Jamā'at activities tremendously.

Tabligh:

Chapter was involved in many Interfaith organizations and conducted many individual and group Tabligh programs. Tabligh teams also conducted prison ministry program actively. Many interfaith programs inviting guests from various communities were organized which helped spread the message of Islam Ahmadiyya to local communities.

Chapter actively participated in

Decatur Book Festival, which is one of the largest book festivals in the country. Chapter displayed books and media to thousands of visitors in the festival and introduced Ahmadiyyat by providing literature and books.

Campaigns and Programs:

As part of Muslims for Peace Campaign, Georgia Chapter organized multiple campaigns and programs. Georgia Chapter organized multiple Muslims for life campaigns by partnering with American Red Cross and helped collect more than 15,000 units of blood.

As part of Muslims for Loyalty campaign, Georgia chapter held many programs engaging local communities while celebrating loyalty to nation. The community actively engaged by providing refreshments to thousands of participants in Peachtree Road Race which is one of the largest in the nation.

Georgia chapter engaged in many civic activities and were the voice of Islam in Atlanta news media. Ahmadiyya viewpoints were broadcast in many news channel and newspapers during the period.

Georgia Chapter organized "I Love Muhammad" campaign by organizing multiple events in schools and in the mosque. Many outside visitors participated in these events.

Public relations with elected officials were arranged on various national and international issues. Senators, Congressmen, State, City and County officials were contacted and presented with Ahmadiyya public relations issues. Some public officials visited Ahmadiyya programs on our invitation.

Tahir Academy:

Tahir Academy was initiated in Georgia in 2014 with 8 classes and

around 60 students and 15 teachers. Our first principal was DR. Chairul Bahri. Though the old mosque didn't have enough space to accommodate concurrent classes, it is noteworthy to mention that we implied that not having enough space would be addressed by Allah Almighty and we should believe in "Tawakkul 'Alallah" and He would help us in this. By the Grace of Allah, Georgia chapter was blessed with a new mosque in the same year within few months.

New Mosque:

Initially since the community had 120 members, we purchased a small 3000 sq. ft mosque, "Baitul Ata Mosque" in Norcross GA (North Atlanta suburb). But due to heavy influx of members from Pakistan and from other north American cities, community grew rapidly, and the old mosque couldn't accommodate all the needs. A mosque committee was formed to look for a new property to accommodate the needs. After much search across Atlanta, by the Grace of Allah, a new 30,000 sq. ft. 5 Acre Carpet Showroom/Warehouse property was acquired on a bank auction for \$1.28 Million. Due to auction regulations, the property has to be paid in cash within a few weeks. Members quickly organized and sacrificed in an exemplary manner to raise \$750,000 \$ before closing. Chapter got the possession of the property on the Thanksgiving Day of 2014. Khalifatul-Masih V named the new mosque as "Masjid Bait-ul-'Ata." Ahsanullah Zafar, Amir US, was instrumental in the purchase of this mosque and he requested that we treat Bait-ul-'Ata mosque as a regional center for larger events.

Programs:

After moving into new mosque, local programs expanded. In addition to Tahir Academy, many interfaith and community programs

were organized at mosque

- a. Organized National Homeland Security Conference engaging all local religious organizations.
- b. Security Training for Active Shooter program.
- c. Multiple Blood drives and Food Drives
- d. Multiple Prayer Vigils and many mass shootings in US.
- e. Humanity First Food drives were organized by members preparing and distributing food and essentials to local community members.
- f. Started Badminton Club and created an Indoor Badminton court.
- g. Created an indoor Cricket Net to allow Khuddam to practice cricket. A new Cricket team was formed.
- h. Indoor Volleyball court was created.
- i. Many regional and national programs were organized in Atlanta.
 - i. Regional Ansar, Khuddam and Atfal Ijtimā's,
 - ii. National Ansar Amla and Leadership Conference,
 - iii. National Lajna Amla and Leadership Conference
 - iv. National Khuddam Leadership Conference,
 - v. National Media Conference
 - vi. National IT Meetings etc.,

2019 onwards:

Chairul Bahri is the current President of the Jamā'at. Total membership is now in excess of 400 with Jamā'at well spread all around Atlanta.

Introduction:

Georgia chapter was formed in 1996 at the home of Mahmood Ahmad in Augusta, Georgia.

People

Missionaries: Missionary Yahya Luqman and Missionary Hammad Ahmad

Presidents: Parvez Aslam, Mahmood Ahmad, Nafisur Rehman, Abdul Ghayoor Mannan Khan, Hazeem Pudhiapura and Chairul Bahri.

Early Ahmadi in the area

Mahmood Ahmad,
Waliullah Khan

Bibliography

1989: Mahmood Ahmad and family moved to Augusta, GA. In the same year Mr. & Mrs. Mohammad Iqbal Waliullah also moved from Pakistan.

1990/91: Expanded to three families in Columbia, SC

1991: Meetings were held at home and formally chapter was registered as GA/SC Chapter. Aslam Pervaiz was the first President of the chapter.

President of Chapter, Mahmood Ahmad-1996-2001

Following families live in Augusta Area:

- Aslam Prevaiz
- Mahmood
- Wali Ullah
- Muzafar

Atlanta base families:

- Sister Moeed
- Brother Shoaib
- Jamil Ahmad Tahir
- Muzafar Mansoor.
- Shakeel Ahmad Nasir

Around 1999 – Center moved from SC to GA. Chapter meetings were held in different libraries in Augusta/Atlanta or other public places with around 30/40 people attending.

President of Chapter: Nafis Ur Rehman-2001-2004/5

First Mosque Bait-ul-Baqi was purchased for the GA-SC Chapter in 2001.

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV named this first mosque Bait-ul-Baqi. It was purchased with the

sacrifices of few members. The prayers offered in the Bait-ul-Baqi and the sacrifices made in this mosque became the stepping stone for the purchase of present new Mosque Bait-ul-'Ata.

President Abdul Ghayyur Mannan.

President of Jamā'at Hazeem Pudhiapura: 2005 – 2019.

Existing mosque Bait-ul-'Ata in Atlanta is a 27,000 Sq. Ft. property on 4.6 acres of land purchased in 2014. The mosque is located on a busy Atlanta Interstate, I-85 with 300,000 cars passing in front of mosque every day. Chapter acquired this property through a bank auction in 2014 and converted it into a mosque with dedicated space for prayer areas for men and women, meeting halls, Tahir Academy classes, dining and indoor sports area, etc. Chapter uses the warehouse area as a gym with dedicated areas for dining, indoor badminton, volleyball, basketball and indoor cricket nets. The mosque is seeing continuous improvements and has added state of the art rest rooms for men and women with 15 sinks, 10 stalls and 3 showers. With the direction of current Ameer, Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, Chapter is planning to expand to have a dedicated mosque, libraries, etc., in the near future.

Bait-ul-'Ata mosque serves the chapter in Georgia and South Carolina with more than 500 members. There is a considerable population of recent migrants in Atlanta. The need became apparent when local chapter planned to start Tahir Academy in 2014. With more than 70 children, it was obvious that the chapter couldn't have 10 classes concurrently in our old mosque which was approximately 4,000 sq. ft. Moreover, old mosque was inadequate to hold chapter meetings. It was decided to go ahead with Tahir Academy and other

program and trust Allah in removing all our hurdles. Within few months, we noticed a large commercial property for auction in a commercial real estate listing. By checking the zoning, we came to realize that the property was zoned for industrial use which will not allow us to use it as a mosque. But despite this, we called the county to check on zoning. The county official mentioned that we could not use it as a mosque due to industrial zoning but just before the end of the call, the county official said that he would check on some recent zoning changes in the county. To our surprise, we were told that the county had changed the zoning in the previous month that allowed us to use the property as mosque.

As per Ameer's request, local chapter should raise \$500,000 in 3-4 weeks before auction. Though majority of local chapter were recent immigrants, it was by the sheer Grace and Mercy of Allah and exceptional sacrifice from local members that the local chapter was able to raise more than \$700,000 before auction. On the auction day, respected Ameer was with us on the phone constantly guiding us through

the process. He allowed us to bid up to \$1.285 million. The bank didn't respond for few days after auction but called us and told us that though another party won the bid, but surprisingly they were willing to grant the auction in our favor for some unknown reason. It was a miracle through the prayers of many members that we received the favors of Allah in acquiring this mosque. There were many hurdles we faced while closing the property related to possession of ownership but at every step by the Grace of Allah, we have been helped by Allah, the Almighty, in miraculous ways and finally got possession during Thanksgiving Day of 2014.

By the Grace of Allah, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V named the mosque as Bait-ul-'Ata, translated as "House of Gift" and we truly believe it is indeed a gift from Almighty Allah.

Following is a brief description of Bait-ul-'Ata mosque:

- Acres of Land with 27,000 sq. ft Warehouse and office/retail building.
- Next to major highway of Atlanta visible to 300,000 cars

per day.

- New building constructed in 2006.
- 9,000 sq. foot of finished retail showroom with four halls and 20 offices/classrooms.
- 18,000 sq. ft Warehouse with 25-27 feet ceilings.
- Two large washrooms for men and women with 15 sinks, 10 stalls and 3 showers.
- 2 single restrooms.
- 90 paved car parking spaces.
- Empty excess cleared land of 2 Acres for outdoor events and future expansion.

2019 onwards: President Chairul Bahri.

(Brief history by Kaleem Bhatti)



An Ansar gathering.



Regional Ijtimās Khudam-ul-Ahmadiyya 2013 (left) and 2014 (right)



Left: Volunteers giving blood in a Blood-Bank bus.



Scenes of various activities in Atlanta

Hawaii

Matiullah Joyia

Newspapers.com
by Ancestry

Honolulu Star-Bulletin (Honolulu, Hawaii) - 18 Jun 1972, Sun - Page 15


Downloaded on Jul 18, 2020

THE SUNDAY STAR-BULLETIN & ADVERTISER
Honolulu, June 18, 1972 A-13

The Teachings of Islam, well-known essay on Islam by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, (written 1896) is here presented in a revised English translation. Published many times over in many languages, it has served as an introduction to Islam for seekers of religious knowledge and truth in all parts of the world.

People who are interested in Islam you may contact

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM MISSION
2141 Leroy Place N.W.
Washington, 8, D.C.



Muhammad Ali

Newspapers.com
by Ancestry

The Honolulu Advertiser (Honolulu, Hawaii) - 12 Apr 1972, Wed - Page 60


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INTERESTED IN CONTACTING THE MUSLIM GROUP IN HAWAII.

I am a Ahmadiyya Muslim

Nationality—African Arab
AS-SAIAAM AIAIKAM

Write Advertiser's P.O.
Box B-3775



Muhammad Ali

We have witnessed the fulfilment of many promises of Allah, the Almighty, made to his beloved Messiah of the age. One such assurance given to the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him)

was, "I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the world." We have seen it fulfilled time and again in different ways. The establishment of Jamā'at on the Hawaiian Islands fulfils this prophecy in a unique way

as these islands are situated in the remote part of the Pacific Ocean. The Hawaiian Islands are an archipelago of eight major islands, several atolls, numerous smaller islets, and seamounts in the North Pacific

Ocean that are located about 2500 miles west of California.

Based on the newspaper archives, first message of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) reached the shores of the Hawaiian Islands through Br. Muhammad Ali in 1972. He published advertisements in the local newspapers such as Honolulu Advertiser and the Sunday Star-Bulletin of Honolulu, Hawaii. One of the newspaper posts wrote, “The Teachings of Islam, well-known essay on Islam by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, (written 1896) is here presented in a revised English translation. Published many times over in many languages, it has served as an introduction to Islam for seekers of religious knowledge and truth in all

parts of the world.” (Honolulu Star-Bulletin (Honolulu, Hawaii), 18 Jun 1972, Page 15)

During the blessed era of the Fifth Khilafat, while Jamā'ats were being established and strengthened in different parts of the world, including the remote islands of the Pacific Ocean, a need to establish Jamā'at in the Hawaiian Islands was also strongly felt. Hence, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih Al-Khamis (may Allah be his Helper) graciously granted permission to the USA Jamā'at to establish a chapter in Hawaii in April 2017. Murabbi Matiullah Joyia, who at the time was serving in the neighboring Marshall Islands, was assigned to start a mission in Honolulu, Hawaii under the supervision of Maulana Azhar Haneef, Missionary In-charge USA. He arrived in July 2017 after the

approval and blessed prayers of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V. Lt Col Jalal Malik, who at the time served in the US military on Oahu, was very instrumental in initial establishment of the Jamā'at in Honolulu. He introduced Murabbi Joyia to all his contacts in Hawaii to aide him in his mission of spreading the message of Islam across the islands.

The first family who accepted the message of the Ahmadiyya Islam was of Br. Tadasy Skilling. A place in Honolulu was leased in December 2018 to serve as a Jamā'at center. By the grace of Allah, it has been opened for various internal and external activities ever since, including Jum'ua prayers, Sunday meetings and weekly Coffee Cake & Islam events (pre-pandemic). There are currently about 20 Jamā'at members residing in Hawaii.





Illinois: Chicago

Introduction

Chicago is the most populous city in the U.S. state of Illinois, and the third-most-populous city in the United States with an estimated population of 2,705,994 (2018). Located on the shores of freshwater Lake Michigan, Chicago was incorporated as a city in 1837 near a portage between the Great Lakes and

the Mississippi River watershed and grew rapidly in the mid-19th century. After the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which destroyed several square miles and left more than 100,000 homeless, the city made a concerted effort to rebuild.

The city's O'Hare International

Airport is routinely ranked as the world's fifth or sixth busiest airport. Chicago's 58 million domestic and international visitors in 2018 made it the second most visited city in the nation, as compared with New York City's 65 million visitors in 2018. (From Wikipedia)

Translation of the Philosophy of the teachings of Islam by the Promised Messiah

When the translation of the Philosophy of the teachings of Islam by the Promised Messiah was made available in US and Europe, it became very popular. Western scholars appreciated this lecture

tremendously. A well-known Russian Accountant Tolstoy remarked: The ideas are very profound and very true. The daily news Chicago wrote on 16 March 1912: The devout and earnest

character of the author is apparent. Review of reviews London wrote: The people of US and Europe who are interested in the religion of Muhammad, then they should purchase this magazine.

From Philadelphia to Chicago

1. A dedicated companion of the Promised Messiah, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, arrived in Philadelphia on 15 February 1920 and was detained.
2. He was released on 10 May 1920 and started his work with address 245 W. 72nd Street, New York NY. (Al-Fazl, 14 June 1920)
3. His next address was 1897 Madison Ave, New York NY. (Review of Religions, July 1920, p. 246. Al-Fazl, 28 June 1920, p. 2)
4. He was invited to June 10 and stayed in Detroit, MI for a few months. (Tarikh Ahmadiyyat)
5. The Headquarter of Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam temporarily shifted to c/o Diab Brothers, 51-E, 18th Street, Chicago in October 1920. (Review of Religions, October 1920. 352)
6. In January 1921, the address of the HQ was 4334 Ellis Ave, Chicago. (Review of Religions, January 1921).
7. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq then went to 74 Victor Ave, Highland Park, Michigan for a lecturing tour. (Review of Religions, April 1921, p. 157)
8. Mufti Sadiq described an incident of a lady in Chicago in July 1921 who had seen him two years ago in her dream.
9. Dr. Mufti Sadiq paid a short visit to Toledo Fort Wayne, Bremen Chicago where he delivered series of lectures and gave interviews to press. The Muslim Ahmadiyya missions dispatched 2800 letters, magazines and literature copies and received 646 letters from friends. Sister Rahimullah's (Mrs. Garber) short article on 'The Beauties of Islam' appeared in The Moslem Sunrise. (The Moslem Sunrise, October 1921, No. 2, pp. 39-40)
10. He then went to Sioux Falls, SD for lectures there.
11. The Moslem Sunrise started from 27 La Belle Ave, Highland Park, MI. (Moslem Sunrise, January 1922, V. 1, No. 3).
12. I am thankful to Brother J. B. Khan Ahmadi and other brethren in Detroit for offering arrangements for my permanent staying in Detroit, but I think Chicago is a better place for our central office in this country than any other city and therefore, I have established a Central Mission here. (Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, Brief Report of the Work in America, The Moslem Sunrise, July 1922, Page 112)
13. A large house was bought for a permanent central office. A mosque, mission house and office for Muslim Sunrise at 4448 Wabash Avenue. (Moslem Sunrise July 1922, Issue 3. Review of Religions, September 1922, p. 350. Review of Religions, October-November 1922, p. 367)

(Dr. Mahmud Ahmad Nagi)

A Brilliant Missionary in Chicago

Having attended some of the lectures delivered in Chicago by the

learned and eloquent speaker Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, on the

Religion of Islam, the Great Prophet Muhammad and the famous

Champion of Mohammadanism, the Prophet Ahmad of Blessed Memory; I feel it my duty to send my thanks to the Indian Moslems for sending so brilliant and able Missionary to our land. Dr. Sadiq explains the faith of Islam in such a reasonable way and

in so lucid and forceful language, that an intellectual person feels well satisfied and quite enjoys his talk. In writing this I am expressing the feeling of gratitude from the American literary public who has had the opportunity of hearing the

Doctor. In his several speeches I did not hear a single word with which I could not fully agree. (Miss Mary Amelia Hunt, letter to the Editor of Review of Religions, The Moslem Sunrise, July 1921, Page 20)

Ahmadiyya Headquarter shifted to 4448 Wabash Ave, 45th St. NW Chicago, IL

Ahmadiyya Mission and the office of the Moslem Sunrise was shifted to Chicago in the year September 1922. A large house was bought for a permanent central office. A mosque, mission house and office for Muslim Sunrise at 4448

Wabash Avenue, 45th St., NW corner of Chicago was established. Muslim Sunrise started circulation from 4448 Wabash Ave. Brother Muhammad Yaqub (Mr. Andrew Jacob) carried out woodwork, arch and dome of the mosque.

(References: Mufti, Muhammad Sadiq. July 1922. "The Moslem Sunrise No. 5," (112). Chicago, IL., Moslem Sunrise July 1922, Issue 3 and Review of Religions, September 1922. (350) and Review of Religions, October-November 1922. (367)].

The Moslem Sunrise

The Muslim Sunrise (formerly The Moslem Sunrise) is a quarterly magazine published by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community from the United States. Founded in 1921 by Mufti Muhammad Sadiq in Detroit, Michigan, it is the earliest Muslim publication originating in the United States. (Yohan Friedmann, 2003. "Prophecy Continuous Aspects of Ahmadi Religious Thought and its Medieval Background" (31), Oxford University Press...he [Mufti Muhammad Sadiq] settled in Highland Park, Michigan, and in July 1921 started a magazine called The Moslem Sunrise. In the

following year the publication was transferred to Chicago, where a mosque was also established. The first volumes of the magazine dealt with topics usual in Ahmadi periodicals and reported Muhammad Sadiq's lecture tours, public debates, and other activities. It also regularly published lists of persons who embraced Ahmadiyya Islam. During the years 1921-1924, it reported the conversion of slightly more than one thousand persons.)

The Moslem Sunrise is dedicated not only for the US but for around the globe. The people

appreciated the Moslem Sunrise and Dr. Mufti. The names of few of them who appreciated The Moslem Sunrise are: Miss Mary Amelia Hunt Chicago, Mrs. Webb Chicago and Mr. J.L. Mott (Shaikh Abdullah). Miss Mary Amelia Hunt was an American author of various books and a profound poet. She writes to the Editor of the Review of Religions concerning Mufti Muhammad Sadiq which gives us the idea of how educated American society perceived Mufti Muhammad Sadiq to be.

Select Prominent Converts

Mr. J. L. Mott: An influential gentleman of very respectable American (Franco-Irish) family; a zealous and sincere Ahmadi Moslem, a political leader in the city, educated as a lawyer...The proprietor of the Ahmadi American Asiatic agency (export and import) at New Orleans, an esteemed friend of the editor of this magazine. (The Moslem Sunrise, Number 5, July 1922, Page 111)

Mr. F. L. Andersen: Muslim Name was Mirza Ahmad who first corresponded with Mufti Muhammad Sadiq in the year 1901 and therefore, had the distinct honor of being one of the very first American Ahmadi Muslim. He was employed in the First Scientific

Stations, New York City. (The Moslem Sunrise, Number 2, October 1921, Title Page)

Dr. T. H. Humphreys: An educated African American who served as a Christian missionary for most of his life. In one of his reports, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq mentions the story of Dr. Humphreys, who was named Hakim, in the following words:

Sheikh Ahmad Din writes of a new Moslem: "Brother Hakim (Muslim name) is a very interesting person. He was born in the Kongo Free State, city of Ladysmith, Africa. He came to America at the age of seventeen entered Tuskegee Institute where he remained for five years, fitting himself for the

Christian Ministry. Upon being ordained a minister he took up Missionary work with zeal and enthusiasm, believing as he did then, that Christianity as it is now taught was the unique way of serving God. After hearing me (Mufti Muhammad Sadiq) deliver a lecture on Islam he was completely disillusioned and now has become a zealous worker for Islam and is convincing all with whom he comes in contact, of the truth of the mission of the Holy Prophet. (Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, Brief Report of the Work in America, The Moslem Sunrise, Volume 2, Number 2 and 3, April and July 1923, Page 190)

Mr. T.F. Glee (Bro. Abdul Karim) Chicago

Media Reporting

- The activities of our mission were mentioned in The Chicago Daily News of August 11 and 14, 1930, The Chicago Defender, August 16, 1930.

World Fellowship of Faith

The World Fellowship of Faiths, held in Chicago (August-September 1933). Sufi M.R. Bengalee read message of Khalifat-ul-Masih II. Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan made a profound impression by his modest but masterly address "Islam Promoting World Unity, Peace and Progress." On 1 September 1933. Sufi Bengali's thoughtful, informing address on "Islam the Solution of World Problems," was an effective contribution to the evening session, on September 14.

The Contribution of the Ahmadiyya Movement to the World Fellowship of Faiths, held in Chicago on August-September 1933

Message of Khalifat-ul-Masih II for World Fellowship of Faith was read by Sufi M.R. Bengalee at the opening session.



Some of the participants of the events showing Missionary Bengalee about in the center.



In 1933-'34 at our FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS held in Chicago and New York, 199 representatives of all faiths, races and countries, delivered 242 significant addresses at 83 sessions - seeking a solution for World Problems. His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda, India, was International President, and the late Miss Jane Addams and the Hon. Herbert Hoover were Presidents.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosques in Chicago

Establishment of First Ahmadiyya Centre in Chicago-Al-Sadiq Mosque

Although busy in different Tabligh activities such as delivering lectures, conducting weekly meetings, writing articles for the newspapers and preparing The Moslem Sunrise, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq had also been working on establishing the permanent headquarters for the community in Chicago. His sincere efforts bore fruits and he was able to move into the permanent and the first ever Ahmadiyya Mosque and Mission House in North America. He

moved into this mosque in the summer of 1922 as the 5th number of The Moslem Sunrise in July 1922 was published from this address. Appreciating the services offered by the community member in Detroit, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq made the following remarks in the July issue of The Moslem Sunrise.



Left: The first Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosque established by Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, Al-Sadiq Mosque in Chicago in an existing building. Right: It was demolished due to its age and replaced by a new purpose-built mosque.

The property for the first Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosque was purchased in early summer of 1922. The administrative office had been moved to Chicago right after it was purchased, but it took a few months of renovation to give it a mosque-like look by installing an arch and a dome. In the issue of October 1922, the news was delivered to all the community members across the world with a picture of this Mosque for the first time:

Al-Hamdu-Lillah! God be praised, that the Mosque is now complete with its Dome outside and Arch and necessary furnishing inside. A picture of the Mosque and Mission House is given on Page 126 of this Magazine. (Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, Brief Report of the Work in America, The Moslem Sunrise, October 1922, Page 138)

The Chicago Defender of September 1, 1934 made a headline as “Open new Moslem Mosque in city.” Similarly, the Chicago Home News wrote in his issue of September 8, 1934 “Moslems who open mosque here explains the principles.”

Bait-ul-Jami, Glen Ellyn, Chicago NW, IL

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV asked on 29 June 1984 for donation to build centers across America and Europe. He urged the USA Jamā’at to construct five new mosques and mission houses. The mosques were to be built in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington, DC and Detroit. Khalifat-ul-Masih III asked members to collect \$ 2.5 million. He made a personal contribution of \$4200.



Bait-ul-Jami, Glen Ellyn, Chicago NW, IL

Visits of Ahmadi Caliphs

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- Khalifat-ul-Masih IV toured 11 states of USA. The tour was of about one and half month (October-November 1987). He inaugurated three mosques in Philadelphia, Tucson and Portland. He laid foundation stone of 5 mosques in Washington, Willingboro, Detroit, Chicago and Los Angeles. He arrived in Chicago and members of the Ahmadiyya Community welcomed him. People and ladies came from Milwaukee, Zion and St. Louis. He was welcomed when he arrived in Hinsdale Hall of University of Chicago where 150 non-Ahmadi from different section of society were present. Another reception was arranged in the same university's Banquet Hall. Khalifat-ul-Masih IV answered question on Islam from the audience. Mayor of Chicago was invited to yet another reception. He was also interviewed by Channel 19 of Chicago TV Network on October 11, 1987. The interview was broadcast on local TV the same evening.
- Khalifat-ul-Masih IV laid foundation stone of Glen Ellyn Mosque and Ahmadiyya Community Center, Van Buren, Chicago on 17 June 1997.
- Khalifat-ul-Masih V visited town of Zion where a major sign of the truth of the Promised Messiah, Ḥadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} was witnessed by the world. He visited 'Sadiq Mosque' in Chicago on 17 June 2012. The Mosque is the oldest mosque of the Jamā'at in USA.

First visit of Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan

Chaudhri Muhammad Zafrulla Khan visited Chicago, Illinois from 29 August 1933 to 7 September 1933. He addressed in three public meetings.

He gave inspiring lecture on Islam in World Fellowship of Faiths.

He delivered two speeches in

Chicago Mission.

He inspected Ahmadiyya Mission Chicago and gave valuable suggestions. He also informed the center about difficulties the mission is facing.

(Maulānā Dost Mohammad Shahid, "Tarikh Ahmadiyyat," Vol. 6, 2007, pp. 119-20. Qādiān, India: Nizārat Nashr-o-Ishā'at Qādiān, Print Well Amritsar)



Zafrulla Khan in 1931

Some Activities of the Chapter

Lecture on the life of Muhammad was arranged in the Kimball Building, 306 South Wabash Avenue. Dr. Martin Sprengling, Professor of Semitic Languages and Literature of the University of Chicago, and our missionary Sufi M.R. Bengalee addressed a large crowd. The proceeding of this event was reported in Chicago Daily News and the Chicago Daily Tribune.

The American branch of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam observed the Prophet Muhammad Day on 31 October 1937 at various centers such as Pittsburg, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Kansas City and Chicago

- The Chicago Sun Times is an important newspaper of Chicago and has a circulation of 550,000 published an interview of Mr. Ameenullah Khan Salik on 8 May 1961 and highlighted achievements and sacrifices of Jama'at Ahmadiyya.
- Switzerland daily Bernertagblatt wrote on 11 June 1961: Jama'at Ahmadiyya has spread all over the world. It has established its missions in London, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Madrid, Zurich, and Stockholm. Missions in US cities of Washington, Los Angeles, New York, Pittsburg, and Chicago are also working.

Regional Conference:

The Jamā'at hosted the Regional

Conference attended by the Jamā'at of Milwaukee and Kenosha and of course members of the Chicago Jamā'at. It did attract the passerby who heard the message of Islam. The conference was addressed by Missionary M.M. Ibrahim, the Regional Missionary Alhaj Muzaffar Ahmad Zafr, the National President, Br. Rashid Ahmad, the Regional President, Br. Ali Raza, the President of Kenosha, and Abdul Kabeer Haque, the President of Chicago Jamā'at. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, Dec. 1978-Jan. 1979, p. 6)

The Promised Messiah Day at Lakes Region

About 150 members of Ahmadiyya Community, comprising

young and old, men, women and children, from Chicago, Waukegan, Streamwood, Racine and Milwaukee assembled at north Chicago Youth Center to celebrate the Promised Messiah's Day on 23rd March 1979, with Br. Rashid Ahmad, Regional President, in the chair. Several members of the Dayton Jamā'at were also in attendance. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, April 1979, p. 5)

The Promised Messiah Day at Lakes Region

About 150 members of Ahmadiyya Community, comprising of young and old men and women along with their budding kids, from Chicago, Waukegan, Streamwood, Racine and Milwaukee assembled at north Chicago Youth Center to celebrate the Promised Messiah's Day on 23rd March 1979, with Brother Rashid Ahmad, Regional President, in the chair. Several members of the Dayton Jamā'at were also in attendance. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, April 1979, p. 5)

Quran Presented to Pope

During the Pope's visit to Chicago, we had an opportunity to present him with a copy of the Holy Quran through his command post. It was accepted and a letter of thanks was sent to our President, Kabir Haqqe. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, November 1979, p. 7)

Quran Class

The Jamā'at held its regular meetings. The Quranic classes and prayers lessons were conducted by Brother Abu Bakr Salahudin. Friday services were observed accordingly with attendance of 12 members in general.

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Cartoon Controversy

Dallas Morning News, Chicago Sun Times, USA (9 February 2006), Houston Chronicle, published Ahmadiyya response to cartoon controversy.



Seated fourth from the left, Missionary Sufi M.R. Bengalee with members, Chicago, IL, 1946.
Seated fifth from the left, Missionary Khalil Ahmad Nasir.

Illinois: Zion

Introduction

Zion is a city in Lake County, Illinois, United States. The population was 22,866 at the 2000 census and had grown to 24,413 as of 2010.

The city was founded in July 1901 by John Alexander Dowie. He also started the Zion Tabernacle of the Christian Catholic Apostolic Church, which was the only church in town. It was built in the early

1900s and burned down in 1937. The city was named after Mount Zion, Israel.

The city is one of only a few in the world to have ever been completely planned out before building. Dowie modeled the city layout after the Union Flag, because he was originally from Scotland and Australia. In the planning stage he mailed the mayors of many large

cities across the world for suggestions on how to design the best city possible. A few of the recommendations were:

Make provisions for alley ways for utilities and garbage removal, and help keep the city looking clean

Have the houses face east and west so that thermal heat from the sun could be used to reduce heating bills. (From Wikipedia)

Initial Remarks

The following historical accounts were compiled on Mar 13, 2020 by Naser-ud-Din Shams after receiving and researching the written and oral testimonies of

several persons who were living at the time of the events. The more detailed written accounts—as well as family genealogies tracing Zion members back to when Ahmadiyyat

was first accepted—are maintained locally in the archives by the Zion Majlis Historian.

History of the Zion Jamā'at

Zion, Illinois holds deep significance in the history of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. It is the city wherein God fulfilled one manifestation of the *killing of the Swine* and the *breaking of the Cross* mentioned in the Holy Prophet's prophecy:

لَا تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ حَتَّى تَبْرَأَ فِيكُمْ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ حَكْمًا نَفْطًا، فَيَكْسِرَ الصَّلِيبَ، وَيَقْتُلَ الْخَنزِيرَ، وَيَضَعَ الْجَزِيَّةَ، وَيَبْيِضَ الْمَالَ حَتَّى لَا يَبْقِيَ أَحَدٌ

The Hour will not be established

until the son of Mary [Jesus] descends amongst you as a just ruler, he will break the cross, kill the swine, and abolish jizyah. Money will be in such abundance that nobody will accept it [as charity]. —Sahih Bukhari, Book of Oppressions, Chapter entitled *The Breaking of the Cross and the Killing of the Swine*.

These signs were fulfilled in the *Mubahala* between the Promised

Messiah^{as} and Dr. John Alexander Dowie, the founder of the city of Zion. These are detailed in *Haqiqat-ul-Wahy* and other Jamā'at literature. Nevertheless, despite this Divine manifestation and miraculous sign, it is surprising that there were no Ahmadi Muslims who lived in Zion until 1965 and there is seldom any account of visits to the city prior to 1950.

The First Ahmadi Muslims in Zion

The local missionary at the time was Maulawi Shukar Ilahi Hussain. His missionary work in the United States began in 1945 when there were only a few missionaries serving the United States. He married a convert, Bushra Saeeda (passed away in 2010 at the age of 81), and they had two girls and a boy: Tanvir (married Dr. Naseer Ahmad of St. Louis in 1974), Bashir (died in the 1980s) and Kamar (lives in Florida). Shukar Ilahi was later assigned to

Chicago in July 1964 where he and his family lived in the historic Sadiq mosque for approximately a year before moving to Zion. They moved to Zion on September 10, 1965. Prior to this, we have no records of Ahmadi Muslims living in Zion.

The home they purchased was located at 2209 Elim Avenue in Zion. It was a two-story farmhouse built by a family who had come to Zion to follow Dowie. Their neighbors were followers from all around the nation

and Canada who migrated to Zion to be a part of Dowie's theocracy and his Christian Catholic Church.

Falah-ud-Din Shams, son of *Khalid-e-Ahmadiyyat* Maulana Jalal-ud-Din Shams, then moved to Zion primarily because the missionary was already living there. Falah-ud-Din purchased the home located at 2116 Elim Avenue in August 1970. He moved out of Zion after a few months, but kept the property until 1977.

Dr. Salah-ud-Din Shams (Feb 22, 1934-Jan 31, 1991), Falah-ud-Din's eldest brother, was next to move to Zion. After completing his residency in Chicago, Dr. Shams purchased the home located at 2407 Elim Avenue, and resided there until 1978, when he and his family moved to Lake Forest, Illinois, still

remaining members of the Zion Jamā'at. A few elderly patients of Dr. Shams were original followers of Dowie.

Dr. Shams later sponsored his younger brother, Bashir-ud-Din Shams, to come to Zion on a student visa. Bashir-ud-Din lived in Zion

from Aug of 1972 until 1975, when he moved to a Chicago suburb. Falah-ud-Din and Bashir-ud-Din (and their youngest brother Riaz) are all currently members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the Washington DC area with their families.

First Converts in the Area

Outside the families of Maulawi Shukar Ilahi and Dr. Shams, there were pockets of Ahmadi Muslims within the surrounding vicinity of the city of Zion. To the south, believers were concentrated in Waukegan, Illinois, and to the north, Kenosha and Racine, both in Wisconsin. Eventually, these three

locations of worshippers would combine into the Waukegan Jamā'at, which would eventually be absorbed into the Zion Jamā'at established in 1984.

Ali Razaa (Mar 17, 1922-Jul 8, 1996) and his wife Nasira Razaa (Apr 13, 1927-Feb 19, 2013) were pioneers

of Ahmadiyyat in the area, and were instrumental in spreading the Message to others. They originally hailed from St. Louis, MO, but moved to Kenosha, WI, where they lived until their deaths. Ali Razaa accepted Ahmadiyyat in 1947.



Ali Razaa, seated second from left, in Qadian. (Source Hanif Razaa)

Nasira Razaa's mother, Tahira Rasheeda (Eloise Fonville—Jun 19, 1904-Jun 20, 2007), also from Kenosha, WI, was the eldest living Ahmadi Muslim in the United States prior to her death at the age of 103.

Together, Ali and Nasira Razaa had nine children: Three sons—Harith (Chicago), Idrees (Kenosha), and Hanif (Kenosha); and six daughters, Aneesa Nuruddin (Atlanta), Aliyya Jackson

(Milwaukee), Sadika Hawkins, Qudsia Hayes (Atlanta), Muneera Hill-Razaa, and Jameela Razaa (Aurora, CO).



Ali Razaa with his and other children. (Source: Hanif Razaa)

There was an influx of conversions in the area between 1965 and 1969, primarily consisting of youth and college students. Some of the names of those converts include (along with their current *Majalis*, if known): Fazal Omar (Zion), Ahmad Khalid (Milwaukee), Muhammad Rashid, Bashir Mahmood (LA), Sadeeqa Mahmood, Aliya Rashid (Wash DC), Abdul Hakeem (d. Mar 30, 2013), Hameeda Hakeem (Zion), Nasir Hakeem (Zion), Hasan Hakeem (Zion), Fazal Ahmad (cousin to the Hakeem's), Fazal Karim, Abdul Karim (Chic East), Bashir Wadoo, Mustafa Abdullah (Zion), Qadeera Ata (Zion), Aziz Darr, Zakee Darr (Zion), Hafiz Darr (Zion), Hanif Darr (Zion), Faakira Ahmad (Zion), Amina Hakim, Ahmad Nuruddin

(Atlanta), Ahmad Khalid (Milwaukee), and Muhammad Sadiq.

Many of these members were below the age of 16. For example, Sharif Darr, currently of the Zion Majlis, accepted Ahmadiyyat when he was 14 years old in 1964, and officially signed *bai'at* in 1965, when 15. He and three others (Nasir Hakeem, Fazal Ahmad, and Ahmad Nuruddin) were introduced the Message by Fazl Omar, and Maulvi Shukar Ilahi had written to Khalifat-ul-Masih II^{ra} to request Muslim names for these young men. When the reply came, Sharif had to go to the Court with his mother because he was too young to legally change his own name. These youth were oftentimes discriminated in their

respective schools and frowned upon by family members who disapproved of the Islamic faith. At family gatherings, this treatment ranged from isolation and ignoring to refusing to address one by his or her Muslim name.

In addition, the environment in Waukegan was harsh. There were gangs, gambling, gun violence, drugs and debauchery. These pioneers of Ahmadiyyat, who had overcome these obstacles for over five decades and have persevered with the lofty values of Islam, hold a position of great honor. May the Benevolent Lord bestow His rewards upon them and their families in this life and the next.

Places of Congregation & Worship

Members would meet in a pool hall to discuss Islam. Thereafter, meetings would be held in members' homes, primarily in the Fazl Omar's, which was located on the 600th block of Genesee Street (there is a dollar store located there now). For

Jumu'ah services, the members started renting a banquet hall in a Waukegan hotel situated on Grand Avenue and Genesee Street. That hotel is no longer there, but the building is now a landmark in Waukegan.

The Waukegan Jamā'at was formally recognized in 1969 and elections were conducted by Maulawi Shukar Ilahi. Fazl Omar was elected as the President, and Aliyya Rashid was elected as the Lajna President. After the elections

the Community moved religious activities to a building located in

Dr. Salah-ud-Din Shams was the first president of the Zion Jamā'at, and all members from Waukegan, Kenosha and Racine were absorbed into it. Meetings were held in the

downtown Waukegan, on Sheridan Avenue, near the train station.

home of Dr. Shams. In 1983, the Community purchased the mission house in Zion, IL under the presidency of Dr. Shams. The building was formerly the Booker T. Washington Club located at 2103

Gabriel Avenue. The Community is now able to construct its first mosque in Zion under the leadership of the National Mosque Committee. Ground is expected to break this year.



The first building near the train station in the downtown Waukegan where members gathered.
(Source: Laeeqa Sabeeah Ahmad-Darr)

Jalsa Salana

In 1972, the USA Jalsa Salana was held at Lake Forest College. Maulawi Shukar Ilahi oversaw the Jalsa that year, and he engaged all the members from the region including Chicago, Waukegan, Zion, Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee for the Jalsa's planning.

This Jalsa was the first time that *langar* type food was an option for the attendees. Participants were given a choice of American or Pakistani meals. The Pakistani meals for the entire Jalsa were cooked in the college kitchen by three women. Bushra Saeeda and her daughter Tanvir prepared dishes of ground

beef (*keema*) and lentil soup (*dal*) in the college kitchen, and Kaukab Shams cooked chicken curry (*saalon*) in her home the night before using a large pot. During this Jalsa, the 3-year-old son of Kaukab Shams, Naser-ud-Din Shams, had fallen three stories from a stairwell and landed on his head. By the grace of Allah, the child miraculously suffered no injuries.

An important historic event which took place during the 1972 Jalsa was a tour of Zion. The Jalsa attendees drove from Lake Forest in a caravan and toured the Shiloh House, Dowie's mansion, which is

now the location of the Zion Historical Society. They saw the custom furniture Dowie made, his books, some original *Leaves of Healing* periodicals he printed, and the life size photograph of himself wearing his priestly robes. A special camera had to be constructed to take a photograph of that size. Each Ahmadi visitor signed the guest book with their names followed by the small note, "A follower of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad." This was the first time that such a large group of Ahmadiis had visited the city. They also visited the Lake Mound Cemetery and stood near Dowie's grave shouting *Allahu Akbar*.



This was the first mass visit of Ahmadis to Dowie's house in 1972 when the Jalsa Salana was held at Lake Forest College. This picture was taken by Hasan Hakeem for a special edition of the *Muslim Sunrise*.
Source: Tanvir Ahmad, wife of Dr. Naseer Ahmad of the St. Louis Jama'at

22nd ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AHMADIYYA JAMA'AT IN ISLAM		(Phone: 268-5512)
637 Randolph Street, Dayton, Ohio, 45408		
P R O G R A M		
FIRST SESSION: SATURDAY AUGUST 30, 1969.		
10.00- 10-05 A.M.	Recitation of the Holy Quran	Chief Missionary Maqbool A. Qureshi
10.05- 10-25	Opening speech	
10.25- 10-30	Poem	
10.30- 10-50	The Mosque and the Church	Br. Muhammad Qasim, Dayton
10.50- 11.05	True Christianity leads to Islam:	Br. Monir Ahmad, St. Louis
11.05- 11.35	Achievements of the Promised Messiah:	Br. Syed Jauad Ali
11.35- 11.55	The Holy Quran, a Miracle	Br. Bashir Afzal, New York
11.55- 12.15	Landing on the Moon foretold in Islam:	Maqbool A. Qureshi
SECOND SESSION: REPORTS OF THE MISSIONS		
Reports		
12.20- 1.30 P.M.	Luncheon and Prayers	
1.30- 3.00	THIRD SESSION: MEETINGS OF AUXILIARIES	
3.00- 5.00 P.M.	Ansarullah, Khuddamul Ahmadiyya and Lajna Ima ulah will hold their separate meetings.	
FOURTH SESSION: P A N E L DISCUSSION		
6.00- 8.00 P.M.	How to Improve our Educational & Propagational activities:	Missionaries and Directors will be on Panel
8.45-10.00 P.M.	Prayers and Dinner	
FIFTH SESSION: SUNDAY AUGUST 31, 1969.		
9.30- 9.35 A.M.	Recitation of the Holy Quran	
9.35- 9.45	Arabic Poem written by the Promised Messiah:	Br. Nasir Ahmad, Dayton
9.45-10.05	Visit of Rabwah & My impressions:	Br. Dr. Bashiruddin Usama
10.05-10.25	Social Laws of Islam:	Br. Ahmad Shaheed, Pittsburgh
10.25-10.55	Islam and World Peace:	Br. Shukar Ilahi Hussain
10.55-11.05	Unity & Harmony among members:	Br. Abul Kalam, Pittsburgh
11.05-11.15	The True Sufi	Br. Faiyaz Abdullah, Baltimore
11.15-11.25	Islam & Other faiths on Salvation:	Br. Abdul Karim, Chicago
11.25-11.35	Muslim Women & their responsibilities:	Br. Abid Hanif, Boston
11.35-12.00	Zikri Habib	Br. Dr. Khalil A. Nasir
12.00-12.30 P.M.	Truth of the Promised Messiah from the Holy Quran:	Maqbool Ahmad Qureshi
Ten minutes Interval		
12.40- 1245	Poem	
12.45- 12.52	Six articles of Faith ;	Br. Munir Hamid, Philadelphia
12.52- 12.59	Five Pillars of Islam:	Br. Ahmad Wasim, Cleveland
12.59- 1.06	Islam on War:	Br. Hanif Ahmad, Milwaukee
1.06- 1.16	Islam On Knowledge & Education:	Br. Muhammad Sadiq, New York
1.16- 1.23	Ahmadiyyat in the eyes of Others:	Br. Rashid Ahmad, St. Louis
1. 23- 1.30	The Prophets and Divine Help:	Br. Abdur Rahman, Baltimore
1. 30- 1.37	Why I accepted Islam	Br. Fazl Omar, Waukegan
1. 37- 1.55	Farewell address:	Chief Missionary
1.55- 2.00	Remarks by the Chairman	
2.00- 4.00	Luncheon and Prayers	

This is the program of the 1969 Jalsa Salana in which Fazl Omar and Shukar Ilahi Hussain were speakers.
Source: The Ahmadiyya Gazette, Vol. VIII, No. 8; dated August 23, 1969

Jamā'at Leadership

Unfortunately, Maulawi Shukar Ilahi was eventually separated from the Jamā'at as a result of a conflict he had with the Third Khalifah. Shukar Ilahi suffered from bipolar syndrome and this condition was the primary cause that exacerbated the situation. He died tragically a few years later as did his son.

The following are the presidents of the Jamā'at during various phases of its evolution (**note**—dates are estimated and unconfirmed):

- Fazal Omar (1969 to ?)
- Hasan Hakeem (1970s and 1995 to 2012)

- Ali Razaaa (1970s and 1980s; died Jul 8, 1996)
- Dr. Salah-ud-Din Shams (1970s, 1980s to 1991; died Jan 31, 1991)
- Al-Haj Hanif Ahmad (1991 to 1993; died Apr 9, 1994)
- Bashir Lutfur Rahman (1990s; died Sep 6, 2013)
- Al-Haj Jalaluddeen Latif (2013 to 2015)
- Abu Bakr (Jan 2016 to present)
- Nasira Razaa (1981-1986, 1995-2001)
- Sadiqqa Bakr (1986-1987)
- Fareeda Maryam Dadzie (1988-1989)
- Laeeqa Sabeeah Ahmad-Darr (1988-1990)
- Aisha Autrey (1990-1995)
- Dr. Amtul Ahmad (2001-2008)
- Nadia Shams (2008-2010)
- Dhiya Bakr (2010-2014)
- Samina Ijaz (2014-2017)
- Bushra Latif (2018 to present)

Naser Shams

Indiana

Iowa



From right to left: Afzal Iqbal, Edin Bajrektarevic, Alan Ramic, Fikret Bajrektarevic, Imam Kauser, Intisar Nasir, Dr. Irtaza Khalid, Edvin Bajrektarevic. Picture was taken by Dr. Rizwan Tahir. In 2013 when Iowa Chapter started. The meeting was presided by Imam Kauser.

Iowa is a state the Midwestern United States, bordered by the Mississippi River to the east and the Missouri River and Big Sioux River to the west. It is bordered by six states: Wisconsin to the northeast, Illinois to the east and southeast, Missouri to the south, Nebraska to the west, South Dakota to the northwest, and Minnesota to the north.

In colonial times, Iowa was a part of French Louisiana and Spanish Louisiana; its state flag is patterned after the flag of France. After the Louisiana Purchase, people laid the foundation for an agriculture-based economy in the heart of the Corn Belt. (From free encyclopedia)

Iowa Chapter started taking shape in 2004 when respected Imam Mubasher Ahmad was missionary for Midwest. That year, in the month of Ramadan for the sake of offering tarawih prayer for first time we rented one apartment in the town of Ankeny which we used for the next 14 years as a Masjid. Iowa has been

for a long time halqa (circle, subchapter) of Chicago West Chapter. With the rotation of missionaries in the US, Iowa Chapter also faced changes. With the coming of Imam Kauser, we had more regular visits of missionary. With the initiative of Imam Kauser, we had the first election for President of Iowa Chapter. This historical election happened in the house of Dr. Rizwan Tahir in Iowa city.

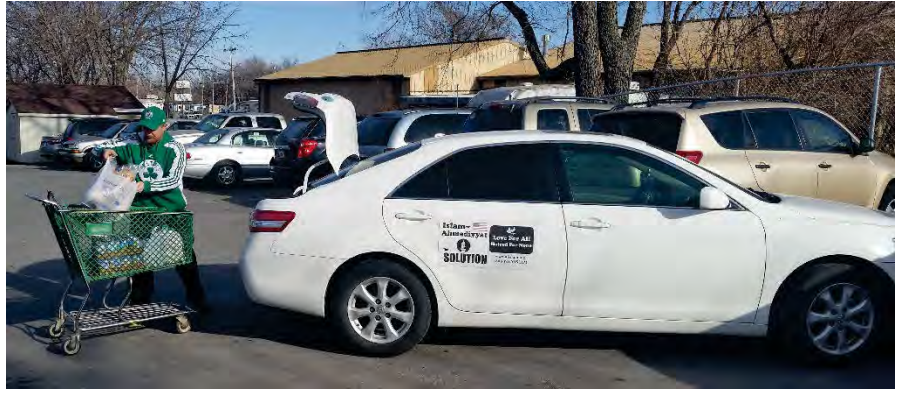
We elected Edin Bajrektarevic as President. It is interesting that out of 7 members, five have been members of Majlis KHuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya. Iowa Chapter as an isolated and faraway chapter passed through a lot of changes. Members have been coming and leaving. But with the Grace of Allah Almighty number has been increasing.

With the establishment of Chapter Iowa, Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya was established as well as Lajna Ima'illah. The first Khuddam election happened under the supervision of our Regional Qa'id, Imran Rashid. Edvin

Bajrektarevic was elected as Qa'id of Iowa Khuddam.

Under leadership of Imam Shamshad Nasir, Chapter started to look more organized. It was time of largest outreach activities of Chapter. Coffee Cake and Islam programs been very well visited. Chapter has been growing, as members have been educated.

In 2018, the Chapter moved to Des Moines. We rented a new larger place as membership increased. We reached almost 40. Edin bajrektarevic had served two terms. Edvin Bajrektarevic was elected to the office of President. With the new center, new missionary came too. Imam Luqman Ahmad Gondal is leading our Chapter to next organizational level. We elected small Amila of four members. General meetings, Amila meetings, Lajna meetings became regular. In 2019 we started Tahir academy. Iowa Chapter currently has seven Waqf-e-Nau kids.



Left: Eid-ul-Adha 2020. From right to left: Edvin Bajrektarevic, Dr. Rizwan Tahir, Ahmad Rashid, Intisar Nasir, Irtaza Khalid, Edin Bajrektarevic. Right: Donating food and clothing.



Coffee Cake and Islam meeting with non Ahmadi guests. Imam Shamsad Nasir was the main speaker and guest of honor.



Missionary Azam Akram speaking at DMACC college campus.

Kansas: Kansas City

Louisiana: New Orleans



Dar-ul-Aman, Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam Community Center, Kenner LA

Our mission house was purchased in 1980 by three brothers, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, Dr. Saeed Ahmad, Sheikh Tahir Ahmad, and Dr. Safer Ahmad. This house needed extension. Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad Amir USA and Missionary in Charge at that time helped us in finance to remodel this house.

Brief History

Our first mission house was purchased in 1980 by three brothers, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, Dr. Saeed Ahmed, Sheikh Tahir Ahmed, and Dr. Safer Ahmad. The house needed extensive remodeling. Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad, the then Amir and Missionary In-Charge, helped

provided support from headquarters for this purpose. With Shaikh Rashid Ahmad as president, the chapter started with four families. Chapter started looking for other members living in the area. After a few years, the chapter grew to 100 members. The mission house became too

Our first President was Sheikh Rashid Ahmad. We started this Jamā'at with four people. Then we started looking for Ahmadi living in the surrounding areas. After few years our Jamā'at grew to 100 people. This mission house turned small, and it was situated in the residence neighborhood. Then we looked for another place for the new mosque. After 33 years we found 8000 Sq. Ft. two story building few blocks from the existing mission house. We purchased this building with local collection and other chapters' generous donations. We did not borrow any money from Head Office. Mobusher Ahmad was our President at that time who has vision to make this community center which is one of the modern centers in USA.

small. Additionally, the mission house was in residential area. After 33 years of the establishment of the first mission house, an 8,000 sq ft two-story building was purchased in a nearby location with donations from local members and members nationwide.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community celebrates New Cultural Outpost in Kenner

One of the oldest chapters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in the country on Saturday celebrated the grand opening of its brand-new Kenner community center, in a celebration studded with some of the most influential political leaders in the New Orleans metro area and the state.

After Hurricane Isaac ravaged the Muslim sect's Kenner campus, the group turned its attention to a former office building on 38th Street, which will now serve as the

community's cultural, social, and religious nucleus.

To help celebrate, U.S. Sen. David Vitter delivered a keynote speech in which he praised the Ahmadi community, whose motto boldly displayed at the entrance of the new community center-is "love for all, hatred for none." "This community center personifies so many important things about all of us and our shared American experience," Vitter, R-La., said. "It personifies one of the many things

that makes America great, being a nation of immigrants, a nation of folks coming from around the globe and uniting in peace around common principals of freedom, particularly religious freedom.

"Obviously with all the conflicts in the world, including the conflicts involving violent Islamic extremism, your community's message is more important now than ever before," Vitter continued. "I'm here to thank you and encourage you in that practice and that articulation of that

vision of peace and religious tolerance.”

Ahmadiyya is an Islamic revivalist movement founded in 1889, and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community its oldest and largest organization, whose membership includes tens of millions of people

and spans 200 countries. There are 74 chapters in the United States; the New Orleans chapter, which includes Ahmadis from Alabama and Mississippi, was formed in 1924. They built their first community center in 1970 but opted to demolish it after Hurricane Isaac caused massive damage. They have spent

the past year building out the new campus, which features spaces for prayer, conference rooms, several lounges, and a library. The center is open 24 hours and welcomes people of all cultural and religious backgrounds.



The New Orleans Chapter president, Mobashir Ahmed, said the Ahmadi community is growing: “Every year, the community gets bigger and bigger, in Kenner and across Louisiana,” Ahmed said. “Our membership now is roughly 100 families, about 250 people.”

The Chapter's vice-president, Mobashir Solangi, said the community center is a place that provides a safe, positive, and supportive cultural and religious space for Ahmadis across the Gulf South, many of whom settled here after fleeing persecution in their countries of origin. Many Ahmadiyya Muslim Community members come from Pakistan, where the government declared Ahmadis non-Muslim, and has for decades violently suppressed them.

“We have a growing

community,” Solangi said. “We believe in America; we are loyal to our country and we want our children to grow up feeling like this is their homeland. A lot of us come as immigrants, and [the community center] is a place to keep our identity, keep our children in line with our culture, our values and our community.”

Indeed, for 28-year-old Kenner native Sadiha Ahmed, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Center has helped her understand her own identity. Born in the United States, Ahmed's parents immigrated from Pakistan 35 years ago.

“It's interesting being a first-generation American. We struggle with our identities. We are not looked at as Americans by Americans, and we are not looked at as Pakistanis by Pakistanis,” Ahmed

said. “But having a support system-elders to help us maintain our traditions and younger people who understand these struggles-that's why it's so important to have a Muslim community. Being here, we have religious freedom, and we have a community center to call our own.”

Among the notable speakers at Saturday's dedication ceremony were former Lt. Gov. James Fitzmorris, and Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni and Jefferson Parish President John Young, both of whom issued proclamations commemorating the new community center. U.S. Attorney Kenneth Polite, and his predecessor Jim Letten, were also in attendance, as well as FBI special agent in charge Mike Anderson. (US Gazette, November-December 2013, p. 60-1.)

Marshall Islands



Introduction

The Republic of Marshall Islands is an island country consisting of 24 coral atolls. It is in the northern Pacific Ocean and is part of the island group called Micronesia. The population of the country is a little over 53,000. It is surrounded by Federated States of Micronesia to its west, Wake Island to its north, Kiribati to its south-east, and Nauru to its south. The Capital is Majuro where the Ahmadiyya

Muslim Community is located, and the first mosque of Marshall Islands; Masjid Bait-ul-Ahad.

Historically the presence of the Ahmadiyya Community is new, for it was only in the 1990s that various missionaries from the Fiji Islands would travel to the neighboring countries, including the Marshall Islands to spread the message of Islam and Ahmadiyyat.

It was in the year 2000 that our beloved Khalifa, with his great vision and foresight, sent Hafiz Ahmad Saeed Jibril to Micronesia to further establish the community. It was in this very year that the community tried applying to the government to register the Jamā'at for its legal establishment here.

Allah sends help for the believers

At that time a fellow African, Carl Ingram, became good friends with Hafiz Jibril and a great help to the community. He was an attorney by profession at the time and agreed to help file the application. At first, he was constantly getting the run around and nobody was willing to hear the case. At this point the most Senior Ahmadi Muslims, Sam Ali Nena and his wife Neri Nasira Nena became worried. His wife, Sister Nasira Nena decided to speak to the president, who happened to be a

close relative of hers. She requested him to help in expediting the application, but they were shocked to hear that the president, although a close relative, responded in the negative and added that he would not let this happen in his lifetime. It was the sheer magnificence of God that the President's promise came true, but God instead called him to himself right away and it was a mere 2-3 weeks after that very statement that he passed away. And within 1 month or so the Jamā'at was

registered in the Marshall Islands. The beauty of this registration was that when the drafts were sent to Khalifat-ul-Masih IV of the constitution of the Jamā'at, it came back with signatures on every page by our beloved Khalifa himself.

Carl Ingram did a great service for the Jamā'at, he did not accept any fees but told the Jamā'at that he was doing the service as a gesture of good will and even after the Jamā'at insisted for him to take something,

he did not take anything. It was then God's blessings that were showered on him for his great service, from a small-time attorney he has now reached the position of the Chief Justice of the Marshall Islands. By February 2001 the Jamā'at was officially registered in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and according to the bylaws the first National Ameer was Hafiz Saeed Jibril.

After Hafiz Saeed Jibril returned to Ghana, unfortunately there was no other missionary to water the newly planted seeds of Ahmadiyyat, and during that disconnection some pioneer Ahmadi Muslims passed away or moved to other islands, and only two families were left in Majuro, the family of Sam Nena and another family of Aliq Kenlak (who passed away) and his wife Nella Bien.

Opponents of Islam

Early on Ahmadiyya and the members on the Island were tried in many ways, especially after the dreadful events of 9/11. The members recall that after that horrific event many of the locals began to think that they had the same agendas as fanatics abroad and therefore unofficially issued social boycotts. It was years of this struggle and social pressure that was endured by these resolute Ahmadi Muslims. Amidst this communal shunning began another great attempt to cut the seed of God on the fertile soil of Marshall Islands. It began by a single, yet powerful and influential opponent named Alik. In 2008-09 Senator Alik began to start a campaign against Islam Ahmadiyya with the purpose to not only hinder its progress but to remove it from its very roots. Like most nations of the modern age, Marshall Islands also respects and honors freedom of religion, so it was a great challenge for the Senator to come up with a plan to remove Islam from this free

Sam Ali Nena recalls that among the islanders to accept Islam, John Lakulang was the very first. Then followed by Esra Jarwan, Madan Jack and then Sam Nena himself. After many years without a missionary, Hafiz Jibril wrote a few letters for Sam Ali Nena of which he signed himself stating to our beloved Khalifat-ul-Masih about the need of a missionary here. It was the great compassion of our beloved Khalifat-ul-Masih that he agreed to send a missionary to further the training and message of Islam and Ahmadiyyat.

It wasn't until 2006 that our beloved Khalifat-ul-Masih V ordered Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser to make another visit to the Marshall Islands and help to re-establish the seed of Ahmadiyyat. Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser's visits would

and secularly based state. After much contemplation he conjured up the plan to begin to debate in the parliament about whether Islam was a religion to begin with. His case was that Islam was not in fact a religion and was only a terrorist organization or cult. The purpose of such case was that if Islam was removed legally as a religion, then it would not be able to benefit from the freedom of religion clause. This was the second time in the history of Islam Ahmadiyya that a government discussed the validity of Islam Ahmadiyya in its parliament with the purpose to remove it. In this case, unlike in the case of Pakistan some 50 years earlier, there was no representation of Islam to counter the allegations.

During the sessions various Pastors and Reverends of many denominations would come and speak against Islam. Unfortunately, there was no attempt to allow Islam or a representative of Islam to come and clear their case. On this distant

last for about 3-4 weeks at a time. He was able to help in organizing the membership, convey the message to other natives of Marshall Islands, and teach the already existing membership the Salat and other tenants of Islam. By the grace of Allah, his missions were met with great success because he was able to reconnect with the already established members as well as help further the cause of Islam and Ahmadiyyat, further solidifying the efforts of Hafiz Jibril Saeed.

In 2011, upon request of the members, our beloved Khalifat-ul-Masih assigned these areas under the USA Jamā'at and instructed the building of a mosque. The countries that were assigned were Marshall Islands, FSM, Mariana Islands which includes Guam, and Palau.

Island there was only one group representing Islam, and that was the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and yet they were not invited to these hearings.

He continued to stress that they were a group of terrorists and the constitution should declare that Islam is not a religion, just a group of terrorists which would exclude Muslims the clause of freedom of religion. This proposal was even sent to the constitutional amendment referendum committee, however Sam Ali Nena gave statements to the newspapers and told them that Islam had nothing to do with terrorists, "we are Ahmadi Muslims" he argued. It was by the sheer grace of Allah that Senator Alik's plans to denounce Islam as a religion failed and Allah's passion was revived, and He again saved this miniscule seed of truth from this breeding disorder in this far off isolated Island. It was amazing how during his many arguments he even pointed out a specific location saying "the Muslims

are going to build a mosque there,” while at that time there was no plan that the community had or means to build a mosque, yet Allah made it a sign that the opponent was warning the government of the progress of Islam on the Island by pinpointing the exact location of the Mosque, and Allah made such warning true by guiding the members much later to that very location and now Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh the mosque is standing strong in that very location.

During this dreadful time Sam Ali Nena would go about to different senators and ask them about this discussion and what was the root cause, and they all directed him to Senator Alik and said it was spearheaded by him, but despite countless attempts to meet him Nena was not able to meet him because the Senator would always find ways to avoid him.

Subsequently Senator Aliq also became Deputy Speaker of the House which brought great concern for Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser and Sam Ali Nena because this gave him a platform of higher influence. But nonetheless just as his first attempt to declare Islam as not being a religion, Allah also stopped him from ever injuring the progress of Islam in the Marshall Islands. Falah Shams made his first visit in May of 2011 and the purpose was to sign the lease for the land of the future mosque. As Falah Shams, Sam Nena and Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser were in the attorney’s office to sign the lease, Senator Alik Alik happened to walk into the attorney’s office at the same time. At this Missionary Kauser and Sam Nena

approached Senator Alik to finally say hello and talk to him. While gone only for a short time, Missionary Kauser came back to Falah Shams and said, “Do you want to see a sign of God.” He took Falah Shams to the other room where Senator Alik was seated with a pen and paper. To their surprise they discovered that he couldn’t speak and was using the pen and paper to communicate. He wrote on that piece of paper that “I am normal I just can’t speak.” This was a great sign indeed because it was his own mission to eliminate Islam, but Allah took away his only means and stopped the problem from its very core.

For many months after this incident there was no word of Senator Alik until July of 2011 where there was headline news that Senator Alik would be leaving politics and would not run for the 2011 election. In August of 2011, there was a parliamentary meeting in which since Senator Alik being the Speaker of the house could not speak, he had one of his assistance speak for him, but the parliament rejected the idea and demanded that the senator should resign because he cannot do justice to the duty of the speaker of the house. In September 2011 he was given compensation of \$25,000 and forced to resign from office. It is also interesting to note that in September 2011 on the very page of the Journal that announced Senator Alik’s resignation there was a piece about the first computer training center in Majuro sponsored by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. It was God’s design to display the first step of progress of

Islam on the very page where the announcement of his enemy being removed was displayed.

For the next 12 months there was again no word on the whereabouts of Senator Alik and people were also not aware either. In September 2012, Falah Shams and Matiullah Joyia came to Majuro and suddenly one-day Senator Alik’s brother was seen so Falah Shams inquired as to how his brother was doing and whether he went for treatment. Senator Alik’s brother said that he didn’t go to the Philippines, instead he went to Texas and then added that it seems as though nobody will be able to help him now. He said that he felt that if we (the Jamā’at) would pray for him he could recover from his illness.

Again, in February 2013 Falah Shams came for a visit to Marshall Islands and the next day Senator Alik’s brother came to mosque and told him that Alik would die the next day. He was on life-support, and his brother added that “they are going to murder my brother tomorrow.” His brother shared with Falah Shams that he wanted to bring his brothers body to Majuro for funeral and burial customs, which is an essential component of this culture which usually takes a minimum of about a week by celebration with all the relatives and friends more extravagantly than even wedding ceremonies, but Senator Alik’s wife would not allow the body to come to the Marshall Islands and was instead buried in Texas. This is how Allah dealt with an enemy of the Jamā’at and Islam even in this modern day.

Registration and building a mosque

Under Khalifat-ul-Masih’s instructions, plans were made to build a mosque and establish a functioning Jamā’at, all of which was done under the supervision and guidance of Respected Ameer

Jamā’at USA, Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar.

Since 2001 the Jamā’at in the Marshall Islands had not been able to file the annual report to the government to renew the organization and the corporate

filings, so the Jamā’at was then put in a situation in which it had to be re-registered and due to that re-registration new office holders were appointed and approved. The by-laws of this constituted, with

approval of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V, that Falah Shams would be the national President and Inamul Haq Kauser as the Vice President, Sam Nena as the General Secretary, and Kinja Jivirak as the financial secretary.

After this the next focus of the Jamā'at was to acquire land for the building of the Mosque. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh land was leased from Sister Nery Nasira Nena, wife of Sam Nena who is a landowner in the main center of the city. She offered land right in front of her own home, which was adjacent to the backroad in the Uliga district, across the street from the Courthouse. The lease was signed for 30 years with two 30-year extension options totaling 90 years. It was the sheer grace and mercy of God that within the very first year the devout member of the Jamā'at Nery Nasira Nena decided to completely donate the land to the Jamā'at and refused to take any money. At this Falah Shams asked her to confirm with signatures on the documents by her and her children, of which she was able to acquire, and finally that document was registered with the land court. The reason for signatures from the children was suggested because land in the Marshall Islands is not the property of a single person, instead it is an

elaborate system which ensures that land remains in the possession of the family and since Sister Nasira Nena was deciding to donate it without any compensation, it was important to make sure her family would also agree.

During the Jalsa Salana UK of 2011, Falah Shams presented the drawings for the Mosque to Khalifat-ul-Masih in London, after which various changes were made and a final draft was prepared. By September 2011 a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the first Mosque of the Marshall Islands. In that same time various bids were received for construction of the mosque which resulted in construction starting in November 2011 and was completed by the grace of Allah by May 2012. Because of the many activities that had already begun, the contractor was instructed to build and complete one room first and then proceed with the rest of the building so that prayers and various other programs could begin without delay. This room was completed by January 2012 from which the various programs began.

In 2012 finally by the grace of Allah the Mosque was completed without any setbacks. At this joyous occasion an opening ceremony was held with an announcement that the

official inauguration would take place when Khalifat-ul-Masih would visit the Marshall Islands.

By the grace and mercy of Allah this joyous occasion was also announced on radio Australia and different newspapers all over Micronesia published articles with the heading of "The First Mosque in Micronesia" and even till today radio Australia is in contact with the Jamā'at.

Bait-ul-Ahad Mosque is a 3300 square foot two story building, with separate men's and women's prayer halls, which can accommodate 75-80 people each. It is equipped with a Full kitchen, offices, a meeting room, and a two-bedroom missionary residence on the second floor. It is in the robust downtown area of Uliga across the street from the courthouse, with regular routine traffic.

December 2011 marked the date when an official missionary was assigned specifically to the Marshall Islands. A missionary was appointed from Ghana, Abdus Samad Usman Ukai, he served here until September 2012 at which point a new missionary was appointed, Matiullah Joyia from Canada out of the missionaries appointed to USA from Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya Canada.

Programs of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya RMI

Starting at that point, daily children's classes, five daily prayers, Dars, Friday Prayer, regular Sunday general meetings, as well as Tabligh ventures by making contacts with political personalities, visiting schools, and distribution of literature. By this time all such programs began to be the regular activities of the Marshall Island Jamā'at and Bait-ul-Ahad Mosque.

Langar Khāna

May of 2013 a daily lunch and dinner arrangement of langar khana

also started at the mosque location. By the grace of Allah nearly 50 people are fed daily with all arrangements and cooking done by the members. And an elaborate plan was made to cut the cost of the meals to a meagre 50 cents per meal, and this service is not exclusively for members, but instead open to all.

Children Classes

Among the many daily programs, one key feature in the training and teaching of the future generation of Marshall Islands is

through the daily classes. Children of all ages have been sorted out and have within only the span of a year learned dozens of features of Islam such as the complete Salat with translation, basic history of Islam and Ahmadiyyat, the Qā'ida Yassarnal-Quran, as well as many other basic teachings such as prayers and actions of the Holy Prophet. There are many things to make the learning process enjoyable and effective, such as prizes during the classes for outstanding children. There is also an attendance for

prayer which those regular students who come for the most prayers receive and a trip around the Island at the end of the week. Other than the main mosque area children, daily classes have also begun in the new Jamā'at of Long Island where nearly 18-20 children also attend daily and have the same programs to promote education and training of the children.

General Meeting

Every week there is a program on either Saturday or Sunday for a general meeting in which all the members of the Jamā'at gather to learn new aspects of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. Usually, the general meeting starts after Zuhur and Asr

First Muslim Newsletter

Jamā'at Ahmadiyya RMI started "Voice of Islam in Micronesia," the first Muslim periodical to be published in Micronesia. It began in 2013 and was published monthly

Humanitarian Efforts

Jamā'at Ahmadiyya RMI has also made it a prominent part of their activities to help the local Marshallese people in any way possible. In a joint effort with Humanity First, many of such programs are organized to help not only the educational aspect of the Marshall Islands, but improve the health of the citizens as well.

Blood Drives

Jamā'at Ahmadiyya RMI began in 2012 with the first Blood Drive held in the Marshall Islands in a joint effort with Humanity First USA and the College of Marshall Islands. A record was made on that very blessed day with 28 donors who came to help the Ahmadiyya Community to make a difference. Prior to the effort to collect blood through blood drives, the Hospital would at the time of an emergency

prayers and consists of tilāwat, hadith, a presentation, a lecture by Missionary Joyia, and closing remarks and Du'a.

Radio Program

Among the countless efforts to spread the message of Islam and Ahmadiyyat to this isolated island, one such way was adopted through the national radio station. Since the demographics and culture of the islanders here revolves more so around the sharing of information verbally, therefore the radio is considered one of the most prominent and effective way to get information to the masses. I weekly program is broadcasted on the V7AB (National Radio Station or RMI). It

until June 2016. It was sent to the general public as well as the elite of the country. It was also distributed as an insert in the only Newspaper in Marshall Islands called the "Marshal

surgery make an announcement on the radio requesting someone to donate the specific blood type needed. This method began to be an issue and harder and harder when emergency situations arose, or in case certain blood types were harder to find due to the lack thereof among the relatives of a patient. This program was a steppingstone towards progress in the field of health.

Computer Training Center

One of the very first projects to help in educating the Marshallese people was in the launch of the first Computer Training Center in September 2011. It was the goal and dream of the Jamā'at, in a joint effort with Humanity First USA to open computer training centers to help the Marshallese people acquire the basic skills to help improve not only

gives the Jamā'at an excellent opportunity to spread the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat not only to Majuro but to the other islands at no cost.

Leaflet Distribution

Flyer distribution is considered one of the oldest and basic tenants when distributing information among the masses. In 2011 Falah Shams also prepared various leaflets in the Marshallese language and printing them to be distributed to the general public. Many of these flyers facilitate as the basic introduction about Islam which was otherwise not possible to the many residents of these islands.

Islands Journal." It had a section in the Marshallese language for all those local readers who do not understand English.

their lives but adding more skills so that they could achieve far more in the job sector. The very first CTC was opened during the time of Senator Alik's attempt at disorder and was in fact published on the same page as the resignation of Alik Alik. Jamā'at Ahmadiyya RMI was able to start two fully functional CTC's.

Government Aid

Among the many services provided to schools and individuals around the Island, one such service was provided even for the government. Laptops were donated in 2012 to the Internal Affairs department of the government of Marshall Islands for their many services that they conduct daily. This was more proof that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community works in every capacity to help not only individuals but humanity at large.

Students

One of the greatest achievements in the field of humanitarian efforts was to help various children who were not able to attend school otherwise, to help them in enrollment, paying the fees, or even providing simple supplies for their scholastic experience. One such case was not only mentioned in the newspaper but also mentioned by our beloved Khalifat-ul-Masih during a Jalsa UK 2013 speech. Missionary Joyia began daily classes in the mosque and noticed that one child was extremely bright and was able to retain more of the material than any other child. After further enquiring he was shocked and disappointed that she was not enrolled in any school. When he promised to help her and the family, they approached many different schools and unfortunately because of one or another technicality they refused her entry. At this Missionary Joyia and help from outside sources such as Bonny Taggart who is an activist promoting education and better living for all were both able to finally help her get into school. It was written in the paper that the day she was told that she had been accepted into school, Arlynn and the family at that very moment began to weep and cry with joy. It was such a revolutionary day for them, for they were able to conquer great heights all with the help of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The whole family participates in the community programs as active Ahmadi Muslims by the grace of Allah.

Home Rebuilding / Renovation

Many of the homes in the Marshall Islands because of their conditions forced the residents to live in standards that are far below average. It was the concern of the Jamā'at to help as many homes as possible to at least improve the

standard of living so that not only is their life spent healthier and with more ease, but to increase life expectancy as well. Jamā'at Ahmadiyya RMI was able to renovate many houses under Humanity First, some such homes were of the members of the Ahmadiyya Community such as Sam Ali Nena, Kinja Jivirak, John Nena (Sam Nena's son), and Sister Nela Bien.

Energy Solutions

On an island which is situated thousands of miles from the mainland of larger more stable countries possess the challenge of self-sustainability. One such challenge is in regards to the energy factor which at times can become a serious issue if electricity is shot temporarily. Also, because of the lack of land space and various other energy solutions, the cost of electricity itself becomes a great challenge. With this challenge in mind the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at RMI decided to resolve the issue by helping residents with solar panels to be able to at least have light in their homes at night. Many of the residents either paid a fortune to have a single bulb running at night, or simply didn't have any light and either relied on the light of the moon or bought flashlights, both of which aren't always reliable. Jamā'at Ahmadiyya RMI began the project by installing two solar panels in two different residents and after a detailed analysis of its functionality and usage, 10 more units were installed in 10 other residents. The PV solar project was so successful that Humanity First RMI initiated a multi-phase solar system project with much bigger voltage. More than 80 homes were provided with a fully functioning solar system and basic training for installation and maintenance. Most of the recipients were the inhabitants of Rongelap Atoll, who had to be relocated in

Majuro due to the US nuclear bomb testing in 1950s. Phase 4 of the solar project is under way in which 250 homes will be provided with a solar system. This has provided much help to the residents by not only providing light at night but also eliminating the cost they would have to otherwise incur.

Sewing Classes

Among the many skills already acquired by the Marshallese people, one such skill is new and foreign because it has not been part of the culture or society since only recently. That is sewing and manufacturing clothing. On these islands it was only in recent times that clothing was introduced, prior to clothing they would use branches from leaves and would make garments out of them. But with the introduction of cotton and various other brands of clothing, they have been able to embrace it but with a great cost. Because such things are foreign to them, they have not been able to easily incur the cost for importing clothing, or when clothing is damaged because they are not aware of the technique of sewing, are forced to either discard the cloth or wear it as it is. Due to this, sewing classes were started by Jamā'at Ahmadiyya RMI by Sister Khadija as their instructor. By holding such classes, the women have managed to sew uniforms for the young girls and Nāsirat of the Jamā'at and were able to learn a new skill in the mean while.

Cleaning the Island

Like holding blood drives and various other humanitarian works, simple street cleaning is an essential part of the struggle to make this world a better place. Students of the CTC were escorted by police to clean the streets and community cleaning. It was a great gesture of appreciation by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to show their concern and support for a better Majuro.

Among the street cleaning projects, Jamā'at Ahmadiyya RMI is always promoting better living standards and cleanliness just as it is part of the faith of all Muslims. In the Long Island area Jamā'at Ahmadiyya was also able to dismantle a bus and remove it because it was situated amid a children's playing ground. By the grace of Allah much improvements have been made.

Humanity First Medical Mission

Medical history was made at the Majuro hospital in the Marshall Islands. For the first time ever, two historic surgeries were performed; brain surgery as well as surgery on a 24-hour old baby. Both surgeries were completed by physicians visiting from the USA through Humanity First USA, a related organization of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. "We are very proud of our team who is in the Marshall Islands for one week to serve the people," said Dr. Agha Shahid Khan who is the leader of the team and is a neurosurgeon who successfully performed brain surgery. "We will do our best to do more of these missions and provide more services to the people of the Marshall Islands" said Falah Shams, the National President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Dr. Agha Khan who performed the brain surgery explained that it was a difficult procedure because of the lack of equipment and facilities for this kind of surgery. Two-and-a-half-hour surgery with great risks and limited neurosurgical equipment yet everything worked out and the physicians were able to successfully remove the part of the screwdriver lodged in the head of the patient, penetrating the brain. Such surgery required precision and was a great success. Dr. Rana who performed the surgery on the one-day old baby expressed that he was

concerned and cautious about performing the surgery especially when anesthesia was not available for this specific case. The surgery, however, went well and it too was successful.

It should be noted that there were two other physicians, Dr. Haroon Khan who is an infectious disease specialist and treated many patients as well as held a seminar relating to infectious diseases and the medicinal requirements to control such infections. Also Dr. Tahir Khan who is a dentist also provided services at the hospital, nearly performed procedures on more than 200 patients throughout his visit. The US Embassy quoted, "Humanity First is doing good work in Majuro. The American NGO is performing neurosurgery and other emergency operations at the Majuro Hospital, as well as providing dental services, organizing a blood drive, and consulting on drought resistant agriculture. The Embassy welcomes their visit and hopes to see them often!"

All physicians also made trips to the local Co-op school and shared their experiences with local students. All physicians also paid their own travel expenses. The Hospital administration showed their appreciation for the work performed by all the specialists and stated that the brain surgery case alone would have cost the government over \$100,000 if the patient had to be sent abroad. It was a great accomplishment for the medical team of Humanity First. His Excellency, the President of the Marshall Islands, Christopher J. Loek conveyed his good wishes to the Doctors in the following words, "Komol Tata" for the courtesy visit, and for the goodwill and humanitarian gesture, that the RMI Muslim Community has shared through the medical mission."

Humanity First Agriculture Mission

Humanity First USA in a joint effort with Ahmadiyya Muslim Community RMI has also started an Agricultural mission in which ways and methods are explored to make the Marshall Islands and neighboring Islands such as Kosrae self-sufficient. The biggest challenge on these Islands is that they are forced to import all their goods, but if this was met with some self-sufficiency then the livelihood and health of the islanders would increase drastically. Also, other challenges such as droughts are also often on these islands. In 2014, Humanity First USA sent Dr. Nasir Malik, National Secretary Zira'at (Agriculture), a Physiologist working for USDA, to assess the land here and the different possibilities that could be explored on these far-off islands. Two extensive seminars were held in which even the U.S. Ambassador also attended including various other influential personalities. Other than that, many trips were made to assess the land and the opportunities not only in the Marshall Islands but also in the neighboring state of Kosrae. This will inshallah give a way for the Islanders to avoid importing from 2000 miles away, and instead producing on their own.

Meeting the President

In September 2012 Falah Shams, Sam Ali Nena and Missionary Matiullah Joyia were able to meet the President of the Marshall Islands for the first time. In that meeting they were able to present the President with basic information of the Jamā'at and received great feedback and support from the President. He assured the Jamā'at that they honor the freedom of religion clause in this country and assured him that it will be honored in our case as well. This was a great

turn of events from the time of disorder by Senator Alik to now getting reassurance by the President himself about honoring our religious freedom. In October 2013 the Humanity First Medical Mission along with Falah Shams, Missionary Matiullah Joyia and Missionary Ethical Haq Kauser were able to

meet the President. In that meeting many things were discussed, and Falah Shams reminded the President about his last meeting and added that “When I asked you last time whether you read a book about Islam and you had said yes but added although it was written by a Christian, therefore I have some

literature for you today which have been written by Muslims themselves.” A letter from the office of the President was also sent shortly after the meeting thanking the Muslim Community of the Marshall Islands for their humanitarian efforts.

Allah Rewards Those Who Help Believers

Allah hears the prayers of His believers and in times of great distress sends His Angels to create awe in the hearts of opponents. In the same manner Allah also rewards those souls that although haven't accepted the complete truth but spend their lives in support of the God-fearing community. Among such examples many exist in the history of the Marshall Islands as well. As mentioned before, Carl Ingram from a small-time attorney to be seated in the highest post of Chief Justice was from the sheer grace of Allah, all of which can be linked to his selfless services of Islam Ahmadiyya when it found very few friends and supporters. In the same manner Allah blessed countless islanders who have put aside religious differences and joined hands with the Ahmadiyya Community to help make the Marshall Islands a better place. James Mata Yoshi is a close friend of the Jamā'at and has been from the very beginning. He has been close to Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser and Falah Shams when many of the government officials refused to support any idea of Islam coming to

the Island. At that time he was a small time mayor of an outer island but after his countless efforts not only in supporting to house the first CTC established by Humanity First, but he has also been in the very early stages of the Humanity First Medical Mission when it was simply a dream, but Allah blessed him and his efforts as well and now he has attained the achievement of being named not only the Chairman of the Mayors of Marshall Islands (May 2013) but has also achieved the rank of Chairman of the Mayors of Micronesia (Aug 2013).

Besides these great supporters of the Jamā'at, many others have also shown their support for the countless humanitarian efforts of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya RMI. One such person is Jiba Kabua who is also historically significant to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community RMI. His father is President Amata Kabua who was a close relative of Sister Nery Nasira Nena and the very same president who not only refused to help in expediting the registration process but swore to do all in his power to never allow the Jamā'at to

exist to begin with. The works of Allah are so grand and remarkable that in November 2013 a parliamentary meeting was held in which the Minister of Finance raised an objection towards the Radio Program of the Jamā'at stating that they are deliberately attacked the religion of Christianity and by using the Bible to explain their stance adding confusion amongst the masses. At this attack against Islam Ahmadiyya for the second time in the history of the Marshall Islands, it was Jiba Kabua who stood up and replied to the Minister stating that the Marshall Islands respects freedom of Religion and in fact that community is doing great work in humanitarian works and such topics should not be discussed in the Parliamentary hearing. This was such a remarkable turn in the history, how wonderful Allah works. The son of the same person who vowed to prevent Islam Ahmadiyya from even entering the walls of this city, stood on the podium of a parliamentary meeting and defending Islam Ahmadiyya with no hesitation. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh.

Future Expansion

Under the guidance of Khalifat-ul-Masih, Ameer Jamā'at USA gave directives to start a Jamā'at in the neighboring country of FSM (Federated States of Micronesia). By the grace of Allah in September 2013, the Jamā'at was officially

registered in the state of Kosrae. A mission house consisting of a Mosque and Missionary residence was built under the supervision of Falah Shams in 2014. Jamā'at has been registered in FSM at the Federal level as well as in Kosrae at

the State level. In 2016, under the supervision of Azhar Haneef Missionary In charge, Missionary Ethical Haq Kauser was able to expand the to the capital of FSM, Pohnpei.

Maryland: Maryland

Previously Laurel, Potomac and Silver Spring Chapters emanating from Washington DC Chapter

Author: Commander Amjad Qureshi, US Navy, Retired

Contributors: Naveed Malik, Mir Daud Ahmad, Missionary Munir Ahmad Chaudhry, Jaleel Akbar, Missionary Mubasher Ahmad and Malik Masood Ahmad



INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

Maryland Chapter is located in the city of Silver Spring, it had a population of 81,816 residents as of 2018. This makes it the fourth most populous place in Maryland, and the second most populous in Montgomery County. Maryland Chapter has a distinctly rich and honorable tradition of hosting the National Headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in the Washington DC Metropolitan area. The now Maryland chapter membership was at first part of the “Washington DC Metropolitan Chapter,” since the National Headquarters moved to the Washington DC from Chicago, in 1949. *The American Fazl Mosque* (purchased in 1950) was then the seat of the local chapter’ administrative, and social activities for the greater metropolitan area

members for 45 years. As the membership grew, substantially, a larger property was purchased in the Burtonsville, MD area, in 1985, where a mosque complex was constructed in 1994. Consequently, all aspects of the National Headquarters function and the “*Washington DC Metropolitan Chapter*” then moved to the Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque complex.

The “Washington DC Metropolitan Chapter” membership initially included members living in Maryland, Virginia, and the greater Washington DC area. As a result of growth in numbers, the *Washington DC Metropolitan Chapter* was split into several chapters in 1999. The new chapters included five Virginia Chapters, four Maryland Chapters and a separate Washington DC

Chapter. Then the members in Maryland area were divided into Baltimore, Laurel, Potomac, and Silver Spring chapters. These chapters stayed separated for approximately 20 years (2019) when decision was made to combine Washington DC chapter with three Maryland chapters, located in the proximity of the Bait-ur-Rahman, in Silver Spring, Maryland, into one chapter, the “Maryland Chapter.” Baltimore chapter remained a separate entity.

The Maryland Chapter holds special distinction of services to the National Headquarters, unlike any other US chapter. Maryland chapter members provide all day-to-day support to the National Headquarter staff, its functionality, and miscellaneous needs. As the USA

Jamā'at members and the international guests come to the National Headquarters from all over the country, the local members host the guests of the Promised Messiah's^{as}. Typically, the services will be arranged for supporting all needs of their guests including transportation, accommodation, hospitality, etc. These traditions of support of the Promised Messiah's

guests continue to this date, as the local members have hosted many annual conventions, Auxiliaries' rallies (Ijtima's), National Advisory Council Meetings (Shuras), National Executive (Amila) meetings, as well as the foreign dignitaries, political events and other external affairs.

Currently, the Maryland Chapter enjoys the distinction of

being the largest chapter in United States of America. Its membership exceeds 1600 members and it also excels all other US chapters in activities, support to the National Headquarters, and holds distinguished standing in financial sacrifice. The chapter has the first standing in Tahrik-e-Jadīd, Waqf-e-Jadīd and special drives for the past several years.

BAIT-UR-RAHMAN MOSQUE CAMPUS –

The Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque Campus contains many substantial structures. The foremost among them is the mosque and the adjacent

administrative and activities complex. The larger campus contains the Masroor Teleport, the Missionary House, The Maryland

Guest House, the bookstore and multiple other residential and auxiliary structures.

The Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque



In 1986, initially a 9.1-acre lot was purchased. On it, Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV laid the foundation of the Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in October 1987. Construction started in 1993. *Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV* inaugurated Bait-ur-Rahman in October 1994, as well. At that time, there was one "Washington Metropolitan Chapter" covering Washington DC, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. In the late 1990s, "Washington Metropolitan Chapter" was split into Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia Chapters. Several years

later, the Maryland Chapter was again split into Potomac, Silver Spring, and Laurel Chapters but Bait-ur-Rahman remained their central congregation place, as well as the administrative center.

In 1997, a 1-acre lot to the west, with a small house on it was purchased.

In 1999, a 7.7-acre lot to further west with a house was purchased; the house was subsequently used as missionary house till this parcel of land was purchased by USA Lajna.

In 2009, Phase 2 expansion of

Bait-ur-Rahman was completed, adding two dining halls, administrative offices, and conference room for the National Headquarters Chapters, as they were collectively called. In 2019, Laurel, Silver Spring, Potomac, and Washington DC Chapters were joined into a single Maryland Chapter. In 2021, *Bait-ur-Rahman* Mosque campus continues to serve as the hub of local Chapter's activities as well as functions as the national headquarters.

MTA Earth Station and Masroor Teleport:

MTA Earth Station started its first Live transmission with Friday sermon of *Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV* from Silver Spring, Maryland, on Friday October 14, 1994. A Canadian

Missionary Munir Ahmad Chaudhry was assigned as the Director of MTA International, Masroor Teleport. As this was a Canadian initiative, the entire cost of the Satellite Earth

station was initially born by the Canadian Jamā'at, but later costs were divided equally between United States and Canada Jamā'ats.

In the beginning, the Earth

Station transmitted for three hours a day, but even then, it faced many challenges, but *the* words of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV gave it a new

life. He said, “These obstacles will take us to greater heights, these are only teething problems, as a newborn child faces after birth.” In

mid-1996, a new contract was signed with a new company, which allowed broadcast of 24 hours a day service (*Al-Hamdu Lillah*).



In 2013, the Earth Station’s infrastructure was upgraded to Fiber Optic Link, which connected Masroor Teleport directly to the Master Control Room of MTA International in London headquarters. By the Grace of God, MTA has become a stable and advanced, state of the art, control and monitoring broadcast system. Twenty-four-hour transmissions are a routine that can be enjoyed by

members and public anytime.

On October 16, 2018 *Hazrat Khalfatul-Masih V* inaugurated new building, replacing the 100 years old building. On the recommendation of MTA International board of directors, *Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V* graciously approved the new name of this Satellite Earth Station as Masroor Teleport, MTA International. Now broadcasting

new channel MTA8 HD America with eight audio translations, MTA8 HD America+3 (three hours delayed service) channel and MTA3 Al Arabia channel, through popular American Satellite Galaxy 19 at 97° West for North America. MTA8 HD America online streaming service is also being provided from this facility on mta.tv/mta8 as well.

Missionary House



Missionary House (left). Guest House (Right)

The 3-bedroom, 2-story missionary house at the complex was constructed as part of Phase I of the mosque project completed in 1994. The missionary house holds the honor of hosting the spiritual giants and leaders such as Maulana Mukhtar Ahmad Cheema, Maulana Shamshad Nasir, Maulana Daud Hanif, Maulana Nasim Mahdi, and Maulana Azhar Hanif.

Maryland Guest House

The guesthouse was constructed under Phase II expansion completed in 2009 and was substantially upgraded in preparation for the accommodation needs during the 2018 visit by *Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV* and was inaugurated by his hands. This substantial structure continues to serve the guests of the Promised Messiah (*may peace be upon him*) to this date.

VISITS OF CALIPHS

Three *Ahmadi Caliphs* have graced the Maryland Chapter. Khalifatul-Masih III visited Washington area before the establishment of Bait-ur-Rahman. This land was blessed to kiss the feet of *Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV* six times, and that blessing continues with *Commander of the Faithful*

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V. May Allah grant him long life, and may we continue to be blessed by his presence for many years to come. Details of visits are as follows:

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV September 1987 –

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV

blessed the Maryland Chapter with his presence in September 1987. He stayed in Washington D.C area for approximately two weeks. His Holiness met Ahmadi families and laid foundation stone of Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque. Afterwards he visited other US cities and returned to this area for another week in

October.

June 1989 –

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV graced Centenary Convention held at University of Maryland, Baltimore.

June 1991 –

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV led the Eid-ul-Adha prayer services at the John F. Kennedy High School in Wheaton, MD. It was “transmitted” live by using a teleconference from a pay phone. He also blessed the 1991 Annual Convention at Michigan.

June 1994 –

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih inaugurated Bait-ur-Rahman mosque.

June 1997 –



At Jalsa 1997

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV blessed the Maryland Chapter with his presence, and also participate in the Annual Convention (Jalsa

AMEERS, PRESIDENTS, MISSIONARIES, NATIONAL AMILA

Ameers –

Three National *Ameers* have served in this area. Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad resided locally, but Ahsanullah Zafar and Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad lived in other Chapters, but maintained their office at *Bait-ur-Rahman*. Sufi Mati Ur Rahman Bangalee. Khalil Nasir.

Missionaries

Maryland Chapter has had the special blessings of serving and receiving services of great

Salana) at Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman.

June 1998 –

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV blessed the Maryland Chapter with his presence, and also participate in Annual Convention (Jalsa Salana) at Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman.

June 2008 –

Ameer-ul-Mu'mineen Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V graced us with his first presence in 2008. *Bait-ur-Rahman* was undergoing expansion at the time and no guesthouse was available at that time. Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V stayed in the missionary house. This was the first time that the Annual Convention (*Jalsa Salana*) was held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Afterwards, *Khalifat-ul-Masih* flew directly from the Dulles Airport to Toronto for participation in Canada's Annual Convention (*Jalsa Salana*).

June 2012 –

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V delivered Friday sermon from *Bait-ur-Rahman*. He graced the *Jalsa Salana* USA at Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg. Because of an area-wide power outage in Maryland due to the Derecho (strong thunderstorm), his holiness did not return to Maryland but departed

missionaries (muballighin) who came to Maryland Chapter either as an assignment to the Maryland Chapter or as a part of their rotation at the National Headquarters. Regardless, the Chapter benefited from their presence and their services over the two decades. Their names include Muhammad Siddique Shahid, Zafar Sarwar, Shamsad Nasir, Mukhtar Cheema, Daoud Hanif (Missionary In-Charge), Ziaul Haq Kausar, Naseem Mahdi (Missionary In-Charge), Rizwan Hameed Khan, Yahya Luqman,

from Harrisburg for Toronto.

July 2013 –

Khalifatul-Masih V went to Los Angeles but did not stop in Washington.

Oct-Nov 2018 –

Maryland Chapter had a special treat this year when Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V made an extended visit to Maryland. He then visited Guatemala for Nasir Hospital's inauguration and then returned to the area for another week. His focus was on meeting the members from all over the country. The Maryland Chapter took up special honor of hosting thousands of guests of the Promised Messiah's (*Alaihis Salam*) from United States and the neighboring countries for a period of nearly five weeks. Dedication and spirit of service and sacrifice shown through where Maryland Chapter members took vacations from work to dedicate to the service of the guests of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). The Khalifatul-Masih V met with National *Amila* and *Aamilas* of all Auxiliaries in the USA. *Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V* attended the Ameen ceremonies and took *Waqifin-e-Nau* and *Wāqifāt-e-Nau* classes.

Azhar Hanif. (Missionary In-Charge), Hammad Ahmad, Mubasher Ahmad, and Umar Nayyar. May Allah bless them all for their service and sacrifice.

Presidents

Three presidents served Maryland Chapter when it was named the Washington Metro Area Chapter. Their names include: Brother Muhammad Amir (President before 1965), Masoud Ahmad Malik, Dr. Hidayat Ahmad Khan, Abdul Shukoor Ahmed, and

Dr. Laeeq Ahmad. Later, the Chapter was split into three (Silver Spring, Potomac and Laurel). Names of the Chapter presidents is as follows:

- **Silver Spring:** Aslam Pervaiz Chaudhry, Abdul Hādī Ahmed, Dr. Ahmad Malik.
- **Potomac:** Anser Ahmad, Dr. Zaheer Ahmad, Khurram Bashir.
- **Laurel:** Abdul Shukoor Ahmed. Mahmood Bhatti. Shaukat Wahla. Dr. Atif Zeeshan.
- **Maryland Chapter (New):** In July 2019, 3 Chapters of Maryland (Laurel, Potomac, and Silver Spring) and the Washington DC were merged to form the new Maryland Chapter. Since then, Dr. Atif

Zeeshan serves as the president.

Maryland Jamā'at Members Who Served in National Amila:

- Dr. Masoud Malik (National General Secretary and First Sadr Ansarullah USA)
- Zaheer Bajwa (General Secretary)
- Mukhtar Malhi (General Secretary)
- Ali Iqtidar Bajwa (Assistant General Secretary)
- Zahir Ahmad (Umoor-e-Amma)
- Kahlid Ata (Secretary Wasaya)
- Dr. Zaheerudeen Mansoor Ahmad (Secretary Ta'limul-Quran and Waqf-e-Ardi)
- Abdul Shukoor (Sadr Majlis

Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya)

- Khurram Bashir (Muhasib)
- Amjad Chaudhry (Secretary Diyāfat)
- Mobeshir Ahmad (Secretary Şan'at-o-Tijarat)
- Daud Ahmad (Property Secretary)
- Munawar Saeed (Finance Secretary, Auditor, and Amoor-e-Amma Secretary. Also led translation of many Jamā'at books)
- Nasir Mahmood Malik (Tarbiyat Secretary, Ta'lim Secretary and Sadr Majlis Ansarullah)
- Mubarik Ahmad Malik (Finance Secretary and Nazim Qaza Board)

JALSAS IN AUSPICES OF WASHINGTON METRO AREA JAMĀ'AT

1981-1982: USA Jalsa at 4H Center in Chevy Chase, MD.

1986: Jalsa at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

1987-1989 Jalsa at UMBC in Catonsville, MD

1994-1998, 2000-2003: Jalsa at Masjid Bait-ur-Rahman.

1999, 2004-2007, 2009-2019: Jalsa at Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA.

Note: The Maryland Jamā'at

volunteers have supported a lion's share of the work for all (annual conventions (Jalsa Salanas) held in the United States.

MARTYRS -

Mr. Khalil Solangi of Columbia, MD, was martyred in a mass

shooting when he was offering jum'ah prayer at Masjid Dar-uz-Zikr

in Lahore, Pakistan, on May 28, 2010.

LITERARY WORKS

The histories of literary works abound in the Maryland Chapter. In 1950s, the publication of the *Muslim Sunrise* increased its pace as a quarterly journal hosting articles on comparative religions and current topics. Another major literary development in 1950 was the founding of the *Ahmadiyya Gazette* by Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir. In addition, more new books were published and made available through the missionary work at Washington D.C., such as an American edition of *Ahmadiyyat or the True Islam* by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II, *An Interpretation of Islam*

by an Italian scholar, Professor Vaglieri, and the *Reader's Digest* reprint by the US Ahmadiyya Community of a popular and nationally famous writer, James A. Michener, titled *Islam, The Most Misunderstood Religion*. Index of Five-Volume Commentary was prepared by five Lajna members including Shakura Nooriah at Fazl Mosque DC. Various missionaries and literary personalities have contributed greatly to the body of religious and spiritual knowledge as well as the preaching and propagation of the true beauties of Islam geared for an American

audience. The Maryland Chapter members continue to lead and contribute to the Muslim Sunrise and other publications. Respected Munawar Saeed and a large cadre of Maryland Chapter members have translated many books of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, and Khalifas of Ahmadiyyat. Murabbi Mubasher Ahmad is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the *Muslim Sunrise* and has authored other inspirational literature. With due apologies, many of the Maryland Chapter members' contributions remain unacknowledged.



Left:Khalifat-ul-Masih V is welcomed at Bait-ur-Rahman. Right: A fuction at Bait-ur-Rahman.

Maryland: Baltimore

Introduction

Baltimore is the most populous city in the U.S. state of Maryland, as well as the 30th most populous city in the United States, with a population of 602,495 in 2018 and also the largest such independent city in the country. Baltimore was established by the Constitution of Maryland as an independent city in 1729. As of 2017, the population of the Baltimore metropolitan area was estimated to be just under 2.802 million, making it the 21st largest metropolitan area in the country. Baltimore is located about 40 miles (64 km) northeast of Washington, D.C., making it a principal city in the Washington-Baltimore combined statistical area (CSA), the fourth-largest CSA in the nation, with a calculated 2018 population of 9,797,063. (from Wikipedia)

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is deeply rooted in Baltimore from the early 1960s. Back then, a handful of largely African American families converted to Islam/Ahmadiyya and started congregating at a rented place on Freemont Avenue. Brother Wali was the first president. Men and women from the families of Brother Kareem, Abdur Rahman, Muhammad

Hafeez, Hamza Zainuddin, and others were among the pioneers. Our sisters Amina Parker, and Latifa Ilyas were among the earliest women leaders of the community.

According to estimates, the movement gathered between 50-100 members between 1960-71. That's when brother Abdur Rahman identified a property at 4406 Garrison Blvd. and played an instrumental role in converting it to house of God. People started joining in. Many a times, folks would simply walk in to offer Friday prayers. In light of our motto, "Love for all, hatred for none" the mosque started a major outreach under the leadership of brothers Hafeez, Aina, Ahmad and Hamza. From donating thanksgiving turkeys to offering free hot dogs, the men and women of Ahmadiyyat started spreading the peaceful message of Islam in Baltimore. The mosque became a beacon of diversity, witnessing Muslims from all walks of life, Americans and Nigerians, men and women, blue collar and white collar, Whites and Blacks.

Like thousands of Ahmadiyya Mosques globally, the mosque at Garrison remained self-funded.

Thousands of dollars were raised annually to meet the growing needs of members. Children classes were held. Annual gatherings, sports and educational competitions, and religious classes were held. Members also enjoyed Bible classes. The mosque became house to doctors, authors, soldiers, and teachers. Brother Abdur Hafeez would grow vegetables in his home garden and then distribute produce among the members.

The mosque at Garrison became a regional center. Members would drive up from Washington and Virginia; they would drive down from Philadelphia and York. Membership grew. Budgets increased. Islam Ahmadiyya was represented on local TV channels.

During the 1980s, the mosque witnessed an increasing flux of Southeast Asian immigrants who had to flee their homeland due to the systematic persecution of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan. Missionary Mubasher Ahmad propelled the Baltimore Ahmadi Muslims forward with his passion and knowledge.

Early History

The Baltimore Chapter Ahmadiyya movement in Islam is one of the oldest chapters in the country. According to oral history, it seems that Ahmadi Muslims started congregating together in Baltimore at least as far back as the 1940s. It is thought that these respected Ahmadis were all African American. It is not clear how the message of Ahmadiyyat came to Baltimore, however.

The first known Ahmadis, then,

in Baltimore—again, according to oral history—were Brother Kareem and his family. Names of other Ahmadis from this early period include Brother Wali, Brother Abdur Hafeez and Brother Muhammad Hafeez (who were siblings), Brother Sameer Sultan, Brother Rahman—about whom more will be discussed below. Brother Abdur Hafeez, Brother Muhammad Hafeez, and Brother Rahman were all originally from North Carolina. Brother Abdur

Hafeez, and his sibling, Brother Muhammad Hafeez, were cousins to Brother Rahman. There was a Pakistani Ahmadi Muslim missionary, missionary Saeed, with these early Ahmadis. Sister Ayesha Sharif and her sister Zainab and their children Bashar Asad, Tariq Sharif, and Musa Asad were also among the pioneer families to establish a chapter in Baltimore. In fact, missionary Saeed lived in the home of Brother Rahman for some

time. Another Pakistani Ahmadi missionary, missionary Sharif, was also in contact with the community during these early times, but he only visited Baltimore, and did not stay long term.

It is not clear how Brother Kareem, the first Ahmadi in Baltimore, first learned about the

message of Ahmadiyyat. However, there are two theories for how brother Abdul Hafeez learned about and subsequently accepted Islam Ahmadiyyat, leading to his brother Muhammad Hafeez, and his cousin, Brother Rahman becoming Ahmadi Muslims. It is thought that Brother Abdul Hafeez learned about Ahmadiyyat while living in

Pittsburgh, later on moving to Baltimore where his brother and cousin lived and imparting the message to them. The other theory is that these three learned about Islam Ahmadiyyat from missionary Saeed in Baltimore. The first theory is given more weight.



Brother Kareem, founding member with early Baltimore Ahmadiyya Community.



Left: Members of the chapter in early 1960. Right: Ahmadiyya movement of Islam (an early mosque)



Left: 4406 Garrison Mosque. Right: Some Jalsa attendee 1961.



Some attendees at Annual Convention (Jalsa Salana) 1962 (Courtesy of 'Abd-ul-Latif Bennett)

Stories of Where We've Been

During the 1940s period, Ahmadis would congregate with and meet each other in their homes. Then, in the late 50s and early 60s Ahmadis acquired their first separate space to worship and congregate, namely 716 Fremont Avenue in Baltimore City. This space was rented; brother Wali used to collect money to pay the fees. It is not known who initially obtained this property, though it is speculated that credit is likely due to a concerted

effort by the families of Brothers Muhammad and Abdul Hafeez and Brother Rahman. At this time, the Baltimore Jamā'at had 10 or less members. One individual who was still alive from this time period but passed away during this U.S. Centennial year was respected Brother Lateef Ahmad. There were continuous gatherings at the 716 Fremont Avenue property. Two non-African American families which go back to the 716 Fremont Avenue era

include the Asad sisters. Sister Ayesha Sharif and Sister Zainab Asad had converted to Ahmadiyyat from Judaism. Sister Ayesha Sharif's children include Yasin, Ruqaiyyah, Safiyyah, and Tariq. Sister Zainab Asad's children include Musa, Bashir, Sharif, and Sumaira. It is interesting to note here that Baltimore has a historic Jewish population which has neighbored the city's African American population.

Presidents and Missionaries



Br. Wali, President at Freemont Ave (1960s)



Abdul Hafiz, President 1971-1975



Brother Rahman, President early 1960s with Khalifat-ul-Masih IV



Fateh Aina President 1975-1981



Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad President 1981-1984



Hamza Zainudeen President 1984-1992



Abdul Rashid Fouzi President 1992-2001.



Dr. Faheem Younas President 2013-2018



Halim Chaudhry President 2018-...

Left: Dr. Mirza Amin Baig President 2001-2013 with Khalifat-ul-Masih V.



The following brothers helped Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Baltimore move forward over the decades and served as President of the Baltimore chapter.

- Brother Wali 1960s
- Brother Rahman 1960s
- Abdul Hafeez – 1971 – 1975
- Fateh Aina – 1975 – 1981
- Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad 1981-84
- Hamza Zainuddin – 1984 – 1992
- Abdul Rasheed Fouzi 1992-2001
- Mirza Amin Baig – 2001 – 2013
- Faheem Younus-2013-2018
- Halim Chaudhry-2018-Present

Brother Wali, an African American from Baltimore, was the first known Jamā'at President in the

1960s. After him Brother Rahman became the president. It is important to note here that Brother Rahman, a World War II veteran, participated in the European Front, but was not allowed to carry weapons, due to systematic discrimination of African Americans faced in the military at the time. Brother Rahman was the father of current member, Sister Haleema Aina, as well as the father-in-law of the above-mentioned Abdul Fateh Aina. Subsequent presidents include brother Abdul Hafeez of African American descent, Brother Abdul Fateh Aina, of Nigerian descent, Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, the current Ameer of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya USA, and the elder brother of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah

strengthen his hands). Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad had come to Baltimore in the late 1970s or early 1980s and was completing his surgical residency. After him was Brother Hamza Zainuddin of African American descent. Subsequent presidents include Abdur Rasheed Fouzi, Amin Baig, Faheem Younus and Halim Chaudhry.

As far as missionaries go—it is known that later on, after the 1940s or 50s era of missionaries Saeed and Sharif, Baltimore Jamā'at members reported to respected former Ameer and Missionary in-Charge, Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, who stayed in contact with Baltimore Jamā'at from his national posting. Later missionaries include Maulawi

Mubashar Ahmad, the late Brother Bilal Abdus Salaam (an African American), Missionary Hammad Ahmad (Pakistani descent), Missionary Abdullah Dibba (an African of Gambian descent), and most recently, Missionary Tariq Naseem Ahmad (Pakistani descent). In a 2016 visit by American Khuddam to London, Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah strengthen his hands) told them all, having first mentioned Baltimore Jamā'at, that Missionary Abdullah Dibba would be successful in his duties as a missionary of Islam. At the time Missionary Dibba was serving in Baltimore. Now he is serving in the heart of Philadelphia in an area with a similar demographic.



Left to right: Missionary Mubashar Ahmad, the late Br. Bilal Abdus Salaam, Missionary Hammad Ahmad, Missionary Abdullah Dibba, , Missionary Tariq Naseem Ahmad

Garrison Mosque

After the Fremont Avenue era came the era of the Garrison mosque (4406 Garrison Blvd), which was also known as the Baltimore mission house, or Baltimore masjid. Brother Rahman acquired the Garrison property, an old mansion in inner-city Baltimore, with a large wraparound porch, and a front and back yard in 1971. The property cost \$11,000. Though Brother Rahman bought the Garrison property, other members reimbursed him and also partook in this blessing. The Garrison era was also the time that the first African Ahmadis joined the Baltimore Jamā'at. A prominent African member was Abdul Fateh

Aina who moved to Baltimore in 1972. He was originally from Nigeria.

Brother Fateh Aina served the Baltimore chapter in various capacities throughout the years. He was equally respected in the Ahmadi/non-Ahmadi Nigerian community in Baltimore as an important elder. He would be invited to lead prayers in various ceremonies such as naming of children, Aqeeqas and marriages. Because of the communities' great love for him, he was famously known as Baba Aina. He passed away on Feb 24, 2021.

During this early time at Garrison the Baltimore Jamā'at was an amalgamation of African Americans, Africans, Pakistanis, and white Jewish descent members, all united in brotherhood and sisterhood. Later on, many other African members and families (from Nigerian, and Gambian descent) and Pakistani families would join.

It is important to note here that Baltimore Jamā'at did not officially become part of the national USA Jamā'at until 1984. Until then, they were established as a separate incorporation.



Left: Brother Abdul Aziz and his wife Sister Ayesha Mariam. Right and below: Members at activities.



Apart from Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, the elder brother of Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper), there were other Pakistani members who joined the Baltimore Jamā'at during this period. These include Brother Hassan Khan and family, Dr. Mirza Amin Baig and family, Dr. Agha Shahid Khan and family, Brother Abdur Rashid Fouzi and family, and Brother Nasir Jamil and family.

Other members include include the families of Ata-ur-Raheem Hamid, Mubasher Ahmad, Daud

Ahmad, Abdus Salam Hamid and Daud Kahloon.

During this time, Muhammad Anwar an active member who owned a convenient store franchise helped countless refugee families settle in Baltimore.

Dr. Mirza Amin Baig has the distinction of seeing Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him) bear witness to the truth of the Second Khalifa of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him)

Mufti Muhammad Sadiq stood up during the famous Friday sermon given by the Second Khalifa in Qadian in which he claimed to be the “Muṣliḥ-i-Mau'ūd,” and declared that he and all present bore witness to the truth of this claim. Dr. Mirza Amin Baig witnessed this as a child in Qadian. Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq was the legendary pioneer missionary who spread Ahmadiyyat like wildfire in 1920s America.

In the mid-1980s, Baltimore Garrison Mosque used to hold many regional meetings including Yaum-

e-Khilafat (Khilafat Day). These events were attended by members from surrounding chapters such as Pittsburgh, York, Maryland and DC. In those days, a Langar (kitchen) was also initiated to serve all the visiting guests.

It is appropriate to mention here that Brother Hamza Zainuddin is the oldest living member from the 716 Fremont Avenue era of Baltimore Jamā'at history. Brother Hamza's first introduction to Ahmadiyyat is when he met the aforementioned brother Sameer Sultan, who himself was a convert, in Baltimore. At the time brother Hamza lived in an apartment complex on Fremont Avenue. He met Sameer Sultan in July of 1960 and became Ahmadi in

September of 1960, having signed the Bai'at at the American Fazl Mosque in Washington D.C. It is important to mention that Brother Hamza was born into de facto slavery (sharecropping) on a plantation in South Carolina. He had many dreams about the progress of the Baltimore Jamā'at, and they have all come true.

Other prominent members include Brother Abdul Aziz and his wife Sister Ayesha Mariam who lived in the Eastern Shore but remained active members in Baltimore.

A prominent, and sincerely devoted white member who joined the Baltimore Jamā'at during the Garrison era was the late Rohaan R.J. Law who passed away at the

young age of 28 but left an indelible mark upon members. A convert from evangelical Christianity at the age of 23, he often outdid his born Ahmadi peers in zeal and dedication to the tasks of Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya Baltimore. He was given the name "Rohaani" by Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah strengthen his hands) Another prominent member was Sister Lateefah Illyas, who was a driving force for the Baltimore Lajna, she was the first one to volunteer for any event at the mosque, taking care of discipline or Ḍiyāfat duties without being asked. It is also pertinent to mention that the daughter of brother Muhammad Hafeez, Sister Amina Parker was also a prominent member of the Baltimore Jamā'at.

Bait-ul-Kareem

As the membership of the Chapter grew, in 2010 the Jamā'at purchased a 4.4-acre property, the historic Jewish Slade Mansion which cost approximately 1.1 million dollars, to serve as a new home for the Baltimore Jamā'at. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) visited the property in 2012 during his U.S. tour, spent some time, met members and prayed

there. At this time Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V met the late Brother Ahmad Lateef (who passed away August 23, 2020) mentioned above. Khalifatul-Masih V asked him the name of the first Ahmadi in Baltimore, upon which he replied "Kareem." Thereafter, the Khalifatul-Masih V named that property Bait-ul-Kareem. Brother Hamza Zainuddin also had the honor of presenting a

book of historical photos from Baltimore Chapter with captions to Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) at this occasion. This was the first visit of a Khalifa to the Baltimore Chapter. Bait-ul-Kareem related news has been covered in the Baltimore Sun and neighboring Jewish community's periodical declaring the Jamā'at as "good neighbors."

Bait-us-Samad



Left: Abundant Life Church building before renovation. Right: Bait-us-Samad after complete renovations.



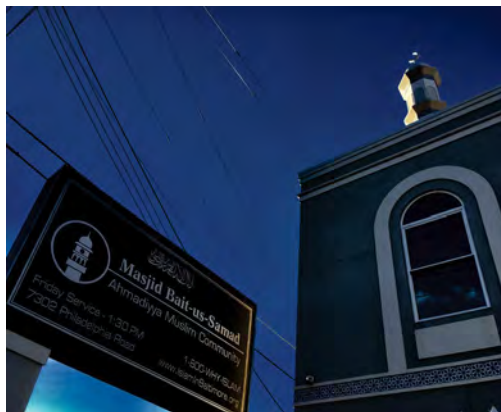
For a long time, the Jamā'at members had been praying and fundraising for a purpose-built mosque. A project with all new construction was becoming too expensive and since the membership was growing faster, the local Amila decided to look for an existing building to renovate. In 2016, a church property was located by then president, Faheem Younus. The

Amila explored the idea of buying this building which was 1.2 million dollars. The building was highly suitable for the needs of the growing community, with ample parking, separate floors for men and women and classrooms that would hold all Tahir academy activities.

Once the project was approved, funds were gathered by the local

community with some help from national headquarters. The blueprints and renderings of the project were presented to Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah strengthen his hands). He graciously approved the plans and put his signature on the image of the mosque. At this time, Khalifatul-Masih V named this mosque Masjid Bait-us-Samad.





This major renovation project started in January 2017 and was completed in November 2017. During the renovations, a masjid committee led by Nasir Jamil worked tirelessly to save tens of thousands of dollars through Waqar-e-Amal (voluntary labor) in the masjid. The prominent members who led these initiatives include Ammar bin Abbas and Nasirudeen Ahmad, along with their Atfal and Khuddam teams.

Inside, a dining area, conference

rooms, office, and bathrooms were added. In addition, a lobby area was added to showcase the local, national and global community history and humanitarian services. On the exterior, the building was completely transformed to reflect a mosque structure with a dome and minarets, a cherished wish of the community. The mosque has an all-white facade, including the dome, this dome is lit green at night to pay respect to the mosque of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) in Medina. The masjid was officially inaugurated by

Khalifat-ul-Masih V on October 20, 2018 while he was on his American Tour.

Bait-us-Samad is located prominently by the side of Pulaski highway, and thousands of people drive past this large, impressive structure on a daily basis. The high visibility of the mosque has led to a lot of curiosity from the outside community which has resulted in many curious people visiting it, resulting in some Bai'ats. It is worth mentioning here that many non-

Ahmadi Muslims visit Bait us Samad regularly for Jum'ah. This includes people from West-African, East-African, Arab, Turkish, Kurdish, Pakistani, African American, Indian Diaspora, Uzbek, Central Asian descent and more. Sometimes the number of non-Ahmadi worshippers

is the same as Ahmadi worshippers at Jum'ah prayers! Insha'Allah may they all come under the banner of the Promised Messiah and may the Jamā'at members make appropriate efforts to make this happen. Ameen. It is also appropriate to mention that nowadays the membership is mostly

African, African American, and Pakistani in descent. Many Pakistani Ahmadi refugees fleeing religious persecution at home have been moving to America and then Baltimore. resulting in a larger refugee population.

Visits and Advice of Khulafa

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (may Allah's mercy be on him) visited the greater Baltimore Area in 1987, when the national Jalsa Salana USA was held at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Khalifatul-Masih IV did not visit the Baltimore Jamā'at at the time.

As mentioned above, the first time that a Khalifa visited the Baltimore Jamā'at is when Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah strengthen his hands) came to Bait-ul-Kareem in 2012. Khalifatul-Masih V also visited Bait us Samad in

October of 2018 during his USA and Guatemala tour. Khalifatul-Masih V inaugurated the mosque, led formal prayers, and also stayed for a time along with his respected wife in the missionary's home to rest. The missionary at the time was Missionary Abdullah Dibba. Khalifatul-Masih V held a formal reception for local Baltimore residents, prominent members of Baltimore City, including then-mayor, Catherine Pugh, Senator Ben Cardin and friends of the Jamā'at. This event was attended by 500 people including 320 dignitaries and

guests. He introduced them to Ahmadiyya Islam and explained the purpose of a mosque and its place as an abode of peace and harmony in the wider community. Khalifatul-Masih V also advised members during his address to the public that they had a duty to fill the mosques for all five daily prayers. The outside beauty of a mosque is meaningless, its true beauty comes from the worshippers who fill it.

These visits of the Khulafa have been covered by news outlets, including the Baltimore Sun.

Notable Activities

Artists and Poets

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Literature Appreciation (MAALA) was founded by the collective efforts of Nasir Jamil and Faheem Younus in December 2004. In addition to various local literary sittings and book inaugurations, MAALA had been hosting a poetry session at National Jalsa Salana (annual convention) every year since 2005. Many reputable Ahmadi and non-Ahmadi poets have participated in these events.

Humanitarian Ventures

- Baltimore Lajna, Ansar, and Khuddam responded to the crisis created after the Baltimore City riots following the unjust murder of young African American man, Freddie Gray in 2015. A CVS was burned down during the protests which was

used to support residents of a senior center. Lajna, Ansar, and Khuddam collected and made food, and trekked through post-riot traffic in the city to serve and provide food to the seniors at this center. Lajna members continued this effort for seven days straight by cooking food and continuing to distribute it. In order to do their part to unify the city and create harmony during this time of crisis, the Baltimore Jamā'at paid for an ice cream truck to provide free ice cream to Baltimore citizens affected by the riots. This effort continued for over a month. This effort was recognized by the Mayor of Baltimore, she visited the mosque to present a certificate of appreciation.

- Lajna, Ansar and Khuddam have been working with local shelters, and food pantries for over a

decade, including Our Daily Bread and the Maryland Food Bank. Most recently they have worked with mass feeding initiative Harvest Pack to feed 18,856 people.

- It is important to note the work of Ahmad Bashir and Jennifer Bashir who have led a lot of these efforts, including making hundreds of sandwiches for local shelters every Friday. At the same time Ahmad Bashir has been an active supporter of countless Humanity First initiatives.
- Lajna have also been at the forefront of these activities with regard to women-specific aid activities. Lajna have been organizing canned food drives for the last decade in conjunction with the Maryland Food Bank. Lajna have been

making donations of winter coats and hygiene products to the My Sister's Place women's shelter, as well as several other women's shelters in the city. During the era of COVID19, Lajna have been providing food cards to impoverished Latino communities in the city. Baltimore Lajna has been very active and has done a lot of work with social outreach. They have been very instrumental in helping refugees get established

- Dr. Mirza Amin Baig an established orthopedic surgeon has provided voluntary services to the local community as well as in various hospitals in Pakistan. Most notably, Fazl-e-Umar Hospital in Rabwah. He has made many visits to Pakistan under the Waqf-e-Ardi scheme and treated 100s of patients.
- Dr. Agha Shahid Khan has worked with Humanity First and led many missions to different countries in addition to holding training camps in the area for Humanity First. The countries include Pakistan, Ghana, Haiti, Guatemala, and Marshall Islands. He performed the first brain surgery in Micronesia. He also had established a surgical training lab in the city. Furthermore, he also established Humanity First in Ghana. Dr. Agha Shahid Khan has helped over thirty Ahmadi foreign medical graduates with room and board and training to integrate into the US medical system. They are all practicing successfully now.

Awards and Recognitions by the Outside Community

Aziza Khan, current Sadr Lajna, was Awarded "Woman of the Year" award by Baltimore County in 2019. The county recognized the philanthropic work she has done for

years to help women. She was the first Muslim woman in history to ever receive this award.

Dr. Agha Shahid Khan was awarded the "Asian American Excellence Award" by the Baltimore County Executive in 2017. He was also awarded the "Best Businessman Award," "America's Top Doctors" and "Governor's Humanitarian Award" in 2013 and 2014.

Dr. Faheem Younus was awarded the "Presidential Volunteer Service Award" by the White House in 2008. He was also named a "Baltimore Top Doctor" in 2017 by Baltimore Magazine

Tahir Academy

First Place in USA-2018, 2019-achieved Certificate of Excellence.

A Children Class under the name of Tahir Academy was started in Baltimore more than 20 years ago. It is now a national Initiative under the tarbiyat department USA. The Baltimore Jamā'at has a robust program thanks to the hard work of teachers and volunteers. Baltimore Tahir Academy won 1st Place in USA (2018) and achieved a Certificate of Excellence (2019).

Accomplished Scholars

- Dr. Asif Jamil, son of Nasir Jamil, PhD Post Doc at Harvard University (neuroscience)
- Dr. Adeel Khan, son of Basit Khan, PhD Professor in Germany (theoretical mathematics).
- Dr. Zainab Boone-Kukoyi, PhD, Post-Doctorate Morgan State University (Bioenvironmental Sciences), daughter of Boone Kukoyi, PhD (Biochemistry and Physiology)

Huffāz of the Qur'an

- Hafiz Abdul Quddus Kukoyi (served as a lead Quran teacher at Tahir Academy, Atfal, Khuddam for more than 20

years). He has also been leading Tarawih Prayers for the last thirteen years.

- Hafiz Ehsan Ahmad (currently teaching at Tahir Academy)

Jamā'at Competitions

- Baltimore Khuddam, national soccer champions
- Baltimore Atfal, national soccer champions
- Zain-ul-Abideen Baig had the honor of reciting the famous Qaseedah of the Promised Messiah for MTA International.

Waqifeen-e-Zindagi (Life Devotees)

- Missionary Tariq Naseem-young missionary currently serving in Baltimore, Maryland
- Missionary Abdullah Dibba, young missionary currently serving in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Missionary Hammad Ahmad-young missionary currently serving in Atlanta, Georgia
- Late Brother Bilal Salaam-honorary missionary who last served in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Missionary Mubashar Ahmad, honorary missionary currently serving at USA headquarters, the Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland
- Missionary Sharif—Pakistani missionary during the 1940s and/or 1950s?
- Missionary Saeed, a Pakistani missionary during the 1940s and/or 1950s?
- Dr. Farid Ahmad: lived in Baltimore, missionary doctor currently serving in the Gambia

Book Fair/Propagation

- Jamā'at Baltimore held many book fairs under the leadership

of Muhammad Ahmad Nasir. Ahmadiyya literature was made available to the Baltimore-area general public. These book fairs were held at the Baltimore Inner Harbor. Lajna supported these efforts.

- Muhammad Ahmad Nasir is also managing amibookstore.us which is a global Ahmadiyya bookstore. It has books in fifty different languages, some of which can also be purchased on Amazon as well as eBay.
- For the purpose of propagation, a trailer had been used extensively used in the city by Dr. Farid Ahmad, now serving as a missionary-doctor, Waqf-e-Zindagi (life-devotee), in the Gambia. More recently this effort has been led by Brother Abdul Latif Balanta, Ahmad Bashir, Hamza Zainuddin and Abdulrahman Mohammed Olawole. They are supported by a Khuddam and Ansar team as well.
- Baltimore Khuddam actively engage in outreach on social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook. In December 2020, Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya Baltimore launched its first ever outreach podcast.

Education

- Baltimore has a robust Tahir academy program, as well as a Ta'lim-ul-Quran program currently led by Missionary Tariq Nasim.
- Baltimore has many successful students in the AMC Ta'lim Department's K8 Math Challenge Program.

Financial Contribution

- Baltimore has been in the forefront of financial contributions, including those done for the sake of construction of mosques. These sacrifices

have been undertaken by various members.

- A notable member, Abdur-Rasheed Fouzi, who has been the longest serving financial secretary has played an important role in inspiring and meeting our financial obligations.

Lajna Ima'illah

- First Place: Şihhat-e-Jismani Large Majalis (2016-2019)
- 2nd Place: Tahrik-e-Jadid Large Majalis (2016-2019)
- First Place: Handicraft
- Third Place: Nāsirāt Large Majalis (2016-2019)
- First Place: Khidmat-e-Khalq Large Majalis (2016-2019)
- Second Place: Tabligh Large Majalis (2016-2019)
- Third Place: Waqf-e-Jadid Large Majalis (2016-2019)
- Third Place: Tarbiyat Large Majalis (2016-2019)
- First Place: Tahrik-e-Jadid Medium Majalis (2015)
- Second Place: Khidmat-e-Khalq Medium Majalis (2015)
- Third Place: Ta'lim, Nāsirāt Merit, Şihhat-e-Jismani, Tarbiyat (2015)

Ansarullah

- Majlis Ansarullah Baltimore stood at first place in Large Majalis in 2018
- Majlis Ansarullah Baltimore achieved first place in all Majalis and also won 'Alam-e-In'āmī for the year 2019.
- In 2020, Baltimore Majlis achieved Third Place in Medium Majalis.

Khuddam

- Second Place: Best Large Majlis (2019)

Atfal

- Second Place: Best Large Majlis (2019)

Family Members of the Promised Messiah

- Previously, Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad (elder brother of Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper), and current Ameer Jamā'at USA
- Previously, Amatul Musawwir Ahmad (great granddaughter of the Promised Messiah), wife of Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad.
- Many other members of the extended family of the Promised Messiah (my peace be upon him) have lived in the Baltimore Chapter.

Miscellaneous:

- In the last 15 years, Dr. Faheem Younus Qureshi —with the help of Amila members (Abdul Lateef Balanta, Ahmad Basheer) held and organized numerous interfaith and outreach events with the wider community. He has delivered numerous lectures in colleges and universities to disseminate the true teaching of Islam. He has also been on numerous radio and television interviews nationally and internationally not only as a representative of the Ahmadiyya Community but as an expert in infectious diseases. He is the Vice President and Chief Quality Officer at UM Upper Chesapeake Health.
- In recent years, Sister Amtus Shukoer has been conducting a very popular series of Quran classes with the ladies' congregation at a local church (St. Mathews Catholic Church). This has strengthened the relationship between the congregations over the years.
- In 2018 Baltimore Chapter

achieved 17 Baits. This was the highest number of conversions by a chapter in the USA for that year.

- Baltimore Chapter had the honor of registering the first initiation of the second century of Ahmadiyyat in America. Brother Chris Davis signed allegiance on the morning of February 15, 2020. Khalifatul-

Masih V later gave him the name Nasir Davis.

- Link for historical photos of the Baltimore Chapter over the years:
islamainbaltimore.org/history/
- The Joppatown Ansar housing complex is located within the Baltimore Chapter area. This complex has 48 homes for senior members. This is located on the

banks of Gunpowder River. Members will be able to observe their congregational prayers at a community center which is a maximum of 5-minute walk from their homes. Despite opposition from some local politicians the successful completion of this project is owed to the support and prayers of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V who also owns a home there.

Auxiliary Leadership

Baltimore Lajna Presidents

- Sister Humma Assad:1988-1991
- Sister Haleema Aina:1991-1992
- Sister Bushra Fouzi:1992-1998
- Sister Badr Khan:1998-2000
- Sister Bushra Fouzi:2000-2002
- Sister Aasilah Loan:2002-2006
- Sister Sarah Aammar:2006-2008
- Sister Sadia Ahmed Khan: 2008-2010
- Sister Aziza Khan: 2010-2016
- Sister Bushra Fouzi:2016-2018
- Sister Aziza Khan:2018-Present

Baltimore Zu'ama Ansarullah

- Hassan Iqbal K: 1993-1994
- Hamza Zainuddin: 1996-1998
- Dr. Mirza Amin Baig: 1998-2001
- Ata-ur-Raheem: 2002-2003
- Abdul Basit Khan: 2004-2005
- Halim Chaudhry: 2006-2011
- Nasir Jamil Abdus: 2012-2013
- Nāsir Jamil Bashir: 2014-2015
- Basit A. Khan: 2016-Present

Qā'id Khuddam-ul-

Ahmadiyya Baltimore

- Jamal Illyas:1988-1990
- Ataul Aziz:1990-1992
- Nasir Jamil: 1992-1996
- Zainul Abideen: 1997-2001
- Faheem Younus: 2002-2004
- Syed Shahzad Hussain: 2005-2009
- Hamid Aina: 2009-2012
- Basir Jamil: 2014-2016
- Mansoor Shams: 2017-2018
- Zafir Ahmad: 2018-2019
- Umar Sultan Malik: 2020-Present



Left: In the US, the first initiation of the ssecond centry of Ahmadiyyat. Right: Abdur Rahman,a pioneer Ahmadi.

Most of the historical pictures for Baltimore are provided by Abdul-Latif Bennett.

Massachusetts: Boston

GREAT IS MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD - THE MESSIAH

"Twenty-three were the days of August, 1907, when Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India, foretold the death of Alexander Dowie, Yezzer Elias, 11 which took place last March, and now cometh the foretold Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India, on June 23, and saith: The time of this country is drawing near; earthquakes will be unparallelled in the world's history and will remind men of the destruction of the judgment day. In Europe and other Christian countries a kind of plague will have its appearance which will be very severe. With my appearance, the secret designs of the wrath of God have been made manifest. The day of Noah will yet again witness, and the scene of Lot's final judgment will yet again open eyes. He called the turn on Dowie, and why may he not on denounce his followers also. He has foretold plague, too, in the Punjab and other places, and great is the name of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India. The Indian gentleness has been well known in the eastern features of the world for many years. His claim is that he is the true Messiah who was to come in the last ages; and that God has showered him with grace. He first came to the attention of the United States in 1906, on account of a controversy with Elijah Hill. Since the death of Dowie the Indian prophet's reputation has soared, for did he not tell of the death of Dowie, that it should take place within his (the Messiah's) lifetime, should take place "with great sorrow and torment"? Dowie was aged 59. The year was '79. It was in these words: "Dowie was requested to strive for the King." I am the true Messiah who was to come in the last ages; thus has Almighty God spoken to me. I do not claim to be the Promised Messiah, simply by my own assertion, but Almighty God who made the earth and

THE SUN

Great Is Mirza Ghulam Ahmad The Messiah

FORETOLD PATHETIC END OF DOWIE AND NOW HE PREDICTS PLAGUE, FLOOD AND EARTHQUAKE

"Twenty-three were the days of August, 1907, when Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India, foretold the death of Alexander Dowie, Yezzer Elias, 11 which took place last March, and now cometh the foretold Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India, on June 23, and saith: The time of this country is drawing near; earthquakes will be unparallelled in the world's history and will remind men of the destruction of the judgment day. In Europe and other Christian countries a kind of plague will have its appearance which will be very severe. With my appearance, the secret designs of the wrath of God have been made manifest. The day of Noah will yet again witness, and the scene of Lot's final judgment will yet again open eyes. He called the turn on Dowie, and why may he not on denounce his followers also. He has foretold plague, too, in the Punjab and other places, and great is the name of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India. The Indian gentleness has been well known in the eastern features of the world for many years. His claim is that he is the true Messiah who was to come in the last ages; and that God has showered him with grace. He first came to the attention of the United States in 1906, on account of a controversy with Elijah Hill. Since the death of Dowie the Indian prophet's reputation has soared, for did he not tell of the death of Dowie, that it should take place within his (the Messiah's) lifetime, should take place "with great sorrow and torment"? Dowie was aged 59. The year was '79. It was in these words: "Dowie was requested to strive for the King." I am the true Messiah who was to come in the last ages; thus has Almighty God spoken to me. I do not claim to be the Promised Messiah, simply by my own assertion, but Almighty God who made the earth and

DAY HERALD—BOSTON JUNE 23, 1907—MAGAZINE SECTION.

MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD, THE PROMISED MESSIAH.

Introduction

Boston is the capital and most populous city of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the United States, and the 21st most populous city in the United States. The city proper covers 49 square miles (127 km²) with an estimated population

of 694,583 in 2018. The city is the economic and cultural anchor of a substantially larger metropolitan area known as Greater Boston, a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) home to a census-estimated 4.8 million people in 2016 and ranking

as the tenth-largest such area in the country. As a combined statistical area (CSA), this wider commuting region is home to some 8.2 million people, making it the sixth most populous in the United States. (Wikipedia)

Compiled by Muneeb A. Sharif

At the dawn of the 1920s, Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq arrived on Philadelphia shores and began the Ahmadiyya mission in the United States. This marked the beginning of the US Jamā'at; however, this did not begin the history of Ahmadiyyat in America. The history of Ahmadiyyat in America had already begun in some parts of the country during the life of Hazrat Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). By the grace of Almighty Allah, the city of Boston had a huge contribution to history at this time.

After the fateful downfall of Dr. Alexander Dowie, The Sunday Herald-Boston's Cover story for

June 23, 1907 read, "Great Is Mirza Ghulam Ahmad The Messiah [-] Foretold Pathetic End of Dowie, And Now He Predicts Plague, Flood, And Earthquake." The article includes an in-depth account of what transpired between Dowie and the Promised Messiah, ultimately reporting the victory of Hazrat Promised Messiah to millions of readers across the state of Massachusetts and the world.

It is curious to note that the illustration for this article portrays Hazrat Promised Messiah standing, with a sun rising behind him. One cannot help but draw parallels between this and the hadith narrated by Hazrat Abu Huraira (may Allah

be pleased with him), "The hour will not be established till the sun rises from the West; and when it rises (from the West) and the people see it, they all will believe. And that is (the time) when no good will it do to a soul to believe then." Then he recited the whole verse (6:159). (Sahih al-Bukhari, Kitab al-Tafsir). This cemented Boston's honorable status as one of the oldest cities in the United States regarding the history of Ahmadiyyat.

From 1907–1923 The history of Boston Jamā'at would be dormant, as nothing of significance would occur until the arrival of Hazrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq. In 1923,

Mufti Muhammad Sadiq traveled to Massachusetts through the city of Springfield. He stopped to deliver a lecture in Peabody, a suburban city near North Shore Massachusetts during his stay. On September 8,

1923. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq departed from the port of Boston to France, and ultimately Qadian (Al-Hakam). Many years after his departure, in 1945, Hazrat Sir Zafarullah Khan visited Boston to

meet with Dr. Joslyn, the top diabetes specialist. He and Dr. Joslyn would have a friendship lasting over 20 years, as he would return every two years for follow-up checkups with him.

Brother Khalil Mahmud: A Pioneer Member



Brother Khalil Mahmud was one of the first converts of the Boston Jamā'at in 1950. At this point, the Jamā'at was just a sapling, with an estimated membership of two dozen spread across New England. Brother Mahmud was born on March 7, 1929 to James and Josephine Peters. He was brought up in a conservative Anglican environment, and regularly attended Sunday school where he learned about Christianity and Jesus Christ. His father's love and interest

in different religions left a lasting impression on him, ultimately leading him to Islam. Brother Mahmud was first exposed to Islam by his friends who returned from World War II in 1946. This sparked an immediate intrigue in him towards Islam. In his quest to learn more about Islam brother Mahmud found Chaudhry Ghulam Yasin, a Missionary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Through Missionary Ghulam Yasin, Brother Mahmud met brother Ali Mujtaba who became his mentor, and Brother Abdul-Hameed who was acting as President of Boston Chapter. Through Brother Hameed, Brother Mahmud accepted Ahmadiyya Islam.

In 1951 on the instruction of Murabbi Yasin, Brother Mahmud went back to school, studying at Brandeis University in an Arabic studies program. After four years at Brandeis, he then went to McGill University, and then back to Boston. Brother Mahmud spent a year working at the Harvard library, and his connections allowed the Jamā'at to establish itself. Narrated by Abid Haneef, "There were a lot of people who would come who weren't formal Muslims, a politician from Dorchester, and the Harvard Dean of Students... R.J. Epps." While at Harvard, Brother Mahmud diligently worked towards spreading the message of Islam, eventually

converting future Sadr of Boston Abdur-Raqeeb Wali to Islam. It is also narrated by Abid Haneef that Brother Mahmoud established the first Ahmadi Jumu'ah Center in Harvard. When asked where else Jumu'ah centers were established during this time, Br. Abid Haneef responded, "You name a section of Boston and we were there at some point." At the end of his first year at Harvard Dr. Mahmud accepted a job posting in Africa, where he served for 27 years. Though his time in Boston was short his devotion to the Jamā'at left lasting impressions.

When Hazrat Sir Zafrulla Khan visited Boston for the final time Brother Mahmud had the distinct honor of hosting him. Hazrat Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan had come to give a talk at Harvard, about which Abid Haneef narrates, "The thing was that the students treated him as though he was just another politician and I felt a little hurt because I thought to myself, 'You don't know who this man really is.' The students didn't respect him as a theologian, but rather solely as a diplomat." It is often and unfortunate that when historic gems are present, they do not receive the esteem they deserve. Such was the case with Hazrat Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan, and for generations, this event will be looked back on with a sense of regret.

Br Abdul Hameed, President 1940s-1956

Brother Abdul-Hameed served as the first acting President of the Boston area from the 1940s-1956. At this time, the Boston Chapter was

not formally recognized as a Mission in the US Jamā'at. Brother Hameed was therefore a prominent member of the community who took on the

responsibilities of a president and was viewed as such by members. Brother Hameed was described by Brother Khalil Mahmud as, "an

extremely pious man with a tremendous collection of books.” Brother Mahmud further narrates, “I once went to visit Bro. Hameed in his house. There I first saw a prayer book on his desk and then I saw three men, one of them was Şūfī

Mufti’-ur Rahmān Bengālī (the then missionary of New York region), performing Salāt together. When I saw the three of them pray in unison, I realized that this was a true brotherhood. It was a real pretty sight and that left an everlasting

mark on me.” Brother Hameed had a passion for propagation, often going to prisons where he preached to inmates. Through his preaching, he met Malcolm Little, later known as Malcolm X.

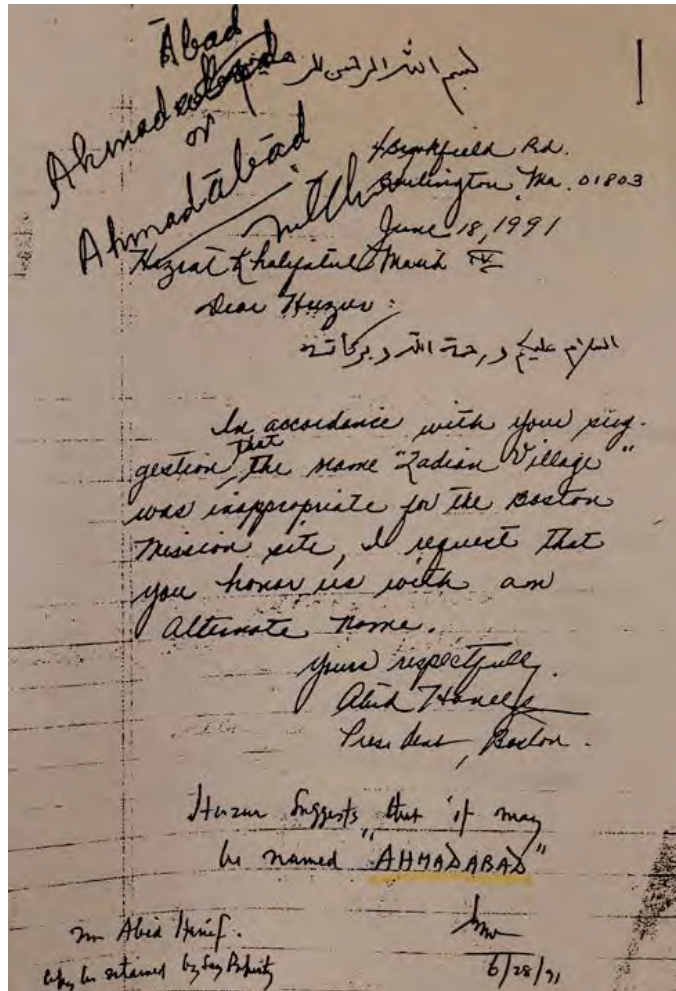
Br Abid Haneef, President 1956-1959



Br Abid Haneef

Brother Abid Haneef was elected the first President of New York Chapter in 1956. At the time Boston was not formally recognized as a Chapter in the US. Thus, upon becoming President of New York, Abid Haneef was also considered President of the Boston area. His term ended in 1959, after which he moved to Burlington Massachusetts. From 1959-1969 Brother Muhammad Sadiq and Brother Bashir Afzal alternated as President of New York, and effectively Boston until in 1969 Boston was formally recognized as the 11th mission of the US Jamā’at. Thus in 1969, Abid Haneef became the first formal President of the Boston Chapter. His first term ended in 1974, upon the election of Abdur-Raqeeb Wali, and his second term began in 1978. At this time, membership of the Chapter saw a steady increase as

persecution against Ahmadis in Pakistan increased and an exodus out of Pakistan began.



Inspired by a directive of Hazrat Masih III, Abid Haneef had acquired land in the town of Sharon, 25 miles outside the city of Boston. Taking early retirement, he purchased a bulldozer and began developing the land himself for many years. Abid Haneef envisioned a small community of Ahmadis around a mosque, similar to what is now Peace Village in Canada. He wished it to be called ‘Qadian Village’ and wrote a letter for approval to Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih, which was not granted. Upon this he requested Khalifatul-Masih to give an alternative name. Thus, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV named this site “Ahmadabad.”

The sacrifices made by Abid Haneef and his family to establish a site for the masjid cannot be adequately conveyed, however, one can begin to imagine it based on the following narration. It is narrated that upon completion of the development of the land Abid Haneef and his wife went to

have some coffee from a café. Upon receiving their bill, the two smiled at

In 1987, propagational efforts by the Chapter had greatly increased. Mushtaq Bashir, a member of Boston Chapter, had been preaching to an Indian grocer and his family and many of the women seemed interested in Ahmadiyyat. Mushtaq Basheer worked with Abid Haneef and invited them for Tabligh on multiple occasions. Within two months of active preaching, the grocer's wife and mother decided to do Bait. This incident is of note because Mushtaq Basheer was fortunate to have a personal relationship with Khalifatul-Masih IV, enabling him to call him directly. Thus, the two women were able to accept Ahmadiyyat through a phone

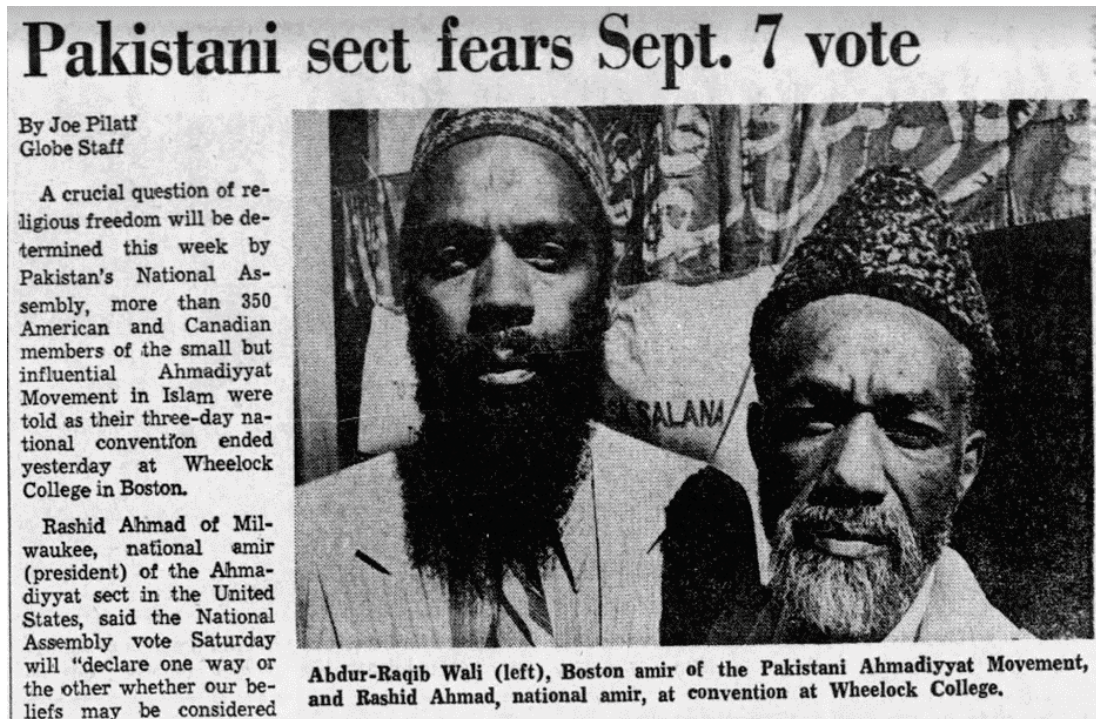
Br Abdur Raqeeb Wali 1959-

each other, that was the last of their savings.

call with Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV, Al-Hamdu Lillah!

On June 6th, 1989, the Boston Globe published a letter to the editor titled, "Bhutto condones atrocities against Ahmadis." The letter, written by Khadim Rasheed A. Khalid, detailed a brief history of persecution against Ahmadis in Pakistan, and the corruption motivating it. This was the first of many efforts to spread the message of Jamā'at and gain recognition during the centennial year. Abid Haneef made this a high priority, and it was through these efforts that Boston Chapter would receive great recognition. Governor Michael S.

Dukakis signed a bill of recognition to "The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam on the occasion of the 'Religious Founders Day' conference on November 12th, 1989 in Cambridge Massachusetts." Additionally, the Massachusetts house of representatives signed "Resolutions in Honor of The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam on the occasion of its centennial thanksgiving year, and to mark its annual Religious Founders Day." These documents are of utmost importance as they forever immortalize the Jamā'at's efforts during the centennial year from a secular and political standpoint.



Abdur-Raqeeb Wali was born in Chester Pennsylvania in 1932. He was raised in a strict Christian household, his parents belonging to the Church of God and Saints of Christ. Members of this church considered themselves to be descendants of the lost tribes of Israel. In 1949, Br. Wali dropped out

of high school and moved to Boston, where he got involved in various musician groups.

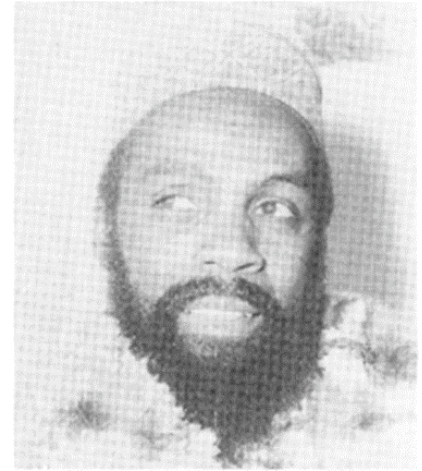
On one occasion Br. Wali narrated that "One of the members of the group once expressed his desire to acquire a copy of the Holy Qur'ān so he could read it. I learned from somebody that there was a

Muslim by the name of Khalīl Maḥmūd, who worked at the Harvard University. I met this brother and mentioned to him our need [for] the Holy Qur'ān. This brother was very hospitable. After only a few moments of our introduction, I felt as if we had always been very close friends." Br.

Wali and Br. Mahmud would develop a close bond as mentor and mentee, describing the time they spent together as “never wasted.” Br. Mahmud introduced Br. Wali to Missionary Zaigham, who greatly impressed Br. Wali with his immense knowledge of religion. Soon after this meeting Br. Wali approached Br. Mahmud in 1958 and requested to take the initiation into Islam.

In 1974, Br. Wali was elected the second President of Boston Chapter.

His most notable accomplishment was holding the 1974 Jalsa Salana USA at Wheelock College in Boston. This Jalsa has a special place in history because while it took place, the Pakistani government passed legislation declaring Ahmadis as Non-Muslims. The alignment of these two events attracted media attention and led to the publication of a Boston Globe article titled, “Pakistani sect fears Sept. 7 vote.” The Jalsa attendance was believed to be greater than 200.



Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV addressing the inauguration audience.



Nasir Ahmad Road and Masjid Bait-un-Nasir

Majeed Mian, President 1994-1999

In 1994, Majeed Mian was elected the third President of Boston. The most notable accomplishment of his tenure was the building and inauguration of Bait-un-Nasir mosque. With the development of land in Sharon complete, the Chapter looked to begin construction on their new home. In 1997 construction was completed and the inauguration of Bait-un-Nasir was blessed with the presence of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV. Khalifatul-Masih IV arrived at Boston Logan airport the day of the inauguration, Saturday, June 16,

1997, and was greeted by the President Chapter Mujeed Mian, regional missionary Daud Hanif, Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, Dr. Karimullah Zirvi, Latif Tahir, Rashid Shams, Yousuf Lateef, and Abid Haneef along with many notable members of Jamā'at. Khalifatul-Masih IV was taken to Bait-un-Nasir where Mulaqats were held before the reception began.

The inauguration was attended by an estimated 300 guests, including local Selectman Committee Chairman Norman Katz,

and received attention from local media. The Sharon Advocate published an extensive article titled, "Muslim community dedicates Sharon home" on June 20, 1997. Similarly, Sentinel & Enterprise published an article titled "Ahmadiyya Muslim Leader to visit Massachusetts." Through these papers, the message of Islam and Ahmadiyyat reached thousands in Massachusetts. The town approved the name of the road leading to Ahmadabad as Nasir Ahmad Road, the first road to be named after a Khalifatul-Masih in the US.

Dr. Amer Malik, President 1999-2019



Sadr MKA Rizwan Alladin (Top row, 7th from right) with Boston Khuddam and Atfal. Qā'id Majlis, Zeeshan Ahmad (April 22nd, 2011)



From Right to Left; Masroor Sajid, Canton Police Chief Ken Berkowitz, Maulana Naseem Mahdi, Dr. Amer Malik, Dr. Waseem Sayed From Right to Left; Masroor Sajid, Dr. Karim Sharif, Monk, Dr. Amer Malik, Architect



In 1999 Dr. Amer Malik was elected as the fourth President of Boston Chapter and maintained this position for the longest time to date. At the time estimates placed membership at approximately 100 members. Soon after his election, the Boston Khuddam began experiencing huge success. In 2001, Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya recognized Boston as 2nd best small Majlis. In 2003 Boston was recognized as Best Medium Majlis, which they were again recognized for in 2004. In 2005 Boston was recognized as 2nd Medium Majlis, followed by third small Majlis in 2008. Subsequently, the Northeast region was recognized as the 3rd best large region in 2010.

In 2007 The Boston Chapter was split. Several Ahmadi families lived near Fitchburg Massachusetts, a city in the Western part of the state. Because the distance between Fitchburg and Sharon is approximately 60 miles, Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, then serving as Ameer, thought it best to separate the two Chapters for the convenience of members, and to allow Jama'at operations to progress more efficiently.

During his tenure, Dr. Malik started many public affairs outreach initiatives. In honor of the victims of the 9/11 terror attacks, the Chapter began holding annual blood drives on the date of the attacks. After the April 2013 Boston Marathon bombing another annual blood drive was initiated to honor the victims of the marathon bombing. The blood drive was sponsored by the Boston Children's Hospital and the Boston Athletic Association, which organizes the marathons. State Representative William C. Galvin gave a speech at the event along with Tom Grill, CEO of the Boston Athletic Association. Maulana Naseem Mahdi, Nā'ib Ameer, and Missionary In-Charge also gave a speech. These blood drives are being held every year since then and have garnered recognition from the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Similarly, many

outreach programs were held for Tabligh the first being Iftar dinners, where non-Ahmadi guests were invited to learn about Islam and the Ahmadiyya Community. Similarly, Dr. Malik developed close ties with professors from Eastern Nazarene College. These relations led to students in a religious studies course being sent once a semester to observe Jumu'ah services at Bait-un-Nasir, followed by a question-answer session.



In 2012, the Chapter coordinated an interfaith conference at Boston University which featured speakers from the Chapter as well as Qaseedah performed by a choir of Atfal and Nāsirāt. The conference was a huge success as the auditorium was filled with students, guests, and faculty of the University. After the main session, many local members of the Chapter were interviewed by guests, including a video recording

of a student asking the Atfal choir questions about the Qaseedah.

In 2016, an initiative was started by the Haneef family and sponsored by Jamā'at to hold Quran exhibitions in public libraries. These exhibitions featured calligraphy, various translations of the Quran, banners on Islam and Ahmadiyyat, and pamphlets about the Jamā'at. The exhibitions would last a month, during which a conference would be held where allegations against the Quran were refuted by speakers, the most prominent being Dr. Kashif Chaudhry, Rasheed A. Khalid, Dr. Ather Malik, Dr. Tahir Ahmed, and Dr. Karim Sharif. Similarly, the Jamā'at was invited to an event organized by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. The event titled "Sacred Pages" was a conversation about the Quran exhibit in the museum. Abid Haneef and Saleha Haneefa participated in giving comments on historical pages of the Quran displayed in the museum.

In 2017 the first national Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association (PAAMA) conference organized by Rafiq Lake was hosted by the Boston Chapter. Speakers from around the country spoke on the spiritual transformations that they experienced upon converting to Ahmadiyyat. The event attracted many African Americans who were "soul searching" and trying to find the truth.

In light of the success of the Northeast region and the Boston Majlis during the tenure of Zeeshan Ahmad, Sadr Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, Rizwan Alladin visited Boston in 2011. Sadr Khuddam arrived for the concluding session of the local Khuddam and Atfal Ijtema, where he gave an empowering speech encouraging members to continue their work and strive for improvement every year. Himself being a former member of the Boston Chapter when he was a

student at MIT, Sadr Khuddam was familiar with many of the Khuddam and parents of Atfal, giving his visit an air of nostalgia. A group photo was taken with Sadr Khuddam and the Majlis gifted him a cricket bat signed by the Khuddam and Atfal.

At the turn of the 2010s, space became a big concern for the Chapter. The Chapter saw steady growth and holding large functions such as Eid and Iftars became difficult. The Amila decided that it was time to explore acquiring a new Masjid, either by building a new one or buying a building. They sent this decision to Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, former Ameer Jamā'at USA who responded with approval. After years of exploring options, in 2015 the owner of a 2-acre property adjacent to the Masjid offered to sell his house and property for \$500,000. Upon receiving the offer, it was discussed with Amila as well as members during a General meeting. Soon the decision to purchase had been made and collection of funds began. By fall of 2016, the purchase had been finalized, setting the conditions for possible construction of a new Masjid.

In May 2013 Maulana Syed Kamal Yousuf, the first Ameer and Missionary in-Charge of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Scandinavia visited Boston as a personal guest to Dr. Karim Sharif. During his stay he attended Khilafat day and spoke on the blessings of Khilafat and how they enabled Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Norway to raise incredible amounts of money for the construction of their new Masjid. After his speech members from the Jamā'at were able to introduce themselves to him and listen as he related stories of his services in Norway during lunch.

In June 2013, Dr. Nusrat Jahan, daughter of Hazrat Maulawi Abdul Malik Khan, visited Boston on a personal visit to her niece, Dr. Nusrat Sharif. Dr. Nusrat Jahan was

an OBGYN who dedicated her life as a waqf-e-zindagi at Fazl-e-Umar hospital in Rabwah, Pakistan. In her service there she delivered over 10,000 babies. During her stay in Boston, she visited the Bait-un-Nasir Masjid, although no program was held that day.

In 2014 Mujeeb-ur-Rahman, a renowned Ahmadi advocate from Pakistan, who is famous for appealing Pakistan's anti-Ahmadi laws in the court, visited the United States and his lectures across the country started at Harvard School of Law. Mujeeb-ur-Rahman gave an extensive talk on the plight of Ahmadis in Pakistan, drawing comparisons from prominent US judicial cases and leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr.

By 2016 the landscape of Boston had drastically changed, particularly regarding Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya. The once "Best Medium Majlis" found itself struggling to find consistent leadership. From 2012 to 2017 seven different khuddam served as Qā'id, of whom three left Boston (Zeeshan Ahmad 2006-12, Usman Sindhu 2012-13, Rayaun Butt 2016-17) and one (2015-16) stepped down from being Qā'id and later unfortunately renounced Ahmadiyyat. One Qā'id became a Nasir (Adil Mian 2013-14), and Safdar Mahmud (2017-17) served as interim Qā'id before Dr. Tahir Ahmed (2017-2020) was appointed by Dr. Bilal Rana, Sadr Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, USA. Moreover, Sadr Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya Dr. Madeel Abdullah visited Boston in 2019, to rejuvenate the Khuddam.

In line with the nationwide campaign, in 2016 President Chapter initiated Tahir Academy and served as its first Chairman of The Board. Other board members included Na'ib Sadr and Za'im Ansarullah Dr. Karim Sharif, Secretary Tarbiyat Rashid Ahmad,

Principal Reema Butt, Qā'id Khuddam Dr. Tahir Ahmed, and Sadr Lajna Fiona O'Keefe. Classes were held the first three Saturdays of the month from 10 am-1 pm and helped stabilize Atfal after a period of unstable leadership. The first graduate of the academy was Muneeb A. Sharif in 2017, followed by Shazain Khan in 2018.



In June of 2018 under the National initiative of "Messiah Has

Come", the Boston Chapter arranged for an electronic billboard to be rotated in various parts of Boston, alongside major highways. The billboards displayed a picture of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) with the words, "The Messiah Has Come."

On March 14th, 2019 Boston once again hosted Sadr Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, Dr. Madeel Abdullah. A joint Khuddam and Atfal Session was held with Sadr Khuddam, where each member was able to introduce themselves to Sadr Khuddam. After introductions Sadr Khuddam discussed MKA goals for the next two years and established a personal relationship with Khuddam by sharing his contact information.



From Right to Left; Dr. Tahir Ahmad, Ataul-Hady Mian, Dr. Karim Sharif, Bubacarr Trawalley, Sarjo Trawalley, Muneeb Sharif, Mustapha Trawalley, Abeer Sharif

Dr. Karim Sharif, President 2019-...



Top Left: Dr. Karim Sharif receiving Outstanding Performance Award from Khalifatul-MasihV (2018). Top Right: Boston Dīyāfat Volunteers. Bottom Left: Dr. Karim Sharif, President Boston Chapter.

Bottom Right: From Right to Left; Haroon Choudhary, Anwar Saeed, Sheikh Abdul Wahid, Dr. Syed Sajid Ahmad, Dr. Karim Sharif, Ataul-Hady Mian, Dr. Ijaz Ahmad



Produce grown on Masjid property.

In June of 2019, Dr. Karim Sharif was elected fifth President of the Boston Chapter. Before election, Dr. Sharif had served on the Amila in various capacities as Secretary Waqfe Nau, Secretary Ta'lim-ul-Quran, and Assistant President Boston (2016-19). He had also served as Za'im Ansarullah from 2016-17. As Za'im he led a revitalization of the Majlis, greatly increasing activity through meeting participation, Waqar-e-Amal, Tabligh/Social media outreach, and the initiation of Ansar biking trips. Resultantly, Boston Majlis won second place among medium majalis two years in a row (2016 & 2017). Dr. Sharif also served as Qa'id Ta'lim for Ansarullah, USA from 2017-2019. During his service, he led a complete overhaul of the Ta'lim test administration, from paper tests to interactive, mobile-friendly online tests, available in English and Urdu, which provided feedback with references to test-takers upon each attempted question. He was awarded a plaque of Outstanding Performance as Qa'id by Sadr Ansarullah USA which was received from Khalifatul-Masih during Ansar visit to London. He was awarded with Outstanding Performance as a Qa'id for a second time next year.

As President, Dr. Sharif has focused on small incremental changes to refine and increase the efficacy of Jamā'at programs. Previously, food was catered or prepared by families at their homes for Jamā'at functions. The Ziyafat department started training volunteers and preparing food at the

mosque grounds using portable stoves.

The Agriculture (Zira'at) Department established a green garden and successfully produced various vegetables in it.

In October 2019, National Secretary Publications, Syed Sajid Ahmad visited the Boston Chapter to leap forward the Public Access Cable Television (PACT) initiative. Under PACT, Jamā'at programs are aired on public broadcast channels across the nation. Prior to Secretary's visit Boston Chapter member Sarjo Trawalley had been one of the leading members of the PACT team. During his stay Secretary recruited Boston Chapter member Muneeb Sharif as the video coordinator and editor for PACT. Later, Boston Chapter member Molood Saeed was added to the PACT team as DVD Production and Distribution Coordinator. Since then, the project has recruited ten other Chapters as part of the initiative and has established a collaboration with MTA USA studios and MTA International.

On February 15, 2020, per national directive, the Boston Chapter observed the Centennial Day. The day began with tahajjud prayer, followed by Fajr and Dars-ul-Quran by the Chapter President. After breakfast members took part in a meal packing initiative, preparing sandwich meals for 150 people. This was followed by a session on the history of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya USA. The session moved many as the Chapter President went through the

resources sent by US headquarters while also recounting findings in his own research and personal anecdotes. Members took great interest in the session and it quickly became an informal discussion rather than a presentation.

As The COVID-19 pandemic began Boston Chapter took necessary precautions per the law and national directives. Accordingly, the Chapter President diligently prepared the prescribed homeopathy medications for members of the Chapter and distributed them. On March 20th, the final Jumu'ah was held before lockdown began.

Following guidelines from the National Umooor-e-Kharajiyya department, on Saturday, May 9th Boston held a virtual interfaith Iftar. The program was a success, with attendance estimated at over 100, including notable guests such as Tom Grilk, CEO of the Boston Athletics Association, Laura Weinstein, Curator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Ted Phillips, representative of Congressman Louis Kafka, and Police Chief Ken Berkowitz from the town of Canton. After Eid, PA and Ziyafat departments prepared Samosas and Pakoras and presented them to Police Departments in Canton and Sharon, the Town Hall, the Fire Department, the Sharon Community Center, and the Post Office in Sharon. They were very well received and served to strengthen relationships with them. In the summer, regular Waqar-e-'Amal

events were held weekly to renovate the mosque building and landscaping. These efforts saved more than \$50,000.



Waqar-e-Amal Volunteers Back row from Right to Left: Ataul-Hady Mian, Moloood Saeed, Dr. Karim Sharif, Kamran Choudhry, Muzaffar Choudhry.

Front row: Mubariz Saeed, Muneeb Sharif, Hud Saeed

On September 11th in-person Jumuah prayers resumed for healthy men only, while other programs continued to be held virtually via Zoom. On November 26th in-person Jumuah closed again due to a surge in Covid cases, with another reopening on March 4th, 2021.



First reopened Jumu'ah (September 11th, 2020)

For the preparation of the Eid-ul-Adha, Dr. Sharif worked with the Sharon Town Hall to obtain permission to hold animal sacrifice

at the mosque premises. Consequently, members were able to offer Qurbani (sacrifice) at the site and many members were able to participate and learn from this activity.



First reopened Jumuah (September 11th, 2020)

Notable Members

Over the years many members of the Boston Chapter were fortunate to serve Jamā'at in a high capacity. Abid Haneef served on the national amila for many years as Muhasib and Secretary Ta'lim. He also had the honor of serving as Regional Sadr for several years. In 2007, Br. Abid Haneef became the first recipient of the Mufti Muhammad Sadiq award from MKA USA.

Br. Fazal Ahmad was one of the first National Qa'id of Majlis Ansarullah USA.

Dr. Karim Sharif served as Qā'id Ta'lim for Ansarullah from 2017-2019 and Vice President of the Association of Ahmadi Muslim Scientists (AAMS) from 2017-Present. Dr. Sharif is a Professor of Microbiology at Massasoit Community College. His research focuses on comparative genomics in fruit flies.

Zahid Mian served as Mohtamim Maal for Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya from 2003-2010. Zahid Mian then served from 2010-2012 as Mu'awin Sadr I.T. and then from 2012-2014 as Na'ib Sadr.

Adil Mian served as Mu'awin Sadr I.T. for Ansarullah from 2019-Present. Before his appointment,

Adil Mian served as Nā'ib Qa'id Ta'lim and created the portal, which was used to administer the online Ta'lim tests. After appointment he continues improving the portal as well as managing all I.T.-related projects by Majlis Ansarullah.

Sarjo Trawalley had the honor of serving as Nazim-e-Ala of the Northeast region for Majlis Ansarullah from 2016 to Present. Similarly, Nasir Rana and Yousef Malik had the honor of serving as Regional Qā'id of the Northeast Region.

Among the women, Saleha Malik, the wife of Dr. Amer Malik, served as National Secretary Tarbiyat of Lajna Ima'illah USA for many years, after which she became Sadr Lajna USA, serving from 2010-2018. During her service, she took part in Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V's United States tour in 2012.

Dr. Nusrat Sharif had the honor of serving as President of the Ahmadi Women Scientists Association (AWSA) from 2018-present. During her term, Dr. Sharif focused on encouraging young Lajna and Nāsirāt to consider fields in science following guidance from Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih. Dr. Sharif is a Senior Principal Scientist at Pfizer, where her research focuses on the immune mechanism of inflammatory diseases.

Other prominent members of the Chapter and their accomplishments are as follows. Dr. Yusef Abdul Lateef, a famous jazz musician (October 9, 1920 – December 23, 2013) was among the distinguished Boston Chapter members for many years until Fitchburg Chapter was formed in 2007. In 1980, Yusef Lateef declared that he would no longer perform at any place where alcohol was served. He twice made the pilgrimage to Mecca. Yusef Lateef was an Emeritus Five Colleges professor at the University of Massachusetts in

Amherst Massachusetts, from where he was awarded a Ph.D. in education in 1975. His dissertation was entitled "An Overview of Western and Islamic Education." As an author Yusef Lateef published two novellas, "A Night in the Garden of Love" and "Another Avenue," two collections of short stories, "Spheres" and "Rain Shapes"; and his autobiography "The Gentle Giant." Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V mentioned his noble qualities in his Khutbah Jumu'ah (Friday sermon) on January 3, 2014.

"I will also lead funeral services of Yusef Lateef of Boston, USA. He passed away on December 23, 2013 at the age of 93. Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'oon. To Allah we belong and to Him shall we return. He was born in 1920 on October 9 in Tennessee. He was an African American and was blessed to join Ahmadiyyat in 1948 after reading the books of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and Hazrat Muslih Mau'ud, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud, Khalifatul-Masih II (may Allah be pleased with him).

He is listed among the early African American Ahmadi. He used to say often that it had become incumbent on him to join Ahmadiyyat and if he had not done so he would be counted as having turned away from God and become one of those who had turned their face away from the truth.

He had obtained a doctorate in education and taught in different universities as a professor and had written several books including his autobiography. Because of

his fame the news of his death spread all over the US and the world immediately and all the big US newspapers published this news.

When President Clinton had invited him to the White House, even though he was an African American and not a Pakistani, he went there wearing the shalwar kameez dress.

He had won the highest award in his profession which is the equal of a Nobel Prize. Being an Ahmadi, he never compromised his faith. He has written a great deal about music but never played at locations where alcohol was sold. He was blessed with the opportunity to perform Hajj and Umra. He would always make outstanding financial sacrifices and local secretary Finance says that it was his habit to pay his obligatory dues whenever any income check arrived.

He used to say, 'Even today I have the same level of faith that I had when I had joined, and that the way of Ahmadiyyat was the way of truth and it is that same path which was the path of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). I am convinced that no one taking this path can come to destruction and I am convinced that by walking on this path I and my family will achieve salvation and it is my faith that Ahmadiyyat conveys the teaching that will help develop and foster brotherhood among all humanity.'

He had been blessed to visit Qadian and Rabwah also. Last year he had come to the Jalsa in London. He had tremendous love for Khilafat. He had met Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III and Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV and I also. He was ill when he came to the Jalsa last year and was in a wheelchair.

He was highly virtuous and strictly observed salat and attended Friday prayer with regularity. He loved everyone and treated all with affection and love and kindness. He was a sincere human being. He would deal with his non-Ahmadi friends also with love and kindness.

He was blessed to serve the Jamā'at in a variety of offices for a long period of time. He loved to convey the message of Islam and always carried Jamā'at literature with him and conveyed the message to his friends, relatives, and neighbors and while travelling by plane distribute to others. He had books of the Jamā'at-Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam and books related to the training of children—published at his own expense for the blind.

He was a moosi. He is survived by his wife Ayesha Latif and one son Yusuf Lateef Jr. May Allah bless all of them patience and steadfastness and enable them to carry out the righteous deeds that Yusef Lateef personified."

Dr. Masood Shammas is a lead scientist of medical oncology at Harvard (Dana Farber) Cancer Institute. His research focuses on translational cancer. Dr. Masood

Shammas has served as Za'im Ansarullah from 2017-2019 and has served the Ansar amila in various capacities. Currently, he serves as the General Secretary of Boston Chapter.

Dr. Sohail Husain was a member of the Boston Chapter while attending Medical school at Tufts University. Dr. Husain is currently serving as the President of AAMS and is a Professor of medicine at Stanford University where his research focuses on Pancreatic Cancer.

Dr. Atif Mian attended M.I.T. for his graduate schooling. At the time he had not yet accepted Ahmadiyyat but had just been introduced to Jamā'at. Dr. Mian read Jamā'at literature as a student and continued his research, ultimately accepting Ahmadiyyat in Chicago where he was able to visit the local Masjid frequently.

Dr. Zujaja Tauqeer MD D. Phil was a member of the Boston Chapter from 2014-18 during her attendance at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Tauqeer is a Rhodes Scholar and attended an Oxford-Harvard joint MD D. Phil program. She completed her D. Phil in the study of History of Medicine from Oxford University,

UK.

Boston Chapter has had five Harvard graduate students. The first was Amjad Mahmood Khan who graduated from Harvard Law School. Amjad Mahmood Khan currently serves as National Umoor-e-Kharija (Public Affairs) Secretary. Dr. Athar Malik MD Ph.D. graduated from Harvard Medical school. He is currently completing his fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, alongside research in neuroscience. Dr. Tahir Ahmed MD Ph.D. also graduated from Harvard Medical school. He is currently a fellow at Beth Israel Hospital and has served as Qā'id Boston. Dr. Munazza Alam completed her Ph. D at Harvard University with research in astronomy in 2021. Dr. Zujaja Tauqeer MD D.Phil., a Rhode Scholar, attended Harvard Medical School from 2014-2018. Zujaja is currently a Resident at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School Department of Ophthalmology.

Rafiq Lake is a stalwart in Tabligh who has converted many to Ahmadiyyat. Br. Lake served as Za'im Ansarullah of Boston and served on the amila in multiple capacities for many years. In 2019 he was presented with the Mufti

Muhammad Sadiq award at the Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya National Ijtima.

Mohammed Afzal Ahmad owns and manages one of the most successful car dealerships in Massachusetts. Muhammad Afzal Ahmad's story is inspirational, as he bought over the dealership that he first began working at as a part-timer. Afzal Ahmad has served on the amila in various capacities and has a passion for Tabligh, Tahrik-e-Jadīd, and Waqf-e-Jadīd.

Boston Chapter has had many Medical doctors over the years. The following are doctors of the Boston Chapter.

- Muqtada Chaudhry, MD, Interventional Cardiologist, Lahey Hospital & Medical Center
- Ahmad Rana, MD, Internist
- Muhammad Mahmood Rana, MD, Internist
- Amer Malik, MD, Gastroenterologist
- Athar N. Malik, MD. Ph.D. Neurosurgeon
- Tahir Ahmed, MD, Ph.D. Anesthesiologist
- Nemoode Sehar Rana, MD. Neurology
- Amtul Aala, MD. Transplant Surgeon
- Naila Kauser, MD. Neurology

The Deceased Members of Boston Chapter

Brother Jamal.

Brother Yahya Abdur Rahman

Mian Mohammad Akbar (1928-2004) buried in Avon Cemetery, Avon.

Dr. Naseer Ahmed Sohail buried in Forrest Hill Cemetery, Jamaica Plains

Rashid Ahmed Sohail buried in Forrest Hill Cemetery, Jamaica Plains

Amatash Shakoor Wahid (2012), Buried in Knollwood Memorial Park (Garden of Peace) Canton.

Hamida Akbar (1939-2021) buried in Avon Cemetery, Avon.

Raziya Haneef

Salma N. Mahmud (1926-2008) buried in Avon Cemetery, Avon.

Sardar-un-Nisa (1928-1999) buried in Central Cemetery, Randolph.

Descendant of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him

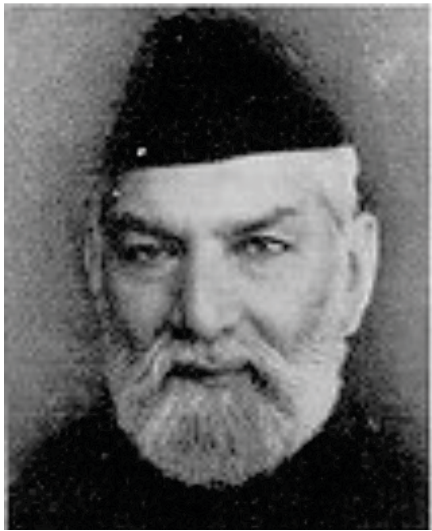
Boston Chapter is blessed to have Rabia Ahmad, who is a direct

descendant of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him).

Direct Descendants of the Companions of the Promised Messiah



Hazrat Mian Fazl Muhammad and Hazrat Suban Bibi, may Allah be pleased with them: *Dr. Karim Sharif, Sadia Khulood Sharif, Faizia Sharif, Muneeb Sharif, Abeer Sharif, Rasheed Khalid.*



Hazrat Maulana Zulfiqar Ali Gohar and Hazrat Hafiza Kulsoom Kubra (may Allah be pleased with them both): *Dr. Nusrat Sharif, Sadia Khulood Sharif, Ayesha Khan, Faizia Sharif, Muneeb Sharif, Abeer Sharif*



Hazrat Mian Fateh Deen Gondal (may Allah be pleased with him) (Pictured) and Hazrat Mian Imam Din (may Allah be pleased with him): *Rashid Shams, Dr. Karim Sharif, Sadia Khulood Sharif, Faizia Sharif, Muneeb Sharif, Abeer Sharif*



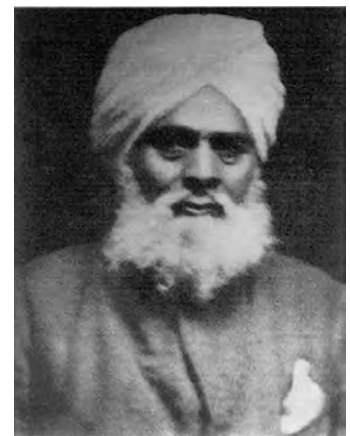
Hazrat Deen Muhammad and Hazrat Peer Muhammad (may Allah be pleased with them): *Rashid Shams*



Hazrat Hafiz Malik Muhammad (may Allah be pleased with him): *Maqbool Saeed, Mehboob Dhillon, Molood Saeed, Mubariz Saeed, Hud Saeed, Basima Dhillon, Arusa Dhillon*



Hazrat Dr. Hishmatullah (may Allah be pleased with him): *Tahir Ahmed, Ali Ahmed*



Hazrat Haji Mian Muhammad Musa (may Allah be pleased with him):

him): Sadaf Mian (Great granddaughter of Mian M. Musa)



Ghulam Muqtada Chaudhary, Hafsa Chaudhary, Hamza Chaudhary

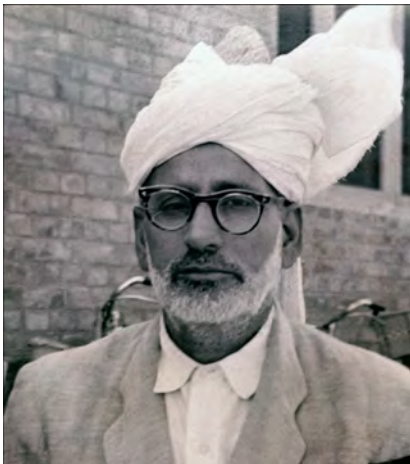


Hazrat Chaudhry Ghulam Muhammad (may Allah be pleased with him): Madiha Rana, Aashir Rana, Anaya Rana

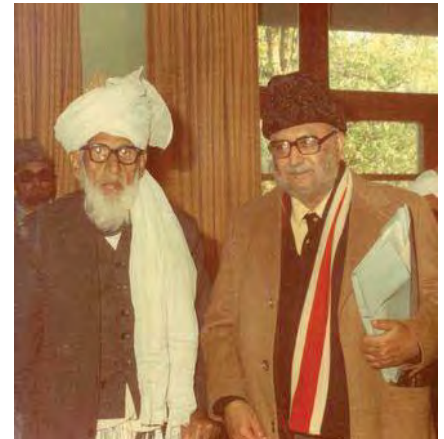
Hazrat Chaudhry Hakim Ali (may Allah be pleased with him): Hamda Ulla, Arsalan Aslam, Sajeel Aslam



Hazrat Hakeem Marham Isa (may Allah be pleased with him): Khalid Razzaq



Hazrat Chaudhary Muhammad Sharif Bajwa (Pictured) and Hazrat Mir Qasim Ali (may Allah be pleased with them): Saad Bashir, Ayaan Bashir, Taemoor Bashir, Saif Bashir



Hazrat Moulvi Ata Muhammad (may Allah be pleased with him) (Left) with Dr. Abdus Salam (Right)



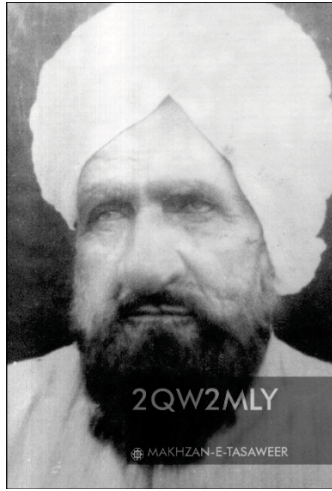
Hazrat Moulvi Ata Muhammad (may Allah be pleased with him): Adil Mian, Afshan Mian, Zubair Mian, Nimra Mian, Akash Mian, Eleeza Mian



Hazrat Chaudhry Mian Mohammaddin, Hazrat Dr. Ghulam Mustafa and Hazrat Sufi Ghulam Mohammad (may Allah be pleased with them): Amtul Basit Bushra,



Hazrat Malik Mubarak Ali Lahori
(may Allah be pleased with him):
*Saira Wasim, Maha Choudhary,
Saba Choudhary, Amina Choudhary*



Hazrat Haji Rehmatullah (may Allah be pleased with him):
*Mubaraka Rana, Mahmood Rana,
Ahmad Rana, Nasir Rana, Nemoode
Sehar Rana, Ather Rana, Danial
Rana, Aashir Rana, Omer Rana,*

Tabi'een (تابعين) of Boston

Tabi'een are those who were fortunate to meet a companion of a prophet and retain conscious memories of their meeting. The following are the Tabi'een of the Promised Messiah who currently reside in Boston.

Men: Abdus-Sami Baig, Abid Haneef, Anwar Saeed, Ataul-Hady Mian, Dr. Karim Sharif, Laeeq Butt, Mahmood Rajput, Muhammad Fazl Rana, Maqbool Saeed, Mirza Nasiruddin, Muzaffar Chaudhry, Dr.

Usman Rana, Khalid Rana, Abdus-Sami Rana, Anaya Rana



Hazrat Mian Roshan Din, Hazrat Mian Muhammad Yousuf, and Hazrat Mian Ahmad Din: *Hamed*

Muqtada Choudhry, Qudratullah Tariq, Rashid Shams, Rasheed Khalid, Sheikh Abdul Wahid.

Ladies: Dr. Amtul Aala, Amtul Basit Bushra, Mubaraka Rana, Saleha Haneef, Zubaida Begum,

Al-Hamdu Lillah, through these Tabi'een, all current conscious members of Boston Chapter are Taba'-ut-Tabi'een تبع تابعين. Taba'-ut-Tabi'een are those who have met a Tabi'ee and retain conscious memory. Traditionally in Islamic

*Saeed, Mohammed Saeed,
Zarminay Saeed*

Hazrat Fazl Haq (may Allah be pleased with him): *Dr. Rizwan Haq*

Hazrat Abdullah Baig (may Allah be pleased with him): *Hina Maqbool,
Hasan Jamil, Molood Saeed,
Mubariz Saeed, Hud Saeed*

Hazrat Munshi Ahmad Bakhsh (may Allah be pleased with him)
*Haroon Choudhary, Maha
Choudhary, Saba Choudhary,
Amina Choudhary*

Hazrat Syed Afzal Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him): *Rabia
Ahmad, Ayaan Bashir, Taemoor
Bashir, Saif Bashir*

**Hazrat Chaudhary Fateh Din,
Hazrat Chaudhary Massu Khan, and
Hazrat Chaudhary Nathu Khan**
(may Allah be pleased with them):
*Ataul Hady Mian, Ataul Bari Mian,
Ataul Wahab Mian, Shamaila
Malhar, Neha Muskan*

history, Taba'-ut-Tabi'een are the last generation given a title associated to their relationship to a prophet. It is narrated in the Sahih of Bukhari and the Sahih of Muslim that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "The best of my people are my generation [Sahaba], then the generation that comes after them [Tabi'een], then the generation that comes after them [Tab'a Tabi'een]."



Left: Dr. Yusef Lateef (left) and Dr. Muzaffar Zafr (right) at Annual Convention in Rabwah, 1977
Picture Courtesy Habeeb Shafeek

Massachusetts: Fitchburg



Left: Members in a parade. Right: One of the earliest articles in Fitchburg Sentinel and Enterprise about Jamā'at

Fitchburg is a city in northern Worcester County, Massachusetts, United States. Fitchburg became a city in 1872 and is now the third-largest city in the Worcester county. It is located about 50 miles northwest of Boston. Fitchburg his home to a diverse group of people and is a very welcoming city especially towards immigrants. The city is noted for its architecture, particularly in the Victorian style, built at the height of its mill town prosperity.

Ahmadi Muslims have lived in Fitchburg and surrounding areas for several decades. The earliest Ahmadi Muslim families in the area were the families of Bashir Mehmud and Khadim Shah. Fitchburg became a Halqa (subchapter) of Boston Chapter in 1982, and Bashir Mehmud was appointed as Halqa leader. Members gathered regularly in members' homes for Jumu'ah prayers and Halqa meetings.

Fitchburg is one of the first places where Ahmadi Muslims participated in the Fourth of July Parades. The Chapter has been participating in the Fourth of July Parades since 1980s. One of the early members, Bashir Mehmud was very active in the community. He even ran for office, which enable him to establish strong connections with

the community. More families moved into the area and outreach efforts were increased through flier distribution. The first Ahmadi Muslim convert in Fitchburg was the late Farida Mehmooda Mian in 1992. The local newspaper published article in 1996 with a picture of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him).

As more families moved into the area, members sought to establish a chapter in the area. The Fitchburg chapter was founded in 2007 and an activity center was rented in downtown Fitchburg. After renovations with the help of Murabbi Yahya Luqman, the place was named Masjid Bait-uz-Zikr. Yusef Abdul-Lateef served as the first president of Fitchburg Chapter until 2010. After him, Bashir Mehmud was president for two terms until 2016. The current president is Ijaz Ahmed Khokhar. The first Eid was captured in the Ahmadiyya Gazette (Nov-Dec, 2007). The Jamā'at membership spans across Vermont, New Hampshire, and Central Massachusetts.

The Chapter has regularly held activities to present the true teachings of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. In 2010, a peace symposium was held in which local faith and

community leaders were invited to speak. The chapter also participated in World Interfaith Harmony Week in February. In 2013, a Muhammad (s.a.w.) Messenger of Peace Event was held in 2013. The masjid was regularly opened weekly to allow visitors to learn about Islam. These weekly activities continue today as "Real Talk on Islam." Members have also setup stalls at flea markets to distribute fliers and sell books. We also had an 8th grade class visit the Masjid for a tour. About 100 students in total visited the mosque.

In 2016 and in 2017, we held a Ramadan Iftar Dinner which was attended by over 50 guests each. In 2016, the local Sentinel & Enterprise newspaper ran a front-page article introducing the Jamā'at on the same day as the Iftar dinner. We also held a True Islam event at Worcester State University (2016) and at Fitchburg State University (2017). We also held a successful Religious Founders' Day in 2019, which was attended by candidate for Governor, Jay Gonzalez. Jamā'at media has been shared on local public access TV for many years. We were also invited to interview for the local public access TV in Fitchburg. Murabbi Hamid Malik joined for this interview. We have been featured in several articles over the past two

decades in both the Sentinel & Enterprise and the Telegram. The Sentinel & Enterprise also featured a front-page article on the Day on the Hill in 2019. Jamā'at members also regularly write letters to the editors and opinion articles that get published in the local newspapers.

Chapter members have also visited and spoken at various Churches and Synagogues in the area. Some members have participated actively in different interfaith and human rights groups in the Fitchburg area. Every year the Jamā'at holds a Thanksgiving Luncheon the day after Thanksgiving, where the public is invited to join in a lunchtime meal. The Mayor and other city officials often visit the event. We have a few dozen guests come in to enjoy a hot meal every year.

Al-Hamdu Lillah, we have established strong relationships with religious, community, and civic leaders. When Hadrat Khalifat-ul-

Masih IV (r.h.) visited Boston in 1998, the city of Fitchburg declared a Mirza Tahir Ahmad Day to commemorate this historic visit to Massachusetts. The previous State Senator, Dean Tran, recognized our centennial day celebration with a citation from the State Senate. The Mayor of Fitchburg, Stephen DiNatale, has regularly recognized the efforts of the Jamā'at through various citations and acknowledgements. He also annually attends our Eid celebrations and other events.

The local Police Chief, Ernest Martineau, has also regularly attended our events. We have partnered with the local Fire Department to hold a successful blood drive. Al-Hamdu Lillah, in December 2016, the previous Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (D-MA, 3rd District) visited the Masjid and spoke with members. After her visit to the mosque, she joined the Ahmadiyya Caucus.

On a Jamā'at level, regular Jamā'at and auxiliary meetings are held. We regularly achieve maximum participation in Tahrik-e-Jadid and Waqf-e-Jadid. Weekly get-togethers at the Masjid have improved attendance at meetings and for Salat. Daily Fajr and Isha prayers are being held and will In Sha' Allah continue. Jum'ah and Salat centers have also been established in Burlington, VT, Worcester, MA, and Acton, MA. Members of Majlis Ansarullah visit the local soup kitchen every month to prepare and serve food. Members of Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya regularly participate in flier handouts and have also helped to cleanup local parks and streets. The Fitchburg Majlis was blessed to host the regional MKA Ijtimā' twice. Lajna Ima'illah has also been very active in holding 'Crafts for Kids' events at the local Public library, along with various interfaith events.

Notable members in Fitchburg Jamā'at



Seated Left to Right: Mohammed Ashraf (late), Fazal Abdullah Ahmad, al-Hajj Dr. Abdul Yusef Abdul-Lateef (late), Bashir ud Din Mehmud, Mayor Stephen DiNatale, Masood Ashraf

Bashir Mehmud moved to Fitchburg in 1982. He visited numerous Churches and Synagogues to deliver lectures on Islam and Ahmadiyyat. He was interviewed by the local newspapers many times

and was even featured in a Sentinel & Enterprise article on the "25 most fascinating people in 2015" in the area. He ran for city councilor but did not win. However, this allowed him to introduce Islam and



**Ijaz Khokhar
Presnt President Fitchburg**

Ahmadiyyat in the civic circles in Fitchburg. Bashir Mehmud served as President Fitchburg Jamā'at for 6 years. He currently resides in Fitchburg. May Allah bless him with a long and healthy life. Ameen.

Brother Fazal Abdullah was born a Catholic and later converted to Islam Ahmadiyyat. He was a very active member of the USA Jamā'at. As a member of Boston Chapter, he was active in many activities and later continued that in the Fitchburg Jamā'at. He served as Za'im-e-A'la of Majlis Ansarullah from 1987-1992. In 1992, Fazal Ahmad formally started a magazine for Majlis Ansarullah, USA and named it 'Al-Nahl' based on the chapter from the Holy Qur'an. This magazine continues to run to this day, Al-Hamdu Lillah. He was awarded the Mufti Muhammad Sadiq Award from MKA, USA on October 15th, 2011. Due to old age, he has been unable to visit the Fitchburg mosque in many years. He currently resides in Vermont. May Allah bless him with a long and healthy life. Ameen.

The late al-Hajj Dr. Abdul Yusef Lateef was born on October 9th in Tennessee. He joined Ahmadiyyat in 1948 after reading books of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and Hazrat Muslih Mau'ud (may Allah be pleased with him). He was converted by Sufi Mutiur Rahman Bengali. He was a very humble, pious, and active member of the Jamā'at. He served as the first president for Fitchburg Chapter. He was a successful musician and was awarded the Grammy award. He was a brilliant scholar and educator who was well known among his peers as the "Gentle Giant." He passed away on December 23rd, 2013 at the age of 93. May Allah elevate his status in heaven. Ameen.

Respected Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) led his funeral prayers in absentia during his Friday Sermon on January 3, 2014. He said:

"After the prayer I will also lead the funeral services of Yusef Abdul-Lateef of Boston, USA. He passed

away on December 23, 2013 at the age of 93. To Allah we belong and to Him shall we return. He was born on 9 October 1920 in Tennessee. He was an African American and was blessed to join in 1948 after reading the books of the Promised Messiah and Muslih-i-Mau'ud, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih II.

He is listed among the early African American Ahmadis. He used to say often that it had become incumbent on him to join and if he had not done so he would be counted as having turned away from God and become one of those who had turned their face away from the truth.

He had obtained a doctorate in education and taught in different universities as a professor and had written several books including his autobiography. Because of his fame the news of his death spread all over the US and the world immediately and all the big US newspapers published this news.

When President Clinton had invited him to the White House and even though he was an African American and not a Pakistani he went there wearing the shalwar kameez dress.

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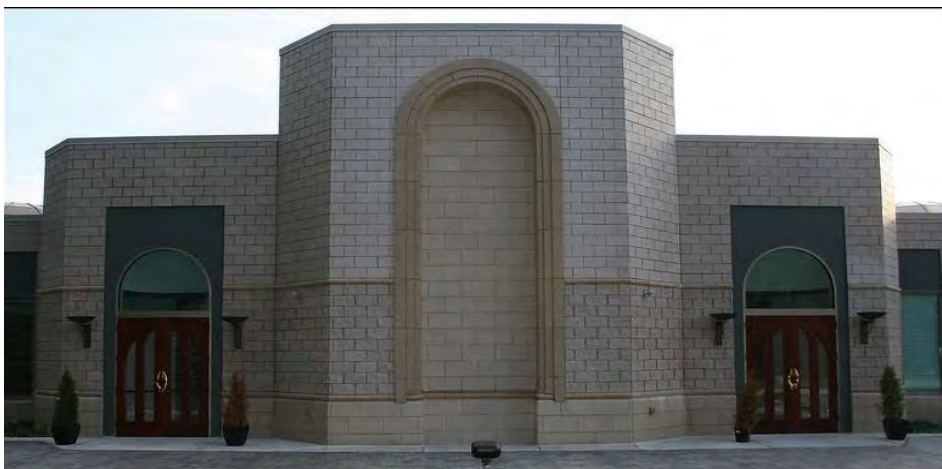
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He was highly virtuous and strictly observed salat and attended Friday prayer with regularity. He loved everyone and treated all with affection and love and kindness. He was a sincere human being. He would deal with his non-Ahmadi friends also with love and kindness.

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He was a mūsī. He is survived by his wife Ayesha Latif and one son Yusuf Lateef. May Allah bless all of them patience and steadfastness and enable them to carry out the righteous deeds that Yusef Lateef personified."

Michigan: Detroit



Masjid Mahmood, Detroit MI

Detroit, locally also; French: Detroit, lit. 'strait' is the largest and most populous city in the U.S. state of Michigan, the largest U.S. city on the United States–Canada border, and the seat of Wayne County. The municipality of Detroit had a 2018 estimated population of 672,662, making it the 23rd-most populous city in the United States. The metropolitan area, known as Metro Detroit, is home to 4.3 million people, making it the second-largest in the Midwest after the Chicago metropolitan area. Regarded as a major cultural center, Detroit is known for its contributions to music and as a repository for art, architecture and design.

Detroit is a major port on the Detroit River, one of the four major straits that connect the Great Lakes system to the Saint Lawrence Seaway. The Detroit Metropolitan Airport is among the most important hubs in the United States. The City of Detroit anchors the second-largest regional economy in the Midwest, behind Chicago and ahead of Minneapolis–Saint Paul, and the 13th-largest in the United States. Detroit and its neighboring Canadian city Windsor are connected through a highway

tunnel, railway tunnel, and the Ambassador Bridge, which is the second busiest international crossing in North America, after San Diego–Tijuana. Detroit is best known as the center of the U.S. automobile industry, and the “Big Three” auto manufacturers General Motors, Ford, and Fiat Chrysler are all headquartered in Metro Detroit.

In 1701, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac founded Fort Pontchartrain du Detroit, the future city of Detroit. During the 19th century, it became an important industrial hub at the center of the Great Lakes region. The city became the 4th-largest in the nation in 1920, after only New York City, Chicago and Philadelphia, with the influence of the booming auto industry. With expansion of the auto industry in the early 20th century, the city and its suburbs experienced rapid growth, and by the 1940s, the city had become the fourth-largest in the country. However, due to industrial restructuring, the loss of jobs in the auto industry, and rapid suburbanization, Detroit lost considerable population from the late 20th century to the present. Since reaching a peak of 1.85 million at the 1950 census, Detroit's population has declined by more

than 60 percent. In 2013, Detroit became the largest U.S. city to file for bankruptcy, which it successfully exited in December 2014, when the city government regained control of Detroit's finances.

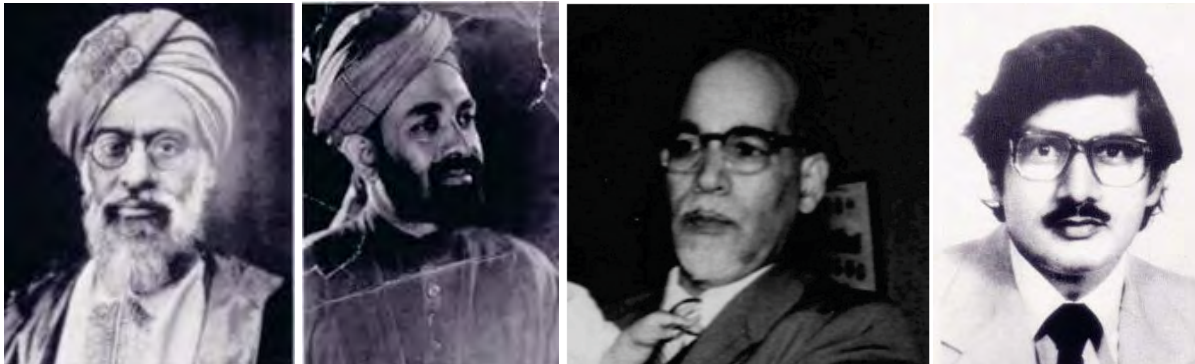
1. The visit of HazratKhalifat-ul-Masih IV and national Jalsa 1991.
2. The mosques: establishment of Bait-ul-Muzaffar and Masjid Mahmood (and miscellaneous periodic Juma centers).
3. First shahadat in the USA (Dr. Muzaffar Ahmed in 1983).
4. Detroit Jamā'at presidents (Nasir Malik, BK Ahmed, Mansoor Qureshi, etc.)
5. Missionaries in Detroit Jamā'at (Yahya Luqman, Shamshad Nasir, etc.).



Maqbool Ahmad Tahir, president.

1921-1970—How Ahmadiyyat Came to Detroit:

- Conversions under the first Ahmadi Muslim missionary to the US, Hazrat Mufti Mohammad Sadiq
- Conversions under Missionary M.R. Bengalee
- Conversions under Dr. Yusef Khan
- First Publication of the Muslim Sunrise



Mufti Muhammad Sadiq. M.R. Bengalee. Dr. Yousuf Khan. Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad.

Foundation of Detroit Chapter

1971, Eid-ul-Fitr – Realization of no Jamā‘at Presence

Abul Fazl – President

1971 Eid-ul-Adha—Unofficial Formation of a Chapter

Rahman Karim – General Secretary

Laeq Butt – Finance Secretary

Purchase of Ahmadiyya Mission House in Detroit

June 18th, 1976. 8218 Wyoming, Detroit MI

Purchase Price - \$9,500 Down Payment - \$3,000 Monthly Payment – \$75.00

Deed



Mid 1970 – Early 1980s Jamā‘at Grows

1977: Nasir Malik Became President of the Detroit Chapter

1982: Announcement of 35th Annual Jasla Salana to be held in Detroit as decided in the national President’s meeting.

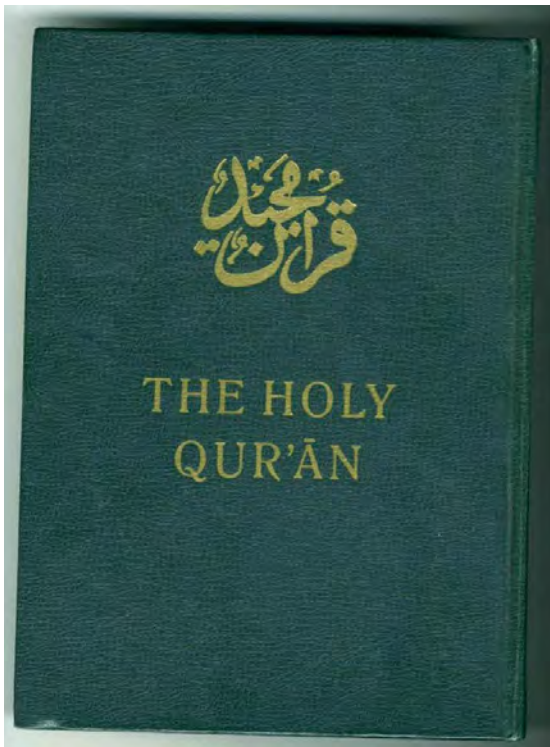
1975-1982: Many members move to Detroit

1982-1983: The year was consumed in preparation to host Jalsa Salana



Sequential Tragedy of 1983 in Detroit

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1. Martyr of Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad</p> <p>2. Fire-bombing of Laeeq Butt's Home</p> <p>3. Burning of the Detroit Mission House</p> <p>Monday, August 8, 1983</p> | <p>Perpetrators: William Cane and Calvin Jones</p> <p>2,000 Copies of the Holy Quran in Mission House survived blaze during the fire.</p> <p>Oakland University Cancelled Jalsa Reservation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jalsa was Held in a park • 1,000 Attendees • Khalifatul-Masih's Jalsa Address • National Mosque Scheme: Allah's House is rebuilt |
|---|---|---|



Oakland U. cancels Muslim sect convention

Oakland University canceled a weekend convention for about 1,000 members of a small Muslim sect after the assassination of one of its leaders and the firebombing of its Detroit mosque and the home of a second official.

The violence came four days before the 35th annual national convention of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam was scheduled to open on the Rochester campus. University officials canceled the convention "to assure the safety of students and conferees."

Dr. Mozaffar Ahmad, secretary of the sect, was shot to death in his Canton Township home Monday night by one of two alleged hired killers — Calvin Jones, 30, of Detroit and William A. Cain, 27, of Akron, Ohio.

Later that night, Jones and Cain allegedly set fire to the Ahmadiyya center at 8218 Wyoming in Detroit. Both men died of smoke inhalation in the blaze.

Muslims seek new meeting site

A small Muslim sect whose weekend convention was canceled when its host — Oakland University — feared more violence, held prayer services at Lower Huron Metropark near Belleville.

But leaders of the annual convention of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, which was expected to attract 1,000 out-of-town visitors, refused to reveal their meeting site until the last possible moment for security reasons.

"It is deplorable that the movement, despite having a lifelong history of peace and nonviolence and being the victim of tragic violence, is being deprived of the moral support and courage to hold a peaceful gathering," the group said in a formal statement.

"WE WILL welcome the help and support of all peace-loving groups in finding a suitable place for the convention."

the Ahmadiyya's Detroit branch, was shot to death Monday night in his Canton Township home.

The bodies of his apparent killer and the killer's companion were found a few hours later in the fire-gutted Ahmadiyya center at 8218 Wyoming in Detroit.

Police said a pistol found on the body of William Cain, 27, of Akron, Ohio, was used to shoot Dr. Ahmad. Both Cain and Calvin Jones, 30, of Detroit, died of smoke inhalation when they could not escape the fire they apparently had set themselves.

University officials told Ahmadiyya leaders Wednesday they would not host the weekend convention because of fears for the safety of the visitors, students and others.

Determined to go ahead with the convention, the sect held a prayer service yesterday afternoon in a se-

cluded picnic area at Lower Huron park that is normally closed on weekdays. About 50 members participated.

THE GENERAL public was barred from the area by both park and Ahmadiyya security guards.

At the Rochester campus, university officials remained on duty throughout the afternoon to help Ahmadiyya visitors who had not heard of the cancellation find alternative lodging. There were no incidents, security police said.

Syed Sharif Ahmad of New York, a spokesman for the sect and no relation to the slain Dr. Ahmad, blamed "international terrorism" for the Monday night violence.

He said Dr. Ahmad's killers were hired by the sect's overseas enemies. "We're not in a position to identify the organizations or the people."



Torched Mosque Rebuilt with Waqar-e-'Amal

Every weekend for two years

Al-Muzaffar Grand Opening

Named By Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih IV





Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV statement came true. Today we are sitting in this mosque!!!

Detroit Mosque Project

National Mosque Scheme (build five mosques in USA)

- Acceleration of Detroit Mosque Project
- Troy Land Purchase
- Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih IV, lays foundation stone
- Miracles of Troy Land Purchase

- Low-cost purchase
- Insurance Revenue
- Revenue from city purchase of easement
- Revenue from temporary use for neighborhood's construction
- Revenue of Sale of the mosque site in the amount of \$1,3000,000

Jamā'at Continued to Prosper

1990 and 1991 Jalsa Salana Held in Detroit

Detroit Jamā'at History Overview

- Purchase of Troy Property site for construction of the Detroit Mosque
- Construction preparations to build the mosque in Troy
- Site plan approval
- Foundation stone laying ceremony
- 1991 National Convention Hosted in Detroit

- Halting of Troy mosque construction
- History of financial blessings of the troy Mosque site.
- Eventual City claim to property and sale.
- 2000-2007 Jamā'at Growth
- National Khuddam Ijtimā'
- Purchase of Rochester site for Detroit Mosque Construction

- Site plan approval
- Foundation Stone Ceremony
- Rebuild Al-Muzaffar
- Begin Rochester Mosque Construction
- Purchase of House next door to Al-Muzaffar
- Remodeling of house to become a Da'i Ilallah Center (Waqar-e-'Amal)



Detroit Jamā'at Presidents:

- Bashirudin Khalil Ahmad
- Nasir M. Malik
- Mansoor A. Qureshi
- Maqbool A. Tahir

Missionaries in Detroit Jamā'at

- Mirza Mahmood Ahmad
- Mohammed Zafarullah

Hanjra

- Zafar Sarwar
- Irshad Malhi
- Azam Akram
- Yahya Luqman
- Syed Shamshad Nasir

August 2004: Detroit hosted MKA National Ijtimā at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, Detroit has won the Alam-e-In'āmī for the years 1989-91, 2003 - 04, 2007-08

Many members from the Detroit Jamā'at volunteered and were at the forefront of Katrina relief efforts in September 2005

Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony, Saturday, December 17, 2005

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Detroit

LOCATION
Avondale Middle School
1445 W Auburn Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

DIRECTIONS
M-59 East
Exit on Crooks Rd.
South on Crooks Rd.
East on Auburn Rd.
Turn right at first light.
Watch for AMCC-D Sign on Auburn Rd.

Cordially invites you to the
**Foundation Stone Laying
Ceremony of
It's Mosque and Community
Center**
In Rochester Hills, Michigan
Saturday, December 17, 2005
in Avondale Middle School

PROGRAM	
ARRIVAL	11:30 AM
LUNCH	12:00 PM
RECOGNITION AND PRESENTA-	1:00 PM
PRAYERS	2:00 PM
FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY (ON-SITE) JUST EAST OF CROOKS ON AU- BURN RD ROCHESTER HILLS, MI 48309	3:00 PM
ADJOURN	3:30 PM



EID UL FITR 2005 IN PICTURES



Missionary House Purchase

In March 2006, Jamā'at purchased the house located at 2989 Alexander Rd. (adjoining the new mosque site). Daily congregational Isha Prayers started to be offered there.

Masjid Mahmood site under construction in 2006



September 2006 AMCC-D Building Permit.

Masjid Mahmood under construction.



2006 Khilafat Day at the Wixom Community Center:



Annual Picnic

Detroit Jama'at's annual summer picnic was held on Sunday July 23, 2006 in Kensington Park. Close to 200 members attended this event. Aside from the delicious food there were many fun filled activities which were enjoyed by all age groups. May Allah bless all volunteers who assisted in making this event a success. Ameen. This event was funded by Detroit Majlis e Amila.



October 2010, Detroit Jamā'at at a small town Waqar-e-'Amal Small Town as part of Tabligh Initiative.



November 2010, Jamā'at members held Tabligh event and distributed flyers, literature and books at Thanksgiving parade in downtown Detroit under the Muslims for Peace Campaign



Masih-e-Mau'ud Day March 2011 at Masjid Mahmood



March 2011, Detroit Jamā'at hosts Humanity First Fund Raising Dinner.



May 2011 Waqf-e-Nau Ijtimā' at Masjid Mahmood



June 2011, Children Graduation Award ceremony.



For the Year 2011 two of Detroit Khuddam received Presidential Lifetime Service Award.



Brs. Maqbool Tahir and Shahid Mahmood receiving the Presidential Lifetime Service Award from Sadr sahib Khuddam ul Ahmadiyya & Naib Ameer & Missionary In charge, USA Jama'at

MTA Real Talk team records episode in Detroit in October 2011



2011 Muslims for peace Tabligh flyer distribution at Thanksgiving Day Parade



2011 Eid-ul-Adha



Majlis Ansarullah Detroit with guest Maulana Abdul Basit



US Congressman Gary Peters visited Masjid Mahmood in April 2012



US Congressman Gary Peters (D-MI-9) speaking to Jama'at members at Masjid Mahmood



June 2012 Members of Detroit Jamā'at during Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah support him with His mighty help) visit to Midwest region



Atfal and Nasirat waiting for Huzur^{aba's} arrival at Bait un Nasir

Registration Desk



Detroit Atfal anxiously waiting for Huzur^{aba's} arrival at Bait un Nasir



Sandy Relief Efforts Nov 2012



Detroit Jama'at members at the Sandy relief efforts

Tabligh event at the Ann Arbor Art Fair 2012



"Peace through the Messiah" 2012 Ann Arbor Art Fair flyer distribution campaign



"Peace through the Messiah" flyer distribution campaign at the 2012 Ann Arbor Art Fair

Tabligh Department of Detroit Jama'at kicked-off the "Peace through the Messiah" campaign on July 18th at the 53rd Annual Ann Arbor Art Fair. The "Peace through the Messiah" campaign had been launched on May 22nd in Zion, Illinois as part of a new nation-wide campaign under the guidance of Hazrat Khalifatul Massih V^{aba}.

By the grace of Allah, the event was a great success with more than twenty Jama'at members participating and sacrificing their time in the scorching heat. More than 1800 flyers were distributed during the four day event.



Interfaith event Dec 2012



Troy Interfaith Event in pictures

Ansarullah Detroit Aux Meeting in Feb 2013



Monthly Ansar Aux meeting in progress at Masjid Mahmood

March 2013 – Muhammad (pbuh) – Messenger of Peace Conference at University of Ann Arbor Michigan



"Muhammad^{pbuh} Messenger of Peace" Conference University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



2014 Muhammad, A Messenger of Peace” conference at Wayne State University in Detroit



Guests listening to the proceedings at the 2014 Muhammad Messenger of Peace conference Wayne State



Detroit Jamā'at holds First Arab Conference at University of Michigan-Dearborn Tuesday, November 18th, 2014





2015 Arab Conference



Flint, Michigan -Water Crisis 2016 and Detroit Jamā'at support



DETROIT JAMA'AT MEMBERS SUPPORTING THE FLINT WATER DISTRIBUTION EFFORT



Tabligh events “Coffee, Cake and True Islam” during 2016, 2017 and 2018



Minnesota

Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq



Members of Minnesota Chapter with Missionary Luqman Gondal on Eid-ul-Fitr 2019

Introduction

Saint Paul is the capital and second-most populous city of the U.S. state of Minnesota. As of 2018, the city's estimated population was 307,695. The city lies mostly on the east bank of the Riverine the area surrounding its point of confluence with the Minnesota River, and adjoins Minneapolis, the state's largest city. Known as the "Twin Cities," the two form the core of Minneapolis–Saint Paul, the 16th-largest metropolitan area in the United States, with about 3.6 million residents.

Founded near historic Native American settlements as a trading and transportation center, the city rose to prominence when it was named the capital of the Minnesota Territory in 1849. The Dakota name

for Saint Paul is "Imnizaska." (From Wikipedia)

It is humbling to describe fulfillment of prophecy of the Promised Messiah, "I will Cause Thy Message to Reach Corners of the Earth" in the state of Minnesota which was visited by the first Emissary of the Promised Messiah Mufti Muhammad Sadiq in 1922. This land was destined to receive blessings of the Imam of this age by his followers. The description below is narration of history of Minnesota chapter with events unfolding in sequence of steps fulfilling the prophecy. The events reported below are from the input received from Minnesota chapter's past, and present members. It is our gratitude to the Almighty Allah that we were

given opportunity to witness and work for this noble cause. It is indeed a miracle to see the existence of the Ahmadiyya Community in the State of Minnesota after sixty-six years of its first Missionary visits. The Minnesota chapter since its establishment in 1988 is respected by its neighbors, City officials, law enforcement agencies, and citizens of Minnesota, and it serves the neighboring states of South Dakota, and North Dakota. Thanks to all past and present members, and their contributions for presenting the following document for the benefit of member of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and other readers interested in the Ahmadiyya Community.

History of the Chapter

Wherever Ahmadiyya Jamā'at exists, it is by the shear blessings of Allah that we are given an opportunity to serve Jamā'at and

become part of the prophecy of the Imam of this age Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah that "I will cause thy

message to reach the corners of the Earth" and the "catching of white birds." Minnesota Jamā'at is at the northern corner of the USA sharing

a border with Canada, and we have a good number of local white and other Americans visited Nusrat Mosque and they all look up the standard of work Ahmadis have done for the community.

In 1922, the first Emissary of the Promised Messiah, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, visited Minnesota and traveled to Crookston, Minnesota, at the invitation of Superintendent of Crookston School District to deliver a lecture on Islam which was

reported in the local newspaper of the town. He also traveled to a town Ross in North Dakota to meet the Syrian Muslim Community who were settled there. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), USA, website has the early history of Muslims mentioning Ross, North Dakota and their Mosque. During his travel, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq stayed in a hotel in St. Paul Minnesota which he mentioned in a report published in the Muslim Sunrise of 1922. This is the magazine he started while serving as

Missionary in USA. He travelled to Ross, North Dakota to remain in contact with the Muslims and other Americans living in North Dakota and in Minnesota. From his report in Muslim Sunrise, he had mentioned, that his stay in St. Paul was arranged in a luxurious hotel. The main point is that the land of Minnesota was blessed by visits of the first Emissary of the Promised Messiah and this land was destined to represent teachings of the Promised Messiah by renewing the teachings of Islam in their true sense.

Establishment of a Chapter in Minnesota

I, Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq came to Minnesota in the summer of 1988 with my family. When Late Missionary Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad then Amir Jamā'at and Missionary in-Charge of USA, came to know, he contacted me giving the names of two Ahmadi families living in St. Paul, Minnesota and gave me the task of identifying Ahmadis in Minnesota. I found families of Choudhry Munawar Ahmad, and Dr. Tanveerul Haq living in the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Dr. Tanveerul Haq was a resident in Radiology in teaching hospital of the University of Minnesota. I reported to late Missionary Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad in early October 1988 about the two families. He immediately instructed me to establish a chapter in Minnesota and named the chapter

St. Paul. Later, in October 1988, he nominated me the President, and Choudhry Munawar Ahmad as General Secretary and Finance Secretary of the chapter.

I remember that the Late Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad mentioned during telephone call in late October 1988 that the name of the chapter will be St. Paul because when he was in East Africa he had challenged an Evangelist Dr. Billy Graham. Late Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad was aware of Billy Graham Evangelical Association presence in Minneapolis Minnesota and I mentioned that he appeared on TV in Minnesota delivering lectures about Christianity. Since Billy Graham words which he uttered in dual with him reverberate with Late Sheikh

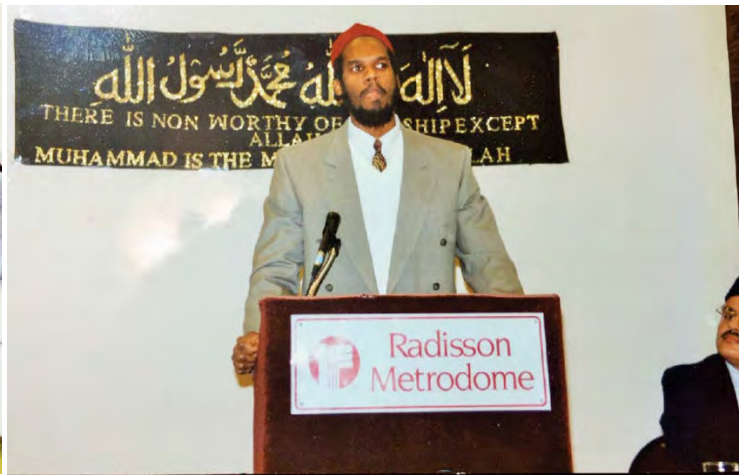
Mubarak Ahmad that he considered Ahmadiyyat as a small, inconsequential community that was present only in Africa and South East Asia. This was to show him and others like him, that here we come to your home ground to challenge you again and show the growing presence of Ahmadiyya Islam around the world. Members of St. Paul Jamā'at took it to their heart and all their efforts and work in Minnesota speak to this goal. Late Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad advised to remain in contact with Billy Graham and show the presence of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya to his attention. I remember at that time his ministry was in a transitional stage of moving to Florida headed by his son. But he was present on certain days in a month on local TV paid program.

The First Meeting of St. Paul Jamā'at

The first meeting of St. Paul Chapter was held on Saturday November 12, 1988 at the residence of Munawar Ahmad Choudhary on Hampton Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Abdul Khaliq (President) and his wife and three children, Munawar Ahmad Choudhry (General Secretary and

Finance Secretary), his wife, three daughters and two sons, and Dr. Tanveerul Haq and his wife. After this meeting, we were meeting regularly once a month in Munawar Choudhry's apartment. From December 1988, we started getting conference rooms in Coffman Union Building at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus with

the efforts of Dr. Tanveerul Haq. Anwer Iqbal who was the elder brother of Choudhry Munawar Ahmad's wife joined our meetings in December 1988 and started attending the meetings and Eid prayers. Anwer Iqbal had been living in Minnesota since 1979 but he was not known to Washington headquarters.



Left: Participants of Centenary Celebration of Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, St. Paul Chapter in Mankato, Minnesota, March 1989: L to R – Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq (President) his son Muhammad Abdul Ali in his lap, Munawar Ahmad Choudhry (General Secretary and Finance Secretary), Aetzaz Ullah Choudhry, Dr. Tanveerul Haq

Right: Imam Azhar Haneef Speaking at the Promised Messiah Day Public Meeting in March 1994

St. Paul Chapter Growth – A Journey to the Acquisition of a Center

We celebrated Ahmadiyya Jamā'at Centenary celebration in March 1989 at my residence in Mankato. The family of Choudhry Munawar Ahmad and Dr. Tanveerul Haq attended the get together, and we distributed "The Philosophy of Teachings of Islam" to our acquaintances and donated books to libraries in Mankato and in University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

In April 1989, Dr. Tanveerul Haq was contacted by Jamil Ahmad, a PhD student who had joined the University of Minnesota in September 1988. He was very eager to find out if there were any Ahmadi families in Minnesota. While he was searching, interestingly one of his Sikh colleagues mentioned that Dr. Tanveerul Haq's religion was different from the other Pakistani Muslims students. Furthermore, he explained that he had heard from other Pakistani students that you both had the same religion. Jamil Ahmad was thrilled to find out this fact and immediately reached out to Dr. Tanveerul Haq to contact Jamā'at. From this point on, he started attending Jamā'at meetings regularly.

In late 1989, Qamar Iqbal and his family started attending Jamā'at meeting. He was living in the Twin Cities since 1985 in the same apartment complex where Munawar Choudhry was living. He was the younger brother of Anwar Iqbal.

In 1989, Shafiq Ahmad and his family arrived in Minnesota emigrating from Kuwait. Shafiq Ahmad was the younger brother of Choudhry Munawar's wife. Since his arrival he offered his apartment for holding Jamā'at meetings.

In March 1990, Jamil Ahmad was joined by his wife from Pakistan.

In August 1991, Rafiq Ahmad Tahir with his wife arrived from Pakistan as a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. Rafiq Ahmad Tahir is the younger brother of Jamil Ahmad. Now we were quite a good number of Ahmadi and running beyond the capacity of the apartment to hold our meetings. Rafiq Ahmad Tahir took over office of the General Secretary and Finance Secretary and he put our dues collection system in line with the expectation of National Headquarter. In addition, he started holding annual picnics during summer and family get together

during Iftar and on Eid.

In August 1992, Owais Ahmad arrived from The Gambia as a student at the University of Minnesota and started living with his uncle Shafiq Ahmad and the same year Syed Ausama Hassan, a student of Aviation at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, and Dr. Muqtada Choudhry joined St. Paul Jamā'at. Dr. Muqtada Choudhry was a resident in medicine in a Grand Forks Hospital, North Dakota. Both were traveling long distances (roughly 250 miles one way) to attend our monthly meetings and Eid prayers.

In 1993, Nasim Ahmad and his family arrived from The Gambia joining St. Paul Jamā'at. Since Nasim Ahmad and his wife served under the Nusrat Jahān Scheme, teaching in Jamā'at Schools in The Gambia, he found his students from The Gambia living in Twin Cities. At the Eid-ul-Fitr 1993, he invited his Ahmadi students Lamin Dibba and his family, Alkali Dibba, and there were some other Gambian non-Ahmadi and non-Muslims who attended the Eid prayers and some of them joined St. Paul Jamā'at.

Jum'a Prayer Started

Although Dr. Tanveerul Haq and Jamil Ahmad were meeting for Jum'a prayer at the Moose Tower Library of Minneapolis Campus at the University of Minnesota sometimes in the middle of 1989 but Jum'a was not regularly offered. Munawar Ahmad Arian moved from Chicago and joined St. Paul Jamā'at in summer of 1993. He was a very active Khadim, and he was instrumental in starting Jum'a prayer at the residence of Munawar Ahmad Choudhry in August 1993. When Munawar Ahmad Arian left St. Paul Jamā'at in December 1994, Nasim Ahmad took on the responsibility of holding Jum'a prayer regularly. He started holding Jum'a prayer in conference rooms of Public Library or in the apartments of Ahmadis, then he found a permanent place in a conference room of a library. At the same time, he started talking about our own mosque for which our membership size and fund-raising capability was not to the level that could convince Amir Jamā'at USA to support our mosque plan. I started writing and meeting Amir Jamā'at USA Late Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad about a mosque or a rented office space which can be regarded as St. Paul Jamā'at center.

The Missionary of Mid-West Region, respected Rasheed Yahya, regularly started coming to our meetings and kept us updated on information and instructions from the center, sending audio cassettes of Khalifat-ul-Masih IV Friday sermons which later in 1993 changed to video or VHS cassettes. In the beginning, I was receiving audio cassettes and my family made copies to distribute to Jamā'at members which later changed to VHS cassettes which we shared with each other. When MTA started in 1994, I got the dish antenna in my house in Mankato and started making VHS

cassettes recordings of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih's Friday sermons, Majlis Irfan, and UK Jalsa Salana speeches, which were sent to our members by mail living in Twin Cities and in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Respected Missionary Rashid Yahya was visiting us once in a month. He used to come the night before the meeting and leave either night of the meeting or the day after the meeting. Sometimes he started driving early in the morning from Glen Ellyn Illinois, the site of present Bait-ul-Jami Mosque reaching before meeting and after meeting he used to go back to Glen Ellyn Illinois because of his commitments in Glen Ellyn Illinois. I remember the first time he visited us in the spring of 1989, all members were very happy that the Missionary of Ahmadiyya Jamā'at was visiting, the meeting was held at Munawar Ahmad Chaudhry's apartment. His visits were quite rejuvenating for the members which boosted our resolve to hold meetings regularly and we are keeping up this schedule till today.

During the year of 1992-1993, we had members from the American African community working for Defense Saving Bonds in Twin Cities, who were contemporary of Brother Rasheed Ahmad of Milwaukee and Brother Munir Hamid of Philadelphia, and few members from Guyana. After a year with us they faded away or stopped coming to Jamā'at meetings or moved to another state.

In 1994, respected Maulana Azhar Haneef was appointed as the Missionary of the Mid-West Region stationed in Glen Ellyn, Illinois and he was frequently visiting, uplifting the Jamā'at moral and urging St. Paul Jamā'at to hold public meetings. At his guidance, we held

our first public meeting on the Promised Messiah Day in March 1994 in Radisson Metrodome Hotel on the Campus of the University of Minnesota. This was a new experience for us but with the help of a few dedicated members we reserved a hall in the hotel and posted free advertisements in the local newspapers and invited guests by invitation cards.

The backdrop of the stage was prepared by my wife, daughters and son, and with the dedicated work of Nasim Ahmad, Jamil Ahmad, Rafiq Ahmad Tahir, Owais Ahmad and Salman Ahmad, we managed to get a few guests. The Promised Messiah Day was celebrated as planned and Missionary Azhar Haneef after the public meeting met us and expressed his happiness that the meeting was successful which was quite encouraging for us. With this we developed the niche, started re-evaluating ourselves for the next public meeting, and till today we are carrying this effort with great success.

In 1997, Abdul Rafique Jadran and his family, Rashid Ahmad and his family joined St. Paul Jamā'at. Hazim Pudhiapura and his family from Kerala India joined St Paul Jamā'at in 1996, Tanveer Ashraf joined Jamā'at in March 1996, Aboubacarr Drameh and Mohammad Trawaley from The Gambia joined St. Paul Jamā'at in 1998. At this time our Missionary was Missionary Mubashar Ahmad and during his stay we held quite a few public meetings. Since the membership grew we became more active and started looking for a place for our Jamā'at Center to rent or to purchase.

Jamil Ahmad and his younger brother Rafiq Ahmad Tahir were living with their families in a University of Minnesota graduate

student residence complex whose recreational rooms could be reserved free of charge. Therefore, both being graduate student, residing there started reserving recreational rooms for our Jamā'at meetings. We continued holding meeting there,

Auxiliaries' Meetings

In 1991, our regional Missionary Rashid Yahya requested National Sadr Lajna Imā'illāh to start Lajna Chapter since there were nine Lajna in St. Paul Jamā'at. In November 1991, Lajna Minnesota was officially established when the Regional Lajna Sadr, Sister Maryam Chaudhary came from Chicago to conduct the elections for the Lajna Sadr. Sister Misbah Ahmad wife of Jamil Ahmad was elected the first Lajna Sadr of Minnesota Lajna. With this addition, Lajna Imā'illāh started their activities by holding meetings

St. Paul Jamā'at Center in Rented Space

As the size of St. Paul Jamā'at grew steadily, and we were trying to get a rental space for Jamā'at center and permission for rental center was granted by late MM Ahmad Amir Jamā'at USA in June 2000. The first Jamā'at Center in rental space was established in July 2000 on University Avenue, St. Paul which remained our Jamā'at center till May

and after graduation of Dr. Jamil Ahmad, and Rafiq Ahmad Tahir we were looking for a place for holding meetings. Rafiq Ahmad Tahir's house in Bloomington was used as our meeting place for two years. When Rafiq Ahmad Tahir moved to

independently and the activities of Nāsirat were started.

Munawar Ahmad Arian moved to St. Paul Jamā'at in 1993 and he was very active in Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya activities at regional and national level, therefore with approval from Sadr Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya, Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya was established in October 1993 and Munawar Ahmad Arian was elected the first Quaid of Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya St. Paul Jamā'at.

2005. With Jamā'at center we started holding meetings two times in a month, Iftar during Ramadān, children classes, Eid Prayers, and started Jamā'at library. The space we rented was accompanied with a large conference room which gave good space for overflow during Eid prayers, Iftar, and sometimes for the invited guests. We held the first

California, we started holding meetings at the residence of Qamar Ahmad in Roseville Minnesota and for two years at the residence of Rashid Ahmad in Cottage Grove, Minnesota.

With the telephone calls and efforts of Brother Abu Bakr of Milwaukee insisting on establishing Majlis Ansarullah activities in St. Paul Jamā'at, in 1994 Majlis Ansarullah was established and Rashid Ahmad was elected as the first Za'im of Majlis Ansarullah St. Paul Jamā'at. With this addition the three auxiliaries had elected heads and they started holding meetings regularly, in addition to monthly Jamā'at meetings and regular Jum'a prayer.

Interfaith Symposium in the conference room, which was well attended by invited guests and community friends. Missionary Mubashar Ahmad gave the keynote address representing Islam. This event was a significant success in many respects, and we were recognized as a religious organization with an address.



Left: Missionary Mid-West Region Imam Mubashar Ahmad with members of Minnesota Chapter

Right: Missionary In-Charge Daud Haneef with Minnesota Chapter members

Missionary Mubashar Ahmad with members of Minnesota Jamā'at

We were holding Holy Qur'an Exhibition, Exhibition of Holy Scriptures every summer in Blue Earth County Library in Mankato Minnesota. Similar exhibitions were held many times in Rochester Minnesota by Abdul Rafique Jadran. In 2005, we held an Interfaith Symposium in the Auditorium of Blue Earth County Library in Mankato. Representative of Christianity, Judaism, Buddhist, Hinduism, and Sikh spoke at the Symposium and Missionary Mubashar Ahmad spoke about Islam. It was attended by over 80 participants and covered by local newspaper. Missionary Mubashar Ahmad was interviewed by local KEYC TV which was broadcasted on the evening news.

During 2003 – 2006, while in the rental space, Lamin Sanyang

from Gambia and his family, Dawood Ofori from Ghana and his family, Abdul Naseer Kakkada, Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed and his family, Dr. Nasir Kamran Latif, and his family, and Dr. Imran Hayee, and his family and Syed Sajid Ahmad and his family joined the St. Paul Jamā'at.

Although St. Paul Jamā'at was in the heart of the Midwest, it has always been diverse in its makeup. Members emigrated from Pakistan, India, Canada, Ghana, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Bangladesh were in St. Paul Jamā'at. There were a good number of the Gambians in St. Paul Jamā'at and they came in large numbers particularly on Eid day by inviting their acquaintances.

Looking at this situation and to bring Gambian Ahmadis to Jamā'at activities, we invited Missionary In-Charge USA Maulana Daud Haneef

who has served over thirty-four years in The Gambia as Amir before appointment as Missionary in USA. He visited in October 2006 and we met the Gambian community at the house of Lamin Dibba. The President Muhammad Abdul Khaliq, and General Secretary Nasim Ahmad accompanied him. There were over sixty Gambian attended the lunch and all were delighted to see Maulana Daud Haneef among them, rather they treated him as if he was a saint sitting between them, and they got their turn to get blessed by shaking hand and ladies bowed down and he put his hand on their heads. At the conclusion of the meeting, he addressed them in Gambian language and they all promised to become active members of Jamā'at. Indeed, after his visit there was positive change among the Gambians.



Missionary In-Charge Daud Haneef at the residence of Brother Lamin Dibba with Gambian members, President and General Secretary Minnesota Jamā'at

St. Paul Jamā'at Mission House in Brooklyn Park

The rented office space was convenient, and centrally located but the space was limited, therefore we started looking for land, or a building for a mosque. Since his arrival in St. Paul Jamā'at in 1993, Nasim Ahmad had been looking for a land or existing building for a mosque. He showed us many buildings, churches through a real estate agent. After looking at few places we constituted a Mosque Committee headed by Tanveer Ashraf with Nasim Ahmad, and Jamil Ahmad members of the committee. By their dedication and hard work, we saw a few places, and they selected a house on foreclosure with good lot size in Brooklyn Park Minnesota with the intention to use it as Mission House/Community Center. Looking at the size of the lot and its location it was intended to get it zoned as Muslim place of worship, and we started using it for our meetings, Jum'a prayers and Jamā'at activities. The house was purchased in June 2005 and with some modification, painting, and cleaning we started using it as Mission House. The work for preparation of the house was completed under the supervision of Tanveer Ashraf. In the meantime, we started interacting with neighbors, city administration, police chief, local community leaders and neighboring religious leaders.

We saw the start of revolutionary years for the St. Paul Jamā'at membership, when Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V mentioned in one of his sermons that we should start making connections with law enforcement agencies and establish good relationship with them. In obedience to this message, efforts were made by Nasim Ahmad to establish exceptional relationship with Police Departments of the two neighboring cities-Brooklyn Park and City of Brooklyn Center, where a

large population of immigrants from West Africa (especially from The Gambia, Liberia, and Sierra Leone) were living. This smoothed our way to get through the zoning process of our proposed mosque. In the city of Brooklyn Park our relationship with city, police and neighbors was so firm that when Maulana Nasim Mehdi and Hassan Hakeem the National Tabligh Secretary visited St. Paul Jamā'at, all council members and Chief of Police were present in the event. This was indeed the blessings of following the instructions of Khalifat-ul-Masih V.

These efforts were spearheaded by Nasim Ahmad as General Secretary and Public Affairs Secretary and we built enough support or mobilized opinion that was suitable for re-zoning process. Therefore, we applied for rezoning application along with Architectural drawing of the Mosque in March 2006. We held few public meetings inviting the neighbors to explain our plan for the mosque. With this preparation we were invited for public hearing in front of City Council of City of Brooklyn Park in May 2006. Since Nasim Ahmad as Public Affairs Secretary was in contact with Police Chief of Brooklyn Park and neighboring city Brooklyn Center they all showed up at the hearing. The Police Chief of Brooklyn Center Commander Kevin Benner, and Pastor of church, Professor Shannon Rice, Saundra Foderick of Argosy University (she had frequently attended our Inter Faith meetings held in Brooklyn Park Library) spoke strongly in favor of zoning as Muslim place of worship. The city council asked many questions and clarification which were answered by President, and they approved our request overwhelmingly with only one councilman dissention.

It is pertinent to mention that

Nasim Ahmad volunteered for number of years in community services in the police department's programs as a member of JCCP (Joint Community Police Partnership) and MAC (Multicultural Advisory Committee), and he held classes for cooking sponsored by these entities. Our Jamā'at by Grace of Allah was recognized by NWHHSC (North West Hennepin Human Services Committee) for these and blood donation activities, at one time the Blood Drive was held in the Brooklyn Park Police Station as well. In the City of Brooklyn Center, the Chief of Police and Chief of Fire Services not only facilitated the organization of blood drive in the city but also donated blood to support our efforts, and Nasim Ahmad was made as ambassador of good will. On the day of Community Night Out he was riding with Police officer in the squad car to go from one meeting to another in various parts of the town. Dr. Jamil Ahmad was nominated as the Block Captain of the Community Program. This helped us a lot in many ways especially in the introduction of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to the residents of the city.

During the time we were in Mission house in Brooklyn Park, Maulana Azhar Haneef was our missionary stationed in Glen Ellyn Illinois. His visits were inspiring and always urging us to hold interfaith meeting, and to do propagational work. During this period, we held few interfaith meetings by collaborating with other religious leaders from Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhists, under collaborative effort called Minnesota Interfaith Open Forum (MIOF) from 2009-2013. The MIOF program was started by Dr. Imran Hayee who was serving as Tabligh Secretary. The MIOF arranged three interfaith

symposiums every year on topics related to socio-economic and religious issues affecting the society. The three participating MIOF members took turns to host one such symposium each year and in each symposium representatives from all major faiths were invited to present their point of view and answer questions to help develop understanding of each faith to improve interfaith harmony. A total of 15 such symposiums were arranged, and the attendance of non-Ahmadi Muslim or non-Muslim guests ranged from 30 to 70.

In 2012 Missionary In-Charge Maulana Nasim Mehdi visited our Jamā'at to speak at the interfaith Symposium organized by Minnesota Jamā'at, and he attended a lunch which was organized by Secretary Public Relations Nasim Ahmad with Brooklyn Park City Mayor, City Council Members, Police Chief, and Police Chief of neighboring city Brooklyn Center. It was a good opportunity that Jamā'at utilized to

strengthen our ties. The Police Chief of Brooklyn Center presented city emblem to Maulana Nasim Mehdi and to the President of Minnesota Jamā'at delivering a short speech praising the work of our membership and Ahmadiyya Jamā'at motto "Love for all, hatred for none."

While the rezoning of Mission House in Brooklyn Park was completed, Maulana Inamul Haq Kauser was our Missionary stationed in Bait-ul-Jami Mosque, Glen Ellyn Illinois. During his stay we held public meetings, held Holy Qur'an exhibitions on yearly basis in Blue Earth County Library in Mankato Minnesota. In May 2011 we held an Interfaith Symposium on "Religious Founders of Religion" in the Auditorium of Blue Earth County Public Library in Mankato, Minnesota which was attended to the level that auditorium was full and people were standing and sitting on floor. This event was covered by local newspaper "The Free Press"

and local television KEYC TV and widely appreciated in the city as one of its kind which brought all religions on a single stage and build bridges among them.

After some time, we found out that neighbors were not happy and started complaining to the City that a house was being used as mosque or other religious activities. The City put restrictions not to use this house for mass gathering because this property was zoned as place of worship, but there was no building to accommodate the membership, therefore city objected to its use unless the building is built. Interestingly, while we were abstained to offer congregation prayers at the Mission house, the City Police Chief graciously offered the Conference room of Brooklyn Park Police Station, on Brooklyn Boulevard for our Jum'a prayer, and the conference center for Jum'a prayer for several months.



Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser with members after "Religious Founders Day" interfaith symposium in front of Holy Scriptures exhibition in Blue Earth County Library, Mankato, Minnesota



Missionary Mid-West Imam Azhar Haneef with Minnesota members outside Minnesota Mission House in Brooklyn Park



Missionary In-Charge Nasim Mehdi with Mayor, Police Chief, City Council Members, President, General Secretary and Public Affairs Secretary

Name Change to Minnesota Jamā'at

In 2006, while we were in Mission House located in Brooklyn Park, the city leaders and Police chief asked us that our proposed mosque will be in the city of Brooklyn Park and we call it St. Paul Chapter. We requested the Amir Jamā'at USA to change the name to Minnesota Chapter in September 2006 which

was approved and we started using the name of Jamā'at as Minnesota Chapter or Minnesota Jamā'at. It is pertinent to mention that the composition of the Jamā'at was such that members travel 30 miles to 250 miles one way to attend the meeting. Despite long distances, the St. Paul Jamā'at members maintained most

of the time perfect attendance. The meetings were not only confined to regular agenda but also members find time to get together and socialize. In brief the chapter was just like a homogenous family, working together and accomplished in spreading the message of Ahmadiyyat to Minnesotans.

Nusrat Mosque in Coon Rapids

Although we got permission to construct the mosque in Brooklyn Park but we were not allowed to hold any Jamā'at activity until it was completed and certificate of occupancy was obtained from the city. The Center gave us permission to rent a place during this interim period and we rented two rooms in the basement of building which was used for Jamā'at Center in 2000. The initial estimated cost of building new mosque was about \$550,000 for 3,500 sq. ft. covered area which consists of two prayer halls, bathrooms, and reception area. The Amir Jamā'at USA Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar was of the view that majority of mosques built in USA have exceeded the estimated cost, and because of budget constraints he was skeptic about our plan, and suggested to look for alternative of an existing building. Respected Amir Jamā'at USA gave few days to find an existing building.

During planning and architectural work period, membership was on the lookout to find a place suitable for Mosque so that we can avoid the lengthy and difficult task of building the Mosque, and furthermore reduce the cost. Best of all this approach was more attractive to Respected Amir Jamā'at USA that buying an existing building with zoning for a well-defined amount, whereas building from scratch always has lot of variations which exceeds the estimated amount.

Dr. Jamil Ahmad found a property for sale in the city of Coon Rapids. The property looked suitable from outside and inside, it was near to a big highway, and easily accessible to most of the membership. The City of Coon Rapids is a suburb of Minneapolis, the building was in excellent condition, relatively newly built, price fitting in the approved

budgeted amount. In addition, the building was already zoned as place of worship and was in move in condition, with 6,500 Sq. ft. covered area, corner lot, paved parking lot for 32 cars, near to big Hwy 10 and bus stop exactly at the corner of the building. One of the major and salient features of this building was that this was exactly facing towards Qibla direction. The property was seen by the Mosque Committee, members of the Jamā'at, and discussed with Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser. At this critical moment President Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq was hospitalized, and Maulana Inamul Haq Kauser requested respected Amir Jamā'at USA to authorize the General Secretary Dr. Jamil Ahmad as Acting President. Respected Amir approved the request of Missionary Kauser and delegated the responsibility to Dr. Jamil Ahmad. After seeing the building by membership, and Aamla members approval, Mosque proposal was submitted to National Property Secretary and respected Amir Jamā'at USA. After review, respected Amir approved the purchase of the building at \$500,000 and authorized Dr. Jamil Ahmad to make a bid. The building was negotiated at the price of \$485,000 including all furniture and fixtures. On Friday October 25, 2013, Dr. Jamil Ahmad closed the deal and we took the possession of the building. By this time President was out of the hospital but weak, and he managed to be present to cosign with Dr. Jamil Ahmad the closing documents of the building to be used as Jamā'at Ahmadiyya first Mosque in the State of Minnesota.

The mosque has big prayers halls for men and Lajna, meeting rooms, library room, office rooms, kitchen and eating place for men and Lajna, large lobby area, large basement, almost new office tables

and chairs, hard wired audio and video system with projector and screen in two rooms, and a large parking lot. With donations from membership, carpet of the whole building was changed, carpet of men prayer hall and Lajna prayer hall was donated by Dr. Nasir Kamran Latif, modification was made by removing partitioning wall on Lajna side, we started using the Nusrat Mosque in late October 2013 and the first Friday prayer in the mosque was led by respected Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser. The first Adhan of the Jum'a was delivered by Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq and the second Azan was given by Dr. Jamil Ahmad.

Khalifat-ul-Masih graciously named the building as "Nusrat Mosque" in September 2014. Al-Hamdu Lillāh, after a long struggle of members, the wisdom of respected Amir and foremost with the divine help State of Minnesota and Minnesota Jamā'at got its first Ahmadiyya Mosque. Respected Amir then gave directions to sell the Mission house in Brooklyn Park and buy a house near the mosque for missionary residence.

This was a new city and a new place, we started building relationship with neighbors, city Mayor, city Council members, and city police chief, city fire department, neighboring religious organizations, and neighboring businesses. The local TV was contacted, and they broadcasted stories about the Nusrat Mosque in their evening news in October and December 2014. We started hosting Muslims for Loyalty, Muslims for Life Blood Drive, and 4th of July activities, National night out to unite events at the Nusrat mosque. With these activities we integrated ourselves in the community and we started work to prepare for formal inauguration of the Nusrat Mosque.



Honorable Congressman Keith Ellison speaking at Nusrat Mosque inauguration



Missionary In-Charge Imam Nasim Mahdi with members of Minnesota Chapter May 2015

Inauguration of Nusrat Mosque

It was decided to hold inauguration of Nusrat Mosque on May 23, 2015 for which our Khuddām, Anṣār, Lajna, Atfāl, and Nāsirat worked many hours on weekdays, and on weekends to prepare the mosque for this event.

Local news outlets including the major newspaper of Twin Cities “Star Tribune” published story about the Nusrat Mosque based on the interview of Missionary Faran Rabbani and President. The ABC newspaper published about mosque

inaugural with input from Lajna, Public Affairs Secretary, and Tabligh Secretary. By the grace of Allah, the stage was set for the event, and the Nusrat Mosque inauguration attracted over two hundred guests which included neighbors, City of

Coon Rapids officials, five State of Minnesota representatives, two local police chiefs, Director of FBI Twin Cities, Congressman Keith Ellison, Congressman Tom Emmer, a message from Governor of State of Minnesota Honorable Mark Dayton, and a message from US Senator Al Franken was read by his representative. Presidents of neighboring Jamā'at from Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and National Aamla members Amjad Mahmood Khan-National Director for Public Affairs, Hassan Hakeem-National Tabligh Secretary Syed Sajid Ahmad-National Publication Secretary, and Missionary Naseem Mahdi Nā'ib Amir and Missionary In-Charge USA attended the inauguration event.

The Honorable Congressman Keith Ellison toured the mosque, reviewed the photographs exhibition in lobby area of the mosque, interacted with Minnesota Jamā'at members, signed visitor book, and gave interview to local TV.

The program of inauguration of Nusrat Mosque was presided by Missionary Naseem Mahdi and moderated by Amjad Mahmood Khan. The program started with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Missionary Rabbani and English

Translation read by Lamin Jagne. Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq, President Minnesota Jamā'at delivered the welcome address. During his address he thanked the guests for attending this historic event, briefly described the history of Minnesota Jamā'at, and introduced the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

The Honorable Congressman Keith Ellison delivered the keynote address and he said:

“This is the Community that comes to mind when I say Islam is a religion of peace. There are some sects you can't say that about but you can with Ahmadi Muslims.”

“The footprint of Nusrat Mosque will show Minnesota what an important and valuable neighbor the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community will be.”

There were several dignitaries who attended the event, and many of them were given a chance to speak briefly to the audience while others were introduced to audience by Amjad Mahmood Khan.

Missionary Naseem Mahdi delivered the concluding address and during his address he said: “Masjid (mosque) comes from the root sa-ja-da which means to prostrate and thus any place where

people prostrate is called masjid. And as such this name cannot be exclusive for Muslim place of worship. Rather it is a place of worship for everyone and thus in Nusrat Masjid all are welcome”

The guests were given gift bags containing copy of the Holy Qur'an, book on The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam, World Crisis and The Pathway to Peace, and for few dignitaries a clock was added in the gift bag with engraving of “Nusrat Mosque Inauguration May 23 2015 Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Minnesota Chapter”

Overall, the participation by public and public officials was beyond expectations. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh. Over ten media outlets, and social media covered the event. We were introduced to many in a day and we have much more responsibility to serve the community and we are ready to help them. May Allah guide and help the Jamā'at to populate the mosque, and keep its doors open to people of all religions and people with no belief. May they find solace in this place of worship and we as members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community ever remain ready to help them. Amin

Missionary Residence and Resident Missionary

In 2016, we purchased a condominium for Missionary residence which is two minutes' walk from the mosque. The condominium search was the joint efforts of Dr. Nasir Kamran Latif, Dr. Kamaluddin Ahmad, Tanveer Ashraf, and Secretary Property Dr. Jamil Ahmad. The Condominium was fully furnished to the level of just walk in to use by the donations from the membership. Respected Missionary Faran Rabbani stationed in Zion Illinois started using the condominium when he was visiting Minnesota Jamā'at. In April 2017 respected Missionary Luqman

Gondal was assigned to Minnesota Jamā'at as Missionary stationed in Minnesota and serving Iowa State. With his arrival our Jamā'at activities increased many folds not only the Ta'lim and Tarbiyat of membership but also Tabligh efforts, Public relation with neighbors, community leaders, media, and religious leaders. The Nusrat Mosque is open and accessible to public any time they visit irrespective of their belief. Missionary has many non-Muslim under Tabligh and recently we have a convert who has searched over year and many hours of discussion with

Missionary. We are well known in the community and trusted by community who profess for peace with moto “Love for All Hatred for None.” We join civic events, volunteer for community activities, participate in 4th of July rally, hold Iftar dinner, Coffee Cake and True Islam (CCTI), open house in the Nusrat Mosque and Missionary is available to give tour of the Nusrat Mosque to public and high schools students group. We have been invited almost every year for the invoking ceremony of the joint session of Sate of Minnesota House and Senate session with prayer led

by Missionary Gondal.

Recently Minnesota Jamā'at is blessed with the first Bai'at of the year 2019 with the continued efforts and spiritual nurturing of Adi Kustura by Missionary Luqman Gondal. With the efforts of Missionary Luqmaan Gondal, and visiting National Tabligh Secretary Dr. Waseem Sayed one of the Khadim Ibrahim Fazil Quansah devoted his life to be trained in Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya Canada. Upon graduation he will be a Missionary and he is the first Khadim from Minnesota Jamā'at devoting his life for the service of Jamā'at. May Allah keep him steadfast and accept his sacrifice. Amin.

Minnesota Jamā'at membership has their impact in the community, and the neighborhood of Nusrat Mosque. Neighbors of Nusrat

Mosque, religious leaders of other denomination, city councilors, state representatives and senators, police chief, Fire chief, are appreciative of the addition of Nusrat Mosque in the community by sending thank you cards and sometimes flowers as well. Minnesota Jamā'at is small but very productive and has a homogenous environment of brotherhood and sisterhood. The members moved out of Minnesota Jamā'at always remain in contact with us and reminisce their time as member. Upon moving to new Jamā'at, the members have taken on leadership roles in their respective Jamā'ats and speak fondly of Minnesota Jamā'at. When asked how they remember Minnesota Jamā'at, the members say punctual, hospitable, generous, pious, ready to help and cooperate, keep mosque well organized and clean. Here is another quote from a

member who left to another Jamā'at in USA "Minnesota Jamā'at put a lot of emphasis on diversity beyond national, ethnic, social and tribal relations. The single most important identity in Minnesota Jamā'at is the Ahmadi Identity. Out of many we are one. One family and one brotherhood. The cooperation and collaboration in the Minnesota Jamā'at are exemplary."

Our presence in State of Minnesota is a proof of the prophecy of Promised Messiah "I will cause thy message to corners of earth," and the land which was touched by the feet of the servant of Promised Messiah was destined to be a place where his followers will flourish, and soon there will be many followers of Ahmadiyyat the true Islam in this part of USA, and many Ahmadiyya mosques. In Sha Allah.



Nusrat Mosque back view from the thoroughfare



Nusrat Mosque front entrance to its south.



Missionary Luqman Gondal leading prayers at the State Capitol.

Missouri: St. Louis



Bait-ul-Hafeez Mosque, before and after the placement of domes.

St. Louis is the largest metropolitan area in the state of Missouri. The City of St. Louis is the second-largest city in Missouri behind Kansas City. It is situated along the western bank of the Mississippi River, which forms the state line between Illinois and Missouri. The estimated 2018 population of the city proper was 302,838 and the bi-state metropolitan area was 2,804,724.

The city of St. Louis was founded in 1764 by French fur traders Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau, and named after Louis IX of France. In 1764, following France's defeat in the Seven Years' War, the area was ceded to Spain and retroceded back to France in 1800. In 1803, the United States acquired the territory as part of the Louisiana Purchase. During the 19th century, St. Louis became a major port on the Mississippi River; at the time of the 1870 Census, it was the fourth-largest city in the country. (Wikipedia)

The Real Gateway to the West

Missouri, and in particular St Louis, Missouri, has been a part of Ahmadiyyat from the day that the Promised Messiah, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was born, Peace be upon

him.

In 1835, the leader of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, commonly referred to as "Mormons," advised his followers to migrate to Missouri in order to avoid the chaos that would come upon the arrival of the Second Coming of Jesus, which was expected at any time. He and some of his followers established outposts in the Northern part of the State.

He advised his followers, and it is documented up until today in the Book that the Mormons use as their guidepost ... that if he lived to be 70-80 years of age ... that he would see the Messiah! Of course, most Ahmadīs know that the Promised Messiah, Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qādiān (peace be upon him) was born in 1835!

In 1806, after Lewis and Clark forged their way to the West, all the way to Oregon, others followed their path and henceforth St Louis became known as the Gateway to the West. Here, in Saint Louis, mountain men, fur traders, trappers, and adventurers of all types, bought the equipment they needed for the trek out West.

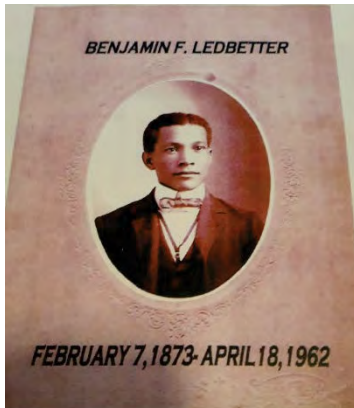
In 1849, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill some 20 miles out of Sacramento and the rush was on! Europeans came from every corner

of Europe to find the gold that was just lying-in riverbeds in the American West. (For you football fans, that's where the San Francisco 49ers get their name)

In those days, the only way to get from New York, Philadelphia or Boston, where most Europeans landed... to California, was to sail around the tip of South America. Of course, this was too expensive for most people. Thus, they rode the rivers, i.e., the Ohio, the Illinois, the Mississippi to Saint Louis. Here, they bought the oxen, the mules, the tools, guns and ammunition for the long and arduous 2,000-mile trek across what was then still a wild and dangerous West. The Europeans had not yet completed the genocide of the Native and Indigenous peoples and the journey was fraught with not a little danger.

In 1873, a young man was born in Mississippi who went on to become one of the first African American PhDs in segregated America. His name at birth was Benjamin Ledbetter but will be known in history henceforth as Ibn Yamin (May Allah accept his sacrifice and grant him Paradise). As a young man he observed the Solar and Lunar Eclipses of 1894, which was the unique and unmistakable sign of the appearance of the

Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). We know that Ibn Yamin understood the significance of these events because by 1924 he had joined the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. Indeed, he named his first daughter "Najma," which is indicative of his understanding that the heavenly Signs are related to the coming of a Prophet.



Ibn Yamin

One of the first things that I learned upon my arrival in St Louis in 1979 was from late Brother Munir Ahmad (God rest his soul) who was the President of St Louis Jamā'at for 40 years and knew Brother Ibn Yamin. One of the first things that he told me was about Ibn Yamin, having witnessed the eclipse of 1894. Ibn Yamin lived to the ripe old age of 93

before he passed on to his Lord. He had several sons and daughters, unfortunately, his wife was a Christian who never accepted the Promised Messiah and consequently the children of which only two are still alive, are not Muslims.

St. Louis was also the home of one of the first Americans to recognize the Promised Messiah, namely the newspaper Editor Muhammad Alexander Webb. Mr. Webb later became the Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. He travelled to India but was misguided by the treacherous Ulema of India and never made the trip to Qādiān.

Ahmadiyyat began in St Louis with Sheik Ahmad Din, (P. Nathaniel Johnson) who by 1922 had won over at least 100 converts according to the St Louis Post Dispatch. Sheik Ahmad Din, latter created his own Sect of Islam, known as the Fahamis and this sect remains in St Louis today with less than a dozen followers.

Ibn Yamin, Abdullah Aziz, Ibrahim Khalil, Brother Ali and others formed the Muslim Brotherhood in 1944 and legally incorporated the same. It is our assumption that this was done to preserve the Jamā'at, as Sheik Ahmad Din had control over the name Ahmadiyya.

Sheik Ahmad Din is today considered to be a Prophet by his handful of followers.

Early and notable members of the Jamā'at were Ibn Yamin, Abdullah Aziz, Usman Ahmad, Brother Husain, Brother Ali, Ibrahim Khalil, Munir Ahmad, Ansar Ahmad, Wali Ahmad, Hadi Ahmad, Muhammad Ahmad, Ahmad Saeed, Rashid Ahmad, Sister Zainab and others whose names have been preserved by the Almighty. These early stalwarts of the Promised Messiah kept the light of Ahmadiyya on, with their 25 and

50 cent contributions.

In the early 1960s, Brother Habibullah Aziz purchased a small plot of land on the corner of Bircher and Alcott ... next to Highway 70. Although architectural drawings were made, the plan could not move forward. In the early 1970s, members purchased a small house on Oakwood Ave and this became the Jamā'at Mission house and mosque for many years.

In 1987, St Louis Jamā'at was graced by the presence of (Hazrat) Mirza Tahir Ahmad (Khalifat-ul-Masih IV). When Khalifat-ul-Masih IV saw the condition of our humble building, he immediately donated \$150,000 towards the construction of a proper mosque. This mosque was built in 2006 and sits less than 100 feet from Highway 70. Today we also have a Mission house next to the mosque where our current Missionary Hamid Malik and family reside.

Some Missionaries who have been stationed in St Louis are; Munir Chaudhary, Zafar Zarwar, Mukhtar Ahmad Cheema, Azhar Haneef, and Salman Tariq. Apart from two converts last month, another one has joined the movement. May Allah bless them all. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, March 23, 1969, Vol. VIII No. 3)

Brother Munir Ahmad and Brother A. Kabir Haqq spoke at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Feb. 17. Three groups were to be represented: Ahmadis, Shiites, and Bilalians (Black Muslims). The Shiites speaker did not show. The Bilalians came while A. Kabir was speaking but did not join the speakers table –stayed for approximately 15 minutes and left. Professors and students asked Ahmadis to come back. Plans are being made to speak again March 10. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, March 1976, p. 5)

St. Louis Jamā'at History

Compiled by Tanvirul-Nisa Ahmad, St. Louis



Left: St. Louis Members in 1951. Standing from left to right: Bro. Abdullah Ali, Unknown, Bro Ibn Yamin, first President. Seated front left to right: Bro. Abdul Qadir (Tabligh Sec), Bro. Usmaan Khalid. Bro. Ali Razaa (later moved to Kenosha WI).
Right: St. Louis Jamā'at members circa 1958-1959 in front of Delmar meeting place: From the right are Br. Wali, Br. Ibrahim Khalil Senior, Br. Usmaan Khalid, Br. Abdul Qadir, and Br. Ibrahim Khalil Junior; the Ibrahim Khalils are not related.

SEEDS OF AHMADIYYAT IN ST. LOUIS

The St. Louis Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has its earliest origins in the preaching efforts of Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, the first Ahmadiyya Missionary sent to the United States from Qadian, India under the direction of Hadrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih II (may Allah be pleased with him) Dr. Sadiq arrived in America in Feb. 1920 eager to begin delivering the message of Islam. He immediately met resistance, as he was not granted admission to the country. He was detained in prison for nearly two months while he appealed his case to the government. He was finally released in April 1920 and began his proselytizing mission in New York City with 12 converts joining by the end of the month. He began actively preaching in other cities as well, notably Detroit, Gary, Indiana and Chicago, where he would establish

the first Ahmadiyya Mosque and headquarters at 4448 S. Wabash Ave.

The earliest St. Louis, Missouri converts listed in the pages of the Muslim Sunrise were Mr. P. J Tallman (July 1921, inaugural issue, Muslim Sunrise), and Mr. J.S. Wilberger (Muslim Sunrise, 1922, Issue 2). Later in 1922, the St. Louis mission would see a dramatic increase in conversions with no less than 51 new members listed (Muslim Sunrise, 1922, Issue 2). It is likely that the sudden growth at this time was due to the conversion of P. Nathaniel Johnson, a St. Louis native of African American descent (Sheik Ahmad Din) who became a preacher of Ahmadiyyat, in St. Louis. Dr. Sadiq appointed him, “as a sheik, to work among his people in the District of St. Louis and vicinity-he has already secured many converts in the Ahmadi movement.” (Muslim Sunrise, 1922, Issue 3)

Muslim Sunrise issues document the names and photographs of these spirited preachers and St. Louis members, Sheik Ahmad Din, Bro. Omar (William M. Patton) and Sister Noor (“Ophelia Avant, an enthusiastic Moslem lady of St. Louis”). By the end of 1923 Sheik Ahmad Din in an interview with the local newspaper claimed to have made 100 converts in St. Louis in 6 months and was planning on arranging regular Friday and daily prayers for the members.

There are no surviving records of the St. Louis mission after the 1920s until 1948 so what happened to those 100 members is not known. Sheik Ahmad Din would leave the Ahmadiyya Community and form his own group, so it is likely that many went with him, however undoubtedly the influence of the teachings of Ahmadiyyat, true Islam remained in St. Louis waiting to be

rekindled. No converts from Dr. Sadiq's period remained by the 1940s although it is likely that there were a few converts in St. Louis who joined under Missionary Sufi Bengali who was the missionary

The Founding Years

The next phase in St. Louis Jamā'at history began in late 1947-1948. Members of a small group in St. Louis known as the "Moslem Brotherhood" had been introduced to Islam through an Arab "mufti" who was taking advantage of them for money and services. St. Louis was a segregated city, a typical example of the racial prejudice and discrimination of the time. According to a longtime member, if you were considered an Arab or foreigner instead of an African American, you might escape some of the restrictions of segregation. Exploiting this deplorable situation for his financial gain, the Mufti would provide Arabic newspapers, which some members carried and held in their hands as they sat in front seats on segregated buses. If questioned, they would answer using the few Arabic words he taught them. Finally, realizing that they were being fooled they contacted the Ahmadiyya headquarters in Chicago to request that a teacher be sent to teach them "real Islam."

A young missionary, Ch. Shukar Ilahi Husain, who had arrived from Qadian, India only a few months before partition and the founding of Pakistan, was sent from the headquarters in Chicago to train them in Islamic principles. His daughter, Sister Tanvirul-Nisa Ahmad, who is still an active member of the St. Louis Jamā'at today, has preserved his detailed reports and further added to its history with interviews from early members. The missionary was responsible for more than one city and could only come to St. Louis for two weeks a month. The highly

motivated group of Moslem Brotherhood members, along with the equally fervent St. Louis' members already there would come every night to learn prayers and Islamic teachings. The "Moslem Brotherhood" group would convert to Ahmadiyyat in late 1948 and sign over to the Jamā'at their organization and property, a building at 2803 Delmar to be used as a Mission House. This group along with the earlier converts were the founding members of the St. Louis Chapter. In early 1949, the missionary was posted in St. Louis permanently and all activities including Tabligh increased. The first Jamā'at President, Brother Ibn Yamin, was elected along with other officers, and the auxiliaries were also established.

By 1953, according to the records of the Missionary, now stationed in Chicago, there were 58 members in the St. Louis Jamā'at. The early records document the dedication of the members not only for learning Islamic tenets but also their enthusiasm for spreading the message to others. Men and women both participated in these activities. In fact, the first Tabligh Secretary in St. Louis was a woman. Handbills and literature to pass out on the streets of St. Louis were printed. The women did the bulk of the printing of the literature, turning the handle on an old lithograph machine. It is documented in the records that the "Ahmadiyya Gazette", which began under then Missionary-in-Charge Khalil Ahmad Nasir, was printed and mailed from St. Louis during this time. Women also did most of the secretarial work and answered

Missionary Sufi Bengalee in Chicago before he left for Pakistan, so undoubtedly he was one of the earliest members from that era.

requests for information.



Attending public church revivals in order to dialogue with the attendees and give them the message of Islam was a regular activity of Jamā'at members. Sitting strategically within the audience they would attend nightly and ask questions that the ministers could not easily answer about Jesus and Christian beliefs. When the organizers tried to keep them from speaking, members of the audience protested that they wanted to hear what they had to say. In this way the Ahmadi beliefs about the death of Christ were presented. It takes a great amount of courage to go into such a meeting and tell the congregation that Jesus did not die on the cross! Handbills were given out on the steps of church conventions and even distributed on Easter Sunday. St. Louis' members were certain in their belief in the message and mission of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and they were fearless. There are documented instances where members were arrested while propagating and the missionary was even attacked by a group following him from one of the church revivals, but the conversion of at least one

minister is recorded as well.

The early Jamā'at meetings were held in a small storefront on North Delmar for many years, however when there was no regular meeting place, Jumu'ah prayers would be held in the home of senior member, Bro. Abdullah Ali. From oral accounts, it is known that Brother Ali was the son of slaves and could not write his name when he signed the Bai'at. He signed an X for his name. Bro. Abdullah Ali loved Islam and Ahmadiyyat and had a firm belief in the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and a love for his Khulafa. A humble man blessed with a loving

and pious nature, his deep faith and acceptance of a prophet from a far-off land he could hardly imagine was truly an example of how Allah guides the pure hearted to truth. He was always regular in making financial sacrifices and involved in all Jamā'at activities up to his death in the 1970s when he was around 93 years old.

Sister Tanvir remembers,

"Brother Ali and his wife Sister Almas were like grandparents to me. For a time, my father, the local missionary and my mother Bushra, a convert from St. Louis lived in a small upstairs room in their house. They were generous and shared all

they had with them. When I was born and came home from the hospital, there was no room for a crib so my first bed was in a dresser drawer. He was very loving to my family, and we had a lifelong bond. Brother Ali loved me like his own child and would always have a huge smile on his face whenever he met me. When I was a grown woman, he would pull a handkerchief out of his pocket and offer me one end to shake instead of his hand. He was a true practicing Muslim and would never dream of shaking hands with a woman, even with me, but this was his special way of showing his love."



Brother Abdullah Ali speaking at meeting at Dayton Mosque.

MEMBERSHIP

Some early members from among the women who must be mentioned are Sister Sadika Abdur Razzaq, the first recorded Lajna President, Sister Zainab Uthman, the Jamā'at's Financial and Recording Secretary for many years, and Sister Sabiha Abdullah who strived to learn Arabic and made financial sacrifices although she was not well off herself. They did not leave behind any heirs but they are not forgotten.

The dedication of these early

members has left a lasting legacy here and St. Louis is still receiving the blessings of their sacrifices. Today there are 4th generation Ahmadi among the membership and 5th generation children are already being born. Family members from among the first founding members (1947-1948), Brother Abdullah Aziz (joined in 1947), Brother Uthman and Sister Amina Khalid (joined 1947), Brother Ahmad Saeed (joined 1948), Sister Bushra Saeeda (joined 1948), are

still part of the St. Louis Jamā'at.

Brother Abdullah Aziz, a sincere and dedicated member instilled such a deep love for Ahmadiyyat into his generations that today they are perhaps the largest family within our Jamā'at, 5 generations strong. His son, Brother Habibullah Aziz was the 4th Jamā'at President (St. Louis), and has all the qualities of his dear father.

Brother Uthman and Sister Amina were known for their dedication and financial sacrifices.

Sister Amina was especially active in raising funds for a future mosque and supporting Jamā'at activities. She served as the National Lajna's first Publication Secretary.

Brother Saeed, who died in 2013 was the last surviving member from the first group. Early reports of the St. Louis missionary document this, as well as his courage and zeal for spreading Ahmadiyyat, which he exhibited throughout his life. He was the Jamā'at's Financial Secretary for many years, but his passion was teaching Islam to the very youngest members of the Jamā'at.

Grown men today with families of their own, they remember him fondly and acknowledge that whatever they learned in their youth was because of him. His wife, Sister Rashidah Saeed formerly from Chicago was a National Lajna President (1987-1989) and later a Regional President.

Brother Munir Ahmad, who joined in 1953, has the distinction of serving the St. Louis Jamā'at as its

third President for more than 40 years until 2007. Under his wise leadership the community remained united and steadily progressed down through the years. One of the highlights of his long life were the trips he made to Rabwah and Qadian which only strengthened his faith and dedication to Ahmadiyyat and his love of Khilafat. He practiced the Quranic injunction "Hold fast all together to the rope of Allah" himself and used this philosophy to keep the community together while President. Building a mosque was his cherished goal from the time he entered the Jamā'at and he was able to see it realized before his death in 2015. He was a pillar of the St. Louis Jamā'at and was loved and respected in the wider community as well. His wife, Sister Moneerah equally dedicated would serve as a National Lajna President from 1957-1958. Their large family remains dedicated Jamā'at members today.

Brother Ahmad Hadi, who joined at the age of 14, under Brother

Rashid Ahmad, is the eldest living member from the early era and continues to serve Jamā'at as the President of Ansarullah (St. Louis) and Ziyafat Secretary, which he has served for as long as anyone can remember.

Other families joined the community from the 1960s onwards. The Rafat family headed by Sister Najma Rafat has a large group as well; their fourth generation is thriving. In the late 1960s, three Pakistani doctors settled in St. Louis for higher training and employment, Drs. Bashir Ahmad, Munir Ahmad, and Naseer Ahmad. Though unrelated, they along with their extended families, children and now grandchildren are also a large group within the St. Louis Jamā'at. Slowly and steadily the Jamā'at has grown with new dedicated members joining or relocating here each decade to replace those who have passed away. In this way a core group has continued to keep the community alive.

JAMĀ'AT PRESIDENTS 1948-2019

First President: Brother Ibn Yamin (1948)

2010

Second President: Brother Rashid Ahmad (later of Milwaukee)

Fifth President: Dr. Naseer Ahmad 2010-2016

Third President: Brother Munir Ahmad 1960s-2007

Sixth President: Brother Kaleem Wali 2016-2019

Fourth President: Brother Habibullah Aziz 2007-

Seventh President: Brother Rafeeq Saadiq 2019-

current

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE ST. LOUIS JAMĀ'AT

- An interesting fact, not well known, is that the Ahmadiyya Movement in America was first incorporated in St. Louis Missouri around 1949; becoming the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam Inc. By becoming a corporation the Jamā'at was able to sponsor its missionaries from abroad. Before this the missionaries faced some hardships in staying in the country legally. The 4 missionaries in the country at the time went to Canada and crossed the border back into the USA thus getting official status.

- Also noteworthy is a

documented visit of the prominent scholar of the Ahmadiyya Community and renowned world leader, Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan to St. Louis on December 19-21, 1950. During these years, he was Pakistan's Foreign Minister and representative to the United Nations. He was President of the General Assembly from 1962-1963. Sir Zafrulla developed close personal contacts and relationships with Ahmadi converts in many Jamā'ats and also made time in his busy schedule to travel to other Jamā'ats to meet members and deliver the

message of Ahmadiyyat in their cities. He spoke to the St. Louis members at two meetings and was interviewed on the radio.

The missionary's report documents, "Sir Zafrulla explained Islam and gave the message of the coming of the Promised Messiah to thousands of people." He would make another visit to St. Louis around 1964. Sister Tanvir Ahmad, then a young girl attended the meeting held in the Sheraton Jefferson hotel where he addressed the members. Her parents had told her to always remember the event

because he was a very important person in the Jamā'at and also the whole world.

- Another memorable event in

MEETING PLACES AND MOSQUE

Meetings were held in a small storefront on North Delmar for many years until 1964 when a room was rented for the weekly Sunday meeting in a downtown hotel, the Sheraton Jefferson on 12th Street. In the mid-1970s a small house was

St. Louis Jamā'at history is that the USA Jamā'at's Jalsa Salana was held in St. Louis in 1977 on the campus of Washington University. It was well attended with members coming

purchased at 4401 Oakwood in Pine Lawn, MO. The building was named the Sadiq Mosque, and the St. Louis members worshipped there for more than 35 years. The men prayed in the basement and the women used the upstairs living room. Noteworthy is

from all over the country, including respected Mirza M. M. Ahmad who later became the National Ameer.

that Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih IVth visited St. Louis and the Sadiq Mosque and led prayers and held mulaqats (meetings) with members from the region in October 1987.



St. Louis members and others with Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV in front of the Sadiq Mosque St. Louis Missouri October 1987



Left. Khalifatul-Masih IV (rh) with Bro. Ahmad Saeed who became Ahmadi around 1948



Right. Bro. Munir Ahmad and Al Hajj Muzaffar Ahmad with Khalifatul-Masih IV (rh) at home of a St. Louis member during 1987 visit.



L-R – Al Hajj Muzaffar Ahmad (Dayton), Dr. Naseer Ahmad, Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih IV (rh), in back-Bro. Munir Ahmad (President at the time), Bro. Ahmad Hadi, next to Khalifatul-Masih-Bro. Ahmad Saeed, Dr. Bashir Ahmad, Bro. Pir Ahmad, Bro. Habibullah Aziz, Bro. Faisal (these photos were taken by the late Brother Ashraf Chughtai)

Bait-ul-Hafeez

From its earliest beginnings, the St. Louis members had dreamed of building a mosque.

Members donated and raised funds in every way they could for the mosque fund. In the 1960s they purchased a small triangular piece of land at the intersection of Alcott and Bircher Ave in St. Louis City. Blueprints were even drawn up for a mosque. Unfortunately, the project could not come to fruition at that time. However, after nearly 60 years, the St. Louis Jamā'at, with Allah Ta'ala's Grace was finally able to fulfill their dream of building a mosque, not on the small plot but on

land purchased two blocks away.

The construction of the St. Louis Mosque began in March 2007 with the laying of the foundation stone presided by Maulana Azhar Haneef, and long-term President, Bro. Munir Ahmad. The mosque was completed, except for the installation of the domes in August 2008 during the term of Br. Habibullah Aziz's presidency. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{atba} graciously named the mosque the Bait-ul-Hafeez Masjid. Respected Ameer USA, Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar inaugurated the mosque with his visit on August 17, 2008. On Friday, April 8, 2011 the

domes were placed on the Baitul Hafeez Masjid and minaret marking its Ninal completion. The mosque is located at 4529 Emerson Ave, St. Louis, and is visible from Hwy. I-70, a major interstate highway. With the addition of a mission house next door with facilities for a permanent missionary.

St. Louis Jamā'at members, pioneer convert families, immigrant families, new converts and old, look to the future and the increasing growth and progress of Ahmadiyyat in St. Louis. May Allah Ta'ala continue to shower his blessings on this Jamā'at. Ameen

Main contributors: Tanvirul-Nisa Ahmad, Hafiz Nasiruddin, Abu Bakr Ladd.

Nevada: Las Vegas



Dr. Rehan Amir, President of Las Vegas Jamā'at since 2014, with Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V, may Allah be his Helper.

Las Vegas (Spanish for “The Meadows”), officially the City of Las Vegas and often known simply as Vegas, is the 28th-most populated city in the United States, the most populated city in the state of Nevada, and the county seat of Clark County. The city anchors the Valley metropolitan area and is the largest city within the greater Mojave Desert. Las Vegas is an internationally renowned major resort city, known primarily for its gambling, shopping, fine dining, entertainment, and nightlife. The Las Vegas Valley as a whole serve as the leading financial, commercial, and cultural center for Nevada.

The city bills itself as The Entertainment Capital of the World, and is famous for its mega casino-hotels and associated activities. It is a top three destination in the United States for business conventions and a global leader in the hospitality industry, claiming more AAA Five Diamond hotels than any other city in the world. Today, Las Vegas annually ranks as one of the world's most visited tourist destinations.

Las Vegas was settled in 1905 and officially incorporated in 1911. At the close of the 20th century, it was the most populated American city founded within that century (a similar distinction was earned by

Chicago in the 19th century). Population growth has accelerated since the 1960s, and between 1990 and 2000 the population nearly doubled, increasing by 85.2%. Rapid growth has continued into the 21st century, and according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, the city had 648,224 residents in 2018, with a metropolitan population of 2,227,053. (Wikipedia)

It was 1980 when Ahmadis started coming to Las Vegas. One of the first ones was Dr. Syed Naeem Ahmed, Nadeem Kausar, and Raees Abid. They told us their story how they accidentally met in a restaurant and how happy they were to find another Ahmadi in town.

In March 2003, Las Vegas Jamā'at was officially established and registered with Clark County, Nevada. Quite a few Ahmadis moved in 1990s, and Dr. Syed Naeem Ahmed was the first President of Las Vegas Jamā'at. Missionary Inam-ul-Haq Kausar was the first Murabbi.

By 2005, we had Tajneed of approximately 55. Luqman Abdul Jalal was the second President, and Missionary Shamshad Ahmad Nasir was our Murabbi at that time. Jamā'at rented a one-bedroom apartment on Karen Avenue as our mission house for meetings and Salāt-ul-Jumu'ah. Later as the local

Jamā'at grew, we rented a 2-bedroom apartment at the same place for more space. Still, the apartment was not big enough for occasions such as Eid, so we used to rent places like a library room for Eids.

Las Vegas Jamā'at kept on growing at a small pace. Our next president was Shafiq Laique. We moved out of Karen Avenue Apartments to rent a house near Buffalo Avenue. It was a 3-bedroom house. Our happiness lasted a few months only, as we had to vacate the house. We, as a Jamā'at, felt homeless and had no place for meetings and prayers except renting out library rooms, on and for Salāt-ul-Jum'ah and Eids.

A search for buying a mosque for the Jamā'at became active, under the supervision of Missionary Shamshad Ahmad Nasir and President Shafiq Laique. Al-Hamdu Lillāh, in 2014, we were blessed to buy Bait-ut-Tauheed. This was a big step forward in Jamā'at progress; now we had a home for prayers, meetings, and events.

Local Las Vegas Jamā'at helped set up prayer area with carpets, sound system, window shutters, and security cameras from their own pockets. Then, there came the first rain of the season, and we had a

leaking roof in the main prayer area. All the Las Vegas members quickly gathered money to put up a new roof to our mosque. Such was the dedication of the Jamā'at members, and their financial sacrifices and love for their newly acquired place to worship Allah!

Our Next Missionary was Zafarullah Hanjra. A lot of new activities initiated and all Jamā'at auxiliaries became organized in holding their classes, meetings, and Ijtimā'āt due to the presence of mosque. Las Vegas Majlis Ansarullah started excelling with our new Za'im, Dr. Rehan Amir. Both in 2014 and 2015, Las Vegas Majlis Ansarullah stood 3rd in ranking amongst small Majalis all over USA. In February of 2016, Las Vegas Za'im was blessed enough to get the award directly from our beloved Khalifat-ul-Masih.

Tahir Academy was opened at Las Vegas Jamā'at in 2015, despite having just a few students. Shafiq Laique was the first Principal at Las Vegas Tahir Academy for one year,

followed by Dr. Asma Tahir Awan. Even though our Academy was small, it excelled and met the criteria by holding all the classes, board meetings, parent teacher meetings, and picnic for kids through the humble efforts of their staff and continuous hard work of the Tahir Academy students. For the year 2017-2018, Las Vegas Tahir Academy was awarded Nusrat Jahan Center of Excellence Award by the National Tarbiyat Department. Current Tahir Academy Principal is Ahmed Masood from the year 2019.

Our next Missionary was Irshad Malhi for approximately one year. He was followed by Missionary Faheem Arshad. We are lucky to have the visit of missionaries regularly.

There were about 5 families living in Salt Lake City, and they were under the Portland Jamā'at. They requested to be joined with the Las Vegas Jamā'at a couple of years ago. Now, they have also become a part of Las Vegas Jamā'at, hence the Tajneed of Las Vegas Jamā'at

increasing to 115. With the blessing of Allah, Las Vegas Jamā'at has been growing ever since it came in to being, Al-Hamdu Lillāh.

We have been holding regular activities at Bait-ut-Tauheed. In January of 2019, Sadr Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya USA, Dr. Madeel Abdullah, visited our mosque.

In February of 2019, Las Vegas Jamā'at held Regional Tabligh Conference at Bait-ut-Tauheed. It covered Phoenix, Tucson, and Las Vegas area.

In September of 2019 we had our first Spiritual Fitness Camp at Las Vegas Jamā'at. Rishtā Natā workshop was also held in September 2019.

Since 15 February 2020 commemorates the 100 years of USA Jamā'at history, we started the day with Tahajjud and Fajr prayers. In the evening, we had a program about the Ahmadiyya USA history and Las Vegas Jamā'at History. May Allah grant our Jamā'at even more success in future, Amen.



Bait-ut-Tauheed, Las Vegas

New Jersey: Central Jersey

Syed Imran Ahmed, Secretary Publication Central Jersey Chapter



A group picture of Jamā'at members with Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalifat-ul-Masīḥ IV at Bait-ul-Wahid Mosque Clinton NJ in June 1989 when the North and Central Jersey Jamā'ats were still combined.



Clinton NJ June 1989. Sitting from left to right: Ameen Sheikh, Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhry, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalifat-ul-Masīḥ IV, Karimullah Zirvi, Saleem Nasir Malik. Standing, back row: Lateef, Zafar Karamat, Dr. Naved Ahmed & Naeem Chaudhry.

Introduction

I gathered some valuable facts through my conversation with Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhary who led the community as President from 1980 to 2010, Dr. Mir Sharif & current President of Central Jersey Jamā'at-Abdul Nasir.

The sheer existence of the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at is a blessing of Allah. The Promised Messiah said, "I will spread thy message to the corners of the earth." We are given an opportunity to serve this Jamā'at and become a part of the prophecy of the Imam of this age—Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.

I feel it is important that our young generation knows about the humble beginnings of the Central Jersey Jamā'at and how it grew to be the congregation it is today. Earlier, CEJ (Central Jersey) & North Jersey Jamā'ats were one Jamā'at. As membership grew, the Center of Jamā'at decided to establish CEJ as its own community in 2000.

Building on that foundation of faith, and inviting many more members, in 1997 a deserted church was purchased worth \$350,000 and was inaugurated in June 1998 by Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV.

The Central Jersey Jamā'at, Bait-ul-Hādī was established & became the center for all members. During three different stages, another \$400,000 was spent for renovation & uplifting the Central Jersey mosque.

The whole Jamā'at was involved throughout the various phases of establishing the mosque. From finalizing the floor plan, to picking carpet design and color, etc., by having frequent meetings with open discussions, sometimes on a monthly basis. The participants included all Jamā'at members, including ladies and children. Everyone took ownership and decisions were made unanimously

with everyone's input. And in 2008, a separate Lajna hall was constructed for the sisters in our community. By the grace of Almighty our present Jamā'at Tajneed has more than 530 members.

Dr. Mir Sharif Ahmad a dedicated member who served the Jamā'at in various capacities over a long period of time. He started as Qa'id Khuddam Al Ahmadiyya, & later served as secretary of Tahrik-e-Jadīd and Waqf-e-Jadīd. The first election of CEJ took place in the year 2000 where Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhry was elected President & Dr. Mir Sharif served as VP for 9 years. Later in 2010, Dr. Mir Sharif Ahmad was elected as President of CEJ- till July 2019.

My voyage would not have been complete without input from the current president. Elections were held in July 2019. President Abdul Nasir, a very devoted Ahmadi previously served as Zaeem Ansarullah for two years. He recounts that during his service of 22 years to the Jamā'at, his most cherished moment is the visit of Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV to CEJ. Collectively the Jamā'at has been functioning very effectively with the continuous efforts of all the secretaries working throughout the year.

CEJ Majlis hosted local Ijtimā in March; it was well attended by members.

CEJ has been the destination for holding local, regional, & national events at Bait-ul-Hādī Mosque.

The Quran Exhibition organized by CEJ was attended by a large number of visitors.

The Central Jersey Jamā'at participated in celebrating Pakistan Day on August 2019.

CEJ hosts its signature event honoring the community members of Old Bridge in partnership with the Mayor's office at Bait-ul-Hādī

Mosque. Frank Palone & Owen Henry not only appreciated but also recognized the services & contribution of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya in serving the community.

Our Jamā'at had several other accomplishments but the highlight of The Central Jersey Jamā'at was, being placed second in 'Large Majalis' category, scoring 1264 points. Second to Baltimore Jamā'at as per the Majlis Ansarullah USA report, 2018.

With the appointment of Missionary Muhammad Saeed, the Jamā'at has experienced a positive spiritual enrichment in the field of Dars Quran, Tabligh activities & regular visit of Salāt centers in New Jersey. To be mentioned, CEJ Lajna members & students are instrumental in the success of any program hosted by the Jamā'at.

Previous History of Central Jersey Chapter:

Before the first Ahmadiyya mosque was established in New Jersey, our respected brothers & sisters used to hold meetings in the basement of local Jamā'at member house in Teaneck. Brother Dr. Mohammad Sadiq, a pioneer of the New Jersey Jamā'at later became the first President & brother Basheer Afzal was Zaeem Ansarullah a very pious Ahmadi; may Allah elevate his soul in Jannat-ul-Firdaus, Ameen. In February of 1988, Bait-ul-Wahid was established in Clifton, North Jersey.

This mosque was collectively named as the North Jersey Jamā'at. In the year 2000, the North Jersey Jamā'at was separated into two Jamā'ats; namely, North Jersey and Central Jersey.

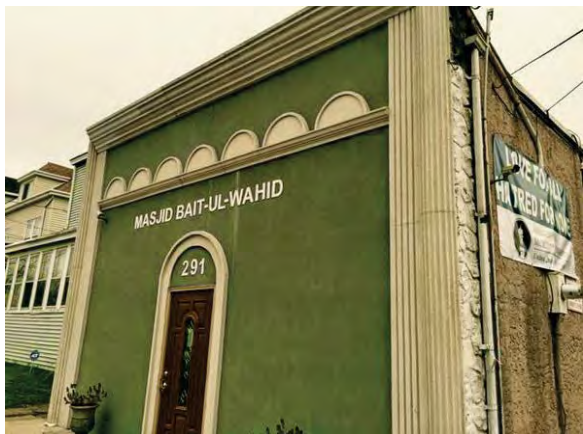
The mosque was entirely funded by local Jamā'at members; with the total worth of \$250,000. The members made great sacrifices; achieving the goal to not seek funds

from any Jamā'at outside of New Jersey. There are many faith-enhancing accounts of how the members offered sacrifices for the mosque fund.

A small space from its façade,

but a strong foundation for the future of the Jamā'at in North Jersey. As the Jamā'at was spreading its wings, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalifat-ul-Masīh IV visited the North Jersey Jamā'at in June 1989 on his way from Canada specially to

attend the mosque ceremony. Khalifat-ul-Masih asked for the number of members; he was informed of a strong congregation of 206. Following that, the Khalifat-ul-Masih also graced the Jamā'at in 1991.



Left. Bait-ul-Wahid-in 1988 when the North and Central Jersey Jamā'ats were combined.

Right. Bait-ul-Hadi Mosque Central Jersey



Dr. Mir Sharif with Mayor Owen Henry and other officials. CEJ hosted its signature event in partnership with the Mayor's office at Bait-ul-Hadi Mosque.



Sahibzada Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, Ameer USA, visits Central Jersey Chapter in 2019



Ameer visit to CEJ Jamā'at 2019



Since its inception, the strength of our chapter has been tested through difficult circumstances; and we pray that Allah showers his divinity upon us at every critical juncture. Moreover, every Ahmadi is

obliged to actively take part in Jamā'at affairs to add to the strength and solidarity of the Khilafat. Evidently, the success of our Jamā'at and its contributions to the community are only successful when

we unite our efforts to achieve desired goals set by the Markaz. May Allah guide us to perform our duties under the guidance of our beloved Khalifat-ul-Masih V.

New Jersey: North Jersey

Saiyad Mohammed



Honorable Robert Vernone, Mayor of Madison, NJ greeting Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih III at the 29th Jalsa Salana at Drew University on August 6, 1976



Left: Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih IV, at Bait-ul-Wahid in Clifton, NJ in June 1989., Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhary at his right and Dr. Karimullah Zrivi at his left

Right: Back from left: Malik Dawood, Ishtiaq Ahmad, Yousaf Syed, Nisar Ahmad, unconfirmed, Waseem Malik. Mubasher Sayed, Nasir Ahmad, Kaleem Malik. Middle from left: Naseer Ahmad, Dr. Rizwan Ahmad, Naveed Ahmad, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (Khalifat-ul-Masih IV), Qamar Ahmad Shamas, Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary holding Saifullah Khaled Chaudhary, Nasir Zirvi. Front from left: Raees Ahmad, Basharat Bajwa, Naveed Chaudhry, Mati Ullah, Anil Ullah. June, 1989.



North Jersey Jamā'at's location at 51 Central Ave in Newark, NJ in the late 1970s.

“The New Jersey (formerly Teaneck) has acquired on two years lease a new location at 51 Central Avenue, Newark, New Jersey. The repair work was done by members.” (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, April 1979, p. 7)



Left. Bait-ul-Wahid in Clifton, NJ, July, 2012. Right. Bait-ul-Wahid in Hawthorne, NJ. Present Day, 2019

The origins of all New Jersey chapters go back to humble beginnings in the early 1970s. There were no existing Ahmadi mission houses or mosques in the state until when a house was purchased in 1973 in the northern part of the state on Intervale Rd in Teaneck, NJ. This property was purchased by Dr. Majid Ali and his brother-in-law and was to be used as a mission house. It was officially made a Jamā'at and became the location for Jumu'ah and

Jamā'at meetings with respected Muhammad Sadiq as the first president who was appointed by the missionary in charge at the time, Muhammad Sadiq Shahid. Later in the decade, this house was eventually sold, and the Jamā'at temporarily met for Jumu'ah at brother Andy Swales's house in neighboring Bergenfield, NJ for approximately less than a year.

In 1976, Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih III,

embarked on a historic trip as the first Khalifa to visit the United States. Arriving in Washington D.C. on July 25, Khalifat-ul-Masih III visited Dayton, OH, New York City and New Jersey before heading to Canada. During his stay in New Jersey from August 6-8, Khalifat-ul-Masih III graciously attended the 29th Jalsa Salana which was held at Drew University in Madison, NJ. There he addressed an audience of approximately 600 directing them to

seek the true teachings of Islam as solutions to problems faced by the West and the greater mankind. The mayor of Madison, Robert Vernone, attended the convention to greet Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad and was presented a Holy Quran as a gift.

Before the decade ended, the Jamā'at then began renting a building on Central Ave in Newark, NJ, the state's largest city. This location was quite desirable for the growing Jamā'at as it was in the busy downtown area of Newark, across the street from one of Newark's largest churches and a couple blocks from the Rutgers University's Newark campus. As a result, there were new people attending each Jumu'ah, and the non-Ahmadis would typically outnumber the Ahmadis.

Pleased with this location, the Jamā'at members were excited when the building was to be sold at an auction and made a strong effort to acquire the building through this auction. However, the auction never took place as the building went to another buyer via an arrangement with the City of Newark. After no more than two years at this location, the Jamā'at then rented a couple rooms a short walk away at 600 Broad St, Newark in the YMCA building. In 1980, Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhary was elected as the new president of the New Jersey Jamā'at and would serve this position for the next twenty years.

Later in the 1980s, the Jamā'at would eventually have to vacate the YMCA building and find another home. In 1987, Dr. Karimullah Zirvi found a building for sale in Clifton, NJ that could possibly be the Jamā'at's next location. The members decided to raise all the funds to purchase the property on their own without seeking assistance from others and were determined to achieve this goal. Through their sacrifices, prayers and Allah's grace,

they were able to purchase the property at 291 Crooks Ave for approximately \$250,000, and closed on it in February of 1988. This would be the first building the New Jersey Jamā'at could use as a mosque. In June of 1989, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih IV, visited and inaugurated the mosque known as Bait-ul-Wahid and made comment about being impressed with the sacrifices made by the Jamā'at members (approximately 200) to acquire the property.

Now with a stable location that was a mosque of its own, the Jamā'at was able to plant its roots and positioned to continue to expand. Ahmadis from the northern and central areas of the state would call Bait-ul-Wahid home for many years to come.

The population of Ahmadis living in the central New Jersey area increased over the years, and their commute up to Clifton was not short. Establishing a Jamā'at in that area became justified, and an abandoned church was acquired in Old Bridge, NJ in November of 1997. This property became the mosque known as Bait-ul-Hadi and was inaugurated by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul-Masih IV in 1998. This mosque was now the home of the new Central Jersey chapter. By 2000, Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhary transitioned from President of the North Jersey Jamā'at to become President of the Central Jersey Jamā'at, and Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary was now the President of North Jersey with Dr. Karimullah Zirvi as Vice President.

Over the years, the North Jersey Jamā'at continued to secure its presence in the area building a strong relationship with the government officials in the City of Clifton and other municipalities. In 1996, a cemetery was established in Totowa, NJ which included 103 grave sites, twenty-six of which were

reserved for Waṣiyyat members. Ten years later, additional cemetery space was acquired for an additional fifty-seven grave sites. In 2005, Bait-ul-Wahid underwent a complete interior renovation mostly via the labor of the Jamā'at members with brothers Zabeeh Ullah and Nasir Zirvi leading the effort. Almost all North Jersey Jamā'at events were held at Bait-ul-Wahid save for the ones that had the biggest attendance. For those, such as the Khilafat Centenary celebration in 2008 and the Centenary Silver Jubilee celebration in 2014, the Jamā'at would rent a hall in a nearby hotel to accommodate the crowd too large for the mosque.

The Khilafat Centenary celebration on May 27, 2008 was a particularly special occasion for the North Jersey Jamā'at as the members hosted the event at a regional level inviting all Jamā'ats in the region including Central Jersey, Willingboro, Queens, Brooklyn, Bronx, Philadelphia, York and Harrisburg. The event was held at the Regency House Hotel in Pompton Plains, NJ, and the proud North Jersey members were in full attendance. The full day program included lunch and Zuhr and Asr Prayers and was blessed by the attendance of respected Ameer Jamā'at USA, Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, Na'ib Ameer, Respected Brother Munir Hamid and Regional Missionary Maulana Inamul Haq Kauser.

As the North Jersey chapter continued to expand, it outgrew the facilities at the humble Clifton property. The search for a larger building was a long and arduous one with multiple prospective properties in the northern New Jersey area considered and pursued without success. In 2015, brother Waseem Mehmood found a vacant church building for sale in Hawthorne, NJ which would end that search. It

quickly became apparent that this property was the best candidate of them all. As a result of tremendous financial sacrifices from the local Jamā'at members, prayers and the leadership of President Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary, the Jamā'at closed on the building at 131 Wagaraw Rd on October 14, 2015. It was a very proud moment for the Jamā'at. Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary appointed three key Jamā'at members into a "mosque committee" to focus on the task ahead to renovate the building into, not just a mosque, but also a community center: Munawar Ahmad, Nasir Zirvi and Mir Omer Ahmad.

Extensive renovation of the entire facility took place during 2016 while Jamā'at activities and events

continued to be held in Clifton. For Eid-ul-Fitr on June 26, 2017, the Jamā'at congregated at the new location of Bait-ul-Wahid in Hawthorne for a particularly happy Eid. Activities at the Clifton building were discontinued as of August 25, 2017, and the building was later sold. The Jamā'at no longer needed to rent other facilities for events as there were now sufficient accommodations at the mosque.

Since then, the Jamā'at hosts all Jamā'at activities in Hawthorne, hosts multiple public relations events with attendance by non-Ahmadis and non-Muslims and is building a strong relationship with the authorities in the Borough of Hawthorne. As of the start of the 2019-2020 Jamā'at year, the Middletown, NY Jamā'at has been

consolidated into the North Jersey Jamā'at increasing North Jersey's Tajneed by approximately 100. Per the 2019 elections for local Amila members, brother Waseem Mehmood is the current President and brother Saleem Mahmood is the current Vice President. To maximize congregational prayer across the region, salat centers have been established in other northern New Jersey towns such as in Parsippany, NJ and in Basking Ridge, NJ. By Allah's grace, the Jamā'at's Tajneed is now greater than 500 and growing. The members regularly participate in all national Tabligh campaigns such as Meet a Muslim and Muslims for Life and are also actively involved in local community events such as the borough's annual Memorial Day parade and Hawthorne Day celebration.



Left (from left): Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary, Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhary, Munawar Ahmad, Missionary Mukhtar Cheema, Respected Muhammad Sadiq (seated) December 26, 1994. Right: Respected Muhammad Sadiq 's tombstone in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community section of the Laurel Grove Cemetery in Totowa, NJ



Centenary Celebration at Bait-ul-Wahid in Clifton, NJ

Left: Jalaliddin Abdul-Latif (left) and Andy Swales (right). Middle: Bashir Afzal. March, 1989.

Right. Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhary speaking at the Centenary Celebration at Bait-ul-Wahid in Clifton, NJ. March, 1989.



Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih IV, at Bait-ul-Wahid in Clifton, NJ

Back row of right picture (from left): Lateef, Zafar Karamat, Dr. Naveed Ahmed saib, Naeem Chaudhry. Sitting in right picture (from left): Ameen Sheikh, Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhry, Khalifatul-Masih IV, Dr. Karimullah Zirvi, Saleem Nasir Malik. June, 1989



Rutgers University Symposium. Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser at podium April, 1989



Serat-un-Nabi Conference at the Regency House Hotel in Pompton Plains, NJ. August, 2001.



Left: Youth Interfaith Event at Bait-ul-Wahid in Clifton, NJ. From left: Satjeet Kaur Ji (Sikhism), Ken Baxer (Buddhism), Megan Fitzsimmons (Christianity), Abhishek Senjalia (Hinduism), Rabbi Maury Kelman (Judaism), Dr. Kashif Chaudhry (Islam). May 22, 2011. Right. Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary, President of North Jersey, speaking at Eid-ul-Fitr at the Best Western/Regency House Hotel in Pompton Plains, NJ. July 18, 2015.



“United We Stand Against Extremism” Public Affairs Conference in Mountain Lakes, NJ. March 30, 2016



Left. Quran Exhibition at “United We Stand Against Extremism” Public Affairs Conference. March 30, 2016.

Right. Hawthorne renovation, Upper Hall. 2016.



Hawthorne renovation, Lower Hall. 2016.



Hawthorne Renovation. Dr. Naveed Ahmad (left) and Waseem Mehmood (right) 2016



Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary, President of the North Jersey Jamā'at, giving invocation at the Mayor and Council Meeting in the City of Clifton. February 21, 2017.



Coffee, Cake and True Islam at Dunkin' Donuts in Morris Plains, NJ. March 30, 2017.



Quran Conference at Bait-ul-Wahid in Clifton, NJ

Seated at table from left: Dr. Karimullah Zirvi, Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary, Khalid Ahmad, Zabeeh Ullah. April 2, 2017.



Hawthorne officials at Bait-ul-Wahid in Hawthorne, NJ

From left: Mir Omer Ahmed (Ta'lim Secretary and Mosque Committee), Mohammad Ahmed Khawaja (Public Relations Secretary), Richard McAuliffe (Hawthorne Police Chief), Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary (President) of North Jersey), Honorable Richard Goldberg (Hawthorne Mayor), Munawar Ahmad (Property Secretary and Mosque Committee), Ken Houtsma (Hawthorne Ambulance Corps), Nasir Zirvi (Audio/Visual Secretary and Mosque Committee). May 18, 2017



Hawthorne's Memorial Day Parade with Ken Houtsma (Hawthorne Ambulance Corps). May 29, 2017.



First Eid-ul-Fitr at Bait-ul-Wahid in Hawthorne, NJ. June 26, 2017.



North Jersey Jamā'at Picnic in Paramus, NJ. August 6, 2017.



Left. Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary, President of North Jersey, speaking at Jumū'ah at Bait-ul-Wahid in Hawthorne, NJ. September 8, 2017. Right. Tahir Academy at Bait-ul-Wahid in Hawthorne, NJ. September 11, 2017.



Congregational prayer at Salaat Center in Parsippany, NJ. February 16, 2018.



North Jersey Jamā'at Picnic in Paramus, NJ. September 2, 2018.



Eid-ul-Adha at Bait-ul-Wahid in Hawthorne, NJ. August 11, 2019.



North Jersey Khuddam and Aftal playing indoor soccer before New Year's Eve sleepover. December 31, 2018.



North Jersey Jamā'at Amila Meeting at Bait-ul-Wahid in Hawthorne, NJ

Back (from left): Ahsan Rana Mohammad, Mohammad Ahmed Khawaja, Mir Omer Ahmed, Nasir Zirvi, Dr. Mohammad Ahmad, Naseer Alam, Arif Mehmood, Dr. Naveed Ahmad, Anwar-ul-Ahad Muhammad, Zia Unas, Hamid Mahmood.

Front (from left): Mubarak Jahangiri, Naem Ahmad, Dr. Karimullah Zirvi, Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary, Asif Omer, Tahir Khokhar, Munuwar Ahmad. June 21, 2019.



Left. Meet a Muslim campaign. September 15, 2019. Right. Honorable Richard Goldberg, Mayor of Hawthorne with Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary. September 7, 2019



Mumtaz Ahmad (left) and Saifullah Khaled Chaudhary (right) at Hawthorne Day. September 21, 2019.



Bait-ul-Wahid in Hawthorne, NJ. Present Day, 2019.



Bait-ul-Wahid in Hawthorne, NJ Upper Hall on left and Lower Hall on right Present Day, 2019



Khilafat Centenary celebration at the Regency House Hotel in Pompton Plains, NJ. May 27, 2008.

New Jersey: Willingboro



Al-Nasr Mosque, Willingboro, NJ

Introduction

Willingboro was one of the original nine divisions in the organization of Burlington County within West Jersey, and was originally formed as the “Constabulary of Welling borrow” on November 6, 1688. At the time, it included present day Delanco

Township, New Jersey. The original name of Welling borough was after the community in England, which was the hometown of Thomas Olive, who led the original settlers into what would become Willingboro Township. Other spellings were used at different times. (from Wikipedia)

Ata Muhammad, a companion of the Promised Messiah, visited Willingboro and described his inspiring experiences of the events he observed during the companionship of the Promised Messiah. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, November 1979, p. 9).

History of Willingboro Chapter

Willingboro Township is located about 80 miles south of New York City and 15 miles North of Philadelphia. Al-Nasr Mosque is located at 500 Bridge Street in Willingboro Township with convenient access from several major highways.

It is believed that in 1956, Syed Sharif Ahmad and his family were the first Ahmadi who settled in Bellmawr Township about 15 miles south of Willingboro. He was a devoted Ahmadi immigrant from Pakistan and an engineer by

profession employed by State of New Jersey. It is said that met with another Ahmadi Mr. Osama Bashir in Washington DC mosque. Brother Bashir was a new convert, and resided in the Township of Pemberton, 20 miles Northwest of Willingboro Township. In that meeting they planned to meet again once they returned to New Jersey and the meeting place was decided to be at Exit 5 of New Jersey turnpike – a central location for both. As planned, both met at exit 5 of NJ turnpike, and they prayed for a mosque in the area near their

residences. Their prayers were answered when about 30 years later an old farmhouse was purchased and converted into a mosque in Willingboro.

In 1964, brother Bashir and his family moved to Seattle, Washington and Syed Sharif also left Bellmawr and settled in Massachusetts. Meanwhile, Syed Sharif’s older brother, Syed Abdul Aziz arrived from Pakistan and settled in Bellmawr with his younger brother’s help. Syed Abdul Aziz was also an engineer and started working with

New Jersey State in Trenton, NJ. A year later he was joined by his family in 1965. He subsequently bought a house in Willingboro Township and became the first Ahmadi to settle in Willingboro Township.

In 1968, Dr. Abdul Mannan Malik migrated to USA. Around the same time, Dr. Ahsan Ullah Zafar (ex-Ameer USA) had also moved to the south Jersey area. During this period Ahmadi families living in Philadelphia and Willingboro used to hold their meetings and congregational prayers jointly in Philadelphia and this practice continued till 1978. Brother Hamid Munir (ex-Nā'ib Ameer USA), Brother Bilal Abdul Salam, Brother Hussain Abdul Aziz and brother Zakaria were among the most notable members of Philadelphia Jamā'at.

More Ahmadis kept arriving in Willingboro and the search for a place to build a mosque also

History of Al-Nasr mosque



In 1986, Willingboro Jamā'at purchased a Farmhouse at 500 Bridge Street that was renovated to serve the purpose of a mosque and it was named "Masjid Al-Nasr." The Al-Nasr Mosque was inaugurated by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalifat-Ul-Masih IV on October 8, 1987 during his visit to the United States.

Over the years, the local Ahmadi community grew as many families had settled in Willingboro and its nearby surroundings. The mosque became too small to accommodate requirements of a growing

intensified. During that time reportedly following families generously offered their homes for congregational prayers and Jamā'at meetings.

1. Brother Abu Bakr Noorudin-Trenton NJ
2. Dr. Ahsan Ullah Zafar-Lambertville NJ
3. Syed Abdul Aziz-Willingboro NJ
4. Dr. Abdul Mannan Malik-Willingboro NJ
5. Manzoor Ali Syed-Willingboro NJ
6. Waseem Ahmad Syed-Willingboro NJ

In 1976, due to growing Ahmadi population, on the recommendation of the then Missionary in Charge Masood Ahmad Jehlmi, Willingboro was granted approval as a new chapter by the Center.

The first election of Willingboro Jamā'at was held at the house of Syed Manzoor in the summer of 1976. Missionary in Charge Masood

community. The Willingboro Jamā'at was blessed to have Khalifatul-Masih IV to lay the foundation stone of the new Al-Nasr Mosque on October 18, 1994. The construction of this Mosque began in year 2000. With Allah's blessings, Al-Nasr Mosque was completed in 2006 and was inaugurated by then National Ameer, Dr. Ahsan Ullah Zafar in 2007. May Allah, the Almighty, reward all those who have helped in the completion of this project, *Ameen*.

Activities at Al-Nasr Mosque:

By the grace of Allah, over the years, several important events have been held at the Al-Nasr Mosque, Willingboro. These include USA Jamā'at National Shura, National Shura of Lajna Ima'illah and many other national and regional programs by the Majlis Ansarullah,

Ahmad Jehlumī presided over the election proceedings and Brother Abu Bakr Noorudin was elected as the first president of Willingboro Jamā'at.

Missionaries who have served the Willingboro Jamā'at:

1. Missionary Sheikh Naseer Uddin Ahmad
2. Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser
3. Missionary Azhar Haneef
4. Missionary Saeed Muhammad

Presidents of the Willingboro Jamā'at :

7. Brother Abu Bakr Noorudin 1976 – 1978
8. Dr. Abdul Mannan Malik 1978 – 1982
9. Dr. Ahsan Ullah Zafar 1982 – 2000
10. Dr. Farooq Ahmad Padder 2000 – 2019
11. Dr. Safeeullah Chaudhri 2019 – Present

Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya and Majlis Khuddām-ul-Aḥmadiyya.

Humanity First Food Pantry at Al-Nasr Mosque:

Willingboro Food Pantry is the result of Khalifatul-Masih's desire to Feed the Hungry in USA that he shared with National Sadr Lajna around 2010. Sadr shared Khalifatul-Masih's vision with Lajna from Philadelphia, Willingboro and other nearby Majalis. Muhammad Suleman Sheikh and his wife Suriyya Sheikh immediately started exploring options and tried different ways such as food collection drive in the mosque, obtaining surplus food from retail establishments, and buying discounted food, and donating to churches and shelters in South Jersey and Philadelphia. Their passion resulted in the Food Pantry at Al-Nasr Mosque in Willingboro.

Kwabena Osman registered the pantry (#912) with the Food Bank of South Jersey in June 2011, and placed order for food at reduced price. First pantry was held on June 25, 2011, where 19 families (83 household members) were served. Since then, pantry has been held (3rd Saturday) every month on a regular basis. 30 to 50 families are served monthly. During 2020 Corona emergency this number went to 100 families twice a month, and food from 5,000 lb. to over 50,000 lb. per month.

In the initial years, volunteers used to pick-up supplies from the food bank on personal vehicles.

Foods mostly consist of canned food, grains, and some perishable items, but after qualifying for Federal Food Assistance Programs in September 2012, the food bank started delivering directly to the mosque. During this journey for last 10 years, members of all auxiliaries have been trained on different aspects of pantry – Ordering, Proper storage, Client qualification, Registration, and Distribution. Funding is mainly through personal donations, grants, and from local Ansar budget.

Additional social service programs:

Weekly: Food is picked up from

Panera Bread (100 lb.) and delivered to shelter – managed by Tahir Syed and his wife Jameela Syed.

Monthly: 300+ lunch bags are made for homeless and delivered to Cathedral Kitchen in Camden, NJ.

Clothing drives for various charities.

During current Corona emergency, the pantry has collaborated with Willingboro Township to host “Pop-up” Food Pantries in the mosque, serving 300+ families twice a month with the help of 20-25 volunteers. (Hamid Masood)



Opening of the original Al-Nasr Mosque (Missionary Residence now)



Foundation stone laying of the present purpose-built Al-Nasr Mosque

New York: Albany



Bait-un-Noor, Albany NY

New York: Bronx

The Bronx, one of the five boroughs of New York City, southeastern New York, U.S., coextensive with Bronx County, formed in 1912. The Bronx is the northernmost of the city's boroughs. The Bronx was declared the most diverse county in America according to the Census Bureau, if you take two random Bronxites, there's an 89.7% chance that they will be of a different race and ethnicity. The Bronx is still home to the largest population of ethnic Albanians outside of Albania. It's also home to the largest Garifuna population and it's still home to the largest Puerto Rican population in the country of any county. It is also home to one of the largest African populations in the country and even the Mexican population is one of NYC's largest if not the largest. The first cultural center for Mexican studies East of the Mississippi was established right here in The Bronx at Lehman College.

In this thriving borough of human diversity, the Ahmadiyya Mission house was established in 2005 as a result of the bifurcation of the Queens Chapter. The mission house was purchased and is located at 3421 White Plains Rd. Bronx New York 10467. The 1st president of the Bronx Chapter was the late Nazeer Ahmad Cheema. He remained President for 7 years. During his era, the regular Dars and Jum'ah prayers and regular activities were started in the Bronx Mission House. Additionally, the mission house purchased was a residential building and therefore required renovation to

suit the needs of the Chapter. The work of renovation was mostly carried out by its humble body of members after work hours for over a year to get the building in some functioning order.

The modest appearance of the Mission House is a beacon of light for new converts needing shelter and a place of peace. Various Chapter activities have been conducted at the Mission House since its opening such as blood drives, Ramadan gatherings, interfaith programs, children's classes, funeral services, and availability for five daily prayers. The Chapter serves a diverse membership of Africans, Pakistani, Indian, Bengali, Hispanic, and African Americans.

In 2017, Tahir Gulzar was elected as President of Bronx Chapter. The first function was to get the Mission House back into operating standard. By 2019, the Mission House was back to regular activities with Jum'ah prayers, Ramadan, and Eid prayers. Then in 2020, the Covid 19 pandemic struck the New York area, causing many devastating losses of life for the people of New York. Members of Bronx Chapter continued to serve where they could. Also, this lockdown situation became an opportunity for Bronx Chapter to renovate the Mission House once again to fulfill the greater demands of a growing membership. Tahir Gulzar, the President, took an active role in renovations to give it an even more welcoming appearance of piety and purity where all are welcome to

advance to the call of "Hayya 'alas-Salat," Come for Prayer.

The progress of the Chapter in the Bronx intensified in the last few years as well (2018-20). The volunteer work continued with assisting the VA Hospital, working with the "Part of Solution" soup kitchen, participating in the Bronx is Blooming Tree Planting initiative, and working with the Community Board of the local 47th precinct. Additionally, the work of propagation also increased. An outreach stall at the Yonkers Library Hall continued once a month. Additionally, a larger scale event called "Pathway to Peace" was held in collaboration with the neighboring church. The event included many speakers from different Christian denominations as well as a Jewish Rabbi. Police and Fire department representatives also presented. The event had more than 100 in attendance. This event was covered by local TV Chanel NEWS 12.

Another unique addition is the Eid prayers being arranged at the Bronx Mosque. In preparation for Eid, coordination with local authorities is also an ongoing relationship with precinct providing security during larger events hosted at the Mosque such as Eid Prayers.

An ongoing relationship is also established with local politicians such as Andy King (City Councilman) and Shelley Mayer (State Senator) and other meetings and involvement with local politicians.

New York: Brooklyn

Abrar Hossain



Bait-ut-Tahir, Brooklyn, New York

Brooklyn is a borough of New York City, coterminous with Kings County, located in the U.S. state of New York, the most populous county in the state, and the second-most densely populated county in the United States. It is New York City's most populous borough, with an estimated 2,582,830 residents in 2018. Named after the Dutch village of Breukelen, it shares a land border with the borough of Queens at the western end of Long Island. Brooklyn has several bridge and tunnel connections to the borough of Manhattan across the East River, and the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge

connects it with Staten Island.

With a land area of 70.82 square miles (183.4 km²) and water area of 26 square miles (67 km²), Kings County is New York state's fourth-smallest county by land area and third smallest by total area, though it is the second largest among the city's five boroughs. If each borough were ranked as a city, Brooklyn would rank as the third-most populous in the U.S., after Los Angeles and Chicago. (from Wikipedia)

Jamā'at Ahmadiyya was first established in 1996. The first salat center was located on 1727 East 21st

Street, Brooklyn, NY and the first President was Dr. Shahed Ahmed. The first Mosque was purchased in 2002 on 1477 West 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY. This was abandoned Jewish Synagogue and the owner was using it as a storage place and after purchasing it, it was converted into a Mosque, and it is still serving as the Ahmadiyya center in Brooklyn. Upon converting it as a Mosque, some Jewish people protested in front of the Mosque which was published in the local newspaper. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh the situation was not escalated. Later the adjacent house was also purchased

where our Missionary, Inamul Haq Kauser resided and after his transfer, Missionary Daud Hanif also resided in the house. Now the house is used as Khuddam and Lajna Office. The house has served as a guest house for Ahmadis coming to New York from all over the world. We have had guests from Pakistan, India, UK, Germany, Mauritius and from Middle Eastern Countries, besides Ahmadis from other States in the US, which have included National Amila Members and Muballighen who stayed in the guest house. Mohammed Abdul Ghaffer, Shahed Ahmed, Dr. Mir Mubarak Ahmad and Rafi Ahmed were our prominent members who put in lots of effort in

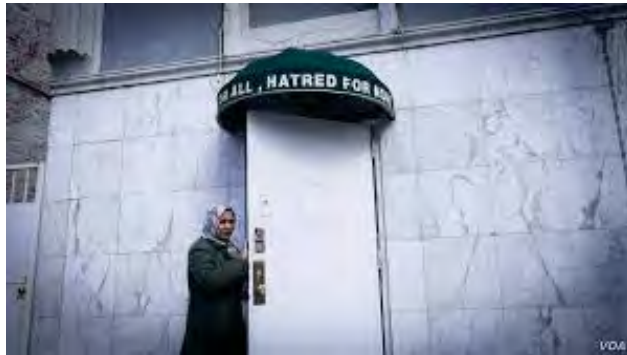
purchasing the Mosque. The mosque property was identified by one of our Jamā'at members' Shabbaz Ahmad Bhatti, who also played an important role in helping the Jamā'at to procure the property. Three prominent members, Mohammed Abdul Ghaffar, Dr. Shahed Ahmed and Rafi Ahmed, put in a lot of effort in purchasing the Mosque.

Dr. Shahed Ahmed had been president ever since the establishment of Brooklyn Jamā'at, until last year when his brother Rafi Ahmed has been elected as the new president.

About \$875,000 was spent to buy the Mosque. Also, this was the

first Mosque in the USA where money was raised through a national letter writing campaign to Ahmadis all over the USA and getting donations from them. Later this method was adopted in building other Mosques in the USA. Also, the Name of the Mosque "Bait-ut-Tahir" was given by Khalifat-ul-Masih V and this is the very first Mosque he named after becoming Khalifa.

About \$875,000 was spent to buy the Mosque. The name of the Mosque Bait-ut-Tahir was given by the Fifth Khalifa (may Allah be his helper). (Abrar Hossain)



Top left. The current President, Rafi Ahmed, and Vice President, Dr. Nadeem Ahmad, planning a flag hoisting function on 4th of July. Rest of the pictures show front, back and inside of Bait-ut-Tahir.

New York: Buffalo



Buffalo is the second largest city in the U.S. state of New York and the largest city in Western New York. As of 2018, the population was 256,304. The city is the county seat of Erie County and a major gateway for commerce and travel across the Canada–United States border, forming part of the bi-national Buffalo Niagara Region. As of the April 1, 2010, the metropolitan statistical area (MSA) had a population of 1,135,509; the combined statistical area (CSA), which adds Cattaraugus County, had a population of 1,215,826 inhabitants.

Initially, Western New York area was part of the Rochester chapter. Members from the Western New York area would typically travel to Rochester for various Jamā'at activities. It was in early 2004 that it was decided by Dr. Naseer Tahir, then president of the Rochester Jamā'at, to create a Buffalo Halqa (Circle/subsection) for the convenience of the members in the Western New York region, who

The city grew significantly in the 19th and 20th centuries as a result of immigration, the construction of the Erie Canal and rail transportation, and its close proximity to Lake Erie. This growth provided an abundance of fresh water and an ample trade route to the Midwestern United States while grooming its economy for the grain, steel and automobile industries that dominated the city's economy in the 20th century. Since the city's economy relied heavily on manufacturing, deindustrialization in the latter half of the 20th century led to a steady decline in population. While some manufacturing activity remains, Buffalo's economy has

would otherwise travel anywhere from 90 minutes to two hours to attend Jamā'at meetings in Rochester. Dr. Naseer Tahir and Missionary Daud Hanif announced creation of the Buffalo Halqa at a meeting, probably on Saturday 20 March 2004, in the basement of the residence of Dr. Nasir Khan, and he was appointed the Halqa Leader.

Following members were part of the Buffalo Halqa/Circle:

transitioned to service industries with a greater emphasis on healthcare, research and higher education, which emerged following the Great Recession.

Buffalo is on the eastern shore of Lake Erie, at the head of the Niagara River, 16 miles (26 km) south of Niagara Falls. Its early embrace of electric power led to the nickname "The City of Light." The city is also famous for its urban planning and layout by Joseph Ellicott, an extensive system of parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, as well as significant architectural works. (From Wikipedia)

1. Nasir M. Khan, Getzville, NY
2. Haseeb A. Ghumman, Lancaster NY
3. Mujeeb A. Alamgir, Amherst, NY
4. Adnan Pasha, Orchard Park, NY
5. Abdul Momin Tak, Lakewood, NY
6. Tahir R. Khan, East Amherst, NY
7. Ubaid Rehman, Fazl-ur-Rehman, Williamsville, NY

8. Dawood Khan, Williamsville, NY
9. Liaquat Ali, Niagara Falls, NY
10. Mohammad Ali, Niagara Falls, NY
11. Nadeem Arshad, Niagara Falls, NY
12. Rahman Ahmad, Niagara Falls, NY
13. Nadeem Khan, Allegany, NY
14. Lamin Trawally, Buffalo, NY
15. Atiq-ur-Rehman, Amherst, NY
16. Amjad Chaudhary, Niagara Falls, NY
17. Ali Ahmed, Buffalo, NY
18. Anas Mangla
19. Chaudhary Khurram Ahmad, Upper, Buffalo, NY
20. Hannan Malik, Cheektowaga, NY
21. Ijaz Ahmad, Penfield, NY
22. Abdul Rahman Niazi, Amherst, NY
23. Hammad Ismail, Orchard Park, NY
24. Pervaiz Minhas, Williamsville, NY
25. Ashfaq Minhas, Williamsville, NY
26. Ms. Bushra Rahmatullah, Lewiston, NY
27. Abrar Nadir, Buffalo, NY
28. Attique Ur Rehman Dard, Tonawanda, NY

Various activities were held at the homes of the members. However, there was a growing sentiment that Buffalo Halqa/Circle should become a separate chapter. To this effect, permission was sought from the national headquarters. Upon their approval, Buffalo chapter elections were held on 10 September 2005 in Rochester. The election proceeding was presided by Missionary of Northeast region, Missionary Inamul Haq Kausar (currently Ameer Jamā'at at Australia). Approval for the new Buffalo Jamā'at Amila members was

received on 21 October 2005, and following were approved as Amila members:

1. Nasir Khan, President
2. Adnan Pasha, General Secretary
3. Liaquat Ali, Tabligh Secretary
4. Khurram Ahmad, Ta'lim Secretary
5. Hannan Malik, Tarbiyat Secretary
6. Nadeem Ahmad Khan, Tahrik-e-Jadid & Waqf-e-Jadid Secretary
7. Anas Mangla, Ta'limul Quran & Waqf-i-Ardi, & Audio-Video Secretary
8. Fazlur Rahman, Ziyafat Secretary
9. Hammad Ismael, Umooor-e-Amma (General Affairs) & Umooor-e-Khārija (Public Relations) Secretary
10. Mohammad Ali, Finance Secretary (approval received later in December 2005).

Following are the members of the chapter on record:

Ahmed Ijaz, Ahmed Khurram, Ahmed Ali M., Alamgir Mujeeb A., Ali Liaquat, Ali Mohammad, Chaudhry Amjad, Dard Attique U., Grumman Haseeb A., Ismail Hammad, Khan Nasir M., Khan Tahir R., Khan Dawood, Khan Nadeem, Malik Hanan, Majoka Basit, Majoka Usman, Mangla Anas, Minhas Pervaiz A., Minhas Ashfaq, Nadir Abrar A., Niazi Abdur Rahman, Pasha Adnan, Qazi Tahir M., Rahmatullah Bushra, Rehman Fazlur, Rehman Ubaid, Rehman Atiq U., Tak Abdul Momin and Trawally Lamin

Total Tajneed in the beginning:

Eighty (including men, women & children)

Current Tajneed:

One hundred ninety-three (including men, women & children)

Acquisition of a mosque for Buffalo Chapter:

Soon after the chapter was formed in Buffalo, there was a need felt for a mosque. After the establishment of the chapter, meetings continued in rotation at the homes of various members. However soon, the home of Dr. Fazalur Rehman (94 Pinelake Drive, Williamsville, NY) became designated for the Jum'a prayers, and the home of Dr. Nasir Khan (58 Mt. Holyoke Ct., Getzville, NY) became the designated meeting place.

Several places were looked at for use as a mosque. It was realized that constructing a mosque from scratch would take a significant amount of resources that were, realistically, beyond the reach of the members.

After looking at several buildings, Church of the Rock, located at 9610 Colvin Blvd., Niagara Falls NY 14304, was chosen as the site for our new mosque. Members were requested to donate for Buffalo Mosque fund, and we were able to raise enough money locally to close the deal without any financial assistance from the national headquarters.

An interesting sequence of events is worth mentioning. I, as the president of the chapter, had a deep desire to have the closing done on a Friday, and the first congregational and Jum'a prayers to be held the same day. This was run by the missionary in charge at that time, Maulana Naseem Mahdi. He, however, suggested closing the deal a few days before Friday October 15, 2010 when he had agreed to come to lead the Friday prayers. This was suggested so that Jum'a prayers could be held without any issue. When it came down to finalizing the purchase, the closing was planned for Tuesday, October 12, 2010. However, the closing could not take place due to some legal issues. Then it was planned for Thursday, October 14, 2010 and again, due to

some glitch, closing could not take place. In the meantime, the previous owners were contacted unofficially to request for the keys of the building so that we could start cleaning the mosque in preparation for Friday prayers on October 15, 2010, as the missionary in-charge, Naseem Mahdi had confirmed to come and lead the Friday prayers that day. The owners were kind enough to give us the keys to clean up the mosque and make arrangements for Friday

prayer. We started to clean the mosque and prepare the rooms for prayers on Wednesday October 13, 2010. After reasonable cleaning had taken place, the first Congregational prayer took place at Maghrib time on Thursday, October 14, 2010. This technically was a Friday prayer as in Islamic lunar calendar, Friday starts after sunset on Thursday. The deal finally closed on Friday morning on October 15, 2010, and deed was filed with the city that same day. The

building was finally ours. The Friday prayers were held on the same day, led by Maulana Naseem Mahdi. Hence, it turned out that building deal was closed, first congregational prayer, and the first Jum'a prayer were all done on a Friday, as I had always wanted. Allahu Akbar. Later, Khalifat-ul-Masih V Mirza Masroor Ahmad named the building Masjid Mahdi, may Allah strengthen his hands.



Different views of Mahdi Mosque



First Jumū'ah on October 15, 2010 at Mahdi Mosque led by Missionary Naseem Mahdi

Participants from the first Jumū'ah held at Mahdi Mosque on October 15, 2010

Presidents:



Nasir Mahmood Khan (2005-2019)



Muhammad Zafar Iqbal
(2019 to date)

Missionaries for Buffalo Jamā'at

- Inamul Haq Kauser
- Yahya Luqman
- Zafar Sarwar
- Hamid Nasir Malik
- Adnan Ahmad

AI-MASROOR
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMA'AT
BUFFALO, NEW YORK, USA

FRIDGE MAGNET
Al-Masroor is for your whole family. Please print it and post it on your fridge so your remember when the events will take place.

JANUARY 2006
E-Mail: masroor@ahmadiyya.com
Composed by Anas Mangla

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 New Year Day School on 2nd grade back to meet	2	3	4	5	6	7 New Meeting - Children & Youth
8 Jalsa Mawjooz (1st Session) at 10:00 AM	9 Jalsa Mawjooz (2nd Session) at 10:00 AM	10	11 10th Anniversary	12	13	14
15 Tasbeeh (Khudhri/Arif) at 7:00 PM	16 Mawjooz (3rd Session) at 10:00 AM	17	18	19	20	21 Jalsa Mawjooz (4th Session) at 10:00 AM
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Tasbeeh (Khudhri/Arif) at 7:00 PM
29 Jalsa Mawjooz (5th Session) at 10:00 AM	30 Jalsa Mawjooz (6th Session) at 10:00 AM	31	<p>Understand Calendar and write e-letter to Huzur! Now you can write an email to Huzur! It's very simple. Go online at www.siladun.org and register.</p>			

Tehrik-e-Jadid & Waqf-e-Jadid

Reminder of blessed schemes

The new year has begun for the blessed schemes of Tehrik-e-Jadid & Waqf-e-Jadid. Hafiz Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V wishes that each one of the Jama'at members participate in these schemes. Please think about the enormous burden that we have for the Tameen & Tareeqat for the world. Make pledges for the blessed schemes as much as it is possible for you. Please make sure that all family members participate. Call Nadeem Khan Sahib Sec. Tehrik-e-Jadid & Waqf-e-Jadid @716-372-2000 with your pledges as soon as possible. Inshallah.

Message from Sadr Jama'at
Happy New Year

Sadr Jama'at Dr. Nadeem Khan Sahib writes:
Dear members of Jama'at Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, I wish you all a happy new year. May Allah bless you all with a prosperous and blessed new year and many more to come. Please pray for the prosperity and well being and success of our Jama'at, and remember me and my family in your prayers.

Understanding Calendar

25

- The birthday biggest number is the day of the month.
- An event will have a holiday point next to it. If it's just a day we celebrate, it won't.
- Some events may take place in the area. Members will be encouraged to participate if possible. These events may have a holiday but they will not be held. Other events are held and will be held. For these events other all members or auxiliary Majlis must participate.
- A "key" means that there is more information about this event in this newsletter.
- An national holiday or non-nation event will be listed in italic font. Need more information please email the composer of Al-Masroor.

Snow Shoeing

Majlis Atika & Khudhri-At-Ahmadiyya & Buffalo are going for snow shoeing. This event will take place on January 22 at 1 pm. So, if you're interested be there by 10 am, no later than that.
Place: www.snowshoeing.com
1433 Wash Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14153

It will cost only 5.00 per hand to get in, but please bring extra money for lunch. Bring your own lunch or money for it. All Khudhri and Atika are requested to participate. For directions or more information, please contact Qaid Majlis, Khudhri-At-Ahmadiyya.

Eid Mubarak

to all of you.
May this Eid bring more happiness in your lives.

Jalsa Mawjooz, Sala'at al-Eid will be offered on Wednesday 1/21/2006 at 10:00 AM at Dr. Nadeem Khan Sahib's residence at 58 Mt. Holyoke Ct., Getzville, NY 14068. Please call at 716-958-0751 or 716-308-1785 if you have any questions.
Please pay your \$4.00 before the Eid Prayers. Muhammad Ali, Sec. Please will be on site to collect it.

Image of first Newsletter of Buffalo Jama'at (courtesy of Anas Mangla):

Visit by Hafiz Fazle Rabbi in 2018

Buffalo Jama'at was fortunate to have a visit by Hafiz Fazle Rabbi from the UK, who held a very informative interactive session with the Jama'at members covering the 20 common mistakes committed at the time of recitation of the Holy Quran.



RECIATION of the Holy Qur'an

REMOVE 20 Most common Mistakes in just TWO HOURS

Join us to Learn Recitation of Holy Qur'an with Hafiz Fazle Rabbi Sahib, UK.

Hafiz Sahib is the National Secretary of Tareemul Qur'an and Waqf-e-Arifa, UK and is also teaching Comparison of Religious Studies and Tareem-ul-Quran, in Jama Ahmadiyya, UK. He is currently conducting a Hafiz Camp in Willingboro NJ and have graciously offered to visit few surrounding Jama'at's during his stay here in US.

Please mark your calendar to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn and increase your knowledge of Qur'an together.

Mahdi Mosque, Buffalo, NY
Day: Tuesday, August 14th
Time: 07:30pm - 09:30pm

TaOWA

Left: Participants of the session led by Hafiz Fazle Rabbi from UK
Right: Flyer of the session led by Hafiz Fazle Rabbi from the UK on August 14, 2018

External/outreach events:

Numerous external events have taken place in the Buffalo Jamā'at as part of her outreach efforts. These include the following:

1. Several Interfaith conferences held at the Mahdi Mosque, the Millennium Hotel in the city of Cheektowaga, NY, and University at Buffalo.
2. Jamā'at Outreach programs

have also been held at various places of worship and the University at Buffalo.

3. Annual Interfaith Eid dinner where guests were invited at the occasion of the Eid to intermingle with people belonging to a variety of faiths or no faith, and where a person was

recognized for their outstanding service to the community by receiving an award. First one was held in 2014 on the suggestion and with the guidance of Missionary Yahya Luqman.

4. We have regularly taken part at the 12-day long Erie County fair for over 10 years.



Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz attends Interfaith Eid Dinner at Mahdi Mosque and presents the award for outstanding community service on September 10, 2017

Interfaith Eid Dinner at Mahdi Mosque



Interfaith Eid Dinner at Mahdi Mosque



Interfaith Eid Dinner at Mahdi Mosque



Left: Missionary Naseem Mahdi & Rabbi Allen Podet at an Interfaith Conference held at the Millennium Hotel
Right: Missionary Adnan Ahmad speaking at interfaith conference held at the Millennium Hotel



Interfaith Conference Attendees Millennium Hotel



Interfaith Conference Attendees Millennium Hotel



Left: Interfaith Conference at Mahdi Mosque, Missionary Hamid Nasir Malik speaking
Right: Media Coverage of Interfaith Conference at Mahdi Mosque



Left: National Public Affairs Secretary Amjad Khan speaking at University at Buffalo.

Right: Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA Spokesperson Qasim Rashid speaking at University at Buffalo.



Left: Blood Drive at Mahdi Mosque, Dr. Nauman Tahir donating blood. Right: Blood Drive at Mahdi Mosque



At the occasion of 'Id in 2014



At the occasion of ʿĪd in 2019



The Erie County Fair Buffalo Jamā'at Booth.



The Erie County Fair Buffalo Jamā'at Booth (Asif Iqbal (L) and Tahir Bhatti (R))

(Nasir M. Khan. July 11, 2020)

New York: Long Island



Bait-ul-Huda

Introduction:

Long Island New York is the largest Island adjoining the contiguous United States, extending approximately 118 miles east-northeast from the mouth of the Hudson River. It is separated from the mainland on the north by the Long Island Sound and bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the south and the east. The East End of the island is made up of two forks. The North Fork is approximately 28 miles long, the southern-terminating at Montauk Point is about 44 miles in length. The two forks are separated by the Peconic and Gardiners Bays where Shelter Island and Gardiners Island are located.

Totalling 1,377 square miles of land area, Long Island, New York is divided into four counties: Kings (Brooklyn), Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk. Many people in the New York metropolitan area (even those in Queens and Brooklyn) use the term “Long Island” or “the island” to refer to Nassau and Suffolk counties only. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community have separate Jamā’at chapters in Queens and Brooklyn each.

Long Island has a rich cultural history. Native American tribes, including the Lenape have inhabited the island for thousands of years. Today their populations have mostly been replaced with the descendents of immigrants from around the world.

Long Island’s largest demographic is the Roman Catholic Caucasian population. African Americans make up 10% of the population and Latino Americans make up 15%. Eleven percent (11%) of Long Island residents are Jewish, more than doubling the Protestants population. The Muslim population in the US started to grow steadily since the 1980s as immigration from the Indian subcontinent grew. There are smaller pockets of African American, Turkish and Arab Muslims.

Early Ahmadi of Long Island

Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir and his family (1960)

Ghulam Mahmood and family (1964)

History/Membership:

The Long Island Chapter

formally got the status of a separate Jamā’at in 2004. Prior to that, the Chapter was part of the New York Chapter. Subchapters (halqas) existed at different times, under which members would congregate for smaller Jamā’at programs and Salat.

From the humble beginnings and the tajneed of over 100 members, Long Island Jamā’at has now grown to 424 members and growing.

Missionaries (2004-2021):

Maulana Inamul Haq Kauser (2004-2009) was the missionary incharge serving at the time Long Island Jamā’at was established in 2004. Under his guidance and service, the Jamā’at held its first general and Amila meeting at the Nasir residence. Long Island’s Mosque was also acquired during his tenure. He also was instrumental in helping the Jamā’at in raising funds for the Mosque project.

Maulana Daud Hanif served the Jamā’at from 2009-2018. Currently, Maulana Ehtisham Ul Haq Mahmood Kauser is the missionary in-charge.

Mosque/Mission:

From July 2004 to October 2004, the Jamā'at congregated at the Nasir residence, prior to the purchase of the Mosque. Bait-ul-Huda was acquired in October 2004 and has been the Jamā'at center since.

Khalifat-ul-Masih V graciously named the Long Island Jamā'at's masjid, "Bait-ul-Huda" located at 64 Union Avenue, Amityville, NY. It was originally a school but was serving as a church prior to the Jamā'at purchase in 2004.

Jamā'at Graveyard:

The greater New York Jamā'ats graveyard is located on Long Island at the Washington Memorial Park in Coram, NY. The first person to be buried here was Ghulam Mahmood in 1984. In 1989, a dedicated graveyard space for Jamā'at members was purchased. This dedicated section includes a special subsection for Moosiyān.

Eminent Visitors:

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV first visited Long Island in 1979, prior to his Khilafat, as part of a sightseeing tour with his family. During his stay, he stayed at the Syosset home of former missionary-in-charge, Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir. During his 1994 tour to the New York area, Khalifatul-Masih IV resided at the Nasir residence for five days.

Hazrat Sir Chaudhry Muhammad Zafrulla Khan stayed at the Nasir residence during his many visits to New York, beginning in 1960.

Sahibzada Mirza Wasim Ahmad, Nazir-e-A'la India, visited Long Island twice and offered prayers at the Jamā'at graveyard in Coram, NY.

Mir Mahmood Nasir, Principal Jāmi'a, visited several times staying at the home of his sister, Ansa Shaukat.

Abdullah Wagishauser, Amir Germany, visited Long Island twice. During his second visit, Wagishauser participated in the NYC Marathon.

Abid Khan, Tommy Kallon, Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad also visited.

Martyrs:

Martyr Nusrat Mahmood went to attend the marriage of his daughter in Karachi. Three days after the wedding, while en route to Jum'a prayers, the car he was sitting in was pelted by bullets. The shrapnel from the bullets lodged in his neck and he died weeks later from the injury. Khalifat-ul-Masih V (may Allah support him with His mighty help) spoke of his life during the Friday Sermon and offered his funeral services in absentia. Nusrat's new son-in-law was also assassinated in the attack.

Presidents of the Chapter:

Rizwan Alladin (2004-2007, 2020-present)

Arshad Janjua (2007-2019)

Adnan Asim Pasha (2019-2020)

Local / National Events:

When still part of the greater New York Jamā'at, the US Jalsa Salana was held in 1992 and 1993 at the New York Institute of Technology in Greenvale, NY on Long Island. This was the first Jalsa in some time where Masih Mau'ūd's langar (public kitchen) was established. The US Jalsa Salana has, since then, continued to use the Langer system for food preparation.

US Congressman Peter King has been a major friend to the Jamā'at. He was the co-chair of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Congressional Caucus and was instrumental in securing asylum for notable Ahmadīs in Pakistan. Honorable Peter King has visited Baitul Huda on a couple of occasions as well as member homes. US Congressman

Tom Suozzi has also been a strong and vocal supporter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. He, too, has visited Baitul Huda on several occasions.

Responding to the May 28, 2010 Lahore attacks, members of the Long Island Jamā'at were interviewed by Newsday. Likewise, the local news channel (News 12 Long Island) panel included three local Lajna members.

Many current and former members of the Long Island Jamā'at have had the opportunity to serve on the National Amila of the Jamā'at and auxiliaries.

Long Island Majlis

Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya:

In 2004, Majlis Khudammul Ahmadiyya held its Qā'ideen Refresher Course at Baitul Huda.

The Khilafat International sports tournament was conducted on Long Island in 2008.

In addition to these prominent events, MKA Long Island has also performed road cleanups under the Adopt-a-Highway program, having adopted Oak Avenue and Bayview Avenue in Amityville. Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya has also diligently taken responsibility for cleaning the Mens' Dining Hall each night during Ramadhan.

The following members have served as Qa'id in Long Island: Zeshan Hamid, Salaam Bhatti, Hashim Mumtaz, Hanan Malik, Umair Jamil, Mumtaz Ahmad, Abraheem Ahmad, Talha Alam, and Ameen Saleem.

Long Island Majlis

Ansarullah:

In 2013, the National Amila of Majlis Ansarullah was hosted here as well.

Majlis Ansarullah Long Island has held regular meetings and supported Jamā'at activities.

The following members have

served as Za'im Ansarullah of Long Island: Abdur Razaq Qureshi, Afzal Shah, Shahid Mubashir, Adnan Pasha, and Hamid Ahmad.

Long Island Lajna/Nāsirāt:

Local Lajna Sadrs:

Bushra Butt 2004-2007, Fehmida Shah 2007-2014, Jawaria Mobeen 2014-2016, Tahira Tanweer 2016-Present. Long Island residents Ruksana Nasser, Zakia Mahmood and Bushra Butt also served as Sadr Lajna for the New York Jamā'at prior to the start of the Long Island Jamā'at.

Long Island Lajna has always been at the forefront of Jamā'at activities. Over the years, Long Island Lajna has served the community both internally and externally. Some of the goals that were achieved internally include, but not limited to:

- providing financial help due to a job loss,
- helping the elderly and sick with limited resources,
- arranging help for mothers in need of babysitting and transportation,
- providing assistance to the new families moving to the area.

In 2005, National Lajna Shura was also held at Baitul Huda.

From 2006 onwards, Long Island has hosted the Lajna Regional Amla meeting several times.

Over the years Long Island Lajna has also strived to help the community outside of the Jamā'at. Several different food pantries, shelter homes and organizations were adopted. Among these organizations, St Martin's of Tours Church is permanently adopted.

Activities /Achievements of Long Island Lajna/Nāsirāt:

2018, 5000 rolls of toilet paper

were collected and donated to churches, food pantries and shelter homes.

In 2019 two blanket drives were held by Long Island Lajna. During the first drive 70 blankets, along with warm clothing was donated to the local community. Second drive was held to commemorate the centennial celebrations of Jamā'at, Lajna successfully collected and donated over 100 blankets to the local community.

Nāsirāt of Long Island have been holding toy drives during the holiday season. In 2017, gifts and toys were donated to sick children at Nassau Medical Center. In 2018 and 2019, toys, food and blankets were donated to Bethany House Shelter for children, and in 2020 toys and gifts were distributed to the kids in the local community.

During the election year 2020 Long Island Lajna donated 1000 bottles of water to four different locations of Long Island.

While in the middle of the pandemic Long Island Lajna held several food distribution events to help those in need. They successfully donated hundreds of bags filled with food items to those in need.

LI Lajna has hosted several Interfaith events. Guests from different religious backgrounds were invited to attend and to speak.

Brunch with the neighbors (women only) was organized every Sunday for the neighbors.

Humanity First:

Dr. Irfan Alladin is a Board Member of Humanity First USA.

Baitul Huda reserved space for the storage of donated clothing and blankets for humanitarian drives.

Hurricane Sandy impacted Long Island in 2012. Humanity First opened operations at Long Beach, NY to help with the clean-up.

MKA Walkathon was first held

in 2001 at Bethpage State Park. Funds were donated to Humanity First.

Publications/Media

Long Island Jamā'at published a monthly newsletter to Jamā'at members titled "Ahmadiville Times." The first editor was Syeda Khadija Ahmad.

Maulana Mahmood Kauser has periodically been featured in Newsday's "Asking the Clergy" column since 2017.

The Long Island Jamā'at was featured on the cover page of the Religion Section of the New York Times in 2005.

Irfan Alladin, Khullat Alladin, Aafia Alladin, and Rizwan Alladin had letters to the Editor published in Newsday on multiple occasions.

Rizwan Alladin's Letter to the Editor was published in Time magazine in 2012.

Adnan Pasha's article on Ramadan during Coronavirus Pandemic was published in Newsday on Mar 27, 2020

Tahir Academy/Principals 2004-2021:

Naeem Ahmad, Fehmida Shah, Khadija Ahmad, Qanta Ahmad, and Mehtab Alladin.

In 2004, Long Island Jamā'at initiated their own classes for the children's spiritual training under the Ta'lim Department. The classes continued until the establishment of Tahir Academy. In 2008, a Khilafatul Centennial program under Tahir Academy was held at Blydenburgh County Park. The Long Island Tahir Academy came in first position of all the NY Jamā'ats.

Starting with 18 students, Long Island Tahir Academy has now grown to 55 students, with a staff of 18 teachers.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Long Island Tahir Academy

received a Nusrat Jahan Center of Excellence Honorable Mention.

Prominent Members:

Scientists: Tahira Tanweer PhD is an archeologist and performed her internship at the Museum of Natural History

Scholars: Khalil Ahmad Nasir PhD was appointed the Director of the International Studies Program at the C.W. Post College at Long Island University. He was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Iftikhar Ahmad was a professor of Political Science at CW Post College at Long Island University.

Artists: Khurshid Alam Saleem is an accomplished artist. He received several prestigious awards including the Olympic Medal and Torch as an invited artist from the USA at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Doctors: Long Island has been the home of many accomplished physicians who specialize in primary

care, pediatrics, anesthesia, proctology, psychiatry, pain management and rehabilitation, and gynecology/obstetrics. Many of the US Jamā'at's prominent doctors completed their residencies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and Old Westbury before relocating elsewhere in the US.

Public Service: Zafar Chaudhry, the first Chief of Air Staff of Pakistan Air Force, lived on Long Island in the late 1970s.

Zainab Ahmad served as Assistant District US Attorney of the Eastern District of New York. She later served on special counsel Robert Mueller's team to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 US presidential elections.

Nasrin Ahmad was the first Ahmadi Muslim woman in the US to be elected to public office. She served as the Town Clerk for the Town of Hempstead from 2013-2017.

Business: Zeshan Hamid, restaurant owner of Shaheen restaurant. He has led many civic associations for Nassau County and Town of Oyster Bay to help support minority-owned businesses flourish.

Rizwan Hamid is the restaurant owner of Al-Naimat restaurant.

Asad Bajwa is the restaurant owner for Chickys restaurant.

Saleem Khan, Arslan Ahmad, Mohammed Salman, Hamid Ahmad, and Khwaja Khalil have successfully owned their own construction management businesses.

Naeem and Zarina Ahmad have taught many Jamā'at members how to drive with their family-owned driving school.

Many other members of this Jamā'at have launched their own successful ventures in healthcare, HVAC and retail, serving their communities.



Long Island graveyard

New York: New York City

The City of New York, usually known as either New York City (NYC), or simply New York (NY), is the most populous city in the United States. With an estimated 2018 population of 8,398,748 distributed over about 302.6 square miles (784

km²), New York is also the most densely populated major city in the United States. Located at the southern tip of the U.S. state of New York, the city is the center of the New York metropolitan area, the largest metropolitan area in the world by

urban landmass. With almost 20 million people in its metropolitan statistical area and approximately 23 million in its combined statistical area, it is one of the world's most populous megacities. (Wikipedia)

First American Ahmadi Muslims

The Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, writes about the first American convert, "In recent times a respected American; a resident of New York City who is in United States of America whose given name is F.L. Andersen (Number 202-200 Worth Street) has accepted Islam; after which his name was given as Hasan. He is part of our community, meaning that he has joined the Ahmadiyya order and he has written a letter with his own hands entering his name in this Community and he reads our books which have been translated into English and he is able to read the Quran in Arabic and he can write [it] as well."

Mufti Muhammad Sadiq wrote, "I must add here the name of my dear Brother Mirza Ahmad F. L. Andersen, the first Ahmadi Moslem of this country." We are thankful to

all the friends who have helped us in securing subscribers to the Moslem Sunrise-- for example we mention the names of some of such patrons: Mr. J.L. Mott, Mrs. Z.F. Eldeen, Mrs. Mike Abraham, Mrs. Alberto, Mr. L. Roman; Mr. Andrew Jacob, Mr. Elias Russell, Mirza Ahmad Anderson, Mme. Rahatullah, Shaikh Mr. M. Karroub (who purchased 25 copies)." "The First American Ahmadi Moslem. [Mr. F.L. Andersen; pictured at right] First corresponded with me in the year 1901 and joined our faith. He is in the First Scientific Station, New York City."

"To Dr. Sadiq belongs all praise, because he has shown to the world that Islam is not a dead but very much alive religion. The Moslem Sunrise enlightens the public about the Turks and Arabs and proves that we have been misinformed about

them. The Turks are cultured, and the Arabs are not fanatical... In fact, everybody knows that culture comes from the East. The Ahmadiyya Movement which has abolished the irrational doctrine of the Jihad, is bound to bring Islam into all parts of the world hitherto untouched by it. May it be the same comfort to other as it has been to me." Achmet Anderson, New York City"⁷⁶ After mentioning Mirza Ahmad Hasan it is also important to note another convert, Charles Sievwright who, although he did not convert in the United States but actually journeyed from Australia to Qadian, India to take the initiation at the hands of the Promised Messiah, but he did later move to the United States in 1910 and eventually settled in the Los Angeles area. He was given the name, Muhammad Abd-ul-Haq.

Siddica-tun-Nisa Rahatullah Thana Devoted to the Propagation of Islam

It seems quite apparent that the converts to Islam in America are becoming more and more conscious and well-grounded in the observance of the Islamic duties, ceremonies and rites as the years roll by."

Birth Name: Madam Ella May Garber

Muslim Name: Siddica-tun Nisa Rahatullah Thana

Origin: Michigan

Conversion: Before July 1921

Converted by: Mufti Muhammad Sadiq

She writes: "I was born in the state of Indiana, U.S. America, on a beautiful farm where the trees and flowers welcomed me into this world; I had a twin sister who died at birth. My mother a beautiful soul passed away at the age of 23. Her last words were that she was willing to go if she but knew her little girl would grow up to be a good woman. My father looked after my welfare and

placed me in the hands of my grandparents until I had reached the age of 10 years; he then married again; I was taken to his home. My life was a lonely one, always craving for something I knew not what. I married at the age of 15, a darling baby boy was born to me, he is now living, and his name (Basheer) is at the Ahmadiyya headquarters. My marriage was not a success, I was still longing for that something I knew not what. I travelled a great deal from coast to coast, I studied

music later. I entered the college in San Francisco, taking up the study of elocution; literature and oratory. I plunged into all sorts of studies and read books of every description. My mind was on fire; I began to realize it was knowledge I was craving. The sufferings I have passed through that I might learn are better untold. I first found Islam through the Sufi Path, its beauties were presented to me through the Sufi poets, I have always loved the beautiful and I longed to find the beautiful in everything in life. It was in 1910 that I first began to see Islam's light, not in a very serious way. I was only groping but read and prayed and worked. A glorious Muslim Sunrise First Quarter 1940 teacher of light came into my life in 1915, the late Sheikh Mohammad Majid Gilani, who had been sent to the Philippine Islands by the Sultan of Turkey. He lifted me far above this world, so it seemed to me, but just in the midst of my exaltation Allah called him away from this world. He died May 6, 1916, in Richmond, VA. In one letter he said to me, 'Your salvation now depends upon your actions towards those who see the light of faith through you.' May Allah shower his blessings upon his soul. I lived only for him after his departure for over two years then a dear soul was sent to lift my soul again. It was our Mufti Dr. M. M. Sadiq. I felt his kindness and his mercy; I knew he was a friend, a master and a savior. I joined his movement and assisted him in his work. He has shown me the true path, the path which knows no failure. The submission to one God, the only power which never fails, and which never dies."

She remained a follower of the faith and practiced to her utmost devotion to the spread of the message of Islam in the New York City in the early years. Not only did she propagate Islam with her one-to-one meetings with residents of New York, but also had mastery in speaking and lecturing. Some of her most prominent her assistance of the first missionary, she also participated in dispatching and correspondence written to the Mufti. Her skills did not end at her mere ability to speak, but she was extremely proficient in writing as well. Ḥaḍrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) states, "To Keep a New Year's day is no Moslem ceremony, but just to respect the feelings of the people in which we have to work, I wrote New Year's greetings which were turned into verse by the learned Madam Rahamtullah (Mrs. Garber) and printed in green colour, it was sent along with some literature on Islam to all the Kings and Presidents in the World, the officials and noted men and women in United States, especially in Chicago. Following is a copy of that message: I wish you all happiness in the new Year; And may you attain all the Blessings, my dear, Which Allah the Gracious has ordained to send, Through Ahmad, the Guide, the Prophet, the Friend, And his Master and Teacher Muhammad, the Elect, Who was the Prophet, the most Perfect." Again, regarding her efforts in New York as well as her contribution to the Muslim Sunrise, Ḥaḍrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (ra) states, "Madame Rahatullah has been busy in New York making people interested in Islam and has already

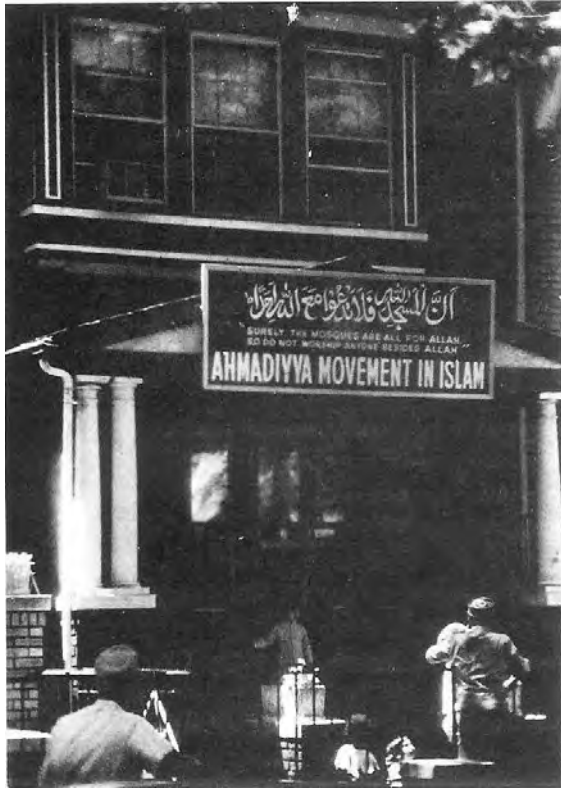
secured one American convert to Islam and one Moslem to the Ahmadi Order. Her enthusiastic little article on Islam appears in this magazine on page 39. Madam will start lecture in New York assisted by Mrs. Emerson (Allahdin) of Oriental shop there." Not only did Rahatullah extend her hand for the services of Islam but also reaped the reward in various ways. One most prompt response to her efforts was the conversion of many among the citizens of New York. It is stated, "Madam Rahatullah sends the names of two new converts from New York." And after her, Detroit by 1923. Concerning her life after moving to Highland Park, Detroit, Rahatullah ends her lifelong struggles and trials with the following words, "I am happy to be an Ahmadi, I have worried at times, but I now find it is the only path for me. He has given me a noble, pure minded man for a husband. We were joined in holy wedlock February 6, 1922 in Highland Park, Mich. He is an Arabian born near Damascus in Syria: his name is Mustapha Thaha and may God give him the power to become a leader among the people. Sept. 1, 1922 (Rahatullah)" Muslim Sunrise 1921 issue 2 page 36, Muslim Sunrise 1922 issue 1 page 64, Muslim Sunrise 1922 issue 4 page 146. Promised Messiah First Ahmadi (ever) of America, mentioned in Malfuzat/Braheen-e-Ahmadiyya – F.L. Anderson, New York City, Alexander Webb, (didn't remain Ahmadi), returned, he represented Islam at the World Religions Parliament in New York City (Muslim Sunrise First Quarter 1940).

Visits of Ahmadi Khalifas

Khalifat-ul-Masih III, IV visited New York in 1976 and October 1987 respectively.



Left: Abid Hanif (sitting first from right) with the elders and presidents of NE region at the farewell to missionary-in-charge Aṭṭaullah Kaleem and welcome to Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad. Right: Reception for Sir Zafrulla Khan in NY in 1981.



The mission house at 1064 Union Street in Brooklyn NY



The entire Bush family extends heartfelt thanks for your kind words. Though humbled by the awesome responsibilities before us, we look forward to the opportunity to work for a better America and for freedom throughout the world. That path to the future can only be accomplished with the help and commitment of people like you.

Barbara Bush George W. Bush



Left: Compliments from Bush family. Right: Tahir Academy 4 June 2016

Missionaries stationed at New York

Mufti Muhammad Sadiq had his first offices in New York City in 1921.
 Ghulam Yasin 1947-1956
 Nurul Huq Anwar 1956-1960

Abdul Qadir Zaigham 1959-1960
 Muhammad Siddique Shahid 1973-1976
 Masood Jhelumī 1976-1980
 Major Abdul Hameed 1980-1983
 M. Inamul Huq Kausar 1984-

1992
 Mukhtar A. Cheema 1992-1996
 Daud Hanif 1996
 M. Maqbool Ahmad Quraishi and Mian Muhammad Ibrahim served for short duration.

Presidents of New York

Brother Abid Hanif 1956-1959
 Brother Muhammad Sadiq 1959
 From 1962 to 1973, Br. M. Sadiq and Br. Bashir Afzal alternated as President and Financial Secretary.
 Brother Bashir Afzal 1962, 1973-80
 Brother Abdul Sami 1980-1
 Brother Omar Bilal Ibrahim 1981-2
 Brother Nazir Ahmad Ayaz 1983-

Mission Houses

1. 138 Street, West, Manhattan, N.Y. 1947
 2. 115 West 116 Street, N.Y. 1948-1954
 265 West 730 Street, Manhattan, N.Y. 1954-1957
 118 West 87 Street, Manhattan, N.Y. 1957-1960
 147-20 Archer Ave. Jamaica, Queens, N.Y. 1960-1973
 1604 Union Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 1973-1984

Bait-ul-Zafar, Queens, N.Y. Since 1985 Bait-uz-Zafar, Long Island, Bronx, Brooklyn DC, and NY buildings were offered by Ch. Zafrullah Khan to Jamā'at Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque (three mosques)

Original Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque was tri-state Mosque (then Rochester, Clifton) Expansion of Jamā'ats Include other established Jamā'ats Include other Sadr Jamā'ats.

Prominent Personalities

Muhammad Zafrulla Khan
 Dr. Abdus Salam
 Dr. Syed Barakat Ahmad
 Mr. Amri Obaidi
 Nabeel Munir

Presidents of Lajna Ima'illa

Sis. Mariam Sadiq 1950-2

Sis. Saleha Hanif 1953-4
 Sis. Mariam Sadiq 1954-5
 Sis. Saeeda Latif 1956-7
 Sis. Jamila Afzal 1958-60
 Sis. Alia Shaheed 1961-mid Seventies
 Sis. Ruxana Naser 1981-6
 Sis. Zakia Mahmood 1987-

Za'eems of Majlis Ansarullah

Muhammad Sadiq 1960s
 Salim Nasir 1970s
 Salim Ahmad 1982-4
 Zinda Mahmud Bajwa 1984-6
 Muhammad Sharif 1986-

Qa'ids of Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, NY

Muhammad Sadiq First Quaid
 Abid Hanif 1958
 Abdul Hadi Nasir 1969
 Nooruddin Jalal 1973-5
 Sheikh Bashir 1975-80
 Rafi Ahmad 1980-4
 Zafar Malik 1984-5
 Tahir Hameed 1985-8
 Waheed Rushdi 1989



Jalaluddin Latif, Qa'id New York, at the Annual Convention 1976

Achievements

Ahmadiyya Way
 Khalifat-ul-Masih IV Shura in NYC
 Khalifat-ul-Masih III came to NYC
 Ch. Zafrulla Khan came to NYC
 Dr. Abdus Salaam came to NYC
 Abid Haneef stories about NYC

Mohsin Mahmud devotion
 Guest House (and Brooklyn and Bronx)
 2004 Staten Island National Ijtimā
 Billboard
 'Alam-i-In'āmī of New York Majalis plus 3 Sadran (Sadrs) of MKA from New York City.

Bait-uz-Zafar Inauguration:

On October 12th, 2008, the inauguration of Bait-uz-Zafar took place in New York City. The event, attended by about 100 guests including senators, congressmen, assemblymen, clergy, and neighbors, showcased a diverse crowd of Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims. The mosque, purchased earlier this year, had been a Jewish synagogue. Many members of the previous synagogue, Temple Israel, attended the ceremony, expressing their hopes that the building would serve the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (AMC) well. The speakers emphasized the diversity of the location of the new mosque: Queens, NY, where it was common to find a Korean church, a mosque, a Hindu temple, and a Jewish synagogue all in a single neighborhood. Congressman Anthony Weiner stressed the importance of celebrating the opening of a house of worship. Asad Bajwa from the AMC welcomed all neighbors to freely visit the new mosque to worship their creator. Several other speakers congratulated the AMC and the work they have done for the community. The keynote address, delivered by Nā'ib Amir, Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah, emphasized the Promised Messiah's message of brotherhood and living harmoniously with people of all religions. The event, covered by local media, successfully brought together the diversity of the area to celebrate the opening of a new mosque.

New York: Rochester



Introduction

Rochester is a city on the southern shore of Lake Ontario in western New York and the seat of Monroe County. With a population of 208,046, Rochester is the third most populous city in New York

state, after New York City and Buffalo. The metropolitan area has a population of just over one million people.

Rochester is situated in the northern most part of the New York

state. The headquarters of Kodak, Xerox and Bausch and Lomb are in Rochester and make it famous. It is about 330 miles from New York city. City of Buffalo is about 75 miles west of Rochester and city of Syracuse is

about 70 miles east.

Chapter History

Prior to 1980s, all of the NY state was part of the greater New York Jamā'at including some parts of New Jersey and Connecticut. Over time, the Greater NY chapter has been split into many new chapters.

Democrat and Chronicle is the famous local newspaper from the area. The Promised Messiah has mentioned this newspaper in the list of newspapers where his prophecy about Dowie from Zion was printed.

The history of Rochester Chapter started in late 1970s when some Ahmadis migrated to Rochester and Buffalo. At the same time, there was one Ahmadi family in Syracuse and one in Utica. It is not clearly known when the first Ahmadi family moved to Binghamton. There was one family in Buffalo. Rochester had attracted three families. Slowly more and more Ahmadis moved to these areas and they started to socialize and started having religious functions commonly called "Jamā'at Meetings." All members were in connection with the NY Jamā'at and sent their financial donations (Chanda) to New York Chapter. All these members were young students, struggling to settle down. Some of them, having finished their studies, had started their jobs. Soon, some of their parents, some of them retired and free, moved to Rochester. The monthly meetings became more and more formal and less and less social gatherings. The members were happy to have these meetings regularly and in different towns. In Binghamton this month and in Syracuse the next month.

The migration of Syed Sharif Ahmed from California and Choudhry Abdul Majid from Pakistan in early 1980s was a consequential event. It became the main stimulus that resulted in the formation of the Rochester Chapter.

Albany was already a separate Chapter by the time. It was decided that members living in all other towns in upstate New York will be included in Rochester Chapter.

In 1983, respected Nazir Ayaz, President of the greater NY Chapter, came to Rochester. The members had gathered for the monthly meeting. He informed the members about the Rochester Chapter. He informed that the center had nominated the following three office holders for the newly formed Chapter:

Naseer A. Tahir as President.

Sardar Rafiq Ahmad as General Secretary.

Mahmood Ahmad as Finance secretary.

A few months later, the elections were held, and the same members were elected for the offices for the term. And so the Rochester Chapter came into existence.

The meetings and other functions were held in the homes of the members and moved from town to town, sometimes in Syracuse or Utica or Binghamton or Buffalo, less commonly in Willard or Wellsville or Oswego. At times we rented the local library halls or other town facilities to hold monthly functions and other functions like Eid day celebration. We also got together for social gatherings.

We knew that this routine could not continue as such and soon we would need a place of worship. We started to look around and found it to be a difficult task. Either the facilities were too expensive or not suitable for the needs. The members of the Rochester Chapter kept on looking. We must have seen over 20 properties.

We saw an old campground in

Canandaigua. Several acres of farmland in Penfield that would be good for a mosque and Ahmadi homes. An old Church in Penfield that we could renovate. They were all too expensive.

Then finally in 1989 we found a small building, centrally located, about 1,200 square feet, on sale only for \$47,000. We thought we have found a place, which we could afford, and it was in residential neighborhood and would be safe. After consultations with members, we decided to purchase it.

Missionary Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad, Ameer Jamā'at USA and missionary in charge, a loving father figure, a role model, and walking example of living piety for many of us younger members (May Allah grant him highest status in Heavens) took personal interest. A grant of \$25,000 was approved by the Khalifat-ul-Masih IV. We wrote Khalifat-ul-Masih requesting for prayers, and we mentioned that we had found a place that might be good for us but we were not able to afford it, as we were short by about \$25,000. Very kindly, Khalifat-ul-Masih accepted our request, and we were able to buy the small building.

We acquired the small building on the corner of Merchants and Wyand-Crescent streets in 1989, renovated it, and it became our Jamā'at center for many years to come.

We were so excited that we invited Khalifat-ul-Masih IV to visit us. He graciously accepted our invitation. He inaugurated Bait-un-Naseer Mosque in Rochester in March of 1989. We claimed it to be the first mosque in the second century of Ahmadiyyat that was inaugurated by him.

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV's visit in

1989 was indeed the greatest occasion for all of us. I remember distinctly and still feel like it happened yesterday, the energy, the zeal, the enthusiasm, the togetherness, the teamwork and untiring efforts of all members. I have pictures of young members washing the walls of the newly acquired place, scrubbing floors late afternoons, painting windows and doors, day after day, eagerly awaiting the arrival of Khalifat-ul-Masih IV.

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV stopped for a night in Rochester on his way from Toronto to Albany and then to New York City. The mosque Bait-un-Naseer came into existence. The visit of Khalifatul-Masih IV was covered in local newspaper and the TV stations.

For many years, this small building was the mosque for the Northeast New York area called Rochester Chapter. Naseer A. Tahir was president of the Chapter from 1983 to 2001.

In 2001, Dr. Abdul Hakeem Nasar was elected as the president of the Chapter. More and more members had migrated to the cities in the northeast New York state, and the numbers of members had increased, and it was decided to make new chapters.

Over next few years, the Rochester Chapter was split into:

- Buffalo Chapter.
- Binghamton Chapter.
- Syracuse Chapter.
- Rochester Chapter.

In 2004, Naseer Tahir was the Chapter President again.

In 2006, we were able to purchase a very nice 11,000 Sq. Ft building. Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar,

Ameer USA, came at the time of Muşliḥ Mau'ūd Day meeting and inaugurated the mosque.

That building is the mosque for Rochester Chapter. There are mosques in each of the Chapters in the northeast area.

Missionary Yahya Luqman was the first missionary assigned to Rochester Chapter in 2006.

Missionary Zafar Sarwar was next missionary, and he was followed by Missionary Yahya Luqman again.

Hamid Malik was assigned next and then Adnan Ahmad who is the current missionary.

Missionary Inamul Haq Kausar, currently Ameer of Australia Jamā'at, was the regional missionary of Northeast Region including Rochester in 2004. We did not have a local missionary at that time. He was instrumental in our guidance at the time of the purchase of the current mosque building. We would have thought the building to be too big for us. He encouraged us and guided us at every step. May Allah reward him for his contribution.

Jamā'at Presidents

Naseer A. Tahir from 1983 to 2001.

Abdul Hakeem Nasar from 2001 to 2004.

Naseer A. Tahir from 2004 to 2019.

Mubarak Bashir is the current Chapter president.

Size of the Chapter

The total number of members was 30 in 1983. It slowly increased to 100 or more.

In 1984 Rochester Chapter was split into two chapters and later they were also split again. At present the

Rochester Chapter of 1983 is split into Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse and Binghamton. Each of these Chapters has a mosque and the membership is about 100 in each chapter.

Tahir Academy.

With the grace of Allah, we have Tahir Academy established and running smoothly for last few years. Dr. Hanan Malik is the principal and under his planning and guidance it has become very productive and fruitful. Current enrolment is 18.

Refugees

The unrestful period in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1992-95 resulted in several Muslim refugees. Rochester Chapter was able to sponsor four Bosnian families and one family from Afghanistan.

Public Farm Market

Rochester Chapter is running a successful bookstall at the local farm market regularly on Saturdays. With personal struggle and hard work by Mubarak Bashir (at Present Chapter President) this project was started and established and proved to be fruitful.

Regional Functions

Rochester Chapter has hosted a number of Northeast Regional functions including Ijtimas of Lajna, Khuddām, Atfāl and holding of Quran classes.

Rochester Chapter has been blessed with many dedicated and hardworking workers. Those who are ever ready to offer time as needed. They gather at a moment's notice and do whatever is needed to be done. Being the strength of Rochester Chapter, the zeal of volunteerism is alive and always in action.

New York: Syracuse



Replica of Manarat-ul-Masih at Bait-ul-Ihsan Mosque



Left. Badar Munir Ahmad managing the stall. Right. Naeem Chaudari, Badar Munir Ahmad at the stall

The city of Syracuse is located 275 miles Northwest of New York City. The region is known as Central New York. The weather is very cold in the winter with an average snow of 115 inches a year. The summer is very pleasant.

At the 2010 census, the city population was 145,252, and its area had a population of 662,577. It is the economic and educational hub of Central New York, a region with over one million inhabitants.

Syracuse was named after the classical Greek city Syracuse

(Siracusa in Italian), a city on the eastern coast of the Italian island of Sicily.

In 1990 Rochester NY chapter was split into three Halqas (circles, subchapters), Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse. Syracuse Circle included Syracuse, Binghamton, and Utica. Halqa In-Charge was Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal. Halqa meetings were held in different member's houses by rotation. Regular Friday services were started in 1994 at Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal's residence and continued

until the Mosque was purchased in 2005.

In September 2003, Rochester NY chapter was split into two, Rochester and Syracuse. Rochester chapter included Rochester and Buffalo. Syracuse chapter included Syracuse, Binghamton, and Utica. First Syracuse chapter president was Dr. Abdul Hakeem Nasar.

Initially Syracuse chapter rented a church for its monthly meetings.

SYRACUSE MOSQUE

In 2005, an office building on

highway I-90 in the town of East Syracuse was purchased as the mosque. There were several small rooms and bathrooms for both gents and ladies next to each other. Building needed internal remodeling befitting to the needs of the mosque.

In 2007, Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal was elected as president

Remodeling planning started in 2008 and after approval and release of funds, work on project started in summer of 2009 and completed in summer of 2010. The opening ceremony of the remodeled mosque was officially held on May 23, 2010 by then Na'ib Ameer and Missionary In-Charge Maulana Naseem Mahdi when he graced the regional Khilafat Day celebrations of Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse chapters held in Syracuse mosque.

In 2010, Dr. Abdul Hakeem Nasar was elected president again.

In 2011, Binghamton members separated to form Binghamton Chapter.

In 2013, Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal was elected president

In 2016, Naeem Ahmad Chaudari was elected President and holds the office to date.

DOME and MINARET

When we purchased the mosque building in 2005, the one attraction was a neon sign on the back wall facing the highway I-90. Then regional missionary Maulana

Inamul Haque Kausar saw the building and neon sign at night and highly recommended to acquire the property. When we asked the town for approval of our sign, town declined citing change in the town code. We kept trying for several years without avail.

Finally, we decided to try an alternative to the neon sign in the form of putting a Dome and a Minaret. After getting approval of funds and approval from town board, I, with help and guidance of Chaudary Aatur Rehman of Binghamton NY and President of IAAE in Rabwah Shaikh Harris signed a contract for the construction of minaret and dome with an Ahmadi builder in Faisalabad Pakistan. Shipment of Dome and minaret was received, and installation completed by late 2016. The Minaret is a replica of Manarat-ul-Masih in Qadian

Syracuse is a small chapter with 18 families and current membership of 66. The families are spread out mainly between Syracuse and Utica. The city of Utica is about 45 miles east of Syracuse.

Chapter Activities
Syracuse regional market stall

Since 2005, the chapter has been holding an Outreach Stall every Saturday at the Regional Market from 7:00 am to 1:30 pm. This activity has been going on regularly,

sunshine or snow, barring any Jamā'at function. The main credit for the continuous regularity is the hard work of Badar Munir Ahmad.

Periodic Tabligh meetings at Syracuse university have been held. Periodic interfaith meetings are held at different venues.

“Pathway to Peace” by Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V was presented to US Congressman, Dan Maffie, in his office on February 01, 2014 along with a presentation by Jamā'at delegate led by President Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal.

Blood Drives

In the spirit of “Muslims for Life” blood drives are being held regularly since 2006 in association with local red cross society.

July 04 yearly celebrations:

Participating every year since 2014 in a local 4th of July Parade with the banner of ‘Muslims for Loyalty.’

Majlis Ansarullah Syracuse, under the leadership of Za'im Ansarullah, Rafi Ahmad, has achieved the following distinction:

- 2016: First Position Small Majalis
- 2017: First Position Small Majalis
- 2018: Alam-e-In'amī
- 2019: First Position Small Majalis



Outreach and interfaith meetings.



Left: Camil Cerimovic, Rafi Ahmad, Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Dan Maffie, Tahir Ahmad, Mirza Naseer Ahmad
Right: Naeem Chaudari, Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Anees Ahmad Mirza



Left: Rafi Ahmad Za'eem Ansarullah with 'Alam-e-In'āmi

Right: Rafi Ahmad, Naeem Chaudari, Salih Drljic, Camil Cerimovic



Syracuse Ansar at Bait-ul-Ihsan Mosque on August 10, 2012.

Since the establishment of the Jamā'at the following have served as the President:

Dr. Abdul Hakeem Nasar: Sept. 2003-June 30, 2007 and July 01, 2010-June 30, 2013

Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal: July 01, 2007-June 30, 2010, and July 01, 2013-June 30, 2016

Naeem Ahmad Chaudari: July 01, 2016, to date



Left to right: Dr. Abdul Hakeem Nasar. Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal. Naeem Ahmad Chaudari

Syracuse Jamā'at had no resident Missionaries but has been benefiting and guided by the following Regional Missionaries: Daud Ahmed Hanif, Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser, Missionary Yahya Luqman, Missionary Zafar Ahmad Sarwar, Missionary Hamid Nasir Malik, Missionary Adnan Ahmad

Presidents Lajna Ima'illah

Uzma Khalid: 2003-2008

Amtul Basir Nasar: 2008-2012

Safeta Cerimovic: 2012-2018

Jamila Noreen Ahmad: 2018 to present

Za'im Ansarullah:

Naveed Malik: 2004-2009

Badar Munir Ahmad: 2010-2011

Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal: 2012

Rafi Ahmad: 2013-2019

Badar Munir Ahmad: 2020-present

Qa'id Khuddam-ul-

Ahmadiyya

Maqbool Ahmad: 2004-2006

Naseem Ahmad: 2006-2009

Dr. Usman Ahmad: 2009-2011

Camil Cerimovic: 2011-2016

Faheem Nasar: 2016-2020

Farzam Ahmad: 2020 to present

(Naeem Ahmad Chaudari)

North Carolina: Charlotte



Charlotte is the most populous city in the U.S. state of North Carolina. In 2018, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated the population was 872,498, making it the 16th-most populous city in the United States.

It is listed as a “gamma” global city by the Globalization and World Cities Research Network. Residents are referred to as “Charlottes.” (From worldwide web)

Charlotte Chapter was

established in September 1992. It covers the Western part of North Carolina (Charlotte, High Point, Asheville, Concord, Huntersville, Statesville) and the northern part of South Carolina (Rock Hill, Gaffney, Greenville, Columbia).



Members with Missionary-in-Charge, Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad

North Carolina: Research Triangle

History of the Research Triangle Chapter

The Research Triangle Chapter was established in 1995 and area covered by this chapter is Eastern part of North Carolina (all areas east of Greensboro, Sanford, Fayetteville, and Wilmington). Research Triangle Park (RTP) is the largest research park in the world. It is located near Durham, Raleigh and Chapel Hill, in the Research Triangle region of North Carolina. A small part of the Park stretches into Wake County,

but most of the land is in Durham County. It is one of the most prominent high-tech research and development centers in the United States and is often compared to Silicon Valley. It was created in 1959 by state and local governments, nearby universities, and local business interests. The Park is 7,000 acres (28 km).

The Research Triangle Chapter

(RTJ or RT Jamā'at) is in North Carolina. Three main cities Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill along with the business corridor between these cities called "Research Triangle Park" in North Carolina is part of this Chapter. Other cities that are also part of this Chapter are Burlington, Wilmington, Greenville, Rocky Mount, and Fayetteville along with smaller towns in between.

Inception of the Research Triangle Chapter

Before the establishment of the Research Triangle Chapter in 1995, Ahmadi living in the area covered by this chapter area were part of the Charlotte Chapter. They would travel to Charlotte Mission house, close to 160 miles, to participate in the Jamā'at events.

With collective efforts by Ahmadi families residing in the area, approval was granted by the President of Charlotte Chapter to form the Research Triangle as a Halqa (subchapter) in mid-1994. Initially, weekly Friday Prayers and monthly Halqa (circle) meetings were held in Research Triangle Jamā'at in the homes of the following families: Wajeeh Bajwa and Rafiq A. Sayed.

On February 18, 1995, Amir Jamā'at USA, approved establishing Research Triangle Chapter. In April 2005, an election for the Chapter office bearers was conducted by Missionary Mubasher Ahmad, regional missionary. However, the formal approval of the office bearers was granted by Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih IV on August 22, 1995. The first meeting of the Research Triangle Chapter was convened at the house of Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa on July 15, 1995, and celebrated with prayers.

The following members were approved as the office bearers for the term July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1998:

President: Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa

General Secretary: Rafiq A. Sayed

Tabligh Secretary: Dr. Rashid A. Azam

Tarbiyat Secretary: Dr. Rashid A. Azam

Ta'lim Secretary: Dr. Rashid A. Azam

Finance Secretary: Zaheer A. Bajwa

In 2008, the RTP Chapter rented its first Jamā'at center to hold Jum'a (Friday Services) and all Jamā'at activities.

In 2016 a significant number of families were placed in RTP Chapter through four different Refugee Resettlement agencies from the RTP area. Membership of 120 turned to 195 in a matter of a few years. Families from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Malaysia, China and Thailand were settled in the Durham and Raleigh area. The Chapter was challenged in helping the new families settle on many fronts including housing, transportation, jobs and financial support. RTP Chapter started working very closely with all the Refugee Resettlement agencies to

better understand their support system and supplement the gaps. The Resettlement agencies welcomed the help the Jamā'at offered and became strong partners in settling the families from Pakistan.

Transportation became a big challenge, as most families did not have driving experience along with difficulty with the language to take the written driving test. With the help of Farooq Ahmad Chaudhry, a large portion of the Driver's Education book was transliterated in Urdu so the families can understand the driving rules and laws. Asaf Mirza, who accompanied many families as a translator in taking the driving test, provided another critical help. Naveed Ahmad, a refugee from Sri Lanka offered to give driving lessons to families and with the combination of the effort by Farooq, Asaf and Naveed, majority of the families secured their driver's license within a few months.

We were faced with the challenge of helping the families get a reliable and affordable car. Naveed Azam was critical in identifying Wheels for Hope, an agency that helped provide a car for deserving families for just \$610. Respected Ameer (Mirza Maghfoor

Ahmad) offered \$10,000 from National funds to RTP Chapter to provide loans to the families to purchase cars. The Jamā'at had established a process where the family was able to get a license and a car within three months of their arrival date, which was unprecedented according to the Refugee Resettlement agencies. RTP Chapter was asked to participate in the quarterly meetings of the Directors of Refugee Resettlement agencies to share and guide the agencies in overcoming the challenges they were facing in settling other families. Due to this close partnership with the Refugee

Resettlement agencies, RTP Chapter nominated Lutheran Services of America to receive Annual Ahmadiyya Humanitarian award at Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention) USA in 2017. It is noteworthy to mention that many Jamā'at members helped the new families settle in various capacities. RTP Chapter benefitted immensely with the new families from Pakistan in all fronts.

Partnership with Habitat for Humanity started in 2016 when RTP Chapter decided to join 'Interfaith' builds with Durham Habitat. The goal of Habitat is to build affordable

housing for deserving families. Along with other members of the Chapter, new arriving families from Pakistan were actively volunteering in the Interfaith builds. Durham Habitat took notice that members of Ahmadiyya Muslim community from Pakistan (refugees) who were driven out of their homes are now here helping build homes for deserving families in America. The story was captured in one of their video interviews and shared during 2019 Jalsa Salana when Habitat for Humanity received the Annual Ahmadiyya Humanitarian award nominated by RTP Jamā'at.

Elected Presidents of the Research Triangle Jamā'at

- Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa (1995-2008)
- Naseer A. Sayed (2008-2010)
- Rafiq A. Sayed (2010-2016)
- Abdul Hadi Ahmed (2016 – Present)

Property:

The newly formed Research Triangle Chapter worked diligently to find a place for a mosque where all members could gather for congregational prayers and hold

Jamā'at events including Eid Prayers. In 2004 to 2005, members previewed several different properties in and around Cary Area and decided to purchase a property

to build a Mosque. A 7.14 Acres parcel of land located at 5417 Spence Farm Road, Holly Springs, North Carolina was purchased for a price of \$171,500.

Financial contributions

Membership of the Research Triangle Jamā'at has grown from 30 members in 1995 to more than 195 in 2020.

Financial sacrifices of the members of Research Triangle Chapter continue to grow. In 1995, the total budget for Chanda

Waṣiyyat/Aam and Jalsa Salana was \$25,000, and in 2020 the total budget for Chanda Waṣiyyat/Aam and Jalsa Salana was more than \$248,000, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh. The blessings of receiving new families in RTP Jamā'at has prevailed itself through the increase of Chanda Waṣiyyat/Aam and Jalsa Salana

budget by 60% since 2016.

Research Triangle Chapter members have also contributed to Humanity First. They have taken part in Humanity First Telethons for the past several years for the building of Nasir Hospital in Guatemala.

Prominent members

Research Triangle Jamā'at has been blessed with the presence of the following members:

Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa, grandson of Chaudhry Muhammad Hussain Bajwa (Waṣiyyat No: 7), a companion of the Promised Messiah who served as the Sadr Majlis Ansarullah USA

Anisa Bushra Salam Bajwa, daughter of Prof. Sir Abdus Salam, Nobel Laurette. (a member of Research Triangle Jamā'at from 1993-2008)

Nuruddin Abdul Latif was born in New York in 1937. He accepted Ahmadiyya Islam during the Khilafat of Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd, Khalifat-

ul-Masih II (may Allāh be pleased with him) at the LeRoy Place Mosque in Washington, D.C. in 1965. He developed a strong love of reading and often mentioned how reading 'The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam' had attracted him towards the message of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). He moved to the Research

Triangle Chapter in North Carolina with his wife, Rabiah Latif, in 1996.

Uncle Nooruddin's prolific journey of lifelong learning led him to becoming a scholar of the Holy Quran and many religions of the world along with a wide variety of other topics. In an attempt at what he humorously called the rebuilding of the great Library of Alexandria in his humble apartment space, he had collected thousands of books that filled the shelves lining the walls of the living space that he and his wife shared – and he had, in fact, read and absorbed just about every one of them. Along with his depth of knowledge on many topics, his complementary meekness of character and humility were equally inspiring.

For adults and children alike, Uncle Nuruddin was a fatherly figure in the way that he would always be happy and eager to share his priceless wealth of knowledge with anyone who showed even a glimmer of inquisitiveness. He loved the innocence of children and took special care to satisfy any curiosity

that they would express. He gave his time weekly to hold lively children's classes and Quran classes, inspiring everyone to take ownership of their faith by avidly learning everything about it.

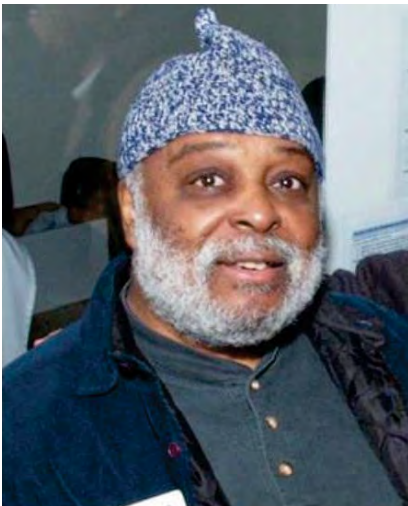
In 2003, Uncle Nuruddin was awarded a lifelong service award from Majlis Ansarullah, USA for being an excellent mentor and teacher. He also received the Mufti Muhammad Sadiq Lifetime Commitment Award in 2009 from Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, USA. He returned to Almighty Allah in 2014, and his posthumous donation to the Research Triangle Chapter was that very extensive library of books that had been his life's monumental work, donated in trust for its members to continue in their pursuit of knowledge and lifelong learning that had been his hallmark. May Allah reward him and elevate his soul in paradise, Ameen.

Dr. Rasheed Sayed Azam has been a member of the Research Triangle Jamā'at since its inception. Born in pre-partition India in 1934, he accepted the truth of Islam

Ahmadiyya under the auspices of Khalifat-ul-Masih II at an early age, which also necessitated a separation from his non-Ahmadi family.

An ardent academic, he continued his education on scholarships and moved to work in England in the early 1960s. He relocated with his family to the United States and settled in North Carolina in 1978, even before any formal chapter had been established in the region.

Dr. Azam served as the Research Triangle chapter's local Imam for many years and regularly delivered speeches and Dars-ul-Quran and led the weekly Friday services. His home was used as a regular venue for the Friday services before the Chapter formally acquired a center. He is also known by many in the USA community for the regular contribution of articles and poems he wrote for many of the Jamā'at publications as well as his involvement in various capacities locally and nationally.



Left: Br. Nooruddin. Right: Br. Nooruddin taking a class.

Historical outreach events

The Research Triangle Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was invited to speak at several public events after 9/11/2001. Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa, who

was President of the Research Triangle Jamā'at at that time, was interviewed by all major TV stations and news outlets in the Research Triangle area to get Ahmadi Muslim

perspective on the events happening in the US as well as in the Arab world.

Annual Ahmadiyya Muslim Humanitarian Award

The Research Triangle Chapter nominated two organizations from RTP area to receive Annual Ahmadiyya Muslim Humanitarian Awards at Jalsa Salana USA and both organizations were selected at the finalist:

Lutheran Services in America was nominated in 2017 for their partnership with RTP Jamā'at in refugee resettlement efforts.

Habitat for Humanity was nominated in 2019 for their work to

provide affordable housing to low-income families. RTP Jamā'at played a critical role in providing volunteers under the program called 'Interfaith Builds' where members of different faith groups came together to help build homes.



Ohio: Cleveland



Bait-ul-Ahad Mosque in Bedford, Ohio

Cleveland—The City Where it all Started

The City of Cleveland, Ohio is located on the southern shore of Lake Erie across the US maritime border with Canada, approximately 60 miles west of the Ohio and Pennsylvania state border. The City of Cleveland was founded in 1796 near the mouth of the Cuyahoga River by General Moses Grover Cleveland. It is the 2nd largest city today in Ohio. The river divides the city into East and West. At present, with the arrival of new members (refugees & asylum seekers due to persecution of the Ahmadi Muslim community in Pakistan), the cities of Cleveland, Akron, and Canton constitute the majority of where members are residing.

There were two men who helped shape the Cleveland Jamā'at. The first was Syed Abdur Rahman (1901 to 26 July 1978), who came to the U.S. in the mid-1920s. His family was from Kapurthala, India and who

later migrated to Qadian. His grandson, Dr. Mikal Rahman, reports his grandfather jumped ship in New York harbor, where he was confined but later released. "Before he started the long journey, he got into some well-meaning, but mischievous trouble in Qadian. Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him) took him under his wings. Appreciating his kindness, Syed Abdur Rahman remained grateful to Sahibzada for the rest of his life" said Dr. Rahman.

During the journey, he earned some money running errands on the ship. When he reached the USA, it was a dark night in New York, and he lost his way and finally ended up in Harlem. Syed Abdur Rahman mentioned that he was very confused as to where he had landed and seriously wondered if the ship captain made a mistake and instead of taking the ship to America, had

landed them in Africa. He was dressed in Shalwar Qamees, did not speak English, and was worried about his situation. He was soon reassured by a fellow Indian living in New York who convinced him that he was in the right place. This caring stranger took Rahman to his home. In a few days he found a job. Eventually, he was able to set up a perfume and a cosmetic company in the 1940s and 1950s through his entrepreneurial nature and named it Zabe Perfumes and Cosmetics. His business did well for decades and withstood a potential buyout by the Helen Rubenstein Company. Due to his financial success, he was able to help those in Qadian during the partition time (1947).

Abdur Rahman's perfume-making business also became a guiding light for another missionary in Spain. In those days, before the onset of World War II, many

countries were struggling with financial problems. A pioneer missionary, Karam Ilahi Zafar, sent to Spain by Hazrat Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd, was going through financial issues as there was a lockdown of money transfer from India. Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd advised Karam Ilahi Zafar to replicate Abdur Rahman's perfume business. Missionary Karam Ilahi Zafar was able to employ this in his livelihood and missionary work and remained in Spain for the rest of his life.



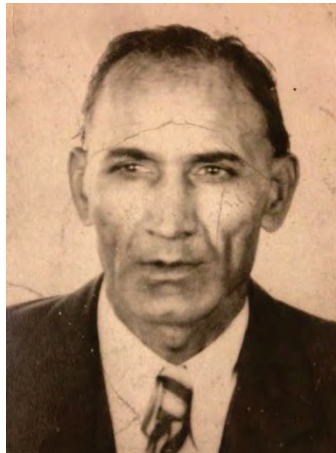
Syed Abdur Rahman

Rahman married Aleema Ahmad (Elois Ziegler) from Pittsburgh Jamā'at, who was raised by an early Ahmadi Syrian family. They had seven children, two boys (Lutfur and Hameed) and five girls (Saleha, Maryam, Amina, Saleema and Siddiqah).

Cleveland's pioneer Lajna members, sisters Medina Strickland and Kamila Kelley said that Brother Rahman used to conduct most of the activities of the Jamā'at, including monthly meetings, running a primary school, conducting Quran classes, and delivering Dars in Ramadan.

Rahman was a very hospitable man. He hosted Missionary Khalil Nasir, Professor Rasheeduddin Ahmad Khan of Hyderabad Deccan, and Dr. Hafiz Saleh Muhammad Alladin when they visited Cleveland.

Syed Abdur Rahman was a Musi. He passed away on July 26, 1978, and was buried in Bahishtī Maqbarah in Qadian India. Inna Lillāhi wa Innā Ilaihi Raji'oon. (To Allah we belong and to Him shall we return). [2:157]



Kamaluddin Kahlon

The other pioneer member of Cleveland Jamā'at, a contemporary of Syed Abdur Rahman was Kamaluddin Kahlon (1881-1975). He was originally from Sialkot Punjab British India. He arrived in the USA in the early 1920, as his grandchildren Dr. Jameela Strickland and brother Naseer Wasim remember. Kamaluddin lived modestly and worked for Sherwin Williams. He also worked at a laundry cleaning business. In 1925, he married an African American woman whose Muslim name was Habeeba. He was affectionately called Brother 'Kaloo' in the community. He and his wife joined the Jamā'at in 1930. They had seven children, one boy Ibrahim who passed away in infancy and a daughter Jameela who passed away at age eight. Their- other children were five girls—Sisters Zainab, Maryam, Fatima, Medina, and Kareema—all of whom had been brought up in Cleveland. Brother Ahmad Wasim, who married Sister Zainab used to say "Dad impressed me so much, that I became a Muslim. He was small in size, but giant of a man. He was always helping out

people in need."

Anyone who was coming from India or Pakistan, regardless of religious belief, would get help from him. In 1947, the partition of British India took place. Brother Kaloo lost contact with his family during that chaotic period in human history. He tried to locate them but to no avail. He always remembered his childhood ventures with teary eyes as his family recollects. Kamaluddin passed away in 1975 at age 92. Inna Lillāhi wa Innā Ilaihi Raji'oon. (To Allah we belong and to Him shall we return). [2:157]

Some family members of the pioneers, Syed A Rahman and Kamaluddin are subsequently mentioned.



Syed Hamidur Rahman

Syed Hameed Ur Rahman was the younger son of Syed Abdur Rahman and Sister Aleema. His father wanted Hameed to go to Pakistan to pursue his education and thus sent him to Government College of Lahore in 1966. Like his father, Hameed was also lost for a while in an unfamiliar environment. He did not speak Urdu nor did he have any friends there. Fellow college students were a bit skeptical of a white man with a Muslim name. Eventually, he became good friends with some Pathans. They were impressed by his athleticism,

including his ability to jump high fences. His friends also liked to practice their English with him. Within a few weeks he approached the college Principal Dr. Nazir, claiming that the lessons were too easy for him, as he had already done them in high school. The professor gave Hameed a test which he passed and advanced to a higher level. The following week he went back to Dr. Nazir and complained that his courses were still too easy. Dr. Nazir gave him another test and Hameed passed this test as well. So, in three short weeks, Brother Hameed skipped two years of classes to earn his bachelor's degree. Brother Hameed married Shaheen Soherwardy, from Karachi Pakistan in 1968. He worked as a sales executive in Cleveland. He also served in Vietnam War. Brother Hameed used to say "my dad was very strict. He made us all pray five times a day."



Ahmad Wasim

Hameed ur Rahman was passionately committed to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and to the Bedford Mosque. He served many years as the finance and property secretary. His work was purely a "labor of love." He passed away on December 21, 2017, at the age of 76. He will always be remembered for his keen sense of humor, strong opinions, and loyal

devotion to his family and to his community.

Another early member of Cleveland Jamā'at, Brother Ahmad Wasim, was a retired officer in the US Navy. He met Kamal Uddin's elder daughter Zainab in 1950 while she was working at her father's laundromat. They became friends and Ahmad Wasim began to visit the Kaloo family often. He later married her. Brother Wasim's private telephone number was listed as "the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam" and was his main Channel of attraction for Tabligh. He was very active in community affairs. He also served as the president of Cleveland Jamā'at in the 1970s. Brother Naseer Wasim, the younger son of Ahmad Wasim was an active member of Cleveland Jamā'at before he moved to Columbus, Ohio and served as the president of the Columbus Jamā'at for several years. Brother Ahmad Wasim passed away on August 14, 2014. Inna Lillāhi wa Innā Ilaihi Raji'oon. (To Allah we belong and to Him shall we return). [2:157]



Dr. Bashiruddin Usama

Dr. Bashiruddin Usama (8/4/1932-11/3/2013) was a dentist of Jamaican descent and was born in Detroit, Michigan. He was married to Fatima Kaloo, daughter of Kamaluddin. They were blessed with four boys. Two of them, Jalal-Din and Asif Hasib, sadly passed away in early life. Muqit lives in Florida and

Zafarullah lives in Cleveland.

While visiting Brooklyn New York, Brother Usama came across The Nation of Islam but was not interested. He was already a Muslim at that time. He met Ahmadiyya Missionary Khalil Nasir in New York and converted to Ahmadiyyat. Having known the two pioneer Ahmadi families in Cleveland, Khalil Nasir introduced young brother Usama to the Kaloo family, and he got married to Fatima Kaloo. He got admission to Howard University and received a degree in Dentistry. While in D.C, he started to attend Friday prayers at Fazl Mosque at 2141 LeRoy Place. It was there that Dr. Usama met Chaudhri Sir Zafarulla Khan, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Dr. Usama always used to call Chaudhri as "Sir Muhammad" and Usama's second son was named after him. Dr. Usama always remained dedicated to the community and his family. He was an entrepreneur and also started a project "Men of Excellence" on audio cassettes. The first issue was about Chaudhri Sir Muhammad Zafarulla Khan. Dr. Bashiruddin Usama passed away on November 3, 2013. Inna Lillāhi wa Innā Ilaihi Raji'oon. (To Allah we belong and to Him shall we return). [2:157]

Brother Jameel Strickland (4/12/1934-6/24/2018), who was married to Medina Kaloo, daughter of Kamaluddin, was regular in performing the Adhān at the Cleveland Mosque in a distinct, melodious manner. He also called the Adhān one time at the national convention in Washington D.C.

He was born in Heard County Georgia, and at eight years of age, his family relocated to Cleveland. He worked as a machinist at Addressograph Multigraph. He was drafted into the US Army where he served his country for three years. After the service, he returned to his previous job and retired thirty years

later. He worked for Oliver Steel Plate for another seventeen years. He married his wife Medina Kaloo in 1961 and embraced Islam in 1969, becoming one of the earlier members in the Cleveland Jamā'at. He was a great handy man and held the offices of President and treasurer for several years. Brother Jameel was a great family man and a loving father to Jehan and Jameelah. Brother Jameel Strickland passed away on June 24, 2018. Inna Lillāhi wa Innā Ilaihi Raji'oon. (To Allah we belong and to Him shall we return). [2:157]



Jameel Ahmad Strickland

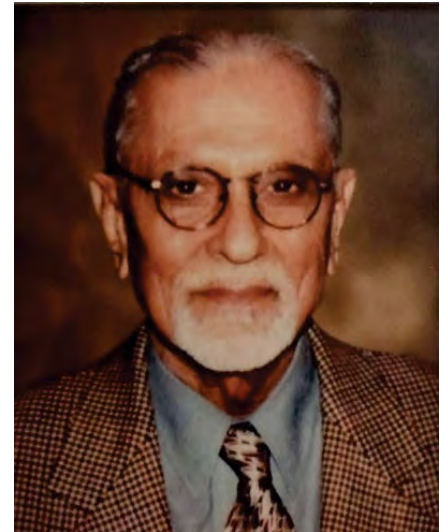
Another early member of the Cleveland Jamā'at was Brother Harold Salaam Rice. I met Brother Salaam in 1978 at the first chapter meeting in Cleveland held at a local YWCA. Brother Harold was married to Naima Maryam, the daughter of Syed Abdur Rahman, and they had

two sons. He was the Jamā'at president until 1986, and then relocated to Ocala Florida. Right from my first meeting with him, I realized how keen and desirous he was about having a mosque of our own. It was our routine, just the two of us driving through the city of Cleveland and its suburbs, looking for a suitable building or a piece of land. In 1986, the first Eid-ul-Adha was celebrated in a church (that I happened to buy on my own to convert to an office building). Brother Harold led the prayers. The members were very pleased to celebrate Eid here.

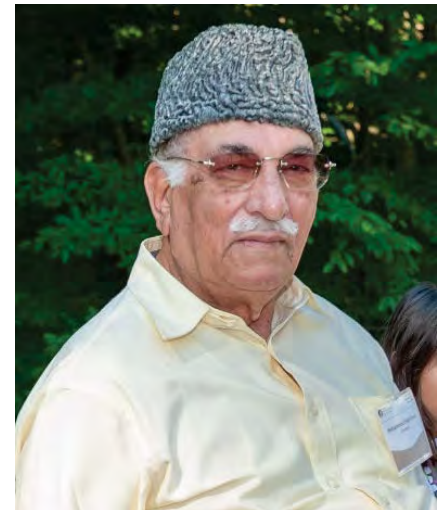
In the 1980s when the Ahmadiyya Muslim community was severely persecuted in Pakistan, our Jamā'at had an extensive letter writing campaign in protest of the ongoing persecution. In follow up, Brother Harold contacted Amnesty International, and we met them at the local branch. They were well aware of the Ahmadiyya situation in Pakistan. They were surprised to see a white man with blue eyes come to the meeting. One of them inquired Brother Harold, "how did you get involved with these guys?" With his peaceful demeanor and a smile, Brother Harold presented our case with passion. The amnesty team promised to pursue our case further. Throughout his stay in Cleveland, he really energized the members. On June 27, 2012, while he was living in Ocala Florida with his family, his wife, Naima Maryam Rice passed

away. Her body was brought back to Cleveland and was laid to rest in our cemetery. Inna Lillāhi wa Innā Ilaihi Raji'oon. (To Allah we belong and to Him shall we return). [2:157]

Frequent Visitors



Sheikh Rehmatullah



Ilyas Khan

Tajneed (Membership)

Ahmadiyya community of Cleveland in early 1978: Syed Lutfur Rahman, Syed Hameedur Rahman, Harold Salaam Rice, Ahmad Wasim, Bashir Uddin Usama, Zafarullah Usama, Nayeem Melton, Jameel Strickland, Abdul Jameel Kelley, Abdur Raheem Kelley, Abdur

Rahman Kelley, Dr. Munawar Ahmad, Dr. Syed Jaffer Ali, Kamal Wasim, Naseer Wasim, Idris Dawood, Mikal Hameed, Jehan Strickland, Raashid Rice, Khalid Rice, Jalal Wasim, twelve Lajna members, and a few Nāsirāt.

By 2020, the Ahmadiyya community has grown to approximately 200 members, including 35 Mūsīs. Chanda contributions (fiscal year 2018-2019) was \$334,979.



From left to right, Dr. Mansoor Qureshi (visiting from Detroit, Michigan), Dr. Syed J. Ali, Sultan Mehmood Anwar (visiting from Rabwah), Dr. Muhammad Ali Mumtaz, Missionary Zafarullah Hanjura.



Some members of Cleveland Jamā'at on Eid-ul-Fitr in 2019.

Missionaries 1930–1980

Authentic records were not available between 1930 and 1980. Except for Missionary Sufi Bengali who was stationed on East side of Cleveland (8339 Woodland Ave SE Cleveland) in 1970, no missionary had resided in Cleveland. Most of the missionaries even to this day cover

the area from Dayton, Pittsburgh and Detroit. The missionaries during the above period were Sufi Bengali, Jawad Ali, Sufi A.R. Khan Bengali, Maqbool Qureshi, Mian Ibrahim and Mir Mahmud Nasir. These missionaries, as to my knowledge, used to visit Cleveland at various

intervals.

From 1980 until present day, the missionaries covering Cleveland have been Syed Shamshad Ahmad Nasir, Mirza Mahmood Ahmad, Zafarullah Hanjra, Zafar Sarwar, Irshad Malhi, Adnan Ahmad, and

presently Maulana Qasid Bhinder. All these missionaries have been visiting at various intervals.

The Late Missionary Ata'ullah Kaleem, National Amir and Missionary in-charge, made several visits to Cleveland in the 1980s. During one of those visits in 1982,

his wife required a major surgery, which I was able to successfully perform. He will always be remembered as a gentle and committed human being.

Late Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, National Amir and missionary in-charge was extremely

active during our struggle for the Mosque project. Al-Hamdo Lillah, during his tenure, a near 60-year-old dream of having an Ahmadiyya mosque in Cleveland came true. After acquiring the mosque, we were able to host two National Shura meetings in 1990 and 1991 which he personally conducted.

Presidents of Cleveland Jamā'at (Past & Present)

- Syed Abdur Rahman 1930 to 1976
- Brother Ahmad Wasim 1972 to 1975
- Dr. Bashiruddin Usama 1975 to 1978
- Dr. Syed Jaffer Ali 1978 to 1982
- Brother Jameel Strickland 1982 to 1985
- Brother Harold Salaam Rice 1985 to 1986
- Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah 1986 to 2019
- Dr. Syed Erfan Ahmad 2019 to present

Professional Careers

Our members have worked in various fields, including but not limited to:

Jamā'at Member	Career	Jamā'at Member	Career
Akbar Shah	Physician	Nasir Butt	Forensic Scientist
Syed Erfan Ahmed	Physician	Harmeet Kaur Butt	Forensic Scientist
Ayesha Erfan	Physician	Mirza Kaleem Ahmad*	Engineer
Ata M Qureshi	Physician	Tahir Butt	Engineer
Anwaar Ahmad	Physician	Masroor Butt	Engineer
Basit Malik	Physician	Mahmood Ahmad*	Engineer
Nasimullah Rehmatullah	Physician	Muzafar Malik	Engineer
Munir Ahmad	Physician	Saeed Bhatti	Business
Syed Jaffer Ali	Physician	Munawar A. Malik	Business
Syed Saqib Ali	Physician	Ali Bhatti	Business
Syed Taahir Ali	Physician	Tahir Bhatti*	Business
Saba Mubarka Ali	Physician	Luqman Bhatti	Business
Jameela Din Strickland	Physician	Zafarullah Usama	Business
Mikal H. Rahman*	Physician	Ata Tahir	IT
Ali Mumtaz*	Physician	Zohaib Zafar	Accountant
Ahmad Sita	Author	Hamza Malik	Accountant
Abdul Shakur	Poet	Syed Saad*	Accountant

“*” Denotes members who have moved away from Cleveland Jamā'at.

Lajna Cleveland Ohio 1930 to 2020

Without an appropriate narrative of Lajna, the history of Ahmadiyya Muslim community (1930-2020) in Cleveland would be incomplete. The Lajna remains an integral part and the backbone of our community.

The Ahmadi women of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community Cleveland began meeting as a sewing circle around 1936. Sister Habeeba Kaloo organized and hosted the first unofficial Lajna circle because she strongly believed that there should

be a branch of the Movement to foster love and unity. The earliest activities were to promote unity and learn more about Islam through socializing with each other. Handicrafts, such as crocheting and embroidery, were done as sisters

discussed family development in Islam. Home cooking and tea were highlights of these meetings, which were held in sisters' homes. Bake sales and dinners were held to raise funds for the Jamā'at.

This group was officially organized, as a branch of Lajna Ima'illah after Missionary Munawar Ahmad arrived in Cleveland in 1945. The first Lajna president to serve was Sister Fatima Khadeer. The Community Mission president at that time was Brother Wali Akram. Some of the early members were sisters Habeeba Kaloo, Salima Sadiq, Hameeda Khanum Mujtaba, Moneera Afzal, Naema Shakoora, Khadija Akram, Amtul Hafiz and several others.

From around 1945 to 1952, Sister Hameeda Khanum Mujtaba was Cleveland Lajna's president. Near the beginning of this time, there was a split in the community. The sisters that remained with our Jamā'at continued to carry on the work. They held bazaars, bake sales, dinners, teas and picnics for fund raising and propagational purposes. Sister Mujtaba initiated many plans to raise capital for Cleveland's Mosque building fund. She also initiated and promoted the burial fund, to help cover some of the expenses for the families of the deceased.

Sister Fatima Akmal was Lajna president in 1961, when the Cleveland Lajna hosted the national annual convention (Jalsa) and the sisters did all the cooking for this event. Although a relatively new convert when elected, Sister Akmal worked diligently for family and sisterhood-oriented programs. She held many socials at her home at her

own expense to promote closeness. She passed away during her term in office. During the remainder of 1961, under the local Lajna presidency of Sister Zainab Wasim, the sisters continued to prepare for the convention and worked very hard. Sister Hameeda Khanum Mujtaba was the president from 1962 to 1964, and then again in 1964 to 1968. Cleveland held its first National Ijtimā on September 5, 1964, at the Cleveland YMCA. Sister Aliyya Shaheed of Pittsburgh Lajna was the National Lajna President at that time and conducted the program.

In 1968, sister Fatima B. Usama (then of the Detroit Lajna) was guest speaker in Cleveland at a fundraising dinner, attended by a very large gathering at the YWCA. She spoke of her experiences at Umrah and the 1967 annual Convention (Jalsa Salana) in Rabwah, Pakistan. She also spoke of her visit to Ahmadi Mosques in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

One of the most outstanding senior members of Cleveland Lajna was Sister Lateefa Hakeem (Sister Kamila Kelley's mother), she started learning the Holy Quran at the age of 80 from Aziza Ali by phone and completed reading the entire Quran, Al-Hamdu Lillāh. Her passion and enthusiasm to learn the Holy Quran was admirable. She passed away in 1998 at the age of 92. She has been faithful throughout the years and served many years as the Cleveland Jamā'at's financial secretary.

Sister Naima Rice Salaam was local president of Lajna 1984 to 1985. During that time, Lajna increased its Islamic studies program and donated food and clothing regularly to the needy in the

greater community. The Lajna sisters mailed Islamic literature to 325 Christian homes in Zion, Illinois to support the Target City Program of National Lajna's Propagation Program. During the holidays, they visited nursing homes to sit with and cheer-up patients and distribute small gifts.

In 1985 to 1994, the Lajna president was Aziza Ali. Under her guidance, the sisters increased their participation in the National Lajna Program. In April 1987 they hosted their first regional Ijtimā. In 1989, the Lajna hosted another Ijtimā as well as the Nāsirāt Summer Camp. They donated and distributed food, clothing and money to the inner-city shelters. The Lajna helped host the National Shuras in 1990 and 1991.

Sister Ansa Rehmatullah was Lajna's president from 1994-2001. During her tenure, Cleveland Lajna continued to be very active, especially in social services. They donated food, clothing and other items to various needy organizations on an ongoing basis over these years. They were active as well in propagation of religious teachings. Sister Ansa Rehmatullah was also appointed Regional Lajna President in 1996.

From 2002 onwards, the following have served as Lajna president.

- Amtul Haseeb Rahman served as president from 2002 to 2004.
- Sister Fatima Usama served as president from 2004 to 2008.
- Sister Sadia Shah served as president from 2008 to 2014.
- Sister Ayesha Erfan is serving as president from 2014 to present.

Special Lajna Activities and Awards

There have been many special activities performed and awards won both by individual Sisters and by Cleveland Lajna as a whole.

However, the most special activity occurred in 1991, when the Lajna hosted Khalifat-ul-Masih IV and his family during his visit to the USA.

Some of the other special activities and awards are as follows: Hajj-Sister Fatima Usama (1997), Aziza Ali (1981), Qudsia Ahmad (1989),

and Saleema Rahman Mowafy (1977). The Cleveland Lajna have also won many awards in different departments over the years.

There have also been several scholarships awarded to Cleveland's younger Lajna members for their outstanding achievements in school. Most of these girls have now

completed their college education and gone to pursue their respective careers, a few of them as medical doctors.

Jamā'at Activities

Humanity First

Dr. Syed Saqib Ali participated in health camps to Guatemala five times, a health camp to Ghana, and a

health camp to Liberia.

Dr. Syed Jaffer Ali participated

in the Tsunami Relief Madras India program in 2006.

Tabligh (propagational activities)

- Quran Exhibits & Free Distribution
- Flyer distribution
- Flea markets (Hartville Ohio)

- Interfaith Seminars
- Coffee Cake & True Islam
- Seminars on Islam arranged at Cleveland Community college twice, Cleveland State

- University twice.
- 4th of July Parade City of Bedford. Participation by members including Lajna.

Meeting Khalifas



Left: Khalifatul-Masih IV (r.a.) at Bait-ul-Ahad Mosque in June, 1991. Right: At Barbeque.

Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih III was the first Khalifa to visit the USA in 1976. He came to Dayton, Ohio. The joy and excitement of meeting the Khalifa was beyond description. It was not like meeting a political leader but meeting someone whom you longed to see and embrace for all your life. Jamā'at members came to meet Khalifatul-Masih III from all over the country. A town hall meeting was

arranged at city hall by Brother Muzaffar Ahmad Zafr, who was the Nā'ib Amir and president of Dayton Jamā'at. Cleveland Jamā'at members were introduced to Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III. As long as these pioneer members were alive, they always talked about their beloved Khalifa. During the same year, Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad (later our 4th Khalifa) also came to the States and visited several

chapters including Cleveland. Sister Kamila Kelley remembers, "Huzoor visited individual homes with his family. Huzoor's kindness, vibrant and magnetic personality still lingers in our minds."

Again in 1980, Khalifat-ul-Masih III visited the United States. Once again, his admirers drove to Dayton. Next Khalifatul-Masih went to Toronto Canada. Some members of our Jamā'at, who could not meet

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III in Dayton, went to see him in Canada. There was a press conference with various questions for Khalifatul-Masih III, including topics such as Haree Rama, Haree Krishna movement, progress of our Jamā'at and the 73 sects in Islam. Later Khalifatul-Masih III travelled to Washington DC and stayed at a Sheraton Hotel, where members

were able to pray Jum'a prayers behind him.

In July 1991, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih IV, came to Cleveland for a medical checkup of his wife. A few days of his stay were full of excitement. There were family meetings with all members, as well as non-Ahmadi guests. He presided over Majlis-e-Irfan

(discussions with members) as well in the evenings. One morning when his respected wife was having a check-up at the clinic, the Khalifatul-Masih IV visited three families in the suburbs of Beachwood, Moreland Hills, and Brecksville. It was an extraordinary honor and blessing for these families.



Members of Cleveland Chapter waiting for the arrival of Khalifatul-Masih at Hopkins International Airport, Cleveland, Ohio in 1991. From left to right, Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah, Syed Hameed ur Rahman, Missionary Syed Shamshad, Dr. Syed J. Ali

History of Mosques in Cleveland

It was the spring of 1978, and the monthly meeting of Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam was held at YWCA on the East side of Cleveland. Here, brother Harold Salaam Rice, the son in-law of Rahman, brought up the issue of having our own Mosque. Subsequently, brother Harold and I started driving around the city looking for a reasonable site for the mosque. We found a property in Oakwood village, a suburb of Cleveland. Khalifat-ul-Masih IV and Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad (National Ameer) were informed. We got the permission and bought the property. Finally, our desire for our own

mosque was materializing.

A letter dated October 28, 1985, by the Mosque Committee (Harold Salaam Rice, Syed Jaffer Ali, Bashiruddin Usama and Hameedur Rahman) was sent to all members to meet at the home of Brother Harold Rice, to discuss the mosque fund update. Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad was also present. Brother Harold Salaam reported that we were able to raise 50-75% of the total amount required. The closing date was 20 November 1985. Next, we all gathered at the property and joined in silent prayer with Sheikh. We started repairing, painting and cleaning the property.

By the Grace of Allah and the generosity of our members, we had collected \$32620 and additional pledges of \$9004, Al-Hamdu Lillāh. Our national center gave financial support to help close the deal.

After acquiring the property, we had to face zoning law issues. For this, we had to meet with council members several times. At one stage, we were told by the mayor that the village clergy also wanted to meet us. The very next day Dr. Usama, Brother Harold Salaam and I met the clergy. Six of the clergy members introduced themselves as the Baptist Clergy of the Oakwood Village. We

realized a uniform hostility existed about Islam. One of the Clergy stated, “wherever you Muslims go, bombs blast.” We remained calm and patient. The judge intervened by announcing that a final council would meet and vote on the proposal of zoning for the mosque the next day. Unfortunately, the zoning proposal failed, and we had to continue to look for another property. Meanwhile we continued to take care of this property. At the time of this setback, we had no idea that Allah ultimately had better plans for us.

Very soon, I found a church, “The First Church of Christ Scientist” on sale in the city of Bedford. Having received pertinent information, Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, National Amir was contacted. In a few days Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, called back informing that at this stage we have no permission from Khalifat-ul-Masih IV of buying a church for our religious purposes. We still continued to meet at a local YMCA and wanted to drop the idea of buying a church. Several months later, the real estate agent called that the church is still available. The owners had dropped the price down to \$285,000. Buying a church could solve many problems, particularly zoning (as we just went through). I

thought of buying the church for my medical office and let our Jamā‘at use it instead of the YMCA. The real estate agent was still waiting for an answer, so I made an offer of \$100,000. Hearing this, the agent told me that the owners had recently declined an offer of \$150,000. The agent was suggesting a higher bid. In less than 20 minutes, I got a call back from the real estate agent, and to my utter surprise, the offer was accepted. They wanted the money in 10 days. Banks did not give loans for buying churches; however, this was arranged. The church became my personal property. It was early July 1986 and Eid-ul-Adha was the following week. This was the first church to ever become a place of worship of Allah. Our members gathered and Brother Harold Salaam Rice, president of the Jamā‘at, led the Eid prayers followed by the sermon. It was a historical day for the Cleveland Jamā‘at.

Between 1986 through 1989, I continued to check if there was any change regarding the Center acquiring the church. However, there was no change in the Jamā‘at’s policy. The Jamā‘at took care of the utility bills. All members appeared to be very satisfied using this place as our meeting place.

The first Centenary of the establishment of our Jamā‘at on

March 23, 1989 was approaching quickly. About six months prior to this, one of the most unexpected calls of my life came. Maulana Sheikh Mubarak, our National Amir was on the phone. He stated, “Dr. Sahib, as soon as I found out this directive of Khalifat-ul-Masih IV, regarding buying a church and using it as a mosque, I called you.” After Khalifatul-Masih IV’s arrival to the United Kingdom, in one of his earlier Friday sermons, his advice of buying a church was to fully disclose to the owners that our purpose would be to use it as our mosque with all the changes as needed for converting the church to a mosque and also to obtain a “no objection” letter or certificate from them. We did what Khalifatul-Masih IV asked, and in the next few weeks, the National Center acquired the property. Our beloved Khalifatul-Masih was informed about the mosque and we requested a name. Khalifatul-Masih IV proposed “Masjid-e-Bilal,” however, there was a mosque of the same name. Then Khalifatul-Masih proposed another name, which was “Bait-ul-Ahad.” Over time, several necessary renovations were done, whereby the church sanctuary became the main prayer area for men and another large congregational area became the main prayer area for Lajna Imaillah.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Cemetery 2011

In 2011, there was a growing concern and a great desire to have our own cemetery. Since the establishment of our Jamā‘at in the late 1920s, most of our members who passed away were buried in various Christian Cemeteries. Several members had already bought plots elsewhere. As the search was going on, Dr. Akbar Shah’s mother, a Mūṣīya, passed away in 2011 and was laid to rest in a Christian cemetery. Our search led by brother Syed Hameed Rahman to Bedford City Hall and the city

offered the price of \$400 per plot. The Jamā‘at decided to buy one hundred plots for a total cost of \$40,000. Through a generous donation from Dr. Akbar Shah and monetary support from the Center, the deal was closed. The Jamā‘at decided to provide each lot for \$400. Dr. Akbar Shah took permission from proper authorities and his mother was finally laid to rest in Ahmadiyya Muslim cemetery. This was the first burial, and since then we have had eight more burials. A separate area is designated for

Moosies.



Ahmadiyya Muslim Cemetery Bedford

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am thankful to the members of

the Cleveland, Columbus, Pittsburgh and Portland Oregon Jamā'at s to help provide invaluable information and/or photographs pertaining to the history of Cleveland. Listed below are their names:

- Kamila Hafeez Kelley, a Pioneer Member
- Medina Strickland, a Pioneer member
- Dr. Jameela Din Strickland
- Naseer Wasim from Columbus
- Zafarullah Usama
- Dr. Mikal Rahman Portland Oregon (Grandson of le Syed Abdur Rahman)

- Saleema Rahman Mowafy (Daughter of late Syed Abdur Rahman)
- Omar Shaheed from Pittsburgh
- Dr. Syed Erfan Ahmed
- Dr. Nasir Butt.
- Dr. Nasimullah Rehmatullah
- Ahmed Sita
- Zohaib Zafar

May Allah bless all the members mentioned above, and those whose names have not been mentioned but their participation is appreciated greatly. Ameen.

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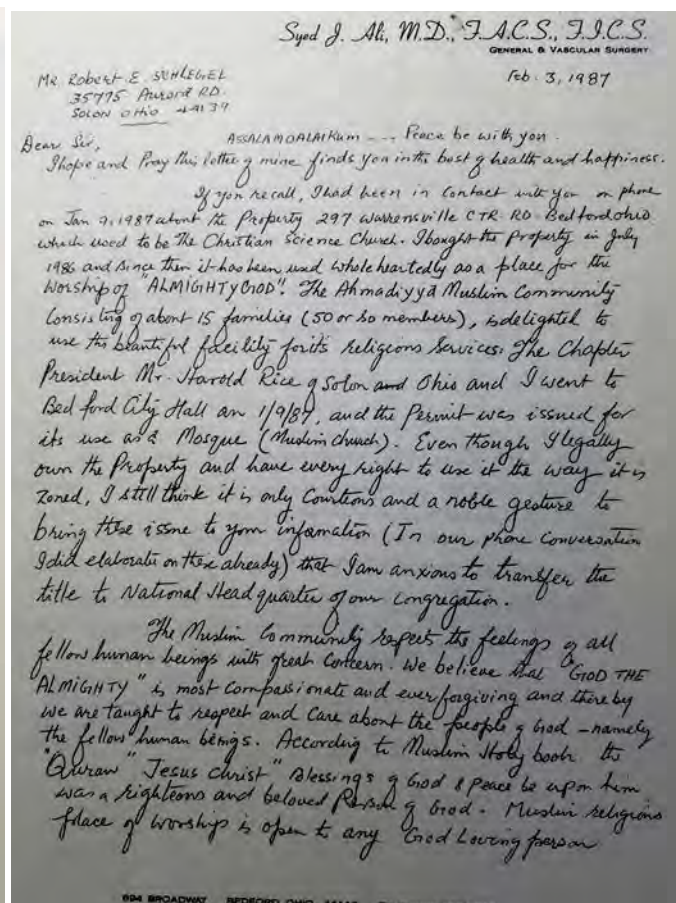
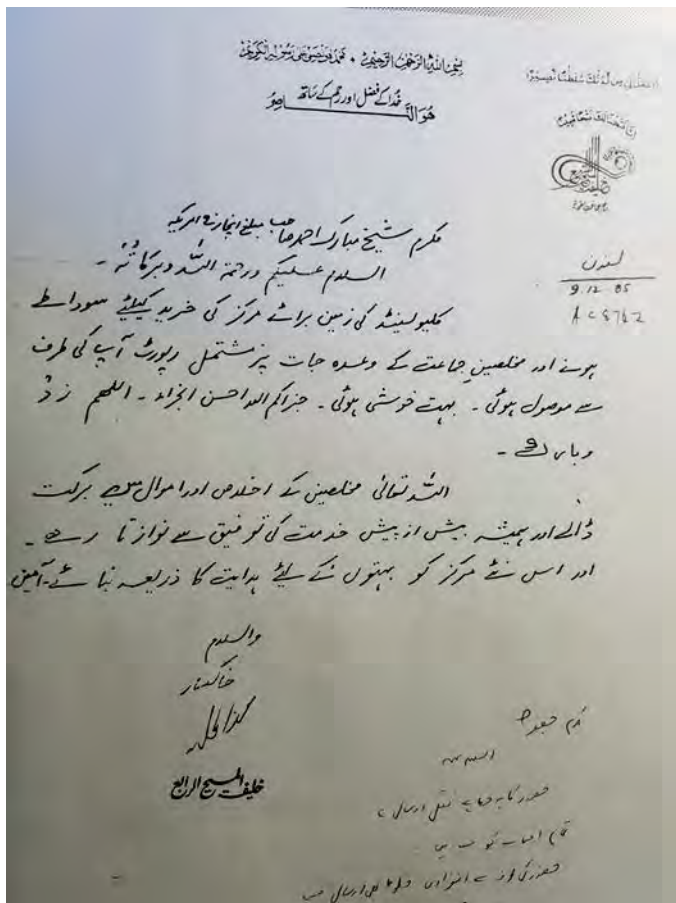
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(Syed Jaffer Ali, MD, FACS)



Left: Khalifatul-Masih IV's letter of congratulations on the occasion of purchasing land for mosque in Oakwood Village, Ohio (1985). Right: Letter from Dr. Syed J. Ali to the owners of the Church, requesting a no objection letter for the purpose of converting the Church to Mosque. (1987).

Dear Dr Ali
 When you purchased the church building at Warrensville Center and Laurel ave, Bedford, it became yours to do with as you wish. We are particularly glad that you have made the decision to keep it as Church rather than convert it to other uses.

Respectfully
 Robert Adige

CITY OF BEDFORD OHIO
 65 COLUMBUS ROAD BEDFORD OHIO 44146 PHONE (216) 439-1234

January 9, 1987

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that property identified as 297 Center Road in the City of Bedford, Ohio is now a vacant church and can be used as a church (mosque) as per our present zoning ordinances.

George Sankovich
 George Sankovich
 Building Commissioner

GS/lc

Left: No objection letter received from the previous owners of the Church. (1987). Right: Letter from City of Bedford, Ohio zoning the Church as a mosque. (1987).



Ohio: Columbus



Bait-un-Nasir Mosque, Columbus (Picture by Dr. Mobusher Mahmud)

Columbus is the state capital and the most populous city in the U.S. state of Ohio. With a population of 892,533 as of 2018 estimates, it is the 14th-most populous city in the United States. This makes Columbus the second-most populous city in the Midwest (after Chicago, Illinois).

Named for explorer Christopher Columbus, the city was founded in 1812, at the confluence of the Scioto and Olentangy rivers, and assumed the functions of state capital in 1816.

The metropolitan area is home to the Battelle Memorial Institute, the world's largest private research

and development foundation; Chemical Abstracts Service, the world's largest clearinghouse of chemical information; NetJets, the world's largest fractional ownership jet aircraft fleet; and Ohio State University, one of the largest universities in the United States.

History of Jamā'at Columbus

Columbus chapter was established in the early 1980. The first president was Noorul Haq Khan.

Around 1990/1991, Noorul Haq Khan excused himself due to advanced age and Brother Naseer Wasim became the president of Columbus chapter.

Columbus was a small chapter consisted of just a few families with Br. Naseer Wasim and Br. Lateef in Columbus, Noorul Haq Khan on south side of Columbus, Naeemul Haq Khan and Asaf Mirza on the west side of Columbus, and Dr. Abdus Salam in Zanesville, OH. He arrived in Columbus area (Zanesville, Ohio) in August 1993. Total membership was around 20.

In November 1993, the President of the chapter, Br. Naseer Wasim, had to move due to his work. Dr. Abdus Salam was appointed president of Columbus chapter.

Chapter meetings and Jumu'ah Prayer started to be held in 1993. Jumu'ah Prayer was held at Noorul Haq Khan's place and monthly meetings were held at Dr. Abdus Salam's place. Later, monthly meetings were moved to a rental community room at the apartment complex where Asaf Mirza lived.

Other Jamā'ats in Ohio at the time were Athens, Cleveland, and Dayton. In the vicinity, there were Jamā'ats in the Great Lakes region, in addition to the Ohio Jamā'ats,

were Indiana and Detroit. The biggest Jamā'at at the time was that of Cleveland with around 60-70 members.

Missionary in the region was Missionary Mirza Mahmood Ahmad. Other missionaries to follow were Missionary Zafarullah Hanjra, Missionary Zafar Sarwar, Missionary Irshad Malhi, Missionary Azam Akram, Missionary Yahya Luqman, and Missionary Shamshad Ahmad Nasir.

A rented house in downtown Columbus was used as Jamā'at's center. In 2001, a church building was purchased in Groveport, Ohio—a suburb southeast of Columbus. The property was 6.5 acres of land on

which a proper mosque was proposed to build.

Many regional and national events were held at the mosque including Ansar National Ijtima in 2007, Lajna National Shūrā in 2008, and many Ansar and Khuddam regional Ijtimā'āt.

Columbus Jamā'at has always been at the forefront in terms of

financial sacrifices. For several years, Columbus Jamā'at remained No. 1 in the country in Tahrik Jadīd contributions.

Columbus Jamā'at was also number one in terms of per capita contributions for Tahir Heart Institute.

Majority of Columbus Jamā'at members are of Pakistani descent

while some of our brothers and sisters are local Americans, and from Bangladesh and Nigeria.

Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar Shaheed was a member of Columbus Jamā'at for 10 years till his martyrdom in May 2014 in Pakistan. The beautiful calligraphy in the mosque was rendered by Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar Shaheed.

Inauguration of Bait-un-Nasir by Khalifat-ul-Masih V

Sacrifices of Columbus Jamā'at members in building the mosque



Khalifat-ul-Masih V inaugurated the mosque on 19 June 2012. (Pictures by Dr. A. Salam Malik)

The construction of the new mosque, Bait-un-Nasir, started in October 2007 with occupancy permit granted on April 21, 2008.

In 2006, a visit of Khalifat-ul-Masih V (may Allah be his helper) to the USA was planned. Khalifat-ul-Masih had expressed his desire that he would come to Columbus during the visit.

An advanced team consisted of

Nā'ib Ameer USA, Waseem Malik, Zaheer Bajwa, and Missionary Zaki Kausar, visited Columbus Jamā'at. During their visit, Zaheer Bajwa suggested that since having blessed with Khalifat-ul-Masih's visit is a once-in-a-lifetime event, Columbus Jamā'at should request Khalifat-ul-Masih to lay foundation stone for a new mosque. Being a small Jamā'at and thereby having a small budget,

no one had on their mind the idea of building a proper mosque at the time. Even Zaheer Bajwa who had proposed the idea thought that having laid the foundation, the mosque can be built at some time in the future. So, the discussion ensued for building a small mosque to cater for 50-100 people with a plan for building a Prayer Hall.

During the local planning for

Khalifat-ul-Masih's visit, Columbus Jamā'at hired an architect and received verbal approval from the USA Jamā'at on the phone for the initial costs of about \$25,000 and advised the architect to go ahead with preparing the building plan.

Subsequently, Khalifat-ul-Masih's visit to the USA that year was cancelled, and the building plan was postponed.

At Annual Convention, the Columbus Jamā'at representatives were advised that the center would not be able to monetarily support the Columbus Mosque plan.

The following Wednesday, a general meeting of Columbus Jamā'at was held and the situation was discussed and it was decided that the mosque foundation-laying should go ahead with a backdrop that even though Khalifat-ul-Masih was not coming we would present this as a token of our feelings that we were going ahead with the mosque project for the sake of Allah.

It was specifically asked that even though men were saying that they would come up with funds for the mosque, whether the ladies were willing for raising all the funds for the mosque locally because even if men were ready, they would not be able to do sacrifice without the support of women. The ladies pledged that they were fully supportive.

The USA Jamā'at center was informed of this commitment of Columbus Jamā'at for building the mosque raising all the funds locally.

The President of Columbus Jamā'at, Dr. Abdus Salam Malik, visited Khalifat-ul-Masih in London many a times keeping Khalifat-ul-Masih apprised of the progress during the planning and building phases of the mosque also sharing with him the sacrifices of Columbus Jamā'at members.

The whole Jamā'at was involved

throughout the various phases of the mosque building from finalizing the floor plan to picking up the carpet design and color, etc. having held frequent meetings with open discussions, sometimes on a weekly basis. The participants included all Jamā'at members, including ladies and children. Everyone took ownership and decisions were made unanimously with everyone's input.

The mosque was totally funded by local Jamā'at members' contributions with great sacrifices fulfilling the condition of the USA Jamā'at center that the local Jamā'at would not solicit funds from outside of the Columbus Jamā'at.

There are many faith-enhancing accounts of how the members offered sacrifices for the mosque fund.

There was a member from Pakistan who earned his living doing an odd job. He said that he had brought his savings of \$10,000 from Pakistan. He gave all of it towards the mosque fund.

A lady gave away her all savings.

Ladies gave away their jewelry, repeating the Jamā'at history of monetary sacrifices for building mosques that's replete with such examples.

Someone donated ~\$25,000 and shared that they had this amount stuck somewhere for several years and received this payment all sudden when this project started.

The total earning/Chanda-paying members in Columbus Jamā'at were under 20 who raised \$650,000 within 4-5 months. It is noteworthy that members weren't rich rather middle class, but they all came forward with a great sense of sacrifice, offering their savings, some took second mortgage on their houses to come up with funds.

When the contact was signed with the builder, he was told that the Jamā'at cannot give him markup

and that the mosque would be built with bare minimum, meeting the city requirements as opposed to building a grandiose structure.

However, it was made sure that the carpet was of good quality and nice design as after all the mosque was being built to offer Salat.

It was also agreed upon that the builder would be paid on a weekly basis making payments for whatever is incurred at the time.

Original estimate was thought to be around \$200-\$250K which turned out to be \$650-700K.

At one point, when \$500K had been raised, the Jamā'at learned that \$50,000 was needed immediately that needed to be paid within a week, according to the agreement.

Dr. Abdus Salam Malik relates that he knew the financial situation of each Columbus Jamā'at member and that they had already sacrificed so much so he couldn't have asked members for more and soliciting anyone outside of the local Jamā'at for the mosque project was not an option, he thought of selling his Mercedes S 500 car that would have yielded ~40-60K even though he had a sentimental connection with it as he had bought it for the ride of Khalifat-ul-Masih IV. He discussed the situation with his wife who consoled him that Almighty Allah will arrange it and that her jewelry can be given for the cause. He says that he went to sleep with this concern in mind. He woke up in the middle of night, repeating a Quranic verse with great force (Allah will suffice thee, therefore don't be among those who doubt) and that even after waking up he couldn't stop repeating it for a couple of minutes. He says that he became fearful too as in a sense it seemed a reprimand as well that it's not him who was going to provide rather it's Allah who was going to take care of it and thus far it was Allah who had given to people to

donate for the cause. With this reference, he also mentioned that at one point he discussed with General Secretary of Columbus Jamā'at at the time, Kalim Khan, that we were not supposed to solicit funds from anyone outside of the Jamā'at but even if we were it is Allah who would have given it to them to donate so Allah can (and will) give it to us directly. So, he went back to sleep saying Istighfar (seeking assistance of Allah). Next morning, a friend of his—who used to call him occasionally to check on the status of the project—happened to call at this juncture of need and when President told him about current situation and that he can't ask members for more money, knowing their situation, and that he was considering selling his car to come up with the amount needed, his friend asked if President was making his personal mosque to which the answer was that of course it was Jamāat's mosque. The friend then said that he had a CD that had not been matured at the time but if he broke it he could get ~25-30k that he could then donate towards meeting the need at hand. Another ~25-30k was still needed. Later that day, when President went to his office, a member called him saying that he wanted to meet him in his office. When he came to the office, he presented an envelope that his wife had sent to President saying that it contained her bank statement and a blank check asking that he wrote the amount he needed. President said that she would need to decide as to how much she wanted to give. When the member called his wife, she told him to leave the minimum amount required by the bank to be in the account and write the check for the rest of the balance which amounted to the rest of the \$25-\$30k fulfilling the amount needed to be given to the builder.

The project never stopped even for one day and every need that arose

was fulfilled by the Grace of Allah and within six months—October 2007 to April 2008—the mosque was completed with the sacrifices of the local members of the Jamā'at, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh. Dr. Malik relates that having attended a meeting to decide whether to build minarets and how many, one or four, etc. that ended inconclusively, he went home and while offering Salat, a thought crossed his mind that in Surah Fātiḥa, there are four attributes of Allah so the mosque should have four mini domes on each of the four corners and a large dome in the middle, with needle-like small minarets on top of domes. Upon voting on whether to build minarets or such domes, in a subsequent meeting, domes were approved. Subsequently, during a visit to London, he presented to Khalifat-ul-Masih the blueprint of the mosque design with this idea incorporated and before he could explain the above-mentioned idea, Khalifat-ul-Masih directed to have needle-like small minarets on the small domes but not on the middle dome. President says that he thought about it and realized that Allah instilled this idea in his heart during Salat that was completed by Khalifat-ul-Masih's instruction which made sense. The Holy Qur'an mentions Almighty Allah's 'Arsh (throne) carried by four angels. So, this configuration of four domes on the corners with needles (pointers) signify the four attributes of Allah but no needle in the middle dome signifying Allah's Arsh (throne).

Also, upon mentioning that the USA Jamā'at center had advised to build smaller mosque for about 100 people, but we built one with 400-500 capacity. Khalifat-ul-Masih V advised Dr. Abdus Salam during a personal meeting that had he consulted him about the capacity of the mosque in the beginning, he would have advised him to build

larger and spacious mosque of the capacity of 1000 people. Interestingly, the original plan to build a Prayer hall was thought to be for 1000 people.



The groundbreaking ceremony of the mosque was held in August 2007 with construction starting in October. Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, Ameer Jamā'at USA, Mir Daud, National Property Secretary, and Zaheer Bajwa from the center and Missionary Zafar Sarwar, Missionary of Great Lakes region came for the groundbreaking ceremony. Local Jamā'at members including men, women, children, and elderly were also present. Everyone laid a brick in the foundation. Ameer Jamā'at USA led members in silent prayer at this auspicious occasion. These respected guests and local Amila members then gathered at President's house for dinner.

When Dr. Malik went to see Khalifat-ul-Masih in London he requested Khalifat-ul-Masih to pray on a brick to be laid down in the foundation of the mosque. Khalifat-ul-Masih graciously prayed on a brick which was laid down in the Mihrab (niche) area of the mosque. Khalifat-ul-Masih also instructed

President to request Sahibzada Mirza Waseem Ahmad, Ameer Jamā'at India at the time, to send a brick from Masjid Mubarak, Qādiān,

which was later received and was used in the southeastern corner of the mosque. Local Jamā'at members gathered again to mark the occasion.





Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V (may Allah be his helper) inaugurated the mosque during his visit to Columbus on 19 June 2012. About 1,000 people including members from nearby Jamā'ats attended the event.

Khalifat-ul-Masih stayed in the house of Dr. Abdus Salam.

The area around the mosque was considered rural area. After the mosque was built, the area was immensely industrialized with huge warehouses, including one that of Amazon, serving as distribution centers for the Midwest. The state earmarked five billion dollars for the development of this area. Wider and

much better maintained road leading right up to the mosque property entrance, increased lighting, and even a new bus route is among the developments that followed. Many non-Ahmadi Muslims who work in these warehouses come for Jumu'ah Prayer every week.

The mosque is just a few minutes' drive from the major interstate highway, I-270. Most of the Jamā'at members live at a driving distance of 20-30 minutes from the mosque with a few families at 40+ minute-drive. Presidents and auxiliary heads who have served Columbus Jamā'at are listed below.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Cemetery, Columbus, Ohio

In 2017, the Columbus Jamā'at was blessed to have its own cemetery at the mosque grounds. The nearest Ahmadiyya cemetery for Columbus Jamā'at members was in Cleveland area. In 2015, discussions and

planning started in the local Jamā'at to have its own cemetery that came to fruition in 2017, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh. The official name of the cemetery is Ahmadiyya Muslim Cemetery, Columbus, Ohio. It is also

Presidents: Brother Naseer Wasim, Noorul Haq Khan, Dr. Abdus Salam (1993 to 2019) and Rafi Malik (1993 to present).

Qa'ids MKA: Hamid Haroon Malik, Rafi Malik, Daud Nasrullah Khan, Maqbool Bhatti, Jason Elsea, Usama Awan and Kamil Salam.

Za'im Ansarullah: Kalim Khan, Dr. Mahdi Qamar Shaheed, Dr. Waqar Pirzada, Dr. Ahsan Syed, Dr. Mobusher Mahmud.

Sadr Lajna: Nudrat Malik, Laeeqa Mirza Waseem Din, Shazia Ahmad, Maryam Bhatti and Shazia Syed.

designated as Maqbarah Mūsiyan. It is the first cemetery of its kind in North America which is located at the mosque grounds.

Proper fencing with an entry gate is built around the cemetery.

There are trees installed between the mosque building and the cemetery. A sign is installed at the entrance of the cemetery.

The President of Columbus Jamā'at, Dr. Abdus Salam, the Secretary of the Columbus Cemetery Committee, Dr. Mobusher Mahmud, and local Property Secretary Brother Naseer Wasim were instrumental in their efforts in planning and executing the project.

All the requirements of the local county, multiple surveys, paperwork, and licensing, etc. had to be completed that took a lot of time and effort and was mainly handled by the Cemetery Secretary, Dr. Mobusher Mahmud. A Cemetery Committee was formed consisting of

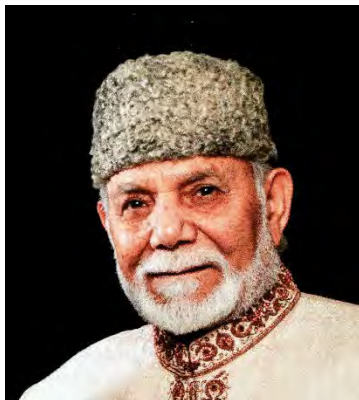
Local President, Cemetery Secretary, General Secretary, Wasaya Secretary, Property Secretary, and Finance Secretary. The Columbus Cemetery Committee met on a regular basis for planning, designing, and laying out the initial rules for the cemetery. Special attention was paid to standardize headstone, masonry work, etc. to keep the uniformity across the cemetery. After the graves were professionally marked, Property Secretary, Brother Naseer Wasim worked diligently to mark all the grave spots with permanent metal markers.

The cemetery is for Ahmadi members only. Currently, the cemetery has a capacity of 304

graves with 149 graves reserved for Mūsiyān and 155 for non-Mūsiyān members. Preference is given to local Ahmadis with 25 graves set aside for other Jamāat's. The current cemetery can potentially be extended to have an additional ~1,000 graves.

The price of a grave is currently fixed at \$2,000 that only covers grave space and does not cover any of the burial costs. It also does not include funeral home cost, which is paid directly to the funeral home by the family of the deceased. A contractor is used for grave digging, burial, etc. The first member laid to rest in this cemetery was Abdur Rahman Saleem—a Mūsi, and father of Dr. Abdus Salam Malik.

Presidents



Noorul Haq Khan
(1980-1990)



Naseer Wasim
(1990-1993)



Dr. Abdus Salam Malik
(1993-2019)



Rafiuddin Malik
(2019-Present)



Ohio: Dayton



Hazrat Khakifatul-Masih V in the Dayton Mosque (Photo: Ajaz Khan)



Fazl-i-Umar Mosque, Dayton-OH

Dayton is the sixth-largest city in the state of Ohio and the county seat of Montgomery County. The 2018 U.S. census estimate put the city population at 140,640, while Greater Dayton was estimated to be at

803,416 residents. This makes Dayton the fourth-largest metropolitan area in Ohio and 63rd in the United States.

Dayton is home to the National Museum of the United States Air

Force and is the birthplace of Orville Wright.

Dayton has a relatively small Jamā'at consisting of around 70 active members including Lajna and children. The Jamā'at has a vibrant

and significant history. Fazl-e-Umar Mosque of Dayton is the oldest mosque built in the USA. Recently it has undergone significant renovation and expansion.

Our beloved Imam Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V graced this mosque with his visit in June of

2012. Pictures of this event can be seen on www.alislam.org

We hold our daily prayers regularly and the schedule is posted on this website. Apart from Jum'ah prayers there are weekend activities on Saturdays and Sundays.

Every Wednesday Coffee Cake

and True Islam meeting is open to general public.

General Meeting is held once a month. Auxiliaries of Lajna, Khuddām and Ansar agenda of meetings and activities is carried out mostly on the weekends.





First Purpose-Built Ahmadiyya Mosque in the US

Aisha N. Sharif writes in her article, “America’s First Mosque,” Dr. Wali Kareem and his wife Lateefa, who in the year 1952, donated a plot of land next to their home on which they wanted a Mosque to be built.

A ground digging ceremony was held and many members of all Jama’ats were there. At first a basement was put in with one small kitchen, two bathrooms and an auditorium. There was no office or telephone.

About ten years later, this basement building needed many repairs. There were just a few Ahmadi Muslims in the Dayton Jama’at at that time and very little money. Major Abdul Hamid, a missionary in Dayton at that time, called the members together and suggested that it would be a great blessing for them to build a real Islamic Mosque where only a basement foundation was now. But there was no money to do this great thing.

So, Major Abdul Hamid told a story from the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. This is the story he told:

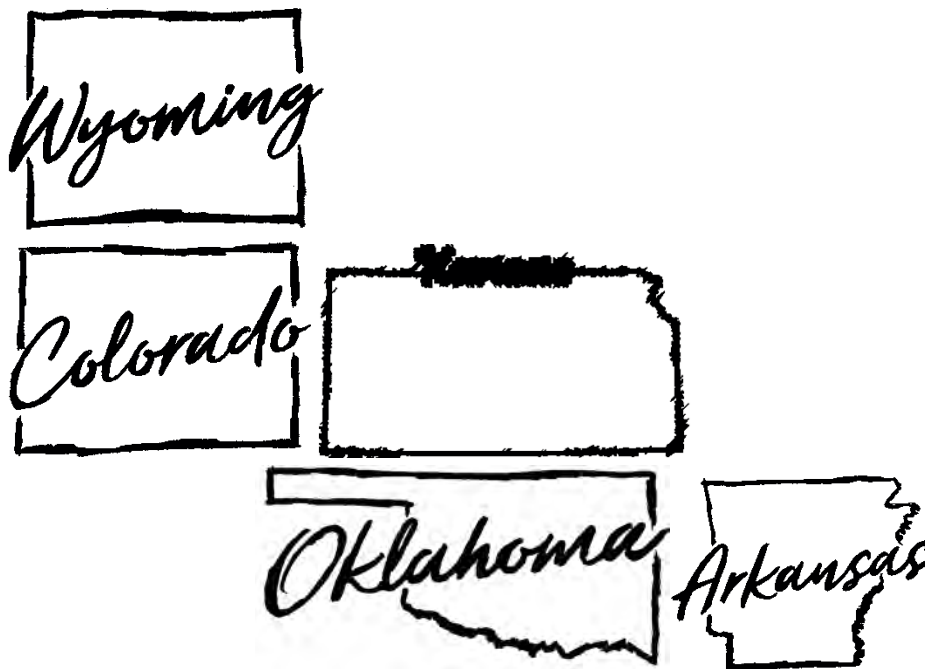
Once the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) asked his companions to dig out trenches around Medina where they expected their enemies to attack them. The companions had gone through a lot of hardships and were very, very tired. They still tried to obey but at last they came to a stone that they could not break or move. The Holy Prophet asked for the hammer and hit the stone. A flash of light came out, and he shouted, “Allahu Akbar” (God is Great). The companions also shouted “Allahu Akbar!” He struck the hammer against the stone a second time. Again, a flash of light came out and he shouted, “Allahu Akbar!” The companions also shouted “Allahu Akbar!” Then the Holy Prophet asked them why they shouted “Allahu Akbar.” They said they were just following him, their Master. Then the Holy Prophet explained to them that when the first time he struck the rock and a flash of light came out, Allah Almighty told him that he had broken to pieces the

Persian Empire. (A large group of countries ruled by the Persian king). Hearing this wonderful prophecy from God, he said “Allahu Akbar.” (A prophecy is when Allah tells us something that is going to happen in the future). The second time he hit the rock, the flash of light came out and God told him that he had broken to pieces the Roman Empire. A short time after the Holy Prophet’s death, both of these things really did happen as God had shown him. When the story was over, Major Hamid said, “Our Lord God is still as Great as He was before, so let us trust in Him and take on this great job.” At this moment, Brother Wali Kareem shouted, “Allahu Akbar!” and announced: “I swear by God that even if other members do not assist me, I will by the Grace of Allah build the mosque on my own.” In a few days, Br. Wali Kareem and Br. Abdul Qadeer had each paid \$1,000.00 dollars. Sister Aliyyah Shaheed, President of Lajna Ima’illah, pledged \$1,000.00 dollars on behalf of National Lajna. Other contributions started coming. In the end, Br. Abdul Qadeer had paid more than \$6,000.00 dollars. [\$5,000 were contributed by the headquarters in Rabwah, Pakistan. Editor]

Unfortunately, Brother Wali Kareem could not take any more active part in the construction of the Mosque as he passed away in 1964. It seemed, however, that because of his sincerity Allah Almighty caused His angels to help them to complete the project. Sure enough, the entire building was completed in less than a year and the Annual Convention of September 1965, was held there in Dayton.

The Mosque has one white central dome and two white minarets on either side. The inside is nicely carpeted and painted and the kitchen is four times the original size. “Allahu Akbar!” With Allah, all things are possible. (Bright Lights of the Ahmadiyya Movement, Published in 1983 and 1989, pp. 56-58)

Oklahoma: Tulsa



Tulsa is the second-largest city in the state of Oklahoma and 45th-most populous city in the United States. As of July 2018, the population was 403,035, an increase of 11,129 since the 2010 Census. It is the principal municipality of the

Tulsa Metropolitan Area, a region with 991,005 residents in the MSA and 1,251,172 in the CSA.

Tulsa was settled between 1828 and 1836 by the Lochapoka Band of Creek Native American tribe. For

most of the 20th century, the city held the nickname “Oil Capital of the World” and played a major role as one of the most important hubs for the American oil industry.

Compiled by Missionary Feroz Hundal

Introduction

Tulsa Jamā’at consists of the following states of United States of America – Arkansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming and Kansas. Kansas City is its own Jamā’at part of Missouri region; however, the rest of Kansas would fall under Tulsa Jamā’at. These states are geographically located in mid-America. Some features of these 5 states are as follows:

State	Capital	Geographical Size	Population [2019]
Arkansas	Little Rock	53,179 miles squared	3.018 Million
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	69,899 miles squared	3.957 Million
Kansas	Topeka	82, 282 miles squared	2.913 Million
Colorado	Denver	104,185 miles squared	5.759 Million
Wyoming	Cheyenne	97,818 miles squared	578,759

Historically, the presence of the Ahmadiyya Community is fairly new, for it was only in the 1970s & late 1980s that Jamā’at members began to situate or come to this part of USA

for a variety of reasons. Formally, it was established in 1986 when the first elections were held to elect a President for Tulsa Jamā’at. However, prior to this, there were

members who had been coming in & out of these states.

Dr. Hameed Naseem, a pioneer of Tulsa Jamā’at, who resides in Fayetteville, Arkansas [~120 miles

East of Tulsa], recalls that “in 1980 there used to be a member named Mirza Luqman, who was a PhD student at the time, studying at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Luqman

later on became the President of Portland Jamā‘at. Alongside him, there were a few other members who came to study at the University of Arkansas to get their PhD in the

1980s.” (Voice Recorded of Dr. Hameed Naseem, Call record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal.

Pre-Establishment

“As mentioned, 1986 was the year that Jamā‘at was officially established in Tulsa. Prior to this, there were members living here, they would be holding Friday prayers in their homes with their family members, listen to the weekly Friday sermon via audio cassettes that were provided by the Headquarters to all Jamā‘at’s.” (Voice Recorded of Dr. Hameed Naseem, Call record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal.

Challenges in Finding Other Members [A Bangladeshi Experience]

Another pioneer member of Tulsa Jamā‘at, Mr. Ehteshamul Haque Sohel who currently resides in Edmond, OK recalls that in the early years, “when he arrived in Oklahoma from Bangladesh, there were no Ahmadi. He had reached out to the USA Jamā‘at headquarters in Washington, however, since the Jamā‘at had no established system of tracing or tracking, they informed him that there were no Ahmadi.

In the early 1980s members were scattered in mid-America and they would come for a year or two and then move onwards. Members generally migrated to the bigger cities & Jamā‘at’s where more opportunities were available, yet some members continued to reside in these parts of USA, to continue to spread the message of Islam – Ahmadiyyat.

Mr. Haque recalls in 1994, sometime after his parents and other family members migrated to USA, they had reached out to the Headquarters to get some information of Jamā‘at members – to which they were informed that the President of the chapter is Abdur Razzaq Momin and gave his contact information. The family decided to drive the 1 ½ hour journey from Edmond, OK to Tulsa, OK to meet the president, so that they can get more information of Jamā‘at members. When they reached at the address given to them, lo and behold, they find it to be an abandoned house, nobody lived

there. Thus, they asked the neighbors if someone lived here, or if they have moved, etc., the response they received was that someone had lived there – but they did not know where they had moved to. Saddened at this, the Haque family returned home.

Though they were unable to connect with any member at that point, the family continued to hold weekly Friday prayers amongst the family, and weekly Sunday congregational Salat on weekends, and Eid prayers Mr. Haque’s father, Late Mazharul Haque, used to lead the family in the prayer services.

Finally, in 2000, the family got the information of Dr. Qaisar Jalil Qayyum, who had recently moved to Edmond, OK, and connected with him. Mr. Ehteshamul Haque Sohel mentions that his younger brother, Mr. Ehsanul Haq Julu had a convenience store in Oklahoma City, and another Ahmadi, Mr. Rashid Ijaz stopped by, and they started to talk and found out that he was an Ahmadi. Mr. Ijaz then gave the contact information of Dr. Qayyum to Mr. Julu, and the family later on met up with Dr. Qayyum.

At this meeting, Dr. Qayyum had informed Mr. Haque’s and Mr. Julu’s family that, there are other Ahmadi residing in Tulsa. Mr. Haque recalled his incident to Tulsa some years back. Dr. Qayyum informed Mr. Haque that there are other Ahmadi as well.

So, 2 – 3 weeks later, Dr. Qayyum, Mr. Julu, Mr. Haque, and their father [Mazharul Haque [Late]] drove to Tulsa, OK and met with another fellow Ahmadi, Mr. Malik Afzal Husain at his house. At his house, Dr. Hameed Naseem had come also from Fayetteville, AR.

This is how this Bangladeshi family connected with Jamā‘at after years of doing prayers within their own home. Mr. Haque has hosted many Jamā‘at programs, gatherings, get-togethers, hosting of missionaries [Murabbi Azhar Haneef, Murabbi Zafarullah Hanjra, Murabbi Feroz Hundal], and many other Jamā‘at members at his house over the past 20 years or so.” (Voice Recorded of Mr. Ehteshamul Haque Sohel, Dated Nov. 13, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

In addition, Mr. Ehteshamul Haque Sohel recalls that “his family alongside his parents and his younger brother’s family went to Houston. As the family was continuing their search to find Jamā‘at members, they got a hold of the contact information of the Missionary posted in Houston at the time, Murabbi Shamshad Nasir. Upon their arrival they were greeted in a very hospitable manner and had an enjoyable time with the missionary. Murabbi Shamshad Nasir gave some other resources where they were able to get audio cassettes to listen to the Friday sermon delivered by Khalifatul-Masih.” (Phone call with Mr.

Ehteshamul Haque Sohail, record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

Indeed, Allah does Guide

Dr. Qaisar Qayyum, relates a beautiful incident on how Allah, the Almighty guided him in finding Jamā'at members when he moved to Oklahoma. "When Khalifatul-Masih IV [rh], before he was a Khalifatul-Masih narrated that when he was visiting Chicago, he had no idea where the mosque was, so Khalifatul-Masih IV [rh] said, I will just drive around and let Allah guide me towards that destination.

Similarly, Dr. Qayyum recalls that, when he moved to Oklahoma in April 2001, on the first night, he had booked a hotel room, since he did not know anyone there. So, he remembered this incident of Khalifatul-Masih IV [rh] and wanted to see how Allah guides someone in this way.

Therefore, he decided to rent a vehicle and began driving around the

city and ended up in a neighborhood, which was a little west of Downtown Oklahoma. Over here there was some housing for rent. So, Dr. Qayyum went to the office and asked if any apartment was available which was furnished? The person replied, Yes, we do, but it will be 3 or 4 days at least when an apartment is available. This was not convenient for him. Thus, he continued driving around. [Remember, this was the time without Google maps, or a navigation system].

Dr. Qayyum mentions that after some time, he ended up in the same place again, and again, so he decided to talk to the person again if something could be done. At this point the person mentioned he would look into it. After some time, the person came back and said that – there was a family that was leaving

the next day.

Once the housing part was finalized, Dr. Qayyum started to get some information of Ahmadiyya residing in this part of USA. He got the contact information of Dr. Abdul Quddus Shahid, as he lived in Oklahoma, so whilst talking on the phone, he asked, "Where are you staying?" Dr. Qayyum gave him the address, and Dr. Quddus replied, "I am your neighbor literally, as I am only a 2 – 3-minute walk from that address." He mentions further that, "later on we met, and our families connected, and when my wife [Razia Tasnim] was talking to the wife of Dr. Quddus [Bushra Quddus], it turned out that, they were first cousins." (Phone call with Dr. Qaisar Qayyum, record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

This is how Allah guides!

Tulsa Members – Distribution of Weekly Friday Sermon

"Tulsa Jamā'at members were active in taking the responsibility of distributing the weekly Friday sermon that was being delivered by Khalifa IV [rh] at the time. MTA was not available yet, as it was launched on August 21, 1992, so Jamā'at members would listen to the sermons on audio cassettes. Tulsa

Jamā'at took this opportunity and members volunteered to take the cassette tapes that were coming from Headquarters and copy them on a cassette copier and then send them to the Jamā'at members residing in the entire South-East and Gulf Region. Hundreds of copies would be sent out. This continued until

Khalifatul-Masih IV [rh]'s sermons were available to be viewed on MTA." (Voice Recorded of Dr. Hameed Naseem, Dated Nov. 21, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 2:30pm CST record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

Elections of First President – 1986

1986 was the year when there were enough members in this area that a formal election could be held for the establishment of a Jamā'at [local chapter]. Some pioneer members who were present at this inaugural election was, Dr. Hameed

Naseem, Malik Afzal Husain, Abdur Razzaq Momin, Qamar Shams, Dr. Abdul Khaliq just to name a few. Some members who lived in Stillwater, OK [~60 miles West of Tulsa] participated as well. "The first president who was elected and

approved was Mr. Abdur Razzaq Momin." (Voice Recorded of Dr. Hameed Naseem, Dated Nov. 21, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 2:30 pm CST record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

Presidents of Tulsa Jamā'at

This section mentions the names of the Sadr [President] of Tulsa Jamā'at and the tenure they served in this office.

Abdur Razzaq Momin	1986 – 1998	Dr. Qaisar Jalil Qayyum	2019 – 2020
Dr. Hameed Naseem	1998 – 2019	Tahir Ahmed Warraich	2020 – Present

Lajna Presidents:

Razia Tasnim	2004 – 2010	Khalida Mansoorah Ahmed	2010 – 2016
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Centenary 1989

In 1989, it had been 100 years since the first Ba'it [Initiation] was done by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah & Mahdi [may peace be upon him], and celebrations were ongoing in other Jamā'at's of USA, as well as around the world. "Tulsa Jamā'at also held an event commemorating this historic milestone of the Jamā'at by organizing a program at the University of Tulsa. Alongside members from the Jamā'at, many

non-Ahmadi & non-Muslims were invited. Around 40 – 50 people attended this event.

Considering the occasion, the Jamā'at decorated the hall with lights, flowers, banners, etc. A program was formulated bringing the audience's attention to the significance of this event, which was followed up with an open Q & A session.

Many Arab students who were

enrolled in University of Tulsa also attended this historic event and asked many questions. President Tulsa Jamā'at, Abdur Razzaq Momin answered all questions very knowledgeably." (Voice Recorded of Dr. Hameed Naseem, Dated Nov. 21, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 2:30 pm CST record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

1989 – Meeting with Khalifa IV [rh]

In 1989, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV [rh] on the occasion of the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at Centennial celebrations around the world, traveled to USA. a group of 15

Jamā'at members who were residing in various parts of Tulsa Jamā'at traveled to St. Louis to meet their beloved Khalifa. As this was one of the first visits of Khalifatul-Masih IV

[rh] to USA, thus, the Jamā'at members had the desire to take benefit of this opportunity.

Early Settlers

Here, a list of names is presented of those members who resided in Tulsa Jamā'at in the early years [before 2000], along with the year they came.

No.	Name	Year of Arrival	City / State
1	Ehteshamul Haque Soheli	1980	Poteau, OK
2	Dr. Mirza Muhammad Luqman	1980	Fayetteville, AR
3	Malik Afzal Husain	1982	Tulsa, OK
4	Shahnaz Husain [Lajna]	1982	Tulsa, OK
5	Ayesha Husain [Lajna]	1982	Tulsa, OK
6	Abdur Razzaq Momin	1982	Tulsa, OK
7	Dr. Hameed Naseem	1985	Fayetteville, AR
8	Mubaraka Naseem [Lajna]	1985	Fayetteville, AR
9	Waleed Naseem	1985	Fayetteville, AR
10	Lisa Carol Haque [Lajna]	1986	Oklahoma City, OK
11	Anwar Piracha	1987	Fayetteville, AR
12	Khurram Nazeer	1988	Stillwater, OK
13	Mukarram Nazeer	1988	Stillwater, OK
14	Ehsanul Haq Julu	1991	Oklahoma City, OK
15	Mazharul Haque [Late]	1992	Oklahoma City, OK
16	Sahazadi Begum [Late] [Lajna]	1992	Oklahoma City, OK
17	Solemanul Haque	1993	Oklahoma City, OK
18	Yoseful Haque	1994	Oklahoma City, OK
19	Dabir Ahmed	1994	Oklahoma City, OK
20	Khalida Mansoorah [Lajna]	1996	Tulsa, OK
21	Nusrat Sultana [Lajna]	1998	Oklahoma City, OK

22	Dr. Abdul Quddus Shahid	2000	Oklahoma City, OK
23	Hanan Shahid	2000	Oklahoma City, OK
24	Muhammad Daud Shahid	2000	Oklahoma City, OK
25	Attaul Rahim Shahid	2000	Oklahoma City, OK
26	Dr. Munawar Ahmad		Maumelle, AR
27	Tahir Lubis Ahmad		Fayetteville, AR
28	Aftab Lubis		Stillwater, OK
29	Syrif Lubis		Stillwater, OK
30	Dr. Syed Mohammad Ahmad		
31	Dr. Abdul Khaliq		
32	Dr. Syed Abdul Majid Shah		
33	Dr. Qamar Shams		
34	Rashid Ijaz		
35	Shafaq Ijaz [Lajna]		

Relations with Media

“Over the years, one of the pioneer members, Dr. Hameed Naseem who lives in Fayetteville, AR and is a Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Arkansas has developed several relations at the university with the top echelons. Alongside this, over the years a connection with the local press and media has been built, whether it is the local newspaper or the local TV.

Alongside this, Dr. Naseem has

built a link with the local city Mayors and other dignitaries. These dignitaries in the various fields are invited to presentations and programs held by the local Jamā‘at; and whenever a chance comes, he also participates in the programs held on-campus or off-campus representing Islam. There are many civic organizations that promoted peace and harmony over the years, Dr. Naseem took part and represented Islam.

There is an organization in Fayetteville, AR which is called ‘Ministerial Association of Fayetteville’ – which involves many clergy from local churches and at times, non-Ahmadi Muslims were part of this as well. Dr. Naseem would attend these meetings and lunches and introduce Islam.” (Voice Recorded of Dr. Hameed Naseem, Dated Nov. 21, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 2:30 pm CST record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

9.11.2001 – Reaction in Tulsa Jamā‘at

September 11, 2001 – forever etched in the minds of people around the world. A time which changed the worlds view about Islam, drastically. The public’s perception changed about how they view Muslims, and Islam as a whole, not in the positive, but to the negative unfortunately. A lot of backlash was faced by Muslims around the world, and especially at home here in the USA.

Dr. Naseem, a constant face – representing Islam – recalls that, “after this incident, in order to remove the misunderstandings which had arisen amongst Americans, approached the local

Muslim [non-Ahmadi] association at the University of Arkansas and to try and work with them, and to bring speakers to talk about Islam in this part of USA. However, they refused and did not want to work with us, due to us being Ahmadi Muslims.” (Voice Recorded of Dr. Hameed Naseem, Dated Nov. 21, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 2:30 pm CST record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

Dr. Naseem further recollects that, “this was the time when Muslims needed to show our fellow Americans that Islam was not a threat to them, instead, it was a

religion of peace. Yet, the non-Ahmadi Muslims, who were mostly of Saudi origin, wanted to keep a low-profile, nor did they want to take an aggressive action to show the beautiful teachings of peace which Islam brings. Later, when the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was highlighting the true teachings of Islam, these same non-Ahmadi Muslims would oppose us, telling others that, Ahmadis are not ‘Muslims.’” (Voice Recorded of Dr. Hameed Naseem, Dated Nov. 21, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 2:30 pm CST record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

Missionaries Presence

Murabbi Chaudry Munir Ahmad

1981 – 1982

Murabbi Zafar Sarwar

1984 – 1985

Murabbi Mirza Mahmood Ahmad 1989 – 1992
 Murabbi Shamshad Nasir 1992 – 1996
 Murabbi Mukhtar Cheema 1996 – 2002
 Murabbi Azhar Haneef 2003 – 2010

Murabbi Zafarullah Hanjra 2004 – 2010
 Murabbi Salman Tariq 2014 – 2017
 Murabbi Feroz Ahmad Hundal* 2018 – Present
 (First Official Missionary to be stationed in the region)

Tulsa Jamā'at never officially had their own missionary, until recently [2018]. Looking at the history, it was normally the missionary who was based in or around St. Louis, MO or Houston, TX that would occasionally visit the Jamā'at members or to attend some programs being organized by Tulsa Jamā'at.

A Jamā'at member mentioned that, "one of the pioneer missionaries who would visit this part of USA was Murabbi Ataullah Kaleem [he was Amir & Missionary In-Charge in the early 1980s]. This was before the establishment of the Jamā'at in 1986."

Murabbi Chaudry Munir Ahmad, who was in St. Louis at the

time, would visit Fayetteville, AR & Tulsa, OK occasionally [before the Jamā'at was officially established in 1986].

Whenever missionaries would visit Tulsa Jamā'at, it was due to them visiting the Jamā'at members who were quite spread out from Arkansas to Wyoming. In addition to that, missionaries would visit to attend local Jamā'at events or for delivering lectures giving the Islamic perspective at community colleges & universities [which were arranged by local Jamā'at]. At these programs at universities, local media would be called as well, which would then interview the missionaries and publish them in the local newspaper[s]." Voice Recorded of

Dr. Hameed Naseem, Dated Nov. 21, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 2:30 pm CST record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

As mentioned above there was no official missionary posted in Tulsa prior to 2018. However, by the grace of Allah, with the approval of Amir USA [Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad] and Missionary In-Charge USA [Murabbi Azhar Haneef] Murabbi Feroz Ahmad Hundal was posted as the first official missionary to serve the Tulsa Jamā'at in 2018 and is continuing to serve. He has been residing in Springdale, AR and covers the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming.

Al-Islam Students Organization @ U of AR

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RELIGION

Al-Islam hosts panel of Islamic scholars

I. CLAIRE WILSON
Staff Writer

The Al-Islam Students Association and the UA Multicultural Center hosted a discussion titled "Islam: Sunni, Shia, Sufi and Ahmadi Perspectives," Friday in the Union Theater.

"We decided to host this event because in our charter and our constitution. It states that our goal is to give community an understanding about different types of Islam, and how they are

in harmony with each other," said Heba Naseem Syed, president of Al-Islam.

Al-Islam was founded "after Sept. 11 [2001] to put out a good word for Islam and the different sects of the religion," Naseem Syed said.

The response to the Sept. 11 attacks left many Americans with an aversion to Islam, said William Tucker, an associate professor of history.

"Because of world events, most people today know the term Shia,

but they might not know what it really means," Tucker said.

Tucker explained that as a scholar of the Shia perspective, he is not a practitioner of Islam.

"The Shia are partisans of Ali who believe that the rightful leadership should have passed to the caliphate, people who descended from Fatima [the daughter of the prophet Muhammed] and Ali," Tucker said.

"Shiite Islam is rather more complicated, and it was a very long history that has evolved

through the idea that central spiritual and political leadership of Islam should be directed through Ali and Fatima," Tucker explained.

The other speakers expressed the need to create peace within these groups as well.

"We hope to create peace between these groups of believers because we are all Muslims," said Basri Zain, a lecturer of Islamic Studies at the State Islamic University of Malang in East Java, Indonesia.

"Sunnis generally have respect for other schools [of Islam], but the tenets of Sunni belief have been corrupted by the war zealots," Zain said.

Zain, who is completing his doctorate at the UA, highlighted three general beliefs that are central to the Sunni: "speech of the prophet [Muhammed], action of the prophet and testing of the prophet."

The term Sunni is "not monolithic," Zain said. "There are a variety of outlooks, and many

Sunni have been tenacious in their efforts to bring about harmony."

Hugh Talat Halman is an assistant professor of religion at Central Michigan University. Earlier in his career, he spent six years as a UA research assistant professor in the Middle East and Islamic studies department, where he lectured about the Sufi perspective.

"Those of faith are overflowing in their love for God" is a

See **AL-ISLAM** on Page 3

Sports
Razorbacks rout Ole Miss 44-8. Page 8

“This response of the local Muslim association was unexpected and led to the formation of the ‘Al-Islam Students Organization’ at the University by Dr. Hameed Naseem. Dr. Naseem decided to encourage some Muslims to form a new organization, which was established in October 2001.

At the time, there was no concept of AMSA [Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association], which is why, it was called ‘Al-Islam Students Organization’ – and it may also have been the first one to be registered as a student’s organization on any campus here.

It was seen by other [Muslims] as an Ahmadiyya Muslims Students

Below is a list of students who have served as the President of Al-Islam Students Organization:

- 2001 – 2002 Tahir Lubis Ahmad
- 2002 – 2004 Mutee ur Rahman Ahmad
- 2004 – 2007 Waleed Naseem
- 2007 – 2010 Heba Naseem

Organization, even though the number of Ahmadi students at the University was a rarity. In addition, according to the rules of the university, one requirement was that the organization should be open for all, as long as they follow the by-laws of the association. The by-laws of the association were to spread ‘Peace through Education’. The Al-Islam Students Organization has been organizing special seminars in which speakers would come and talk to the people, talk to the students, faculty and staff, as well as lay-members of the city. These announcements would be published in the local newspaper [NWADG – Northwest Arkansas Democratic Gazette].

Al-Islam Students Organization has been representing Ahmadiyyat perspective of Islam, taking along with them other people who would support the organization. A name has been created in the university by the Jamā’at, where people have become aware that Ahmadis do good works, they bring a lot of education and bring great speakers. Whenever other organizations need speakers to talk about Islam, they call upon Dr. Naseem requesting to give some options.” (Voice Recorded of Dr. Hameed Naseem, Dated Nov. 21, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 2:30 pm CST record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

- 2010 – 2011 Homa Qazalbash
- 2011 Beth Ibrahim
- 2011-2013 Saba Naseem
- 2013-2016 Sofia Naseem
- 2016-2019 Naseer Naseem
- 2019 – 2020 Abby Pickhardt
- 2020 – Present Mahir Warraich



Seminars & Conferences @ U of AR

“Since 2002, about 30 seminars / conferences have been organized. A list of seminars along with speakers is given below:

Year	Topic	Speaker
2002	Peace – A Legacy of Religions	Murabbi Mubasher Ahmad
2002	Jihad in Islam	Murabbi Mubasher Ahmad
2003	Women in Islam	Sister Salma Ghani
2003	Abraham – The Patriot for Christians, Muslims & Jews	Murabbi Mubasher Ahmad
2004	Muhammad ^{pbuh} – Life and Legacy	Murabbi Mubasher Ahmad
2004	Jesus [as] in Islam	Murabbi Azhar Haneef
2005	Spread of Islam in America	Professor Richard Turner
2005	Creation vs. Evolution	Murabbi Mubasher Ahmad
2006	Religious Founders – Moses ^{as} , Jesus ^{as} & Muhammad ^{pbuh}	Murabbi Mubasher Ahmad
2006	Islam & Freedom of Expression	Murabbi Mubasher Ahmad
2007	Word or Sword	Murabbi Azhar Haneef
2007	Islam: Sunni, Shia, Sufi & Ahmadiyya Perspectives	Murabbi Azhar Haneef
2008	Hijab in Islam	Dr. Amtul Rahman Ahmed
2008	Islam & Democracy	Murabbi Mubasher Ahmad
2009	Jewish Muslim Dialogue	Murabbi Mubasher Ahmad
2010	I Love Muhammad ^{pbuh}	
2010	Islam & Human Rights	Arif Humayun
2011	Islamic Sharia Law & Democracy	Murabbi Azhar Haneef
2011	Messiah & the Second Coming	Murabbi Naseem Mehdi
2012	Scientific Revelations – Islam & Science: Friends or Foes?	Dr. Arshad Mahmood Khan
2012	Religious Founders – Life of Muhammad ^{pbuh}	Murabbi Shamshad Nasir
2013	Prophet Muhammad ^{pbuh}	Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmed
2013	Shia / Sunni Muslim + Middle East Peace	Non-Ahmadi Speakers
2014	Muhammad ^{pbuh} – The Compassionate	Dr. Basiyr Rodney
2014	Is Islam in Crisis?	Murabbi Naseem Mehdi
2017	True Islam & the Extremists	Qasim Rashid
2018	Islam & Human Rights	Harris Zafar
2019	Prophet Muhammad ^{pbuh} 's – Promises to Christianity	Dr. Craig Considine
2020*	Islam in America*	Yaqub Zulfiqar *

*Could not happen due to Co-ViD-19

Other Jamā'at members residing in Tulsa, OK have driven to the University of Arkansas to take part in these seminars at various times over the years.

Most of the time, these seminars & conferences would be previously announced via local media, Radio &

Newspapers [City & University] to inform the public of the upcoming program. The Universities newspaper & media representatives would attend and get a chance to

interview the speaker after the program, and to talk to the students in attendance to get their reaction – and these would be published in the university’s newspaper.” (Voice

Recorded of Dr. Hameed Naseem, Dated Nov. 21, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 2:30 pm CST record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

Opposition from non-Ahmadis

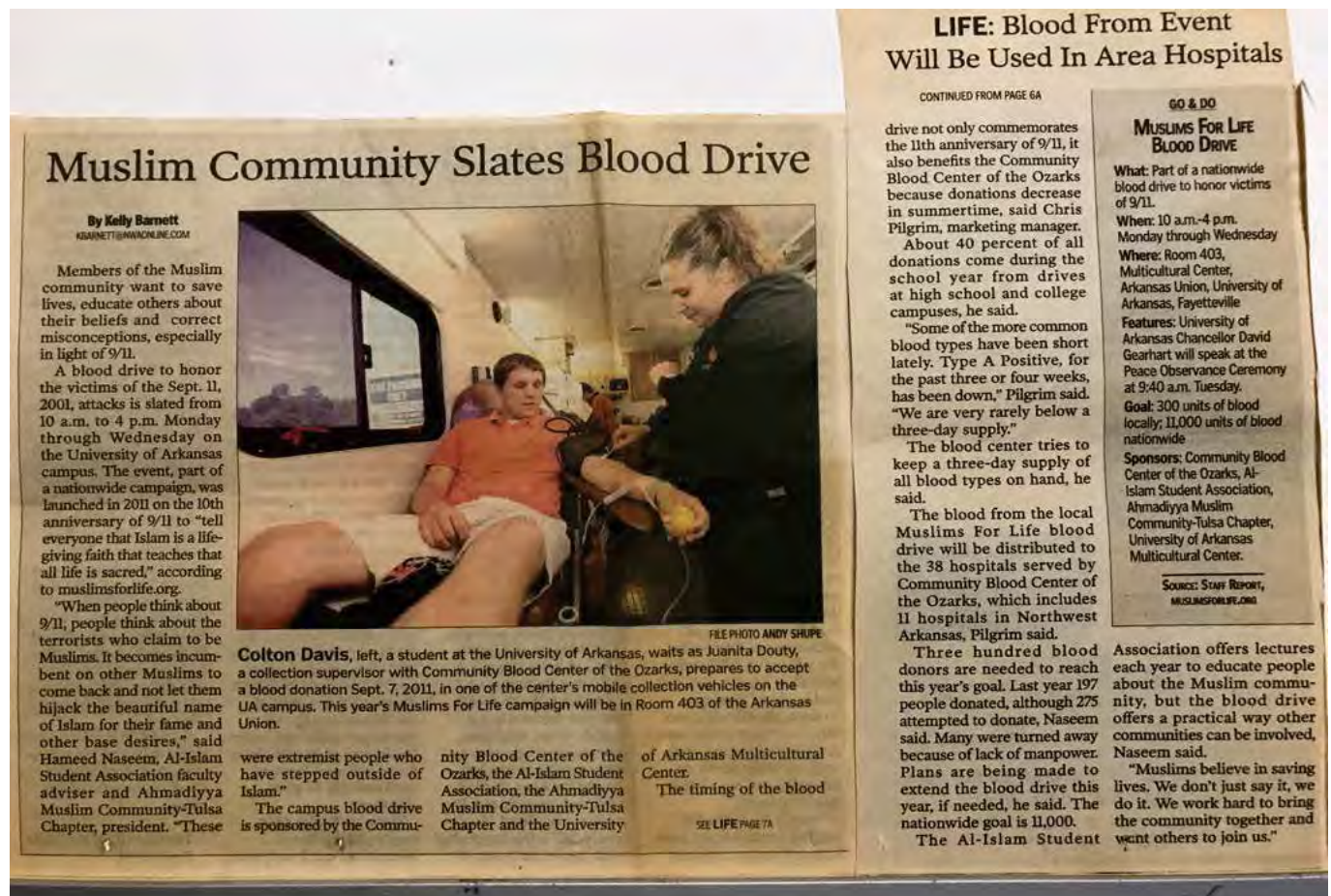
“It has been seen that non-Ahmadis still had the mindset as the Mullahs of the sub-Continent, and their views had not changed, nor have they become open-minded. The non-Muslims at the University have tried to go to many lengths to stop the Al-Islam Students Organization from holding these programs at the university. They had reported to the university that these people [referring to the Al-Islam Students Organization] that, they do not let other Muslims join them, so this organization should be stopped and

banned.

In addition, they have tried to join the organization and to try and close it down, however, they were unsuccessful. They have sent emails to thousands of people to not work with them, do not join with them, do not attend their program[s]. These people had personally made house visit to the members of ‘Al-Islam Students Organization’ that they should leave the organization or resign, otherwise, they would be socially boy-cotted.

Many of these students came and mentioned that they would still love to continue working with the organization [Al-Islam Students Organization], however, the only request is if you can leave our name out of the roster. – their request was honored” (Voice Recorded of Dr. Hameed Naseem, Dated Nov. 21, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 2:30 pm CST record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

Muslims for Life – Blood Drives



“Since the Nation-wide effort began, blood drives were regularly

held to save lives in remembrance of the lives lost to the tragic attack of

9/11. Tulsa Jamā‘at held these blood drives at University of Arkansas

campus in Fayetteville. Since the launch of this drive [2011] in 9 years more than 1,300 pints of blood were collected. This is equivalent to saving 4,000 lives. In 2020, the blood drive was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Every year at the occasion of these blood drives, the city mayor, university chancellor or vice-chancellor and other dignitaries, attend – along with press and media

Congregational Prayers – Meetings

Since Tulsa Jamā'at does not have its own property, nor its own mosque, members of the community have always opened their homes to hold these important gatherings of congregational prayers, Friday

Mr. Ehteshamul Haque Sohel Edmond, OK
Mr. Rashid Ijaz Oklahoma City, OK
Dr. Qaisar Qayyum Edmond, OK

This was the norm before the Jamā'at was able to rent a Community Centre in Bixby, OK, which was rented in 2002 / 2003. Bixby was a central point for majority of the members, as it is centrally located about 110 miles from Oklahoma City, OK and 120 miles from Fayetteville, AR.

Marshallese Community

Outside of Marshall Islands, one of the biggest populations of Marshallese is in Springdale, AR – situated in North-West Arkansas. According to one article it states that “more than 15,000 Marshallese live in NW Arkansas.” (<https://www.mei.ngo/marshallese-in-arkansas>)

Some Marshallese who had joined the community have migrated from Marshall Islands to NW Arkansas as well. One of the biggest reasons that such a huge number

Member Codes for Marshallese

Since there was no missionary based in Arkansas, and the regional missionary would cover Tulsa Jamā'at. “Murabbi Salman Tariq in 2016 with Murabbi Matiullah Joyia

who cover the event. A press conference is held along with a moment of silence for the victims of 9/11.

The city mayor who is a regular attendee has issued commemorative days [1 – 3] depending on how many days the event is held. It is designated ‘Muslims for Life – 9/11 Memorial – Blood Drive Day’.

At these blood drives, Jamā'at

prayers, Eid prayers, and Jamā'at meetings. The location has always rotated depending on the availability and in order to spread the blessings of holding such events at various homes.

Since then, the formal meetings of Tulsa Jamā'at have been taking place at the Bixby Community Centre. Over the past few years, the meetings have been regular which was resulted in an increased bonding between the members.

Current Ameer Jamā'at USA,

reside in this part of USA is that, when one family member or friend or relative migrates, then he / she slowly brings the rest of his friends and family to where they are residing.

Since Murabbi Feroz Hundal has been serving as a Missionary in Tulsa Jamā'at, and as he resides in Springdale – the residence of Joland Kaious & Moreen Mission has been used to hold daily prayers during the weekdays, alongside other Jamā'at

[who was visiting from Marshall Islands] drove down from St. Louis to various parts of Arkansas, Oklahoma and north-eastern part of Texas. A program for a couple of

has an opportunity to give interviews on radio / tv / newspaper and usually all of that coverage is published the same day on the local stations and channels.” (Voice Recorded of Dr. Hameed Naseem, Dated Nov. 21, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 2:30 pm CST record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

Members of Tulsa Jamā'at would congregate at the residences of:

Mr. Ehsanul Haq Julu Mustang, OK
Mr. Malik Afzal Husain Tulsa, OK
Mr. Dabir Ahmed Broken Arrow, OK

Respected Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad has been an example for all the members, as he participates in these regular meetings by driving ~375 miles from Dodge City, KS to Bixby, OK [which is a 6 hour drive one way].

programs. Friday prayers and weekend congregational prayers are held at the missionary's residence.

As of February 2021, 35 Marshallese members reside in NW Arkansas. Over the past couple of years, many others have migrated here as well, however, over time, after getting settled some have migrated to other places in mainland USA.

days was made so that they would try to go to each Marshallese persons house and fill out the Tajneed [Membership] for all. In total, 45 Marshallese were registered and got

member codes.” (Voice Recorded of Murabbi Salman Tariq, Dated Nov.

25, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 3:00 pm CST record with

Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

Jalsa Salana USA & a faith inspiring incident

Murabbi Salman Tariq relates an incident which shows the extraordinary belief the Marshallese members have in regards to trust in God. “In 2017, Jalsa Salana USA was being held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and the Marshallese members since they had migrated from Marshall Islands to mainland USA had not attended any Jalsa. Most of the members had just recently come to USA. Murabbi Salman Tariq, with the help of National Secretary Tabligh USA [Sayed Waseem Ahmad], made it happen to take the Marshallese members to this blessed event.

Murabbi Salman Tariq arranged for a 17-seater van to be rented, and he drove down from St. Louis, MO to Springdale, AR [~6 hour drive one-way], and picked up all the members who had committed to going and then drove back to St. Louis. They all stayed the night at the mosque and the plan was that they would travel onwards to Harrisburg the next day.

Murabbi Salman Tariq relates that at the occasion of this first collective trip for the Marshallese, Mr. Romeo Tanson had told everyone to take leave from their work and attend this Jalsa. For this, Sister Moreen Mission, wife of Joland Kaious mentioned that her husband was unable to get time off. The company he worked for was not giving him time off. Joland really wanted to go, so when Murabbi Salman Tariq came to Arkansas to pick up the members, he found out about his situation and sister Moreen told that she was crying at night that her husband wasn't able to get time off.

On one side, everything was all set, yet on the other side, Joland's company had said, “If you leave, you will not get your job back. You will be fired.” The next day when Murabbi Salman Tariq was picking up all the members, and the time came to pick up Joland's family, Joland said, ‘I don't care if they fire me, I am going to come with you for Jalsa.’ The group departed and went to attend Jalsa.

When Joland came back and went to work, his company said to give them a letter from his missionary. Once Murabbi Salman Tariq sent that letter, the company accepted it and Joland was allowed to continue work. Al-Hamdu Lillah.” 1 (Voice Recorded of Murabbi Salman Tariq, Dated Nov. 25, 2020, Received via WhatsApp message at 3:00 pm CST record with Murabbi Feroz Hundal)

This was the determination of one Marshallese and he showed his full faith in God, that he was doing something about which the Promised Messiah [may peace be upon him] ha prayed for. He wanted to partake in these blessings and with this conviction, Joland went that if he gets fired, so be it – “I will give precedence to my faith over worldly objectives.”



Oregon: Portland



Rizwan Mosque, Portland, OR



Left: April 29, 1987 – On the first day of Ramadan in 1987, groundbreaking of the Portland Rizwan Mosque. Pictured (from right to left): Dr. Mian Tahir, Basharat Rahman Zafar, Masood Mian, Dr. Mirza Muhammad Luqman.

Right: April 29, 1987 – On the first day of Ramadan in 1987, groundbreaking of the Portland Rizwan Mosque.



Left: May 9, 1987 – Foundation stone laying ceremony.

Pictured (from right to left): Murabbi Chaudhary MuneerAhmad, the late Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad (guest of honor), Dr. Mian Tahir, Kashif Zafar, Dr. Aftab Ahmad, and Basharat Rahman Zafar.

Right: May 9, 1987 – Foundation stone laying ceremony.

Pictured (from right to left): local news camera man, Dr. Aftab Ahmad, the late Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, Murabbi Chaudhary MuneerAhmad (facing opposite direction), and Dr. Mian Tahir.

Introduction

Portland is the largest and most populous city in the U.S. state of Oregon and the seat of Multnomah County. As of 2018, Portland had an estimated population of 653,115, making it the 25th most populated city in the United States and the second-most populous in the Pacific Northwest after Seattle. Approximately 2.4 million people live in the Portland metropolitan statistical area (MSA).

Named after Portland, Maine, the Oregon settlement began to be populated in the 1830s near the end of the Oregon Trail. Its water access provided convenient transportation of goods, and the timber industry was a major force in the city's early economy. (Wikipedia)

History of Chapter

The Portland chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community finds its roots in 1964 with the arrival of Dr. Mian Mohammad Tahir, who began his practice as a neurosurgeon, and his wife, Dr. Jahanara Tahir who practiced medicine as an ob-gyn. They were among the first immigrants to Portland from India and Pakistan, which then led to the arrival of more Ahmadi Muslims in the 1960s and 1970s.

In the late 1970s, Portland had the distinct honor of being visited by Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad, just a few years before his election and appointment as Hadrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV. During his visit in the late 1970s, Khalifatul-Masih stayed with Dr. Tahir, who was well known to him, his family and the elders of the Jamā'at. Having been born and raised in Qādiān, Dr. Tahir was part of the Khuddam force that defended Qādiān during the partition of India.

Rizwan Mosque

The Chapter grew with the arrival of Dr. Aftab Syed Ahmad, an Ahmadi heart surgeon, and his family, as well as two additional families of Mirza Luqman and Basharat Rahman Zafar years later. Friday Prayers and educational meetings were rotated between these four families' houses while Dr. Tahir remained the chapter's first elected president. He and Dr. Aftab contributed most of the funds to local Mosque Fund to build a mosque on a hill in a quiet residential neighborhood in Southwest Portland, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV approved the plans and named it Rizwan Mosque. The mosque was designed by Dr. Tahir's brother, Mian Mohammad Masood.

This marked a historic moment for Islam in Portland, as this was the first mosque ever built in Portland. The design of the mosque is a fusion of traditional architectural elements of mosques in Muslim-majority countries and American suburban architecture by which it is surrounded. The red brick mosque displays a 34-foot decorative minaret that faces the street and a green dome, while large glass doors placed within wall-length windows provide a beautiful entrance from the front parking lot.

The Portland Rizwan Mosque also became a historic mosque for the USA Jamā'at as it stands as only the third ever purpose-built mosque in the USA Jamā'at history, after Dayton and Tucson. Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih IV returned to Portland in October 1987 to inaugurate the newly completed Portland Rizwan Mosque, staying with Dr. Aftab while holding Mulāqāt (family meeting) sessions at Dr. Tahir's house. Khalifatul-Masih addressed questions from many guests who attended the mosque's

grand opening and spoke at a special reception organized at a hotel during that trip.

The mosque itself is 2,952 sq.-ft split across two levels. The top-level hosts the prayer hall split between a men's and women's side, and the lower level consists of a meeting area, a kitchen, and two small offices. The property is beautifully sloping with an upper and lower parking lot, the latter of which then meets with a year-round active stream called Falling Creek. At quiet moments, it can be heard burbling away, lending the mosque a beautiful and serene atmosphere.

Chapter Activities

The Portland Chapter has been blessed with some distinguished members. Of these: Mirza Luqman, two-time local president of the chapter and Professor of Electrical Engineering; Mubarak Ahmad, a teacher and Principal in Ghana under the Nusrat Jahān scheme; and Harris Zafar, author of "Demystifying Islam: Tackling the Tough Questions" and frequent PR representative of the Jamā'at to national print and TV media across the USA.

For the year 2019-2020, the Portland Jamā'at has 79 total earning members and is 20th in the nation for Chanda Waṣīyyat and Aam per earning member. Its Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya youth auxiliary has been at the forefront of organizing blood drives for nearly 20 years.

Portland is historically a small but beautifully diverse chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community that, by the Grace of Allah, has become recognized by those outside the community for some of its propagational outreach activities. It has also become the recognized Muslim voice in Portland media – on all four local TV news stations, in

various local newspapers and magazines, and on several radio stations. The mosque has been featured nationally as well on all major television networks.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA has a deep and rich history in Portland, and by the will and help of

Allah, we pray it will continue to grow as we enter the next century of Ahmadiyyat in America.

Chapter Leadership

The following are the presidents of the Portland Chapter over the 30+ years of its establishment:

Dr. Mian Mohammad Tahir
 Dr. Aftab Syed Ahmad
 Dr. Mirza Muhammad Luqman
 Rasheed (Richard) Reno
 Dr. Mirza Muhammad Luqman
 Salman Ahmad



Left: October 30, 1987 – Inauguration of the Portland Rizwan Mosque. Pictured (from right): Murabbi Naseem Mahdi, Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (rh), Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, Basharat Rahman Zafar (reciting Urdu poem)

Right: October 30, 1987 – Inauguration of the Portland Rizwan Mosque



Left: October 30, 1987 – Inauguration of the Portland Rizwan Mosque. Young tift, Kashif Zafar, delivers short presentation quoting the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) about the beliefs and mission of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Pictured (from right): Murabbi Naseem Mahdi, Kashif Zafar, Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (rh), Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, Dr. Mian Tahir (local President, leading onto table)

Right: October 31, 1987 – Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (rh) conducting Ameen ceremony for a young girl (Tehmeena Luqman) and young boy (Harris Zafar) at the home of Dr. Syed Aftab Ahmad.

Pennsylvania: Harrisburg-York



Hadee Mosque, Harrisburg PA

Harrisburg is the capital city of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the United States, and the county seat of Dauphin County. With a population of 49,229, it is the 15th largest city in the Commonwealth. It lies on the east bank of the Susquehanna River, 107 miles (172 km) west of Philadelphia. Harrisburg is the anchor of the Susquehanna Valley metropolitan area, which had a 2018 estimated population of 574,659, making it the fourth most populous in Pennsylvania and 96th most populous in the United States.

Harrisburg played a notable role in American history during the Westward Migration, the American

Civil War, and the Industrial Revolution. During part of the 19th century, the building of the Pennsylvania Canal and later the Pennsylvania Railroad allowed Harrisburg to become one of the most industrialized cities in the Northeastern United States. The U.S. Navy ship USS Harrisburg, which served from 1918 to 1919 at the end of World War I, was named in honor of the city. In the mid-to-late 20th century, the city's economic fortunes fluctuated with its major industries consisting of government, heavy manufacturing, agriculture, and food services (nearby Hershey is home of the chocolate maker, located just 10

miles (16 km) east).

The Pennsylvania Farm Show, the largest free indoor agriculture exposition in the United States, was first held in Harrisburg in 1917 and has been held there every early-to-mid January since then. Harrisburg also hosts an annual outdoor sports show, the largest of its kind in North America, an auto show, which features a large static display of new as well as classic cars and is renowned nationwide, and Motorama, a two-day event consisting of a car show, motocross racing, remote control car racing, and more. Harrisburg is also known for the Three Mile Island accident, which occurred on March 28, 1979,

near Middletown. (www)

Founded in 1974, the York/Harrisburg Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at was set-up by Brother Yahya Sharif who was the first president of the Jamā'at. Currently, Islam had almost no visible presence in the York area. Although there was a large Sunni population in Harrisburg, the only Muslims in York were mostly members of the Nation of Islam.

With the conversion of Sister Zainab Asad, a trained teacher, in 1975, Sister Aisha's (wife of Yahya Sharif) goal of founding a full-time Ahmadi Muslim school was realized. Thus, the Nuruddin School was created, with the help of Brother Yahya and Sister Aisha Sharif. The school was the first of only two such schools in the United States at that time. It was housed in Sister Zainab Asad's large spacious home and soon became the focal point for the York Lajna and the Jamā'at.

Young families with small children began to migrate to York for the purpose of sending their children to the school. Among these new families were: Brother Tahir and Sister Amtul Hakim Abdullah, who migrated from New York in 1976. Shortly thereafter, Brother Ahmad and Sister Ayesha Bashir also migrated from New York, followed by Brother Salim and Sister Shahida Muhaimin, who migrated from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It should be mentioned here that all these families left the secure comfort of their jobs and homes for the sole purpose of their children being able to attend a Muslim school. These families faced great hardships in trying to establish themselves in a new community, but their sacrifices proved to be well worth it. Around the same time, two families migrated from East Africa.

The school, which served as a catalyst to draw members to the

York area, caused the Jamā'at members to become extremely close. They came for the school, and in turn got a close-knit community. The school was the center of all activities and all the members worked diligently for its success. Jum'ah services were held at the school every Friday.

In 1979, the nuclear incident at Three Mile Island devastated the area. As a result, one family left the area and several others who had planned to migrate to the area canceled their plans. That catastrophe signaled a series of obstacles and trials that eventually led to the dissolution of the school in 1981. This was a very sad and trying time for the Jamā'at. However, the Jamā'at membership continued to grow as new families came from different parts of the US and from India and Pakistan.

During this time, Jamā'at expanded its activities in propagation and social service activities. In York another special event was unfolding, the purchase of a building in 1984 and the establishment of a Mosque in York by Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, the missionary and National Amir of Ahmadiyya Jamā'at, USA. This became the first mission house he established and the first Mosque in the city of York. The mosque was inaugurated in 1985, and it was an event that drew many local visitors and dignitaries. It is noteworthy to mention that when the city of York celebrated its 250th Anniversary, the Noor Mosque was featured in its brochure.

An article featuring the Prayer Dual (Mubahala) issue, along with a picture of the Khalifat-ul-Masih IV, was published as front-page news in the York Daily Record. During this period, Khalifat-ul-Masih IV, entrusted Sr. Aisha Sharif to lead the project on indexing the Five-Volume

Holy Quran. Several sisters from this Lajna along with sisters from other Lajna successfully completed this project.

In the winter of 2006, renovations were made to the York Noor mosque the prayer area was extended, repainted, and redecorated along with many other changes throughout the mosque. The Jamā'at put in many long hours on this project. The same year, a local family donated a property (about 25 miles north of York) to the Jamā'at. This then became another center for the Jamā'at to meet and offered more space to meet the needs of the growing Jamā'at.

The York/Harrisburg Jamā'at is active in Khidmat-e-Khalq (social service) and Tabligh (outreach). Many times, a year, the Jamā'at participates in different efforts that serve the general community, such as, blood drives, hosting school groups, and inter-faith programs.

In June 2008, for the first time Harrisburg was chosen as the venue for holding the National Annual Jalsa and this occasion was special because our beloved Khalifat-ul-Masih graced the occasion for the first time in Harrisburg. Since then, Harrisburg has been the place of choice for the Annual Convention except for one year. In 2011, Allah the Almighty gave us the opportunity to buy a church, and this was named as the Hadee Mosque, which was inaugurated by Khalifat-ul-Masih in 2012.

It is very difficult to condense and capture the spirit, sacrifices and activities of our Jamā'at into a few brief paragraphs. Our Jamā'at is very diverse in its makeup. We have several professionals and talented people from every walk of life. This effort is an attempt to give a general overview of the York/Harrisburg Jamā'at.

Pennsylvania: Lehigh Valley



Lehigh Valley is located in Northeastern Pennsylvania on the Western border of New Jersey. It is comprised of the cities of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. It is centrally located about 75-90 minutes from the Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Central Jersey, North Jersey and Willingboro chapters.

Ahmadis living in the area mostly belonged to the Central Jersey Chapter and some to the Philadelphia Chapter.

Early Beginnings

Dr. Zafar Waqar Kahlon moved to the area in September 2008 (Ramadan) from Toronto, Canada. He attended Lehigh University in Bethlehem where he did research in the Chemistry Department.

Upon arriving here, he wanted to become part of the local chapter and start paying his dues. He contacted the USA Ahmadiyya headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland and was given information about the president and finance secretary in Philadelphia. When he inquired from about local members in the Lehigh Valley, for the purpose of starting Congregational Friday Prayers, he was given a list of about ten members residing in and around the Lehigh Valley.

He called the local members and

got a positive response from many members, especially Syed Masood ul Hasan Shah who was very delighted to hear from Dr. Zafar. Syed Masood ul Hasan Shah was a very knowledgeable and dedicated Ahmadi. He was an encyclopedia of knowledge about history, personalities, and the books of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him).

Syed Masood ul Hasan suggested Saeed Ahmad Mughal's residence as the place for holding Jum'ah Prayers around October 2008. Saeed Mughal was happy to offer his house for Friday Prayers. Shortly afterwards we held the first Friday Prayer at Saeed Mughal's house with Luqman Ahmad of Allentown calling out the first Adhan.

More members started to attend Jum'ah Prayers at Saeed Mughal's house. Jum'ah was held upstairs in two rooms for men and women. He would offer tea and snacks to members afterwards.

Chapter Officially Established

In 2010, the first election was held presided by Maulana Inamul Haq Kauser. Naseem Ahmad Waseem was elected as the first president of Lehigh Valley chapter.

Asad Chaudhry was elected as the first Qa'id of Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya Lehigh Valley.

After a few years of offering Jum'ah Prayers at Saeed Mughal's house, members needed more space and began gathering at Dr. Usman Shah's house. Dr. Usman Shah and his family were gracious to host the members for the nearly eight years for everything from Jum'ah Prayers to monthly meetings and Eid Prayers. They had their basement finished which provided ample space for men to gather. The Shah family was very accommodating for the growing needs. Thereafter, the meetings and Jum'ah Prayers were held a few houses away at Zaki Bajwa's house, son of Naseem Bajwa. Before acquiring the mosque, monthly meetings and Jum'ah Prayers were held at the homes of Farid Ahmad and Asad Chaudhry.

Acquiring a Mosque

Members had been searching for a suitable place for a mosque for many years. Since there were very few members in the chapter, they were looking to rent a place. After discussion with national property secretary about their intentions, he advised them to look for a place to purchase instead. Over the next few years, members continued their

search for a mosque property. In 2018, they found a place that would fit their needs, a centrally located place big enough to accommodate all members. It was being used as a daycare facility in the area. Once the members completed their due diligence, the Amila members decided to move forward with the purchase. The property, however, had another buyer who had put in an offer. The members were disappointed that a great property had slipped out of their hands. Determined to find a place, they began searching for other locations, but nothing was coming up with similar specifications as the place they wanted to purchase.

Chapter president, Asad Chaudhry, wrote a letter to Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) requesting prayers to find a suitable place of worship. Khalifatul-Masih responded on September 4, 2018, “May Allah Almighty remove any obstacles and grant you success in your endeavors...”

Tahir Academy

Even before Tahir Academy was officially started, children’s classes were held and organized by Khola Ahmad, daughter of Farid Ahmad. Thereafter, Lehigh Valley Tahir Academy was officially organized in September 2012 by its first and current principal, Saira Chaudhry. Since the chapter did not have a mosque at the time, all classes were held via conference calls. Once the mosque was purchased in 2019, classes were held regularly on Saturday. This greatly increased the attachment to the newly purchased mosque not only for the children, but adults as well.

Dedicated teachers have been:

Girls Boys: Asma Waqas. Rashid Waqas, Raheela Chaudhry Ahmad Chaudhry, Khola Ahmad Tahir Chaudhry.

The property became available again on September 28, 2018, as the previous buyer had issues with financing. It was with prayers of the Khalifatul-Masih, only a few weeks ago, that the “obstacle” was removed, and we would pursue the purchase of this property.

On Friday, October 12, 2018, chapter president got a call from the real estate broker minutes before Jum’ah Prayer that the seller had accepted our offer to purchase the property for the mosque. Al-Hamdu Lillah.

Khalifatul-Masih V was to arrive in America in a few days, but the blessings of Khilafat had already started to manifest themselves.

As the tour of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih was well underway, the seller was getting anxious to sell the property. National Property Secretary was busy full time coordinating the tour. After Khalifatul-Masih V left the United States, we started to coordinate with Headquarters in moving forward

with the purchase. There was a lot more involved in the process than we, at the local level, thought. But with persistence by the local members and the national team, we were able to close the deal on February 21, 2019. Al-Hamdu Lillah. Khalifatul-Masih V named the mosque Bait-ul-‘Ata.

A few days after getting the property, members pitched in with hours of Waqar-e-‘Amal (voluntary manual labor) to get the mosque ready for daily prayers, culminating with the first Jum’ah Prayer on March 1, 2019. The members were grateful to have a mosque of their own after years of searching. At least one daily congregational prayer was held at Bait-ul-‘Ata until the start of the pandemic. Members, young and old, men and women, occupied the mosque for daily salat, meetings, Ijtimās, and Tahir Academy classes. We all look forward to the day when the mosque will once again be open for daily congregational prayers.



Notable Incidents

In August 2008, Asma Waqas Sheikh wrote a letter to Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V stating that her husband brought her to a place where there was no chapter at all and she saw churches on every single corner, and requested prayers that may Allah make some way to go back home where members were in abundant numbers. But Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih replied that since she had come there, Allah will start a chapter there as well. Exactly two days after she received the reply, her husband Rashid Waqas Sheikh received a call from Dr. Zafar Waqar Kahlon who had just come from Canada at the Chemistry Department to work on a research project as a Research Scientist at Lehigh University. Dr. Waqar Kahlon mentioned to Rashid Sheikh that he had found out of his move to the area and that there were more than twenty families in the nearby areas. He invited him for Jum'ah informing of Jum'ah at Saeed Ahmad Mugal's house in Allentown. Exactly four days after the reply from Khalifatul-Masih V, Jum'ah was started by the grace of God with the prayers of our beloved Khalifatul-Masih, Al-Hamdu Lillahi 'ala Dhalik. Wonderful coincidence that letter which was sent and the reply received from the Khalifatul-Masih

V was only three blocks away from where Ma Sha Allah Almighty Allah granted us our Masjid Bait-ul-'Ata in Allentown PA.

Once Chapter President, Naseem Waseem and Shura Delegate Asad Chaudhry were coming back from the Shura meeting in Silver Spring, MD. As they got closer to their homes, they were discussing about the need to acquire a local mosque. Entering the Allentown area on Route 78, they noticed a rainbow north of the highway. Delighted to see the rainbow, both remarked that perhaps here is where the mosque should be located. Little did they know that the current mosque would be within a few miles of the sight of that rainbow. Al-Hamdu Lillah.

Missionaries

Murabbi Inamul Haq Kauser
Murabbi Azhar Haneef
Murabbi Abdullah Dibra

Early Ahmadiis in the area

Syed Masood ul Hasan Shah
Saeed Ahmad Mughal
Essam Ahmad
Farid Ahmad
Zafar Waqar Kahlon
Naseem Ahmad Waseem
Rashid Waqas

Asad Chaudhry

Physicians

Dr. Usman Shah
Dr. Ahmad Chaudhry
Dr. Asad Chaudhry
Dr. Ata Qureshi
Dr. Abdul Shakoor Badr

Presidents

Naseem Waseem 2010-2016
Asad Chaudhry 2016-present

Za'im Ansarullah

Naseem Bajwa 2011-2013
Asad Chaudhry 2014-2019 (2nd place small majlis award in 2014, 2016 & 2017)
Ahmad Chaudhry 2020-present

Qa'id Khuddām-ul-Ahmadiyya Lehigh Valley

Asad Chaudhry 2010-2012 (1st and 2nd place small majlis award)
Rashid Waqas 2012-2016
Asad Bajwa 2016-2018
Waleed Ahmad 2018-present

Sadr Lajna Ima'illah Lehigh Valley

Farzana Shah 2010-2012
Wajeeha Shah 2012-2018
Saira Chaudhry 2018-present



First U.S. Congressman from Lehigh Valley, Charlie Dent (R-PA-15), addresses delegates of the 65th Jalsa Salana USA (2013)



First place of Jum'ah Prayer, Saeed Mughal's house, with Murabbi Inamul Haq Kauser (2010)



First Eid Prayers at Bait-ul-'Ata Mosque (June 2019)



Awards received from Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper)
2nd place MKA Small Majlis (2011) and 2nd place Ansarullah Small Majlis (2016)



First U.S. Congressman from Lehigh Valley, Charlie Dent (R-PA-15), attends Muslims For Life Blood Drive (September 2011)



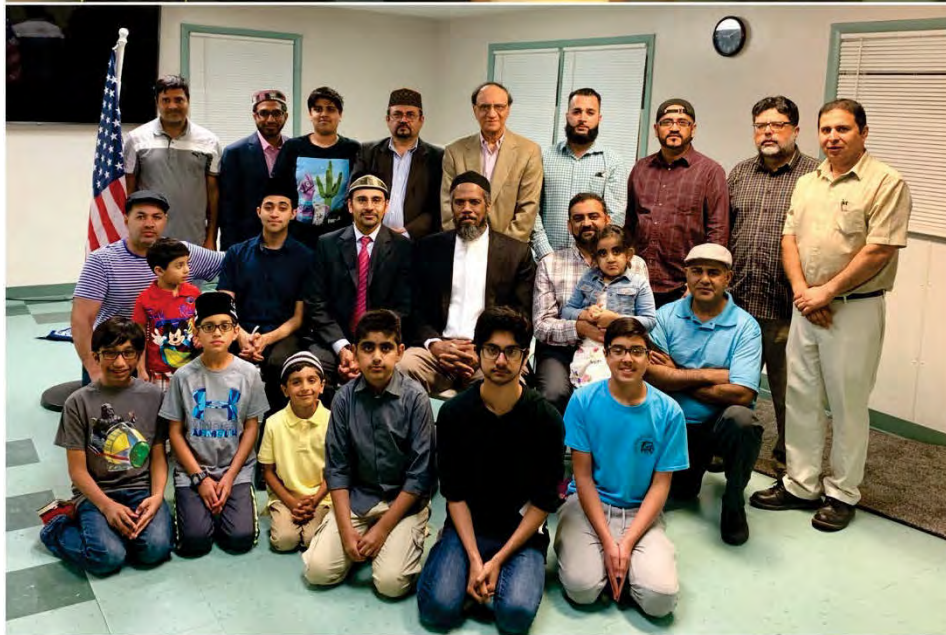
Various salat centers before purchasing mosque.



Iftar/Iftari with Na'ib Ameer, Maulana Azhar Haneef (2015 & 2014)



First Local Atfal Ijtima (2019)



First Open Mosque Event (Ramadan 2019)



Waqar-e-'Amal upon acquiring Bait-ul-'Ata Mosque (2019)



First Muslims For Life Blood Drive at Bait-ul-'Ata Mosque (September 2019)



Members with Murabbi Abdullah Dibba

Pennsylvania: Philadelphia



Left: Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V unveiling Bait-ul-Aafiyat inauguration plaque. Right: Bait-ul-Aafiyat Mosque.



Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V inaugurating Bait-ul-Aafiyat in Philadelphia, PA

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is celebrating its hundred years in America. The first Ahmadi Muslim missionary to Americas, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, arrived in Philadelphia in 1920. After his admission to the US, he moved to New York, Chicago, Detroit and then settled in Chicago. In Philadelphia, he was refused entry and imprisoned in a building alongside other prisoners where he began to preach Islam and within two months, fifteen of his fellow prisoners accepted Islam.

Even prior to his arrival in Philadelphia, Sadiq's preaching through the written word led him to contact Dr. George Baker, who became the first Ahmadi Muslim convert in Philadelphia. Dr. Baker was an avid reader and contributor to *The Review of Religions*, a comparative religious magazine started by the Promised Messiah, and he converted via written correspondence.

Masjid Bait-ul-Aafiyat, which translates as, "House of Security Mosque," was officially opened by

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) on Friday, October 19, 2018 with the Friday sermon. October 19 was the same day that Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV laid the foundation stone for the Bait-ul-Futūh Mosque in London in 1999. October 19 was also the same day that Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II (may Allah be pleased with him) laid the foundation stone for the Fazl Mosque in London in 1924. Masjid Bait-ul-Aafiyat is located at the geographical center of Philadelphia on four acres of land and is the first

mosque to be constructed from the ground up within the city limits of Philadelphia.

Prior to Masjid Bait-ul-Aafiyat, over the years, Ahmadis in

Philadelphia had used several places of worship ranging from homes to small storefronts and then Nasir Mosque, which was established in the 1980s in North Philadelphia. Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV

(rahimahullāh) visited Nasir mosque on October 8, 1987. (Adapted from *History of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Philadelphia* by Lajna Ima'illah USA – Philadelphia)

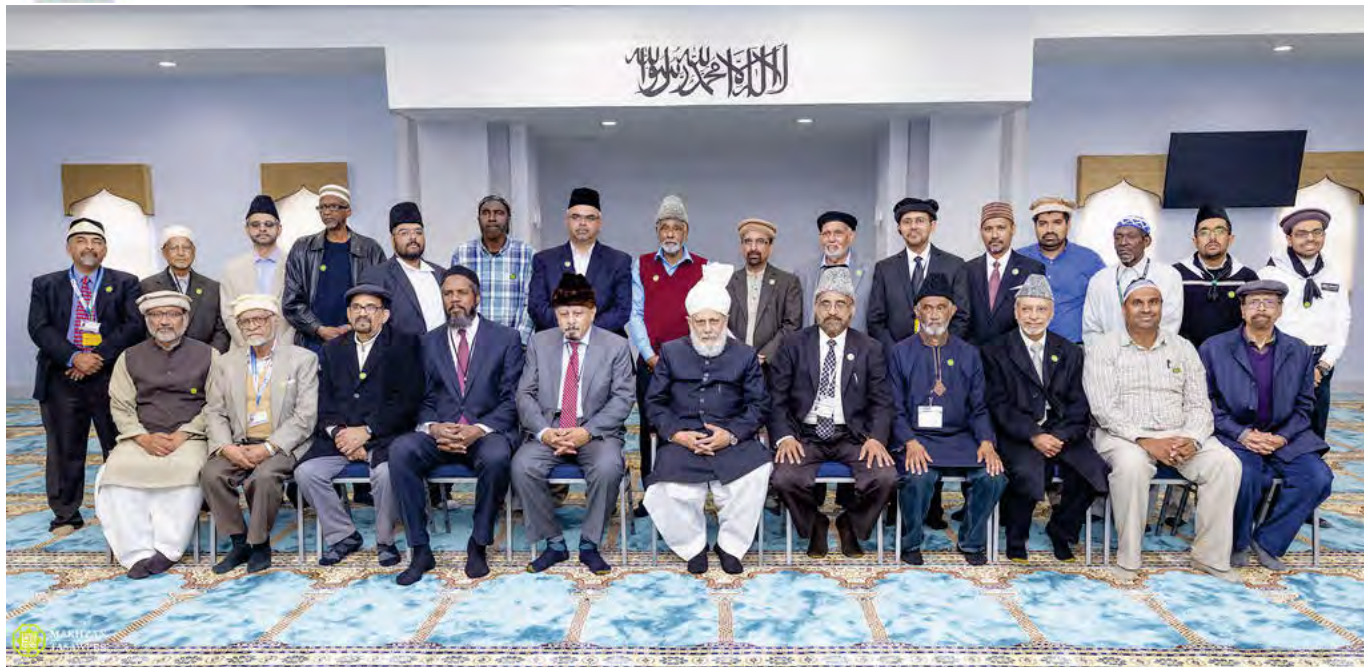


Left. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV visited Nasir Mosque on October 8, 1987.

Right. Br. Munir Hamid and Br. Bilal Salaam waiting for Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV's arrival at Nasir Mosque.



Children waiting for Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V's arrival at Bait-ul-Aafiyat.



Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V at Bait-ul-Aafiyat with local amila members, Dr. Mirza Maghfur Ahmad (Ameer USA), and Azhar Haneef (Missionary In-Charge USA)



Masjid Bait-ul-Aafiyat at night.



Members at the mosque during its construction with Mayor Jim Kenney and construction crew.



Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh

A population of about 302,407 (2018) residents live within the city limits, making it the 66th-largest city in the U.S. The metropolitan population of 2,324,743 is the largest in both the Ohio Valley and Appalachia, the second-largest in Pennsylvania (behind Philadelphia), and the 27th-largest in the U.S.

Pittsburgh is located in the southwest of the state, at the confluence of the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio rivers. Pittsburgh is known both as “the Steel City” for its more than 300 steel-related businesses and as the “City of Bridges” for its 446 bridges. The city features 30 skyscrapers, two inclined railways, a pre-

revolutionary fortification and the Point State Park at the confluence of the rivers. The city developed as a vital link of the Atlantic coast and Midwest, as the mineral-rich Allegheny Mountains made the area coveted by the French and British empires, Virginians, Whiskey Rebels, and Civil War raiders. (Dr. Mahmud Nagi from WWW)

Narrative by Aliyya Shaheed

Dr. Muhammad Yusuf Khan, an Ahmadi from Jhelum, India, introduced Ahmadiyyat to Pittsburgh in 1930. Records show that he arrived in New York by ship on April 8, 1921. The ship manifest lists him as a student, his final destination Chicago, and his nearest relative or friend in the US, Mohammad Sadiq of Chicago. Yusuf Khan became Dr. Sadiq’s enthusiastic helper. He devoted his time to propagation and teaching converts after Dr. Sadiq left the United States in 1923. He received no pay from the Movement and earned his living himself.

After relocating to Pittsburgh, he served in an unofficial capacity as its very own “honorary missionary” until 1935, when Missionary Sufi Bengalee arrived in America. A testament to his effectiveness is that Pittsburgh, early on, became one of the strongest chapters in the country and remained so for decades. Dr. Yusuf Khan’s first and second converts to Ahmadiyyat in Pittsburgh were Brother Saleh and his wife, Rahmat Saleh in 1930. The third convert was Sister Khaliqa Murtaza.

Dr. Khan began his earliest propagation work within an African American semi-Islamic nationalist movement, the Moorish Scientists of America. As Dr. Khan preached the

message of Ahmadiyyat, he quickly gained a large following and his prowess as a teacher and a mentor grew. Besides regular classes for the general membership, Dr. Khan held accelerated honors classes for potential teachers who were, upon graduation, “to go out and preach Islam.” Brothers so designated were given the title Shaikh commonly used in those days for Muslim religious teachers and leaders.

Eventually, there were upwards of 500 active African American Ahmadi in Pittsburgh, in the early 1930s. In fact, the central Mission House in Pittsburgh, at 1818 Wylie Avenue, gradually spread its influence into outlying towns, Homestead, Duquesne and Braddock. Many of the ‘Shaikhs,’ or acting missionaries, travelled with Dr. Khan to other towns and states to preach the message of Islam.

The Pittsburgh Chapter also thrived under the leadership of its first American President, Brother Abu Saleh. His wife, Sister Rahmat Saleh contributed many services to the women’s Sewing Circle (and later Lajna) as well as to the Jamā’at. Sister Rahmat was an exceptional seamstress, an art she tirelessly used to raise funds for the continuous Jamā’at needs.

The sisterhood was strong in

Pittsburgh in the 1930s and 1940s. It had to be to survive. These were the years of Great Depression and African Americans were particularly hit hard, Sisters shared from the heart, cherishing and nurturing each other, fostering a unique bond of love.

During one particularly heartbreaking period, Ahmadi even had to endure a severe split in their beloved Pittsburgh Jamā’at. Under the influence of some renegade Shaikhs (who renounced the Promised Messiah), the Jamā’at lost fifty percent of its membership in one fell swoop. They left, taking one-half of everything—furniture, literature, prayer rugs and other paraphernalia. The internal war was a bitter and protracted struggle that was even taken to the U.S. Court for resolution. Though the coup left the faithful emotionally exhausted, they were also spiritually revitalized and more determined than ever to keep pure Ahmadiyyat firmly rooted in the soil of Pittsburgh.

A nucleus of sisters (and brothers) stood steadfast and committed. This resilient core of Ahmadi women remained the stalwarts of Lajna America from the 1930s through the 1990s. Some of their names were Rahmat Saleh, Saleema Fazl, Khaliqa Murtaza, Rabia Burhan, Aliyya Elahee,

Saleema Subhan Wali, Fatima Taha and Aliyyah Muhammad, who is featured as a Pioneer Sister.

Pittsburgh Pioneer, Sister Fatima Taha accepted Islam and Ahmadiyyat in 1934, along with her husband, Brother Akmal Taha. They had fourteen children, eight daughters who lived to adulthood and six sons who all died shortly after birth. Sister Fatima and Brother Akmal were both dedicated members of the Pittsburgh Chapter. Her husband continued his dedicated service until he passed away in 1972. With his passing, Sister Fatima's service to the Faith and dedication to her own spiritual advancement intensified.

When informed that one could perform Salat (prayer) anywhere in the World, Sister Fatima took it quite literally saying her prayers at amusement parks and even on park benches. There was neither fear nor hesitation in openly declaring that she was a Muslim, even in the days when there were few Muslims in America, and Islam was not well known. Sister Fatima served in a number of local positions within the Pittsburgh Lajna and volunteered for several years at the Ahmadi Children's Camp School in Lothian, Maryland, under the supervision of Sister Saeeda Lateef.

In 1973, she performed Hajj along with Sister Aliyyah Muhammad, and in 1978, Sister Fatima was among the first American sisters to attend the International Jalsa Salana in Rabwah, Pakistan. Developing Alzheimer Disease in her later years, she still tried to perform Salat as long as she was able to do so. She passed away in 1988.

At this writing in 2010, there is only one surviving sister from the early Pittsburgh Lajna to represent the Pioneers into the twenty-first century. She is Sister Aliyyah Shaheed. Even with age-related

health problems, she is still working in the Cause of Ahmadiyyat as she can. [See her biography as a National Lajna President.]

Dr. Yusuf Khan appointed Sister Aliyyah Muhammad as the Pittsburgh Sewing Circle's first President in 1933. During this period, meetings were held in sisters' homes where they reviewed lessons on Islam, developed fund raising schemes and socialized. Many sisters were professional cooks and seamstresses. Their talents inspired beautiful handicrafts and sumptuous meals for fund raising. In 1936, pioneer sister, Aliyyah Muhammad, became Lajna's first elected local President in America. Also elected were Khadijah Shaheed, Vice President, Aliyyah Elahee, General Secretary and Rabia Burhan, Financial Secretary.

Pittsburgh's second President was Khadijah Shaheed, grandmother of Pittsburgh's current Jamā'at President, Omar Shaheed. Serving in 1930s, Sister Khadijah was a motivator, a strong-willed personality, in love with her faith. Her home was the home of some of the early teachers in Ahmadiyyat. Khadijah was loyal, steadfast and an indefatigable worker until her death.

Sister Aliyyah Ahmad Elahee was Lajna's third President. Soft-spoken, intelligent, kind-hearted and artistic, she used these gifts for service. Sister Elahee did all the sign painting for the Jamā'at. She was keenly active in propagation and accompanied her equally active husband on his propagation drives. Education classes were held in her home.

Lajna's fourth President was a giant in more than one Lajna—her star shone in Pittsburgh, and later as New York's President. Jameela Afzal (featured as a Pioneer Sister) was the wife of Pittsburgh's second Jamā'at President, Bashir Afzal, Lajna's humble and dedicated friend. Sister

Jameela pushed education and propagation. Sisters progressed to the point where they felt confident enough to write short speeches on Islam and deliver them before relatives and friends.

Sister Jameela and her husband made outstanding sacrifices to Lajna and the Jamā'at. She and her husband were one of the five families who purchased and donated the first Pittsburgh Mission House. Pittsburgh's first missionary from Qadian, Mirza Monawar Ahmad, adopted the Afzals as his family and they nursed him lovingly during his terminal illness. He died on September 15, 1948 in Pittsburgh, becoming Ahmadiyya's first missionary martyr in America. Mirza Monawar Ahmad was the uncle of Hadrat Maryam Siddiqah, Chhotē Apa.

Sister Aliyyah Shaheed was Lajna's fifth President. Elected in 1945, she was the wife of Pittsburgh's third Jamā'at President, Ahmad Shaheed. Sister Aliyyah Shaheed stressed unity, togetherness and understanding of, and obedience to the Institution of Khilafat. During her tenure, Pittsburgh has the distinction of being the first local Lajna Chapter to be linked with the Central Lajna. International Lajna records state:

In 1946, Respected Mirza Monawar Ahmad missionary USA received instructions from the headquarters to establish Lajna Ima'illah in all local mission houses. In USA, Pittsburgh was the first Lajna to receive instructions directly from Rabwah Lajna Ima'illah Headquarters. The women were instructed to obey the missionaries and learn Islamic education. They were also instructed to propagate Islam in their halqas [circles] and cities. In addition, they were directed to pay Chanda [dues] regularly as well as submit reports of their activities regularly to Lajna Ima'illah

headquarters. (History of Lajna Ima'illah International)

Sister Aliyyah Shaheed remembers, "The local Missionary, Monawar Ahmad, arrived from our center in Rabwah. As he was leaving, he said that our Central Lajna President told him to organize Lajna wherever he went. I told him that we are organized. Surprised, he said that the Center is not aware of it and suggested that we should prepare our activity report. We prepared it and he signed it. The answer we received back said that ours was the first report received from any foreign Lajna."

The first directive concerning a purdah dress code also occurred during Sister Shaheed's tenure. Missionary Monawar Ahmad visited Dayton where he found Ahmadi women wearing ankle-length skirts and large headscarves that covered their bosoms. He was so impressed that he asked sisters in Pittsburgh to consider dressing similarly when attending the Mosque. Though dress had never been stressed before, some sisters immediately complied, thus establishing an Islamic dress code in the Pittsburgh mission.

The sixth Lajna President, Saleema Fazal (grandmother of Sister Moneerah Matthews, a forthcoming Lajna President) was one of the early converts truly dedicated to service. The Fazal home

became a second home-alternately with the Saleh family-of the Bengalee family when they visited Pittsburgh. In fact, when Missionary Sufi Bengalee went on long speaking tours, he left his wife and children in the Fazal home. Their home became like a second Mission House, where members came and went continuously-with the Fazal family making constant sacrifices to help solidify Ahmadiyyat in Pittsburgh. Among the pioneer was sister Hameed Aziz, Lajna's seventh President. Her special gift was presenting Islam in a way that always left listeners eager to know more. Sister Hameed lived next door to the Mosque and her home was described as the 'Gateway into the Mosque.' Many informal meetings were held there.

Missionary Syed Jawad Ali was stationed in Pittsburgh (1954-1960) during Sister Saeeda's presidency. His wife, Sister Teenat Jawad, became ill and died in Pittsburgh, leaving behind an infant daughter. Sister Aliyyah Shaheed recalls, "She was beautiful, talented and devout. She had poor health and had to be hospitalized. While there, she went throughout the hospital preaching Islam until death came." During Sister Teenat's illness, Sister Hameeda cared for their young daughter and actually became a second mother for the toddler for a

full year after Sister Teenat's premature death. Records of International Lajna mention the sad event:

The demise of Syeda Teenat in America: The wife of Mukaram Syed Jawad Ali Missionary America, Syeda Teenat passed away in Pittsburgh on March 16, 1958. To Allah we belong and to Him we shall return. Upon her demise, Lajna Ima'illah Markaziyya in a meeting held on March 27, passed a resolution of condolence that stated that Lajna Markaziyya on the occasion of this great loss sends their heartfelt sympathy to all relatives of the deceased and prays that Allah shower His blessings on her soul and allot her a high status in Paradise. Furthermore, may Allah grant fortitude to Syed Jawad Ali and to her family and that Allah Himself be the Protector and Supporter of their 3-year-old daughter. (History of International Lajna Ima'illah)

The love, sacrifices and work Sister Hameeda gave on behalf of Pittsburgh Lajna are termed "indescribable" by sisters who knew her. As Librarian for the Pittsburgh Jama'at, she also made sure that every book available from Headquarters was always in stock on Pittsburgh Jama'at's bookshelves. Nationally, Sister Hameeda served as Secretary of Handicrafts and Exhibition.

SIXTH AND TENTH NATIONAL LAJNA PRESIDENT: ALIYYAH SHAHEED (1963-1966 AND 1972)

One must listen intently when she speaks. Her voice is so soft, her manner so self-effacing, her smile so shy, and her wisdom always present. Sister Aliyyah Shaheed's lifestyle demonstrate complete devotion and commitment to Ahmadiyyat, the faith she chose 76 years ago. Along with her service, Sister Aliyyah's judgement and wisdom, her vision and council have been of immeasurable benefit to National Lajna. She naturally inspires love and respect.

The impact of Sister Aliyyah Shaheed's dedication and the power of her personal influence, extend far beyond the Ahmadiyya Mission House in Pittsburgh where she worships. Indeed, in 1972, at central Lajna Ima'illah's International Golden Jubilee in Pakistan, the International President, Hadrat Maryam Siddiqah honored Sister Aliyyah for outstanding service to Lajna for, at that time, 35 years. Forty years later, in 2010, at age 97, and long service widowed, she

continues to contribute to Lajna. Besides working locally, she has been an advisor to the National Lajna President for 25 years.

It was 1934, Ella Louise Lynn, and her fiancé, William Frank Browning, were members of the African Methodist Church and were planning their wedding when Ahmadiyyat was introduced to their Pittsburgh community. Suddenly, his parents, who had just accepted Ahmadiyyat, were proselytizing to

their son. Attracted to new faith, he begged her to attend an Ahmadiyya meeting with him. "He was so enthused," she says, "but I just could not go. I could tell he would soon accept Ahmadiyyat." Aliyyah was a Christian and her family was adamant that she remains one.

William Browning formally accepted Ahmadiyyat and took the name Ahmad Shaheed. The couple decided to marry in 1935, despite their religious differences, promising to respect each other's faiths. Years later, Brother Ahmad Shaheed became an outstanding President of the Pittsburgh Jamā'at and an influential figure nationally. The couple would have one son, Omar Shaheed who also became President of the Pittsburgh Jamā'at, continuing the tradition of service to the Jamā'at set by his parents.

The new Mrs. Shaheed went to live in the home of her Ahmadi in-laws. "My in-laws were kind. They did not force Islam on me," she says. Also living in the home was a family friend, Abu Kalam. He too, had recently converted to Ahmadiyyat. Fiery and aggressive, having not the restraint of her husband and in-law as he took Aliyyah as his personal conversion target. She would later remember him "as a father figure to both Ahmad and I. He was a persuasive figure, a former Christian minister, a true lover of Islam, Ahmadiyyat."

Aliyyah's acceptance of Ahmadiyyat would be gradual. She began secretly reading Ahmadiyya literature, when her husband and in-laws were away at the Mosque. She was particularly drawn to Ahmadiyyat or the True Islam by Hadrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad and her resulting questions were answered by Brother Abu Kalam. Soon the Ahmadiyya congregation began holding classes at her in-laws' home and she attended. One day, her husband told

her an Ahmadi missionary from Chicago would visit Pittsburgh, and she agreed to attend his lecture. After hearing Sufi M.R. Bengalee speak on 'Jesus did not die on the Cross' "I never, as a member, went back to church again," Sister Aliyyah said. Instead, she began attending the Mosque.

She saw the name 'Aliyyah' in a book and asked her husband to pronounce it. Later after adopting the name as her own, Sis. Aliyyah says, "I was so proud of my new name. Everyone called me Aliyyah. I became an Ahmadi Muslim in 1936. A new surge of love for God erupted in my heart, and I have tried to learn as much as I can about God, Islam and Ahmadiyyat ever since."

Sister Aliyyah's search for religious knowledge has benefited the cause of Ahmadiyyat in America. Commitment to learning progressed to dedication and service. For years, Sister Aliyyah worked in the Mosque cleaning, cooking, entertaining, fundraising, preaching, overseeing, nursing the sick and spiritless, donating money, counseling, praying, and remaining steadfast.

Aliyyah Shaheed was elected National Lajna President USA, by majority vote of the general membership in 1963. She served from then until 1966. Hadrat Maryam Siddiqā, Lajna's International President, later appointed her in 1972 as USA Lajna's National President for one year, to complete the term of Sister Lubna Ijaz who was unable to continue due to illness.

Sister Aliyyah's primary goal was to bring about a new level of 'togetherness' within the sisterhood. Towards that end, she wrote letter upon letter, instructing, gently scolding where necessary, and encouraging sisters to become like a "wall cemented together with molten lead." This was her favorite Quranic quotations. She also sponsored new

institutions: the first American Mosque Fund and the first Muslim Student Scholarship Fund. Under Sister Aliyyah the first National Ijtemā was held on September 5, 1964 at the Cleveland YMCA. She instituted "Annual Propagation Day" where sisters held events to proselytize Islam. Emphasizing propagation, Lajna mailed hundreds of literature leaflets and placed the Holy Quran and the Ayesha magazine in libraries.

The Ayesha, Lajna's periodical magazine was named by Hadrat Maryam Siddiqā. Sister Aliyyah states that she had written to Rabwah requesting for permission to start a new Lajna literary magazine and asking Hadrat Chhotē Apa to name the journal. She was hopeful that she would have a reply in time for her national Amila meeting but had not yet received it. Just before the meeting, a telegram was received at the Washington DC Headquarters from Hadrat Chhotē Apa. Missionary Syed Jawad Ali telephoned her and conveyed the message, "Tell Sister Aliyyah Shaheed that the name of the magazine is The Ayesha."

Sister Aliyyah published reprints of Lajna's Constitution, The Path of Faith and Our Duties. At her prompting, the American Lajna members contributed handsomely to help build a Mosque in Copenhagen, Denmark, and toward the refurbishing of the mission houses in Dayton, Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Chicago.

Moral training programs prompted sisters to observe five daily prayers and to fast during the month of Ramadan. "We emphasized modest dress, but the Islamic dress code was not stressed in the early days of Lajna," Sister Aliyyah said. However, some Lajna's members strictly observed purdah in the Mosque. Every sister was to learn to read the Holy Qur'an in Arabic,

and to read a portion of the Holy Qur'an with commentary daily. Nāsirat programs were organized at the local level, but National Lajna stressed creating a syllabus that would generate eagerness within the girls to attend meetings.

Sister Aliyyah remarks, "This was the era that Lajna USA became affiliated with Lajna International." Ninety-eight percent of the members were American converts. Communication methods were slow, money was scarce, and equipment for Lajna work was practically non-existent. The guidance at the local level was from missionaries and in some cases from local chapter presidents. The National Headquarters kept money collected by Lajna and the missionaries

sanctioned all expenses. Sister Aliyyah emphasizes that as President, she never had any trouble working with the missionaries nor had any problem with requests for expenditure.

Almighty Allah, I feel blessed to have witnessed many progressive reforms of the Ahmadiyya Community. We have a most magnificent manner of giving the message of Islam to the world. One can hear the weekly Khutba [Friday Sermon] of our Khalifa. We will In Sha' Allah see great spiritual progress by following the instructions.

Again, I pray, "O Allah, remove all stones and pitfalls in the way of establishing the victory of Islam, help us to become true models of

faith. Bless us with sincere helpers. Ameen, Jazakumullah!

Humbly, Aliyyah Shaheed

March 23, 2008

On June 21, 2008, in the Khilafat Centenary Year, Sister Aliyyah Shaheed, 95 years old, sat in a well-earned place of honor, frontstage, listening attentively as her beloved Khalifatul-Masih, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih V, addressed Lajna Imā'illāh USA. Her face shone with the special beauty that comes after a lifetime of devotion to faith. Sister Aliyyah Shaheed, during her 1963-1966 term, was the last National Lajna President to serve under the Second Khilafat of Ahmadiyyat.



Inside Al-Nur Mosque, Pittsburgh PA

Puerto Rico

Ahmad Salman



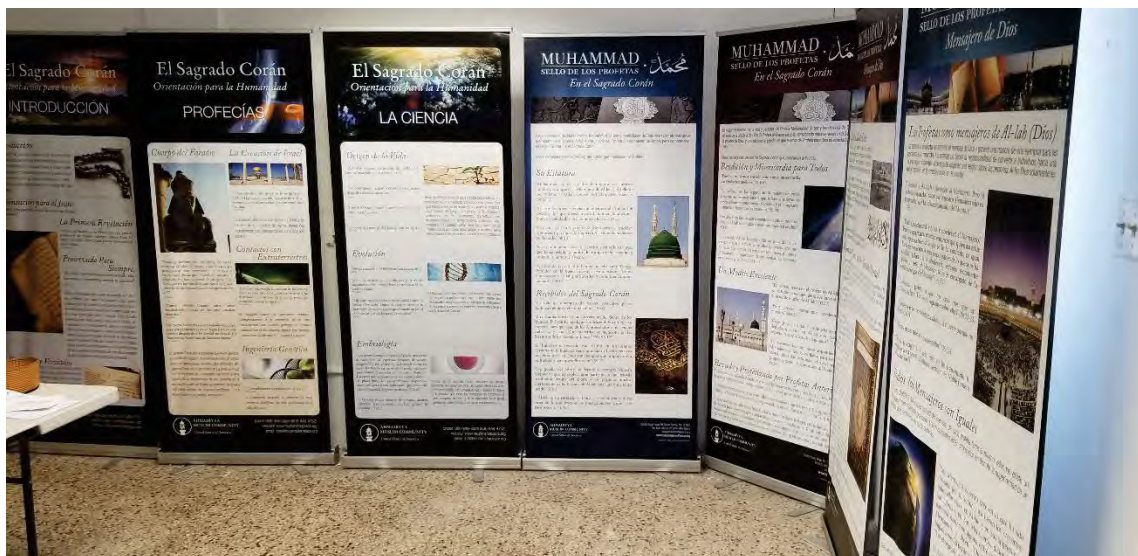
Bilal Rojas, a local Puerto Rican accepted Ahmadiyyat in 2015-2016 as a result of the outreach effort of an Ahmadi in Texas. After his acceptance of Ahmadiyya Islam, a group of missionaries came to visit and preach on the island for a week or two. Afterwards, on the requests of Bilal Rojas, this humble servant was sent to Puerto Rico for a temporary assignment in April 2017. After three months, I was officially posted in Puerto Rico.

In September 2017, the Island was hit by Hurricane Maria and Irma which devastated the entire island. Many people did not have water for weeks and electricity did not return

until January 2018. Right after the Hurricane, Humanity First launched its disaster relief program and about 50 volunteers from the United States participated in a three-month disaster relief program. Humanity First worked with the local Mayor's office of Guaynabo and were able to distribute 3,000 grocery bags door to door in the municipality and sectors of Guaynabo. Later on, we also worked with Chef de Puerto Rico and made 2,000 sandwiches daily with them for two weeks. After working for two months, the Mission turned into a medical help center, and we had ten doctors come and provide help to 600 patients in the island of Vieques.

In January 2019, the whole island started getting many earthquakes. Many people in the south of the island lost their houses. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community had the opportunity to go there and help out and give 3000 grocery bags to the local residents to help them out.

Currently, we have about ten members here in Puerto Rico. They are Ma Sha Allah dedicated and active in the Jama'at. Currently, we are renting a Mission house and are carrying out all our activity from there.





Various views of the mission house

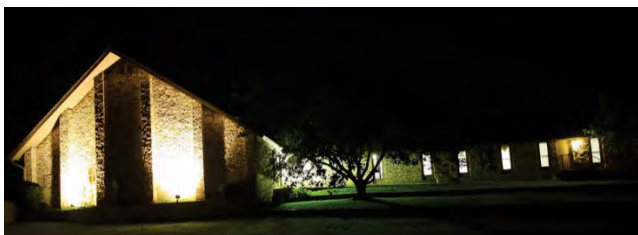
South Carolina

Please see Georgia/South Carolina: Atlanta

Tennessee

Please see Alabama/Tennessee

Texas: Austin



Introduction

Austin is the capital city of the U.S. state of Texas, as well as the seat and largest city of Travis County, with portions extending into Hays and Williamson counties. It is the 11th-most populous city in the United States, the fourth-most-populous city in Texas, and the third-most-populous state capital city (after Phoenix, Arizona). It is also the fastest growing large city in the United States from 2015-2016, and the southernmost state capital in the contiguous United States.

1980s

Although there were a few Ahmadis in Austin and surrounding cities before 1980s, however the first known organizational roots of AMC Austin Chapter are from the 1980s. During that time there were just about 4-6 families who lived in the greater Austin Area. Most of the families concentrated in the northern suburb town of Round Rock. At that time AMC Austin was

not an official chapter, rather it was a sub-chapter of the Houston AMC. The families had to drive to Houston to participate in major events like Eid-ul-Adha or Eid-ul-Fitr. The missionary from Houston chapter occasionally visited the families in Austin area. The weekly Jum'a prayers were not regular and were held in families' homes. The monthly meetings were loosely organized and conducted in the homes in Round Rock.

1990s

In the 1990, more families moved into the Austin area, the presence of Ahmadi students increased in the University of Texas at Austin with formation of Ahmadiyya Muslim Student Association, and the chapter started to take a more formal shape. The chapter was formally founded in early 90, but a few years later it was merged back with Houston. The weekly Jum'a prayers started to occur on regular basis – either at the homes of local residents in Round

Rock or at the UT campus. MTA satellite channel (for the live broadcast of weekly Jum'ah sermon from London and other major events) became the focal point of attention and attraction for many who started to congregate more often. As more families moved into Austin area, the major events also started to be held within Austin area and families living in surrounding cities like San Antonio also participated. The large gathering events usually were arranged in a hotel (Ramada Inn and Days Inn at IH35 North Austin) or Community Centers (such as Steiner Ranch, Clay Madsen Rec Center, UT campus, etc.). The missionary from Houston chapter started to visit more often.

2000s

At the start of the millennium, the desire among the members increased to make Austin an individual and formal chapter once again. The chapter also gained some new converts. The efforts came to fruition with the formation of the

official chapter in year 2000 with about 20 families. The weekly Jum'ah prayers continued to happen at a house of a local resident in Round Rock on regular basis. The monthly gathering started to happen on regular basis as well at the Day's Inn hotel (owned by an Ahmadi member from Houston) which was at the intersection of IH35/HWY 183 which was partly owned by an Ahmadi member from Houston. The missionary from Houston started to visit on a regular basis and participated in the monthly meetings and other larger events. The dedicated students at UT Austin also started to organize various events at UT which brought life into the chapter. The auxiliary organizations started to get more organized within the chapter with more formal structure and discipline.

Property Acquisition—2007

As the chapter grew, a need was felt to have a dedicated place for holding Jum'ah prayers and monthly event. In 2004, a house was leased in North Austin temporarily and it became the first formal office of the chapter in Austin. The activities of

Chronology

1993:

Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association AMSA (AMSO) was registered at UT Austin with Nahil Mahmood, Hammad Malik, Nauman Khizar, Khalid Kark, Mohammed Shabooti and Raad Latif as initial members. AMSA students organized student and Jamā'at activities at UT Austin. Raad Latif created AMSA website (one of the first Ahmadiyya websites) where Jamā'at literature was posted for outreach. AMSA organized outreach activities at UT with late Lutfur Rehman Mahmood as key speaker. This student group proved to be the catalyst for the establishment of

the chapter continued to increase, and additional families continued to move into Austin. The organization became more mature with formal events occurring on regular basis. As the chapter population grew to over 40 families, there was a need to find a larger place and a permanent place of worship. In 2007, with valuable contributions from local members, a loan from a dedicated member in Houston and some help from Markaz (both the individual loan and the help from Markaz was paid back), the chapter purchased a church from the Sweet Home Baptist Church at 800 Deep Wood Drive in Round Rock and converted into a mosque after some renovation. Many local members put immeasurable time and exorbitant effort in renovating the mosque. This became the permanent facility for worship and community events for AMC Austin Chapter. To date, many members dedicate their time and efforts to maintain the mosque. Addition of new converts continued through the decade.

2010s

The chapter has continued to grow and evolve during the current

Jamā'at in Austin.

1993-1996:

First Jamā'at Elections were conducted by Missionary Shamshad Nasir. Shafiq-ur-Rehman was elected as first President of Austin Jamā'at and Nahil Mahmood as General Secretary.



decade. The presence of a mosque plays a significant role in increasing chapter activities. Quran study group was formed which was led by a retired missionary. The auxiliaries started to become more mature thus putting Austin on the US map. Auxiliaries showed prominent attendance at the national events, won several top position awards on numerous occasions, and started to hold major events-both of regional and national scale. AMSA at UT Austin played a significant role in mobilizing Ahmadi students and organizing great interfaith events-some of national attention. Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya adopted a local highway for regular quarterly cleanups. The regularity of Waqf-e-Nau classes increased with a more formalized schedule. Tahir Academy was started in 2017, has shown tremendous success, and continues to enroll students. The Chanda collection has increased multi-fold. Additional converts continue to add to the membership. At this time the chapter has increased to more than 100 families. (Zakria Malik)

Sister Amtul Samee's House (2310 Silver Spur Round Rock) was first Jum'a Center of Austin Jamā'at. First MTA Dish was installed at this location to listen to the Friday sermons of the Khalifatul-Masih.



1996-99:

Austin was a student oriented Jamā'at. Majority of student graduated and moved out from Austin and hence majority of Amila members. Local President moved out from Austin as well. Austin lost its Jamā'at status and went under direct control of Missionary stationed at Houston. Members started using the house of Zakria Malik for Jum'a.

1999-2000: More families moved to Austin. Missionary Zafar Sarwar appointed Nasir Malik as caretaker of Austin area Ahmadi members. Houston based Kahloon family offered Days Inn for Monthly Jamā'at activities. Saleem Shah started collecting dues and contributions.

Members used Days Inn conference room for monthly gatherings, Iftar Dinners, and Eids. Lajna Diyāfat secretary (sister Amtus Samee) was in-charge of Diyāfat activities. Late Lutfur Rehman Mahmood was keynote speaker in numerous Jamā'at

events.

2001:

Austin Chapter reestablished with following Amila members:

President: Iftikhar Naghmi
General Sec: Hamid Rahim Sheikh

Finance Sec. Saleem Shah
Tarbiyat Sec: Abdul Mannan Mughni

Ta'lim Sec: Hamid Rahim Sheikh

Tabligh Sec: L.R Mahmood

Isha'at Sec: L.R Mahmood

TJ & WJ Sec: Maqbool Ahmad

Diyāfat Sec: Fakhar Ghani

Presidents since 2001

Iftikhar Naghmi

Maqbool Ahmad

Lajna Presidents since 1999:

Namood-e-Sehar

Aziza Bushra Faruqi

Lubna Qureshi

Aziza Bushra Faruqi

Sophia Tahir

Aziza Bushra Faruqi

Zu 'ama Ansar since 1999:

Lutf-ur-Rehman Mahmood

Muhammad Altaf Malik

Maqbool Ahmad

Qamar Zafar

Arif Mirza

Khuddam Qa'ids since 1999:

Adil Khan

Hamid Rahim Sheikh

Shiraz Laeeq

Junaid Malik

Iftikhar Khan

Zakria Malik

Yasir Mirza

Muhammad Ahmad

Zakria Malik

Arif Mirza

Abdul Naseer

Furqan Ahmad

Khalique Ahmed

(Iftikhar Naghmi)



Left: Engineer Chaudhary Abdul Rasheed, Early Ahmadi graduate from University of Texas at Austin, MS Petroleum Engineering – 1967, Chief Engineer & General Manager of Sui Southern Gas Pakistan, Member of Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque Committee.

Right: Dr. Krishan Malik. Prominent Ahmadi graduated from University of Texas at Austin. MS Petroleum Engineering–1971. Established first salat center of Houston Jamā'at at his Houston residence.

Texas: Dallas



Introduction

Dallas is the third largest city in the U.S. state of Texas, situated mostly in Dallas County, with portions extending into Collin, Denton, Kaufman and Rockwall counties. Along with the nearby city

of Fort Worth, The Dallas-Fort Worth Metro area is the fourth largest in the US with a combined population of approximately 8 million residents. The city of Dallas lies along the Trinity River near the

junction of that river's three forks, in a region of prairies, tree-lined creeks and rivers, and gentle hills. Its winters are mild with brief cold spells, but summers are hot with moderate to high humidity.

Early Days (1989-2002)



The Dallas Chapter was officially established in 1989 serving the entire Dallas-Fort Worth Metro area. Rafiq Sayed was the first president who served until 1993. Dallas remained a small Jamā'at in early days and by 1993, only about 20 families had moved here.

Initially Jumu'ah prayer and Jamā'at general meetings were held at an office of a Jamā'at member in Irving. In the early 1990s, various places were rented for meetings and Jum'ah including, a house in Richardson, Irving community center and a banquet hall in Richardson. In 1995, a warehouse

was rented in Carrollton that served as a center till 2002. In 1996 a piece of land, about 4 acres, was purchased in the city of Allen for Dallas Chapter's first mosque. Allen is located north of Dallas. The Mosque is in a residential neighborhood.

Dallas Chapter has long served

as the hub for technologists, and in early years Rafiq Sayed was instrumental in recruiting many

engineers into Nortel and this resulted in a significant portion of the Jamā'at working in the telecom

Dallas Jamā'at Grows



In early 2002 the construction of the mosque began and it was completed by late 2002 at the cost of roughly \$750,000 that was funded mostly by Dallas members themselves. The Mosque was named Bait-ul-Ikram by Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (ra). Khalifatul-Masih IV

(ra) also sent a brick with his prayers for the foundation. Initial project consisted of two prayer halls, offices, conference room, nursery and kitchen. Portion of the land was approved by the city for a proper mosque to be built later. Abdul Shakoor Azhar supervised the project and oversaw the construction of the mosque project. The formal inaugural ceremony was presided by Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, Amir Jamā'at USA.

Since the completion of the Mosque, it has served as the center of regular activities like general meetings, children classes, interfaith programs, local and regional Ijtimā'āt (rallies) and national programs. Due to the mosque location, great neighborhood, and good schools, many Ahmadis took up residence near the mosque.



As the membership in DFW area grew significantly from 2002 to 2012, two separate Chapters were

created for Dallas and Fort Worth. Soon after, in 2012, the Dallas Chapter was also able to acquire one

hundred grave sites in Sherman, TX, where a special section is assigned for Mūsiyān.

Dallas Chapter has had the honor of hosting many National events such as Jamā'at National Āmila meeting, Ansar Leadership

Conferences (several times), Lajna Mentor Conference, Regional Ijtimā'āt of Waqf-e-Nau, Ansār, Khuddam and Lajna, and

Lajna/Nāsirāt Regional Sports Day events.

Bait-ul-Ikram Mosque Expansion



Planning began in 2012 to construct a proper mosque, missionary house and a commercial kitchen. After architectural designs, approval from NHQ and the city, Alhamdulillah, foundation stone ceremony was held on March 31, 2018 and was attended by Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, Amir Jamā'at USA, Missionary In-Charge and Nā'ib Amir Azhar Hanif, Mayors from Allen, Plano, Richardson, City of Dallas and tens of other public officials and Jamā'at members from across the state of Texas. The expansion project extended over the two significant phases. Phase 1

included the construction of a missionary house, commercial kitchen and expanded parking, and Phase 2 consisted of the actual new mosque building with prayer halls, offices, nursery, conference room and restrooms. Munawar Malik was in-charge of Phase 1 which was completed in 2018. Munawar Piracha was in-charge for phase 2, under the supervision of the President, Hamid Sheikh. The construction of the new Mosque (Phase 2) is also complete (as of March 2021) and the building will soon be opened for all activities. Inshallah. During the construction

phases Mubashir Ahmad, Khalid Bajwa, and many others contributed significant time and expertise.

Al-Hamdu Lillah. With the expansion project, the new building will hold over 450 worshipers, with additional capacity of another 250 in auxiliary halls, conference rooms, offices, and nursery. The new building has state of the art technology including multi-point audio/video distribution system, automatic motion-controlled LED lighting, electronic keypad door locks, and 24-hour security camera monitoring. The total cost of the mosque complex (Phase 1 and 2) is

about \$4 million. By the grace of Allah, Dallas Jamā'at members contributed more than \$2.5 million dollars towards this blessed

endeavor. Another unique feature of the Dallas mosque is that the funds were not donated largely by one or two large donors. Instead, members

from all backgrounds made significant financial sacrifices towards the goal.



Current Chapter

Today, the Dallas Jamā'at has a membership of 520, and a majority of Jamā'at members live within twenty minutes' drive from the mosque. Congregational prayers are offered five times a day and a large number of Jamā'at members attend Jum'ah prayer regularly.

Dallas Jamā'at today hosts a vibrant community of accomplished businessmen, engineers, physicians, and technology professionals. The current Jamā'at President, Hamid Sheikh, is a recipient of Primetime Emmy Award in Engineering for his contributions to the development of Structural Similarity (SSIM) metric.



Jamā'at Leaders



Rafiq Syed
(1989-1993)



Akram Chaudhry
(1993-2012)



Suhail Kausar
(2012-2019)



Hamid Rahim Sheikh
(2019-Present)

Since the establishment of Dallas Jamā'at, it has been served by regional missionaries stationed in

Houston, but in 2017, Zaheer Bajwa was assigned first missionary in Dallas overseeing Dallas and Fort

Worth Chapters. Prior to him, following missionaries have served Dallas as regional missionaries:

Mirza Mahmood Ahmad, Syed Ahmad Sarwar, Muhammad Ahmad. The following have served as Presidents of Jamā'at. Shamshad Ahmad Nasir, Zafar Zafarullah Hanjra and Mubasher

Auxiliaries' Accomplishments

Dallas auxiliaries have had special blessings of receiving multiple 'Alam-e-In'āmī and best majlis awards Nationally. Majlis Anṣārullāh Dallas received 'Alam-e-In'āmī in 1998, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. 'Alam-e-In'āmī in 2011 was received from the blessed hands of Khalifatul-

Masih V. Majlis Khuddām-ul-Ahmadiyya Dallas received 'Alam-e-In'āmī in 2005, 2009, 2010 and 2014. Lajna Ima'illah Dallas has received following awards over the years: Best Majlis in Large Majalis (2010-2011), Best Majlis in Large Majalis and First Position in Most Improved Majlis (2011-2012).

Second Best Majlis and First Position in Most Improved in Large Majalis (2012-2013). Third Best Majlis in Large Majalis (2013-2014) and Outstanding Performance Award for Muslims for Life Blood Drive Campaign (2011).



Qā'ideen Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya (Est. 1990)

Tahir Malik
Zaheer Bajwa
Munawar Piracha
Munawar Malik
Syed Nauman Khizer
Dr. Jariullah Khan
Anwar Rafiq
Tariq Habibullah
Faraz Ahmad
Mansoor Rana
Waqas Hussain
Ahad Ahmad Khan (current)

Zu'ama Majlis Ansarullah (Est. 1993)

Abdul Latif
Mubarik Piracha
Mujahid Mahmood
Suhail Kausar
Mubashir Ahmad
Naseer Tahir (current)

Sadraat Lajna Ima'illah Est 1991

Ayesha Ahad
Huma Malik
Atiya Piracha
Azra Mahmood
Tayiba Bashir
Amtul Rahim
Shazia Khan (current)

Tahir Academy



Dallas was also one of the early Jamā'ats to introduce Tahir Academy and has almost 100% of eligible boys and girls, 70 children enrolled in it. Alhamdulillah the average attendance for each session is over 90%. Riyadh Muhammad who was the first Principal, Khalid Kark and Nadia Muhammad were instrumental in establishing and maintaining the high standards for Tahir Academy in Dallas. Current Principal Daud Nasurullah Khan very deftly led the pivot to virtual instruction during the pandemic.

Humanity First

Dallas Jamā'at runs a monthly Humanity First food pantry at the mosque. The chapter has participated in many organized walk-a-thons and Meena Bazars for fundraising.

Dallas Jamā'at members (men and women), especially Khuddam have volunteered in Humanity First's disaster relief / clean-up efforts after Hurricanes Katrina (LA) and Harvey (TX) and the tornadoes in Moore (OK), Garland (TX) and in central TX.



Public Service and Interfaith events



Blood Drives: Muslims for Life blood drives are held every year since the launch of this campaign in 2011. We have held blood drives in churches, malls, city halls, universities and at other public places in addition to our mosque. The Police Chief of Allen and Plano are regular blood donors in these blood drives. In recognition of Dallas

Chapter's efforts for Muslims for Life blood drives, the city of Plano issued a special proclamation to declare Friday, August 9, 2013, as 'Eid Day.' Currently, the Chapter holds 4 blood drives annually attracting approximately 50 donors at each drive.

4th of July Parades: Dallas

Jamā'at has been celebrating July 4th regularly for many years. Initially, we partnered with churches and held events in a park and in their churches. Since 2015, we have been participating in parades with Jamā'at members walking & displaying various banners along with a decorated float.



Interfaith events: Dallas Jamā'at is invited to national prayer day service at the city of Plano every year to deliver a prayer for almost a decade now. CCTI (Coffee Cake and True Islam), Real Talk on Islam, Flyer distribution events, stalls in festivals & flea market, outdoor Tabligh activities in parks, airport, and visits to churches are some of the Tabligh activities in Dallas.

Dallas Chapter also holds many interfaith programs in the mosque and in collaboration with churches at their locations. The Chapter has a long-standing tradition of holding interfaith Iftar Dinners during Ramadhan where guests from various faiths join and break bread with members of our community.

Lajna Ima'illah Dallas has also

established a tradition of hosting large-scale interfaith events since 2005. In 2016, Congresswoman Eddie Bernie Johnson was the chief guest at the annual event. These events attract between 100 to 200 external guests including leaders of various faiths, public officials, school board members, and other important female figures in the Dallas community.



Community involvement

Dallas Jamā'at actively collaborates with local organizations such as North Texas Food Bank, Texas Muslim Women Foundation, and Allen Community Outreach. Jamā'at members have served as board members in local community organizations.

Majlis Ansarullah Dallas has participated in Meals on Wheels program to distribute hot meals to elderly for over a decade now. Ansar are supporting the Nourishing Neighbor program with North Texas Food bank by providing groceries to elderly households, helping with setting up blood drives and donating blood, volunteering with McKinney Little Pantry, cooking food for Jamā'at events and cleaning up afterwards, helping with gifts packaging, distribution of gifts in the mosque.

Majlis Khuddām-ul-Ahmadiyya Dallas regularly takes part in activities with the North Texas Food Bank in preparing food boxes in addition to providing monetary donations, providing school supplies, delivering food/groceries to needy, cleaning road under Adopt-a-Highway programs, blood drives, and volunteering in Humanity First initiatives such as disaster/relief efforts.

Lajna Ima'illah Dallas is actively involved in numerous community activities. In 2005-2006, Lajna Dallas adopted "Samaritan Inn" shelter. Food cans were collected twice in the year and donated to them. In 2007, Meals-on-Wheels Program was started, and meals are delivered twice a month for homebound senior citizens. Since 2007, Lajna Dallas has also partnered with Allen Community Outreach for various initiatives including school supplies donations which helped more than 2300 students.



baskets with gift cards for women and children at the Texas Muslim Women Foundation. They also visit and spend time with senior citizens suffering from Alzheimer's.



Lajna Ima'illah Dallas regularly provides volunteer services, donations, and monetary donations, to partner organizations. Lajna Dallas holds multiple canned food drives including the Peanut Butter Drive with the North Texas Food Bank; and also provides funds for the Battered Women Shelter, Refugee Families, and the Title-I School Lunch Program. During the pandemic, Lajna Dallas made 173 face masks, and most were donated to Humanity First.

Nāsirāt-ul-Ahmadiyya Dallas are also involved in helping the community. During the holidays, they create gift baskets with gift cards for women and children at the Texas Muslim Women Foundation. They also visit and spend time with senior citizens suffering from Alzheimer's.

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Public Affairs



Dallas Jamā'at also has established special relationships with local and national public officials. Regular meetings are held with local Mayors and congressional representatives and senators.



Dallas Jamā'at has been getting a good amount of coverage in the media. Local TV and radio stations have interviewed Jamā'at members like Suhail Kausar, Dr. Jari Khan and

Khalid Kark many times for their news stories and also covered our programs in the mosque & outside. Press releases are sent regularly following instructions from the

National PA Department. Articles and letters have also been published in print media.

Texas: Fort Worth



Fort Worth is the fifth-largest city in the U.S. state of Texas and the 13th-largest city in the United States. According to the 2018 census estimates, Fort Worth's population was 898,919.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Fort Worth, Texas Chapter was established in 2012. Mosque and Community Center is located at 2801 Miller Ave, which is a 10-minute drive from downtown Fort Worth. We welcome members of all faith or no faith to come visit this Mosque, learn about True Islam and have coffee with us. You may visit our website at islaminfortworth.org or call 817-367-9168 for more information.



Fort Worth Jamā'at used to be a part of Dallas Jamā'at but due to long distances, members requested to hold Friday prayers locally. After getting permission from President

Dallas Jamā'at, Abdur Rahman Chaudhry's house in Arlington was the first Jum'ah center for several years. As the membership increased in Fort Worth area, it was decided to split Dallas Jamā'at into two Jamā'ats.

Fort Worth Jamā'at was established on February 12, 2012, and Mohammed Antwi was elected the first president. The Tajneed of the Jamā'at was around 150 at that time. The Jamā'at started to rent a room at Elzie Odom Athletic Center and offered the 1st Jumu'ah prayer there on May 4, 2012. We also started to hold Auxiliary meetings and other Jamā'at programs regularly in that recreation center. We kept searching for property to buy or rent so that we had a proper place to pray and hold Jamā'at programs.



Fort Worth Jamā'at found and rented an office space which was about 1,800 square feet. It was consisted of 8 office rooms. Men and women area were separate, each having 4 rooms on their sides. We

offered first Jumu'ah there on July 5, 2013 and used that property for almost 3 years but due to occupancy limit and fire hazard we had to forgo it. We again started to rent another recreation center (Eunice Activity Center) on June 24, 2016 to hold Friday Prayers, and other Jamā'at events (which included Auxiliary meetings/Ijtimā'āt, Tahir Academy classes, Interfaith programs, Blood Drives, Dars/Iftar Program in Ramadan).



Meanwhile, we continued to raise funds and searched rigorously to buy a property. We went through many struggles in which some properties were too old, damaged which required more funds, most of the properties didn't have sprinkler system which were required

according to city code, some communities didn't allow a Mosque to be there in that area, other properties won't convert the zoning of a building, etc. Starting from 2012, we looked over 50 properties (including lands and buildings).



In 2018, Dallas and Fort Worth Jamā'ats were assigned a missionary Dr. Zaheer Bajwa. He took a special interest in helping us to have our own Mosque. He visited a lot of properties with us and he also visited Jamā'at members and encouraged them to pay more towards Mosque fund. Lajna gave away their jewelry, repeating the Jamā'at history of monetary sacrifices for building Mosques. Jamā'at members continued to write to our beloved Khalifat-ul-Masih to request prayers for our Mosque.



With a lot of prayers and blessings of Khilafat, during the blessed month of Ramadan we found a property in June 2018 which was

being used as YMCA in Fort Worth. This property is a 4.7 Acre property, with over 12,000 square feet building structure (which includes Prayer halls, offices, library, multipurpose room, Gymnasium, 90+ parking spots, professional kitchen, huge ground, and children play area). By the grace of Allah, we were able to have the closing on October 16th, 2018. Khalifat-ul-Masih graciously named our Mosque Bait-ul-Qayyum. We were very blessed to have respected Nā'ib Ameer Azhar Hanif led the first Friday Prayer on December 14th, 2018.

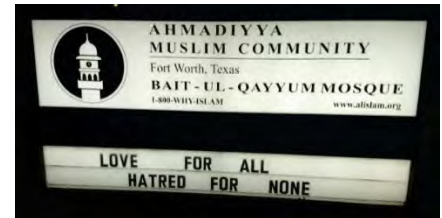


Fort Worth Jamā'at members worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to clean, restore, decorate and setup our new Mosque. Atfāl, Khuddam, and Ansar used to come at Fajr prayer and do Waqar-e-Amal until Isha prayer on all weekends. Lajna members performed Waqar-e-Amal tirelessly during weekdays. The Jamā'at was preparing for the visit of respected Ameer USA Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad and National Jamā'at Amila members.



On, 9 February 2019, we were

blessed to host respected Ameer and National Amila members as well as members from other Jamā'ats from Gulf region (which includes Austin, Dallas, and Houston). By the grace of Allah, many of the guests said that by looking at the Mosque, they can see that our prayers were answered and it's a beautiful place. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh.



Currently, our Tajneed is over 200 which consists of around 45% refugee families (who came through China, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand). Most of our membership is of Pakistani descent, rest includes members from Bangladesh, India, Gambia, Ghana, Trinidad. Fort Worth Jamā'at has been actively participating in their Tabligh, Khidmat-e-Khalq, outreach and other activities. In Tabligh, we partnered with other Churches and Synagogues to hold several interfaith programs, and blood drives. We also held interfaith events in Universities. We also hold Coffee, Cake, and True Islam programs and hold book stalls in flea markets. We have been actively participating in our annual July 4th Parade from the last 4 years. We actively participate in local food bank programs and, also hold food and clothing drives. Khuddam and Ansar have worked with Humanity First with disaster relief activities such as the tornado in Moore (Oklahoma), hurricane in New Orleans, and hurricane Harvey in Houston. In Public affairs, we have met with Mayors of Arlington, Grand Prairie, Mansfield, and Fort Worth along with Congressmen. We have met with local Police and Fire Chiefs and invited their departments for BBQ. We also hosted Regional Atfāl/Khuddam Ijtimā in Bait-ul-

Qayyum Mosque in April 2019.



The following Missionaries in the region served Fort Worth Jamā'at; Zafarullah Hanjra, Mubasher Ahmad and Zaheer

Bajwa.



President: Mohammed S. Antwi (2012 – 2019), Saeed Chaudhry (2019-Present)

Qa'id MKA: Syed Kamran Shakoor (2012 – 2018), Mustafa Ahmad (2018 – 2020), Khalid Ashfaq (2020 – Present)

Za'im Ansarullah: Abdur Rahman Chaudhry (2012 – 2014), Dr. Zubair Latif (2014 – 2019), Mohammed S. Antwi (2019 – 2020), Rukhman Malik (2021 – Present)

Sadr Lajna: Sadia Ijaz (2012 – 2012), Javaria Zahid (2012 – 2018), Naghmana Chaudhry (2018 – Present)





Texas: Houston

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
Baitus Samee Mosque
1333 Spears Rd. Houston, TX 77067
www.alislam.org



Houston is the most populous city in the U.S. state of Texas, fourth most populous city in the United States, most populous city in the Southern United States, as well as the sixth most populous in North America, with an estimated 2018 population of 2,325,502. Located in Southeast Texas near Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, it is the fifth most populous metropolitan statistical area in the United States and the second most populous in Texas after the Dallas-Fort Worth

Ahmadiyyat in Houston

They say everything is bigger in Texas. By the grace of Allah, this holds true for both the Houston mosque and its members' spirit of sacrifice and service. Houston's location provides a year-round tropical climate; however, this does not come without occasional weather-related problems.

After the devastating floods and destruction caused by Hurricane

metroplex, with a population of 6,997,384 in 2018.

Comprising a total area of 637.4 square miles (1,651 km²), Houston is the eighth most expansive city in the United States (including consolidated city-counties). It is the largest city in the United States by total area, whose government is not consolidated with that of a county, parish or borough.

The city of Houston was founded by land investors on August 30,

Harvey in 2017, the community and relief organizations banded together to help one another. Humanity First was one of the first relief organizations on the ground. Humanity First staged operations from Houston's Bait-us-Samee mosque to help countless people in the community after the hurricane. There are two key moments when Jamā'at played a pivotal role for the

1836. The city is named after former General Sam Houston, who was president of the Republic of Texas and had won Texas' independence from Mexico at the Battle of San Jacinto 25 miles east of Allen's Landing. It was the capital of the Texas Republic in the late 1830s.

Houston's is home to NASA's Johnson Space Center, where the Mission Control Center is located.

community. One was in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina hit neighboring New Orleans and Houston became the headquarters for Humanity First. It was really the first time when Humanity First came onto the national scene. It matured Humanity First as a strong force that can do big things. The second was in 2017 when Hurricane Harvey came through the area and flooded the

city. The Jamā'at had to lift itself up from its own bootstraps. Many of the families that did disaster relief with Humanity First were families that were themselves affected. Part of the mosque was also affected but the city and the Jamā'at have bounced back.

Houston is home not only to 6 million people but also to scores of Ahmadi Muslims. The chapter was recently reconsolidated from three chapters into one chapter. While now there are over 800 Ahmadis in Houston, the chapter had humble beginnings. Officially, the chapter was established in 1979. Chapter was already formed by Missionary Ataullah Kaleem. There were approximately 8 to 9 families in Houston and approximately 35 to 40 members. These families organized the chapter and contacted the police department, the local sheriff's department and the non-Muslim community. Regular Friday services, chapter meetings and interfaith sessions were started. Chapter did not have any property in the beginning, so meetings were held in apartments and houses of the early pioneers. In the late 1980s, chapter had swelled to between 180-200 members and had outgrown the use of houses or rental halls. Chapter started looking for a property with its merger resources.

Finding a central location which catered to the needs of the chapter and was within its meager budget was a challenge. However, by the grace of Allah, the chapter purchased its first mission house in 1990 at 8121 Fairbanks-White Oak Road. The first missionary, Mirza Mahmood Ahmad, was assigned to Houston a year later. Fortunately, in addition to prayer halls, the mission house plot had a house which served as residence for the missionary and included a decent sized parking lot. These structures were old and in bad shape but that gave opportunity to members to do lots of Waqar-e-

'Amal. The roof would leak and flood the halls, so the makeshift carpet had to be rolled and elevated after each Friday service. Everybody worked day and night to clean up and turn the mission house into a second home for the members. It was a blessing in disguise for members to have a mission house of their own where they collectively worked, worshiped and came together.

The members of the Houston Chapter are engaged in various humanitarian and community service-related projects, which include Adopt-a-Road, Habitat for Humanity, food, clothing, and blood drives, and more. For the past 13 years the community held regular interfaith seminars to develop understanding, love, peace, and harmony among all the major faiths and communities existing in Houston. Regular educational classes are held, and the message of peace and love (Islam) is carried out to the people of Houston. A local radio program has been broadcasted on Urdu station for some time.

With the blessings of Allah Almighty the chapter grew quickly in the 1990s. The mission house became too small. The ladies' area was not big enough and the men would have to pray outside during large meetings. Eid prayers would be done outside in the parking lot. The chapter realized that it needed to find a bigger place. In 1996 five acres of land were donated to the chapter by Younas Chaudhry with the vision of building a mosque in Houston. Inspired by this vision the members embarked on a journey of sacrifice, hard work and dedication to raise funds to build the new halls and mosque on this land.

People made a lot of personal sacrifices in order to contribute to this project. Some made financial sacrifices while others made physical sacrifices, by giving time for voluntary manual labor (Waqar-e-

'Amal). Everyone came together from young children to the elderly. Day, night and immediately after work, members used to come to the help with the construction. A lot of time and effort was put in. It was an amazing effort done by young, old, children, Khuddam and Lajna. There are many examples of children who brought all of the cash they had to their name and just gave it to the mosque. Blue-collar members who were laborers showed no hesitation in giving what were large sums of money to this effort. Members who were engineers were helping with running cables and installing the A\V system, others helped hang drywall. This spirit became contagious; other members were prompted to match this zeal. It was an exciting time. There was just one thing on everyone's minds; that this mosque has to be built and we have no other desire.

Through the sacrifice of all the members of the Houston Chapter, enough funds were raised to begin phase one of construction, which began in January of 2001. Two halls were built for prayers, meeting and hospitality needs. Phase one also included construction of a residence for the missionary. Fundraising continued and within a few years the Jamā'at was able to achieve their financial target and mosque construction was started.

Younas Chaudhry wished to shoulder the majority of the mosque construction expenses, approximately \$1.3 million, and came up with a basic design which was sent to London for approval. Construction started in 2003. The chapter was fortunate that beloved Khalifatul-Masih IV, visited Houston personally to lay the foundation and named the mosque Bait-us-Samee or Home of the Hearing. The mosque was officially completed and opened in March 2004. It can roughly accommodate

800 people. The entire complex has a missionary residence, guest houses, public kitchen and dining halls. There is also a basketball

court, playground and a garden in the back. The chapter built a mosque and strengthened their own character and faith in the process.

Today the Houston chapter plays a very active role in continuing the tradition of interfaith, outreach and community service events.

Missionaries



Mirza Mahmood Ahmad
1990 – 1992



Syed Shamsad Nasir
1992 – 1996



Zafar Ahmad Sarwar
1996 – 2004



Zafarullah Hanjra
2004 – 2014



Mubashir Ahmad
2014 – 2017



Rizwan Khan
2017 – 2020

Presidents



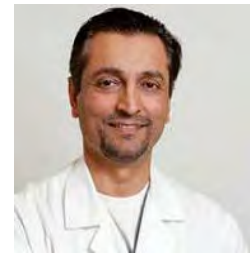
Soofi Ghulamullah
1979 – 1985



Kalim Rana
1985 – 1992
2008 – 2013-North



Munum Naeem
1994 – 2004



Dr. Amir Malik
2004 – 2005
2005 – 2019 – South



Iftikhar Sheikh
2005 – 2007 – Cypress



Dawood Munir
2007 – 2019-Cypress



Munawar Choudry
2013 – 2019 – North



Dr. Nasir Tanauli
2005-2008 – North
2019 – Present



Above: First Mission House in Houston – 1990s.

Below: Progression of the current mosque construction.



Virginia: Central Virginia (CVA)/Northern Virginia (NVA)



Introduction

It was October 1994 and the Washington DC Jamā'at was preparing for Khalifat-ul-Masih's IV arrival to the metro DC area. Not only that, but we were all preparing for the opening of Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque. The Jamā'at covered a region as far north as Columbia, MD and as far south as Woodbridge, VA. Families from all around this region, would call the HQ Jamā'at their home Jamā'at. It was during this

period, as the HQ moved from Fazl Mosque, in the leafy, upscale northwest part of Washington, DC to the more rural and larger Bait-ur-Rahman mosque in Silver Spring, MD. During this period, our late Amir, Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad and the then Amila, drew up plans to split the main metropolitan Jamā'at into smaller, more manageable Jamā'ats. HQ would be re-named to Washington, DC to mainly serve

members in the city, Arlington, and some parts of Alexandria. Silver Spring, MD would become home to members in the Maryland area and Northern Virginia or NVA, comprising the cities, towns and regions of McLean, Falls Church, Fairfax, Reston, Herndon, Centreville, Chantilly, Leesburg, Manassas, and Woodbridge.

The First President of NVA Jamā'at

As mentioned earlier, by 1995 the NVA Jamā'at had been

established. Its first president was Allah Baksh Chaudhry. The vice-

president was Syed Majid Shah.

Early Phases of the NVA Jamā'at in Virginia

There were many members who had established fruitful and successful lives in this region. Many volunteered countless hours to the Jamā'at. In those early years around 1995 when the new Jamā'at had been established, members of NVA would attend Jum'a prayers at either the Fazl mosque in Washington, DC or at someone's house in Virginia. The members who offered their houses during this period were Afzal

Chaudhry in Centreville, Allah Baksh Chaudhry in Chantilly, and Syed Majid Shah in Herndon. These members volunteered their homes for Jum'a prayers during a difficult period for the NVA Jamā'at.

From around 1998, the Jamā'at was offered to use the offices at Brookfield Corporate Dr, in Chantilly, VA by Usman Ghumman and family. Amila meetings and Jum'a prayers were offered there.

However, for major events like Eid, regional Jalsas, Ijtimā etc., members had to traverse the Capital beltway to Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque. This would require almost the entire day. We woefully needed a mosque of our own to service our growing needs.

By 1998, we had found a five-acre plot of land in a prime location in Chantilly, VA for \$335,000. And so, began the quest for the NVA

Jamā'at to build a mosque.

During this period, we moved to a warehouse as the Jamā'at needs

Move to Larger Premises

During this time, we also needed a more permanent location. By 2000, we had rented a house on Centreville Rd in Herndon, VA. With a more permanent presence, members could attend Jum'a and regular salat. The Jamā'at had the opportunity to regularly schedule

First Missionary

Missionary Yahya Luqman was assigned as the first Missionary to the NVA Jamā'at. Although he did not permanently reside here, he would often visit and lead Jum'a prayers. By June of 2011, Missionary Yahya Luqman was re-assigned. However, by the Grace of Allah, Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V, temporarily assigned a newly minted Missionary. Missionary Wasih Tariq, under the direction of Canada

Mosque Project

It was now time for the Jamā'at and its members to focus on building its mosque. During the next decade, many internal planning meetings were held. Plans were drawn and finally approved. Approval from the County was also granted. We had opposition from the local homeowners' Association (HOA), but the members of the HOA were placated by the hard work of the Jamā'at Amila. First, under the leadership of Majid Shah and then Shahid Malik, the project

Further Division

The NVA Jamā'at grew steadily throughout the 2000s' with many new members and families moving into the area. By 2008, the Jamā'at was so large, it now needed to be further divided. Under then Amir, Dr. Ahsan Zafar, it was directed that we should split into three Jamā'ats.

started to grow. Here, Jum'a was conducted and on Sunday's children's classes. However, due to the nature of the location, it was

children classes. There was enough space for about 20 cars. A Methodist church right next to us kindly offered their parking lot to use during Jum'a. We took advantage of this, as we had close to 60 cars during Jum'a.

Jamā'at and Missionary-in-Charge Naseem Mahdi, was sent here. He promptly took up residence in the basement. He gave wonderful discourses and was active in Tabligh. He was soon joined by his new wife and they both shared the basement.

As the house was not in the best of conditions, they both often had to put up with mice, cockroaches, and the occasional snake. May Allah

progressed, slowly but steadily. Funds were collected and appeals were made to family and friends.

It was around 2008 that Amir USA, Dr. Ahsan Zafar, and Missionary-in-Charge, Naseem Mehdi paid a visit to the NVA Jamā'at. This meeting was held at Westfield High School in Chantilly, VA. Here, Amir USA encouraged us to make every sacrifice to build the mosque. The Amir said that it would be better if the members of the

One would be called CVA and the other would retain the NVA title and the third was named SVA for south Virginia. The geographic boundaries were drawn up, and Jamā'ats were created. Currently, we still didn't have a mosque. However, both NVA and CVA were fully committed to the

difficult to keep the classes on a regular basis.

However, larger events like Eid would require the use of larger facilities. For such occasions, we would rent a large hall or go to a local university. This often presented many challenges, as these facilities would often be booked well in advance.

accept their sacrifice.

By late November of 2011, Missionary Wasih Tariq and his wife had been re-assigned to Italy. We were once again left without a Missionary. Young children and grown very fond of him and he often used to joke and play with the youth. Many of us were sad to see him leave.

Jamā'at built the mosque from their own funds and not ask for help from the Center. In this regard, the Missionary in-Charge also inspired us by giving us very inspiring words. Missionary-in-Charge also pledged his help and support in collecting the funds from the NVA membership.

Work on the site development finally started in 2008 and by 2010 it was completed with about \$2m on site planning and \$2m to build the mosque.

mosque. Fundraising continued at a steady pace.

Also, by this time, Khalifat-ul-Masih V had graciously given our mosque a name-Mubarak Mosque.

The First Structure of Mubarak Mosque



June of 2011 saw the first real structure of the Mubarak Mosque as shown below.

Day-by-day, the building continued. Members of both CVA and NVA anxiously anticipated the completion of the Mubarak Mosque project. By now, Tariq Amjed was president of the CVA Jamā'at and Sher Ali Basharat of the NVA

Jamā'at. Along with their Amila, both worked tirelessly to complete the project.

It was now Nov 2011, and the mosque was taking shape as shown below:

November 26, 2011, Missionary Wasih Tariq and some members view the construction site (a few days later, Missionary Wasih Tariq left for

Italy):

The above photo taken November 26, 2011, left to right, Ata Aziz, Zain Pal, Missionary Wasih Tariq, Wahab Aziz, Fouzan Pal (current President CVA), Muneeb Pal, late Mansoor Ahmad Pal, Seraj Bhatti, Sarmad Bhatti.

Laying of a Brick from Dar-ul-Masih, Qādiān and First Salat

The brick from Mubarak Mosque, Qādiān was brought by Zaheer Bajwa some years earlier around 2004-2005. Zaheer Bajwa had requested Mirza Waseem Ahmad then-Amir Jamā'at India, to pray over the brick. When he reached the USA with the blessed brick, the brick was handed over to Syed Abdul Majid Shah for safekeeping.

The brick was then placed in the mihrab on December 5th, 2011. This honor was given to Ijaz Ghumman. The silent prayer was led by Rashid Chaudhry. Shortly thereafter, the first salat was conducted by Missionary Shamshad Nasir.

Above, Missionary Shamshad Nasir leading the first salat after the foundation stone laying ceremony

and below, the congregants praying behind Missionary Shamshad Nasir.

Taken on December 5th, 2011, after the foundation stone laying ceremony, members of the CVA Jamā'at from left to right:

Usman Ghumman, Syed Majid Shah, Missionary Yahya Luqman, President Tariq Amjed, and Tahir Chaudhry.

Vandalism at Mubarak Mosque Site

Vandals attacked the in early February of 2012. Extensive damage to the windows of lower level of Mubarak mosque. Although the attack was not related to any hate

groups and the individuals were eventually caught, the damage did not significantly impact the schedule.

Shahid Malik and local councilor Sharon Bulova, inspect the damage done by vandals at Mubarak Mosque (February 5th, 2012).

Work Continues

Seen below, some pictures of Mubarak mosque taken on March

11th, 2012 during a Waqar-e-'Amal just a few short months before the

official opening:

Hazrat Khalifat-ul-Masih V, Mirza Masoor Ahmad Visits to the USA

During 2012, we were blessed with the presence of our Khalifa. Khalifat-ul-Masih arrived in the USA on June 12th, 2012 at Bait-ur-

Rahman mosque. Some pictures of his arrival are shown from that blessed day below:

Both CVA and NVA Jamā'at

members were eagerly awaiting Khalifat-ul-Masih's arrival to Virginia so that Khalifat-ul-Masih could inaugurate Mubarak Mosque.



Khalifat-ul-Masih, inaugurating Mubarak mosque.



Khalifat-ul-Masih with invited guests outside Mubarak Mosque, Chantilly, VA.

Inauguration of Mubarak Mosque, Chantilly, VA

On June 27th, 2012, Khalifat-ul-Masih finally arrived in Chantilly, VA to inaugurate Mubarak Mosque. A select few were on hand to witness the event.

Storm Damage

In the photo above, Khalifat-ul-Masih had inaugurated Mubarak Mosque, the building was not ready for use by the general membership as the contractor and local authorities had to verify building codes. As such, we had to wait a few weeks to start using our mosque.

Masih meeting with Mir Daud, background Mia Zaheer Ahmad, Sher Ali Basharat, President NVA and Tariq Amjed President CVA.

Even though the Khalifat-ul-Masih had inaugurated Mubarak Mosque, the building was not ready for use by the general membership as the contractor and local authorities had to verify building codes. As such, we had to wait a few weeks to start using our mosque.

Mosque, the building was not ready for use by the general membership as the contractor and local authorities had to verify building codes. As such, we had to wait a few weeks to start using our mosque.

Mubarak Mosque Officially Open

During the night of July 3rd, 2012, a storm passed through the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Mubarak mosque suffered some slight damage as shown in the pictures below:

First Jum'a

Finally, after all the inspections having been passed, Mubarak mosque was handed over to CVA and NVA Jamā'at members to use. Permission to use the facility was granted on July 19th, 2012, has

Washington, DC metropolitan area. Mubarak mosque suffered some slight damage as shown in the pictures below:

shown below in the official certificate:

The total cost of the project including architectural plans, project planning, site development

slight damage as shown in the pictures below:

and construction was about \$4,000,000. This all predominantly came from the members of the NVA and CVA Jamā'ats.'

were in attendance as shown below in some of the pictures.

First Ramadhan

Some photos from the first Ramadhan at Mubarak Mosque.



The above photo taken on 22 July 2012 shows members waiting for Iftar at Mubarak mosque.

Interfaith Dinner

In only a few weeks, we had started to fully utilize Mubarak Mosque. We held the first interfaith dinner on August 20th, 2012. Many

outside guests attended this successful event.

Missionary-in-Charge, Naseem

Mehdi leading the silent prayer at the end of the first interfaith dinner held at Mubarak Mosque, Chantilly, VA.

First Regional Ansar Ijtimā

The CVA Jamā'at hosted the first Ansar Ijtimā on September 22nd, 2012

Participants of the first regional Ansar Ijtimā held on September 22, 2012, at Mubarak Mosque,

Chantilly, VA.

Walk-a-Thon

CVA Jamā'at held a walk-a-thon at Bull Run Park, Centreville, VA on September 30th, 2012 where NVA,

SVA and members from Silver Spring and Baltimore Jamā'ats' also participated. Proceeds from the

event were donated to Humanity First.

First Regional Ansar Meeting

The first regional Ansar meeting was held at Mubarak Mosque on

February 10th, 2013. The regional Sadr at that time was Bashir

Wadhan.

July 4th Celebration at Mubarak Mosque

Throughout the year, many events that we previously had to travel for, were now conveniently held at Mubarak Mosque. Many local

Jalsas' and Ijtimās' were now taking place at Mubarak Mosque. We held a July 4th celebration in 2013 where we invited outside guests as well.

Pictures are shown below from that day.

A New Murabbī

By now, a new Murabbī had been assigned to our Jamā'at. Missionary Rizwan Khan, a recent graduate from Jāmi'a Canada was born and raised near Silver Spring,

MD. We soon had the pleasure of meeting him. Unfortunately, currently, there was no official residence for Missionary Rizwan Khan to stay at. He and his wife

stayed in a local hotel for a short time followed by staying at Hibbi Iqbal's house which was just a few minutes' walk from the Mosque.

Khuddām Meeting at Mubarak Mosque with Sadr Khuddām-ul-Ahmadiyya, USA

The CVA and NVA Khuddām held their first Khuddām meeting at Mubarak Mosque during Ramadhan. They were honored with the presence of Sadr Khuddām-ul-

Ahmadiyya, Dr. Bilal Rana and he partook in Iftar with the members.

Sadr Khuddām-ul-Ahmadiyya, Dr. Bilal Rana meeting with Danial

Mughal.

Opening the fast after the Khuddām meeting at Mubarak Mosque, July 26, 2013.



Paintball Trip-October 5th, 2013

The CVA Khuddām organized a paintball trip which also included the Atfāl.

Eid-ul-Adha, October 16, 2013

Eid-ul-Adha was celebrated on October 16th, 2013 and was led by Missionary Rizwan Khan.

Regional Waqf-e-Nau Held November 16th, 2013

November saw the first regional Waqf-e-Nau Ijtimā take place at Mubarak Mosque with participants from CVA, NVA, SVA and Silver Spring Jamā'ats.'

Concluding session silent prayer being led by Missionary Rizwan Khan.

An Audience with Advocate Mujeeb-ur-Rahman, October 15th, 2014

By early March of 2014, we had established a YouTube channel called Masjid Mubarak. We were regularly recording and uploading videos from Quran dars and regional events.

In October 2014, we were honored to host Advocate Mujeeb-ur-Rahman.

This gathering was recorded and is available on YouTube under the Masjid Mubarak channel.

Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muşliḥ Mau'ūd Day, April 4th, 2012

In April, we held our annual Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muşliḥ Mau'ūd Day.

Iftar Dinner, June 30th, 2015

In June of 2015, we held our Iftar dinner with invited guests. As always, NVA Jamā'at members also helped in this event.

Eid-ul-Fitr, July 18th, 2015

Members of CVA and NVA celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr on July 18th, 2015.

An Audience with Amir Norway, Zartasht Munir, July 24th, 2015

We were honored to have an audience with Amir Norway, Zartasht Munir at Mubarak Mosque. Zartasht Munir talked about his insights about the migration of Khalifat-ul-Masih IV, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad as he helped Khalifat-ul-Masih in his safe migration from Pakistan to London, England. This was recorded on our YouTube channel, but due to the sensitive nature of some of the insights shared by Amir Zartasht Munir, he requested that we not make the proceedings public.

Eid-ul-Adha, September 9th, 2015

Eid-ul-Adha was celebrated at Mubarak Mosque on September 9th, 2015. Both CVA and NVA Jamā'at members came to Mubarak Mosque.

Spiritual Fitness Camp, October 24th, 2015

CVA and NVA held the first Spiritual Fitness Camp at Mubarak Mosque. Now that a mosque was available and with the resources of a Murabbī, many events were now being conducted here.

Regional Waqf-e-Nau Ijtimā, November 14th, 2015

A regional Waqf-e-Nau Ijtimā was held with participants from NVA, CVA, SVA and Maryland Jamā'ats.

Muslims for Life Blood Drive, November 22nd, 2015

A blood drive was held which was organized by CVA Khuddam in conjunction with the local Latter-Day Saints church. This was done to honor the victims of the November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris.

Prayer Vigil for the San Bernardino, CA Victims, December 8th, 2015

Another terrorist attack in San Bernardino, CA prompted another response from the CVA Jamā'at. A prayer vigil was held for the victims of the attack where outside guests were also invited.

New Year's Sleepover, December 31, 2015

A sleepover at Mubarak Mosque held at the end of 2015. This gave an opportunity for the young Ṭifl to bond with each other over New Year's Eve. Tahajjud prayers were offered as well.

MKA Regional Tabligh Conference/True Islam Campaign, January 16th, 2016

At the start of the new year, the local Khuda 'am were busy once again hosting a regional event. This time, the MKA Regional Tabligh Conference/True Islam Campaign was hosted by the CVA Khuda 'am.

Virginia: Richmond



Bait-ul-Anwaar, Richmond, VA

Introduction

Richmond is the capital city of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Richmond was incorporated in 1742 and has been an independent city since 1871.

As of the 2010 census, the city's population was 204,214; in 2018, the population was estimated to be 228,783, making Richmond the fourth-most populous city in Virginia. The Richmond Metropolitan Area has a population of 1,260,029, the third-most populous metro in the state.

The city is at the intersections of Interstate 95 and Interstate 64 and encircled by Interstate 295, Virginia State Route 150 and Virginia State Route 288.

During the American Civil War, Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy. It entered the 20th century with one of the world's first successful electric streetcar systems. The Jackson Ward neighborhood is a traditional hub of African-American commerce and culture.

History of Chapter

The Richmond Chapter was established in 2008. Mr. Muhammad Owusu was elected as the first president. At that time, the membership of the Chapter was about 35. Among the first settlers in Richmond Chapter area were Qamar Shams and Aftab Ahmad. During the first year, the meetings and Jum'a Prayers were held in houses of some of the members. From 2009 to 2012, a church (Universal Unitarian Church) in Richmond was rented for meetings and Jum'a Prayers.

Bait-ul-Anwaar

In 2012 a building with a square footage area of about 2,800 Sq. Ft. at 2617 Turner Road, North Chesterfield, Virginia was purchased and converted into a mosque. Khalifat-ul-Masih V (May Allah be his Helper) graciously named it Bait-ul-Anwaar. By the Grace of Allah, the membership of Richmond Chapter is about 160 now. About 40% of membership comprises of refugees who came from Sri Lanka and Thailand. Majority of members of the Richmond Jamā'at live in the

Greater Richmond area but a good number of members live in some other towns and cities scattered in an area of almost 10,000 square miles in Central and South Virginia.

Chapter Activities

The Jamā'at has been active in outreach programs, setting up Propagational Stalls. Coffee Cake and True Islam sessions have been held. Members have occasionally participated in food drives and cleaning programs in public parks.

Tahir Academy was established in 2016.

We had visits to the mosque of politicians from Virginia in 2018 and 2019. One of them is currently a member of U.S. Congress and another is a Virginia State Senator

The Following missionaries have served the Richmond Chapter:

Zaki Kausar, Yahya Luqman, Irshad Malhi and Faran Rabbani.

Presidents:

Muhammad Owusu President 2008 to 2018

Dr. Naseer A Mobashar President 2018 to present

Professionals:

Dr. Fariduddin Qureshi
Physician
Dr. Mobashar Ahmad Physician
Dr. Omar Shams Physician

Dr. Saquib Samee Physician
Dr. Naseer A Mobashar
Physician
Dr. Aftab Ahmad Academician
Dr. Qamar A Shams Physicist/

NASA Scientist
Ataul Salaam Bhatti Lawyer
Muhammad Owusu Finance
Specialist/Accountancy
Ejaz Hasan Pharmacist

Bait-ul-Anwaar in West Chesterfield VA



Left: View from the west. Right: View from the north.



Views from the east.



Garage to the northeast of Bait-ul-Anwaar. Left: View from the west. Right: View from the south.

Virginia: Southern Virginia



1980:

Ijaz Ahmad: First Pakistani Ahmadi, practicing veterinarian healthcare.

1991:

Malik Mubarak, ex-national secretary Finance.

Mian Waseem and other families came in the 1990s.

First Halqa (subchapter) is established with Malik Anwar Ahmad as the first Halqa leader. Maghrib/Isha Prayers were held daily at his home.

1993:

Ch Zulfiqar arrives in Virginia

1997:

Shaikh Arshad was the President/Halqa Leader and held Jum'a at his home.

1999:

Kareemullah (Halqa Nigran, Circle organizer) held Jum'a till 2004. Washington Metropolitan was a single Chapter including Woodbridge area. Alexandria, Dale City, Washington DC.

2000:

Tanveer Ahmad Zafar moved in 2000, used to go VA center: 2800 Centerville Rd. with carpool.

2004:

Virginia Chapter is divided into two separate chapters, SVA (Southern Virginia) and NVA (Northern Virginia).

Kareemullah Kaleem becomes first President:

2004 Chapter formed. Kareem Ullah Kareem President, VP Sheikh Arshad. Membership 160.

Malik Munawar and Kareem used to lead Friday services.

Kareem Ullah Kaleem's basement was used for Jum'a Prayers.

We found a secluded place behind the shopping mall. We verbally committed in the next two days then the offer was rejected because we were Muslims. Sep/Oct 2004.

Rafaqat Salik showed us many places for rent but could not find a suitable place

Hameed Ullah Virk was the realtor who gave us info about 2600 Omisol Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22192. It was a small 4 room place with a capacity of 35. It served our needs at that time and we agreed to rent it.

Waqar-e-Amal was held to remove one wall and make a big worship area. Volunteers worked to transform this place into a public property. Nasrullah Virk, M Mehmood, Naeem Arshad Sh, Habibullah Virk, Hibatur-Rafiq did a lot of Waqar-e-Amal. Restrooms were added/fixe, etc.

We rented our first center for chapter activities at 2600 Omisol Rd, Woodbridge VA 22192. About 50 people attended.

We used to accommodate 60-80 people for worship. Police came and inquired what was happening because there were more people than the occupancy. 2004.

Due to the small place, many people had to pray outside as the chapter grew bigger

Mosque committee was formed. First Chairman Dr. Jamal-ud-Din Zia.

We found a lot opposite the Omisol center. Terms of sale were not attractive, and we dropped that proposal.

We also saw a lot in Strafford but dropped it as well.

2009:

In July, Sh. M Arshad Sh found farmland at 18395 Joplin Rd, Triangle VA. It was a house. We purchased it on 10/07/2009. It was used as a Missionary House as well

as a place of worship. The Joplin Road center faced opposition from the neighbors. County gave notice opposing the center.

Mir Daud (national property secretary) said that the feasibility of Triangle place was negative due to hilly exit/entrance.

Missionary Mirza Yahya Luqman was the first Missionary of our Chapter. Lived at the Joplin Road center.

2011:

13907 Minnieville Road. The Old Post Office Building was for sale. Jamā'at offered \$1.2 million. It was sold for \$1.45 million.

2013:

14015 Minnieville Road. A church came for Sale. National General Secretary Zaheer Bajwa and Mir Daud offered \$6.1 million but it was sold for \$8.1 million.

2014:

Since 2014 taking part in the Dale City 4th of July parade and won the competition twice. Best walking group.

4081 Dale Blvd., Woodbridge, VA 22193, a land lot we purchased for 500K. Mir Daud Ahmad proposed the lower-level use as a Basketball court. July 2016 the Dale Blvd. project was stopped.

We rented the basement of the church across the street from the Omisol center as the men's side for prayers.

The Church stopped us offering Salat in 2016. As a result, there were no prayers for Ladies until we purchased the current Masroor Mosque.

Earlier history:

In around 1997-2000, membership was around 100 people, Jamā'at used basements of houses for Friday gatherings. Then we started using Kareemullah Khan's

house (President Woodbridge) for Jum'a purposes until 2004.

Current SVA Jamā'at was formed in 2004. Previously, it was mostly a Woodbridge Halqa (subchapter) of greater Virginia Chapter until 2004. Kareem Ullah Kaleem was secretary Tahrik-e-Jadid, who became the first president of new Jamā'at.

Masroor Mosque

SVA Chapter had been struggling to get a better place for their own mosque for years. The chapter rented many schools, churches and other properties to hold Ijtimā's, tarawih, Eids, Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd, Masih Mau'ūd Days and other events. During this journey we faced opposition from the neighbors as well as church clergy.

Masjid Mubarak and Bait-ur-Rahman were also borrowed sometimes to hold events. One of the fortunate places was Garfield High School where Chapter hosted many events.

Interfaith meeting had been a regular event in Dr. Flazer building (another big site before masjid). And Tanvir, Sheikh Arshad were part of the committee who used to search places for different events.

Dale Blvd property is still owned by Jamā'at even in 2020 with our memories of Jamā'at gatherings and events before the current Hoadly Road Mosque.

The actual cost of this property was 9 million but the Presbyterian church that did own this place went bankrupt and Jamā'at got the property just for 5 million by the grace of Allah. Low attendance forced the church to leave and sell this place. Sunday service used to happen in the downstairs basement area which is now being used for Lajna Programs.

A neighboring mosque, Al Noor

Khalifat-ul-Masih IV gave a surprise visit in Expo center VA for the Masjid Mubarak inauguration.

Jamā'at has been involved in many outreach activities including exhibitions and events in libraries. Also, we have been having a July 4th stall since 2012.

Maulana Ata Ullah Kaleem was the father of former president

masjid, took part in bidding 5.25 million but the owner rejected that offer and gave this property to Jamā'at for a lower bid of 5 million. Previous owner allowed Jamā'at to host two Eid prayers before completing the buying process.

Jamā'at faced opposition by neighboring mosque throughout who wanted to upgrade this church into a banquet hall for their non-Ahmadi Sunni Muslim community.

During the inauguration ceremony in 2018, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V liked this mosque a lot and asked about expansion of Mihrab and stage updates. Now Jamā'at is working on these projects. He also inquired about the roof. Cross in front has been replaced with a crescent.

Calligraphy in masjid was done by Sheikh Lateef Akmal and Ibrahim Ijaz who came from California. It's basically the real calligraphy on the walls, not stickers. Masroor Ahmad also helped and still has been helping a lot in printing sign boards, banners and other publishing stuff through his printing press.

It's important to note that during the offer evaluation time, we went to the Khalifatul-Masih V and requested prayers. As a result, on June 17, Tanvir (then Gen Sec) got a call from the realtor. He said: I don't know why the Presbyterian Church is dropping an offer 0.3 million more than you offer and we're going with

Kareem Ullah. A book has been published on him. Spent some years in the USA. He came in December 1985. Once Jāmi'a's principal, he went back to Pakistan. He served as Ameer of the USA at one time. He spent most of his devoted life in Ghana. Finally went to Germany as missionary-in-charge and Ameer. Lived in Alexandria at the time of his US stay with his son Kareem Ullah.

your offer. That's how we got this place with the prayers of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper).

the membership of the chapter was 646 when we started this project with two small properties already in our possession worth 1.2 million. We needed to raise another 1.5-million dollars in cash.

At that time, the US Ameer gave us 90 days to collect 1.5 million dollars. In 90 days, SVA Chapter raised 1.625 million dollars in cash and presented it to the Respected Ameer in record breaking time in our USA history.

Mosque was purchased on 11/09/2017 and Friday 11/10/17 the first Jum'a was offered on the premises. Membership had rose above 700 by that time.

Jamā'at grew at a rapid speed since then and the total was around 1007 in April 2020.

2017:

Masjid Committee was formed to architect the property into a Mosque. Basketball court was designed too.

Pursuance of a flood-prone property was abandoned through it already had been zoned for a church. Desperately looking for a place for worship and Jamā'at activities, we found one more place but never finalized that property.

Finally, this church was seen.

With 400/500 membership, it was too big at the time. Respected Ameer USA liked this place very much. National Amila discussed and visited this place many times. It was a costly place with the limited resources of Jamā'at at that time. We couldn't think we could acquire it.

This place went into contract to someone who wanted to change it into a school. County rejected the idea of changing this place of worship into a school and property returned to the market. 411 totals membership. 5.5 million asking price.

Cricket team brought the property details to Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V in London. Abdul Hai was the spokesperson with Muzammel Gondal, Dawood, Dr. Kaleem Uddin. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V liked the place for a masjid and recommended the place to buy for SVA Chapter.

All were convinced based on the recommendations of the Khalifatul-Masih V. Respected Ameer USA gave us a target of 2 million. It was collected in three months. Bought in November 2017 and inaugurated by Khalifa-ul-Masih V in November 2018.

Membership has gone up to 1010 in two years of acquiring this mosque.

Missionaries

2009-2011: Zaki Kosar DC & SVA, NC,

2011-2014: Yahya Luqman

2014-2017: Irshad Ahmed

Achievements and Services:

Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya:

Many SVA youngsters have become Murabbis (trained and qualified missionaries), one finished Jāmi'a, 3 studying in Jāmi'a, 2-3 more children are also willing to go

2019

SVA Khuddam were awarded 'Alam-e-In'āmī for the first time at the Annual Convention under the Qiyādat of Naeem Arshad.

Current (2020) Za'im Ansarullah is Dr. Zafrullah Khan while previous Za'im were Ijaz Ahmad Qamar who got the responsibility from Malik Munawar (longest tenure).

SVA Professionals:

Dr. Jamaal Uddin. Internal medicine, Central VA. Vice president.

Dr. Naeem, Sec Tarbiyat, Dr. Mubashar Ahmed, Dr. Attique Ahmed, Dr. Kaleem, Dr. Omar in Stafford.

Businessmen: Anwar, Haroon Hashmat, (7/11).

Dish satellite technician: Naeem Arshad (former Qā'id), Hannan.

Appliances: Many members are working in appliances.

Printing press: Masroor (helping SVA as well as other Jamā'at s in printing small, medium and large banners)

Military: Hiba tur Rafiq. Attaul Hafeez, Rashid Waqas Sh. in air force. Muhammad Usman. Khalid Aḥmad in Marine.

Construction: Gondal brothers, Imran (principal Tahir Academy

Malhi, was the missionary but he left before the masjid was inaugurated in 2018.

Irshad Malhi used to cover NC,

SVA). Habib Ullah Virk (Jamā'at Sec TaQWA)

Real Estate: Tanveer Zafar, Sheikh Arshad

Engineer Profession: Naeem Arshad, Malik Naveed Tahir,

Police: Aitzaz Ahmed Tariq, Michael Grosser.

IT: many Khuddam and Ansar. For instance, Sethi, Mubarak. Kareem Ullah Kaleem (former Sadr)

Aviation: Rashid Waqas.

Substitute Teachers: many Lajna members are working as substitute teachers in public schools. They play a key role in outreach activities or inviting fellow teachers and county officials to the Public Affairs and Propagational events in the mosque.

Dish satellite technician. Naeem Arshad (former Qā'id), Hannan Samsam.

Among many others, Hannan Samsam and Naeem Arshad had the blessed opportunity to install MTA dishes in many Ahmadi households in early years.

Converts:

Justin, Micheal, African American convert's family from Ghana has also moved here. Mubashar Baho and some other converts have been part of SVA as well.

SVA and Richmond.

2017-2020: Faran Rabbani is covering the SVA, Central & Northern & Richmond.

missionary in Phoenix, Arizona.

Tahrik-e-Jadid:

In 2019, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V mentioned SVA as one of the top contributing Jamā'at in Tahrik-e-Jadid for the first time in

our history during the new Tahrik Jadīd year announcement.

Islamic symposium

Islamic symposium is being held in Masroor Mosque for the last two years, 2018, 2019.

SVA Jamā'at has around 36 Lajna members who are certified TaQWA teachers.

Iftar dinners for all neighbors in each Ramadan and once in a month for non-Muslims and non-Ahmadis.

Food:

Historically, before acquiring Masroor mosque, SVA Chapter had a lot of potluck-based food distributions at Jamā'at events. Triangle Joplin Road had a kitchen where we cooked food and transported to the event side. The place was a barn initially that was transformed, and we saved a large amount of budget using that barn.

Habibullah Virk is currently Dīyāfat secretary in-charge of kitchen in Masroor Mosque since 2013 and doing an amazing job cooking and serving food with his team during the events.

Community Services:

Led by former Qā'id Majlis Naeem Arshad, Jamā'at contributes in the community services and has adopted a road along with the park cleaning services. Minnieville and Gemini intersections are the name of the roads, to be exact, Jamā'at used under the "adopt a road" program.

Poetry:

SVA is a home of well-known Ahmadi poets including Dr. Muhammad Zafrullah and Abdul Kareem Qudsī. In fact, Zafrullah

poetry book was recently published.

2006-2007 'Alam-e-In'āmī: (Atfāl)

Atfāl-ul-Ahmadiyya, South Virginia had the honor to win 1st, 2nd and 3rd place multiple times over the recent years. However, the highlight is their 1st position for the year 2006/2007. When South Virginia acting Nazim Atfāl Naeem Arshad had the honor to receive the 1st place award in the Large Majlis category from Khalifat-ul-Masih V at Jalsa Salana USA 2008. It is important to note that Sharjeel Ahmad was Nazim Atfāl in 2007 before he went to Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya Canada and Naeem Arshad was appointed as new Nazim Atfāl for the rest of the year.

2017-2018 'Alam-e-In'āmī (Lajna Ima'illah)

SVA Lajna has won many awards in recent years but most importantly we got 1st best Majlis Award for the year 2017-2018 with outstanding performance in 17 departments including a special appreciation note on "Tarbiyat." It would be worth mentioning our 2nd position in 2016-2017 in the country.

Since 2016, we're holding a full scale Nāsīrāt Ijtimā separately due to our large membership and not with the Lajna Ima'illah anymore.

Lajna Ima'illah has a very active media watch team that is constantly writing in local newspapers on current issues with the perspective of Ahmadiyya Islam in focus.

We also have more than 30 certified teachers of Holy Quran under the certification program of TaQWA (Ta'lim-ul-Quran and

Waqf-e-Ardī) department. And this number of female teachers is highest than any other majlis in USA, Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh.

2017-8 'Alam-e-In'āmī (Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya)

By Qā'id Majlis Naeem Arshad: "A lot of effort. Huge age gap in MKA was a real challenge to overcome. We did stand 3rd in recent years however that 3rd place gave us a boost. And give hope to pick up 'Alam-e-In'āmī. Having a goal of training the next generation of leaders, we eventually got young blood and found energy in Amila. That energy was utilized to win the 'Alam-i-In'āmī. Unpredicted and most memorable moment when we're announced winner on the Ijtimā in 2019. And were handed over the 'Alam in 2019 Jalsa Salana USA"

Sports:

Cricket started in Ijtimā. Initially it was Tape-ball but transitioned into a hard ball around 6-7 year ago. Team got First place in the Miami Cricket tournament in 2017. After securing a runner up position for many years. Same is true in Volleyball.

A Wrestling champion Adnan is also from SVA who takes part in State level sports competition.

SVA Khuddam and Ansar have played an important role in Ahmadiyya USA cricket. SVA has won 5 consecutive local Masroor Cricket Tournaments promoting healthy activities. More than 30 SVA players participating in almost every major Ahmadiyya Cricket tournament.

Pictures:

Pictures of many events of SVA Jamā'at can be seen here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TR4nuOrZOrIPsdV78BLdvXf5HuIDNxtH?usp=sharing>

Washington: Seattle

Seattle is a seaport city on the West Coast of the United States. With an estimated 744,955 residents as of 2018, Seattle is the largest city in both the state of Washington and the Pacific Northwest region of North America. According to U.S. Census data released in 2018, the Seattle metropolitan area's population stands at 3.94 million, and ranks as the 15th-largest in the United States.

The Seattle area was inhabited by Native Americans for at least 4,000 years before the first permanent European settlers. Arthur A. Denny and his group of travelers, subsequently known as the Denny Party, arrived from Illinois via Portland, Oregon, on the schooner *Exact* at Alki Point on November 13, 1851. The settlement was moved to the eastern shore of Elliott Bay and named "Seattle" in

1852, in honor of Chief Si'ahl of the local Duwamish and Suquamish tribes. (WWW)

The Denney Party was actually the second group of European Settlers in Seattle. The first group, a few months earlier, included Jacob Maple, who was fourth great-grandfather of Rasheed Reno, present president of the Seattle Chapter.



Seattle Chapter – Established in 1970s

The Pacific Northwest is the region of the western United States located adjacent to the Pacific Ocean. Much of the Pacific Northwest consists of rural forested land; however, there are several large population centers which includes Seattle, Bellevue, Lynnwood, etc.

The Seattle Chapter was established in early 1970s and has

been blessed with devoted and pious souls. One of the early members was Brother Aasim Zaki Bashiruddin. Asim Bashiruddin accepted Ahmadiyyat in New York due to Tabligh by Mustafa Dalil in the 1950s, coming from a Christian background. He arranged bookstalls on waterfront in downtown Seattle to preach the message of Ahmadiyya Islam. Aasim Bashiruddin passed

away in 2015 and was honored in a Friday Sermon of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V. Sister Aisha Sial was the first to accept Ahmadiyyat in Seattle in 1980. Bashiruddin Malik is one of the early members and lives in Snohomish today. Malik Mubarik Ahmed and family moved to Seattle from Karachi in 1983, the chapter was comprised of just four families at that time. He was followed by

other extended family and they have been an integral part of the Jamā'at ever since.



Rashid Abdul Latif Rashidi, grandson of Sahibzada Abdul Latif Shaheed, was the first President from 1979 until the mid-1980s. After his relocation to Los Angeles, Abdul Haye Sial became the Jamā'at President and served for more than a decade. The total membership was less than 30 in 1980s. The Jamā'at used to meet in private homes or reserve rooms at various venues for Eid and other religious programs. Public libraries, like one in Fairwood, offered free meeting rooms. Syed Sajid Ahmad moved to Seattle in 1990 and lived in Puyallup.

He served as President from January 1990 to October 1991. His wife Syeda Bushra Sultana was Lajna President at that time. Abdul Haye Sial became president again after Syed Sajid Ahmad left.

Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (may Allah's mercy be on him) visited Seattle in 1994. Total Tajnīd was around 60 (between 40-80) at that time yet Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (may Allah's mercy be on him) graced the Chapter with a visit and stayed at the Hilton Bellevue.



Missionary-in-Charge, Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad visited Seattle in 1998. He stayed at the residence of Malik Mubarak Ahmed.

The jamaat grew significantly in the 1990s but it wasn't until the early 2000s that the Chapter rented its first permanent facility for meetings and prayers. This proved to be a significant milestone in organizing events on a regular basis.



Mahbubul Alam Ali was elected as President in 2000. There were 40 families residing in the Seattle Chapter at that time. In 2006, Tariq Ahmad donated land to construct a mosque at 19212 Highway 99 in Lynnwood. The new facility became the focal point of all Chapter activities.



In 2010, Irfan Chaudhary became the Chapter President. Around this time the membership grew exponentially due to the economic opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. This provided enormous human resources to the Seattle Chapter to hold large interfaith and outreach events.



Stop the CRISIS Event in Seattle



In September 2015, the Seattle Chapter was blessed with the new facility in Monroe, Washington to meet the needs of the expanding membership. It is a 38,000 square feet facility on over 8 acres of land.



Seattle Mosque Complex

It regularly hosts regional events for Lajna, Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, Ansarullah and weekly Tahir Academy classes, friends from the community are often invited to events at the mosque.

In 2018, Rasheed Reno became the president of Seattle. Membership has grown to almost 500.

Wisconsin: Milwaukee

Milwaukee is the largest city in the state of Wisconsin and the fifth-largest city in the Midwestern United States. It is on Lake Michigan's western shore. Ranked by its estimated 2018 population, Milwaukee was the 31st largest city in the United States. The city's estimated population in 2018 was 594,511. Milwaukee is the main cultural and economic center of the Milwaukee metropolitan area which had a population of 2,043,904 in the 2014 census estimate.

By the grace and mercy of Allah the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at in Milwaukee was established in the 1950s and 1960s through the efforts of Late Brother Abdul Malik, who also served as the Milwaukee Jamā'at president for many years.

Alhaj Rashid Ahmad American, a dedicated servant of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya USA who served as the National President of the USA Jamā'at, later became the Milwaukee Jamā'at President for many years.

Milwaukee Jamā'at continues to remain a very diverse, active, and dedicated Jamā'at with hundreds of members that includes many converts to Islam Ahmadiyyat, the True Islam.

Milwaukee Mission: was the host on March 1, 1969, of the Chicago circle members. A newsletter was printed in February. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, March 23, 1969, Vol. VIII No. 3)

Chapter News

The Ahmadiyya Mission, Milwaukee is trying its best to propagate Islam and Ahmadiyyat (July 1968). It has distributed 4,000 handbills. The mission has weekly Ads, in the Milwaukee Journal and Milwaukee Sentinel. Weekly meetings are also being held in the Wisconsin Hotel.

Our Milwaukee Jamā'at meets regularly at the Wisconsin Hotel. The weekly Ads. are still being published in two Newspapers. The members are propagating Islam

enthusiastically. More than thousand letters were mailed by them. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, March 23, 1969, Vol. VII No. 9, p. 5)

The Milwaukee Jamā'at, under the leadership of Br. Rashid Ahmad, President, have established a program, entitled 'Blessed Monday' for the purpose of spreading the teachings of Ahmadiyyat. The program consists of mailing literature, brothers conversing with people in the community and distributing literature. The sisters

are delivering the message of Islam by telephone, proclaiming the second coming of Jesus Christ in the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (Peace be upon him). On the first Monday of this program, the Jamā'at invited people of the community to social tea to learn about the teaching of Ahmadiyyat or the true Islam. We are also involved in regular Sunday meetings with the study of the Holy Quran. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, October, 1977)

Weekly Meetings

The Jamā'at holds weekly meetings on Sunday and Wednesday

with an average attendance of ten to fifteen members. These meetings

give us an opportunity to say prayers in congregation.

Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muşliḥ Mau'ūd Day

Khalifat-ul-Masih II, Muşliḥ Mau'ūd Day was celebrated on the 25th of February with the brothers and sisters from Cleveland and Dayton in attendance. Br. Omar

Shaheed chaired the program. Speakers were Br. Abu F. Murtaza, Bro Manzur Ahmad, Br. Jamilur Rahman and Br. Habeeb Shafeek, M.M. Ibrahim, who was the main

speaker, gave an inspiring speech. Afterwards prayers were offered, and we had dinner. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, April 1979).

All Prophet Day

Jamā'at celebrated All Prophet Day on Sunday October 7, at the University of Milwaukee, Wis. The speaker for the day was Br. Rashid Ahmad and Rabbi Silverman to represent Judaism.

An article was written by sister Aansa Ashan on the wearing of Purdah by Ahmadi sisters in Milwaukee and was published in the Milwaukee Courier. (The Ahmadiyya Gazette, November 1979, p. 8)

The History of the Milwaukee Chapter

This history is documented from the recollections of Nasirullah Ahmad and al-Haj Dhul Waqar

Yaqub—both of the Milwaukee Jamā'at—and Naser-ud-Din Shams of the Zion Jamā'at. These three heard the following accounts directly from the eyewitnesses.

Pioneers in Milwaukee



Abdul Malik is pictured above. He would travel to the Al-Sadiq mosque for Islamic education.

The origins of the Ahmadiyyat in Milwaukee trace back to an individual named Abdul Malik. He shared his account with al-Haj Dhul Waqar Yaqub. Abdul Malik stated that he accepted Ahmadiyyat in 1946. For a period of two years—1946 to 1948—he would drive approximately 100 miles to Chicago (220 S. State Street and the Al-Sadiq mosque located at 4448 S Wabash), to learn about Islam from Khalil Ahmad Nasir, who was serving as the Asst Missionary-in-Charge from 1946 to 1948 and the Missionary in-Charge of the United States from 1948 to 1959. Beforehand, Sufi Muti-ur-Rahman Bengalee was the Missionary in-Charge from 1928 to 1948.

After two years of reading and being tested on certain books, Abdul Malik was allowed to pledge allegiance (*Bai'at*) in 1948. Khalil Ahmad Nasir had told him that he

was ready to start a community in Milwaukee. Abdul Malik recruited fellow Ahmadis to move to Milwaukee to grow the local community. He was an inspirational character and had a profound impact on many people.



Sadiq Mosque, Chicago

Abdul Malik convinced several members to move to Milwaukee in the hopes of finding better employment. Ali Razaa (Mar 17, 1922-Jul 8, 1996), who accepted Ahmadiyyat in 1947, and his wife Nasira Razaa (Apr 13, 1927-Feb 19, 2013) moved to Milwaukee from St. Louis, MO, where Ali Razaa was the president circa 1955. However, when Ali could not find employment in the Milwaukee breweries, he eventually moved to Kenosha, WI, where he took up employment in the American Motors manufacturing plant (founded in 1954). This devout couple was instrumental in spreading the Message to others in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. They were pioneers of Islam in the Zion area and were involved in the conversions of Muhammad Sadiq of Kenosha, Fazal Omar (Sep 22, 1945 to Oct 8, 2020) of Zion, and Ahmad Khalid of

Milwaukee.

Hanif Ahmad and Mubarik Ahmad were two other members who moved from St. Louis to Milwaukee. Hanif was married to Nafia Ahmad and Mubarik was married to Sister Sharon Ahmad.

The earliest Ahmadiyya Gazette we found that makes mention of the Milwaukee members is dated July 1968 (scan given in this article). It appears to be the Waṣīyyat declaration of Zubair Salahuddin (who passed away while performing the Hajj), and the witnesses are Hanif Ahmad and his wife Nafia.

The same issue of the Ahmadiyya Gazette dated July 1968, has another mention of the Milwaukee community, stating they hold weekly meetings at the Wisconsin Hotel. The September 1968 issue of the Ahmadiyya Gazette details Milwaukee activity as well:

It appears from the testimony of al-Haj Maulana Rashid Ahmad American (Mar 26, 1923 to Feb 7, 2015), who was the first American-born student of Jami'a Ahmadiyya in Pakistan, that the formal establishment of the Milwaukee Jamā'at had not taken place until after the mid-1950s. According to Brother Rashid, Maulana Khalil Ahmad Nasir, the Missionary-in-Charge of the United States, had asked Abdush-Shakoor Kunze, who was the Missionary in-Charge of the Midwest, to start a branch of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As Brothers Kunze (a German prisoner of war who accepted Islam) and Rashid had both attended Jami'a Ahmadiyya in Rabwah, Pakistan, in Dec 1954, and reported to their duties as American missionaries in early 1955, this could not have taken place any earlier than that.

Kunze went to Milwaukee to meet a Christian preacher who wanted to accept Ahmadiyyat along

with two or three of his congregational members. Kunze also encountered some African Americans who claimed to be Muslims. They alleged that they were foreigners. Some of them claimed to be from Somalia, Ethiopia, and one from Qadian. One of these individuals even claimed that his grandparents were Jewish. Kunze attempted to teach these individuals Ahmadiyyat but he ran into opposition. These people did not want to be identified as local African Americans and they claimed that the Blacks that joined Ahmadiyyat were *Negroes*. It appeared to be a crisis of self-identity fueled by the segregation and discrimination in the United States against Blacks. In this case, it appeared as if they felt they could avoid being victims of discrimination by claiming they were from foreign lands.

Maulana Rashid Ahmad received a letter from the Missionary-in-Charge, Khalil Ahmad Nasir, to assist Kunze with this issue. As directed, Rashid departed from St. Louis to the Chicago mosque and accompanied Kunze on his trips to Milwaukee. The two would present lectures and

discourses on Islam and address any questions that the audience would have. The group of so-called Muslims in Milwaukee who were African Americans regularly attended those discourses, but they never formally accepted Ahmadiyyat. Abdul Malik and his wife were among the Milwaukee members who had identified as members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Iconic Photos of a Memorable Event



Abdul Malik's wife, Mubarika, had a group meeting with Gerald Ford, the 38th President of the United States (1974 to 1977), Gerald

Ford. She broke ranks from the group and presented President Ford with a copy of the Ahmadiyya English translation of the Holy Quran. President Ford personally received her gift, thanking her and telling her he would read it.



Inseparable Bonds

The Ahmadi Muslims in the Midwest were constantly in contact through regional events. Activities and events, such as those below, fostered inseparable bonds between spiritual brethren.

(4)

THE FOLLOWING WILL is being published prior to the sanction of the Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan, Rabwah, so that if any person has any objection against it he may inform the said Anjuman through the Chief Missionary, America within 15 days:

"I am earning \$360.00 per month at present. I bequeath one tenth of my income in favor of Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya, Pakistan, Rabwah. If my income increases or decreases I shall inform the Anjuman about this fact and the payments will be made accordingly. I do not own any moveable or immoveable property at present. Whatever property I own at the time of my death I bequeath one tenth of it in favor of Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan, Rabwah. This will of mine will become operative from April 10, 68, and shall remain so till my death.

Signed by: Zubair Salahuddin, (Ameer)
son of Mr. Houston Fowler,
2706 N. Richard Street,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53212.

<p><u>Witness NO. 1.</u> Hanif Ahmad, son of Mr. Frank Bolder, 1902 W. Brown Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.</p>	<p><u>Witness NO. 2</u> Nafia Ahmed, Wife of Hanif Ahmad, 1902 W. Brown Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.</p>
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Ahmadiyya Gazettee, July 1968.

3. The Ahmadiyya Mission ,Milwaukee is trying its best to propagate Islam and Ahmadiyyat. It has distributed 4000 handbills.The mission has weekly Ads. in the Milwaukee Journal and Milwaukee Sentinel. Weekly meetings are also being held in the

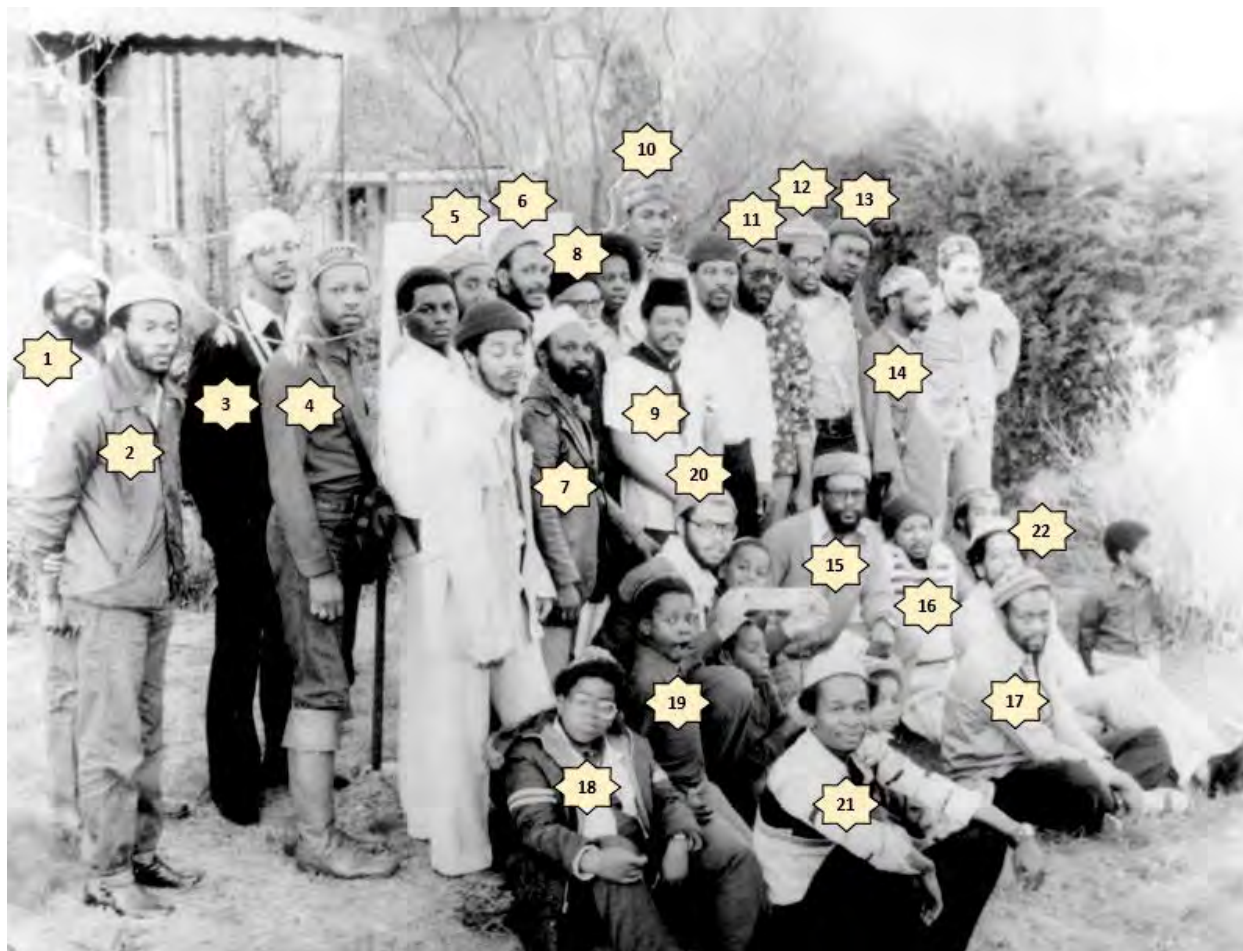
(5)

Wisconsin Hotel.

AhmadiyyaGazette, July 1968

3. Our Milwaukee Jamaat meets regularly at the Wisconsin Hotel. The weekly Ads. are still being published in two Newspapers. The members are propagating Islam enthusiastically. More than thousand letters were mailed by them. May God reward them!

Ahmadiyya Gazette, September 1968



This is a Midwest Khuddam Ijtima held in St. Louis, MO circa 1977: 1—Nasirullah Ahmad of Milwaukee; 2—Rahman Malik of Milwaukee; 3—Khalid Walid of Milwaukee; 4—Muhammad Sadiq of Kenosha, WI; 5—Muhammad Sabir of Milwaukee; 6—Al-Haj Dhul-Waqar Yaqub of Milwaukee; 7—Hanif Ahmad of Zion, IL; 8—Missionary Mian Ibrahim; 9—Abdul Kabir Haqq; 10—Abdul Jalanee; 11—Aminullah Ahmad; 12—Abu Bakr Salahuddin; 13—Yusuf Amin of Troy; 14—Al-Haj Abdul Hakeem; 15—Abdul Karim of Chicago; 16—Habeb M. Shafeeq; 17—Abu Bakr of Zion, IL; 18—Jawad Foster; 19—Hafiz Nasiruddin; 20—Umar Farooq Qadafi; 21—Muhsin Rashid; and 22—Ahmad Khalid of Milwaukee

Missionary Faran Rabbani was stationed in Zion from June 2014 to September 2017 covering Milwaukee, Oshkosh and Minnesota.



The above photo was taken at the 1956 Jalsa Salana in Cleveland, OH. Left to right: Unknown, Al-Haj Hanif Ahmad of Milwaukee (later Zion), Abdullah Muhammad of Chicago, Mubarak Ahmad of Milwaukee, unknown, and Abdul Malik of Milwaukee.



Maulana Rashid Ahmad is standing on the far left and Dr. Khalil Ahmad Nasir is standing on the far right.

Wisconsin: Oshkosh



First Ahmadi Muslim in Oshkosh

Oshkosh is a city in Winnebago County, Wisconsin, United States, located where the Fox River enters Lake Winnebago from the west. The population was 66,083 at the 2010 census. The city is located adjacent to the Town of Oshkosh.

The establishment and growth of the lumber industry in the area spurred development of Oshkosh. The 1859 arrival of rail transportation expanded the industry's ability to meet the demands of a rapidly growing construction market. At one time,

Oshkosh was known as the “Sawdust Capital of the World” due to the number of lumber mills in the city, 11 by 1860.

Oshkosh Jamā‘at history starts in late 1980s when there was a first Ahmadi Muslim arrived in 1986, and that person was Khurram Fawad Ahmad, current president of Oshkosh Jamā‘at. He came here to pursue the higher education in Computer Science at the local University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. He graduated from the same university.

During his studies at the university, he encourages his younger brothers to join the same university for their higher education, and after two years or so, his younger brother Javad Ahmad and afterward Saad Ahmad joined him and enrolled in for their higher education at the same university, as well. After a while, his first cousin Umair Ahmad also joined them as he enrolled in Computer Science Program at the same university, and that started the seeds for having Jamā‘at population increases in Oshkosh.

Oshkosh Chapter Approval

In year 2000, Khurram asked Amir to allow Oshkosh to become formally a Chapter. Up till year

2000, they had enough families who are now living in Oshkosh. He got married and then had a family, his

uncle also used to live in here, and the other Ahmadi families that had moved to this area. At that time there

were about 35 or 40 Ahmadi had been living here as an initial Tajneed in Oshkosh.

So, they were granted to start Oshkosh Chapter in year 2000. Before year 2000, their exposure for Jamā'at events was closest Jamā'at available to them was Milwaukee, Wisconsin, about 1 ½ hour away from Oshkosh towards South. For regional events, they used to go to Chicago which is about 3 hours from Oshkosh. So, any time they had any meeting planned had to go to Milwaukee, and just to attend every Jum'ah Prayer sometimes became difficult, to avoid this happening, it was organized locally in Oshkosh, but for Eid and main events they always joined Milwaukee Jamā'at.

The Oshkosh Jamā'at officially created in 2000, and the elections were held, and Khurram was elected

as a first president of Oshkosh Jamā'at. Since then, he has been blessed serving this responsibility.



Since the beginning of Oshkosh Jamā'at, the president had offered his house's basement to Jamā'at for daily congregational and Jum'ah prayers, so, it becomes the Namaz Center until the Mosque was established in 2010. He always makes sure that there is enough room to comfortably accommodate

everybody who comes for prayers.

In year 2004, he moved into a different house, and that one he purposely built to allow for access to the basement from outside, and that continued to be the place where they did their congregation and Jum'ah prayers, and so on, up till year 2010 when Oshkosh Jamā'at were given the opportunity to be blessed with a Mosque property of its own that allows members now to sustain the close of Jamā'at in their small area here. The Oshkosh Jamā'at now blessed with the Tajneed of 120 people with growth happening regularly people moving to Oshkosh or migrating from Pakistan, those are the bigger contributors. God blessed Jamā'at with recent converts and hopefully that will allow for Jamā'at to continue to grow.

Oshkosh Local Community

Continuing history of Oshkosh, when we started Oshkosh Jamā'at, we were blessed that the local community allowed them a very warm welcome. The Chapter officially started in 2000, and the same Jamā'at started having community reach out to other Churches. The first Church Group

Jamā'at had owner of partnering with was First Congregational Church and allowed us to do many programs with them. Actually, the Church offered the Jamā'at their facility for few times when Jamā'at had to do a bigger event and Jamā'at used their facility to do that also there were many opportunities

where we were able to take their food on their events and that allowed them to share a lot of good community relationship with members of that Church and that relationship still continuous to be very strong one.

Relationships with Local Churches

Because of that relationship, we were able to make many other connections with other Churches

and we can go and talk about Islam. Different concepts about Ahmadiyyat and allowed to do

various sessions even in local schools, because of the outreach that Jamā'at make in the Churches.

Blood Drive

When the Blood Drive started from Jamā'at perspective they took an initiative in that also and always organized them but mainly the

thrust of blood drive when had their Mosque starting 2010. Since then, every year have been able to organize blood drives with the local

community blood bank and do decent amount of blood donors, every year because of that.

4th of July Parade

We also have been a regular participant as a Jamā'at on 4th of July Parade. We do lead our Muslim

for Peace banner and Muslim for Loyalty banner and have been regular staple on 4th of July. People

start to recognize us now and becomes something very regular for them to participating.

From a Local Official's Standpoint

From a local official standpoint, once again, our reach has always been to political leaders, local Congressman, local Senators all along. But once we had their Mosque, we suddenly got of press coverage because there were issues around the Mosque being allowed

for us to get the permit to be the Mosque and got lot of feasibility in the local officials because of that we leverage that exposure and have been inviting local city officials to all the meetings we have, we do open house invite all local officials do that and allowed us to bring decent

exposure of Jamā'at to the city officials, and the same make friendship with them which makes it very decent for Jamā'at to always leverage that relationship, if Jamā'at run to any concern or issues especially with the local police department.

Organizing Thanksgivings

So, one of the Pastor here, started doing, inviting local Church members or local communities to Thanksgivings, and Jamā'at started organizing thanksgivings get together in the local Opera house. The Jamā'at always met there, but two years ago Khurram suggested to

the Pastor that he think we should always have some type of foods associated with this evening and then he asked Khurram that we do not have location where we can serve food, so, Jamā'at offered out Mosque for that, and since then we always get together do a potluck at our Mosque,

people get together there, everybody brings some type of food, we get together, we eat, and then we go to the Opera House for doing festival of gratitude and has now become very regular and people very appreciated to open our Mosque to have that potluck done every year.

Mosque Establishment 2010

Oshkosh was as a Jamā'at established in 2000 and we had been continuously looking for a place we can call as home as far as Mosque is concerned, but no suitable property could be found, we were always looking for something good that can be used in the meantime we would find opportunities for members home to pray and utilize it as best as possible.

Few properties came that we want to pursue but one thing or the other when members went and look at there were issues that we just in want to pursue them and continue to our search. This property that we currently came about suddenly the realtor we were working with called Khurram and said there is a good property that is inside Oshkosh that we can look at. So, Khurram was skeptic first because it did not look like big place when they looked at it online, but nonetheless they went to

see it with few members. Our initial walkthrough was very positive, and we quickly arrange another viewing with more of the membership, and Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, everyone that came through liked the property, because it as it was serving everything that we needed. So, we quickly, started our proposal to headquarter to see if we can get this property that came back in a positive, so went ahead, and the realtor to say we want to get this property for a Mosque.

Initial negotiation went through, we agreed on the price and Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, between buyer and seller point of view everything was done. Now the hurdle was to make sure we can use this property as a Mosque. So, we had to apply for zoning approval to the City. It was part of our buying condition to get that approval, the seller also new about it and did not bother to worry

about he said it is going to get approved and we should be fine. We put the zoning requirement with the city, initially from the City point of view we had no concerns, they approved it, they helped us to write how the zoning petition should be done, what possible concerns may be there, and we filed the petition to make sure we mitigate any of those concerns. There were few concerns like opening hours, how many times we will be using the property, how many people will be coming, and we answered all those, and Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, at that time no concerns were valid as far as the use of property would be. Some few people said that oh we will be coming for Fajr prayer early in the morning, but the city said if that is requirement for your point of view to pray at that time then so be, we cannot say that it cannot be used in that regard.

Initial Approval from the City

So that led to the initial approval from the City then there was an open house done inside the Mosque. We

invited our neighbors to make sure we can address any concerns ourselves that went very positive, we

were there almost an hour and half answered any concern from neighbors the Press was there, we

answered any questions. In that regard, it was very positive. Then there was a hearing at City Counsel, we went there and to our surprise, there were more people present on that hearing that was supporting us, I am talk about on our behalf then a few nays here that did not want us to be getting this property. Nonetheless the concern was raised common that we see the other place is going to be increased traffic, loud and things like

that but all those concerns were turned down by the City, and we got the approval to go ahead and use this property as a Mosque, and that allowed to get this property going.

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, since then we have had the opportunity to renovate the Mosque three years ago, put a minaret and a dome in front extend the mosque to actually have a Ḍiyāfat (hospitality) hall, a proper kitchen, a

purpose build kitchen that allows us to meet all the needs for Jamā'at here and this Mosque, by the Grace of Allah, and as our beloved Imam says that the beauty of the Mosque is by how much is populated, this Mosque is populated 5 times a day with people coming to pray and that keeps the blessings continuing for what this Mosque is worthful.

Missionaries

Missionary Faran Rabbani was stationed in Zion from June 2014 to

September
Milwaukee,

2017
Oshkosh

covering
and

Minnesota.



Corrections

In the last issue, on page 86, in the third column, MR Bengalee should be AR Bengalee, on page 135, last item, Ahmadabad dedication was on 16 June, and on page 256, 1984 should be 1982. Editors regret the oversight.

Glossary

For non-English terms, especially Arabic, the Royal Asiatic Society System of transliteration has been preferred in this publication with a few exceptions. As-spoken transliteration has been used rather than as-transcribed.

- Alaih-is-Salam: may peace be upon him
Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ : All praise belongs to Allah.
Amilah/Amila: executive. officers.
Amir, Ameer. emir. chief. commander.
Ansar: helpers. Ahmadi men over 40.
Atfal: children. Ahmadi boys 7-15.
Ayyadahullāhu Ta‘ālā Bi-Naṣrihil-‘Azīz اَيَّدَهُ اللهُ تَعَالَى بِنَصْرِهِ : May Allah, the Exalted, support him with His Mighty help.
Bait: House
Bait-ur-Rahman: House of the Gracious. Mosque located in Silver Spring MD where national headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Community are located in the US.
Hadhrat (Library of Congress System): His Holiness Ḥaḍrat (Royal Asiatic Society System): His Holiness Ḥāfiẓ حافظ : A person who has memorized the Arabic text of the Holy Qur‘ān.
Hazrat (Indo-Pak): His Holiness Ḥifẓ-ul-Qur‘an حفظ القرآن : Memorization of the Holy Qur‘an.
Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him (570-632).
ḥuffāz حَفَّاز : Plural of Ḥāfiẓ. Those who commit the entire Qur‘ān to memory
Ijtima: rally
Imārah, Imārat اِمَارَة، اِمَارَة : chief, leader, emirate
Jalsa Salana: Annual convention
Jamā‘at: group. Implies global, national or local general membership of Ahmadiis.
Khalifat-ul-Masih: Successor to the (Promised) Messiah
Khalifat-ul-Masih I: Nūr-ud-Dīn, Ḥaḍrat Al-Ḥājj Maulānā ḥajj مولانا نور الدين (May Allāh be please with him): First successor (1908-1914) to the Promised Messiah, peace be on him)
Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II: Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Bashīr-ud-Dīn Maḥmūd Aḥmad (1889-1965): Second successor (1914-1965) to the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him.
Khalifat-ul-Masih III: Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Nāṣir (1909-1982) حضرت مرزا ناصر احمد، Allah’s mercy be on him: Third successor (1965-1982) to the Promised Messiah, peace be on him.
Khalifat-ul-Masih IV: Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ṭāhir (1928-2003) حضرت مرزا طاہر احمد، Allah’s mercy be on him: Fourth successor (1982-2003) to the Promised Messiah, peace be on him.
Khalifat-ul-Masih V: Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Masroor (1950-...) حضرت مرزا مسرور احمد، may Allah strengthen him with His mighty support: Fifth successor (2003-...) to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).
Khuddam: servants. Society of male Ahmadiis 16-40.
Khutba, Khutbah: Friday Sermon.
Lajna Ima‘illah: maid servants of Allah. Society of Ahmadi women over 16.
Langar Khana: public kitchen
Majlis: council. body.
Markaz مرکز : (international) center. (international) headquarters.
Masjid: mosque
Masih-i-Mau‘ud: Promised Messiah (Second Advent) حضرت مرزا غلام احمد (1835-1908) مسیح موعود
Muslih Mau‘ud: promised reformer (Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih II)
Nizam-e-Jamā‘at: system of the Community
Promised Messiah (Second Coming) مسیح موعود حضرت مرزا غلام احمد (1835-1908) See Masih-i-Mau‘ud.
Qadian: Birthplace of the Promised Messiah in India.
Qamar-ul-Anbiya: Moon of the Prophets
Rabwah: A town established in Pakistan by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community under the leadership of Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih II after migration from India.
raḥimahullāh رَحْمَةُ اللهِ : May Allah have mercy on him
Salat ‘Asharah: Ten days of emphasis on Salat.
Shura: advisory council. A body of delegates from chapters and missionaries and national officers.
Tabligh: outreach, propagation, preaching.
Tahrik-i-Jadīd: new movement/mobilization (for spreading the message of Islam all over the world started by Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih II.
Waqār-i-‘Amal وقار عمل : prestige/dignity of action. A term used in the Ahmadiyya Movement to encourage voluntary manual work.
Waqf: dedication. devotion
Waqf-i-Āriḍī وقف عارضی : Temporary Devotion. Devoting a few days to a few weeks away from home in the service of Ahmadiyya Islam.
Waqf-i-Nau. New dedication (a scheme started by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih IV for dedication of both male and female children to prepare them to promote the cause of Islam as they grow up.
Waqf-i-Jadīd: New devotion (a scheme started by Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifat-ul-Masih II to aid disadvantaged sectors of humanity)
Wāqifāt: devoted females
Wāqifin: devoted males
Wāqif-i-Zindagī واقف زندگی : An Ahmadi Muslim who has devoted his life for the service of Islam.

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Abbreviations for salutations used in this publication

- s.a./s: Şallallahu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam
(may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)
a.s./a: 'Alaih-is-Salām
r.a.: Raḍiyallāhu 'Anhu/'Anha
(may Allah be pleased with him/her)
r.h.: Raḥimahullāhu Ta'ālā
(may Allah shower His mercy on him)
a.b.a.: Ayyadahullāhu Ta'ālā Bi-Naṣrihil-'Azīz
(may Allah support him with His mighty help)

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

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**The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA is published by
The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Inc.,
Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Ahmadiyya Gazette
15,000 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring MD 20905**



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