Editor's Note .......................................................... 2
Remembering Dr. Saeed Ahmad ........................................... 3
Publication and Propagation work in India .............................. 4
2014 Convention celebrating 100 Years of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement .................................................. 5
Local Activities of the USA Jamaat ........................................ 19
Mailing desk copies of The Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam to Theology Professors ........................ 24
Self reformation and not subversion of others is the foundation stone of nation building
— A Friday sermon by Maulana Muhammad Ali from March 5, 1948 ......................................................... 26
Work in Egypt and Turkey in March ...................................... 30
Work in Germany, Egypt, Turkey and Philippines in October .................. 33
Work in South Africa and Nigeria in December ......................... 37
South Africa Jamaat Report .................................................. 45
Sadr-ud-dean Sahukhan, Esq. receives his MA degree in Islamic Studies ......................................................... 47
Translation and Publication Work ........................................ 48
WE THANK ALMIGHTY ALLAH for another very productive year. By the Grace of Almighty Allah much was accomplished in the year 2014.

The 2014 annual convention commemorating the centenary of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement was a joyous occasion. The opportunity to meet and interact with our brothers and sisters from foreign lands, who all had the same objective of disseminating the beautiful and peaceful teachings of Islam was truly spiritually uplifting. We hope and pray that these teachings will transform the prevalent climate of hate and violence in the world into one of love and brotherliness. Guests were of the unanimous opinion that this was one of the most inspiring Ahmadiyya conventions that they had ever attended. We would especially like to thank Fazeel S. Khan Esq. for organizing an outstanding symposium program.

Another very important and significant happening this year was the distribution of tens of thousands of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's Arabic books in Egypt. This was the first time in history that Hazrat Mirza Sahib's Arabic writings were distributed in an Arabic speaking country on a large scale. The exposure of people in these countries to Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's books will, inshallah, eradicate any misconceptions that Islam condones violence in the name of religion. We intend to distribute these books in other Arabic speaking countries as well.

This year we also instituted a major project to send sets of The Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam as desk copies to professors of Theology and Religious Studies in all English speaking countries as well as to professors in countries into whose languages we have translated the above mentioned books.

Alhamdolillah! Dr. Muhammad Ahmad is making good progress in translating Maulana Muhammad Ali's Khutbas (Friday Sermons) from Urdu into English. He spends most of his free time in this translation work. This work will greatly benefit the English speaking public.

The translation of the second volume of Mujaddid-e-Azam from Urdu into English has been completed by Akram Ahmad. We intend to ship these books free to all libraries. We hope and pray that these translations will remove many misconceptions about Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, especially the erroneous belief that he claimed to be a prophet after the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

Alhamdolillah! At home in the United States we have been quite busy. Dr. Muhammad Ahmad and Lubna Ahmad pack and send hundreds of packets of free literature requests. They also pack and send all orders for The Holy Quran and other literature.

Beside packing book orders Sister Lubna maintains the inventory of the books in the Anjuman's warehouse. She manages the office of the Anjuman's affairs. We are very thankful to Dr. Ahmad and Sister Lubna for sacrificing their valuable time to voluntarily manage the Anjuman's affairs.

We are extremely fortunate to have Fazeel, who gives a large amount of his time in doing the Anjuman's work, in spite of his busy schedule as a lawyer. He is very active in the interfaith community in forming liaisons with other faith-based organizations, both Muslim and Non-Muslim. Fazeel serves as editor of the Light and Islamic Review. He gives talks about Islam in different forums such as church groups, prisons and universities. He also maintains contact with important religious and political figures.

The Jamaat also participates in community service. An example of this is the Horizons program for prisoner rehabilitation in which Fazeel, Lubna and Dr. Ahmad are voluntary participants.

In conclusion, I stress that all that has been achieved by the USA Jamaat in the translation and publication projects has been due to the efforts of a single woman, Samina Malik. For the past 50 years she has literally worked day and night in bringing these projects to successful conclusions. She has not only been responsible for the USA Jamaat's successes in the translation and publication fields, she has also single-handedly formed productive relationships with other Jamaats and individuals — greatly strengthening the Ahmadiyya Movement.

Her other accomplishments include opening missions in Albania, France and the Philippines.

One of her great achievements has been her role in obtaining funds for the restoration and renovation of the
Remembering Dr. Saeed Ahmad, the late third President of AAII(L)

It is now 18 years since Dr. Saeed Ahmad (affectionately known as Jaanji) passed away on November 15, 1996. Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Rajoeoon. May Allah the All Mighty and All Merciful Grant him a high place in Paradise.

We thank Almighty Allah that he gave us the opportunity to personally know this great spiritual person. He was one of those rare people who had a personal relationship with Allah Taala and was the recipient of true dreams Ilham and Kashf. Among his qualities was an intense love of truth, justice, fairness and humility. I never saw him abuse or scold a person or lose his temper. He did not like to be praised and was direct and truthful in his dealings. He had a special aptitude to recognize goodness in a person. Members would follow him because of his goodness and kindness and he never held any grudges.

I remember a member of our organization going to Jaanji and starting to complain about another very active member. Jaanji listened quietly to him, then asked him if he had finished. On receiving a reply in the affirmative, Jaanji asked him “besides the person’s faults did you not see any goodness in that person?” The complaining member hung his head and was silent. Then Jaanji related to him that a certain person was once complaining to Hazrat Mirza Sahib about another member, and Hazrat Shahb told him that if you see more goodness in a person do try to overlook the person’s shortcomings. This type of healing advice is characteristic of a waliullah.

Jaanji never complained about personal difficulties and bore any such difficulties with great Sabr — patience and equanimity. In 1974, during the anti-Ahmadiyya riots in Pakistan, his clinic with all the medical equipment and the top portion of his house were burnt by a mob, and Jaanji had to flee his home in Abbotabad and move to Lahore (darussalaam), where he resided in a simple small house. But he never complained or showed any sadness, anger or remorse. He was always cheerful and thankful to Allah Almighty. This demonstrated his lack of attractions for worldly things.

He once told us that when he was elected Ameer (President) after the death of Maulana Sadr ud Din, he felt very uncomfortable when people began to address him as “Hazrat Ameer”. He said that people who deserve to be called by this title were previous Ameer like Maulana Muhammad Ali. When his close associates used to call him affectionately “Jaanji”, he was very happy.

It is by these qualities that Jaanji was able to hold the Ahmadiyya Jamaat together during the dangerous and difficult times in the 1970s when Ahmadis were declared Kaffir in Pakistan.

Jaanji’s connection with the Berlin Mission

Jaanji had a special love and concern for the Berlin Mission. Before the USA Jamaat started the Holy Quran translations in 1987, I phoned Jaanji and asked him with which language the USA Jamaat should begin the translation project. He replied that it should be in German, as we had a center in Germany and we needed German literature for the propagation of Islam. The preservation and restoration of the German Mission for the propagation of Islam was one of his prime concerns. He used to discuss the Berlin Mission with Noman and myself. The structural condition of the Berlin Mosque and Mission House was very bad and deteriorating fast. In 1995, I asked him for permission to approach the German government for funds, as the Mosque and Mission House had been declared Monuments, and were eligible for government funding. He immediately granted my request and I began negotiations with the German Government for a grant.

It was Eid day in February 1996 when I relayed the good news to Jaanji that the Monument Department had granted my request and approved 350,000 Marks for the first phase of the renovation. I remember his joy and thankfulness to Allah Taala which he expressed by repeatedly saying “Alhamdolillah”!

He passed away on November 15, 1996. I am sure he would have been very happy to see the beautiful sight of the fully restored minarets, dome and Mission house in 2007.

Jaanji was very fond of people who engaged in the propagation of Islam with their wealth, time, intellectual and organizational abilities. People loved him for this quality and would sacrifice willingly in the cause of propagating
Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement.

This highly spiritual man was a tower of strength and moral support for me. During the second South Africa case, I was in a dangerous situation and was feeling very insecure and afraid. I sent a message to Jaanji that I was very lonely and afraid. Jaanji called me back and comforted me by reminding me that a person is never alone, as Allah Taala is always there. He also said that he was praying for the success of the work which I had undertaken. I had to find another new attorney and hand over the case to him. This was a very difficult task, but by the Grace of Almighty Allah and the prayers of Jaanji, it was accomplished in much shorter time than usual.

I would like to end by saying that I loved this man of Allah as my own father. He was very dear to me. Just before his demise I was in his house and was sick with flu. He came to visit me with Mr. Anwar Ahmad, sitting beside me and holding my hand, Jaanji told me that I should keep on doing the good work, and keep the Berlin Mis-

sion as one of my main priorities.

We do not believe in celebrating death anniversaries as it is not a part of Islam. But I would like to remind people every year of some aspects of Jaanji’s good qualities such as his humility, justice and honesty.

In 1992, Noman and I asked Jaanji’s permission to record his life history on videotape in his own words. The video-taping sessions stretched over a period of ten days. In these sessions, Jaanji relates the association his father and uncle had with Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, his travelling with his father to Qadian and meeting with Hazrat Sahib, and his taking the bayyat at the hands of Hazrat Sahib at the tender age of six. He recounts his stay in Qadian, attendance at the Jamaat high school there and his association with Maulana Nur ud Din. He subsequently talks about his attendance at King Edward Medical College and his association with Maulana Muhammad Ali and certain Ilhams that Maulana Muhammad Ali had about him. Then he talks about his association with Sayed Assadullah Sahib and the events of 1974 when his home was attacked by a large mob, his migration to Lahore and much more. We have also included footage of Abottabad and Debgaran, King Edward College, Ahmadiyya Buildings, Miami Sahib Grave Yard where many elders of our Jamaat, such as Maulana Muhammad Ali, Khwaja Kamal ud Din, Maulana Dr. Mirza Yacub Beg, Abdul Haq Vidyarthi and others are buried and other places of interest for Lahori Ahmadis.

We thank Almighty Allah for the opportunity to record the life history of this great man in his own words. Jaanji gave us permission to distribute the video after his demise.

The entire recording (in Urdu) is available on DVD. Members wishing to obtain a copy should contact the USA Jamaat at aaill@aol.com or sanomalik@aol.com

Wassalaam
Samina Malik

**Publication and propagation work in India**

**by Sister Samina Malik**

NOMAN AND I VISITED INDIA after the *Salana Jalsa* in Pakistan to arrange for the printing of a set of our English books for free distribution in India. The set consists of *The Religion of Islam*, *Mohammad the Prophet*, *Early Caliphate*, *Teachings of Islam* and the *Manual of Hadith*. The idea of sending this set of books was conceived after seeing the very positive response to the Holy Quran project in which the USA Jamaat sent free copies of the English Holy Quran to libraries, university departments of Religion and Theology, individual professors and opinion-makers in India in January of 2013. Arrangements have also been made to send free, inshallah, three thousand copies of *Bayanul Quran*, the Urdu translation of the Holy Quran to the libraries, Urdu studies departments and professors of Islamic studies throughout India.

The USA Jamaat has been doing propagation work in India for the past 25 years. There is now emerging in India a middle class which is conversant in English and generally espouses modern ideas of equality and freedom. The time is ripe to introduce our Islamic literature to them. Inshallah, many of them will be attracted to the equality, brotherhood, peace and tolerance of Islam as propounded by our Movement.

All the costs associated with the free distribution of books have been paid by the USA Jamaat. We will, inshallah, keep you updated on our regular projects being done throughout the world.
WE THANK ALMIGHTY ALLAH for a very successful International Convention of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. The Convention was held in Dublin, Ohio USA from August 14-17, 2014.

Guests and delegates from Egypt, South Africa, Nigeria, Germany, Sweden, the Philippines, Australia, Canada, Holland, Suriname and Pakistan began arriving in the week preceding the convention, and by Wednesday August 13, nearly all the 65 foreign delegates had arrived. Many members from various regions within the U.S. also participated. The majority of guests were lodged at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, which was also the venue for the convention.

On Wednesday evening, an informal welcome dinner was held at the hotel where guests and members mingled, forming new friendships and renewing old ones. After dinner, combined Maghrib and Isha prayers were performed in which the Blessings of Almighty Allah were invoked for a successful convention.

Thursday August 14

Special sessions on selected topics commenced on Thursday morning. The first speaker, Dr. Noman Malik, gave an overview of the Ahmadiyya Movement in which he showed how the principles of Islam as interpreted and espoused by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement were vital for bringing about peace and harmony both among nations and in the personal lives of people. He stressed the responsibility and role of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in spreading these principles. The audience, including many non-Ahmedi guests, greatly appreciated his talk.

After his lecture, a three-member panel consisting of Dr. Mohammad Ahmad, Sadar-ud-Dean Sahukhan, Esq. and Noman answered questions from the audience regarding the Ahmadiyya Movement.

Following the panel discussion, Sadar-ud-Dean Sahukhan delivered a lecture about the missionary activities of the late Khwaja Kamal-ud-din in Europe and elsewhere in the world. The attendees were greatly moved by Khwaja Kamal-ud-din’s dedication to Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement, the difficulties he had to endure, and the sacrifices he made in the course of his missionary activities. They were very thankful to Sadar ud-Dean for providing them with this inspiring account of Khwaja Kamal-ud-din’s life.

The morning session concluded with a delicious lunch.

Evening Session

After dinner, Mrs. Nena Mendoza gave a short history of the establishment of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat in the Philippines and its current activities. She recounted how Mrs. Samina Malik came to the Philippines in 2007, and the difficulties she faced in establishing the Jamaat in Cagayan de Oro. She spoke about the help and support that her late husband Prof. Abdul Nasser Nathaniel Mendoza provided to Samina. The audience was very happy to learn that there is a thriving Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat in the Philippines. They were very inspired by Samina’s activities, and treasured the help and support provided by Prof. and Nena Mendoza in establishing the Jamaat.

Mrs. Mariam Ghafoerkhan, Suriname.

Mrs. Ruwaida Zain, South Africa.

Nena Mendoza, Philippines.
The second speaker, Mrs. Ruwaida Zain from South Africa, gave a very moving account of the sacrifices she made in her personal life in the course of her commitment to the Ahmadiyya Movement. The audience admired her commitment to the Ahmadiyya Movement and Islam and was inspired by the stories she recounted.

The third and final speaker was Mrs. Miriam Ghafoerkhan who spoke about her husband, the late Dr. Ghafoerkhan, past Vice-President of the Suriname Jamaat. She recounted his services to the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and the help he rendered to poor people in Suriname.

The audience greatly appreciated the meritorious service of the late Dr. Ghafoerkhan to Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement.

We very much value the participation of Sisters Nena, Ruwaida and Mariam. Their presentations and presence greatly enhanced the bonds of international friendships that the convention strives to provide.

**Friday August 15**

On Friday morning the convention began with an inspiring *dars* of the Holy Quran by Dr. Mohammad Ahmad after the *Fajr* prayer.

The *Jummah Khutba* was delivered by Sheikh Alaa Abul Azayem, who leads a large Sufi order in Egypt. Sheikh Alaa, who greatly treasures the Islamic literature of our movement, has been distributing our Jamaat literature by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and Maulana Muhammad Ali on a large scale among his followers in Egypt. After the very scholarly and moving *Khutba* by Sheikh Alaa, Jummah prayers were led by Sheikh Omar El-Bastawesey, a retired Sheikh of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif and former Head of the Office of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif.

In the evening, a very interesting three hour session billed as “Meet the Author” was held in one of the hotel ballrooms. The idea of holding the session was conceived by Mr. Fazeel Khan, Secretary of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society. Several guests and members attending the Centenary celebration have written books about Islam in general, or the Ahmadiyya Movement in particular, which have recently been published or are pending publication. Fazeel felt that a session in which authors spoke about their books and gave reasons for writing them would be of substantial interest and benefit to the convention attendees.

The first speaker of the session, Professor Michael Birkel of Earlham College, Indiana, talked about his book *Quran in Conversation*. Dr. Birkel recounted interesting and significant experiences that prompted him to write the book. His book chronicles viewpoints of prominent Muslim leaders and thinkers on various aspects of Islam in interviews he conducted. The book is therefore a presentation of the understanding of these topics from a Muslim perspective. Although, Dr. Birkel does not comment directly on the topics or the interviewees’ responses, his insightful and probing questions bring the narratives to full bloom. Fazeel, Editor of *The Light and Islamic Review*, the premier magazine of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, has also contributed a chapter to the book *Quran in Conversation* in which he discusses the finality of prophethood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

The next speaker was Dr. Gerdien Jonker from Germany, a scholar in the History and Ethnography of Religion, who obtained her doctorate at Groningen University. She is currently affiliated to the Erlanger Center for Islam and Law in Europe at the University of Elangen-Nuremberg, and has recently authored a book titled: *Missionizing Europe. The Ahmadiyya Quest for Adaptive Globalization 1900 – 1965* which will be published in 2015.

Dr. Jonker related the circumstances leading to her interest in the Berlin Mosque and the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. Her book, dealing with the
activities and influence of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat in prewar Europe, presents new material on the organization’s activities from archives in Berlin.

Following Dr. Jonker, the audience enjoyed a presentation by Ms. Siv Hackzell, MA from Sweden who is researching Baron Omar Von Ehrenfels. Baron Ehrenfels, from an aristocratic family in Austria, and a convert to Islam. He was profoundly influenced by literature produced by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. Ms. Hackzell shared some of the results of her research with the audience, which not only informed everyone about this fascinating individual, but also the role and impact of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement at the time.

The next speaker, Mr. Akram Ahmad, who holds a master’s degree in software engineering, talked about his translation of the second volume of Mujaddid-e-Azam (The Great Reformer), the voluminous and detailed biography in Urdu of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad by Dr. Basharat Ahmad. Akram emphasized that Hazrat Sahib’s teachings about Islam were immensely needed in the world today to bring about peace and harmony. One of the greatest impediments to spreading Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad’s teaching is the unfounded charge leveled against him by his detractors that he claimed to be a prophet after the Holy Prophet Muhammad. He discussed how this book would go a long way toward removing these doubts about Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. The book is scheduled to be published in 2015.

Mr. Akram Ahmad was followed by Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan, Esq., who gave a presentation based on the thesis he wrote for his MA in Islamic Studies. Sadr-ud-Dean, past president of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat in Australia, is an attorney working in the Public Prosecutor’s office in Canberra. In spite of his busy schedule, he recently completed a Master’s Degree (honors) in Islamic studies at the Charles Strut University, Canberra. Inshallah, he will publish the thesis in book form.

The last speaker was Dr. Muhammad Ahmad, President of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society. Dr. Ahmad is a physician who practices in Dublin, Ohio. He has been translating the collected khutbas (Friday sermons) of Maulana Muhammad Ali for several years. The Khutba collection consists of 25 volumes — out of which Dr. Ahmad has translated the first two. These Khutbas are not only a treasure trove of spirituality, they provide a source of the early history of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. Dr. Ahmad has also translated the series of Dars e Quran (Maariful Quran) by Naseer Ahmad Farooqi which has been published in English under the title Light from the Holy Quran.

The audience listened to the authors with rapt attention and expressed its appreciation and gratitude for the knowledge imparted to them by the authors in their presentations. The session ended with a lively question and answer exchange.

Saturday August 16
As usual, the convention activities began at 5 am with the fajr prayers, followed by an impactful Quran dars by Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan, Esq.

The main event of the convention, the Symposium entitled A Legacy of Islamic Revival: Celebrating the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement’s Centenary Anniversary (1914-2014) was held on Saturday August 16. The program is outlined on page 12.

The symposium commenced at 10am with a short welcome address by Fazeel S. Khan, Esq. and Quran recitation by Sadr-ud-Dean Sahukhan, Esq. The Quran recitation was followed by an introductory lecture, The Great Revival Initiative in which Fazeel clearly defined the role and mission of the Ahmadiyya Movement in reviving the true spirit of Islam. He quoted several moving passages from Hazrat Mirza Sahib’s works showing that the
Mercy and Universal Goodness of God encompasses all creation. God equally nourishes and develops all nations regardless of their ethnic origin or religious affiliation. As the reformer (Mujaddid) of this age, the task of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was to inculcate virtues of mercy and goodness among men. It is reform of the individual that will result in peace and harmony in society — nationally, and eventually internationally. Fazeel showed how strongly Hazrat Mirza condemned terrorism in his writings and clearly proved that acts of terrorism are against the teachings of Islam according to the Holy Quran, the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad and early Muslims. He stressed the objective of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement as founded by Maulana Muhammad Ali is to promote these teachings in the world.

Next speaker, Dr. Noman Malik, in his speech titled A Mighty Striving, gave a short account of the life of Maulana Muhammad Ali and the founding of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. He described the respect and love that existed between Hazrat
A Legacy of Islamic Revival

Celebrating the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement’s Centenary Anniversary (1914-2014)

Presented by:
Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society

Saturday August 16, 2014 / 9:45 am to 2:30 pm / Lunch provided
Embassy Suites
5100 Upper Metro Pl., Dublin, OH 43017

RSVP: Fazeel S. Khan (fazskhan@aol.com / 216-288-0951)

A Legacy of Islamic Revival

Celebrating the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement’s Centenary Anniversary (1914-2014)

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society (the U.S. branch of the international Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement) hosts a symposium each year devoted to a topic about Islam that is relevant to contemporary issues. As this year presents the Movement’s 100 year anniversary, we will be reviewing its historic achievements, discussing its current activities, and sharing our vision for the future.

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement is known for its promotion of an understanding of Islam based on its spiritual foundations. Equipped with this peaceful ideology, it published a library of Islamic literature (including the first ever complete English Translation of the Holy Quran by a Muslim in 1917), it established the first ever Islamic missions in Europe (England: 1913; Germany: 1922), and published the first ever Islamic periodical in the English language in the West (The Islamic Review). The establishment of its missions in the early part of the 20th century is hailed as a model for integration and peaceful co-existence between Muslims and the West, and its literature (primarily by Maulana Muhammad Ali) continues to impact and shape modern Islamic thought.

Its pioneering works have been the subject of much academic research. In this regard, we are pleased to include in the list of speakers: Dr. Gerdien Jonker (Germany), Siv Hackzell, M.A. (Sweden), Eric Germain (France), who will discuss aspects of their respective studies. We are also pleased to present the prominent Sufi Sheikh of Egypt, Alaa Abul Azyem (who will speak about the importance of Movement’s literature, especially in the Arab world), and our special guest U.S. Congressman Andre Carson (who will share his personal reflections on the works authored by Maulana Muhammad Ali).

We look forward to you honoring us with your presence!
Gathering at the symposium.

Lunch at the symposium.
Mirza Sahib and Maulana Muhammad Ali and the great trust and confidence that Hazrat Mirza Sahib had in Maulana Muhammad Ali. Central to Noman’s presentation was a detailed account of the prodigious literature produced by Maulana Muhammad Ali. Noman listed those features in the literature produced by this saintly man which incorporate the views of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and which project Islam in its pristine glory as a great spiritual religion and removes misconceptions about Islam among both Muslims and non-Muslims. He showed the tremendous impact it has had on modern Islamic thought and literature, especially on later Quran translations and its relevancy in solving problems facing the world today.

The next speaker was Representative Andre Carson (one of two Muslim US Congressmen). He shared his personal reflections on the literary works of Maulana Muhammad Ali. He described how this literature influenced him in coming to Islam. He spoke about the tolerance and peace that this literature espouses and how the understanding and application of this literature is needed in the world today to bring about good governance and world peace.

Next Dr. Gerdian Jonker (Germany), Siv Hackzell, MA (Sweden) and Dr. Eric Germain (France) gave brief historical accounts of the first Islamic Mission established in 1913 by Khawaja Kamal-ud-din (one of the founding members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement) in Woking, England and the founding of the Mosque in Berlin Germany in 1925 by Maulana Sadr-ud-din. They spoke about the positive impact on the perception of Islam in England, Europe and elsewhere in the world generated by activities of these two missions.

Dr. Jonker described how the introduction of Islam to the West by these missions was unique in that it engaged the West in an intellectual dialogue in a friendly and non-threatening manner. This interaction was very well received by people who viewed the missionaries with great respect and highly appreciated the enlightened, tolerant, and peaceful teachings of Islam in the books and publications distributed by these missions. It was a time when people had become disillusioned by war and were searching for alternatives and many people converted to Islam due to the attractive picture of the faith presented in literature distributed by these missions. The picture changed with the advent of World War II and the horrendous destruction it caused. Missionary activity decreased and the influx of large numbers of Muslims into Europe with little education and backward cultural customs (which had little to do with Islam) antagonized local populations and promoted a negative impression of Islam. Still, she felt that Islamic ideals presented by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement could play a large part in ameliorating the situation, but that would depend on the will and perseverance of the Movement to project its message.

Ms. Siv Hackzell’s interesting talk was centered on the person of Baron Umar Von Ehrenfels. She spoke about his conversion to Islam and his strong attachment to Islamic ideals as presented by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. She described his journey to India and his meeting with Maulana Muhammad Ali in Lahore. She also spoke about his writings as a social anthropologist and his work in improving the position of women. This aspect of his writings was strongly influenced by the rights granted women in Islam and which he felt had been wrongfully denied to women.

Dr. Eric Germain has done intensive research on the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement worldwide. He has co-authored a book Islam in Interwar Europe. His short video presentation concentrated on the impact the movement could have in the future. He said the inherent strength of the Movement was its confidence, on an intellectual level, that Islam as presented by the movement could provide the best solution for problems facing humanity of any ideology. He felt that much of the violent backlash among Muslims today to criticism by the West was due to feelings of insecurity caused by their inability to defend Islam intellectually. The Lahore Ahmadiyya literature and beliefs, he felt, could do a great service for the cause of peace by providing answers to alleviate those feelings of insecurity.
A Legacy of Islamic Revival

Celebrating the Labore Ahmadiyya Movement’s Centenary Anniversary (1914-2014)

Saturday, August 16, 2014

10:00 am: Welcome / Quran Recitation

Fazeel S. Khan, Esq.

10:20 am: A Mighty Striving – Maulana Muhammad Ali, the Establishment of the Labore Section of the Ahmadiyya Movement, and the Literature that would Influence Modern Islamic Thought
Dr. Noman Malik

10:45 am: Personal Reflections – A Talk about Islam and Impressions of Maulana Muhammad Ali and the Labore Ahmadiyya Movement
U.S. Representative Andre Carson

11:00 am: Islam, from East to West – An Historical Account of the First Islamic Missions in England (1913) and Germany (1922) and their impact across Europe and Beyond.
Dr. Gerdien Jonker (Germany); Siv Hackzell, MA (Sweden);
Dr. Eric Germain (France)

11:50 am: Video Presentation – Historic Footage from Early Lahore Ahmadiyya Missions

12:00 pm: Lunch – Provided, Catered by Embassy Suites

1:15 pm: A Resurgence of the Great Revival – A Review of the Work by the USA Branch in the fields of Publication, Translation and Establishment of Foreign Missions in Contemporary Times.
Mrs. Samina Malik

1:45 pm: A Needed Message – The Importance of the Ideology promoted by the Labore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society in a time of unrest throughout the Muslim World.
Sheikh Alaa Abul Azayem (Egypt)

2:00 pm: A Tribute to a Legacy – An Address Affirming the True Conception of the Labore Ahmadiyya Movement (in Arabic, English translation provided)
Sheikh Omar El-Bastawesy (Egypt)

2:15 pm: Closing Remarks
Dr. Mohammed Ahmad

And from among you there should be a party who invite to good and enjoin the right and forbid the wrong. And these are they who are successful.
(Holy Quran, 3:104)
USA Jamaat’s book display at the convention.
The next item, ending the morning session, was a very interesting video presentation of early historical film footage of the activities of the mission in Woking, England. The audience profoundly valued the speeches and video presentation of the historical film footage. These archived videos are available at www.wokingmuslim.org, a website maintained by Dr. Zahid Aziz of UK.

The afternoon session began after a delicious lunch served in the spacious hotel atrium.

The first speaker of the afternoon session, Mrs. Samina Malik, Vice-President of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, presented a review of the work done by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society for the past 25 years and the resurgence of the world-wide Islamic Revival work done by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society. Her talk was illustrated by a power-point display detailing the extensive work in fields of publication, translation and the establishment of foreign missions in Albania, Jordan, France, Turkey, Egypt, India, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Korea, China, Russia, Italy, Germany, UK, Chechnya, Kirgizstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan. Most accomplishments in these countries are due mainly to her efforts, which involved personal visits, mostly alone, to these countries — sometimes under very dangerous circumstances. The main objective of spreading Islam as interpreted by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement is to bring peace and harmony in the world. She emphasized that it was the late President of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, Dr. Saeed Ahmad, who inspired and encouraged her to undertake this difficult task. Her hard work, sincerity and commitment to this cause so moved the audience that it rose to its feet as one, in a standing ovation at the conclusion of her speech.

The next speaker was Sheikh Alaa Abul Azayem, head of the Azayemi Sufi Order in Egypt with over one million followers. Sheikh Alaa is a member of the International Supreme Council of Sufi Orders. He thanked the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society for donating books authored by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and Maulana Muhammad Ali. He said that he fully agreed with the ideas expressed in the literature of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. He agreed with the idea that anyone who recited the Kalima should be considered a Muslim. He agreed with the finality of Prophethood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad and that no prophet, either old or new, could appear after him. He agreed that all Waliullahs, Mujaddids and great scholars should be respected and honored. He specifically pointed to the truth of the hadith of the appearance of a Mujaddid. He stressed that it was imperative that teachings of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement be spread in the world, and especially in the Middle-East, to achieve world peace.

He was followed by Sheikh Omar Al-Bastawesy (former Head of the Office of the Grand Imam of Al Azhar). Sheik Bastawesy passionately and eloquently spoke about Maulana Muhammad's life and his invaluable contributions to Islamic revival through literary works. He gave a brief account of Maulana Muhammad's life and his association with Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad from whom, as Sheikh Bastawesy illustrated, he learnt the true essence of Islam — which Mirza Sahib had discovered and which attracted a great number of people from all over
the world. He spoke about the defense of Islam in his writings by Maulana Muhammad Ali and his recognition as a great Islamic scholar in the opinion of other world-leading Islamic scholars. He concluded his speech with the ideas of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, which he said was essential for Muslims to adopt. These, he said, were:

- Any person reciting the kalima shahada was a Muslim.
- The Holy Prophet Muhammad was the last and final prophet.
- Prophetic revelation ended with the Holy Prophet Muhammad.
- All companions of the Holy Prophet should be highly respected.

Alhamdolillah, both Sheikh Alaa and Sheikh Bastawesy referred to Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib as the “Reformer” of the age in their respective presentations. Insha Allah these relationships that have been developed over years will result in the spread of the true teachings of Ahmadiyyat in the Arab world.

The symposium ended with closing remarks by Dr. Muhammad Ahmad, President of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, who thanked the lecturers and guests and concluded the session with a prayer.

**Evening Session**

The evening session commenced after dinner.

The first speaker was Mr. Ebrahim Mohamed, President of the South Africa Jamaat. He recounted the first contact of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in South Africa when Khwaja Kamal ud Din and Lord Headly visited South Africa in 1926 to provide support and encouragement to local Muslims, who were under great pressure at that time. He related how Mr. Dawood Sydow, after reading some work of Khwaja Kamal ud Din, decided to establish the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat in Cape Town. Mr Sydow, an expert in the Bible and very effective debater, passed away in 1979 after decades of hard work and service to the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement.

In 1980 the Ahmadiyya Case was launched by the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat. He also stressed the important work of translating and publishing the Lahore Ahmadiyya literature into Dutch being performed by the Stichting Jamaat. He informed the audience that most of the publication work was being produced by Mr. Shabir Hoeseni, past President of the Stichting Jamaat. Mr. Hoeseni has been assisted in this work by Mr. Raza Ghafoorkhan, among others.

Mr. Sardar mentioned the propagation work of the Movement in retirement homes and other places, in which he himself is also very active. The audience immensely admired the large amount of work being done by the Stichting Jamaat.

The evening session concluded with Maghrib and Isha prayers.

**Sunday August 17**

The Sunday program began at 9:30 am. The first speaker was Sister Nur Jahan Alam, President of the Australia Jamaat. She gave a very interesting account of the formation of the Australia Jamaat and the establishment of a center in Sydney. She spoke about the efforts of the Jamaat to project Islam and the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in Australia. The activities include a monthly Quran dars at their new center.

The second lecturer was Imam Semiu Olatunji Ajani-Alkilany of the Islamic Education Forum of Nigeria. He is a very dynamic speaker, enthusiastic about spreading Islam in Nigeria. He is fluent in Arabic and has completed higher Islamic Studies. He spoke about
the role of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and the work of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society in spreading the peaceful teachings of Islam in the world. He especially emphasized the role of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society in successfully re-invigorating publication activities in recent years.

The third speaker, Mr. Al Haaj Lukhman Abidiyi, President of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Nigeria, gave a short but very informative account of the activities of the Nigeria Jamaat in spreading the message of Islam in Nigeria. Mr. Abidiyi has re-invigorated the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in Nigeria after becoming its President. He is very active in promoting the educational, publication and propagation efforts of the Jamaat. This was the second convention of the USA Jamaat that President Abidiyi has attended. He also has visited Noman and Samina several times in the past. The large Nigerian delegation, consisting of 40 members from the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam Nigeria, and the Islamic Education Forum, was due largely to the inspiring efforts of President Adibiyi.

Speeches were followed by the children’s program conducted by Sister Zainib Ahmad of USA. For some time before the program, Sister Zainib Ahmad assisted by Sister Ayehsa Sahuikan of Canada, had been busy with the youth, planning the presentation. Both Zainib and Ayesha donate their time each year to work with youth to prepare for this event — which all members love to watch.

The following is a Report of the Children’s program by Sister Zainib:

The youth program of the 2014 USA convention was held at 10 am on Sunday August 17, at the Embassy Suites Hotel. In preparation for this program, youth members were sent instructions before Ramadan for the following projects:

1. Design a poster on the topic: What Islam means to me. Posters will be presented during the youth program and displayed during the convention;
2. Write an original poem on the topic: How I take care of my soul;
3. Quran Quiz: Focus on understanding the message of the last Juz of the Quran. A study guide was provided before the convention started to help youth prepare;
4. Create models of Islamic architecture that can be displayed and presented during the convention.
Bashir Lawal, from Nigeria, began the program with a beautiful recitation of the last 15 surahs of the Holy Quran. Then Lailah presented her model of a mosque and read out a brief description. The next presentation was a combined project by many youth members in the form of a play To Pray in School. Raya, Raesha, and Shafi Sardar from Holland, Aafia and Aarif Ahmad from Texas, Malaika and Alisha Sahukhan from Canada, and Abdul Gani Lawal from Nigeria, all worked together to write and perform this short play. It demonstrated the difficulties our children face in school to live by their faith, and how they explain Islamic practices to their teachers and friends. The audience immensely enjoyed the play.

After the play, Aisha and Maryam from Maryland recited from the Holy Quran. Malaika read out her beautiful poem, How I nourish my Soul. Raya and Raesha also read poems on the same topic. Alisha performed a song she composed about Islam. Adorable twin girls from Nigeria sang a song about Muslim children.

Models and posters made by the youth were displayed in the convention hall. Aarif Ahmad and Aafia Ahmad of Texas, and Malaika from Canada had made beautiful posters depicting what Islam means to them. Ali, Haadi and Zaigham Khalil had also made excellent models of mosques for the architecture project. Malaika had made a model of the Kaaba and Alisha Sahukhan from Canada, and Abdul Gani Lawal from Nigeria, all worked together to write and perform this short play. It demonstrated the difficulties our children face in school to live by their faith, and how they explain Islamic practices to their teachers and friends. The audience immensely enjoyed the play.

After the play, Aisha and Maryam from Maryland recited from the Holy Quran. Malaika read out her beautiful poem, How I nourish my Soul. Raya and Raesha also read poems on the same topic. Alisha performed a song she composed about Islam. Adorable twin girls from Nigeria sang a song about Muslim children.

Raya and Raesha conducted the quiz program, where questions from the 30th juz were asked and prizes given on correct answers. The youth participated enthusiastically in this program. At the end, Dr. Muhammad Ahmad, President of the USA Jamaat, distributed certificates and prizes among all the youth participants.

The audience greatly enjoyed the heart-warming and enthusiastic presentation by the Children.

The children’s program was followed by a fundraising session conducted by Mrs. Samina Malik. Alhamdolillah! Members donated generously and $150,000 was collected in one hour.

We thank Almighty Allah for his Grace and Beneficence in opening the hearts of people to donate generously for His cause.

At the end of the fundraising session, Sister Samina thanked guests and members for attending the convention and for making it a great success by the Grace of Almighty Allah. The convention ended with a small heartfelt prayer by Dr. Mohammad Ahmad,
President of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society.

**Evening Session**

Members and guests enjoyed a dinner outing at Glacier Ridge Park, followed by a visit to the USA Jamaat’s warehouse and Masjid-ul-Urooj. Members were very impressed by the large numbers of books in the warehouse. They were given free books to take with them. Following the warehouse visit, combined *Maghrib* and *Isha* prayers were performed in Masjid-ul-Urooj.

The majority of delegates departed on Monday August 18. A few stayed back and left by the end of the week.

We thank Almighty Allah for a very successful convention. Many people commented that this was one of the best Ahmadiyya conventions they had ever attended. They were particularly impressed by the exceptional role played by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society in reviving the literature of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement.

We would especially like to thank Mr. Fazeel S. Khan for planning and organizing the Symposium, the Authors’ Night session, and inviting guests from the interfaith community to participate in the symposium.

We also thank Mrs. Samina Malik for her pivotal role in inspiring members and guests to attend the convention and for organizing and coordinating the event.

Special thanks are due to Sister Lubna Ahmad, Sister Zainib Ahmad and Sister Ayesha Sahukhan, Dr. Noman Malik, Dr. Mohammad Ahmad, Mr. Jerrel Sardar, Sister Nena Mendosa and other members for their invaluable assistance at the convention.
A LHAMDULILLAH, IN ADDITION to its work internationally, the USA Jama‘at (which goes by the name of Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society) has been active in various spheres in the USA again this year.

**University Presentations**

In the academic realm, our Secretary, Fazeel S. Khan, continues to be utilized by universities as a resource person on Islam. Recently, Capital University held an event on the important topic of ISIS and what we are to make of this notorious group which has occupied media headlines around the world. Fazeel was asked to be one of four speakers at the event. The first speaker, a professor of Middle-East studies, discussed the current climate in the Middle-East and, in particular, spoke about the situation confronting the most commonly targeted groups by ISIS. This presentation provided a very well-researched factual account, and formed a foundation for the theme for the event. The second speaker, a pastor and adjunct professor at the university discussed the concept of “violence”, in general; what it is, why it happens and why some people choose to engage in it. This presentation helped attendees recognize the people being talked about (i.e. members of ISIS) not as caricatures of evil, but as real people who have chosen a certain course for complex reasons. The third speaker, a professor of psychology, emphasized the reality of wars and other atrocities, thereby humanizing the statistics, videos and other information we are inundated with daily. Fazeel was the final speaker, tackling the issue from an American Muslim perspective. He discussed the implications of ISIS’ (and other extremist groups’) actions on Muslims living in America who have nothing to do with their actions or ideologies. The presentation helped the audience put issues of Islamic extremism that they hear so much about into context. Overall, the event was a success, and we are glad that we were given this valuable opportunity to participate. A portion of an appreciation letter Fazeel received from the organizer of the event stated: “I wanted to sincerely thank you for your involvement in the event. Your speech was fantastic, and the people who attended were very engaged. I received positive comments from many members of the audience about your speech in particular. Also, each of the other speakers expressed how great you were.”

Fazeel S. Khan was also requested to be the keynote speaker for an event sponsored by the Muslim Students Association (MSA) at Otterbein University. The event was to inaugurate the formation of a new MSA at the university, consisting of a small, but very passionate and purposeful, group of students. The event was titled “Five Pillar Feast: A Celebration of Islam”, and included a keynote address by Fazeel, a panel discussion in which questions were fielded from the audience of about 70 students and faculty members, and a dinner in which middle-eastern food was served. The keynote address provided an overview of the basics of Islam and its goal of spiritual development of the individual, using the five pillars as illustrations. The panel discussion served as a perfect illustration of the diversity within Islam, as three female Muslim students took part, one with a face-veil, one with a head-scarf and one with no head-covering at all. Many positive comments were received from the participants; in particular, several explained how they had formed a new-found appreciation for the religion by attending.

**Interfaith Events**

Recently, our Secretary, Fazeel Khan, was invited to a private dinner for John Dominic Crossan, who was visiting Columbus and giving lectures on the “Historic Jesus”. Mr. Crossan is a former Catholic priest, a very popular New Testament scholar and historian of early Christianity. He is most well-known for being co-chair of the “Jesus Seminar” (the group that assessed the accuracy of gospel reports on Jesus and which resulted in a portrayal of Jesus as a mortal man born of two human parents, who did not perform nature miracles nor die as a substitute for sinners nor rise bodily from the dead). Being the only Muslim at the small dinner gathering, Fazeel was able to speak with Mr. Crossan about the Islamic view of Hazrat Isa (as). In particular, Fazeel discussed some of the similarities between the positions uniquely held by members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat concerning Prophet Jesus and the conclusions about the “historical Jesus” reached through Mr. Crossan’s research work. Fazeel also presented Mr. Crossan with the book “Jesus in Heaven on Earth” by Khwaja Nazir Ahmad, which Fazeel described as a scholarly research work on the “historic Jesus”
from an Islamic perspective. Mr. Crossan was delighted to receive this gift.

Fazeel was also requested to participate in an event co-hosted by the Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations Commission (EIRC) of the diocese of Southern Ohio and Bexley Seabury Seminary. The event entailed presentations from two current seminary students on Christology and Interreligious Dialogue. Several representatives of various faith traditions were invited to critique the papers and offer suggestions for how to improve discussing the topic of Christology with persons of other religions. Fazeel focused his comments on how the concept of the “historic” Jesus could serve as a valuable bridge between Christians and persons of other faiths when discussing Jesus. Fazeel’s meeting with Dom Crossan just a few weeks prior to this event served as a timely opportunity to experience such discussions firsthand.

As reported in previous issues of Basharaat Ahmadiyya, Fazeel S. Khan continues to be a resource person to the OSU Faculty Theology Seminar, in which professors meet to discuss a book dealing with theology. Whenever the topic of Islam is raised in the readings, Fazeel is requested to attend and provide his perspective and to critique the author’s views. This year, Fazeel was also a resource person for a book club sponsored by the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio. The group comprises approximately 20 people who meet at the St. John’s Episcopal Church. The book being read was “Progressive and Religious” by Robert Jones, and included a chapter on Islam. Fazeel served as a reality test of sorts, making himself available to answer questions from the group and to guide them in their discussion.

Fazeel S. Khan was also asked to participate in an event at local hospice (Kobacker House). Previously, Kobacker House hosted an event for bereaved hospice clients titled A Mourning Walk in the Afternoon. This autumn, the same event was held but with a different theme, highlighting various faith traditions’ response to death, loss and grief at four stops along the path. Fazeel spoke about the concept of death in Islam, being not an end but the beginning of a new phase of the journey of the soul, and shared a poem by the renowned saint/poet Jalaluddin Rumi. The poem is titled “When I die” and is shared here.

Our members continue to be active participants in the Horizon Prison Initiative. As mentioned in previous issues, this initiative focuses on providing programs for prisoners in Central Ohio. In addition to providing educational programs—such as offering the opportunity to obtain a GED, learning computer skills, acquiring conflict resolution skills, etc.—the program also caters to the spiritual needs of inmates. This holistic approach offers inmates opportunities to not only obtain practical skills to assist 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.

Another program that our members regularly participate in is 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 Dr. Ahmad’s and Sr. Lubna’s participation, gaining a much better understanding of the true teachings of Islam.

Recently, we were very pleased to have Fazeel S. Khan be invited to provide a sermon at a church service for two congregations in the Cincinnati area. Due to the prevalent negative information about Islam and the undeniable rise in Islamophobia, Fazeel was asked to address the two congregations and speak on the topic: “Faith and Nation: Being an American Muslim". Fazeel’s address served as an introduction to the religion of Islam and also dealt with issues of practicing Islam in a country, America, which many believe to be founded upon principles that are inherently incompatible with Islam. It was a beautiful service, with others reciting poems by Rumi, stories about Nur Jahan for the children, and music with a middle-eastern flare. An informal gathering with refreshments was held after the service. We received many compliments and well-wishes from the church members. Sr. Samina Malik, myself, Dr. Mohammed Ahmad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad also travelled to Cincinnati with Fazeel for the service and were delighted by the warm and loving reception we received. We were told that our mere presence was very important, as some of the members had never before even had a conversation with a Muslim.

Collaboration with other Muslim organizations

The USA Jama’at continues its collaborative work with other Muslim groups. A strong relationship has been developed with the civil rights group Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), leaders of the national umbrella organization ISNA, and local masjids. As we have done for the past several years, the Jama’at co-sponsored CAIR’s annual dinner and its annual iftar. Masha Allah, these opportunities provide opportunities for building friendships and better understanding between Muslims of different schools of thought. We are very grateful for the respectful relations that we have with other Muslim groups, a model members elsewhere may wish to emulate.

Fazeel S. Khan attended the ISNA Annual Convention again this year, in Detroit, Michigan. Masha Allah, Fazeel’s participation is very valuable, as he is able to attend key sessions, personally meet with influential members of the American Muslim community and speak about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement — in particular the work of the USA Jama’at. This year, Fazeel addressed various issues with ISNA leadership and also engaged in dialogue with well-known scholars. Particularly, Fazeel had a very insightful discussion with Congressman Keith Ellison. Congressman Ellison, of Minnesota, is the first Muslim to be a U.S. Congressman, and famously took his oath to office while placing his hand a copy of the Holy Quran that belonged to Thomas Jefferson. Fazeel informed Congressman Ellison of the work that the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society is engaged in and our close relationship with Congressman Andre Carson (who had just recently attended and spoke at the USA Jamaat’s annual convention). He was very pleased with the information he received and spoke very highly of the Ahmadiyya Movement. Insha Allah, we will continue to develop this relationship. Fazeel also had a very fruitful discussion with past-President of ISNA, Dr. Ingrid Mattson. Dr. Mattson and Fazeel are both contributors to a new book titled “Quran in Conversation" by Dr. Michael Birkel (discussed in more detail elsewhere in this issue). Dr. Mattson wanted to know the differences between the two Ahmadiyya Jamaats (Qadian and Lahore sections) from the Lahore Ahmadiyya perspective. Masha Allah, Dr. Mattson was very impressed with the presentation of information on this topic and, we hope, she will be able to impart this information to others especially through her academic work.
guishes these particular discussions from others is that members of the Qadian Jamaat engaged in this discussion have the formal endorsement of Mirza Masroor Ahmad Sahib (the khalifa of the Qadian Jamaat) to do so. In fact, Mirza Masroor Ahmad Sahib had advised participating members which topics in particular to discuss. Fazeel S. Khan and I (with the assistance of Dr. Mohammad Ahmad) have been engaged in this discussion via email correspondence throughout the year. Masha Allah, the discussions have resulted in understanding of various areas of common ground; regardless of the outcome, though, we believe the correspondences will serve as a valuable educational tool for all Ahmadis. The real success through this process has been an illustration of how such topics may be discussed in a respectful and considerate manner.

Publication and distribution
The lifeline of our work as a Jamaat is the distribution of our literature. Masha Allah, the USA Jamaat has become a premiere Islamic book publisher/distributor, with its literature being carried by the largest retail outlets throughout the country (and in other countries) and a thriving translation venture that comprises projects in over 20 languages. What is sometimes forgotten, though, is the regular voluntary work that is done locally to maintain this venture. Dr. Mohammad Ahmad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad work tirelessly to meet the demand for our books by taking care of orders and physically packing books in the Jamaat’s warehouse. Recently, the Columbus Dispatch reported on the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society and its work. The article (picture of which is shown on page 22, and also available with a short video at: www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/08/07/islamic-society.html) shows a glimpse of the practical work that is being done, internationally as well as locally in our warehouse.

We are also very pleased to see the publication of Prof. Michael Birkel’s new book “Quran in Conversation”, of which Fazeel S. Khan is a contributor. By the grace of Almighty Allah, the book was released the same day as the start of our annual convention, and we were able to pre-order some copies for our members and have Prof. Birkel speak about the book at the “Author’s Night” session of the convention. The book comprises interviews with 20 leading American Muslims, in which they share information about some aspect of the Quran. Fazeel focused his contribution on the topic of “finality of prophethood”. This choice of topics served as an opportunity to share information about what the real significance is of Muslims regarding the Holy Prophet Muhammad as the “last” prophet. In addition, it served as a valuable occasion to educate Muslim readers about the Lahore Ahmadiyya view of Prophet Muhammad being the absolute final prophet (after whom no prophet, new or old, may appear), and distinguishing its beliefs from the commonly known beliefs of the Qadian section of the Ahmadiyya Movement. The book has received rave reviews and is being hailed as a constructive tool to interfaith dialogue. In fact, Publishers Weekly rated it as one of its top picks for the summer of 2014. We pray Prof. Birkel’s hard work and good intentions will be rewarded abundantly. Fazeel has been requested, along with a few of the other contributors, to attend an event at Earlham College (the university at which Prof. Birkel teaches religious studies) to speak about the book in January of next year, which he plans on doing.

American support for persecuted Ahmadis
We are all too familiar with the persecution that Ahmadis (of both the Qadian and Lahore sections) face by Muslim extremists. Although this campaign of widespread prejudice and bigotry originated in Pakistan (through its constitutional amendments and institutionalization of discrimination in official capacities), it has spread to many parts of the world. And sometimes, the discrimination progresses from infringement of rights to fatal
attacks. In May of 2010, the world witnessed the massacre of nearly 100 Ahmadies of the Qadian Jamaat when two of their masjids were attacked by terrorists. Other atrocities have occurred in Indonesia, Malaysia, etc. The plight of Ahmadies has regularly been included in the U.S. Department of State’s Secretary of State’s annual International Religious Freedom Report, which is a source from which the U.S. government can determine issues of foreign policy. Recently, the issue of persecution of Ahmadies received much attention due to President Obama highlighting this topic in his speech at the annual National Prayer Breakfast. In that speech, President Obama stated:

“More broadly, I’ve made the case that no society can truly succeed unless it guarantees the rights of all its peoples, including religious minorities, whether they’re Ahmadiyya Muslims in Pakistan, or Baha’i in Iran, or Coptic Christians in Egypt. And in Syria, it means ensuring a place for all people — Alawites and Sunni, Shia and Christian.

Going forward, we will keep standing for religious freedom around the world. And that includes, by the way, opposing blasphemy and defamation of religion measures, which are promoted sometimes as an expression of religion, but, in fact, all too often can be used to suppress religious minorities. (Applause.) We continue to stand for the rights of all people to practice their faiths in peace and in freedom. And we will continue to stand against the ugly tide of anti-Semitism that rears it’s ugly head all too often.”

The video of President Obama’s speech can be viewed at www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2014/02/06/president-obama-speaks-2014-national-prayer-breakfast and the segment containing the above-quote appears at around the 14-minute mark.

In addition, earlier this year, a bipartisan congressional caucus was created titled Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus to advance the issue of protection of religious rights of Ahmadies around the world. This development was the result of dedicated efforts by members of the Qadian Jamaat who have worked with one of the co-chairs of the caucus on various issues in the past. Our Secretary, Fazeel Khan, has been in contact with the offices of both co-chairs of the caucus (Republican Congressman Frank Wolf of Virginia and Democratic Congresswoman Jackie Speier of California). Both offices were interested in being apprised that there are two “Ahmadiyya” groups and that despite the groups being independent and having theological differences, the persecution faced by both groups is the same in that neither the persecuting governments nor the extremist individuals/groups that target Ahmadies differentiate between the two. Both offices were very responsive and have indicated their support and representation for all Ahmadies who face persecution.

Alhamdulillah, we are very grateful for the support that is being given to the small group of Ahmadi Muslims (from both sections of the Ahmadiyya Movement) by the most influential government in the world. It is such illustrations of fairness, justice and siding with what is right, that — we believe — has earned this country numerous blessings from the Rabb al alamin. This (and other) developments are valuable resources from which we may not only seek protection for our members from persecution, but also pursue avenues to effectuate change in policies in countries in which our members reside.

Although we are grateful to Almighty Allah for providing protection to Lahore Ahmadiyya members and masjids/centers time and time again despite numerous opportunities for tragedies to occur, we thank Almighty Allah for affording us this valuable resource should some disastrous situation arise. If (God forbid) there is a specific threat to the life (or lives) of Ahmadies in your country, please contact us so that we may see whether assistance may be provided by the government of the United States of America via the newly formed Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus.
Mailing desk copies of The Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam to Theology Professors

by Samina Malik

During the last few years of his life, Maulana Muhammad Ali was seriously ill with heart disease, suffering several heart attacks. One especially severe attack occurred when he was staying with his brother-in-law Mr. Naseer Ahmad Faruqui sahib in Karachi. The heart attack left him too weak to speak, and it was feared that he would not survive. As was his wont, Faruqui sahib would spend the night by his bedside when Maulana Muhammad Ali was seriously ill, and this episode was no exception. Faruqui Sahib relates that one night Maulana Muhammad Ali motioned him to come near to him as if he wanted to say something to him. To hear him, Faruqi sahib said, he had to bend over the Maulana so that his ears were almost touching the Maulana’s lips. Maulana Muhammad Ali then whispered these words: Our work is to take the Quran into the world, after that the Quran will do its own work.

Inspired by these words of Maulana Muhammad Ali, The USA Jamaat has commenced a worldwide project to send The Holy Quran translation by Maulana Muhammad Ali and his other monumental work, The Religion of Islam, to all professors of theology and religion — both Muslim and Non-Muslim — in as many countries as possible.

Inshallah, these books will remove many misconceptions about Islam and have a very salutary effect on the perception of Islam by these professors. Hopefully, the professors will also transmit this favorable view of Islam to their students.

We have already mailed 850 sets of the above two books to Christian Theology professors and Islamic Studies professors in the United States, and have received encouraging responses. The hard, physical work of packing and mailing the books was done after the convention. Faizal, Ayesha, Alishba, Malaika, Ahmad, Lubna, Noman and I were busy packing for three days from morning until evening. We had to affix postage stamps on each package and stack them for transportation to the post office. It was heart-warming to see little Alishba running back and forth stacking books in piles higher than herself. Dr. Ahmad, Noman and I, loaded the books in our two vans, making several runs to the post office where we had to unload and restack the packages into large bins.

A second mailing of an additional 850 sets will follow shortly, inshallah. Shipping these sets in the USA is very expensive. Thanks to Almighty Allah, at our 2014 convention, our two dedicated brothers Drs. Rasheed Jahangiri and Dr. Hamid Jahangiri offered to pay for the mailing of these books. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward them for their generous donation. In 1992, their father Mr. Qazi Rashid, also gave us funds to send sets of five books by Maulana Muhammad Ali namely The Holy Quran, Religion of Islam, Muhammad the Prophet, the Early Caliphate and Living Thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad to all Senators and Congressman in the United States. May Almighty Allah Reward and Bless our esteemed brother Qazi Rasheed sahib for his generous donation.

Two years ago we mailed 6,000 copies of The Holy Quran to many professors, librarians, media personalities, public and university libraries in India, and are now making plans to send them The Religion of Islam as well.

Similarly, we are sending 2,000 sets of both books to all theology, religious and Islamic studies professors in the United Kingdom.

Arrangements are also being made to send the set of books to all theology professors in Australia, South Africa, Singapore and New Zealand.

Inshaallah, we will be sending these book sets to professors not only in English speaking countries, but also to theology professors in all countries in which languages into which we have translated the books are spoken. The first of these mailings will be that of the revised version of the German Holy Quran to professors of theology, religion and Islamic Studies in Germany, inshallah.

We hope and pray that by the Grace and Mercy of Almighty Allah, the exposure of the World to these books will ultimately prove the truth of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s words. Ameen!
ABOVE:  
Dr. Noman Malik, Ayesha Sahukhan, Samina Malik, Dr. Faizal Sahukhan and Malaika Sahukhan busy packing book sets to be shipped.

LEFT:  
Books ready to be shipped.

BELOW LEFT:  
Alishba is packing the books to be shipped.

BELOW RIGHT:  
Alishba Sahukhan stacked almost 400 packages by herself.
Self reformation and not subversion of others is the foundation stone of nation building

March 5, 1948

In this Friday sermon translated by Dr. Mohammad Ahmad, Maulana Muhammad discusses verse 105 of chapter five of the Holy Quran. In a very insightful and spiritually profound analysis of the verse he shows how moral and spiritual reform of the individual is the essential basis for building a just and Godly organization or nation, and defines those parameters which constitute spiritual and moral reform. Dr. Ahmad is translating the collected khutba’s of Maulana Muhammad Ali from Urdu into English.

By the Grace of Almighty Allah he has completed the first two volumes and is working on the third volume. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward him for his hard work for the benefit of English readers.

BEAR WITNESS THAT NONE deserves to be served besides Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is the servant and messenger of Allah.

After this, I seek the protection of Allah from the accursed devil.

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

O you who believe, take care of your souls — he who errs cannot harm you when you are on the right way. To Allah you will all return, so He will inform you of what you did. (5:105)

In very brief statements the Holy Quran has drawn our attention towards highly exalted principles for leading our lives. It was with this in mind that Muslims of the early period studied the Holy Quran. They studied it in order to learn how to improve their lives. How by following its guidance they could rise from a low moral state to a state of high moral excellence. It has been quite some time since Muslims have stopped studying the Holy Quran in this manner. Now a days, they recite it, but without any understanding of its meaning. Amazingly it is reported by some companions of the Holy Prophet that this verse is for Muslims of the later generations and end times.¹

It does not mean, however, that this guidance was not intended for Muslims of the early generations. They followed it consistently. Those who came later and particularly in these end times, are the ones who failed to follow its guidance. It is in this sense that the verse applies to them. In fact this brief verse of the Holy Quran holds the remedy for many of our current ills. For a long time Muslims have been reciting the Holy Quran with the intent that such recitation is meritorious act for them. Indeed the recitation of the Holy Quran is a meritorious act, but that was not the purpose of its revelation. It should be read not merely for the purpose of obtaining a reward, but with the intention of understanding it and following its guidance. Very little attention is paid to this aspect, and instead study of the Holy Quran is misused for the purpose of promoting mutual strife. Differences arose amongst the Muslims and every group is using the Holy Quran to serve its own objective and to seek support from it their own views. There is no doubt in this that our organization has made an effort to understand the Holy Quran and benefit from it, but in my opinion, we have also gotten lost in scoring fine points of meaning and interpretation. Instead of practicing its teachings, we give greater importance to discovering these intricate meanings. The real purpose of the Holy Quran is to improve the moral and spiritual condition of the people as it is stated to be:

“A healing for what is in the breasts.” (10:57).

It provides a cure for ills of the human heart, and it is with this perspective that it ought to be studied.

Concern for self reformation should be the first priority

These words, “take care of your souls,” draw our attention to give precedence to self-reformation. We are informed that a person who does not show concern for self-reformation, and recites the Holy Quran without this intent, cannot benefit from it. It is essential for each one of us to study the Holy Quran with this intent. The objective should be to learn what is prohibited, and what is to be put into practice for the purpose of self-improvement. Mere recitation or relating the finer points of interpretation is of no benefit.
Nations benefit from improvement in the moral condition of individual members

Everyone knows that a nation’s development is dependent upon the change in the condition of its individual members. Any organization where every individual member does not think in terms of making progress and self-improvement cannot advance. Nations are made up of people, and unless every single person does not ponder upon ways of making progress, that society or organization cannot move forward. There is no doubt that sometimes nations are led by individuals who take them from a lower to a higher stage of development, however, only those who support them benefit from the guidance of these leaders. It is only when the people make an effort to move forwards that the nation makes progress.

In other words this verse tells us that there is lassitude and lack of sensitivity within us and we need to pay attention to it. We have to think of ways in which we can set aside this indifference and lethargy and rejuvenate spiritual life within our hearts and move forwards. If further thought is given to this verse we will discover that these words of the Holy Quran: “take care of your souls,” truly form the foundation stone of nation building. It is to draw attention to the fact that no individual, organization or a nation can make progress by denigrating or putting down another. Every single person does not ponder one self. Attention has been drawn to this fact in the verse, “O you who believe, take care of your souls.” In other words “O you who believe, be concerned about your own reformation and pay attention to it. Do not waste your efforts in destroying others.”

Islam is a religion that has laid stress upon the building process. It does not denigrate other religions. Various religions have declared each other as false and have attempted to destroy each other. Islam on the other hand has rejected denouncing other faiths. Instead it has laid stress upon the teachings that prophets came to all nations to guide them towards righteousness. All of them brought the correct and true teachings from Allah the Most High.

Islam has even used war for constructive and not destructive purposes

If you observe carefully war is the greatest source of destruction. We saw with our own eyes the work of centuries being completely destroyed in the recent wars. Countries and cities were destroyed and civil society eliminated. Islam, however, has this distinction that it has even used war as a means of building the nation and not for inciting rebellion and disorder. It commands behavior in warfare which results in self improvement and not in destruction of others. It commands that Muslims should not be the aggressors. If they are attacked they should fight with the intent of defending against the enemy and not destroying it. They should fight only to the extent that security is established. The Holy Quran states:

‘And fight in the way of Allah against those who fight against you but be not aggressive’ (2:190).

It is not the goal of Muslims to spread destruction in the world. If another nation wants to destroy them then it is part of nation building that they fight in self-defense. Islam has taken a unique and distinguished stand in both war and peace not found anywhere else. It enjoins only defensive warfare and prohibits aggression against another nation for the purpose of destroying it. The sword should be taken up in self-defense only when the other nation is bent upon your destruction.

Nation building was also the purpose of truce

The same objective of nation building was also sought after in agreeing to a truce:

“And if they incline to peace, incline thou also to it” (8:61).

If the enemy who took up the sword to destroy you desires a truce, then you should also desist from fighting. Why should it be so? It is because when he agrees to cessation of hostilities, he has stopped the mischief to destroy you. It then becomes incumbent upon you not to destroy the enemy, but agree to make peace as the Holy Quran states:

“If they intend to deceive thee, then surely Allah is sufficient for thee” (8:62).

In a way Muslims according to this verse are bound to make peace. Islam does not want them to destroy their opponent even if the latter is trying to deceive them. The Muslims are commanded to desist from destroying them. If the enemy resumes its destructive intentions against them, then according to the above verse, God will still come to their assistance and the enemy will eventually be forced to seek peace. Therefore both in war and peace the principle of building the nation or stable society has been given preference over chaos and disorder.

The idea of subversion against other nations

Contrary to this principles enunciated in the above verses, we observe how nations are bent on destroying each other in this day and age. They do not want another nation to grow and make progress; they all contemplate schemes to destroy each other. This verse emphasizes the idea to give up subver-
sion of others, and focus instead upon self-reformation and developing, strengthening and building community.

How can Pakistan survive?
The answer to the question as to how Pakistan can survive and become strong is also given in this verse. Every Muslim should think of ways to contribute to this process. He or she should focus on self-reformation. In order to build a strong nation there is only one remedy: Every individual should ponder on how to reform his or her own character and improve his or her deeds.

Secret agencies within the country
There is no doubt that people can sometimes achieve great objectives through subversive activity. There was a time when the British had made life very difficult for the people of India. Many different ways of fomenting rebellion against them including the formation of secret societies were undertaken. The result of such activity is that in this nation where such societies were formed, the very same secret organizations are now bent upon destroying their own government. They are employing the same tactics they had been taught, and such activity has become the focus of the nation. It has become the source of our own destruction. You will be surprised to learn that at the time the British were questioned in regard to the amount of financial resources spent upon the armed forces. We are now doing the same. Today in both India and Pakistan there is so much preparation for warfare and a huge amount of expenditure is allocated for this purpose. This is the consequence of the subversive mind set. Instead of building the nation all its resources are being spent upon the destruction of others.

Only the reformation of individuals can be the source of strength for Pakistan
The only path of survival for Pakistan is for the nation to follow the Quranic injunction, “O you who believe, take care of your souls.” Every member of this nation should become actively engaged in the work of self-reformation and desist from being obsessed about pulling down his brother. When this thought of self-reformation becomes firmly entrenched in the heart of every individual, it will essentially become the mind set of the whole nation. By strengthening oneself in a constructive manner, and making an effort to improve the condition of the nation in every way, will Pakistan become stronger. Military strength is also needed, but should be limited only to the extent of defending the country. The idea of destroying the opponent should not be there. The secret of Pakistan’s strength is that we should all become engaged in taking care of our own souls and strive to make ourselves the best in the nation in this regard.

The behavior of members of our organization
Above and beyond all this, I exhort members of my organization: “take care of your souls.” A Reformer stood amongst you and exhorted you to transform your own souls. Today you stand in his place as custodians of his heritage. You have taken upon yourselves the responsibility to spread the word of God in the whole world. We must ask ourselves the question, have we achieved the goal implied by these words of the Holy Quran, “take care of your souls”? Have we eschewed criticism of others and counting their faults and have focused totally instead on improving our own souls, thus making ourselves more useful? Have we advanced to the stage where our behavior can serve as a good example for the rest? Regrettfully many amongst us pay little attention to the work of building our community. There is apathy towards self-reformation and eagerness to put down others. I am telling my friends that this is not the way to build your organization. In order to build your organization, instead of keeping an eye on the shortcomings and faults of others, pay attention towards your own and try to reform.

Finding faults with others in order to cover up for one’s own weaknesses
I have observed that many people instead of removing their own faults point towards those of other people. Sometimes when I try to motivate people to make financial contributions for the propagation of the Holy Quran, I am given the excuse, “Why should we do it when there is so much discord in your community.” Suppose this is the case, does it justify that we should shirk our responsibility for serving our religion? Our attention should be focused on how we can get rid of our shortcomings and strengthen ourselves. Those who do not want to make an effort, adopt this attitude in order to shirk their responsibility. You know that those who work for our organization are human. This is after all an organization composed of mortal beings. They will make mistakes and also have disagreements amongst themselves. It is certainly not commendable to be involved in mutual discord within an organization. Our shortcomings will not however be rectified by finding fault with others. This is not the way to improve ourselves, that instead of rectifying our own faults, we focus on the faults of others. Every organization will have weaknesses and deficiencies, but these do not absolve us of our individual responsibility for self-improvement.

The payment of monthly dues and the Promised Messiah’s command in this matter
Sadly I have to admit that there are many amongst us who do not take care of their souls and do not fully participate in the assigned work of the organization. This monthly donation that we seek from you was fixed by the Promised Messiah. He stated that the individual who does not pay his monthly dues for a period of three months should be considered a member of this organization. In spite of this clear injunction, you do not make an
effort to pay your monthly dues in accordance with your means. Paying your dues is the basis of your membership in the organization.

We should admit that we have shortcomings and make an attempt to correct and improve ourselves. Until you reform yourselves, no excuse will be valid. If someone is going in the wrong direction it does not justify your following the wrong path. You pay attention to your own weaknesses and try to overcome them; someone's law breaking does not justify similar behavior by yourselves. Allah the Most High states in the Holy Quran:

“He will say: Enter into the Fire among the nations that have passed away before you from among the jinn and men. Every time a nation enters, it curses its sister; until when they all follow one another into it, the last of them will say with regard to the first of them: Our Lord, these led us astray, so give them a double chastisement of the Fire. He will say: Each one has double but you know not.” (7:38)

I am therefore telling you my friends, for God’s sake pay attention. Because of your carelessness, negligence and mutual fault finding, the work of God is suffering. Remember that whosoever points fingers at the faults of others and desists from participating in the noble work of the organization, is in fact harming himself. The one who benefits is the one who comes with his heart at peace and does not refrain from spending in the way of Allah. Continue the effort to reform others, but first reform yourself. Look at yourself and your wife and children and attempt to reform their behavior. There are certainly those amongst you who open their hearts and give abundantly in the way of Allah whilst others have been manifesting miserliness. Is there a single person in this gathering who can claim that he has become poor by spending in the way of Allah or anyone who has become rich by not spending? You will certainly not find anyone. Always be aware of what benefits for your religion. Do not do that which damages the work of God. You can only succeed if you help each other in Allah’s way. How can those people succeed who are intent upon undermining each other’s effort?

All should work together in the organization
Be concerned right now about how to get rid of this sluggishness that has overtaken you, otherwise it will keep on increasing. We have determined to gather here every third Sunday of the month and talk about God’s religion. In spite of repeated reminders, how many of my friends choose to be present in this gathering for remembering the word of God? This is not the right way. The whole organization and God’s religion suffers loss from this kind of conduct. This is the work of the organization that everyone should undertake as one body just as an army stands united to follow a command. Every one of us should think like a soldier who is obligated to carry out his duty and does not show concern for what someone else does. If Allah please we will indeed be successful. May Allah the Most High give us the graciousness that we help others to succeed, and when we see someone making progress, we should not have the desire to pull him or her down, but rather become motivated to improve ourselves. Ameen!

Footnote:
1. Ibn Umar reports that this verse is for nations who are to come later, and Ibn Masud states it is for the end times (Ibn Jarir Jamil Bayan –fi- tafsir al Quran).
ALHAMDULILLAH! THE WORK of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat is proceeding very well in Egypt.

Noman and I arrived in Egypt on the morning flight from Istanbul on March 17. The traffic from the airport to the hotel was extremely bad, and it took us almost one and a half hours to get to the hotel. We had spent the night at the Istanbul airport and had been unable to get any sleep, and were quite tired and sleepy when we disembarked from plane. We had an appointment to meet Sheikh Alaa Abo Al Azayem that morning, and as we were afraid that we may miss it due to the delay in the traffic, we quickly left our luggage in the hotel without checking into our room, and went straight to Sheikh Alaa Abo Al Azayem’s mosque/office where the meeting was going to be held.

Meeting with Sheikh Alaa Abo Al Azayem

When we arrived, Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalik and Sheikh Omar Bastawesy were already there for the meeting. We were all very happy to see each other again. We had a very productive meeting which lasted for, four hours.

Sheikh Alaa informed us that he had distributed all the Arabic books of Hazrat Mirza Sahib (Hammaamatul Bushra, Tafsir Sura Fatiha, Sirrul Khilafa, Mawahabur-Rhaman and the Arabic translation of the Teachings of Islam) and the Arabic translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s book, The Ahmadiyya Movement, among his followers. He told us that the demand for these books was so great that within two weeks the stock of 12,000 copies of these books which we had given him was exhausted. He even had to give away the hundred copies each of the books which we had asked him to keep apart for us to satisfy the demand. He thanked us for the books and apologized for giving away our portion of the books and offered to reprint them for us. We assured him that there was no need for that, and that it is we who should be thanking him for distributing the books in so short a time.

We also discussed the wrong understanding of Jihad in Islam prevalent among many Muslims today which was causing so much strife and bloodshed in Muslim countries, and the urgent need to educate them about the true meaning of jihad to rectify this sad state of affairs. To promote the correct concept of Jihad, we decided to print five thousand copies of the booklet Jihad fil Islam which is a booklet on jihad made from the jihad chapter of Din-ul-Islam (the Arabic Translation of the Religion of Islam) about ten years ago by us. We also decided to print an additional 1000 copies of Din-ul-Islam for free distribution.

This is the first time in history that Hazrat Mirza Sahib’s books and our other literature have been distributed in a Muslim country among non-ahmadis on such a large scale. One can
see the hidden Hand of Almighty Allah at work here. In all humility we thank Almighty Allah for bringing this about. It was clearly beyond our capabilities; we can only pray that he accepts our feeble efforts and gives us many more opportunities in the future to serve His religion. We are a small Jamaat with meagre resources, and will, inshallah, try to print and distribute as many books as we can in Egypt.

I want to make mention of a prophecy about Egypt made by Hazrat Mirza Sahib when he was writing Mawhab-ur-Rahman. He was writing this book in response to a disparaging report about him in an Egyptian Newspaper. He says that while he was writing the book, Allah Taala informed him that a group of righteous people (saeedon ka girho) would separate, and then the truth would become apparent to the people. We hope and pray that the distribution of this literature in Egypt will one day, Inshallah, bring about the fulfillment of this prophecy Ameen!

Sheikh Alaa was very enthusiastic about attending our August, 2014 convention in Dublin, Ohio commemorating the 100 year anniversary of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement together with Brother Ahmed Abdel Khalek and Sheikh Omar Bastawesy. We finalized the details of their visit, and Sheikh Alaa gave us his permission to print his name in the program as one of the speakers. After the conference, inshallah, we will arrange for him to lecture in mosques in Columbus.

During the meeting we told Sheikh Alaa about the conference we were planning to hold in Turkey with the theme Muhammad, the last Prophet. He became very interested in the idea and suggested that we have a similar conference in Cairo. He said he would arrange for the lecture venue and would invite prominent religious leaders and Sheikhs from around the World to attend the conference.

In this way, he said, the people he will invite will have a good opportunity to become acquainted with us, and we could introduce ourselves and distribute our Arabic and English literature among them. He said that it would give us the opportunity to publicize the great service rendered to Islam by Maulana Muhammad Ali. The Conference theme and our lectures, would also, he said, convince them that we
We arrived in Istanbul, Turkey from Karachi, Pakistan on March 14.

On the morning of our arrival we contacted our printer, and made arrangements with him to transfer some of our books stored in his warehouse, as we are planning to send the Turkish and Russian Holy Quran to Central Asia.

We met with our dear friends Mrs. Ashe Kucur and Professor Sadi Bey Kucur in Istanbul. Mrs. Kucur has helped us many times with our translation and printing work in Turkey.

We are, inshallah, going to hold a Conference in Istanbul with the theme Muhammad the Last Prophet. This will be an excellent way of not only projecting the Holy Prophet as the greatest benefactor of mankind, but also of rebutting many of the criticisms aimed at him. Furthermore, it will show people that we believe in the finality of prophethood.

We contacted our translators in Cairo. By the Grace of Almighty Allah, the translation of the Holy Quran tafsir into Arabic is proceeding very well and will be completed soon. On March 18, we went with Brother Ahmed Abdel Khalek and Sheikh Bastawesy to the Dar-ul-Saada press and made arrangements to print the books for free distribution for Sheikh Alaa Abo Al Azayem.

Printing and translation work

We contacted our translators in Cairo. By the Grace of Almighty Allah, the translation of the Holy Quran tafsir into Arabic is proceeding very well and will be completed soon. On March 18, we went with Brother Ahmed Abdel Khalek and Sheikh Bastawesy to the Dar-ul-Saada press and made arrangements to print the books for free distribution for Sheikh Alaa Abo Al Azayem.

We thank Almighty Allah for a very successful visit to Egypt.

The next day, 19 March, we left Cairo for Istanbul.

We thank Almighty Allah for a very productive visit to Turkey.

Printing and translation work

We contacted our translators in Cairo. By the Grace of Almighty Allah, the translation of the Holy Quran tafsir into Arabic is proceeding very well and will be completed soon. On March 18, we went with Brother Ahmed Abdel Khalek and Sheikh Bastawesy to the Dar-ul-Saada press and made arrangements to print the books for free distribution for Sheikh Alaa Abo Al Azayem.

We thank Almighty Allah for a very successful visit to Egypt.

The next day, 19 March, we left Cairo for Istanbul.

We thank Almighty Allah for a very productive visit to Turkey.
GERMANY
On October 3, Noman and I flew from Pakistan to Berlin via Istanbul to attend to publication and translation work as well as to gather information for the comprehensive book we are in the process of publishing about the Berlin Mosque and Mission house renovation and restoration project.

We have made arrangements to send desk copies of the revised 2013 edition of *The German Holy Quran* to all professors of Theology and Religious Studies in Germany. As soon as the revised *Religion of Islam* is ready we will, inshallah, send desk copies of that book as well.

During our three day stay in Berlin we met with Professor Gerdian Jonker who is researching the role of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in introducing Islam to Europe through the Berlin Mosque in Germany and the Woking Mission in England.

In the course of our dinner meeting at a local restaurant, we apprised Prof Jonker about the renovation project of the Berlin Mosque and Samina’s role in securing funds for the renovation from the German government. She considerably valued Samina’s hard work and the sacrifice of time and money she made in overseeing the project as well as the USA Jamaat’s role in funding the entire amount of the Central Anjuman’s share of the renovation costs.

Prof Jonker told us about some very interesting research she is conducting regarding the local judicial and municipal records on the Mosque and its activities. Some of this research will appear in her book *Missionizing Europe. The Ahmadiyya Quest for Adaptive Globalization 1900 - 1965*, scheduled for publication in 2015. We look forward, inshallah, to continuing and strengthening our relationship with Dr. Jonker, and assisting her in her research on the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and the Berlin Mission.

EGYPT
On October 5, Noman and I flew from Berlin to Cairo. Our visit was tinged with sadness as this was our first visit for which our dear brother Ahmed Abdel Khalek, who passed away unexpectedly in August 2014, would not be there to welcome us.

The day after we arrived, we went to brother Khalek’s house, to offer our condolences to Mrs. Khalek. The sadness on her face was apparent, but she bears the loss of her husband with tremendous dignity and sabr. Other members of brother Khalek’s family were also present, and we shared their grief and reminisced about Brother Khalek’s cheerful personality, his kind ways, and the help he provided in our efforts to disseminate the correct teachings of Islam in Egypt.

Later, we went to the American University of Cairo to meet with the professor who is translating the English footnotes of the Holy Quran into Arabic. He has finished over three quarters of the work and, inshallah, should be completing the entire translation in the first half of 2015.

His wife, proficient in English, has agreed to help by taking over brother Khalek’s role, acting as liaison between myself and persons whom I deal with who do not know English well — such as our printer. She will also perform tasks which would otherwise require my personal presence in Egypt.

We met with our printer at the Dar ul Saada press and placed an order to print 12,000 books in Arabic by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and Maulana Muhammad Ali. This will be the second printing of these books. They include books originally written in Arabic by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad such as *Hammamatul Bushra*, *Sirr-ul Khilafa*, *Tafsirul Baghdad*, *Tafsir sura Fatiha*, and others which have been translated into Arabic, such as *Teachings of Islam*. The books

Sheikh Alaa Al Azyem, Sheikh Omar Bastawesy at meeting with Sister Samina and Dr. Noman Malik.
authored by Maulana Muhammad Ali include the Arabic translations of *Religion of Islam*, *Manual of Hadith*, *Muhammad the Prophet*, *Living Thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad*, and *The Ahmadiyya Movement*. The printing and distribution of these books was discussed with Sheikh Abu Ala Al-Azyem during the USA Jamaat’s 2014 convention in Dublin, Ohio celebrating the centennial of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. All these books will be delivered to Sheikh Abu Ala Al-Azyem for free distribution in Egypt. May Almighty Allah Reward and Bless Sheikh Ala for his efforts to further the cause of a peaceful and tolerant Islam in Egypt.

The next day, accompanied by Sheikh Bastawesy, we went to attend a luncheon meeting at Sheikh Ala’s residence. We discussed ways to spread our literature in Egypt and other Islamic countries and to remove misunderstandings about the Ahmadiyya Movement.

**TURKEY**

We arrived in Istanbul from Cairo on October 9. We once again had the pleasure of staying with Sister Ayse and Professor Sadi bey and their two lovely children Yamur and Zeynap. While in Istanbul we reviewed the progress of the translation of our various books with our Turkish translators. Al-hamdulillah, our Turkish translation project is proceeding well by the Grace of Almighty Allah.

**PHILIPPINES**

On October 13, Noman and I left for the Philippines. Our first stop was Manila, where we met with a gentleman interested in Islam. He had been in e-mail contact with Brother Daoud, Treasurer of our Jamaat in France, and brother Daoud had asked us to meet him in Manila on our way to our center in Cagayan de Oro.

We arrived in Cagayan de Oro on October 15. We met daily with our members in the Jamaat Center. We performed the Maghrib and Isha prayers together at the center, further increasing our mutual bonds of friendship.

Bother Khalid from Pagdian city, who visits our center every two weeks for ten days made a special trip to join us in Cagayan.

On October 19, Nena arranged a *jalsa* in the Center during which Noman lectured on Jihad in Islam. The audience was extremely happy to listen to Noman’s lecture supplemented by a power point presentation.

During our stay in Cagayan de Oro, we contracted with a builder to make repairs to the center and replace wooden stairs going up to the library with concrete steps. By the Grace of Almighty the work has now been satisfactorily completed. We are grateful to Sister Nena for hiring the contractors and supervising the whole renovation.

On October 22 Sister Nena, Noman and I flew to Davao city in southern Mindanao. We visited an Islamic Center in the nearby town of Maati, about a two hour drive from Davao city.

We were warmly received by the Imam and Secretary of the Center.
which is used to train students for *dawa* purposes. A *jalsa* was held in the Center on October 30 during which Noman spoke about the concept of Jihad in Islam.

On October 25, we flew directly from Davao to Cebu where we met with Professor Abdil Gaffar Espiritu and Retd. Professor Madrelina dela Cerna, the Holy Quran translator.

We reviewed the translation of the Holy Quran into Bisayan with Prof Dela Cerna, and were satisfied with her progress. Dr. Espiritu expressed his desire to hold a convention in February at the University of the Philippines, and we discussed possible themes for the convention and venues for holding the event. During our visit we also met another person in Cebu who is involved in interfaith activities and has a particular interest in Islam. He had many questions about Islam, which we answered, managing, in the process, to clear up some misconceptions and apprehensions about Islam.

In order to increase the proselytizing efficacy of our literature in the Philippines we have decided to print leaflets to supplement our free literature booklets. These leaflets will be in English and in the two major languages of the Philippines, Bisayan and Tagalo. It is hoped that people will be more likely
to read small leaflets rather than booklets when free literature is distributed at meetings. Once their interest is roused by the leaflets they may be more likely to read the booklets.

Inshallah, we will be instituting a program of preaching Islam in the surrounding municipalities of cities beginning with Cagayan de Oro. Each municipality is known as a barangy and is headed by an elected chairman. Each barangy has a meeting hall where public events are held. If permission to hold a dawa event is obtained from the chairman, then the Barangy hall can be used to hold the meeting.

From Cebu we flew to Manila where we boarded the flight to Pakistan.

We thank Almighty Allah for another very successful tour, and pray that He gives us many more opportunities to serve Islam and Ahmadiyyat. Ameen.
Work in South Africa, Nigeria & Jordan
by Sister Samina Malik

On November 28 Noman and I flew to Pakistan. After a few days in Islamabad we left for Istanbul on our way to Cape Town South Africa. We arrived Cape Town on December 4. We were guests of Brother Ebrahim Muhammed, president of the South Africa Jamaat and his wife Sr Sheega. The following day we attended the Jumma prayer at the South Africa Jamaat’s center. Brother Ebrahim delivered an eloquent and inspiring sermon on verse 3:103 “And hold fast by the covenant of Allah all together and be not disunited...” which inspired and moved the attendees.

On December 6, the South Africa Jamaat held a Jalsa to which both members and non-members were invited. Noman delivered a lecture on Jihad in Islam. The proceedings of the Jalsa began with an introductory talk by brother Ebrahim welcoming guests and members. The audience was very grateful to Noman for providing them with the correct concept of Jihad — urgently needed in view of the violence occurring in the Muslim world today.

I spoke next about the work being done by the USA Jamaat in the fields of publication, translation and propagation around the world. I stressed the need to spread the Quran and other literature of our Jamaat to solve current problems facing Muslims in these troubled times. The members were very happy with our presentations.

A lively question and answer session followed the lectures. The meeting concluded with a delicious dinner arranged by Sr Sheega.

We were very happy to see the South Africa Jamaat center. A number of improvements have been made since our last visit two years ago. The lecture hall has been expanded by removing a wall between it and an adjacent room. Bookshelves have been installed in the room designated as the library. May Almighty Allah bless this small Jamaat and their untiring efforts...
to propagate Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement.

On December 8 we left for Lagos Nigeria, returning to Cape Town from Nigeria on December 16. We had a one day stay in Cape Town before we left for Istanbul on our way to Amman Jordan.

In the afternoon of the day we returned from Nigeria, we attended a very erudite lecture delivered by Dr. Noer in the Ahmadiyya center. His lecture was about the Origins of the Universe in the Holy Quran and its verification by modern astrophysics. The audience listened with rapt attention to Dr. Noers. Many interesting questions were provoked by his lecture, which were addressed during a question and answer session following his speech. The audience expressed their gratitude to Dr. Noer for his informative talk. Tea with delicious savories prepared by Sr. Sheega was served to the guests after the lecture.

The next day, December 17, we departed for Istanbul on our way to Amman Jordan.
**NIGERIA**

On December 8, Noman and I flew from Cape Town to Lagos Nigeria. We were guests of Haji Lukman Adebiyi, President of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Nigeria and his wife Sr Ayesha.

On December 9, the Islamic Education Forum organization invited us to a dinner meeting with 30 of their top executives and members. Before dinner, Mr Nohim Osikoya, the organization’s secretary welcomed us and asked members who had attended our convention in Dublin, Ohio commemorating Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement’s centenary to share their experiences of the convention with dinner guests. Haji Lukman Abediyi talked at length about the work of Islamic propagation being done by the USA Jamaat and the need to assist us in that work. He also expressed his gratitude to us for the gift of 50,000 copies of the Holy Quran and thousands of copies of the *Religion of Islam* and other books donated by the USA Jamaat since 2010.

Then other members who attended our convention spoke about the warm hospitality they had received during their stay in Dublin. They were very happy with the convention’s programs and felt that they had greatly benefitted by attending the convention.

*Members of the Islamic Education Forum with Dr. Noman Malik in their Conference Room.*

*Members of the Islamic Education Forum with Sister Samina.*
After the sumptuous dinner, Noman and I spoke to members about the Ahmadiyya Movement and its aims, objectives and propagation activities. The members were grateful for the information provided them.

**98th Annual Convention of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam**

The convention of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam Nigeria began on December 12 after Jumma prayers. Approximately 800 people attended the Jumma prayers. The prayer hall was packed with members — people spilling out onto the verandahs surrounding the mosque.

December 13 was the main convention day. Representatives of other Muslim organizations as well as the Oba (King) of Lagos were present.

The session started with president Haji Abediyi welcoming guests and members. In his speech he thanked the USA Jamaat for the support they were providing through donations of *Holy Quran* and other books. He also stressed that a very small organization with few members in the USA was doing such a large amount of work in the propagation and publication field.

After President Abediyi, Al Haji M.A.T. Giwa, the distinguished chairperson of the session, spoke about the tremendous service rendered by the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in religious and secular education.

I then talked about the need and importance of the Ahmadiyya Movement and the propagation of our literature, especially the *Holy Quran*. I also gave an account of our propagation activities around the world and our translation and publication projects. I laid special stress on the dissemination of the *Holy Quran* in all of Nigeria. The audience were very pleased with my speech and responded with enthusiastic applause.

Imam Haji Semiu al-Kelani of the Islamic Education and Faith Initiative was the next speaker. In his speech titled *Girl Child Education- Islamic Perspective*. He showed how Islam encouraged the education of young girls. He emphasized that current...
extremist movements such as the Boku Haram in Nigeria were totally wrong in their efforts to eliminate education for girls.

Noman spoke next. He emphasized that the Ahmadiyya Movement is not simply an ordinary Islamic education, but rather it was the Movement founded by the Mujaddid of the time Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad for the defense and propagation of islam. He explained the correct significance of the Anti Christ, Gog and Magog, Promised Messiah and the Mahdi as espoused by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. He stressed that the final victory of Islam would come as a result of peacefully spreading the teachings of the Holy Quran and not by force or violence in the world.

The King of Lagos then delivered a short speech congratulating the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam for a successful convention.

Al Haji M.A.T. Giwa, wrapped up the lecture session by summarizing the main points of the speeches. He was very impressed by the propagation work of the USA Jamaat. He commended the hard work and traveling that Noman and I had done in the cause of Islamic propagation. He encouraged members to help us in spreading the Holy Quran in Nigeria.

After Al Haji Giwa’s talk, President Adebiyi asked me to give an account of the distribution we have undertaken of The Holy Quran and other books in the last five years in Nigeria.

I told the audience that in 2014 we had sent 5,000 Holy Quran, 3,000 Religion of Islam, 6,000 copies of the three booklets (Islam the Religion of Humanity, The Prophet of Islam and Jihad in Islam) and 150 cases of mixed titles of all our books. The total cost of these books was $75,000. Alhamdo-lillah! This is the most books we have
ever sent to Nigeria in a single year.

In the four years preceding 2014, we had sent Holy Quran’s and other books worth $95,000 making a total of $170,000 worth of books donated over the five year period. Considering the huge demand for our literature, this is only a fraction of the amount needed for free book distribution in Nigeria, and we pray to Almighty Allah for help to obtain additional funds for the task ahead.

Lecture at the Islamic education Forum

On December 14, Noman was invited to deliver a lecture on Jihad in Islam at the Islamic Education Forum Center. Noman’s speech was preceded by a welcome address by Brother Nohim Osikoya, the organization’s secretary.

The audience enjoyed Noman’s speech and asked him many questions regarding Jihad. They were very satisfied with Noman’s answers and thanked him for the informative lecture which cleared up their misconceptions about Jihad.

Meeting with Ansaruddin

On December 16 we met with the chief missionary of the Ansaruddin, one of the largest Muslim organizations in Nigeria. They had been looking for enlightened Islamic literature for their members, and we felt that our books were ideally suited for their needs. Their chief missionary was very
impressed by the Holy Quran and the Religion of Islam we showed him. We told him about the formation of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and its aims and objectives of spreading Islamic literature throughout the World.

He was very happy to know about our work and promised to review our books and get back with us.

By the Grace of Almighty Allah, there have been very promising developments in the acceptance and spread of our literature in Nigeria. Inshallah, this will eventually bear fruit in the form of the emergence of a peaceful and tolerant Islam in Nigeria.

On December 17 we flew back to Cape Town on our way to our next stop in Amman Jordan.
JORDAN

We arrived in Amman Jordan from Istanbul on December 18. I have visited Amman several times and Noman had accompanied me on my last visit in 2013.

By the Grace of Almighty Allah I have found very sincere and warm friends in Rtd. General Sami Al Anber and his wife, Rtd Major General Mohamed Bashir of the Jordanian Army (later Minister of Agriculture and past Mayor of Amman) and family, Mehmood al Assaf director of an Engineering firm and family, and Muhammad Beno and family who have helped me make contact with Jordanian government officials and appointments with Ministers.

In my last two visits to Jordan I visited the Ministers of Auqaf and Islamic Affairs. It was through these contacts I managed to become a signatory to the Amman Message.

My application letter describing the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement is also present on the Amman Message Website.

In this visit Rtd. General Bashir and Rtd. General Anber set up an appointment for me to meet with the current Minister of Auqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Haeil Daoud. I informed Minister Daoud about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and the Islamic Propagation work in which our Organization was engaged.

He was delighted to know that I, a convert to Islam, was doing so much Islamic propagation work. I emphasized our desire to work and co-operate with the department in promoting a peaceful Islam in Jordan. He was very happy to know this from me. I presented him two copies of the newly printed Deen ul Islam (Arabic translation of Religion of Islam) to the Minister.

He expressed his gratitude for the gift. We pray to Almighty Allah that as well as Egypt, Jordan appears to be another Arabic Country where our literature will be welcomed.
News from South Africa

by Mr. Ebrahim Muhamed

Distribution of Holy Qurans
We are continuing with the distribution of Holy Qurans to South African libraries. This year so far, Sister Ruwaida and Brother Yusuf delivered copies to the following libraries in the Johannesburg area after making contact with them:
- Heidelberg – 7 copies
- Vandebijl Park – 14 copies
- Krugersdorp – 15 copies.
We will be looking at the following remaining Provinces:
- Western Cape Provincial libraries
- Northern Cape Province
- Eastern Cape
- Northern Province

Some Good Feedback
Each of the Qurans that were placed in the libraries carried our stamp with contact details of our Anjuman. Two gentlemen from the Sunni Muslim community, who came across a copy of our translation in a local library, contacted us and asked to have an audience with us. We met with them on three occasions, explained to them the role of our Movement and the reform brought about by the founder Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. They were very impressed and requested some of our literature. We covered a variety of topics which they found most enlightening. They responded by saying that they have learnt more about Islam in the few encounters with us than over their entire life in their own circles. They showed enthusiasm to participate in our discussions and functions. We have included them on our mailing list and made available to them details of our website.

The librarian of the University of Stellenbosch, a Christian male, wrote to us saying that he would like to purchase a copy of the Holy Quran for himself.

We received thanks from several parties who received the Qurans. Hopefully we will receive more enquiries about our books. We will keep monitoring feedback.

The South Africa Jamaat is thankful to the USA Jamaat for providing the Holy Quran and other books for free distribution in South Africa. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward the USA Jamaat for providing help to the South Africa Jamaat and other Jamaat around the World.

Inter Faith
Late last year we were invited to attend a “Let’s Break Bread Together” function organized by the Catholic Church. Large cross-sections of the community from different faiths were present. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to mix

Dinner in honor of Samina and Noman at Mr. and Mrs. Muhamed Bino’s home in Amman, Jordan.
and engage with each other and share our beliefs and backgrounds. Scheega Muhamed explained to the Sufi representative and a Shia Muslim college teacher that sat at our table, our position on the finality of prophethood. They showed great interest and felt the dialogue helped a lot to remove much of the misconceptions around our organization and its founder. The event was covered by a local newspaper under the title “Breaking bread and building a nation”.

The following is a quote from the newspaper:

“Among those present were Jews, Sunni Muslims, Ahmadi Muslims, Sufis, Baha’ians, Anglicans, Catholics, Methodists, Unitarians, Quakers and Hindus”

“Ebrahim Muhamed of the Ahmadi Muslim community said the event was ‘like a breath of fresh air in a world still torn apart by racial and religious strife’.”

In February this year we were invited by the Jewish Board of Deputies to attend a function coinciding with the international celebration of religious harmony and tolerance started by King Abdullah of Jordan. The main speaker was a young Muslim, Mr Gasant Abarder, editor of the Cape Times, the largest morning newspaper in the Western Cape. I had a long discussion with him about our Movement and about trends in the mindset of younger generation Muslims towards a more open and tolerant society. In his speech he made it clear that he opposes all sorts of prejudice, religious intolerance and stands for an open and free society where everyone should be respected and treated with dignity. I placed him on my mailing list and gave him a copy of The Religion of Islam by MM Ali for which he was very thankful. I also offered a copy to the organizers. They took me to their library on the premises and introduced me to the librarian who was very delighted to receive the copy for the library.

**Friday Jumua:**
We perform Jumua every Friday, for those who are able to attend. Copies of the Khutbas are circulated whenever possible and as requested to interested parties, especially those not present.

**Monthly Magazine The Good News**
The mailing list of our monthly publication is growing steadily. We try to cover topical subjects geared towards removing misconceptions about Islam. The following were disseminated:
- January- Misconceptions about Jihad and War in Islam
- February – Proofs of the Existence of God - A contribution to the ongoing ‘God’ debate
- March – Miraculous Truths in the Holy Quran - with reference to truths verified by Science and Prophecies that found fulfilment in our Age.

We also try our best to be vigilant about what is posted on social media networks. Siraj Muhamed is leading this initiative. He has been very successful in rebutting some virulent attacks made on Islam and the Holy Prophet on media24 for example. Typical attacks such as “Islam is a violent Religion”, “Islam does not mean peace but a snake”, “the prophet was a paedophile” etc. were challenged and rebutted to the point where the usual obstinate attackers’ zeal fizzles out with no further comments to make when the truth is laid before them. If it was not for the Ahmadiyya version of Islam, we would not have been able to engage in this Jihad so effectively.

**Monthly Talks – Seekers and Thinkers Interactive Discussion**
All members’ parents and children and interested outsiders are invited to our monthly discussions. The nature of the talks are participative with the expression of views by all encouraged. Our first discussion this year was an attempt to address the question “Who is Allah and why do we have to serve Him?”. Also: “What is our objective on earth?”. The attributes of Allah as elucidated in the Fatiha were unpacked and explained. A lively discussion around this took place. This led to the phenomena of revelation, especially that Allah is a Living God that reveals Himself as much today as in the past. In the end everyone felt they had benefited tremendously from the discussion and is looking forward to our next meeting with enthusiasm.

**Translations**
The following booklets: “Islam the religion of Humanity”, “Prophet in Islam” and “Introduction to Islam” have been translated into Afrikaans. The writer completed proofreading and is satisfied with the quality of the translation. The translation of the Holy Quran into Afrikaans is also proceeding well. We are thankful to the USA Jamaat for undertaking these translations in Afrikaans.
ALHAMDULILLAH! WE ARE very happy to announce that Brother Sadr-ud-dean Sahukhan of Canberra, Australia has obtained his Masters degree in Islamic studies from the Charles Strut University in Australia.

We want to congratulate him for this great achievement.

He acquired this degree in the minimum time period of two years, obtaining distinctions and high distinctions in 8 out of 12 units and standing first in his class in Quran Tafsir.

Brother Sadr-ud-dean Sahukhan, past president of the Australia Jamaat, is well known for his dedication to the Jamaat and his generous contributions to Jamaat projects for the propagation of Islam. His love for acquiring knowledge about Islam and Ahmadiyyat is well known, and his excelling in Quran studies is not surprising considering that his knowledge of the Quran is derived from that fountain of spiritual knowledge which the Mujaddid of this age, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and his disciples such as Maulana Nuruddin, Maulana Muhammad Ali and others have made to flow.

As members of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat we should all equip ourselves with knowledge about Islam and Ahmadiyyat in the struggle to propagate the correct, peaceful and tolerant teachings of Islam.

Brother Sadr-ud-dean is one of the role models for all those who would aspire to do the same but feel, because of worldly commitments, they cannot find time for religious studies.

His achievement in Islamic studies is all the more creditable as he accomplished it while holding a full-time job as public prosecutor, and having family responsibilities and other commitments such as being the chairperson of the Inter-faith association of Canberra, etc.

Brother Sadr-ud-dean was an active participant in the annual interfaith convention of the USA Jamaat where he is a very valued speaker and contributor to our educational sessions.

As members of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat we should all equip ourselves with knowledge about Islam and Ahmadiyyat in the struggle to propagate the correct, peaceful and tolerant teachings of Islam.

Brother Sadr-ud-dean is one of the role models for all those who would aspire to do the same but feel, because of worldly commitments, they cannot find time for religious studies.

---

**Charles Sturt University**

In the name of the Council and by the authority of the same be it known that

Muhammed Sadar Ud Dean Sahu Khan

having fulfilled all the requirements and having passed all the examinations prescribed by the Bye-laws and rules of the University has this day been admitted to the degree of

Master of Islamic Studies

with all the rights and privileges attached thereto and in witness whereof the Council has authorised the Common Seal of the University to be hereunto affixed.

M. Cull.,

Vice-Chancellor and President
EGYPT

ALHAMDULILLAH! A TOTAL OF 24,000 books of our literature in Arabic were distributed free in Egypt. These were distributed in the Mosque of Sheikh Alaa al-Din Abu Al-Azayem on the occasion of Id Milad-un-Nabi this year. The following titles were distributed:

• Sirr-ul-Khilafa
• Hammamatul Bushra
• Mawahab-ur-Rahman
• Tafsir Surah Fatihah
• Tafṣīr-ul-Islām (Arabic translation of Teachings of Islam).
• Talim-ul-Islam (Arabic translation of Teachings of Islam). Al-Azhar Al-Sharif has given an approval certificate for this book.
• The Harkatul Ahmadiyya (Arabic translation of the Ahmadiyya Movement, by Maulana Muhammad Ali).

The first four titles have been authored in Arabic by Hazrat Mirza Sahib himself.

The people were very happy to receive the books. We thank Almighty Allah for the opportunity He has given us to distribute this valuable literature in Egypt. We hope and pray that this literature will strengthen a peaceful and tolerant Islam in Egypt.

We have previously given 10,000 copies of the Arabic Religion of Islam, Muhammad the Prophet and Living Thoughts of Prophet Muhammad for free distribution in Egypt in 2013.

FRANCE

ALHAMDULILLAH! THE INTRODUCTION to the Study of the Holy Quran, The Ahmadiyya Movement, Muhammad in World Scriptures and Antichrist Gog and Magog have been translated into French. This brings to 22 the number of books that have been translated from English into French in the last 18 months. The books are as follows:

• The French Holy Quran has been fully revised.
• Religion of Islam
• The Manual of Hadith
• Living Thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad
• Muhammad the Prophet
• Early Caliphate
• The Muslim Prayer Book
• History of the Prophets
• Islam my only choice
• Message of Peace
• Islam the Religion of Humanity
• The Prophet of Islam
• Introduction to the Study of the Holy Quran
• Teachings of Islam
• The Ahmadiyya Movement
• Introduction to the Study of the Holy Quran
• Islam my only choice

Inshallah, we will have seven more books translated into French by the end of this year. We will, inshallah, be sending these printed books to all French speaking countries for free distribution.

ALHAMDULILLAH!

Islamic studies classes start in Nigeria

By the Grace of Almighty Allah, Dr. Noman Malik has started classes on Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement via Skype in Nigeria. Alhamdulillah! approximately 45 students are attending the classes which began two weeks ago. Dr. Malik also holds classes on Islam and Ahmadiyyat for the Philippine Jamaat every Sunday.