

Basharaat-E-Ahmadiyya

An International News Magazine of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam (Lahore) USA

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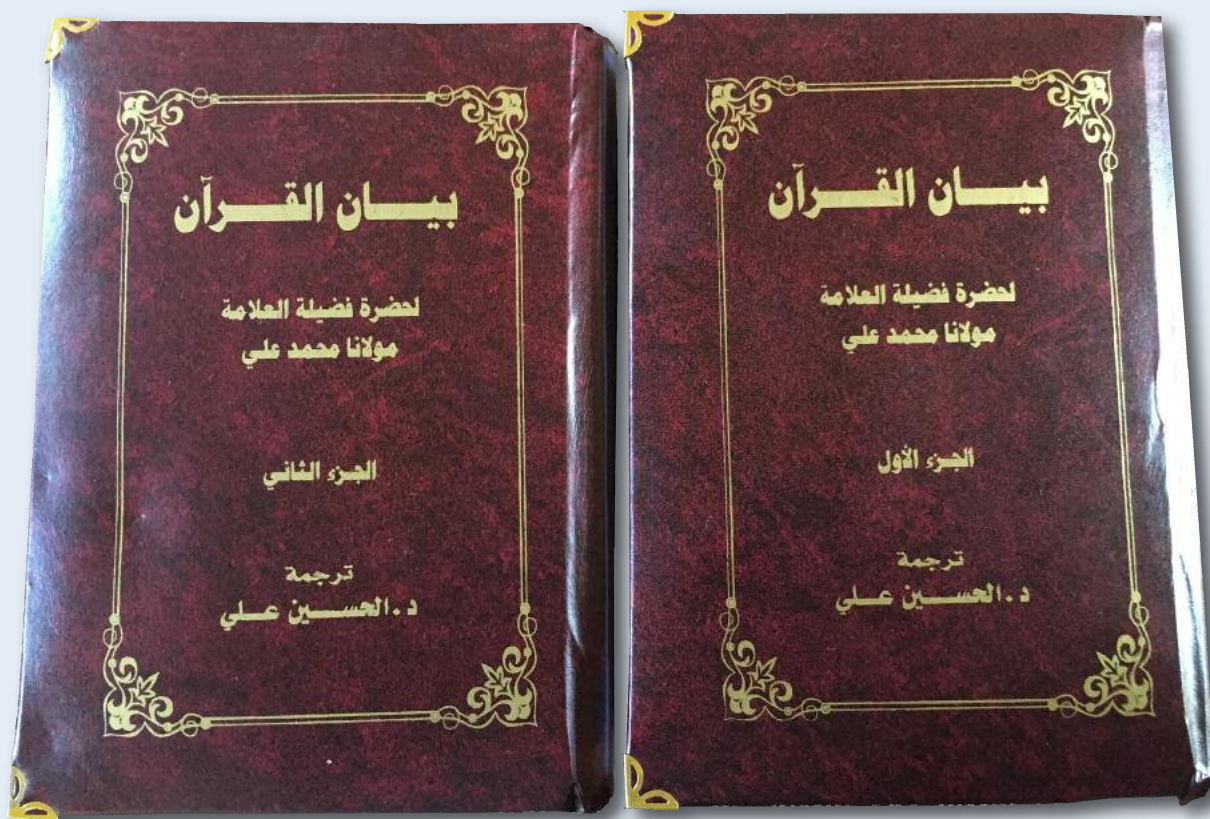
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Arabic Translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Commentary of the Holy Quran is Complete

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Editorial

THIS BASHAARAAT ISSUE DOCUMENTS many significant events. Perhaps the most important of these, and one which will, inshallah, have a far reaching impact in the Arabic speaking Muslim world, is the publication of the Arabic translation of the English commentary in Maulana Muhammad Ali's Monumental work, the English translation of the Holy Quran.

The strife and bloodshed occurring in the middle east is due in part to a wrong interpretation of the Holy Quran and Hadith which promotes war and hatred; Maulana Muhammad Ali's enlightened commentary is crucial in countering and dispelling this toxic ideology.

In a similar vein, the 2015 convention of the USA jamaat with its symposium theme, *True Portrait of the Holy Prophet Muhammad*, was very timely. It showed how the exemplary character of the Holy Prophet and the teachings of the Holy Quran transformed an immoral and violent

society into a just and peace-loving people. The intent of the symposium was to remove the misconception that the Holy Prophet waged aggressive war and preached violence, and to show how he fostered brotherhood and peace among the warring Arabian tribes, and how by following his example, nations may find solutions to the problems of war and conflict in our time.

By the Grace of Almighty Allah. We have duplicated this symposium in the Philippines and Egypt; it has been a huge success in both places.

Our printing and translation projects are on track. Our project to donate the Holy Quran and the *Religion of Islam* free to professors and libraries throughout the world continues with the recent free distribution of the Holy Quran in Germany.

The USA Jama'at continues to project the peaceful and spiritual teachings of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in international forums such as the World Parliament of Religions Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah by exhibiting its literature and by speaking at interfaith seminars in Paris France.

We thank Almighty Allah for dedicated workers like Mrs. Samina Malik. She single handedly manages the Translation and Publication projects of the USA Jama'at and is responsible for attendance at book fairs at home and abroad. She is responsible for maintaining contact with non-Ahmadi organizations in other countries where she initiates and arranges joint conferences and supplies them with free literature.

At home in the USA, Jama'at members Fazeel S Khan, Dr. Muhammad Ahmad and Lubna Ahmad remain involved in educating people about Islam locally, by participating in activities such as lecturing about Islam to church groups, attending monthly spiritual sharing interfaith programs, and participating in programs for prisoner rehabilitation. Fazeel is regularly invited by Muslim student organizations to give talks on Islamic issues in universities and by University Professors to lecture about Islam to their students. Fazeel also participates in a book club group where he is the resource person on Islamic subjects.

Fazeel maintains close ties with other Muslim organizations locally and nationally. Personal contact and friendship is extremely important as it allows us to acquaint them with our view of Islam and help them realize that we present a most appealing and attractive picture of Islam

One bonus of attending the London Book Fair was interaction between us and members of the Qadian Ahmadiyya Jama'at who had an adjoining booth in the book display section. This led to a year-long friendly and amicable e-mail exchange between Fazeel and an official representative of the Qadian Ahmadiyya Jama'at regarding the Qadian Jama'at belief that Hazrat Mirza Sahib claimed to be a prophet after the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

The exchange was approved and sanctioned by Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Khalifa of the Qadian Jama'at. Fazeel's masterful replies are excellent

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explanations and clarifications of the issue of Prophethood. He clearly shows by quotations from Hazrat Mirza Sahib's writings how a wrong interpretation of Hazrat Mirza Sahib's use of the word prophet by Qadian Jama'at has led to attributing

prophethood to Hazrat Mirza Sahib. We will, inshallah, publish this exchange as a booklet.

We thank Almighty Allah in all humility for the opportunities that He gives us to serve His Religion, and for providing us the means to do so

in the form of the invaluable literature produced by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and our elders such as Maulana Muhammad Ali. May Almighty Allah Grant us the strength and patience to fulfill our commitment to the Faith. Ameen!

Last Address of the Late Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad of blessed memory

Introduced by Samina Malik

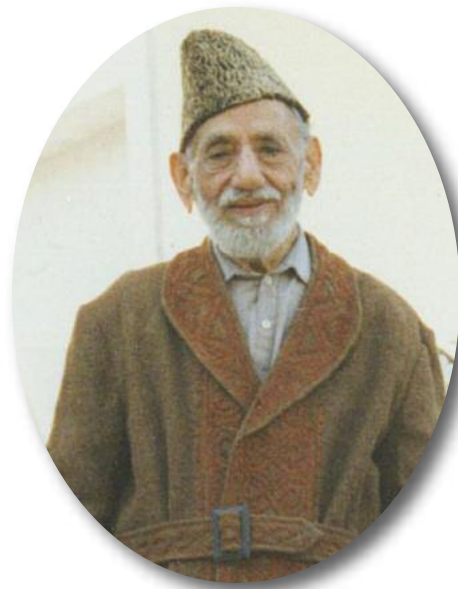


ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL Convention of the USA jamaat
By samina Malik

It was customary for the USA jamaat to request the late hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad (affectionately known as Jaanji) to send them a message which was read out to the attendees on the occasion of their Annual convention and symposium each year. The message reproduced below was his last before his passing away in 1996.

Jaanji is the person who inspired me and the rest of the USA jamaat directors to get involved in the publication, translation and spread of the Holy Quran and our other jamaat literature.

Just as Maulana Muhammad Ali in his sole recording, a short jumma khutba, laid out succinctly and clearly the objective of the jamaat's existence and the means of obtaining it, so does Jaanji do the same in this short address. May Almighty Allah, the most Merciful Grant Jaanji a place in Paradise and



give us the strength and ability to achieve this goal.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters
Assalamo Aliakum wa Rahmatullahi
was Barakatuhu

The USA Jamaat have once again asked me to send a message to be read at their convention. Considering the arduous nature of the task

and in view of the circumstances of my poor health, which are well known to my friends, I had expressed my inability to comply with the request. However, so profound was their insistence that I was left with no other choice but to give in to their loving and affectionate pressure.

Instead of writing out a lengthy message, I have decided to write a few verses of the Holy Quran and convey their meanings as is applicable to the prevailing global situation.

13:31 *And if there could be a Qurân with which the mountains were made to pass away, or the earth were cloven asunder, or the dead were made to speak — nay, the commandment is wholly Allâh's. Do not those who believe know that, if Allâh please, He would certainly guide all the people? And as for those who disbelieve, disaster will not cease to afflict them because of what they do, or it will alight close by their abodes, until the promise of Allah come to pass.*

Surely Allah will not fail in (His) promise.

This first verse which I have selected is the thirty first verse of Surah Al Rad Chapter 13 (The Thunder)

Al Rad was revealed to the Holy Prophet (peace and Blessing of Allah be upon him) in the last Meccan period. While the first part of the verse contains a reference to the magnitude of the opposition which is likened to a Mountain that confronted Islam and Muslims in those days, the latter part bears a promise that all obstacles would be removed and the spiritually dead opponents would be transformed into devout believers. And indeed, as was witnessed by the whole world, not only the entire Arabia within the life time of the Holy Prophet (peace in blessings of Allah be upon Him) but also the entire world from China in the east to Spain in the west responded to the call of Islam within a hundred years after his death.

My dear friends, the hurdles confronting the Muslims today surpass all times hitherto fore in their gravity. I find in this verse a glimmer of hope for Islam. But to achieve this miracle, we will have to strive to the utmost in spreading the Quran and

the teachings of Islam to every nook and cranny of the World as was done by the early followers of Islam both during and after the life the Holy Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him)

41:33 *And who is better in speech than one who calls to Allah and does good, and says: I am surely of those who submit?*

41:34 *And not alike are the good and the evil. Repel (evil) with what is best, when lo! he between whom and thee is enmity would be as if he were a warm friend.*

41:35 *And none is granted it but those who are patient, and none is granted it but the owner of a mighty good fortune.*

This Surah Ha Mim (Chapter 41) was also revealed at Mecca when opposition to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) was very bitter and severe persecution which culminated in their first flight to Abyssinia had begun. Circumstances of the Muslims today closely those at the time of the early Makkan period; perhaps only the tormentors and tormented have changed.

These verses of Surah Hamim are thus as much a source of comfort for us today as they were for our belea-

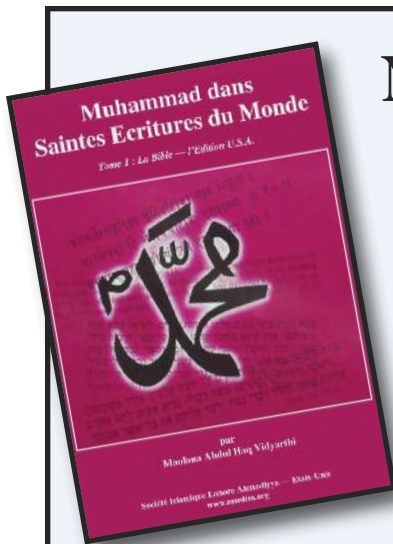
guered early Muslims of yesteryears. We therefore have every reason to be hopeful once again of receiving the great good fortune from Allah, but the same, as has been pointed out in these verses shall only be granted to those who do good, repel evil and are patient.

I am convinced that our jamaat is qualified to spread the Light of Islam and to dispel the gloom and darkness which is apparently encompassing the entire World. I am fully satisfied with the endeavors of my friends in North America, who have within a short span of time done so much to deliver the message of Islam all over the World. Those of you who are actively involved in this stupendous work should have the satisfaction and be grateful to Allah for being among the chosen ones referred to by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Shaib, the founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement, in the following words in his book *Izala-e-Auham*:

“... Therefore I suggest that instead of these preachers, we should send literature of a high standard to these (Western) countries. If my jamaat helps me heart and soul, I wish to produce a commentary of the Holy Quran, and get it translated into English, and send it to these people (of the West). But I must strongly emphasize that such a work is a task that shall be achieved by myself and by none other except myself, or by one who is an offshoot of mine and is thus included in me”.

My dear brother and sisters, I end this message with my earnest prayers for your long and prosperous life and for this Convention to succeed in every sense of the word. May Allah Bless you all Ameen!

Dr. Saeed Ahmad
President, Ahmadiyya Anjuman
Ishaat Islam Lahore



Muhammad in World Scriptures

By Maulana Abdul Haq Vidyarthi

Translated into french by
Taslim-ul-Mahmud, this adds
to our growing list of titles by
renowned Muslim authors
we have published in French.

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Alhamdulillah! Arabic Translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Commentary of the Holy Quran is Complete

It is with great thankfulness to Almighty Allah and with abundant happiness that the USA Jama'at announces the completion of the Arabic translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Commentary (Tafsir) of the Holy Quran.

This epoch-making translation has been a labor of love for Professor Hussein Ali, PhD, Head of the Translation Department at American University of Cairo, Egypt. Dr. Hussein was eminently qualified for this monumental task, and his sincerity of faith and dedication to the religion of Islam has been evident throughout this process. May Allah, the Most High, bless and reward him for his efforts. Ameen.

The Publisher's Foreword and an abridged version of the speech delivered by Professor Hussein at the USA Jama'at's 2016 Annual Convention are reproduced below:

Publisher's Foreword to the Arabic Translation of the Commentary of the English Translation of the Holy Quran by Maulana Muhammad Ali

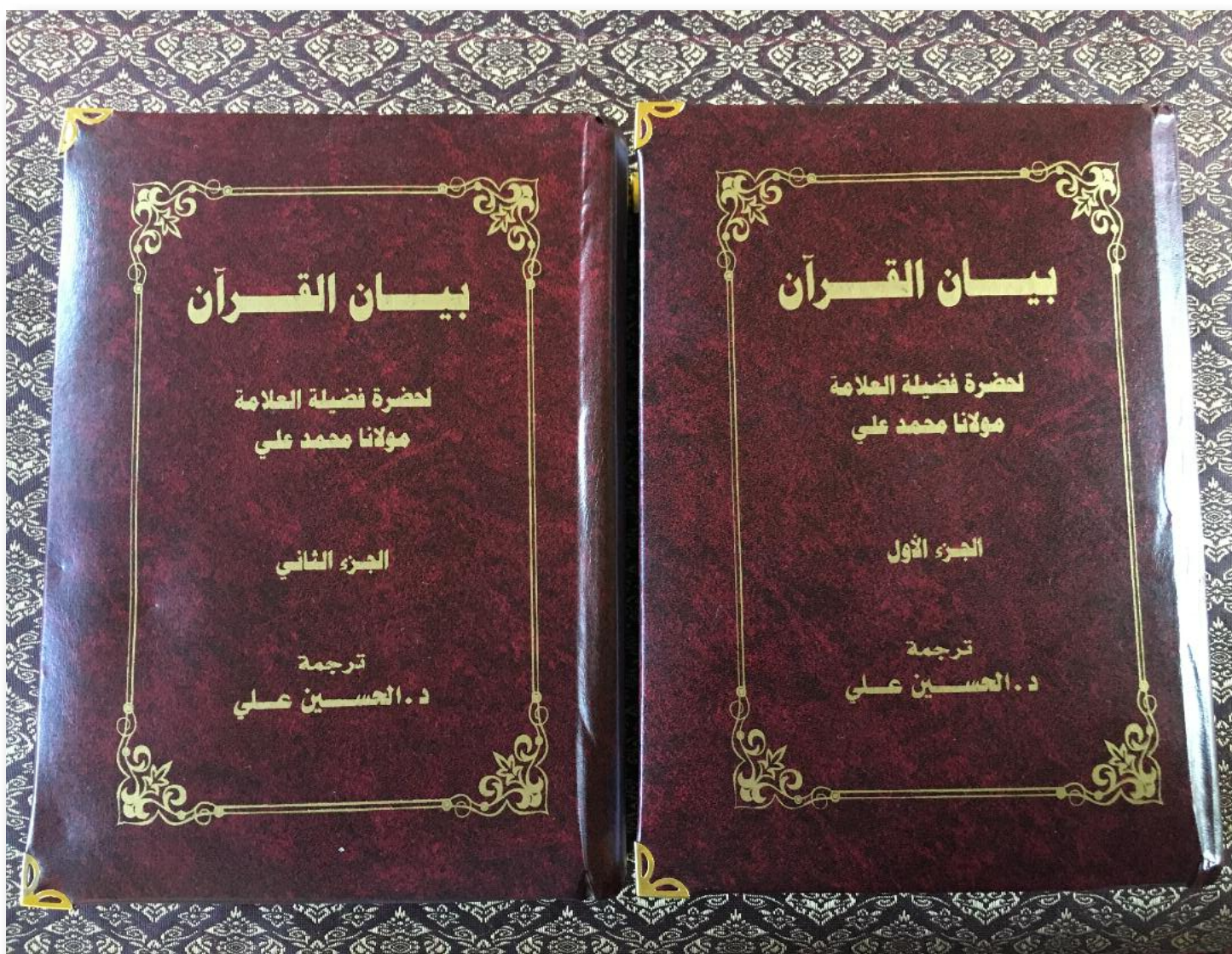
IT IS WITH SINCERE THANKFULNESS AND utmost gratitude to Almighty Allah, the Most High, that the USA Jamaat announces the publication of the Arabic translation of the commentary in Maulana Muhammad Ali's English translation and commentary of the Holy Quran.

This monumental work first published in 1917 was the first English language translation to be widely available in the West. It projected the peaceful and tolerant message of Islam and removed many misconceptions about important topics

such as jihad in Islam, the defensive nature of permissible war, religious freedom, Women's rights, the compatibility between religion and science, etc. In doing so, it illustrated how the Quranic teachings can solve the problems besetting mankind today. In 1951, Maulana Muhammad Ali revised the translation and commentary himself, thus further ensuring the relevancy of the Quranic teachings in the current post-World War II modern age.

There has been a great demand for a long time to have Maulana

Muhammad Ali's English commentary made available in Arabic for the benefit of Arabic speaking people. The delay in satisfying this need was due to the difficulty in finding a person with the necessary credentials for undertaking this important task. By the Grace of Almighty Allah, this quest ended in 2013 when Mrs. Samina Malik found Dr. Hussein Ali, Professor and Head of the Translation Department at the American University of Cairo and Associate Professor of Translation Studies at Helwan University, to undertake this work.



Volume One and Volume Two.

Dr. Hussein Ali was eminently qualified for this work. He obtained his PhD in Translation Studies in a joint program between Helwan University of Egypt and Middlesex University in UK. He was a Lecturer of Translation Studies in the London Metropolitan University, where he taught literary translation and theories of translation. He also worked as a freelance translator for the BBC. Upon returning to Egypt, he joined the American University in Cairo as the Program Manager of the Translation Program in 2011. He subsequently held the posts of the Director of the Arabic and Translation Studies in 2012, and then

Director of the Languages Department in 2013. Dr. Ali has labored long and hard on this project to produce an excellent translation which does justice to the original. May Almighty Allah bless and reward him for his dedication and hard work.

We would also like to thank Sheikh Abdul Aziz Najjar of Al-Azhar Cairo Egypt for supervising the review of the Hadith references in the commentary. Last but not least, we would like to thank Mrs. Samina Malik for her continued dedication to the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society's translation projects in general, and for her exemplary

work in supervising this entire project and bringing it to a successful completion in particular. We also note that the costs associated with this translation project and its printing have been funded by Dr. Noman Malik as *sadaqa jaariyah* in the names of his late parents. It is our earnest prayer to Almighty Allah that this commentary increases the understanding of the Holy Quran amongst the masses so as to bring about a spiritual healing resulting in peace to all humanity.

The Publishers,
June 2016

Reflections on my translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali's Commentary in his English Translation in the Holy Quran

By Professor Hussein Ali

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, the Merciful.

Allah will exalt those of you who believe and those of you who are given knowledge to high ranks. And Allah is aware of what you do. And above everyone possessed of knowledge is the All Knowing.

There is no god but Allah, the Lord of the Mighty Throne, the Lord of the heavens and Lord of the earth. May peace be upon the Holy Prophet Muhammed, the seal of prophets, whom Allah has sent with the final message to mankind.

Three years ago, I started the translation of the commentary of the Holy Quran by Maulana Muhammad Ali. Two years prior to that, I had been studying most of the well-known Quran interpretations such as Ibn Kathir, Qurtubi, Zamakhshari etc., and I want to relay my impression about these interpretations; in other words, what I liked about them and what I did not. There is no doubt that these interpretations were very useful, and they helped my understanding of the Quran, particularly when it came to vocabulary which is not originally Arabic. In addition, these interpretations cited many of the Holy Prophet's Hadith which were originally said to explain some verses. More importantly still, they explained some of the occasions on which certain verses were revealed to

the Holy Prophet. However, I could not understand why these commentaries contained so many stories, some even contradicting one another, when it came to interpreting certain verses. Some were even childlike and fantastical such as those related about the "companions of the cave" and "Gog and Magog".

At that time, I gave up reading any more interpretations. Also at that time, secular humanists and freethinkers grew in number and visibility in Egypt. They began to cast doubt on everything religious. I was confused for a while, and I could not find any logical answers when arguing with my freethinker colleagues. In addition, terrorism and violence in the Muslim world worsened the situation as Islam was accused of being violent.

However I never lost my faith in Allah; I never stopped reading the Holy Quran, but I was praying every day to find answers to the questions raised all the time by secular humanists who tried to cast doubt on the Holy Message of Quran.

While I was trying to find my way out of the darkness of doubt, I received a telephone call from a lady who asked to meet me. She came the next day to my university and met with me for fifteen minutes. She asked me if I would be willing to translate Maulana Muhammad Ali's Commentary of the Holy Quran into Arabic. Although at that time I was

extremely busy and could barely find time for my own readings, I agreed. She said she wanted it translated within one year. For me, with my busy schedule this was not possible, and so, I thought perhaps Allah did not want me to do that work. I was about to decline, but she, as if she could almost read my mind, continued "but there is no problem if it takes more than one year."

That lady was Mrs. Samina Malik whom I like to call Mother Samina, who was speaking earlier today. She is indeed an inspiring person, and she inspired me in many of the things I do in my life. She came to my office looking for a translator, and spent fifteen minutes with me, but by the time she departed, she left behind her a great deal of inspiration and love. She left behind her a man praying to God to take him closer to the truth. Working on that translation has indeed taken me many steps closer to the truth, to the Holy Quran, to life and to myself.

As a person who works in the field of education and as a linguist, I find myself consciously and unconsciously analyzing how people process information. And I want to tell you something about education in Egypt, maybe the whole Arab world. In fact, in the Egyptian educational system, we focus more on rote acquiring of knowledge rather than on developing skills. Therefore, you find people who memorize Quran interpretation by heart. They

think that there is some authority springing from their knowledge, and for them as well as for many people particularly when it comes to the Holy Quran interpretation, skills like analyzing, criticizing, evaluating etc. do not have any value or merit. For them, it is simply knowing that matters rather than knowing how and why. As a result, they looked at the interpretations of the Holy Quran as sacred writings themselves. Any

attempt to evaluate or examine them critically is taken as heresy.

This introduction cannot be complete without referring to Maulana Muhammed Ali's approach in his commentaries. He writes in the introduction to his Quran translation:

"I must add that the present tendency of Muslim theologians to regard the commentaries of the

Middle Ages as the final word on the interpretation of the Holy Qur'an is very injurious and practically shuts out the great treasures of knowledge which an exposition of the Holy Book in the new light reveals. A study of the old commentators, to ignore whose great labor would indeed be a sin, also shows how freely they commented upon the Holy Book. The great service which



Dr Hussein Aly and Samina holding Volume one and two of the Holy Quran at the USA Convention.

they have done to the cause of Truth would indeed have been lost to the world if they had looked upon their predecessors as uttering the final word on the exposition of the Holy Qur'an, as most theologians do today."

Maulana Muhammed Ali did not take the final interpretations of previous commentators without critical thinking. His commentary is in fact training for readers to think critically. The most significant feature of his commentary is that it is written in an academic style that keeps a balance between the Holy Quran as a Book of Guidance and the Holy Quran as a Book for contemplation. The commentary addresses the mind, the heart and the soul.

In addition, his commentary is multi-faceted. He carries out linguistic analysis to find out the original meaning of words; he uses historical and geographical evidence to support the meaning; and he uses the Bible to disambiguate and prove that Quran is the Final message from Allah.

I had the chance in my career to examine various Quran translations: as a scholar, as a supervisor and as a teacher of translation trying to find practical examples to support theories of translation that we teach in classes. Taking into consideration that the Holy Quran is multi-layered in meaning, and that its style is too elegant and pure for any translator, I could not find a translation which is academic enough to support my views on translation. Most translators realize that Quran translation cannot contain the multi-layered meaning of the Holy Quran. The solution and even the recommendation of scholars is to convey the intended meaning rather than the literal meaning. That solution

sounds safe and logical; however; it makes the meaning shallow and restricts critical thinking and creativity on the part of the reader in comprehending the Holy Text.

The only translation, I may claim, that kept the richness of the spirituality of the Holy Quran, is Maulana Muhammad Ali's. That is due to a number of features that Maulana Muhammad Ali introduced in his translation. First of all, Maulana Muhammad Ali explains in the introduction his approach to translating the Holy Quran. In the Preface to the Revised Edition, he states

"I have tried to be more faithful to the Arabic Text than all existing English translations. It will be noticed that additional words as explaining the sense of the original have generally been avoided, and where necessary – and these cases are very few – they are given within brackets. Wherever a departure has been made from the ordinary or primary significance of a word, reasons for this departure has been given in a footnote and authorities have been amply quoted."

Faithfulness to the Holy Text cannot be achieved by conveying the intended meaning alone, and Maulana Muhammad Ali did not find that enough. Instead, Maulana Muhammad Ali gave all necessary explanations in the footnotes. The explanations are supported by authorities, references or at least sound arguments. In addition to the footnotes, Maulana Muhammad Ali commenced each Chapter with ample introduction explaining the development of the chapter and the relationship among its sections as well as the relationship between the Chapter and the preceding and the following Chapters.

My work on this translation was indeed a blessing from Allah. It helped me to understand what I could not understand from Arabic religious literature. In reading many Arabic books, many people find themselves driven by emotions, mainly fear and love without critically thinking of what they read. With Maulana Muhammad Ali's calm language, readers are encouraged to think while they read. I can claim that this is what we need at this time in the Arab world. We have seen the print word as a sacred word for too long, and it is time to read literature, particularly religious, that stimulates thinking and creativity.

Maulana Muhammad Ali, following in the steps of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmed, has been a great reformer of his age. In his introduction to the translation, Maulana Muhammad Ali explained that the miracle of the Holy Quran cannot be solely explained in light of the elegance and purity of language. The uniqueness in form is indeed accompanied with uniqueness in impact. The Holy Quran has transformed the lives of millions of people. With the introduction of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Translation and Commentary of the Holy Quran, the transformation has reached and still has to reach the lives of many more people. The speakers of Arabic are in need today more than anytime else for the commentary of Maulana Muhammad Ali. They are in need of a book that stimulates thinking and revives spirituality, rather than a book that inspires fear or love.

I have done my best to keep all the features and the meaning of the text intact. And I hope the Arabic version motivates people to exert more effort to study Islam and reform the religious Islamic discourse.

Distribution of the German Holy Quran In Germany by the USA Jama'at

ALHAMDULILLAH! WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO INFORM YOU THAT 4,000 copies of Maulana Muhammad Ali's German translation and commentary of the Holy Quran have been distributed free to professors of religion and theology, university and public libraries in Germany.

This free distribution is part of the USA Jamaat's project to distribute free, Maulana Muhammad Ali's Quran translation and his encyclopedic work, *Religion of Islam*, to professors of religion and theology, and university and public libraries in all countries of the world in whose languages we have translated these books.

To date, by the Grace of Almighty Allah, the books have been distributed free in the

United States, South Africa, Australia, Russia and India. Arrangements are also being made for their free distribution in the UK, France and Italy.

Maulana Muhammad Ali's revised 1951 edition of the English Translation of the Holy Quran was translated into German by the USA Jamaat twenty years ago. It was recently revised to conform to the new German spelling rules, and advantage was taken at this time to make some minor revisions to further improve the translation. This new edition has been beautifully printed on Bible paper with gold edges. We contracted with a German shipping company to pack and ship the Holy Qurans.

We are very grateful to the Holland Stichting Jamaat and Mr. Shabbier Hoeseni for assistance in arranging for the distribution of these books.

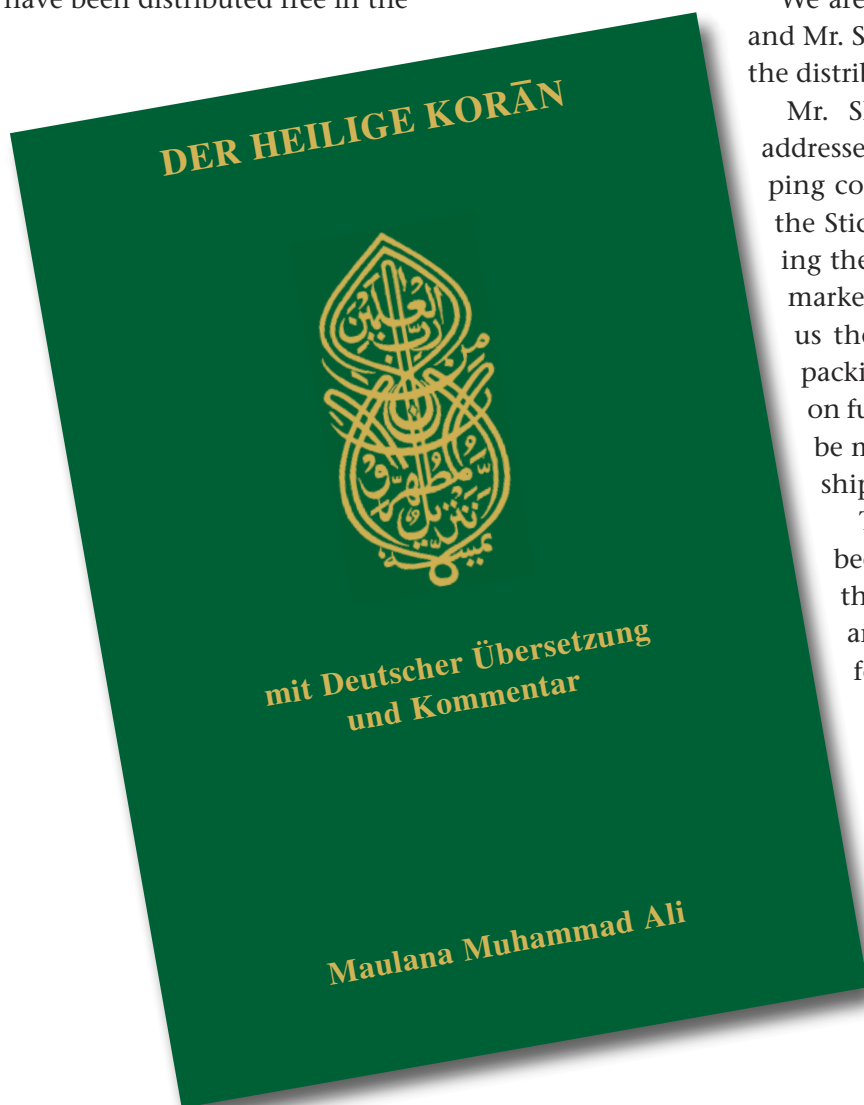
Mr. Shabbier Hoeseni helped us to obtain the addresses of professors and libraries and to find a shipping company, and Mr. Dost Mohamed, President of the Stichting Ahmadiyya Jamaat, facilitated us bringing the Quran shipment into the European common market. Mr. Dost Mohamed also very kindly offered us the facilities of the Stichting Jamaat center for packing and shipping the German Holy Quran, but on further investigation, it was decided that it would be more convenient and efficient to use a German shipping company.

The response from professors and librarians has been very heartening. They have expressed their thanks and admiration for the copies received, and some have also requested additional copies for their colleagues.

Dr. Noman Malik, board member of the USA Jamaat, has borne all expenses for printing and shipping the German Holy Quran as *sadaqa Jaariya* for his late parents Mr. Ijaz Malik and Mrs. Nasra Malik.

May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward all those who are participating in this great jihad.

Ameen!



Local Activities of the USA Jama'at

ALHAMDULILLAH, IN ADDITION TO ITS WORK INTERNATIONALLY, the USA Jama'at (which goes by the name of Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society) has been very active in various spheres domestically again this past year.

Church Presentations

For many years, members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society have been resource people for churches wanting to provide its members with the opportunity to learn about Islam. This past year, Fazeel was asked to speak on two occasions at the **First Community Church**. The first presentation was on *Spiritual Development in Islam* and the second was on *The True Portrait of Prophet Muhammad*. The speaking engagements included many thoughtful questions from church members resulting in fruitful discussions.

Fazeel was also requested to be the guest Muslim representative to a **Book Club** at a local church. The book being read was *God is not One* by Stephen Prothero. Fazeel responded to the chapter on Islam and answered questions from the book club members. Several points made by Prothero about Islam were commented on and clarified to attendees. It was a lively event, and the group was very pleased to have a Muslim challenge arguments made by Prothero and provide a perspective to balance the discussion on various topics related to Islam.

Interestingly, another opportunity has arisen to engage in discussions with members of a church, but this time through **Skype**. An individual who attended Fazeel's presentation on Islam at the Ohio State University Torch Club several years ago moved to Texas. He reached out to Fazeel and explained that members of his new church have a very critical view of Islam. He was being inundated with articles about Islam being a serious threat to Americans, and he was unable to respond to many of the arguments being made. Fazeel responded to questions posed via email, and these responses were forwarded to interested members of his church. This correspondence peaked the interest of church members, and they would now like to organize group Skype sessions with Fazeel so they engage in more fluid and direct discussions.

We are truly grateful for the gracious invitations we receive from churches that want to learn more about Islam and for the opportunity to develop friendly relations with our neighbors.

Multi-Faith Activities

Our members continue to be active participants in the **Horizon Prison Initiative**. As mentioned in previous issues, this organization focuses on providing programs for prisoners in central Ohio. In addition to providing educational programs – such as offering the opportunity to obtain academic certificates, learn computer skills, acquire conflict resolution skills, etc. – Horizon also caters to the spiritual needs of inmates. This holistic approach offers inmates opportunities to not only obtain practical skills assisting in their reintegration into society when released, but also to lead healthy lives with others and develop a positive attitude towards life. The program has been extremely successful, with the recidivism rate of participants dropping to about a quarter of that of the general inmate population. Dr. Mohammad Ahmad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad regularly attend correctional facilities and meet with Muslim inmates. They offer Islamic education and our Jama'at literature, and also are available for inmates to talk with and receive good advice. Fazeel is on the organization's board of directors and also provides an interactive class to inmates on Spiritual Development from an Islamic perspective. This class includes a lecture, a small group workshop and time for questions and answers.

Our members also regularly participate in the monthly **Spiritual Sharing Program** hosted by the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio, held at the main downtown library in Columbus, Ohio. Members of different faiths and traditions participate. The atmosphere is extremely cordial, with the purpose of promoting respect, tolerance, mutual learning and understanding. Topics ranging from respect for parents to the existence and attributes of God are discussed. Dr. Mohammad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad have been attending these meetings regularly for the past five years. Many attendees have benefited from our participation, gaining a much better understanding of the true teachings of Islam.



Fazeel with members of MSA at Otterbein University



MSA at Otterbein University event dinner

Muslim Student Association (MSA)

For the third consecutive year, Fazeel S. Khan was the keynote speaker for an annual event hosted by the **Muslim Students Association** (MSA) at Otterbein University. Two years ago the new MSA at Otterbein University was formed and its inaugural event focused on educating students and faculty on the five pillars of Islam. Last year, the event focused on the topic *Diversity in Islam*. This year, the theme was based on Interfaith relations, in particular the connection between Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The program included a keynote address by Fazeel, a presentation from a Professor of Religious Studies on Christianity, a panel discussion in which questions were fielded from the audience of over 85 students and faculty members, and a dinner in which middle-eastern food was served. The event was a wonderful opportunity to share information about Islam to others at the university and dispel common misunderstandings and unfounded stereotypes.

Engagement with American Muslims

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society also engages with other American Muslims in various ways. It regularly co-

sponsors events for the local chapter of the **Council on American Islamic Relations** (CAIR), the country's largest Muslim civil rights group, for a Ramadan *iftar* and an



Fazeel with Madam Secretary, Madeleine Albright



Fazeel with Congressman Keith Ellison

annual year-in-review event. We are also invited to events sponsored by the **Islamic Society of North America** (ISNA) and engage in discussions with its leadership about LAIS' beliefs (in contrast to those of the Qadian Jamaat) and its work here in America and abroad.

This past year, Fazeel was also invited to attend a **Congressional Leadership Conference** for American Muslims in Washington, DC. Approximately 15 other American Muslims were invited to this event, hosted by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Fazeel had the pleasure of dining with Madam Secretary, Madeleine Albright, and was able to speak with her about LAIS'



Fazeel with Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf

work. Fazeel was also able to speak with several current members of Congress about the importance of LAIS' work in contributing to dismantling the theology upon which many violent extremists base their cause.

Fazeel also had the pleasure of being invited to a dinner for **Imam Abdul Rauf** while he was visiting Columbus, Ohio. Imam Rauf is a well-known author on Islam and the West. He is a passionate activist for improving relations between western countries and the Muslim world. He follows a Sufi theology and advocates a spiritual and inspiring understanding of Islam in his writings and lectures. Imam Rauf was very pleased to meet Fazeel and learn of his connection with publishing Maulana Muhammad Ali's translation and commentary of the Holy Quran. He raved about Maulana Muhammad Ali's translation, and stated it was, in his opinion, the best translation of the Quran in the English language.

Friendly Discussions with Qadian Jamaat

As reported in previous issues of Basharaat-e-Ahmadiyya, the USA Jama'at's participation in the London Book Fair in 2013 led to developing friendly relationships with some members of the Qadian Jamaat who were also hosting a booth there. This provided us with the opportunity to have informative and civil discussions about the reasons for the split in the Movement and the beliefs held by Hazrat Mirza Sahib.

Later, we received correspondence from leading members of the Qadian Jamaat stating they would like to continue these discussions via email and title the set of correspondences *A Peaceful Talk*. Certainly, discussions between members of the two Jama'ats have been taking place on an informal basis for many years, especially since internet use has become so prevalent. However, what distinguishes these discussions from others, is that the members of the Qadian Jama'at engaged in this discussion have formal endorsement to do so from Mirza Masroor Ahmad Sahib (the khalifa of the Qadian Jamaat). In fact, Mirza Masroor Ahmad Sahib has advised participating members which topics to discuss. Fazeel S. Khan and Dr. Noman Malik have engaged in this discussion via email correspondence for over two years. Masha Allah, the discussions have resulted in understanding in various areas of common ground and clarified other issues, which we believe will serve as a valuable educational tool for all Ahmadis. The email correspondence has been compiled in an electronic file, available to anyone upon request. The real success through this process, though, is the illustration it provides of how such topics may be discussed in a respectful and considerate manner.

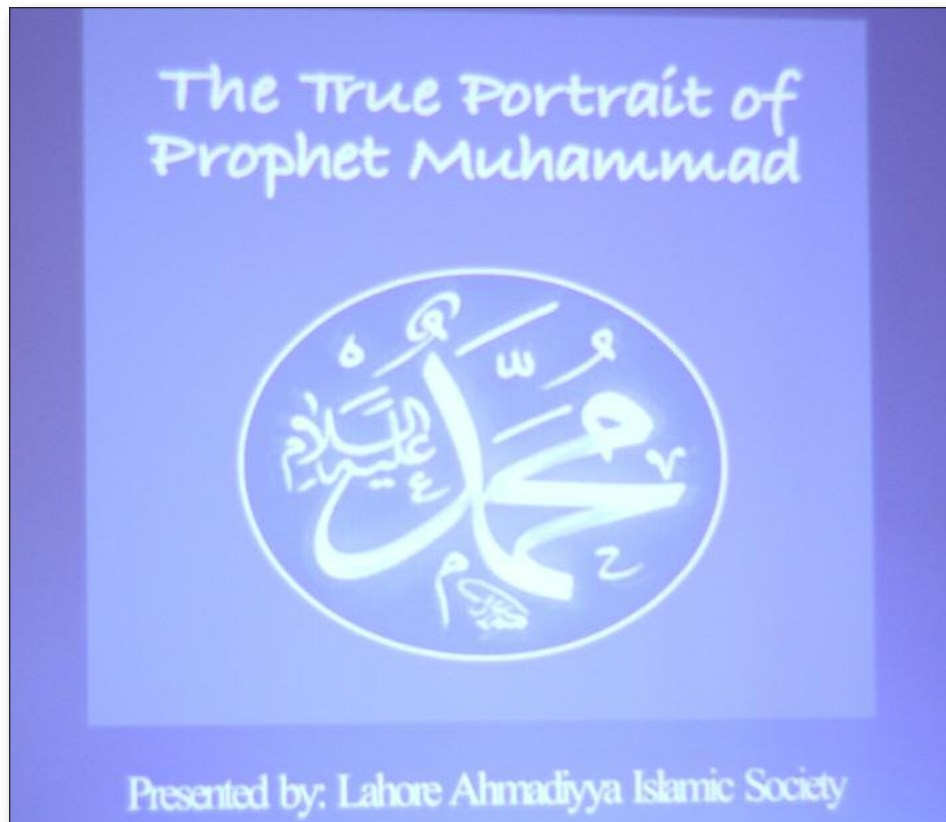
2015 Annual Convention of the USA Jama'at

THE LAHORE AHMADIYYA ISLAMIC SOCIETY (USA JAMAAT) HELD another very successful annual convention in Columbus, Ohio from August 14-16.

Prior to the convention Fazeel S. Khan prepared a beautiful invitation detailing the symposium's topic and its importance in these times.

The convention was attended by members and guests from the USA, Nigeria, Canada and Australia.

The convention theme was the *True portrait of the Holy Prophet Muhammad*. This theme was chosen to remove the widespread misconception about the life and character of the Holy Prophet, that he and the religion he founded were violent and sensual. The objective of the theme was to show how the Holy Prophet, through his highly moral and spiritual character and the teaching of the Holy Quran, transformed a whole nation steeped in immorality and sin into a pure and just society. It was hoped that people would be



inspired and encouraged to study the life of the Holy Prophet and to seek, in his preaching and actions, a solu-

tion to the wars and violence plaguing the world in our modern times.

The convention began with the



Convention audience.



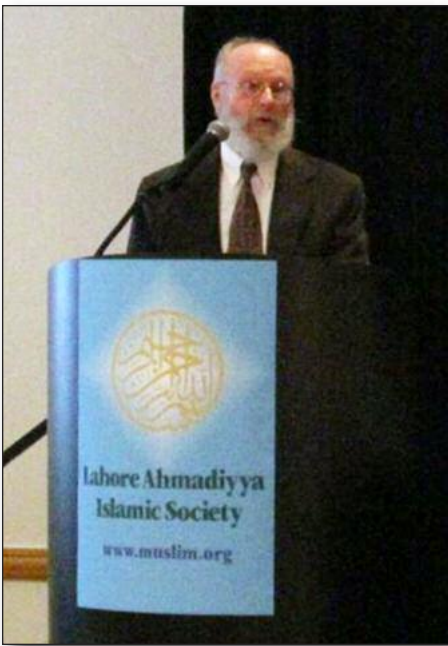
Fazeel S. Khan Esq. delivering the lecture.



Dr. Noman Malik delivering the lecture.



Sadr-ud-din Sahukhan delivering the lecture.



Professor Michael Birkel delivering a "Message of Understanding".

Jumma Prayers in which Mr. Dean Sadr-ud-din Sahukhan delivered an inspiring khutba. In the Friday evening session, inspiring and educational speeches were delivered by members and guests.

Main symposium

The main symposium, *True Portrait of the Prophet Muhammad* was held on Saturday August 15. The symposium program is reproduced on page 17.

The guests and members thoroughly enjoyed the lectures, and many expressed their thanks directly to Fazeel.

The session of speeches continued on Saturday evening after a delicious



Dr. Mohammad Ahmad delivering the lecture.



Convention audience.



Aafia Ahmad.



Alishba Sahukhan.



Malaika Sahukhan.

dinner. The day ended with combined Isha and Maghrib prayers in which thanks were offered to Almighty Allah for a very successful symposium.

Children and Youth Program

The activities of the last day of the convention, began with the children and youth program conducted by Zainib Ahmad and Ayesha Sahukhan. As always, the audience greatly enjoyed the program and were very impressed by the enthusiasm and knowledge displayed by the children.



Laila Dillard



Samina Malik makes an appeal for funds.

Appeal for funds

The children and youth program was followed by the fund raising session conducted by Samina Malik. She made a stirring appeal for funds to accomplish the all-important mission of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement to carry the peaceful and caring message of Islam to all the

nations in the world. The members responded generously. Approximately \$120,000 were raised in a short time. Alhamdulillah!

The convention ended with a picnic in a local park.

Members are encouraged to attend these annual conventions

with their families. The spiritual benefits of mingling and praying together with people dedicated to the service of Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement has a profound effect on one's own commitment to Islam and the Movement, increasing and deepening one's commitment to the faith.



The True Portrait of Prophet Muhammad

Presented by Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society

Saturday, August 15, 2015

- 10:00 am: **Welcome / Quran Recitation**
- 10:10 am: **Muhammad, the Final Prophet** – *An introduction to Prophet Muhammad from a Muslim perspective, and a review of how others viewed him through the ages.* FAZEEL S. KHAN, ESQ.
- 10:30 am: **A Message of Understanding** – *A talk on the need for mutual respect and understanding in interfaith relations.* PROF. MICHAEL BIRKEL
- 10:45 am: **Keynote Address: The Life of Prophet Muhammad** – *A narrative of Prophet Muhammad's life, and a response to common criticisms made against him.* DR. NOMAN MALIK
- 12:00 pm: **Lunch** – *Provided, catered by Embassy Suites*
- 1:00 pm: **Youth Presentations** – *Short presentations by Muslim youth comprising anecdotes from the life of Prophet Muhammad.*
- 1:10 pm: **Freedom of Opinion in Islam** – *A discussion on the concept of freedom of opinion in Islam and the lessons taught by Prophet Muhammad on how to respond to abuse and ridicule.* SADAR-UD-DEAN SAHUKHAN, ESQ.
- 1:35 pm: **Question/Answer Session and Panel Discussion** – *An opportunity for attendees to ask questions and initiate topics for discussion.*
- 2:10 pm: **The Significance of "Ahmadiyya"** – *Closing remarks on the significance of the name "Ahmadiyya" as a call to restore the true character of Prophet Muhammad.* DR. MOHAMMED AHMAD

And we have not sent thee (O Muhammad) but as a mercy to the nations
Holy Quran 21:107

Certainly you have in the Messenger of God an excellent exemplar
Holy Quran, 33:21

And surely thou (O Muhammad) hast sublime morals
Holy Quran, 68:4

Parliament of World Religions Convention

October 15-19, 2015 — Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

By Samina Malik

THE LAHORE AHMADIYYA ISLAMIC SOCIETY (USA JAMAAT) participated in the convention of *The Parliament of the World's Religions* held in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA from October 15-19 2015. Fazeel, Noman and I attended the event.

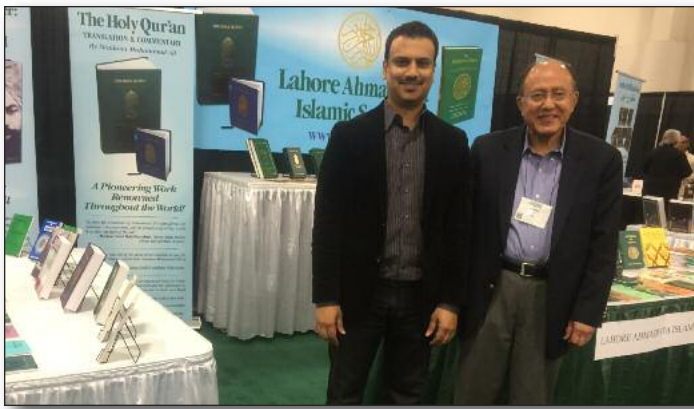
The Parliament of World Religions is a well-known and influential interfaith organization, the origins of which can be traced to a meeting held in Chicago in 1893 under the name of the *World's Parliament of Religions*. The goal of that initial meeting was to promote interfaith understanding. At that meeting, Islam was represented by

Russell Webb, an American convert and the former Ambassador to the Philippines. Mr. Webb had converted to Islam after corresponding with Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.

A hundred years later another conference celebrating the centenary of the founding of the organization was held in Chicago in 1993. The name of the organization was changed to *The Parliament of the World's Religions*. The Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore USA participated in that convention by exhibiting its literature at a display booth.



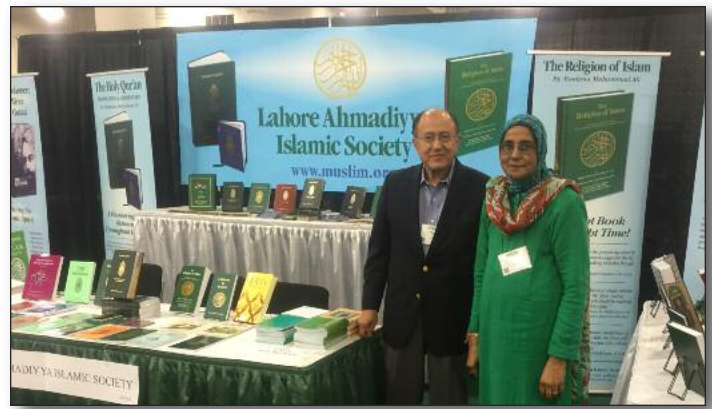
Outside the Convention Center.



Fazeel S. Khan and Dr. Noman Malik setting up the booth.

At the current interfaith convention in Salt Lake City, we knew people would be seeking information about different faiths. We required a double booth to accommodate all our English and translated literature.

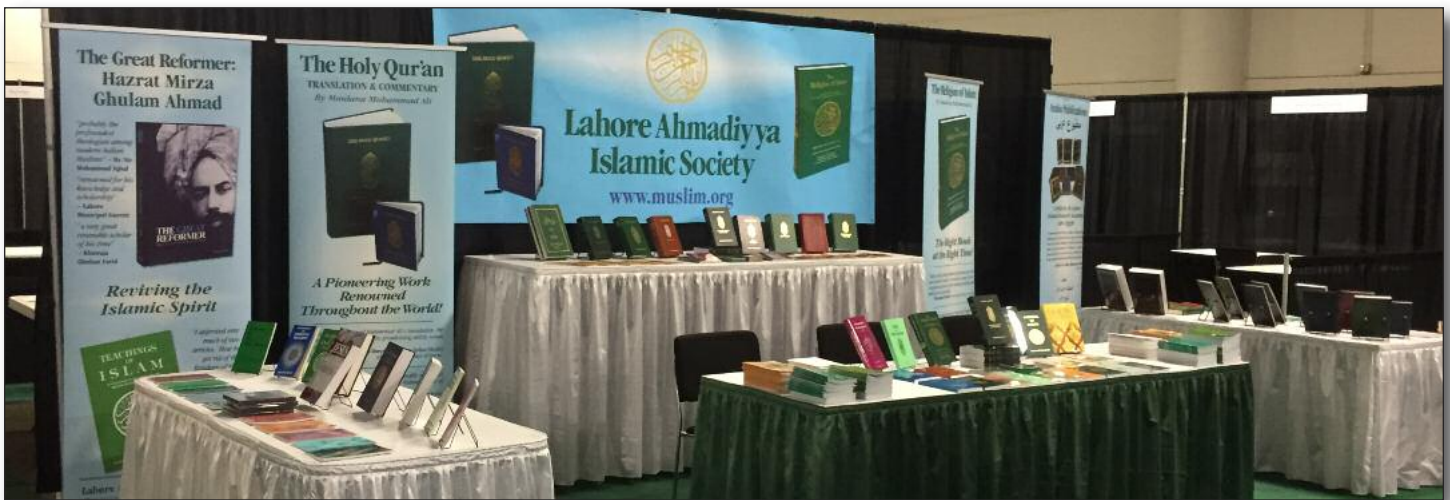
By the Grace of Almighty Allah, over 1,000 copies of our booklets, *Islam the Religion of Humanity*, *The Prophet*



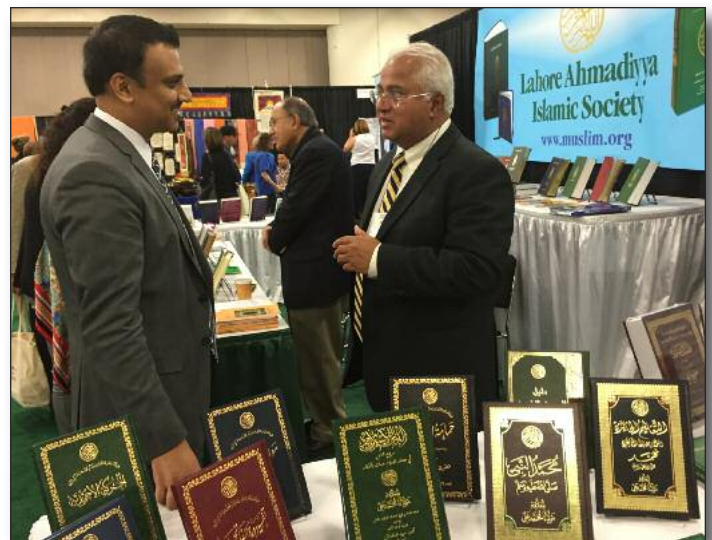
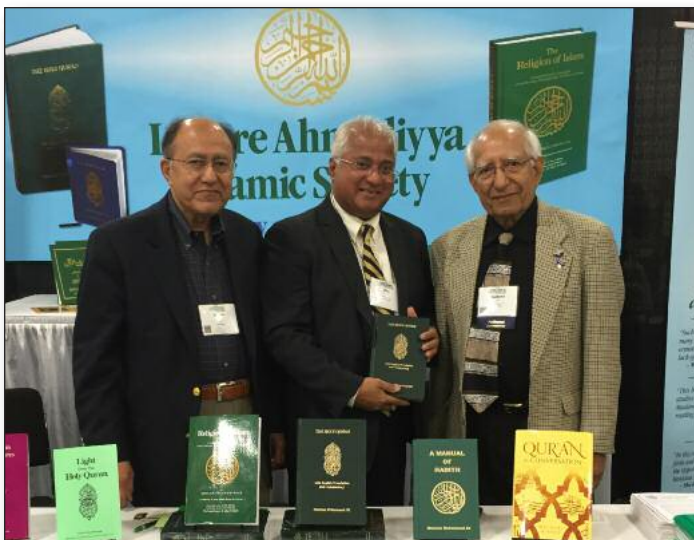
Dr. Noman Malik and Sr. Samina Malik setting up the booth.

of Islam, *Message of Peace* and *The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement* were distributed.

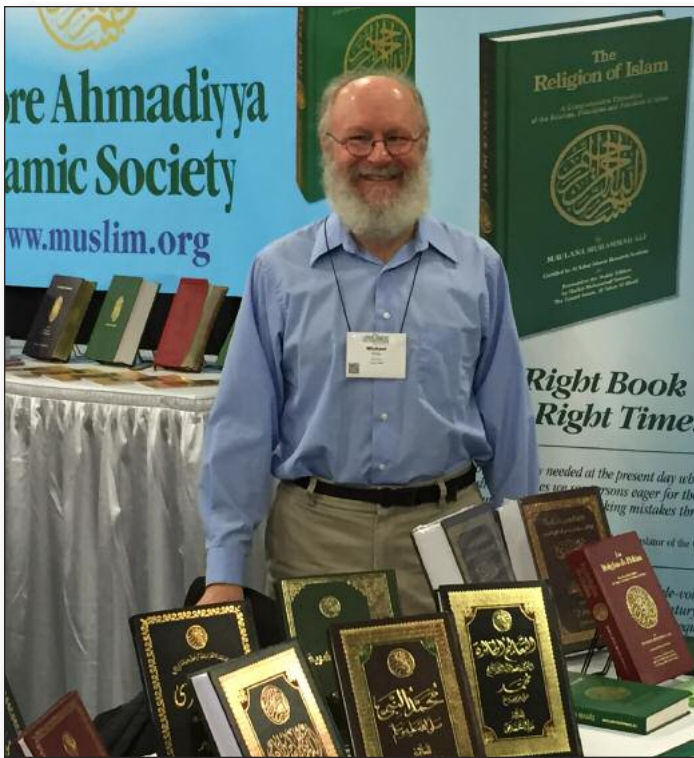
We also took hundreds of copies of *The Holy Quran* and the *Religion of Islam* for free distribution. Towards the end of the conference all the books were completely distributed. We enjoyed frequent opportunities to discuss Islam



Double booth in central area of convention hall.



Mike Ghouse (Muslim interfaith leader) visiting our booth; at left with Dr. Noman Malik and at right, speaking with Fazeel.



Prof. Michael Birkel visiting our booth.



Buddhists interested in Hazrat Mirza Sahib's biography.



Fazeel and Samina speaking with Senior U.S. Foreign Service Officer (also former Public Affairs Counsellor at American Embassy of Pakistan) about Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement.



Noman and Fazeel discussing our literature with attendees.

and the Ahmadiyya Movement with people of different faiths who visited our booth.

Fazeel also attended many of the lectures and was able to present a set of the books, *The Holy Quran* translation and *The Religion of Islam* to lecturers, and inform them about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and the work we are doing in promoting a tolerant and peaceful Islam.

The importance of large interfaith gatherings such as this in promoting peace and harmony among all people cannot be overstated.

The attending Sikh organization gave a practical example of generosity and charity at the event by providing free lunch for convention attendees. Almost 5,000 people were fed daily. May Allah Taala reward them for this act of hospitality and generosity.

We thank Almighty Allah for the opportunity He afforded us at this convention to present the tolerant and compassionate teachings of Islam to help achieve the common goal of world peace.



Fazeel with attendees from South Africa.

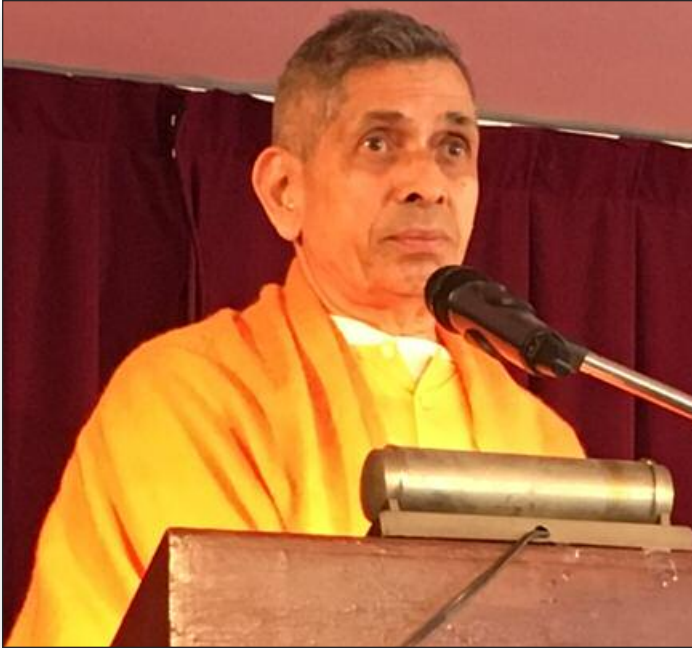


Our Quran translation/commentary displayed at interfaith scripture table.

Inter-religious Conference

Report on Conference in Paris, France on “What Can We Do For Mankind”

By Noman Malik



Swami Ji Veetamohananda.

SAMINA AND I TOOK PART IN AN INTERFAITH CONFERENCE HELD in Paris July 1 - 3, 2016.

The event, hosted by the Centre Vedantique Ramakrishna took place at its beautiful campus located in the outskirts of Paris. The theme of the conference was “*What Can We Do For Mankind*”.

Samina and I have known the head of the center, Swami Ji Veetamohananda for several years, and have previously attended interfaith conferences at the centre. We have been acutely impressed by Swamiji’s sincerity, humility and dedication to interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance.

About 150 people attended the conference. Participants included Christians of various denominations, Muslims, Jews, Buddhist monks and nuns from France, Austria, Germany, UK and USA.

All the speakers gave very informative and inspiring lectures. The conference participants were truly pleased to hear Samina on both days. Samina’s lecture on *Signif-*



Center for the Vedantique Ramakrishna, France.



Noman Malik addressing the audience.

icance of Fasting in Islam was especially appreciated as it was new to many people. She also illuminated the problems in the world today and how we could help to stop acts of violence. In addition, we translated Samina's lecture into French and distributed copies among the audience.

We had made arrangements through Brother Daoud Boussin of the French Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat to ship 500 French booklets of *Islam the Religion of Humanity*, *The Prophet of Islam* and *Message of Peace* for free distribution

at the conference. The USA Jamaat has printed and stocked most of our French titles with Brother Daoud in Brittany, France. The entire stock of booklets were distributed among conference participants who expressed their thanks for the informative literature.

The center has guest rooms to accommodate about 100 people and a large conference hall. Inshallah, the USA Jamaat will be holding a conference in the center on the Holy Prophet Muhammad with the theme: ***True Portrait of the Holy Prophet Muhammad.***



Samina addressing the audience on the first day.



Sheikha Nur addressing the audience.



Conference audience.



Samina addressing the audience on the second day.



Samina with Sheikha Nur and staff.



Samina and Noman interview for the radio programme.

Brother A.S. Hoeseni and Brother Nur Sardar of the Stichting Jamaat have also attended interfaith conferences at the center with us.

Brother Daoud was in Paris that weekend to attend a conference of the Ministry of Interior and French Islamic Committee. He had been invited as a Muslim representative of the Brittany area to talk about the situation of Islam in France. He very graciously took time off to come and meet us for a few hours on Sunday at the Interfaith Conference.



Audience at the conference.



Conference participants (with speakers shown in oval insets).



Iftar food.

provide us the facilities for packing and shipping the books, but he had also offered to help us in preparing the packages for shipping.

We thank Almighty Allah for people such as Swamiji who open their hearts to invite people of different religions to propagate what is good for mankind from their center. May Allah Taala reward him for his good deeds.



Samina with the conference speaker.

The program of the Conference is given below:

Conference Theme:
WHAT CAN WE DO FOR THE WORLD

FRIDAY JULY 2, 2016

16:30 Welcome of participants

19:30 Dinner

20:30 Meditative chants for peace and harmony with
Swami Veetamohananda

22:00 Iftar Dinner and Prayer for Muslims

SATURDAY JULY 2, 2016

6:00 Vedantic Meditation

7:00 Protestant Worship

8:00 Breakfast

9:15 Opening - Presentation - Swami Veetamonhanada

9:30-10:15 First Panel discussion on the subject:

Which spiritual or religious practices are important?

First Panel:

Pere Pierre-Fancois Bethune, Sour Marrie Pinlou, Frere Benoit Billot, Sour Changiac Nghiem, Pasteur Frederic Fournier, Sheikha Nur Artiran

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:45 Second Panel on the subject above

Dr. Noman Malik, Venerable Gonsar Tulku Rinpotche, Rabbin Gabriel Haggai, Sour Marrie Pinlou, Pere Pierre-Fancois Bethune, Frere Benoit Billot, Swami Veetamonhanada

12:00-14:00 Lunch

What can we do for the world today?

14:00-14:45 Speech by Sheikha Nur Artiran

15:00 Second Panel discussion subject:

How do we Apply these Religious practices in daily Life

Discussion by Panel One

Sour Marrie Pinlou, Pere Pierre-Fancois Bethune, Frere Benoit Billot, Chan Giac Nghiem, Pasteur Frederic Fournier, Venerable Gonsar Tulku Rinpotche, Sheikha Nur Artiran

16:30 Break

Discussion by Panel Two

16:30-17:15

Samina Malik, Rabbin Gabriel Haggai, Sour Marrie Pinlou, Pere Pierre-Fancois Bethune, Frere Benoit Billot, Swami Veetamonhanada.

17:30-18:15 Speech by Venerable Gonsar Tulku Rinpotche

19:30 Dinner

22:00 Iftar Dinner and Prayers for Muslims



Samina with Daoud Boussin and Noorhani's children.



Daoud, Noorhani and children at the conference.

SUNDAY JULY 3, 2016

6:00 Vedantic Meditation
7:00 Protestant Service
8:00 Breakfast
9:30-10:15 Speech by Pere Pierre-Fancois Bethune
10:30-12:00 Ritual Swami Veetamonhanada
12:00 Lunch Break
14:00-14:45 Speech by Mrs Samina Malik *Significance of Fasting*
15:00 First Panel discussion: Subject *Man and Nature*
 Pere Christian Delorme, Soeur Chan Giac Nighiem,
 Sheikha Nur Artiran, Pastour Frederic Fournier, Dr.
 Noman Malik
16:30-17:15 Second Panel Discussion
 Venerable Gonsar Tulku Rinpotche, Rabbin Gabriel
 Haggai, Pere Michel Saulnier, Swami Veetamonhanada
17:30-18:15 Pere Christian Delorme
18:30 Dinner
22:00 Dinner and Prayer for Muslims.

MONDAY JULY 4, 2016

6:00 Vedantic Meditation
7:00 Eucharistic Celebration
8:00 Breakfast
9:30-10:15 Conference of Father Pierre-François Bethune
10:15 Break
10:30 Vedic Ritual: Homa fire with Swami
 Veetamonhanada
12:00 Lunch
14:00-14:45 Conference: *What can we do for the world today?*
 Dr. Noman & Samina Malik (with translation)
15:00 Session with all stakeholders on the theme: *Man and Nature*
15:00-16:00 Part 1
16:00 Break – Tea
16:30-17:15 Part 2
17:30-18:15 Father Christian Delorme Conference
18:15 Common Prayer
18:30 End

Visit to India

By Samina Malik

IN MARCH 2016, NOMAN AND I FLEW TO DELHI, INDIA IN CONNECTION with the printing, multimedia and translation projects which we were planning to undertake in the coming year.

In Delhi, we met with Gowsia Saleem, the daughter of Mr. Bashaarat Saleem of the Jammu Jamaat. Gowsia is a dedicated and sincere young Ahmadi currently completing her University studies in Delhi. She is a very intelligent and capable young woman, eager to help spread the correct peaceful and tolerant message of Islam as propounded by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. We hope, inshallah, to work closely with her in our propagation efforts in India.

Mr. Abdul Hafeez, Mr. Bashaarat Saleem and other members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat in Jammu are committed to the mission of the Jamaat to spread the true peaceful and tolerant teachings of Islam in India. To help them in this noble venture, the USA Jamaat is sending them 1500 copies of our free literature, *Islam the Religion of Humanity*, *The Prophet of Islam* and the *Message of Peace*, 500 *Bayan-ul-Quran* and 200 English Holy Quran.

While we were in Delhi, we came across a newspaper article about a well-known Muslim women's rights advocate fighting for the rights accorded to Muslim women in Islam—especially in divorce cases. I found out that she lived in Lucknow and managed to contact her by phone. I informed her about our Islamic propagation work in India and offered to help her by supplying her

with literature about Islam. She was very interested in our work, and invited us to visit her in Lucknow.

The next morning we flew to Lucknow and met with both her and her husband. We had dinner at their house, and during our discussions, we agreed to supply her with *Bayan-ul-Quran*, The Urdu translation of the Holy Quran, and the booklets *Islam the Religion of Humanity*, the *Prophet of Islam*, and *Message of Peace* for free distribution. Inshallah, we will keep in contact with her to help her in her efforts to obtain justice for Muslim women in India.

The next morning we flew to Chennai and met with the team in the software company which was in charge of designing the app for the English holy Quran. We spent sev-

eral days with them reviewing the progress of the work, and making sure that the Arabic text of the holy Quran was properly inserted. Al-hamdulillah! The work is now complete.

As we had used a new computer generated typeset of the holy Quran Arabic text, we decided to have it reviewed by competent scholars at Al-Azhar Al-Sharif in Egypt for accuracy. As soon as the text is approved, the app will be ready for distribution.

We thank Almighty Allah for the many opportunities He has provided us to further the cause of Islam in India, and pray for continuing advancements in this most important region.

Projects are waiting.

Waiting for you.

Make a contribution to the great peaceful Jihad today.

Help bring the message of Islam and the Holy Prophet Muhammad to every corner of the World.

Donations may be sent to AAIIIL USA
P.O.Box 3370, Dublin, Ohio, 43016 USA..

aaail@aol.com

Work in Egypt

By Samina Malik

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR WE HAVE MADE SEVERAL trips to Cairo regarding our translation and publication projects, and we have held two conferences in Cairo, one on the Holy Prophet Muhammad and the other on Hazrat Ayesha.

Cairo Conference, January 9: The True Portrait of the Prophet

In January 2016, Dr. Ahmad, Lubna Ahmad, Fazeel S. Khan, Noman and I held a conference on the Holy Prophet Muhammad entitled *The True Portrait of the Prophet Muhammad*. Details of the event which have been reported in Bashaaraat-e-Ahmadiyya can be accessed at www.muslim.org

Cairo Conference, April: Marriage Age of Hazrat Ayesha

In April 2016, Noman and I flew to Cairo where Noman was scheduled to deliver a lecture on the marriage age of Hazrat Ayesha. Sheikh Ala had requested Noman deliver this lecture in a meeting of the Sufi Sheikhs. The lecture was held at the conference hall in Sheikh Ala's center.

We had made arrangements to have the speech translated simultaneously into Arabic for those people who could not understand English. The lecture notes and the Power Point slides were also translated into Arabic and distributed among the audience.

In his speech, Noman proved, on the basis of the Holy Quran and the Hadith, that Hazrat Ayesha had reached the age of majority at the time of her marriage to the Holy

Prophet. The lecture was very well received by the audience.

Translation and Printing Projects:

Our translation and publication projects are doing very well by the Grace of Almighty Allah.

The Arabic translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali's footnotes from his English Translation and Commentary of the Holy Quran was published as two volumes in August this year. Please see page 5 for details of this important event.

More than 30,000 copies of books in Arabic authored by Maulana Muhammad Ali and Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad were printed and distributed in Egypt last year by the USA Jama'at.

The Arabic translations of two

other important works have also been published this year. These are *The Ideal Prophet* by Khwaja Kamal-ud-din and *Muhammad in World Scriptures* by Maulana Abdul Haq Vidhyarthi. With the addition of these two books, we have now published 18 titles, authored mainly by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and Maulana Muhammad Ali, in Arabic.

The Arabic text for the app for the English Holy Quran is now in the final phases of checking by Qaris in Al-Azhar, and as soon as that checking is completed and the text is approved, we will insert it in the app — which will then be ready for distribution.

We thank Almighty Allah for the opportunities He has provided us for serving Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement in Egypt.



Dr. Noman Malik with Sheikh Alaa and Sheikh Bastiwiisy.

Work in Philippines, Singapore and Thailand

By Samina Malik

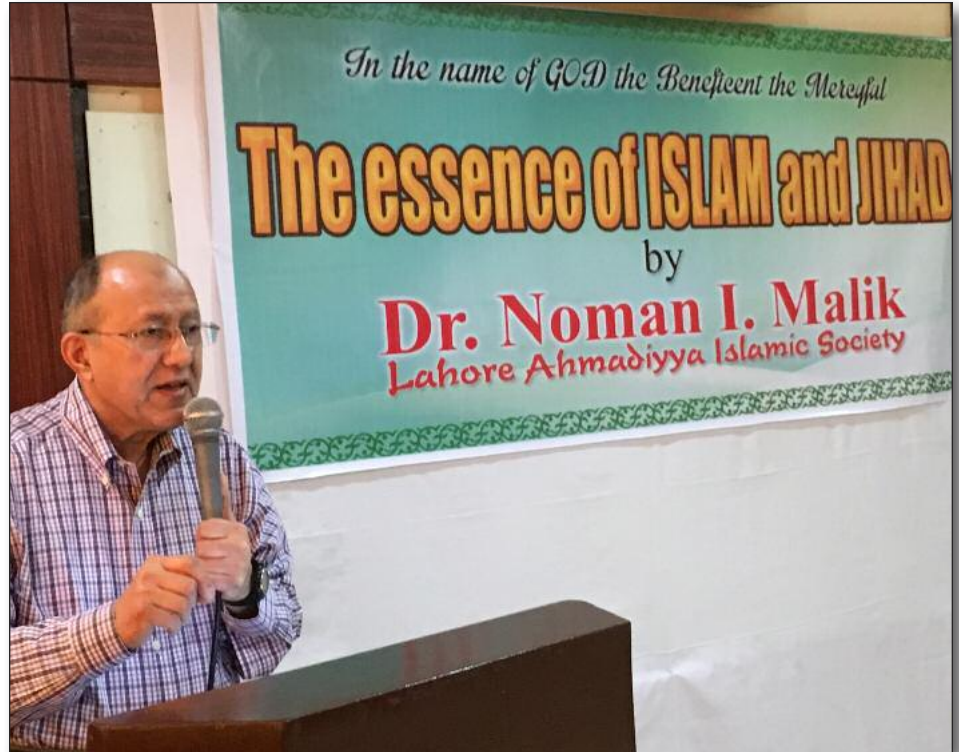
NOMAN AND I VISITED THE LAHORE AHMADIYYA ISLAMIC SOCIETY Center in Cagayan de Oro, Philippines from March 11-20, 2016. By the Grace of Almighty Allah, the Jama'at is doing well.

Sister Nena Mendoza is doing an excellent job of managing the Anjuman's affairs, and Brother Jafar and his family who stay at the center take good care of the facility.

Educational activities at the Center include regular Sunday classes in which Noman gives a weekly dars of the Holy Quran and lectures on Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement, via skype.

It was our pleasure to meet members of the Movement in Cagayan de Oro.

We visited the Center in the evenings daily, performing our Maghrib and Isha prayers with the members, and holding informal discussions with them about Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement. In one of these sessions, Noman explained Islam to a group of engineering college students who had come for a



Dr. Noman Malik addressing the audience at the conference in Cagayan de Oro.

group study session with Brother Jafar.

True Concept of Jihad in Islam Conference

Sister Nena organized a conference on Saturday March 14, which was attended by about 60 people, a

mix of Muslims and Christians including students from the Engineering College invited by Brother Jafar.

The program began with a Quran recitation by Brother Jafar. Sister Nena, who was conducting the conference, introduced the speakers and



Sister Nena Mendosa welcoming guests to the Cagayan conference.



Brother Jaffar reciting from the Holy Quran.



Mrs. Samina Malik addressing the audience.



Audience and participants at the Cagayan conference.



Brother Jaffar's children, youngest Lahore Ahmadies.



Our books displayed at the Lahore Ahmadiyya Library in Cagayan de Oro.



Samina and Neena in the Lahore Ahmadiyya Mosque, Philippines.



Noman giving Jumma sermon at the Cagayan Philippine Center.

gave a brief account of the Center's activities. Noman, who was the main speaker, spoke about the true concept of Jihad in Islam, and I gave an account of our latest work in Egypt and other places and our progress in the translation and publication fields. The lectures were followed by a question and answer session in which students participated enthusiastically and expressed their appreciation for Noman's answers.

Vist to Cebu

The day after the conference we flew to Cebu, where Professor Espiritu had arranged for Noman and I to deliver lectures to two groups of his students, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The topic



Sister Samina with Ladies of the Lahore Ahmadiyya in Philippines.



Prof. Henry Gaffar Espiritu and Noman at the University.



Above, and below: Noman giving the lecture to the university students in Cebu.



of Noman's lecture to both groups was *Islam and World Peace*. In the second session, I also addressed the students. I spoke about the work we were doing world-wide in propagat-

ing the correct peaceful and tolerant interpretation of Islam. The second lecture was also attended by a visiting professor from Canada who expressed his appreciation for the

work we are doing.

We also met with Professor Madrelina who is translating Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Translation and Commentary into



Noman and Samina with Prof. Espiritu and his students.



Sister Samina addressing the students.

Bisayan. By the Grace of Almighty Allah more than half of the translation has been completed.

Alhamdulillah! The translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Translation and Commentary into Tagalog by Professor Rene Oliver is now complete. After proofreading the translation, inshallah, we will print it. The translation work has been funded by Fazeel S Khan Esq. and Dr. Ayesha Khan. May Almighty Allah bless and reward them.

Singapore

From the Philippines we flew to Singapore, where we met with typesetters to review final proofs of the Chinese Holy Quran translation. We also discussed the possibility of putting the translation into E-book and mobile app formats. Dr. Mohammad Ahmad and Sister Lubna Ahmad have provided funds for the transla-

tion of the Chinese Holy Quran. May Almighty Allah reward and bless them funds for the translation of the the Chinese Holy Quran and App.

Thailand

From Singapore we flew to Thailand. We met with the professors doing our translation work and discussed the project of our books being translated into the Thai language. We also discussed ways in which we could distribute the books which have been translated into Thai.

We are grateful to Almighty Allah for giving us the opportunity to further the spread of Islam in South East Asia.

News from Kyrgyzstan

By Samina Malik

NOMAN AND I VISITED KYRGYZSTAN IN April 2015 and met with Mr. Tursun Bey and his wife, who was ill at that time. Although she was not feeling well, she still came out to have dinner with us.

Mr. Tursun Bey does much to improve the condition of poor and disadvantaged in Kyrgyzstan. He is particularly concerned about the welfare of orphans. On my previous visits to Kyrgyzstan, I accompanied him several times to distribute food to needy families and to visit women prisoners in the Bishkek prisons.

Mr. Tursun Bey was also very helpful in distributing the Russian Holy Quran we sent to Kyrgyzstan. Inshal-

lah we hope to co-operate with him to promote a peaceful and tolerant Islam in Kyrgyzstan, and will be sending him another shipment of the Russian Holy Quran for free distribution in the near future.

Mr. Tursun Bey Bakir Uulu of Kyrgyzstan visits Columbus Ohio in July 2015

Mr. Tursun Bey, and his daughter Takhmina visited us in Columbus in July 2015 and spent several days at our home as our guests.

Mr. Tursun Bey had been visiting Washington DC as a member of a parliamentary delegation. He is the member of the Kyrgyzstan parlia-

ment and leader of the Moderate Muslim Party of Free Kyrgyzstan. He is co-chair of the Muslim Union of Kyrgyzstan and former Kyrgyz Ambassador to Malaysia. He was the first Ombudsman in Kyrgyzstan from 2002- 2008, and leader of the Kyrgyz opposition from 1991-2011.

Before returning to Kyrgyzstan from Washington DC, he made a special trip to visit us. He was accompanied by his charming daughter Takhmina who was doing an internship in political science in Washington, DC. I have known Mr. Tursun Bey and his daughter for the past 12 years.

We enjoyed their company



Noman and Samina having a dinner meeting with Mr. Tursun Bey and his contacts.

immensely. It was the month of Ramadan and we had many interesting and detailed conversations with him about the need for spreading the correct peaceful Islam in the world.

During his stay in Columbus, Dr Ahmad, Noman and I took Mr. Tursun Bey and Takhmina to see the

Toledo Mosque.

Fazeel arranged for Mr Tursun Bey to meet representatives of the local chapter of CAIR (Council of American Islamic Relations). Mr. Tursun Bey was very impressed by the work which CAIR was doing in Ohio.

Mr. Tursun Bey also addressed the congregation at Noor Masjid, a

major Islamic Center in Columbus. This visit was also arranged by Fazeel.

He also visited the Niagara Foundation, a Turkish Organization in Columbus. After his four day stay in Columbus, Mr. Tursun Bey and Takhmia left Columbus for Washington DC on their way back to Kyrgyzstan.



Mr. Tursun Bey, Noman and Samina visit the Toledo Mosque.

Demise of Mrs. Tursun Bey Bakir Uulu April 2016

It is with a heavy heart we report of the demise of Mrs. Tursun Bey, the wife of Mr. Tursun Bey Bakir Uulu. She passed away in April 2016 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan after a long bout with cancer. *Inna Lillahi wa inna ilaihi Raajioon.* We pray to Almighty Allah to Grant her paradise and Grant *Sabr* to her family to bear this great loss. She was 50 years old and leaves behind three children. I had met her several times on my visits to Kyrgyzstan and had always been impressed by her friendly and gracious personality.