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Ramadan & 'Id Mubarak!





شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي ٱنْزِلَ فِيْهِ الْقُرُانُ

'The month of Ramaḍān is that in which the Qur'an was sent down.' (2:186)

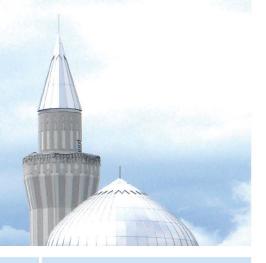
This verse indicates the greatness of the month of Ramaḍān. The *Sūfīs* [Islāmic mystics] have recorded that this is a good month for the illumination of the heart. One who observes the fast has frequent experience of visions in this month. The Ṣalāt purifies the spirit and the fast illumines the heart. The purification of the spirit means that one may be delivered from the passions of the self that incites to evil; and the illumination of the heart means that the gates of vision may be opened so that one may be able to behold God. (Malfuzat, vol. IV, pp. 256-257)

لَآلِدَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللهِ

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Pearls of Wisdom

Selection from the Holy Qur'ān and Aḥādīth	2
So Said the Promised Messiah ^{as}	3
Guidance from Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V ^{aa}	
Summary of Friday Sermons (Ramaḍān 2015)	6
Articles	
What is Fasting?	9
Blessings of Ramaḍān	10
The Real 'Īd of a Believer	12
Reports	
50 Year Celebration at Ottawa City Hall	13
50 Year Celebration at Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto	16
6 th Annual Interfaith Symposium (Women only) in Hamilton	18
Foreign Jamāʻats Desk (Reports from Jamaica & Uruguay)	21
MASQ	24
Press Releases	26

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Current Issues - Archives - Contribute - Register - Contact

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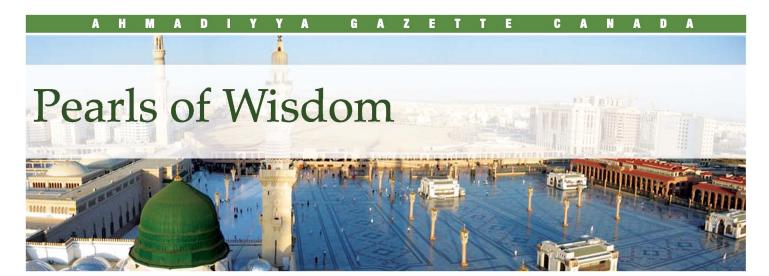
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THE HOLY OUR'AN C

O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may become righteous.

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.

The month of Ramaḍān is that in which the Qur'ān 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. Allāh desires to give you facility and He desires not hardship for you, and that you may complete the number, and that you may exalt Allāh for His having guided you and that you may be grateful. (2:184-186)

يَا يُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ امَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيامُ كَمَا الَّهِ عَلَى اللَّهُ الصَّيامُ كَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهَدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهَدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهَدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ الْكُمْ وَ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ الْكُمْ وَ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ الْكُمْ وَ الْ عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ الْكُمْ وَ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ الْكُمْ وَ الْكُولُ الْكُمْ وَ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ الْكُمْ وَ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُ الْكُمْ وَا اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ الْكُمْ وَ الْكُمْ وَالْمُلْ عَلَى عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللَّهُ عَلَى عَلَى عَلَى عَاهُدُ اللْكُمْ وَ الْكُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى عَلَ

—— HADĪTH OF THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD^{sa} C

Hazrat Abū Hurairah^{ra} narrates that the Holy Prophet^{sa} said, "Allāh Almighty says that all actions of man are for himself, but the fast is for Me and I am its reward. Fasting is a shield; the person observing the fast should not behave foolishly or impudently, and if somebody argues with him or fights him, he should say, 'I am fasting.' By Him in Whose Hands is my life, the smell from the mouth of one fasting is better in the sight of Allāh than the smell of musk. There are two causes of happiness for one fasting: when he opens the fast, and when he meets his Lord because of the fast" (Saḥīḥ Bukhārī, Kitābus Saum, Bāb Hal Yaqūl Inni Sā'imun).

عَنُ آبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِى اللهُ عَنهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَسَلَّمَ: قَالَ اللهُ عَرَّوَجَلَّ: كُلُّ عَمَلِ ابْنِ ادَمَ لَهُ إِلاَّ الصِّيامَ فَانَّهُ لِى وَسَلَّمَ: قَالَ اللهُ عَرَّوَجَلَّ: كُلُّ عَمَلِ ابْنِ ادَمَ لَهُ إِلاَّ الصِّيامَ فَانَّهُ لِى وَالصِّيامُ جُنَّةٌ فَإِذَا كَانَ يَوْمُ صَوْمِ اَحَدِ كُمْ فَلاَيرُ فُث وَانَا اَجْزِى بِهِ - وَالصِّيامُ جُنَّةٌ فَإِذَا كَانَ يَوْمُ صَوْمِ اَحَدِ كُمْ فَلاَيرُ فُث وَلاَ يَصُخَبُ فَإِن سَابَّه 'اَحَدُ اوَقَاتَلَه 'فَلْيَقُلُ: إِنِّى صَائِمٌ - وَالَّذِي نَفْسُ مُحَمَّدِ بِيدِهِ لَخُلُوفُ فَمِ الصَّائِمِ الطَيبُ عِنْدَاللهِ مِن رِيْحِ الْمِسَكِ - مُحَمَّدِ بِيدِهِ فَرُحْتَانِ يَقُرُحُهُمَا ، إِذَا اَفْطَرَفَرَحَ ، وَإِذَا لَقِي رَبَّه 'فَرَحَ بِصَوْمِهِ - لِلصَّآئِمِ فَرُحْتَانِ يَقُرَحُهُمَا ، إِذَا اَفْطَرَفَرَحَ ، وَإِذَا لَقِي رَبَّه 'فَرَحَ بِصَوْمِهِ - لَاصَعِيح بخارى - كتاب الصوم ، باب هل يقول انى صائم اذاشتم)

2 Pearls of Wisdom

So Said the Promised Messiahas



On one occasion I began to reflect on the purpose of the prescribed expiation of missing a fast and I conceived that the expiation is prescribed so that one may be bestowed the capacity and the strength to observe the fast. God Almighty alone can bestow such strength and everything should be sought from God Almighty. He is the All-Powerful; if He so wills He can bestow the strength for observing the fast on one who is afflicted with tuberculosis. The purpose of the prescribed expiation is that one may be bestowed the strength for the observation of the fast, and this can be achieved only through the Grace of God Almighty. One should supplicate:

Lord! This is Thy blessed month and I am being deprived of its blessings. I know not whether I shall be alive next year, or would find the opportunity of observing the fasts that I am missing. Do Thou bestow upon me, by Thy Grace, the strength that should enable me to observe the fast. I am sure that one with such a heart would be bestowed the needed strength by God Almighty...

According to me, the principle is that when a person supplicates to God Almighty with perfect sincerity that he should not be deprived of the blessings of the month of Ramaḍān, he is not so deprived . . .

This is a subtle matter. If a person finds the observance of the fast difficult on account of the slothfulness of his spirit and imagines that he is not in good health, and that if he misses a meal, he would suffer from various types of disorders, such a one, who imagines that a Divine blessing would sit heavy on him, would not deserve any spiritual merit. On the other hand, a person who feels happy at the approach of the month of Ramaḍān and is eager to observe the fast, but is held back by illness from doing so, would not be deprived of the blessings of Ramaḍān . . .

God Almighty knows that his heart is eager and He bestows plentifully upon him, for the eagerness of the heart is valuable in the estimation of God. Those who seek excuses rely on their interpretations, but such interpretations have no value in the estimation of God Almighty. On one occasion when I continued observation of the fast for six months, I met a company of the Prophets in a vision who admonished me against imposing so much hardship on myself and directed me to desist. Thus, when a person imposes hardship upon himself for the sake of God, He takes pity on him like the parents of a child and directs him to desist.

(Malfūzāt, Vol. 4, pp. 258-260 qtd. in Essence of Islam, Vol 2, pp. 312-315)

Pearls of Wisdom 3

Harnessing the Blessings of Ramadan

Friday Sermon Delivered on June 19, 2015

Huzoor^{aa} highlighted the importance of Ramaḍān and urged the Jamā'at to take advantage of the month by truly benefiting from its blessings.

Huzoor^{aa} said that God has associated Ramaḍān with acceptance of prayers; therefore, try to spend both day and night in prayers to Allāh.

Huzoor^{aa} said that in order to benefit from Ramaḍān, it is important for us to become true servants of God and make every effort to protect ourselves against the attacks of Satan.

On June 19, 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London, U.K.

Huzoor^{aa} said that today is the blessed day of Friday and the first day of Ramadan. The Holy Prophet^{sa} said that there is an occasion on Friday during which whatever a true believer prays is granted to him. The Holy Prophet^{sa} also said that when Ramadan comes, the doors to Paradise are opened and the doors to hell are shut. God's Mercy is particularly stirred during this month and Allāh showers the rain of His bounties and blessings upon the believers. The Holy Prophet^{sa} also described some conditions for us to attract Allah's Grace during Ramadan. He said one should avoid improper talk, eschew chaos, mischief and abusive language during Ramadān.

Huzoor^{aa} said that God has associated the blessed days of Ramaḍān with acceptance of prayers. Addressing the Holy Prophet^{sa} God said during the month of Ramaḍān: "when My servants ask you about Me, tell them that I am near and that I hear and

grant the prayers of a person when he prays to Me" (2:187).

Huzoor^{aa} said that it is for this reason that Fridays that occur during Ramaḍān become doubly important. The days of Ramaḍān are the days of acceptance of prayers, and so are the nights in this month. Therefore, we should spend both day and night in Ramaḍān in supplications to Allāh and thus take best advantage of the blessed month.

Huzoor^{aa} said that when a believer sincerely bows down before his Lord, he not only witnesses the acceptance of his prayers, but also increases in faith and conviction, as he treads the path of piety and righteousness. Ramaḍān's blessings are granted only to those who sincerely act upon Allāh's commandments and increase in faith as well. A true believer should, therefore, spend the blessed days of Ramaḍān with extreme humility and humbleness and confessing his weaknesses and shortcomings.

Huzooraa said that the heavy presence of worshippers for Jumu'a and other prayers these days should not be just temporary, but rather the houses of Allah should be populated with the same fervour even after Ramadan. During these days, each one of us should particularly pray to Allāh that He may grant us His Taqwa, which is to love Him and fear Him. As long as we will continue to love Him and fear Him, He will continue to cover up our faults and keep us in His protection. As long as we will love Allāh truly, we will be safeguarded against destruction. God honours the love of His servants for Him. The Promised Messiahas repeatedly urged

the Jamā'at to observe *Taqwa*. We should, therefore, express true humility before Allāh and become His servants trying to obtain closeness to Him.

Huzoor^{aa} said that God feels pleased when a person repents before Him. He is kinder than any mother and is willing to accept the repentance of His servants and show His pleasure towards them. The month of Ramaḍān also is to obtain the same purpose. If a person, despite having committed mistakes and shortcomings throughout the year, fills his heart with love for Allāh and gets closer to Him, God too runs towards him and lovingly embraces him. Still if a person fails to avail this opportunity, it is only the person's own misfortune betraying his hardheartedness.

Huzoor^{aa} said that Satan stands everywhere in our way and tries to tempt us. But, we have to confront him and protect ourselves against his attacks and become true servants of the Almighty God. Only then will we be able to truly benefit from the blessings of Ramaḍān. This will not only help us gain personal benefits, but the Jamā'at too will prosper and progress. It is, in fact, the reformation of the members of the Jamā'at, their pious acts and *Taqwa* which result in the progress of the Jamā'at.

Huzoor^{aa} said that the Promised Messiah^{as} said that his progress and victory depend upon prayers. We should, therefore, bow down before Allāh seeking His blessings for the Jamā'at as well for ourselves. Our prayers must not be confined to our own benefit or to the benefit of our close relatives, but rather there is a need to

expand its scope. Make fervent prayers for the victory and triumph of the True Faith. May Allāh remove our weaknesses and cover up our faults! Āmīn!

May He grant us such means as help us obtain our purpose! Āmīn. Pray that may

the world that is denying the existence of God should be able to recognize its Lord. May Allāh infuse into us such power and capacity by utilizing which we help the True Faith emerge victorious over all other religions! May Allāh make our actions and capabilities even stronger,

and may we love pious deeds and may Taqwa get firmly rooted in our hearts, and may Allāh enable us to perform every action and say every word to the effect that it pleases Allāh! May Allāh enable us to make this Ramaḍān a source to obtain all these bounties for us. Āmīn!

Ramadān: Self-Reformation and Our Responsibilities

Friday Sermon Delivered on June 26, 2015

Huzoor^{aa} urged the Jamā'at to fulfil the rights of Allāh and men by acting upon Allāh's commandments, purifying the self, showing humility, discarding arrogance and becoming a true servant of the Almighty God.

Huzoor^{aa} said that along with increased worship of Allāh, the month of Ramaḍān also draws our attention towards fulfilling the rights we owe to society.

Huzoor^{aa} said that we should spread peace and harmony in our society, homes and surroundings by putting an end to mutual discords and disorder.

On June 26, 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, London, U.K.

Huzoor^{aa} quoted an extract of the Promised Messiah^{as} wherein he said: "Our Jamā'at must not confine itself to mere words and discourses, since this is not the real purpose. What is required is the purification of the self and reformation of practice as these are the things God has appointed me for. Sticking to the Faith, acting upon Allāh's commandments, reformation of the self and keeping it ever pure should be the objective of our life."

Huzoor^{aa} said that in order to fulfil the obligations of *Baīʿat*, an Aḥmadī should always keep Allāh's commandments in view and put them in practice. In order to benefit from the special spiritual atmosphere of Ramaḍān, we ought to self-reflect as to how much we act upon Allāh's commandments and to what extent we make them an essential part of our lives.

The Holy Qur'ān states that the servants of the Gracious God are those who walk on earth in a dignified manner and discard arrogance. A true servant of the Gracious God, therefore, has to be mindful that he is required to adopt

humility and gentleness as well as purify himself of arrogance. God has granted these days of Ramaḍān to us, so that we may reform ourselves. Hence, we should spread peace and harmony in our society, homes and surroundings by putting an end to discord and disorder. We should adopt humility to such a degree that no one should consider himself superior to any one else in any respect. The Holy Prophet^{sa} said that no Arab is superior to a non-Arab and no non-Arab is superior to an Arab. True superiority lies in *Taqwa*.

The Promised Messiah^{as} said: "Shun arrogance, for arrogance is extremely contemptible in the sight of Allāh, the Lord of Glory. Make sure you do not partake of arrogance in any respect so that you are not ruined and so that you may obtain salvation along with your children and wives. Try to love Allāh to the best possible extent one can love someone in the world and fear Him to the best possible extent one can fear someone in the world. Fear your Lord! Be pure of heart and pure of intention and adopt humility and humbleness, so that you are treated with mercy."

Huzoor^{aa} quoted the Promised Messiah^{as} saying: "It is not the way of Allah to give a humiliating and disgraceful death to the one who prostrates himself humbly before Him. The one who turns to Him is never wasted. The plans of the one who establishes a true relationship with Him are never frustrated. The one who sincerely turns to Him never suffers any hardship and finds a way out of every difficulty. The one who establishes even a bit of relationship with Allāh is never wasted. Hence, we need to pay attention that these are the days which God has granted us to bring about a pure change in ourselves and seek the acceptance of our prayers."

Huzoor^{aa} said that the month of Ramaḍān not only draws our attention to the worship of the Almighty God, but also to the fulfilment of our obligations towards society. A believer should, therefore, try to fulfil these rights during these days. According to one tradition, the Holy Prophet^{sa} would become so generous during Ramaḍān that his munificence could be likened to a very strong wind.

Huzooraa said that the worship performed by a righteous person and a servant of the Gracious God not only enables him to fulfil the rights of Allāh, but also draws his attention towards fulfilling the rights of men. He who is not fulfilling both types of rights is not a true believer; rather he is from among those who are arrogant and boastful. God, therefore, expects every believer to demonstrate such high morals. Indeed, the fulfilment of these rights makes one's worship worthy of acceptance. Among these rights are the rights of one's parents, relatives, the orphans, the needy, neighbours, friends, wayfarers and those for whose supervision one has been made responsible.

Huzoor^{aa} illustrated the details of these rights showing how they can be fulfilled and said that the Jamā'at should always keep in view the importance of these rights, since this spreads love and harmony in society. God Himself gets closer to and wants to bestow His bounties upon those during these days who fulfil the requirements of His worship and fulfil the rights of His creation.

The Promised Messiah^{as} said: "If you want God to be pleased with you in heaven, then be such towards each other as are two brothers from the same womb. Be kind to your subordinates, your wives and your needy brothers, so that you are treated with kindness in heaven."

Next, Huzoor^{aa} announced the sad demise of Hidayat Bibi Ṣāḥiba, wife of Umar Ahmad Ṣāḥib (late), who was a dervish of Qādiān, and of Maulana Muhammad

Self-Reformation and Helping Others Reform

Friday Sermon Delivered on July 3, 2015

Huzooraa said that becoming a practical example of acting upon the injunctions of the Holy Qur'an, office-bearers of the Jamā'at should fulfil their obligations and adorn themselves with high morals.

The month of Ramadan not only draws our attention to all forms of Allah's worship, but also reforms ourselves by rectifying our weaknesses and shortcomings.

Taqwa means that man abides by all the trusts of Allah and the pledges of faith and fulfils the obligations and rights he owes to Allah's creation to the best of his ability.

On July 3, 2015, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih Vaa delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, London, U.K.

Huzooraa said that it is the duty of the office-bearers of the Jama'at at all levels and of the missionaries to always keep in view Allāh's commandments and remind others of acting upon them. For this, office-bearers and the missionaries need to, first of all, self-reflect whether they themselves are trying to become an example for others in terms of following Allāh's commandments. Should this happen, more than 50% of the Jama'at will by the Grace of Allah begin to act upon Allāh's commandments, and this will help us reform ourselves as well as

essential to partake of all forms of Allāh's worship, offer Nawāfil with greater frequency and spend as much time as possible in the remembrance of God during Ramadān.

Huzooraa said that the Holy Qur'an commands us to worship Allah, so that we are able to inculcate Tagwa. However, he feels greatly embarrassed when he receives a complaint regarding some worker or office-bearer of the Jamā'at that he is lazy when it comes to Prayer, or that he does not attend the mosque for Prayer or that he does not even offer Prayer at home. We, therefore, need to remain ever vigilant and constantly watch the condition of our prayers, so that we are able to obtain Allah's Grace and obtain spiritual progress.

Huzooraa said that God has also commanded us not to be dishonest with regard to the trusts assigned to us. The Promised Messiahas has enjoined upon us in the Conditions of Bai'at not to commit dishonesty. God says that a dishonest person can neither fulfil the rights of Allah and His messenger nor of mankind. Dishonesty in fulfilling the rights of others leads one away from Tagwa. As a result, even the worship of such a person is not accepted by Allah. The Holy Prophetsa said that "There are three from among my Jamā'at." The Promised Messiahas further said, "Spiritual beauty and elegance comes from righteousness, and righteousness is to abide by all the trusts of God and pledges of faith as well as all trusts and pledges of mankind to the best of one's ability.

Huzooraa said that another commandment of the Almighty God acting upon which adorns the society is that one should spend one's wealth in the way of Allah, suppress anger, pardon one's fellow beings and treat them with kindness. At times, fulfilling others' rights requires sacrifice on the part of a person. The companions of the Holy Prophet^{sa} gave preference to others' needs over their own needs despite the fact that they themselves were poor. The best example of this can be seen in the practice of the Holy Prophet^{sa}. He trained his companions in such an excellent manner that they suppressed even their rightful anger and treated others with kindness.

The Promised Messiahas said: "The purpose of raising this Jamā'at is that Taqwa penetrates one's tongue, ears, eyes, and all other faculties, that one becomes an excellent example of high morals and is absolutely free of unwarrantable anger. Should someone use uncivilized language against anyone, the aggrieved

The Promised Messiahas said: "The purpose of raising this Jamā'at is that Taqwa penetrates one's tongue, ears, eyes, and all other faculties."

inform the world of the truly desirable standards of morality.

The month of Ramadan not only draws our attention to all forms of Allāh's worship, but also to our weakness and how we can rectify them. The moral standards of the followers of the Promised Messiahas should be very high and such that others should try to follow them. Unless there is a proper justification, one must not discard fasting and should try to fulfil all the requirements of worship.

Moreover, it was the practice of the Holy Prophet^{sa} to recite the Holy Qur'ān more frequently during Ramadan. Thus, it is things a believer cannot be dishonest with: to work with pure intention merely for the sake of Allāh; to inculcate goodwill for everyone and to live being an integral part of the Jamā'at." This fulfils the rights of Allah, the rights of mankind and the rights of the Jamā'at. Huzooraa illustrated the three above-mentioned points in detail and drew the attention of the Jamā'at towards fulfilling the rights mentioned therein.

The Promised Messiahas said, "One who does not repent or give up the trespass of the eye, betrayal of trust, bribery and all other unwarrantable means, is not should wholeheartedly pray for such a person that may God help him reform himself. One should not let malice and rancour take root in one's heart. If you progress in these noble qualities, you will soon reach God."

Huzoor^{aa} prayed that may Allāh enable us to raise the standards of our worship, adopt high morals and fulfil the rights we owe to others.

Huzooraa advised the Jamā'at to make special prayers during Ramadan for the progress of the Jamā'at, its protection from all kinds of mischief and the dominance of the True Faith.

Allāh's Mercy, Forgiviness and Rewards

Friday Sermon Delivered on July 10, 2015

The Mercy of Allāh is nigh unto the Moḥsinīn. The Moḥsinīn are those who use Ramaḍān as an enduring means of bringing about a pious transformation in themselves.

Istighfār means to pray to God that none of our human weaknesses may be exposed, and that He may take us under His own protection.

For every person, Laila-tul-Qadr is the moment when he becomes purified, his faith is strengthened, and he rids himself of all evil.

On July 10, 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, London, U.K.

Huzoor^{aa} said that by the Grace of Allāh, today is the 22nd day of Ramaḍān. According to the saying of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, we have passed through the ten days of mercy and the ten days of forgiveness, and now we are passing

says, "Surely, the mercy of Allāh is nigh unto those who do good" (7:57). A Moḥsin is one who does good to others, abides by Taqwa, possesses knowledge, and fulfils God's work with all its conditions. Such are the people on whom God has mercy and whose prayers are accepted. So if we desire for our prayers to be accepted, then we must become Moḥsin and make use of Ramaḍān to bring about a pious and enduring transformation in ourselves. We should, therefore, strive to absorb this mercy that will remain with us forever.

Huzoor^{aa} said that since Satan is always lying in wait for us, hence it is important that having attained this mercy during the first ten days of Ramaḍān, we should during the next ten days seek help and power from Allāh, and this power is the power of *Istighfār* or repentance. The Holy Prophet^{sa} has said that the middle ten days of Ramaḍān are a source of

Istighfār—repentance. May God enable the majority of us to pass through these middle ten days of Ramaḍān bearing this in mind and seeking God's forgiveness.

Huzoor^{aa} said that the Holy Prophet^{sa} has descried the last ten days of Ramadan as the means to be saved from the fire of hell. That is to say, once a believer has been enveloped in God's mantle and has become established in Istighfar after having sought light from God, and constantly seeks forgiveness, then the door to hell will not only be closed for him during this month, but the permanent habit of worship, fulfilling one's obligations to God and His creatures, and seeking forgiveness will bar the door to hell forever. Huzooraa said that both the redemption from hell and attainment of paradise start in this world, and that it is the effects of these that are manifested in the next world in different shapes and forms.

The Promised Messiah^{as} says, "The true meaning of *Istighfār* is to supplicate God that none of our human weaknesses should be exposed, and that God may support our nature with His strength and might enclose it in the circle of His help and protection."

through the last ten days which provide salvation from the fire of hell. However, we need to consider whether we have gained anything from the blessings of these days. The fact is that the injunctions of God and of the Holy Prophet^{sa} are never without certain conditions, and in order to become deserving of mercy and forgiveness and being saved from the fire of hell during this month there are certain conditions that we have to meet. We have to find out what these conditions are so that we can reap the full blessings from Ramadān.

Huzoor^{aa} said that God's Mercy is of two kinds. The first is in the form of compassion (*Iḥsān*) which man does not have to strive for and which benefits all people. The second kind is conditional upon man's effort and striving, as Allāh

forgiveness. A true believer makes God's quality of covering faults and mercy a part of his life, both in worshipping Him, in doing good deeds, and in constantly seeking forgiveness. When we do this, God continues to cover us in the mantle of His mercy. The Promised Messiahas says, "The true meaning of *Istighfār* is to supplicate God that none of our human weaknesses should be exposed, and that God may support our nature with His strength and might enclose it in the circle of His help and protection."

Huzoor^{aa} said that in declaring the middle ten days of Ramaḍān to be a source of blessing, the Holy Prophet^{sa} has conveyed to us that in order to permanently partake of Divine Mercy and to be saved from our natural shortcomings, we should find refuge with God through Huzooraa said that in the last ten days of Ramadan, believers have also been granted the tiding of Laila-tul-Qadr. But finding Laila-tul-Qadr is conditional upon faith and self-scrutiny. Anyone who passes through Ramadan and Lailatul-Qadr with faith and self-scrutiny should be hopeful of God's forgiveness. A believer should always be mindful that that it is essential to abide by God's commandments. Huzooraa said that the time of a Prophet has also been given the name of Laila-tul-Qadr, but for an individual Laila-tul-Qadr is the time when he is cleansed of this world's evil and filth, becomes firmly established on faith, and rids himself of all evil through self-security. May Allah also enable us to find the particular Laila-tul-Qadr which is a special occasion for the offering of prayers. Āmīn!



The Significance of Jumu'a Prayers

Friday Sermon Delivered on July 17, 2015

Exhortation about the importance and blessedness of Jumu'a, and adoption of the blessings of Ramaḍān as a permanent part of our lives.

Every prayer, every Jumu'a, and every Ramaḍān is a salvation from sin until the next prayer, the next Jumu'a, and the next Ramadān.

This Ramaḍān, this Jumu'a, and these prayers should serve as exhortations that we keep progressing in virtue.

On July 17, 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} delivered the Friday Sermon at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, London,

Huzoor^{aa} said that every prayer, every Jumu'a, and every Ramaḍān serves as a salvation from sin until the next prayer, the next Jumu'a, and the next Ramadan as long as one does not commit a cardinal sin. Huzooraa said that when a person usurps the rights of others, his prayer becomes a means of his destruction. Hence, every Friday should bear witness that we have spent our days with the fear of God and have not done anything to merit His displeasure. The Holy Prophet^{sa} said that Friday is the best of days, and on this day you should invoke salutations on me, for they are presented before me on this day.

Huzoor^{aa} said that offering the Jumu'a prayer will also bring about material progress. If you engage in your businesses and seek Allāh's blessings, you will surely be blessed. And if you miss out on some of your work for the sake of Allāh, He will surely make up for what you have lost. Thus, this verse tells us that worldly businesses are also kind of Allāh's blessings, but while we are engaged in them we should not forget Allāh and should keep ourselves engaged with His remembrance.

Huzoor^{aa} said that if you want this Jumu'a to be of significance for you, then you should bear in mind that the next Friday will be as significant and make a pledge to overcome your weaknesses. If we have this in our minds, we will be striving to seek Allāh's refuge from our sins, weaknesses, and short comings. May we remain steadfast on the virtues we have adopted in this Ramaḍān until we welcome the next Ramadān. It is

therefore essential that we scrutinize ourselves as to whether we have attained a degree of *Taqwa* and whether or not we have taken any steps forward. Huzoor^{aa} said we should recite the Holy Qur'ān again and again and note down the evils that are mentioned in it, and then try to avoid them with the Grace and Help of God. This is the first step of *Taqwa*, and *Taqwa* will only be attained through good deeds. Faith means to shun evil altogether and to do good deeds with full sincerity. This Ramaḍān and this Friday should serve to remind us that we have to keep progressing in Taqwa.

Huzoor^{aa} also asked the Jamā'at to pray for Aḥmadīs who are going through hardship.

Huzoor^{aa} said that offering the Jumu'a prayer will also bring about material progress. If you engage in your businesses and seek Allāh's blessings, you will surely be blessed. And if you miss out on some of your work for the sake of Allāh, He will surely make up for what you have lost.



The following extract has been taken from An Elementary Study of Islām by Hazrat Mirzā Tahir Ahmad, Khalīfatul-Masīh IV^{rh}.

Fasting is another form of worship found universally in the world religions. Although there are vast differences regarding the mode of fasting and the conditions applied to it, the central idea of fasting is present everywhere. Where it is not mentioned clearly, it is likely that it may gradually have either been discontinued or have petered out through gradual decay in practice. The case of Buddha is an interesting example. He started his quest for truth with a severe form of fasting, but later on it is said that he abandoned this practice because it had adversely effected his health. In view of this, one can understand why he discontinued, but this does not in any way indicate that he had ceased to believe in fasting. Perhaps that is why some Buddhists, here and there, still observe some form of fasting.

Fasting in Islām is a highly developed institution, and needs to be studied in depth. There are two types of injunctions with regards to fasting. One relates to obligatory fasting and the other to optional. Obligatory fasting is further divided into two categories:

There is one full month in every year in which fasting is prescribed for Muslims all over the world. As the month is a lunar month, so it keeps changing around the year in relation to the solar months. This creates a universal balance for the worshippers. Sometimes the fasting in winter months is easy as far as the days go, in comparison to the long winter nights, while during the summer months the days become long and exacting. As the lunar months keep rotating around

the year, so Muslims in all parts of the world have some periods of easy fasting and some of arduous fasting.

Fasting in Islām begins everywhere at the first appearance of dawn, and ends with sunset. During this period one is expected to abstain from all food and drink completely. It is not just physical hunger and thirst that constitute the Muslim fast, but the nights prior to the beginning of the fast acquire a far more important character and play a central role in the institution of fasting. The Muslims wake up many hours before dawn for individual prayer and the remembrance of God. Also the Holy Qur'an is recited in every Muslim house much more than in ordinary days. A greater part of the night is thus spent in spiritual exercises which make up the very essence of fasting.

During the day, apart from restraining from food and water, all Muslims are particularly exhorted from vain talk, quarrels and fights, or from any such occupation as is below the dignity of a true believer. No indulgence in carnal pleasure is allowed; even husband and wife during the day lead separate lives, except for the formal human relationship common to all people.

In Islām, alms-giving and care for the destitute is so highly emphasized that it becomes part of a Muslim's daily life. However when it comes to Ramaḍān, the month of fasting, Muslims are required to redouble their efforts in this field. It is reported of the Holy Prophet^{sa} that spending in the cause of the poor was a routine daily practice with him which has been likened unto a breeze, never ceasing to bring comfort and solace to the needy. However during Ramaḍān, the reporters of the Aḥadīth — the sayings

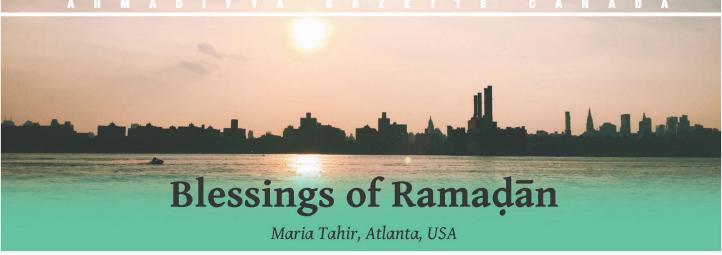
of the Holy Prophet^{sa} — remind us that the breeze seemed to pick up speed and began to blow like strong winds. Almsgiving and care for the destitute are so highly emphasized, that in no period during the year do Muslims engage in such philanthropic purposes as they do during the month of Ramaḍān.

Other obligatory fasting is most often related to the condoning of sins by God. This also includes violation of the obligatory fasts.

The optional fasting is so well promoted that it becomes a part of the righteous Muslim's way of life. Although a majority of Muslims do not go beyond the month of obligatory fasting, some keep fasts now and then particularly when in trouble. As it is expected that the prayers offered in fasting are more productive, some people keep extra fasts to ward off their problems, but some do it only for the sake of winning Allah's special favours. There is no limit to this, except that the founder of Islām strongly discouraged those who had vowed to fast continuously for their whole life. When the Holy Prophet^{sa} came to learn of one such case, he disapproved of the practice and censured the man for attempting to achieve liberation as if by forcing his will upon. He told the person concerned that: "Just by putting yourself to trouble or discomfort, not only will you be unable to please God, but you may even earn His displeasure." He pointed out that over emphasis on austerity is likely to make one negligent towards one's wife and children, kith and kin, friends, etc.

Continued on page 11...

What is Fasting?



Ramadān

It is that time of the year again where we are preparing our bodies for spiritual rejuvenation. Ramadan brings with it the blessing of Allāh Almighty and as we prepare for the countless Iftāris, and of course 'Id, we must not omit ourselves from the true purpose and blessings of Ramadān. God says in the Holy Qur'ān, "O ye who believe! fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may become righteous" (2:184). Agreed by all, Ramadan provides Muslims with an opportunity to cleanse themselves spiritually and physically. Let us examine both the physiological and spiritual aspects of observing Ramadan.

Physiological Benefits of Ramadan

The Holy Qur'an states, "And fasting is good for you, if you only knew" (2:185). Over 1400 years ago, Allah revealed to mankind what science is just now figuring out. Fasting is not only beneficial to our souls but holds excess physical rewards that allow the mind and body to work in sync. Studies have concluded that fasting comes with medical remedies such as lowering heart risk, detoxification of the body, protection against ailments, losing weight and many more.

The latest weight loss trends entail severe diets and difficult exercises. However captivating the results are, they do not last long. A rebound effect is almost always experienced. On the other hand, doctors find that intermittent fasting, and fasting in Ramaḍān actually help people lose weight, and keep the lost weight off. Because of the lack of sugar intake, sugar levels decrease in the blood stream, therefore burning the excess sugar stored in the body to create calories for metabolism (AlGhazal 102).

Moreover, glycogen in the liver and fats stored in tissues are decomposed to convert into energy needed for bodily processes (AlGhazal 103).

Several studies also indicate that fasting reduces cholesterol levels in the blood which in turn reduces the risk of cardiac problems. High cholesterol, heart risk, etc. are common terms used in this day and age, and unfortunately it has almost become "normal" to be at risk for cholesterol, diabetes, heart discrepancies and ailments of the sort. The Holy Prophet^{sa} once said, "Fast! You will be healthy," and certainly he was right in saying so.

In another recent scientific study, "Dr Rowy says, 'Fasting empowers the endurance of the body against diseases. Today, fasting, which is prescribed in Islām, is being recommended by modern medical institutions as a protective element against ailments" (Budak). A question may arise as to how fasting protects the body against diseases. When the body gives up ingesting food each day, endurance, strength, willpower, and discipline are achieved. These characteristics benefit a person by allowing him/her to create a strong immune system, thus, protecting oneself against diseases.

Fasting not only protects against diseases but also aids in resting the body. The human body works like a machine and the digestive system makes up parts of this machine. Our body is constantly working seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Needless to say, at some point, the body gets tired of constantly ingesting, digesting, filtering, and pumping nutrients in and out all the time. Studies actually reveal that

abstaining from water intake for the day is highly serviceable to the renal system. Critics argue that dehydration is a mal effect of fasting and that reducing your water intake to almost nothing will cause other problems. Giving your kidneys and stomach a break will also give them time to recover from working hard all day. Hence, the perfect remedy is to take a vacation - a vacation from eating and drinking! It is time to give your body a well deserved rest that it longs for all year. By doing so, not only can one attain spiritual purification but also physical detoxification.

Speaking of detoxification, it appears that "detox" remedies are the hottest thing on the market these days. Often one can hear the distance wails of businesses hurdling towards you with their advertising campaigns: "Drink this and lose 10 pounds in Three Days!" or "Only 28 days to the Perfect Body." As tempting as these detox methods are, those of us who have tried them, only know how unsuccessful these "promising" regimens are. Instead of following the ideas of passionate entrepreneurs and their ads, it is recommended that by obeying the Word of Allah, physical and spiritual detoxification will in fact be fulfilled. How so? As mentioned earlier, the lack of intake of nutrients in the body from sunrise to sunset will give one time to heal and cleanse the bodily system so long as we are eating the "right" foods in our diet.

The Holy Prophet^{sa} once said, "The worst container a human being can fill is his stomach. A few morsels to keep a person's back straight are sufficient. However, if his desire overcomes him, then let him eat a third, drink a third, and

10 Blessings of Ramadan leave a third for breathing" (Ibn Mājah, Book of Foods). Typically, for those in the first world country, endless options are available for both Sahri and Iftāri. Afraid of starving the rest of the entire day, more often than not, one finds himself stuffing his stomach to the point of no return. By the end of Sahri, it may feel as if the body has inflated twice its size due to overfilling it. As the day goes on, the food is digested, but when it comes time for Iftāri, once again one meets face to face with the same situation. Because of the overwhelming hunger one feels, one may also think that it is possible to overeat to compensate for not having eaten all day. This isn't the case; like the Holy Prophetsa said, the worst container a man can fill is his stomach. Being cautious about what goes into your body when fasting will furnish the best physiological results. Undoubtedly, if paratahs, eggs, roti, and curry are all consumed just for Sahri, followed by pakoras, biryani, haleem and other heavy foods for Iftāri, we will not be recipients of the physical advantages of Ramadan. On the contrary, as we all know the Holy Prophet^{sa} would break his fast with a few fresh or dried dates and a glass of water just before beginning the sunset prayer [Maghrib]. Indeed, keeping a modest diet during Ramadan, like that of The Holy Prophet^{sa} will make us recipients of the physiological advantages of fasting.

Spiritual Benefits of Ramadan

Apart from the infinite blessings Ramadan has for the body, it is crucial to observe Ramadan to rest the soul as well. The soul of a person serves as a reminder of the wisdom given from Allāh the Creator, which guides us on the path of the righteousness, towards Allāh. The struggle during Ramadān is to maintain the soul's superiority over the body's greedy and lustful desires. When the body overpowers the soul, one caves in and submits to the worldly desires. Ramadan, is an opportunity to win this internal struggle between the soul and the body, to attain closeness to Allāh and a high level of spiritual being.

In his Friday Sermon, Huzoor^{aa} relates a ḥadīth that illustrates how during Ramaḍān Allāh opens the gates of paradise and shuts the gates of Hell and bounds Satan. Huzoor^{aa} emphasizes the importance of taking advantage of this month where one can enter the gates of

Heaven through various opportunities without becoming victim to Satan's vicious schemes. One can accomplish this by focussing entirely on spiritual enhancement.

The Promised Messiahas writes in Malfūzat (Vol. 9) the etiquettes of fasting. He elucidates that staying hungry is not the mere objective of Ramaḍān, but to acquire Taqwa. Abstinence from eating lets one focus on Ṣalāt and remembrance of Allāh which in and of itself is automatic spiritual purification. The aim is to not only abstain from eating, but also from idolatry and sin. Following the guidelines of the the Holy Qur'ān, the Holy Prophetsa, the Promised Messiahas, and guidance of the Khulafā are keys to securing a close relationship with the Almighty.

The eyes, the ears, and the mouth are also all under strict control when fasting. The eyes must not see evil, the ears must not hear evil, and the mouth must not speak evil. In this context, evil refers to anything that can be said, heard, or done to harm your *Taqwa*, morals and soul, and or others as well. What this does is allow the soul to venture down the path of piety, humbleness, and discipline, all of which are dear to the wellbeing and development of the soul.

The Holy Prophet^{sa} relates that "fasting is restraining. When any one of you is fasting, he should refrain from obscene language or any acts of ignorance. And if anyone slanders him or quarrels with him, he should say: 'I am fasting. I am fasting." By saying I am fasting twice, adding the emphasis, relays to the other the importance of his/her standards of *Taqwa* so as not to displease Allāh.

Prescribed in Ramadān is also Zikr Ilāhī (rememberance of Allāh), performance of Tahajjud, recitation of the Holy Qur'an, giving to the poor, and paying Zakāt. Performing Zikr Ilāhī is a constant reminder to one of the main objectives. Remembering Allāh at all times of the day increases our emotional proximity, paired with Tahajjud and recitation of the Holy Qur'an, the high moral standards that are set can be achieved by striving to please Allah and remind ourselves of our unworldly purpose in this world, which is to enter the gates of Heaven in the life hereafter. In addition to remembering Allāh, one must keep in mind our brothers and sisters who suffer in the world every day due to lack of nourishment, money

or natural resources. Offering food or money to those in need serves as a friendly reminder to give thanks to Allāh for your situation and pray for the ones who are struggling.

Clearly, the limitless rewards of observing Ramaḍān bless not only your soul but also the body. This Ramaḍān, may Allāh guide us on the right path and give us the opportunity to acquire his boundless blessings in this world and the hereafter! Āmīn!

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...Continued from page 9

The Holy Prophet^{sa} reminded him specifically of his responsibilities in the area of human relationship: "Do your duty to God as well as the creation of God equitably" was the advice. To some, after their insistent petulant begging, he permitted optional fasts only in the style of David, peace be upon him. The Holy Founder of Islām told them that it was the practice of David to fast one day and abstain from doing so the next. Throughout his life, after he made this vow, he kept the fast on alternate days. So the Holy Prophet^{sa} said "I can only permit you that much and no more."

The institution of fasting is extremely important because it cultivates the believer in almost every area of his spiritual life. Among other things, he learns through personal experience about what hunger, poverty, loneliness and discomforts mean to the less fortunate sections of society. Abstention from even such practices during the month of Ramaḍān as are permissible in everyday life plays a constructive role in refining the human character.

Blessings of Ramadān 11

The Real 'Id of a Believer Hazrat Mirzā Bashīrud-Dīn Mahmūd Ahmad, Khalīfatul-Masīh II^{ra}

The following is a translation of an 'Idul Fitr Sermon delivered on March 29, 1960 in Rabwah, Pakistan by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih II^{ra}. It has been rendered into into English by Atif Wagas Sāhib.

According to Aḥadith, it is well known that the Holy Prophetsa would recite "Allāhu Akbar Allāhu Akbar La Ilāha ill-Allāhu wa Allāhu Akbar Allāhu Akbar wa Lillāhil Hamd" (Allāh is the Greatest, Allāh is the Greatest, there is none worthy of worship except Allah, Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest and His is the Praise) abundantly while going to, returning from and sitting in the 'Id Gah. This Sunnah of the Holy Prophet^{sa} proves that the actual 'Id [or happiness] of the believers is in expressing the greatness and glory of God Almighty.

Thus, if we are successful in establishing the glory of God, spreading His name, and proving His greatness to the world, and devote all our efforts and energies for the purpose of glorifying the name of God, then indeed, our 'Id can be called true 'Id [happiness]. If, however, we do not realize our responsibilities, demonstrate indifference in spreading the Unity of God, and show slackness in offering the sacrifices Islām requires of us in establishing the Glory of God, then our 'Id cannot be called a true 'Id in the real sense of the word.

As such, today I draw attention of all members of the Jama'at to try and celebrate this 'Id in the real sense, and make this [outer] 'Id celebration a means of achieving that magnificent spiritual 'Id in which the entire world is convinced of the greatness of Allah.

If the greatness of Allāh is not established in the world, our 'Īd is no 'Īd. If, however, His greatness is established and the world

If the greatness of Allāh is not established in the world, our '*Īd* is no '*Īd*. If, however, His greatness is established and the world comes under the servanthood of the Holy Prophet Muhammadsa, this would be our true 'Id (happiness); because a true servant is only happy when his master is happy. Thus, 'Īd draws our attention towards an expansion of preaching Islām, and towards establishing the greatness of God in the world. And the greatness of God can only be established when all members of Jamā'at - old, young, males, females - strive in Tabligh and exert efforts in bringing the entire world under the banner of the Holy Prophet^{sa}.

comes under the servanthood of the Holy Prophet Muhammadsa, this would be our true 'Id (happiness); because a true servant is only happy when his master is happy. Thus, 'Id draws our attention towards an expansion of preaching Islām, and towards establishing the greatness of God in the world. And the greatness of God can only be established when all members of Jama'at - old, young, males, females - strive in Tabligh and exert efforts in bringing the entire world under the banner of the Holy Prophetsa.

Indeed, prophecies illustrate that this revolution will occur one day, and the world will prostrate before God Almighty. However, it is incumbant upon us to offer supplications, sacrifices and great efforts

for the fulfillment of these prophecies.

Therefore, we should expand and maximize our Tabligh efforts and should continue to raise the name of God Almighty in the world, because therein lies our own dignity and by which can be fulfilled the purpose of the advent of the Holy Prophetsa and Promised Messiahas. May Allah Almighty be with you, and enable you to servce Islām with Taqwa and righteousness! And may He also grant true faith to your future generations so that the name of the One God continues to be glorified in the world until the Day of Judgement, and the flag of Islām continues to wave higher than the flags all other faiths! Āmīn!

(Khutbāt Maḥmūd, Vol. 1, pp. 502-503)

Khutba 'Idul Fitr 12



Asif Afzal Khan - Secretary Umūr Khārijiyya

The Aḥmadīyya Muslim Jamā'at Ottawa held a very successful 50 year Anniversary event on Tuesday April 5, 2016 at Ottawa City Hall. Al-Ḥamdu lillāh! The event was hosted by Mr. Lal Khan Malik, President of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada, and Mr. Jim Watson, mayor of the city of Ottawa.

The program started at 6:15pm with the recitation of the Holy Qur'ān, followed by the introduction of the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Greg Fergus, Member of Parliament. He presented a message from Honourable Stephen Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs Canada, before starting the program. Mr. Lal Khan Malik, Amīr Jamā'at Canada, introduced the Jamā'at and gave brief descriptions of major initiatives the Jamā'at took over the years, followed by a presentation about Ottawa Jamā'at's contribution to the city by Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Murabbī Silsila.

Guest Speakers:

Mr. Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa, welcomed all guests to the event and praised the contributions of the Jamā'at over the last 50 years.

Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Canada, thanked the Jamā'at for bringing together people from different faiths and backgrounds.

Honourable Andrew Leslie, Chief Government Whip, praised the Jamā'at for their gracefulness, gentleness, and inclusiveness. He also presented a message from the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, who conveyed his warmest greetings to everyone gathered at Ottawa City Hall to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Jamā'at in Canada.

Honourable Andrew Leslie also made a subsequent statement in the House of Commons that was received with a standing ovation:

Short while ago, I had the honour of speaking at the 50th Aḥmadīyya Anniversary Jamā'at Celebration here in Ottawa. This community, whose motto is "Love for All, Hatred for None", values peace, social justice and harmony, above all else. Present to convey this message were the National President, Lal Khan Malik, and Local Imām, Imtiaz Ahmed - good friends. I was also pleased to see so many distinguished community members standing with the Canadian Muslim Ahmadīyya Community, including my colleague Honourable Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, the Member for Hull-Aylmer, [and representations of] the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the Minister of Global Affairs. For me what stands out the most about the Ottawa Ahmadīyya Community is their inspirational community activism, outreach anti-radicalization and efforts.

Mr. Charles Bordeleau, Ottawa Police Chief, expressed his sincere thanks to the Jamā'at for endeavouring to build understanding between different faiths and communities.

Mr. Stephen Blais, City Councilor, who praised the Jamā'at for opening the doors of the mosque to the local community.

In the end, messages from Members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Ms. Lisa MacLeod, and Ms. Mary-France Lalonde, were read by their respective representatives followed by a vote of thanks by Faheem Affan, Secretary Umūr

Khārijiyya, Ottawa West. A cake cutting ceremony was then held after which the program was concluded by silent prayers, led by Mr. Lal Khan Malik, Amīr Jamā'at Canada. Refreshments were served at the end.

Following the event, a press release was prepared and sent by the National Media Team to media outlets across Canada, highlighting the praise and appreciation given to the Ottawa Jamā'at and its contribution to society by the speakers.

In Summary:

Political Guests: 29, two Mayors (City of Ottawa and City of Perth), Minister, Chief Government Whip, MPs, MPPs, and 8 City Councilors.

Diplomatic Community Guests: 4, including Ambassador from Israel and Hungary.

Law Enforcement Guests: 5, including Police Chief.

Canadian Army Guests: 2, including Chaplain General.

Other guests: 53, including religious and community leaders and professors.

Media guests present: 3

Total Jamā'at members in attendance: 113

Total Attendance at Event: 209 (96 non-Aḥmadī and 113 Aḥmadī guests)

Event Detail:

Hall Decorations and National Anthem Preparation: Lajna Imā'illāh Ottawa

Designing, Graphics and preparing presentations: Lajna Imā'illāh Ottawa

Registration and guests welcome: Majlis Anṣārullāh Ottawa Set up/wind up, exhibition, and security: Majlis Khuddāmul Aḥmadīyya Ottawa

Event coordinator: Secretary Umūr Kharijiyya Ottawa West

Please pray for all the Jamā'at members who helped in the preparation for this event, and without whom it would not have been a success. Please pray that Allāh may help us to fulfill all our duties as per the requirements. Āmīn!

May Allāh be our Guardian and Protector, and may He bless us all with good health and the strength to fulfill our pious desires. Āmīn!

Some of the Media Coverage:

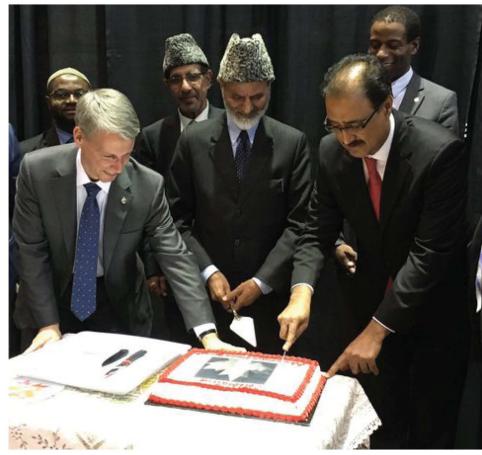
"Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamāʿat Celebrates 50 years in Canada." Ottawa Community News. April 6, 2016. web.

"National News: Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at Canada Celebrates 50 Year Anniversary Hosted by City of Ottawa." April 7, 2016. web.

"Le Canada, terre d'accueil pour les musulmans Ahmadiyya." ICI - Radio - Canada. April 5, 2016. web.

"Prime Minister Trudeau on 50 Years of Service by The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at Canada." The Muslim Times. April 7, 2016. web.

"Ahmadiyya Muslim Community 50th



Anniversary Celebration at City Hall." *Muslim Link* - Ottawa's Online Newspaper. April 5, 2016. web.

"Community gathers for Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at celebration." Orleans

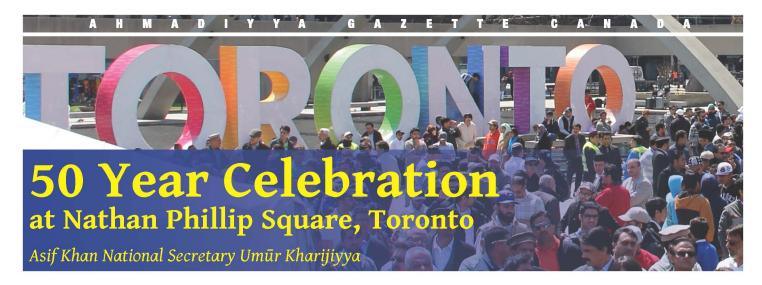
Star. April 13, 2016. web.











Al-Ḥamdu lillāh, a successful *Tablīgh* event was held in the City of Toronto's City Hall Venue. The venue has a large public space called Nathan Phillips Square which can hold several thousand people. It is a Toronto area landmark and iconic site for public gatherings.

An outdoor event was held to celebrate the Jamā'at's 50 years of establishment in Canada. The Mayor of the City of Toronto, His Worship John Tory, and the Premier of the Province of Ontario, the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, along with the Federal Minister of Science, Dr. Kirsty Duncan, attended the event. A few other dignitaries attended as well.

An estimated 5000 Aḥmadī members attended the event. The official

program was about one hour in duration, which included a message from Respected Amīr Ṣāḥib on the Jamā'at's achievements and our message for the last 50 years. Respected Amīr Ṣāḥib, also provided a pledge of \$100,000 to Humanity First on behalf of Jamā'at members for the recent fire tragedy in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

In addition, Nā'ib Ṣadr Majlis Khuddāmul Aḥmadīyya, Saadat Ahmed Ṣāḥib, gave a presentation on the Majlis' contributions over the last 50 years to Canada. Majlis Khuddāmul Aḥmadīyya also officially announced and donated their 1 million pounds of food.

Presentations by the Premier, Mayor and Minister of Science followed. All

presentations praised Jamā'at for its pure commitments to Canada and to our faith.

After the program, *Zuhr* was led by Respected Amīr Ṣāḥib. This was the first that Ṣalāt has ever been offered by the Jamā'at in this public space. During Ṣalāt and during some parts of the program, we experienced light rain. However, many members commented that offering Ṣalāt in the rain in this public space will be etched into their memories forever and they very much enjoyed this experience. A light lunch was offered to all Jamā'at members afterwards.











By the Grace of Allāh, the 6th Annual Women's Interfaith Symposium organized under Lajna Imā'illāh Hamilton South and North was held on April 3, 2016. The theme of this year's symposium was "Universal Moral Values, Media, and World Peace." The details of the event are as follows:

Attendance (Lajna and Nāṣirāt)

Hamilton North - 31

Hamilton South - 44

Members from other Jamā'ats - 7

Children - 19

Non-Aḥmadī Guests – 91

Non-Aḥmadī Children - 6

Total = 198

Venue

This year the symposium was held in the cafeteria/auditorium of Saltfleet District High School. We also had a room for mothers with children.

Advertisement

897 invitations were printed and delivered. The breakdown is as follows:

- Canada Post delivered door to door: 265 invitations
- Mailed to speakers: 175 invitations
- Aḥmadīyya Muslim Students Association: 30 invitations
- Hamilton North delivered to friends, churches: 200 invitations
- Hamilton South delivered, mailed, gave to friends, etc.: 227 invitations

We also placed 10 posters at local businesses, on their doors, with their permission.

Jamā'at members from Hamilton South

went to churches, door-to-door, and handed out invitations to non-Aḥmadī's and explained why we do these types of symposiums. The Hamilton North Tablīgh Secretary helped a lot in the campaigning.

Many emails were sent out for the campaign to non-Aḥmadīs and Aḥmadīs.

Advertisements in five local newspapers:

- Hamilton News
- Stoney Creek News
- Mountain News
- Dundas News
- Ancaster News

Two weeks prior to the event they began to put the advertisement in their newspapers once a week. We also had an article in *The Hamilton Spectator* on April 1st, 2016.

Online Advertisements:

- The Spectator (thespec.com).

 March 31, 2016. "Muslim Women's association of Hamilton hosts Women-only Interfaith Conference."
- Hamilton News. Under Events (Calendar - April 3, 2016) "6th Annual Women-Only Interfaith Symposium - Universal Moral Values, Media & World Peace."

Benefits for Advertising

There was a separate table for guest registration and on the registration form we asked where they found out about the symposium (e.g. Mail, Newspaper, Online, Friend, and Others). Most guests checked Newspaper, some said Friends, and some said Mail. The speakers also

Sunday

INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association of Hamilton is holding an interfaith symposium for women only on Sunday, April 3, 2-4:30 p.m. at Saltfleet District High School, 108 Highland Rd. W. Registration at 1 p.m. The sixth annual conference will discuss Universal Moral Values, Media, and World Peace. Hear perspectives from six different religions. Register at islamevents.ca.

brought many guests with them. We benefited from all the advertisement and Inshā'Allāh we will do this next year as well.

Speakers

Linda Sanderson is Buddhist and has been with us for the past six years (since we started doing women's symposiums in Hamilton). This was the third year with Cantor Paula Baruch who represented Judaism. We had two speakers from last year: Amrinder Kaur who represented Sikhism and Shama Bhatia who represented Hinduism. By the Grace of Allah Almighty we were able to get two different speakers for the other two religions. These are the two new speakers: Reverend Lynn Godfrey who represented Christianity and Samar Mian Islam Ṣāḥiba who represented Ahmadīyyat (she previously spoke at



our fourth symposium). We also had a guest of honour who was Uzma Qureshi, the Coordinator of Marketing and Communications for YWCA Hamilton.

Book Stall and the Holy Qur'ān Exhibition

These were set-up in the cafeteria. Banners of Islām, Aḥmadīyyat, the Holy Qur'ān, Prophet Muhammad^{sa}, and Women in Islām.

Hamilton North's Secretary Ishā'at, Sumera Cheema Ṣāḥiba, set up the book stall before the event with the help of Hamilton South's Ishā'at Secretary, Shafqat Sultana Sāhiba. Almost all guests came to the stall and looked at the books and banners. Four guests asked and were given the Holy Qur'an in English translation. Eight books (The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islām) were also taken by non-Ahmadīs. Two Holy Qur'āns in Punjabi translation were requested, and which we have ordered. The book Women in Islām was given to a guest for free, and many guests were requesting this book and provided their contact information so we could order it for them. One guest requested a book on Islāmic history. Many questions about Aḥmadīyyat were asked, and guests were directed to our website: www.alislam.org.

The book stall was open one hour before

and after the programme.

Summary of Speakers' Speeches

- Hinduism: Shama Bhatia spoke about how media can be used in a positive manner to promote peace amongst ourselves by making everyone aware of all the universal laws that define humanity and the laws that underlie all the religions in the world. Hinduism Vedic Culture suggests that we all look deep down inside us to realize that we are all spiritual beings and when we do so, we begin to stop identifying ourselves physically. This will not only help us tolerate differences of others, but will provide inner peace and bring out compassion for others, develop and promote peace in the world.
- . Buddhism: Linda Sanderson said we must practice moral discipline by developing our sense of shame, our consideration for others and conscientiousness. Remember that we all wish for happiness and so must strive to change the labels of stranger and enemy into friend. In reality we have little control over others and our environments. We can only work to gain control over our own mind. There will never be outer peace without inner peace.

peace is within all of us.

- 3. Judaism: Paula Baruch said our sacred literature offers guidance in Moral Values, both faith specific and universal. Universal Moral Values are given to all people and are predicated on belief in God. World peace is a subjective vision depending on what your faith has to say about it. The Media is an overwhelming treasure trove of information both good and bad, helpful and damaging. Unplugging weekly is a gift to your soul.
- 4. Christianity: Lynn Godfrey mentioned to love God and your neighbour as you love yourself. This teaching is the basis of all Christian moral values and thought. Media also tends to sensationalize stories. as it is funded by advertisers which subversively teaches us that we are only as good as the things we own ... it tends to feed greed and desire for more and more acquisitions. About world peace, Jesus^{as} taught that peace needed to begin in our own hearts..."You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," (Matthew

5: 43-44).

- Sikhism: Amrinder Kaur said the Sikh believe in one God and the whole universe is His creation. He lives in His creation everywhere and in every human being and the ultimate aim of human life is to merge his soul with that of Super soul (God). She also described the vices like anger, ego, and greed that need to be shunned in order to adopt the high moral values, regardless of caste, color, gender, creed and religion. Truthful living and sharing ten percent of income with needy and remembering the name of God with every breath are the basic tenets of Sikhism. Amrinder emphasized that these principles also apply to media which needs to be unbiased, respecting everyone without any distinction or discrimination.
- Islām: Samar Mian Sāḥiba spoke that without following the universal morals set out in Islām there can be no peace in the world. There can be no peace without justice and leadership. For peace to spread in the world the Media has a vital role to play. Media is not a collection of news articles or videos. While it may help form our views on topics, media is a tool. Like any tool it comes with its own sets of risks and dangers. It doesn't have an inherent ethical bias. We can think of this like how we use a hammer. A hammer is useful, not right or wrong. It can be used to destroy as well as build.

Conclusion

Naheed Khokhar Ṣāḥiba delivered the concluding address and led us into silent prayer.

With the Grace of Allāh Almighty and with the co-operation of all the volunteers, this symposium was a success. All the arrangements were excellent. Both Jamā'ats worked together in the campaigning and speakers also helped which made this event even more successful. JazakAllāh.

Comments from the Speakers

"It was great attending the event today and it turned out to be a successful event." – Shama Bhatia, Hindu Speaker

"I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support and

trust in me. MashAllāh another successful symposium under your guidance. May Allāh bless and reward you and your girls abundantly for your hard work!!!" – Samar Mian Sāhiba, Islam Speaker

"Thanks for your kind words and inviting us to this great event." – Amrinder Kaur, Sikh Speaker

"Thank you for your kind words. I was very honoured to be part of this event. I look forward to future events and have hopes for how we might find increasing ways to explore ways we can possibly take action to support each other in our various faith traditions." – Lynn Godfrey, Christian Speaker

"Thank you for the kind words. I always enjoy being a part of the symposium. This year was particularly interesting. My guests really enjoyed hearing the different speakers and

of course the delicious food. They have already expressed an interest in attending next year." – Linda Sanderson, Buddhist Speaker

A Glimpse of What Guests Wrote in the Comment Book:

"Today's conference was amazing. It is important to have this type of forum for expression and learning."

"I enjoyed hearing about similarities among faith groups and the values we share."

"Thank you – wonderful event. All presentations were thoughtful."

"What an enriching afternoon – thank you."

"Thank you for such a wonderful event full of knowledge, kindness and sharing."

"Very good and organized. I enjoyed the event a lot."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement of Demise

We are sad to announce that Habiba Begum Ṣāḥiba, wife of Late Siddiqur Rahman Ṣāḥib of Brahman Baria, Bangladesh, passed away on April 13, 2016 at the age of 70 years. The deceased was the paternal Aunt of Nizamul Haque Ṣāḥib of Peace Village Jamā'at. May Allāh grant forgiveness to the deceased and elevate her station in Paradise! Āmīn!

Recognizing Early Ahmadīs of Canada

This announcement is for all those Aḥmadī members who lived in Canada in 1966 or earlier.

A new monthly series will be starting soon in Aḥmadīyya Gazette recognizing all such Aḥmadīs who were in Canada before or during 1966 when Jamā'at was registered in Canada.

All such Aḥmadīs and or their family members are requested to contact Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Qazi so information can be gathered about the Early Aḥmadīs of Canada. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Cell: 647-770-3868 or email: earlyahmadiofcanada@gmail.com



Jamā'at Jamaica, Masjid Mahdī, Old Harbour Umair Khan, President and Missionary Incharge

Ta'līm & Tarbiyat

Adult literacy classes are ongoing twice a week to help adults with reading problems to learn to read and write. Approximately 15-25 students regularly participate with about 3-5 volunteer teachers. This class is organized by the Community Development Committee and the incharge of this class is Audrey Maragh Ṣāḥiba who is now a member of the Jamā'at, Al-Ḥamdu lillāh! Basic computer classes have also started as part of the adult literacy classes. An Aḥmadī Khadim teaches adult students the basics of using computers.

Training of at least one local missionary, Lennox Foster Ṣāḥib, is ongoing at least 3-4 days a week. Maulana Ibrahim Forson Ṣāḥib and myself are helping him prepare to become a missionary (this is through Huzoor'saa guidance and approval). At least 3 other members are regularly being trained and educated in religious knowledge.

We organized a youth football league on Mosque property. Majlis Khuddāmul Aḥmadīyya Jamaica helps train and coach youth in football. Children from around the Mosque come to participate. Approximately 20-30 players come. This is to try and inculcate good behaviour, sportsmanship, and to introduce the Mosque and Jamā'at to the children and parents.

Tablīgh

We visited over 10 high schools, universities, and technical colleges in Kingston, Old Harbour, and Spanish Town. This was all in an effort to invite students and teachers to an open house being organized through Lajna Imā'illāh Jamaica on May 20th. Confirmation of one school to send 50 students on May 18th has been received, *Al-Ḥamdu lillāh*! The teacher incharge invited myself and other members to visit the school and also meet the principal of Maryl Grove High School in Kingston.

We visited Kingston on April 20th with Missionary Abdullah Malcolm Ṣāḥib, In-training Missionary Abul Shakur Ṣāḥib, and Secretary Tablīgh Haneef Taylor Ṣāḥib. The purpose of the visit was to explore more options for Tablīgh in Kingston.

We visited a library to propose Islāmic Awareness week. Unfortunately the lady incharge of the library declined our proposal citing that other religious groups and political groups



Missionary Umair Khan Şāḥib meeting Minister of Labour



Model Farm Project – Donated by Javed Sadiq Ṣāḥib of Peace Village (Canada) who comes to supervise and manage the project. The property is part of 5 acre land of Masjid Mahdi, Jamaica

will also use the opportunity and they want to keep the library a neutral place for learning.

We also wrote to the city council seeking permission to put up a stall in the center of Kingston. We are still awaiting approval for that proposal.

Miscellaneous Activities

As part of Waqār 'Amal activities, we cleaned the Mosque and organized the storage room on April 19th with Khuddāmul

Aḥmadīyya Jamaica.

We met the Minister of Labour of Jamaica on April 13th with a delegation from Jamā'at Aḥmadīyya Jamaica. Maulana Forson Ṣāḥib, Sister Audrey Maragh Ṣāḥiba, and myself had the opportunity to introduce Jamā'at Aḥmadīyya to the Minister of Labour and also gave her the books *Life of Muḥammad*^{sa} and *World Crisis and Pathway to Peace*.

We prepared a budget for Jamā'at Jamaica with Maulana Ibrahim Forson Ṣāḥib for 2016-2017. We finished sending all the paperwork and documents for JPS (local electric company) to connect a wind turbine to the Grid system. This would help save Jamā'at a lot of money on the electricity. We are hopeful this task will be completed by next month, <code>Inshā'Allāh</code>.

Huzoor^{aa} has approved for the Nāṣir Basketball Club to start at Mahdī Mosque. Currently trying to work with President of Basketball Club of Jamaica to organize a league on the Mosque property.



Youth Football April 2016 – An initiative by Khuddāmul Aḥmadiyya Jamaica to introduce nearby communities to the Jamā'at

For the Jamā'at Bank Account we are working on applying for online banking and credit card for the Jamā'at to save time from going a long distance for Jamā'at day-to-day banking.

Jamā'at Uruguay

Yousaf Khan, Missionary Uruguay

Brief History of Uruguay:

Respected Amīr Ṣāḥib, Jamā'at Aḥmadīyya Canada assigned Khalid Majeed Malik Ṣāḥib to visit Uruguay on Waqf 'Ārḍi in February, 2012. Following this, Missionary Mahboobur Rahman Ṣāḥib was sent to Uruguay on a short trip in January 2014. By the Grace of Allāh, he got the first Baīʿat. The convert also attended Jalsa Sālāna Canada 2015.

Methods of Tabligh

Through flyer distribution and the book stall, we found some contacts and one of them named Miguel Bequer Ṣāḥib converted to Aḥmadīyyat, the true Islām.



Missionary Yousaf Khan Ṣāḥib at Book Stall in Piedras Blancas

Flyer Distribution & Book Stall: One of the hard facts of life in Uruguay is that it is an expensive country. However, one may setup stalls in markets in different places in Montevideo that are completely free. For this purpose, I had printed a roll-up banner on my first journey to Uruguay in 2014 and it was used again during this journey.

Social Media: Another useful method is to use social media to get in contact with people who are already interested in Islām, or people who have already converted to Islām and need a community to attach themselves with. Through social media, we met Khadija Habbas Ṣāḥiba who accepted Aḥmadīyyat.

Contacts through Contacts: Through Khadija Ṣāḥiba we met her family who accepted Aḥmadīyyat. Sometimes a contact who had not accepted Aḥmadīyyat referred others to us and they accepted Aḥmadīyyat as in the case of Mauricio Comini Ṣāḥib who is a taxi driver and security guard.

The Nau Mubā'īn



Khadija Habbas, Denis Madruga and Sameer Madruga learning Sūrah Fātihah at their home

Khadija Habbas Ṣāḥiba – She is a Muslim for over a year and a half. She had a dream about 9 years prior to her accepting Islām where she saw a man in a turban saving her from a flood. She was expecting at the time and in the dream she was told that she will be saved along with her son whom she should name Sameer. Her son was thereupon named Sameer, even though at this point they were not Muslims.

Denis Madruga Ṣāḥib – He is the husband of Khadija Ṣāḥiba. He accepted Islām after seeing a dream in which he apparently saw Dr. Muhammad Baten Ṣāḥib. In regards to teaching them Islām,

we have attempted to teach them <code>Surah Fātiḥah</code>; it remains to be completed. They need someone who can visit them on a regular basis because, as both husband and wife work, it is really rare that they have time together to visit the mission house. They have three children together.

The parents of Khadija Ṣāḥiba also accepted Aḥmadīyyat; however, they are not active at the moment. We hope that Inshā'Allāh in the future they will return to the Jamā'at meetings and become active members.



AlliAbbud Nasir with Missionary Attaul Manan Ṣāḥib

AlliAbbud Nasir Ṣāḥib—This man has been a Muslim for over five years. He is a retired air force mechanic. He readily accepted Aḥmadīyyat because, as he was a Shīa before, he had heard many times about the advent of the Imām Mahdī.



Abu Bakr Barri with Dr. Baten

Abu Bakr Barri Ṣāḥib - He is originally from Sierra Leone. He accepted Aḥmadīyyat as he was already familiar with Aḥmadīyyat from Sierra Leone. We had a good talk with him about the importance of Khilāfat and how to have a relationship with the Khalīfa through letters. We also showed him the Baī at ceremony so that he better understands what he has joined.



Mauricio Comini after having done Baīʻat and his first Salāt with Missionary Yousaf Khan Ṣāḥib, Jorge and Maria (first convert)

Mauricio Comini Ṣāḥib - He is a taxi driver and security guard. One of our contacts named Safiyya Alonso Ṣāḥiba gave him our

reference and so he came to visit us. We presented him with the biblical prophecies regarding the advent of the Holy Prophet of Islām^{sa} and then we explained that the Muslims have lost their values and for this Allāh has sent the Promised Messiah^{as}; and after the demise of the Promised Messiah^{as}, we have now been bestowed Khilāfat. We showed him a Baīʿat ceremony and the Ten Conditions of Baīʿat. Following this, he readily agreed to accept the Baīʿat.



Miguel Bequer with Missionary Yousaf Khan Ṣāḥib

Miguel Bequer Ṣāḥib -He was our neighbour from our book stall in Piedras Blancas. He would take one booklet every time we setup the stall, as he had an interest in Islām from before. Finally we invited him to the home and explained the basics of our beliefs, after which he readily accepted.

Press and Media

We prepared a press release and sent it out to 5 major newspapers, but we did not get a response. We met with Maria Eugenia Ṣāḥiba who works for HispanTv, an Iranian news channel. She told us that the media in Uruguay is quite against Islām and that she will help us by providing journalists who are interested in this topic. She has conveyed very recently the email of another journalist who is a radio host and is interested in an interview. Attaul Manan Ṣāḥib has contacted her and Inshā'Allāh we pray that inroads are made in this important chapter.

Aḥmadīyya Literature to the President of Uruguay

In the beginning of my stay in Uruguay, I sent a letter to the President of Uruguay for a possible meeting and also introduced the book of Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V^{aa} World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace, which I did not have on me at the time. The secretary of the President called me and told me that I cannot have an audience with the President but he is interested in the book. So Guatemala Jamā'at was contacted regarding this book because Canada Jamā'at has not printed it in Spanish. They sent me their last two copies, one of which was given to the Secretariat of the President, along with other books of the Jamā'at. These books have now reached him.

Introduction to MASQ



Sulṭānul Qalam – "King of the Pen." This was the powerful tool given to the Promised Messiah^{as} through revelation. It is this very revelation that inspired the initiation of Majlis Anṣār Sulṭānul Qalam – "Helpers of the King of the Pen."

The Promised Messiah^{as} writes, "There is peace everywhere; it is with the pen that Islām is being attacked. **That is why it is necessary that the pen should be used to rebut the attacks.**" (emphasis added) (Malfūzāt, Vol. 8, pg 20) This quote of the Promised Messiah^{as} indicates the role that the pen will play in today's day and age.

Majlis Ansar Sulṭānul Qalam (MASQ) was started by Hazrat Muṣleḥ Mauʿūdra in 1922. The primary objective of MASQ is to defend and propagate the true message of Islām.

To learn more or to join MASQ and start writing to newspapers, please send us an email at MASQ@Khuddām.ca.

Brussels Campaign

On the morning of March 22nd, three coordinated nail bombings occurred in Belgium. In these attacks, 35 victims and three suicide bombers were killed and over 300 people were injured. Within hours of the attack, MASQ Canada released an official CTA, urging Khuddām to take up the pen and defend Islām. By the Grace of Allāh, Khuddām demonstrated exceptional dedication as we received 37 letter submissions and 20 publications – Alhamdulillāh!

Here are some of the letters that were published in the campaign:

NATIONAL* POST

169, 500 READERS DAILY



When I first heard of the attacks in Belgium, I closed my eyes in disgust and disappointment. I knew that this attack would add to the cascade of terrorist activities that have been culminating in an intensely anti-Islāmic rhetoric. The bombings in Brussels are not the result of Islāmic teachings, but rather political objectives. I cannot believe people who believe in the Qur'ān — which proclaims "there is no compulsion in religion" and "killing one person is equivalent to killing all of mankind" - can believe they are fulfilling their religious duty by harming innocent civilians. Terrorism has no religion.

> Saqib Mahmood, Maple, Ont. (March 24, 2016)

The attack on Brussels was a crime and, according to Islām, a sin. Murder is unequivocally wrong, and these terrorist acts are not endorsed by any Islāmic teaching, philosophy or precedent. Syrian Christians and Muslims have both faced the worst from the Islāmic State of Iraq and the Levant. Children have lost their parents, and parents have lost their children to ISIL. These Syrian Muslims and Christians are the same as the innocent people who died in Paris and Brussels. And yet ISIL doesn't care.

We all, Muslims and non-Muslims, need to unite and somehow find a way to bring an end to all of this. True Islām teaches that humanity goes beyond any division of beliefs or culture. Apparently ISIL missed that part.

Mohsin Kamran, Calgary. (March 24, 2016)



127, 000 READERS DAILY 10

MOST RE

Re: "A day of worry for Belgian community," March 23.

Islām equals peace, literally.

As a Muslim, I feel obligated to step forward and categorically condemn the terrorist attacks that took place in Brussels, Belgium. Reports have indicated ISIL has claimed responsibility for these heinous attacks.

I do not feel as though I should apologize for actions that are not mine, but as a true Muslim, I believe in justice and peace. For there to be peace, people such as these need to be brought to justice, as any act of violence is unacceptable and must be brought to an end.

We all mourn greatly for the loss of these innocent lives and our prayers are with the families who have lost their loved ones

This was not just an attack on one country, but an attack on humanity. All across the world, people have come together to condemn these attacks and government officials should follow suit to ensure such acts do not occur again in the future.

Basal Dawood, Calgary

These humble efforts resulted in **26** publications within a week and these publications combined have an estimated readership of **2,592,435 Canadians!**

24 Introduction to MASQ



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SAMSUNG

Roku







The Holy Qur'an
Easy to read hand written font with
English translation.



The Holy Qur'an Arabic Text, English Translation and Short Commentary.



Khalifa of Islam
Get the latest updates on Khalifatul
Masib. Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{aba}



Muslim Television Ahmadiyya View Live Stream and schedule of MTA one.



Nazms
Collection of poems recited by various members of the AMC.



Muslim Television Arabia View Live Stream and schedule of MTA Arabia.



Ahmadiyya Islamic News Get the latest news from *alislam.org* updates.



Weekly Badr Qadian
One of the oldest Urdu weekly in
the Indian subcontinent.



Al Fazl
One of the oldest Urdu dailies in the Indian subcontinen.



Mobile Friday Sermons
View the summaries of the latest
Friday Sermons.



Ask Islam
Listen to answers to questions about Islam.



Find AMC Mosques
Easily locate & contact AMC
Mosques locations.

Ramadān

Every year, by the Grace of Allāh the All-Mighty, Khuddām have written in major newspapers about various topics regarding Islām. Here are some samples from the past few years regarding Ramadān:



169, 000 READERS DAILY



IN CAN

Blessed 'Īd

In the coming days, Muslims all around the world will mark the end of the Holy month of Ramaḍān by celebrating 'Īd. 'Īd literally means celebration. Leader of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community, His Holiness Mirzā Masroor Aḥmadaa, says, "[On 'Īd] we should resolve that we would maintain the habit of doing good deeds that we formed in the past month." As an Aḥmadī Muslim, I believe Ramaḍān is an opportunity to excel in righteousness and we should continue on the path of righteousness afterwards.

Luqman Ahmad, Mississauga (July 25, 2015)

Guelph Mercury

12, 000 READERS DAILY

57" |

It needs to be understood that fasting, like any other aspect of Islām, is flexible and is prescribed in accordance with pragmatism.

So while Olympic athletes who are actively fasting during the Summer Games in London should no doubt be commended for their commitment to their faith and principles, those who are unable to adhere should remember that Islām will accommodate them.

The Qur'ān, the holy book of Islām, lays down the principles regarding fasting. It states that everyone who is healthy should fast, but those who fall under certain categories such as being sick, pregnant and those who are travelling are exempted from fasting during Ramaḍān, and can make up for lost fasts later (2:186).

Therefore, there can be no blame on athletes who choose to fast on a later date. I mean, if God accommodates them, who is anyone else to judge?

Khizar Karim, Brampton (August 4, 2012)

Re: Ramadān and Astronomy

Like any other Ramaḍān, this year's also began with the familiar debate about whether we should consider its start or end only when we have seen the new moon with our naked eyes or whether astronomy can be used to determine this.

Personally, I think there's really no problem in using astronomy to decide the commencement and conclusion of Ramadān.

I mean, when we decide on the timing of opening or closing the fast, we don't go out and look at the sky; we just look at charts instead, that are made using astronomy.

Moreover, Muslims pray five times daily and rarely try to find out prayer time by looking at the sky alone, as clouds and other factors can affect what we see. Instead, we look at our watches.

So when we're already using astronomy to determine timing for other important acts of worship, why not use it to decide the beginning and end of Ramaḍān as

Rizwan Syed, Vaughan, Ont. (July 31, 2012)

Introduction to MASQ 25



"TRUE INTEGRATION IS TO LOVE THE COUNTRY IN WHICH YOU LIVE" – HEAD OF AHMADĪYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad^{aa} interviewed by Sweden's Sveriges Television

On May 11, 2016, the World Head of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalīfa ("Caliph"), His Holiness, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad^{aa}, was interviewed by Sveriges Television (Swedish TV) at the Mahmood Mosque in Malmo, Sweden.

During the interview, His Holiness^{aa} was asked about the newly built Mahmood Mosque, the integration of immigrants and the rise of terrorism and youth radicalization.

Upon being asked why the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community had built a Mosque in Malmo, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad^{aa} said:

"The Holy Qur'ān says that human beings should worship their Creator and so we have built this Mosque to bring people together to worship Allāh the Almighty. Aḥmadī Muslims will enter this Mosque five times a day to worship and will offer the weekly Friday prayers here."

Speaking about the Mosque itself, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmadªa said:

"This Mosque is extremely beautiful and I hope that the local Swedish people will also consider it to be a positive addition to their environment."

His Holiness^{aa} was asked about the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community's well-known slogan "Love for All, Hatred for None."

In response, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad^{aa} said:

"Love for All, Hatred for None' is actually the basis of the Qur'ān's teachings because Islām means peace and love for all of mankind. Thus, we do not consider anyone to be our enemy and nor do we desire harm to any person."

Regarding the activities of terrorist groups such as Daesh, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Ahmad^{aa} said:

"Anyone who preaches or propagates any form of extremism acts completely against the true teachings of Islām and is to be condemned. We Aḥmadī Muslims, are peace loving and so no Aḥmadī Muslim has any desire to join extremist groups. We teach our children from childhood that to be peaceful is an essential part of their faith."

Regarding the issue of integration of immigrants into Western society, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad^{aa} said:

"For me, true integration is to love the country in which you live and to be completely loyal to it. Thus, all immigrants should be loyal to their adopted nation, they should truly love it, they should honour it, they should be law abiding and work for its prosperity and progress. This is integration."

Asked if Aḥmadī Muslims were particularly threatened in Europe, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Ahmad^{aa} said:

"Due to the threat of Daesh and other terrorist groups, all people are at risk and there is a general threat to peace. However, there are also some who particularly seek to cause harm to Aḥmadī Muslims and so we have to remain vigilant."

"Love for All, Hatred for None' is actually the basis of the Qur'ān's teachings because Islām means peace and love for all of mankind. Thus, we do not consider anyone to be our enemy and nor do we desire harm to any person."



"EVERYONE IS A TARGET FOR TERRORISTS"
- HEAD OF AHMADĪYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

May 13, 2016 - Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad^{aa} makes remarks during interview with Sweden's Sveriges Radio

On May 11, 2016, the World Head of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalīfa ("Caliph"), His Holiness, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad^{aa} was interviewed by Sveriges Radio (Sweden Radio) at the Mahmood Mosque in Malmo, Sweden.

Upon being asked about his office, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad^{aa} said:

"I am a humble person of Allāh the Almighty who has been elected as the Fifth Khalīfa ("Caliph") of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community to continue the mission of our Founder to spread the true and peaceful teachings of Islām."

Asked about the security situation of Aḥmadī Muslims, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Ahmad^{aa} said:

"It is not only Aḥmadī Muslims who are at risk, rather everyone is a target for terrorists as we have seen "I am a humble person of Allāh the Almighty who has been elected as the Fifth Khalīfa ("Caliph") of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community to continue the mission of our Founder to spread the true and peaceful teachings of Islām."

recently with the Paris and Brussels terrorist attacks. Those attacks can only be described as acts of horrific brutality and completely against the teachings of Islām."

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad^{aa} continued:

"Just a few years ago almost 100 Aḥmadī Muslims were killed when two of our Mosques were attacked in Lahore. However, we never react with violence but we bear

all persecution with patience and respond only with prayers."

Regarding the opening of the Mahmood Mosque in Malmo, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Ahmad^{aa} said:

"A Mosque is a place to bow down and submit before God Almighty and so when I inaugurate this Mosque I will remind the Aḥmadī Muslims about the true and peaceful objectives of Mosques."

Press Releases 27



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Job opportunities at Aysha Academy

Competition Number: P0716

Position: Principal

Qualifications: Principal

Minimum Masters Degree. Preference will be given to Ph.D. Minimum Waqf (dedication) for three years. Must have in-depth knowledge and understanding of Islam and Ahmadiyyat, its history, theology and beliefs.

Fluency in some or all of following languages (subject to job requirements): spoken and written Urdu, Arabic and English. Computer Literate. Must have proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)

High standard of Purdah, excellent character and high moral standard. Must have management skills. Previous Teaching & Management experience at a college or University will be an asset.

Specific Skills: Plan, organize and direct daily operations. Establish and implement policies and procedures. Assign, co-ordinate and review projects and programs. Review programs to ensure conformance to provincial standards. Co-ordinate teaching activities. Recommend curriculum revisions and additions. Authorize the scheduling of courses. Teach, direct or supervise the recruitment, training and evaluation of teachers. Oversee the analysis of data and information, Oversee the preparation of reports. Oversee the development of curriculum for training programs, liaise with teachers, parents, Ta`lim office. Evaluate curriculum and teaching methods

Additional Skills: Plan and control budget and expenditures, direct and motivate staff. Decision making, critical thinking planning and organizing, significant use of memory, finding information, continuous learning.

Competition Number : TL0716

Positions: Lecturer

Minimum Masters Degree. Preference will be given to Ph.D. Minimum Waqf (dedication) for three years. Must have in-depth knowledge and understanding of Islam and Ahmadiyyat, its history, theology and beliefs.

Fluency in some or all of following languages (subject to job requirements): spoken and written Urdu, Arabic and English.

Hard working with a positive attitude and the ability to work as part of a team. Previous teaching experience at a college or University will be an asset.

Duties will include preparing and delivering lectures and tutorials, preparing and marking assignments, tests and examinations; responding to student inquiries; maintaining regular office hours; and invigilating tests and examinations. The successful candidate would be expected to mentor students as well as liaise between students, parents and school admin.

Procedure of applications:

Applications will be accepted until July 15, 2016 or until a suitable candidate is found. Application forms are available at the Ta`lim website (www.talim.ca). Interested female members should submit completed application forms with a covering letters indicating the above competition number, their resumes, a statement of teaching philosophy and interests, evidence of teaching effectiveness, and the names and telephone numbers of three referees to:

Department of Ta`lim, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at Canada.

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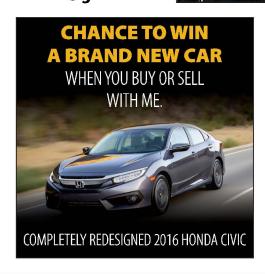
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قابلیت کامعیار _ لیکچرار

Competition Number: TL0716

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كم ازكم تين سال كيلے ُ وقف كرنا ہو گا

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مطلوب ہیں۔

قابليت كامعيار - يرنسل

Competition Number: P0716

کم از کم ماسٹر ز (پی ایکی ڈی کو ترجیح دی جائے گی)

كم ازكم تين سال كيلے ُ وقف كرناہو گا

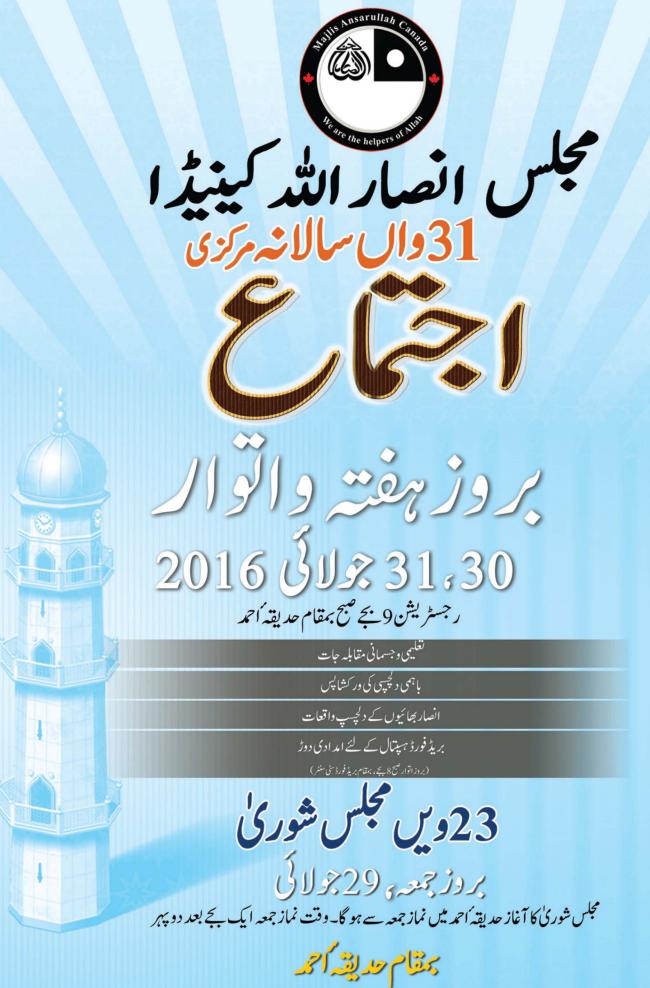
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