

Basharaat-E-Ahmadiyya

An International News Magazine of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam (Lahore) USA
P.O. Box 3370, Dublin, Ohio 43016 U.S.A.
Phone 614-873-1030 • Fax: 614-873-1022
Email: aaiil@aol.com • Website: www.muslim.org

Vol. 2017-1

October 2017

Special Edition Visit to Ghana



Dr. Noman Malik at the Police Mosque, Accra, Ghana with Shaibu

Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in Ghana

Dr. Noman Malik

THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE USA JAMAAT REPRESENTATIVES' trip to Ghana were very interesting. We were initially contacted by Ghanaians living in the US who became aware that there are two distinct "Ahmadiyya" groups. One of them arranged for me to be interviewed on a Ghanaian radio program based in the US but broadcast live in Ghana and 17 other countries in which there are significant populations of Ghanaians. I discussed the issue of Hazrat Mirza Sahib's status and his denials of any claim to prophethood. The interview was very well received in Ghana and we were then invited to personally meet leaders of the Qadian Jamaat in Ghana and present our views.

Initially, the plan was for Samina and I to travel to Accra, Ghana during the month of Ramadan. However, we postponed our trip to accommodate attending an important interfaith conference in Paris in which we were asked to be representatives of the Islamic faith. This postponement turned out to be a real blessing. During the intervening time, we received an email from a person from Ghana named Dr. Wemah. Dr. Wemah wanted to purchase 50 copies of the deluxe leather version of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Translation and Commentary of the Holy Quran. Samina then corresponded with him by phone and, in the course of their conversation, told him about our plans to visit Ghana.

Dr. Wemah, who is extremely well-read, explained to Samina that he purchased the e-book version of our English Holy Quran and was so impressed by the scholarship and spirituality evident in it that he decided to purchase 50 deluxe copies to distribute among family and friends. When he learned of our planned trip, he was thrilled. He said it would be an excellent opportunity to meet with important religious figures in the country and he offered to help facilitate such meetings. He also wanted to help us put on an event about Maulana Muhammad Ali's Quran Translation and Commentary. It was then decided that it would be ideal to hold a conference replicating the USA Jamaat's symposium from this past August titled *Reviving the True Spirit of the Islamic Faith* in which we commemorated the centenary anniversary of the first publication Maulana Muhammad Ali's English translation of the Holy Quran. We were very moved and impressed by Dr. Wemah's enthusiasm and commitment, and gladly accepted his offer. Samina then

arranged for 2,000 copies of our literature including 700 copies of the English Translation and Commentary of the Holy Quran to be shipped to Accra, Ghana for September.

Dr. Wemah is a retired Veterinary Surgeon, has held important positions in the Veterinary and Agriculture fields, and has also served as Chancellor at one of the leading universities in Ghana. He is a member of the Qadian Section of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat and his father was one of its founding members in Ghana.

Arrival in Accra, Ghana

WE finalized our plans and flew to Accra, Ghana on September 14. We were received at the airport by Dr. Wemah's son (Rashid Wemah) and Sheikh Arimeyawo who is a very popular Sheikh in Ghana. He previously worked in the education field and frequently appears on TV programs to discuss religious issues. He is particularly well-known for being active in the interfaith community. Dr. Wemah asked him to help set up appointments, which he did wonderfully. It was only through his extensive contacts and organizational skills that all of our meetings were possible, and we are extremely grateful for that. May Almighty Allah reward him immensely.



Sheikh Arimeyawo meeting with Noman and Samina at the hotel.



(L to R): Rasheed Wemah, Samina Malik, Dr. Wemah, Noman Malik and Sheikh Arimeyawo discussing the program for the next five days.

Directly from the airport we met with Dr. Wemah at our hotel. There, we discussed the detailed itinerary for our visit.

Meeting with the President of the Islamic University

The next day, Samina and I, accompanied by Dr. Wemah, Sheikh Arimeyawo and Shaibu (Sheikh Arimeyawo's assistant), went to the Islamic University in Ghana for the first in a series of meetings arranged for us by Sheikh Arimeyawo. The Islamic University in Ghana, established in 1988, is the first and only Islamic University in Ghana. The University has a large campus with several modern buildings. We were received by Professor Hussein Ibrahim, Head of the Islamic Studies Program, who took us to the Office of the President of the University.



Hussein Ibrahim with Noman and Samina Malik outside the entrance to the Islamic University College, Ghana.

The President of the University, Dr. Mohsen Maarefi, is originally from Iran, and is an eminently qualified Islamic scholar with an enlightened and broadminded approach to religion.

Dr. Wemah introduced Samina and I to Dr. Maarefi. He described how he had acquired Maulana Muhammad Ali's Holy Quran translation and had found it to be the best translation he had ever read.

During the meeting with Dr. Maarefi, Samina was asked to give a short introduction to our Jammat. She emphasized that our main work is to promote the true, peaceful teachings of Islam, and that is done mainly through translation and publication of our literature, in particular the Holy Quran Translation and Commentary, into different languages. She also talked about our work of traveling to various countries, holding symposiums and establishing educational centers.



Dr. Maarefi, President of the Islamic University in Ghana, conversing with the delegation.



Samina Malik presenting a set of The Holy Quran and Religion of Islam to Dr. Maarefi, University president.



Dr. Wemah talking about Maulana Muhammad Ali's Holy Quran translation to Dr. Maarefi.

Dr. Maarefi also asked about the differences between the two Ahmadiyya Jamaats. We then explained the circumstances leading to the formation of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and how the split occurred over the issue of finality of prophethood and the practice of *takfir*. He was very glad to hear about Hazrat Mirza Sahib's claims and denials of any claim to prophethood.

Samina also described her close relationship with Sheikh Tantawi, the late Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, and explained that most of our publications were certified by Al Azhar.

President Maarefi was very happy to hear this. He was especially impressed by Sheikh Tantawi's endorsement of *The Religion of Islam* and praise for Maulana Muhammad Ali in the Foreword of *The Religion of Islam*, and the references to *The Religion of Islam* by Sheikh Tantawi in his book *A Peaceful Dialogue with the Pope* (in which he replied to certain critical remarks made by the Pope about Islam).

One very interesting moment occurred when Dr. Maarefi said that he had not read Maulana Muhammad Ali's translation, and that he himself reads the English translation by Shakir. To this Samina replied "then you have read Maulana Muhammad Ali's translation, as the Shakir translation is nothing but a plagiarized version of Maulana Muhammad Ali's 1917 edition!" Dr. Maarefi was very surprised by this news and gladly accepted a copy of the Holy Quran and the Religion of Islam from Samina.

Before leaving, we promised to send the university copies of the Holy Quran Translation/Commentary, The Religion of Islam, and other books for the students and the library, for which Dr. Maarefi and Dr. Hussein were very thankful. Dr. Maarefi also very kindly granted Sheikh Arimeyawo's request to hold the conference on Maulana Muhammad Ali's Holy Quran Translation and Commentary in the university auditorium. This was a very generous gesture, and we discussed working together to hold similar additional conferences in the future.

Meeting with the Department of Religious Studies, University of Ghana



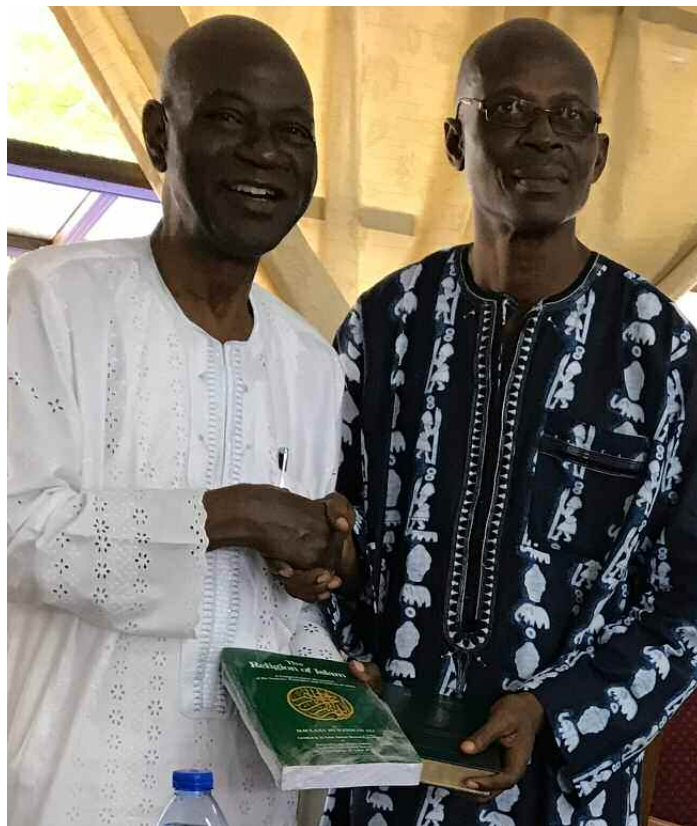
Meeting with the Department of Religious Studies, Islamic University of Ghana.



Listening to the talk of Department Head Dr. Al Haji Sulemana Mumuni.

After our meeting at the Islamic University, we drove to the University of Ghana for a meeting with administration of the Religious Studies Department. The current Department Chairman, Al Haji Sulemana Mumuni, is also Head of the

Islamic Studies Department. Approximately 10 professors and Heads of various departments – representing the Islam, Catholic and Protestant Christian traditions, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Far Eastern religious traditions, and indigenous African traditions – attended the meeting in a large conference room. The professors introduced themselves and Sheikh Arimeyawo introduced us briefly. Samina then spoke about the aims and objectives of our organization and our efforts to spread a tolerant and peaceful Islam in the world through our publications, translation work and educational activities. The professors were very impressed and applauded her talk. We promised to supply each of them with books as desk copies and to donate books to the university library as well.



Dr. Wemah presenting the English Translation of the Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam to Chairman of the Religious Studies Department Al Haji Sulemana Mumuni.

Jumma Prayers and Meeting with Imams at the Police Mosque

After attending the meeting with the Religious Studies Department in Ghana University, we went to perform Jumma prayers at the Police Mosque in Accra. The mosque holds approximately 1,000 people. It was overflowing, and people were praying on prayer mats spread outside in the yard of the mosque. The imam delivered a very nice *khutba* in English about tolerance in Islam.

After the Jumma prayers we met with the Chief Imam and the Assistant Imam. We told them about our Movement and about the publication and translation work we were doing around the world. We explained how we believed in the finality of prophethood and believe that anyone who

recites the *kalima* is a Muslim. They were very impressed by the fact that we were translating the Quran into so many languages. They said that they would be very happy to

receive our literature and expressed the hope that we would work together in the propagation of a peaceful and tolerant Islam in Ghana.

Meeting with the Archbishop of Accra

The next morning, on Saturday, accompanied by Dr. Wemah, Sheikh Arimeyawo and Shaibo, we went to meet the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Accra, Rev. Charles Gabriel Palmer-Buckle. Archbishop Palmer-Buckle is well-known for his liberal and tolerant views and is highly respected in the community. He has a special relationship with the Mufti (Chief Imam) of Ghana, whom he regards as his father. He related a very touching incident which throws light on their relationship. He said that recently he did not appear on TV or in the news as he was out of the country. When he returned he found four men in flowing Muslim robes had come to see him. They told him that they had

been sent by the Mufti of Ghana to inquire about his health as the Mufti had not received any news about him for several weeks. The Mufti, they said was worried about the Archbishop's health and wanted to make sure that he was not ill. The archbishop was very touched by the Mufti's gesture and went early next morning to pay his regards to him.

The Archbishop and leaders of other faith traditions work very hard to preserve interfaith harmony in Ghana, and as a result, by the Grace of Almighty Allah, Ghana has been free of the religious strife ravaging surrounding countries. The Archbishop, educated in the UK, speaks English fluently. He travels abroad frequently to give lectures and



Jummah and meeting with the Imam at the Police Mosque.



Samina informing the Archbishop about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and its work.



Archbishop Reverend Charles Gabriel Palmer-Buckle.



Archbishop Palmer-Buckle giving a small talk concerning his Religious affairs.



Samina presenting the Holy Quran and Religion of Islam to the Archbishop.

participate in interfaith events. Interestingly, he will be traveling to Ohio at the end of October to deliver a lecture. We invited him to be our guest and will hold an interfaith gathering for him as well. He was informed about the active



Dr. Wemah informs the Archbishop concerning the importance of the Holy Quran translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali.

involvement of our Secretary, Fazeel S. Khan, with churches and reciprocated by requesting that Fazeel give a talk in his church in Accra.



Catholic Church of the Cathedral of the archdiocese in Accra.

Meeting with the Grand Mufti (Chief Imam) of Ghana, Dr. Osmanu Nuhu Sharubutu

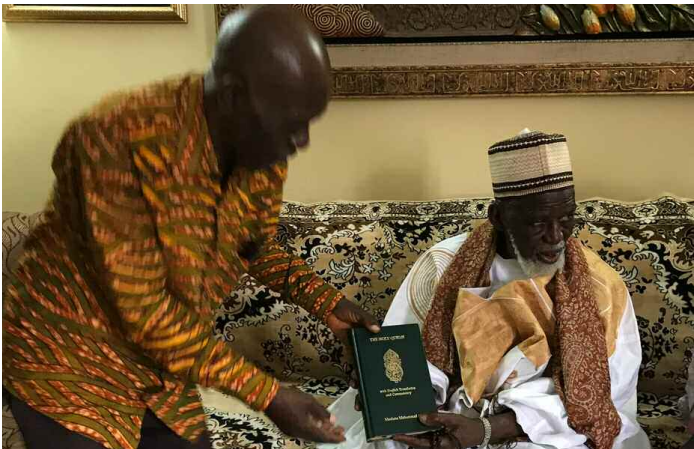


Dr. Wemah introducing Samina and Noman to the Grand Mufti of Ghana Dr. Osmanu Nuhu Sharubutu.

Samina, Dr. Wemah, Sheikh Arimeyawo, Shaibu and I also visited the Grand Mufti of Ghana, Dr. Osmanu Nuhu Sharubutu. The Mufti is 94 years old and is highly regarded by followers and clergy of all major religions. Samina spoke with the Mufti about our *dawah* work and our belief in the absolute finality of the prophethood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. He was very pleased to hear this from us.

The Mufti is very active personally in charitable work. The following day he was scheduled to go to the Embassy of Sierra Leone to donate food supplies to the indigent people in that country.

May Almighty Allah Bless him for the good work he is doing and give him strength in his old age.



Dr. Wemah presents the Holy Quran translation by Maulana Muhammad Ali to the Grand Mufti.



Samina informing the Mufti about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and its work.



The Grand Mufti of Ghana, Dr. Osmanu Nuhu Sharubutu, thanking Samina for the Holy Quran.



Grand Mufti praying for Samina and Noman safe trip.

Centenary Anniversary Commemoration of the First Publication of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Translation and Commentary of the Holy Quran at the Islamic University

On Saturday, September 16, we held a conference titled *Revival of the True Spirit of the Islamic Faith* commemorating the centenary anniversary of the 1917 edition of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Translation and Commentary of the Holy Quran at the Islamic University of Ghana. This conference replicated parts of the symposium held in Columbus, Ohio in August as part of the USA Jamaat's annual symposium. The conference was held in the spacious university auditorium which also functions as a Mosque. Approximately 100 people attended the conference. The attendees were very engaged, carried pens and notepads and busily took notes.

The conference started with Dr. Hussein Ibrahim, Head of the Religious Studies Department, introducing Samina and myself. This was followed by my lecture in which I discussed the distinguishing characteristics of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Translation and Commentary of the Holy Quran. After my lecture, we played a recording of Congressman Andre Carson, one of only two Muslim members of the

US Congress, who had addressed our convention in August via recording. The recording also included Fazeel S. Khan providing some introductory information.

Samina was the next speaker. Her presentation was titled *Continuing the Great Revival Initiative*. She presented a review of the work being done by the USA Jamaat to spread the Holy Quran in the world in different languages so as to facilitate a revival of the true spirit of the faith. The lecture was illustrated with a power point presentation of the various work she has undertaken to spread the Holy Quran. The visual images were greatly appreciated and provided perspective on the quantity and quality of work that had been performed over the years.

Dr. Wemah then addressed the audience. He explained how he came to meet Samina through first purchasing the e-book version of Maulana Muhammad Ali's translation of the Holy Quran online for his Kindle reader, and how he arranged for the itinerary of our current visit to Ghana. Dr. Wemah told the audience that he normally purchases several



Dr. Hussein Ibrahim giving the opening speech.



Sheikh Arimeyawo introducing the speakers and the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement.



Dr. Noman Malik delivers his speech.



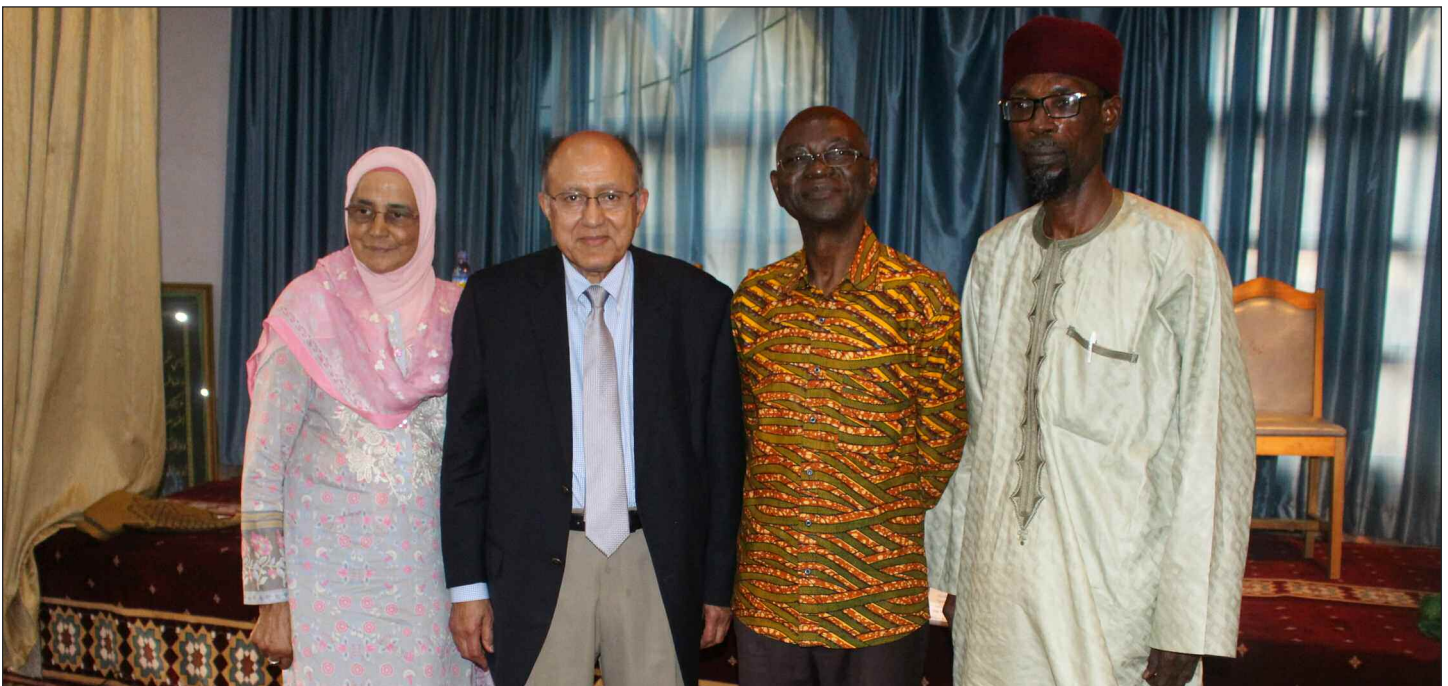
Samina Malik delivers her speech.



Samina, Al Haji Sulemana Mumuni, Dr. Wemah and Sheikh Arimeyawo.



Noman presenting video clip of US congressman Dr. Andre Carson with introduction by Fazeel S Khan Esq.



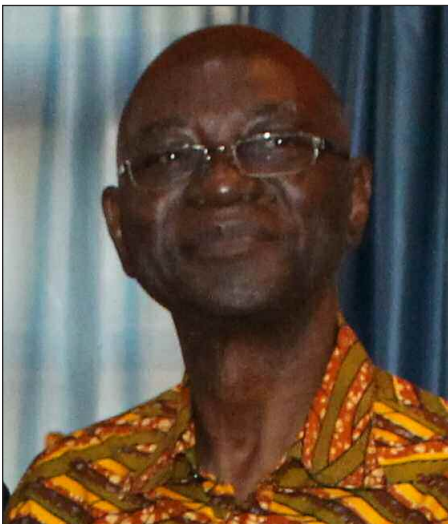
Samina, Noman, Dr. Wemah and Sheikh Arimeyawo at the Conference Hall.



University students attending the Conference.



Noman with the conference attendees



Dr. Wemah delivers his speech.



Samina with students of the University attending conference.

e-books a month, but since he purchased the Maulana Muhammad Ali translation, he has been so engrossed in reading it that he has not bought any more books for his Kindle. He jokingly remarked that Kindle must be wondering what happened to their favorite customer! He said that he was looking forward to working with the USA Jamaat to spread Maulana Muhammad Ali's Holy Quran Translation and Commentary and other books of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat in Ghana.

The audience greatly appreciated the speeches and the video recordings that were played and expressed their desire

to attend more conferences of this kind in the future. They were especially enthused by Samina's account of her work in *dawah* and publication and showed their appreciation. Many of them provided us with their contact information so they could be kept informed of our work and of similar events in the future.

We are deeply grateful to Professor Hussein Ibrahim and University President Dr. Maarefi for providing us the free use of the University auditorium to hold our conference.

May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward them for their help.

Women's Group Meeting with Samina at the Police Mosque



Sheikh Arimeyawo introducing Samina.

Samina was invited by the women's organization at the Police Mosque to give a lecture on Islam and the work she was doing in various parts of the world for the propagation of the true, spiritual teachings of Islam. The ladies were very enthralled by Samina's presentation. The lecture was followed by a lively question and answer session including questions about the Ahmadiyya Movement. We answered their questions and removed many misconceptions about the Ahmadiyya Movement.

After the meeting, Dr. Wemah invited us to his house for lunch and to meet his family.



Samina delivering a lecture in the Police Mosque.



Dr. Noman Malik answering questions from the audience.



Two of the younger participants at the conference.



Samina seated with members of the Ladies organization attending the conference at the Police Mosque.

Meeting the Qadian Ahmadiyya Jamaat's Ameer and Chief Missionary, Al-Haj Maulvi Muhammad Bin Saleh

Our meeting with the Qadian Ahmadiyya Jamaat's Ameer was arranged by Dr. Wemah prior to our arrival in Ghana. Dr. Wemah, Sheikh Arimeyawo, Samina and I met with Al-Haj Maulvi Muhammad Bin Saleh, the Ameer and Chief Missionary of the Qadian Ahmadiyya Jamaat on September 18. He was very pleased to meet us for two hours. He is fluent in Urdu, having studied in Rabwah and Lahore Pakistan for 10 years.

We discussed many aspects of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat and how our Jamaat's priority is to spread the Holy Quran (and other literature that presents the correct teaching of Islam) throughout the world. We told him that toward this purpose, the USA Jamaat is translating and publishing Maulana Muhammad Ali's English translation and commentary of the Holy Quran and other literary works into the major languages of the world.

We also discussed some of the differences between the Qadian and Lahore Jamaat. We presented him with a paper-bound printing of the discussion that was held between Fazeel S. Khan and officials from the Qadian



Ameer Muhammad Bin Saleh and Imam speaking with Noman, Sheikh Arimeyawo and Dr. Wemah.

Jamaat in the UK. This discussion took place via email correspondences over approximately two years. This discussion is highly informative and provides practical examples of not only how to respond to various questions but also how to debate such issues with kindness and integrity. As relayed in previous issues of *Basharaat Ahmadiyya*, this discussion (titled by the participating Qadian Jamaat officials as *A Peaceful Talk*) will be printed as a booklet in the near future. The Ameer was very happy to receive a copy of the correspondence and was amenable to holding a meeting in the future to discuss these doctrinal differences. We have made plans for this

meeting and pray we may all benefit from these discussions.

We discovered there are many members of the Qadian Ahmadiyya Jamaat in Ghana who do not believe Hazrat Mirza Sahib claimed to be a prophet, and they regard non-Ahmadi Muslims as Muslims — even praying with them. The Qadian Ahmadiyya Jamaat is very well-established in Ghana. They have built many schools and also run a hospital. Much of this success is due to good-hearted persons like Al-Haj Maulvi Muhammad Bin Saleh. We very much appreciated his warm welcome and the hospitality that he accorded us.



Samina presenting the Holy Quran translation by Maulana Muhammad Ali to Ameer Muhammad Bin Saleh



Samina presenting the booklet the "Peace full talk" to Ameer Muhammad Bin Saleh



Noman, Ameer Muhammad Bin Saleh, Dr. Wemah and Sheikh Arimeyawo

Departure and Continued Efforts

We left Ghana on September 18, after a wonderful lunch with Dr. Wemah, when we discussed the trip and started plans for future co-operation.

By the Grace of Almighty Allah, our first visit to Ghana was very productive and promising. We are in awe of how Almighty Allah opens doors and paves the way for us, at the time of His choosing. We pray that the connections made and relationships formed will lead to many years of success in the country, insha Allah.

In furtherance of this work in the region, Samina and I are bearing the expenses for printing 10,000 copies of the English Translation and Commentary of the Holy Quran, 5,000 of which will be distributed free in Ghana and 5,000 of which will be donated to the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Nigeria. This will bring the number of copies of our

Holy Quran donated to the Nigeria Jamaat by the USA Jamaat to 25,000 (along with tens of thousands of our other publications, including 3,000 copies of *The Religion of Islam*). Adding to this, Dr. Mohammed Ahmad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad are bearing the expenses for printing 5,000 copies of *The Ahmadiyya Movement* by Maulana Muhammad Ali for free distribution in Ghana.

Should you wish to contribute to this mighty striving, this great opportunity placed before this small Jamaat by Almighty Allah, you may donate funds for free distribution of our literature in Ghana and Nigeria. May Almighty Allah open the hearts of all our members to take advantage of such opportunities. Your sacrifices at this early stage can lead to great success in the future, insha Allah.