

# Basharaat-E-Ahmadiyya

International Newsletter of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam, (Lahore) USA

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Main Mosque of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Lagos, Nigeria

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# Editorial

By Dr. Noman Malik

**A**lhamdulillah!, The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement continues to make steady and heartening progress in its endeavor to present the rational, tolerant, peaceful and beautiful teachings of Islam to a world which is in desperate need of such a healing message. Many significant and encouraging developments have occurred this year.

By the Grace of Almighty Allah, the membership of the Philippines jamaat continues to increase rapidly. The mosque and library addition to our center in Cagayan de Oro Philippines is now complete, and we are looking forward to an inspiring and joyous official opening of the newly expanded center in February, Inshallah. May Almighty Allah, in His infinite mercy, Bless this center and make it a front of spiritual knowledge for the Philippines.

Our translation projects are progressing well, with translations being done in several Filipino languages. The Vietnamese and Albanian translations are proceeding on schedule. The Hindi manual of Hadith has been printed, and the Hindi Quran is being typeset.

On the home front, in the USA we are actively engaging in interfaith activities so as to expose as many people as possible to the true peaceful Islam and counter the false impression of it as a violent faith.

The USA jamaat has sent tens of thousands of copies of the Holy Quran and other books to the Philippines, Nigeria and South Africa.

Other successes include the delivery of a lecture on the Ahmadiyya movement in the theology department of Marmara University in Turkey, a muslim country. This probably is the first time that such an event has taken place.

Another significant event occurred when our jamaat was recognized as an official signatory on the Amman Message. This greatly strengthens our credentials in the eyes of ordinary Muslims, and makes it easier to spread our literature among them.

Our visit to Nigeria has greatly strengthened the bonds of friendship with this largest jamaat in the world with Lahore Ahmadiyya beliefs and ideals.

We look forward to a future of mutual growth, friendship and cooperation with them in propagating the true, peaceful teachings of Islam in Africa.

In November of 2009, we had the privilege of attending the first ever convention of the South Africa Jamaat which was a resounding success.

Last, but not least, the USA jamaat has had the honor of helping the South Africa jamaat by purchasing a center for them in Cape Town. May Allah Taala Bless and strengthen this brave jamaat, which has stood firm in the face of severe opposition, and may He Bless this center, so that it becomes a beacon of light for a tolerant, peaceful and enlightened Islam in South Africa. Ameen!

We thank Almighty Allah for the opportunity he has given the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat to serve His faith, and we earnestly beg him to Grant us the strength and perseverance to accomplish this task.

“...Our Lord, punish us not if we forget or make a mistake. Our Lord, do not lay on us a burden as Thou didst lay on those before us. Our Lord, impose not on us (afflictions) which we have not the strength to bear. And pardon us! And grant us protection! And have mercy on us! Thou art our Patron, so grant us victory over the disbelieving people.”

*Wassalaam*  
**Noman Malik**  
*Editor*

## Thirteenth Death Anniversary of Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan Sahib (1900-1996)

Every year at this time I write about our dear, late Hazrat Amir, Dr. Saeed Amad Khan Sahib, (also known as our dear Janji)

Janji died at the age of 96 in Lahore, Pakistan on November 15<sup>th</sup> 1996.

Janji took the *bait* at Hazrat Mirza Sahib's hand when he was six years. Since then he showed extraordinary fidelity to the conditions of the bait and was one of those rare individuals who was the recipient of *ilham* and *Kashf*. The events of 1974 when Ahmadis were

declared non-Muslims were a severe trial for the Ahmadiyya Jamaat. An armed mob supported by the local authorities attacked Janji's home. They burnt his clinic, but Almighty Allah protected Janji and his family, and they were finally rescued after enduring many hours of the armed assault.

Following the attack, Janji, together with his family, moved to Lahore, where he became vice-president of the Central Anjuman. Maulana Saddrudin, the Amir of the movement, was quite old by this time and Janji functioned essentially as the head of the movement, managing everyday affairs. Many Lahori Ahmadis left the jamaat at that time under pressure. It was he, who, with his towering spiritual personality, held the jamaat together during that difficult time.

The situation in the overseas jamaats was similar to the one in Pakistan. They were also being ostracized in their own Countries. He made several tours abroad visiting the UK, Canada, USA, Suriname, Trinidad and Guyana. At that advanced age he travelled in economy alone without any help. He used to attend conventions and meetings as late as midnight. He always had a pleasant smile on his face, even though he was tired. He inspired and rallied the jamaats so they stood firm and Worldwide Lahore Ahmadiyya survived this storm by the Grace of Almighty Allah.

All the publication and translation work of the USA jamaat was initiated and inspired by this God-inspired person, It was Janji who instructed the USA Jamaat to start the printing and translation projects which have done so well by the Grace of Almighty Allah.

May Almighty Allah Grant us the spirit to carry on the work of the Ahmadiyya Movement. We all miss this man of Allah. I pray to Almighty Allah that He Grants our dear Janji a high place in paradise. May Almighty Allah show us the way to serve Islam and the Quran as did this great man.

*Wassalaam*  
**Samina Malik**

# Philippines Report 2009

By Mrs. Samina Malik



New mosque and library at Cagayan de Oro City

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in the Philippines is making steady progress, by the Grace of Almighty Allah. Noman and I have visited the Philippines thrice this year, staying for more than a month each time, and Fazeel has come twice, once in February and again in March. Our third visit was during Ramadan of 2009. As several significant events are happening in each city simultaneously, these activities are described in the report under the heading of that city.

## Cagayan de Oro City

### Completion of the Mosque (Prayer Hall) and Library extension in the Cagayan de Oro center

Alhamdulillah! The construction of the Prayer Hall (Mosque) and Library addition to the center in Cagayan de Oro was completed in November, 2009. Dr. Noman Malik paid for the construction in the name of his late parents, Nasra and Ijaz Ilahi Malik. May Allah accept this sadqa Jaariya on their behalf and admit them to His Mercy and Forgiveness. Daily prayers are being held in the mosque, and Dr. Mendoza and his wife Nena Mendoza are holding classes on Islam in the center. They have also instituted an outreach program in the surrounding community to introduce neighbors to Islam. Dr. Mendoza was Professor of Oceanography when he accepted Islam about sixteen years ago. Since then he took early retirement to dedicate himself to the propagation of Islam.

He and his wife, Nena Mendoza, have worked tirelessly to promote the Religion of Allah. Dr. Mendoza is translating Maulana Muhammad Ali's English translation of the Holy Quran into Bisayan. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward Dr. Mendoza and Mrs. Mendoza for their dedication and hard work.

### Lecture at Xavier University

Dr. Noman Malik gave a lecture on September 7 at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro University titled, Peace and Tolerance in the Holy Quran, an effective answer to Fanaticism and Militancy. The Country's President suddenly proclaimed a public holiday on September 7 a few days before the lecture to commemorate a famous Religious Leader's death. We were apprehensive

that the students may not attend, as the University was closed for the holidays; but, Alhamdulillah, almost 100 faculty and students, including the University's President Fr. Jose Ramon Villa and the Vice President for the Missions, participated. Noman spoke for 50 minutes with a power point presentation. He explained his topic very well. It was liked by everyone. After the speech, the President of the University thanked Noman for a wonderful presentation. He said that he had learnt many new things, as he had not known there was so much about peace and tolerance in the Holy Quran. We made many interfaith contacts at the lecture, which, Inshallah, will prove very beneficial. We thank Almighty Allah for his help.



Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro, Philippines



Lecture given at the Xavier University by Dr. Noman Malik



President of the Xavier University welcoming Dr. Noman Malik



Professors and students listening to the lecture of Dr. Noman Malik



Dr. Noman Malik giving a lecture at the Xavier University



Audience listening to Dr. Malik's lecture



Dr. Noman Malik answering questions of the audience



LEFT: Mrs. Samina Malik presenting the Holy Quran to the President of Xavier University.

RIGHT: The President of Xavier University presenting a gift to Dr. Noman Malik



## Lectures at the Cagayan de Oro Center

During our visit in the Ramadan of 2009, Noman was busy giving classes every day to the students and members in the Center, mainly on the Ahmadiyya Movement.

Topics discussed were: Claims of Hazrat Mirza Sahib as Mujaddid, Promised Messiah and Mahdi, including the death of Jesus, Hazrat Mirza Sahib's denials of claim to prophethood and Anti Christ Gog and Magog.

Special emphasis was laid on how to present the Ahmadiyya movement to Muslims and Non-Muslims.



Dr. Noman Malik holding a class on Ahmadiyya Movement for the members in Cagayan de Oro



Members of Cagayan de Oro having an Iftar Dinner

We hope and pray that these lessons will prove useful to jamaat members in their efforts to spread Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement in the Philippines.

## Ramadan at the Cagayan de Oro center

We arrived in Cagayan de Oro in the first week of Ramadan. For the next two weeks Noman gave lectures on the Ahmadiyya movement and Islam during the day . In the evenings we would have Iftar with the members and perform the congregational Maghrib and Isha prayers. We will always carry fond memories of the joy and fellowship which we experienced in observing Ramadan with our Ahmadi Brothers and Sisters.



Sister Fatima taking the Bait

## New members take the bait

Two new members, Sister Fatima and Brother Pares, joined the Ahmadiyya Movement by taking the bait at the hands of Dr. Noman Malik.

May Allah Taala Bless them and give them the strength and fortitude to serve Islam and Ahmadiyyat.



Brother Pares taking the Bait

### Distribution of Free Food to the needy in Cagayan de Oro during Ramadan

We prepared food bags for free distribution to the needy in the neighborhood of the Center. Each food bag contained rice, cooking oil, sugar, tinned fish and noodles. The food was distributed without regard to a person's religion. People were very happy to receive this assistance, and we hope this practical demonstration of Islamic charity and goodwill will induce them to come to the center to investigate the religion of Islam.



Food distribution for the poor at Cagayan de Oro Center



Food distribution for the poor at Cagayan de Oro Center

### Radio Broadcasts of the Bisayan translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Translation of the Holy Quran

By the Grace of Almighty Allah, Maulana Muhammad Ali's Bisayan translation with footnotes is being read out bi-weekly on the radio in Cagayan by Dr. Mendoza. The broadcast reaches Cagayan and the surrounding areas.

#### Cebu City

### Inter faith symposium

One of the highlights of the jamaat activities in Cebu City would undoubtedly be the interfaith Symposium held on February 7, 2009.

A press conference publicizing the symposium was held three days prior to the event. Reporters from the Cebu times, television, and radio were present. The reporters interviewed Noman, Mr. Harjan and myself. The interviews were featured on television and radio, and were published in the Cebu times with our photographs.

One day prior to the symposium, the office on Muslim Affairs and the Mayor's office hosted a pre-symposium dinner for Noman, Fazeel and myself.

The symposium was sponsored jointly by the Office on Muslim Affairs and the Office of the Mayor of Cebu. On our last trip to the Philippines in 2008,



Sister Nena Mendoza with her grandchildren

Mr. Harjan, the director of the Office on Muslim Affairs for the Central Visayas region, proposed that we should hold a symposium to inform the Muslim public about the service to Islam being rendered by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. When the Acting Mayor of Cebu City, Mr. Micheal Rama, came to know about the planned symposium, he suggested that it would be a good idea to make this an interfaith event in which the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement could demonstrate how its deeply spiritual, liberal, tolerant and progressive ideas about Islam were ideally suited to fostering interfaith understanding between Muslims and Christians.



Samina and Noman giving an interview to the Cebu news reporter

We all thought that an interfaith symposium seemed to be a good idea and agreed with his proposal. This would be the first ever Interfaith Symposium to be held in Cebu City.



Muslim Affairs Director Harjan and staff preparing the packages of Islam and Ahmadiyya Movement booklets for the Interfaith Conference

The Theme of the symposium was the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and the Renaissance of Islam.

Muslim Affairs, Mr. Ali Singaki, spoke and welcomed us as the guests of honor. The invitees included the Ulema, Christian Ministers, Government officials and other Muslim leaders. The symposium was held in the auditorium of St Theresa's College. The audience, which was in excess of 700 people, was equally divided between

Muslims and Christians. The attendees included government officials, university Professors, university and college students from the other educational institutions in the City, intellectuals and Muslim ulema and ustads from the Central Visayas and Mindanao region. We were the main speakers. I introduced the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and listed some of its accomplishments. Noman lectured on the principles of Islam, based on the Surah Fatiha, as interpreted by the Ahmadiyya Movement in promoting interfaith harmony. Fazeel spoke about the need for the reform in the Muslim world in Hazrat Mirza Sahib's time and the important reforms introduced by Hazrat Mirza Sahib. His lecture was delivered in two, half hour segments. Other speakers included Mr. Harjan, the Director of the Office on Muslim Affairs for the Central Visayas region, Mr. Ali Singaki, the head of the Office on Muslim Affairs, based in Manila, and Father Renato Oliveros, from Ateneo University in Manila, who spoke about tolerance in Islam. Dr. Oliveros holds a Doctoral degree in Islamic Studies from Temple University Philidelphia. USA. The response to this well-publicized symposium had been so great that people who tried to register late were turned away. The audience listened with rapt attention to the speakers. Mr. Fazeel



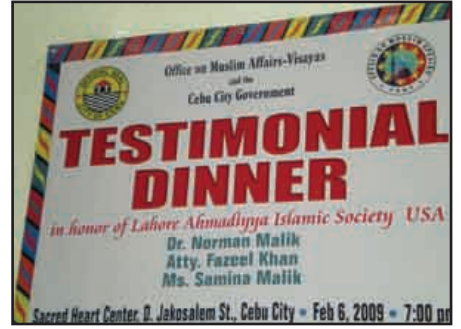
Samina and Noman with Director Harjan and staff of Muslim Affairs and the University staff



L to R: Samina Malik, Noman Malik, the Vice Mayor and Director Hajan at the press conference in Cebu



Testimonial dinner in Cebu



Testimonial dinner in honor of Samina, Noman and Fazeel



Mrs Samina Malik, lecture at the Interfaith Symposium



L to R: Orengezb, Director Harjan, Director Ali Sangki, Prof Renato Oliveros (translator of the Quran into Togalo), Vice Mayor Rama, Fazeel Khan, Samina Malik, and Dr. Noman Malik



Vice Mayor Rama, speech at the Interfaith Conference



Fazeel S Khan Esq, lecture at the Interfaith Conference



Dr. Noman Malik, lecture at the Interfaith Conference



Audience at the Interfaith Conference in Cebu



Audience at the Interfaith Conference in Cebu



Mr Ali Sangki, Chief Director Office of Muslim Affairs



Symposium speakers with framed certificates



S Khan's speeches were especially appreciated by the attendees and the organizers.

Approximately 600 Holy Qurans and 3000 booklets on Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement were distributed free among the audience at the symposium.

The funds for the Holy Quran distribution had been donated by DSP Bashir Ahmad Sahib of Peshawar two days before his demise, and funds for the Booklets on Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement were donated by Drs Asad and Haleema Ahmad of Pakistan. May Allah Taala Reward and Bless them all for their sacrifice in His cause.

One beneficial effect of the overwhelming success of the symposium has been that future interfaith symposia of this kind, with the participation of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, have been proposed as a regular feature in promoting interfaith harmony and unity in the Central Visayas Region. It is hoped that these symposia may be duplicated elsewhere in the Philippines for interfaith harmony.

### Brother Najeeb Rasul and Other Muslims join the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement

Alhamdulillah! Brother Najeeb Rasul and some other Muslims joined the Lahore Ahmadiyya movement after listening to Fazeel's speeches in the February interfaith symposium. His joining the jamaat is a big boost to the Lahore Ahmadiyya movement in Cebu. Brother Najeeb Rasul is a well-known and highly respected aalim in the Philippines. Many years ago he was severely wounded in a terrorist bombing attack which has left him blind, and severely dysfunctional in one hand; but this did not deter him, and he continued to work tirelessly for Islamic dawah in spite of his disability. He has a popular daily radio program which reaches millions of listeners. He projects the liberal enlightened views of the Ahmadiyya Movement about Islam in his radio broadcasts and discusses topics such as the death of Jesus, jihad, etc. In our visit to Cebu this Ramadan, we learned that recently there has been strong opposition to Ustad Najeeb by bigoted and prejudiced Ulema who have tried to pressure and boycott him financially. But

he has stood firm in his faith, in spite of this coercion. May Almighty Allah, in



Ustad Najeeb Rasul taking the Bait at the hand of Noman Malik

His infinite Mercy, protect Ustad Najeeb Rasul and Grant Sabr and Patience to bear this persecution. Members are requested to pray earnestly for brother Najeeb Rasul in this hour of trial.

### Professor Espiritu and six students join the Lahore Ahmadiyya

By the Grace of Almighty Allah, a very positive development transpired in Cebu. Professor Henry Francis (Abdil Ghaffar) Espiritu took the bait as a Lahori Ahmadi in May of 2009 and joined the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, Philippines

in September 2009. Professor Espiritu is an Assistant Professor VII in Philosophy at the University of the Philippines-Cebu College. He obtained his Master of Arts (M.A.) in Philosophy from the University of the Philippines (UP)-Diliman and his Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Political Science (Cum Laude) from the University of the Philippines (UP)-Cebu. He is a Ph.D. in Philosophy Candidate at the Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City. He is a convert to Islam; and his Islamic name is Abdil Ghaffar. In September 2009, it was brought to my attention that an article written by a Lahori Ahmadi Professor in the Philippines, Henry Francis Abdil Ghaffar Espiritu, had been printed in the Islamic Sunrise. I immediately contacted Dr. Espiritu by phone and found out that he had been studying our literature for the past two years and had taken the bait in May of 2009. He had also written an article on Hazrat Mirza Sahib. I sent him additional books of our movement, including The Great Reformer and The Mighty Striving, and asked him to contact Dr. Mendoza in the Cagayan Center.

Professor Espiritu is very active in propagating Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement. He has visited the Center in Cagayan de Oro and met Dr. Mendoza. He needed our books to distribute in the mosques, and we asked Dr. Mendoza to send him a shipment. Dr. Mendoza packed and sent him eleven boxes of books and Holy Qurans. Thanks to Almighty Allah, the three Mosques in Latye where Prof. Espiritu is active



Members taking the bait at the hand of Noman Malik in Cebu City

now have the needed books on Islam and Ahmadiyyat. We thank Prof Espiritu for sending these books and Quran to the three mosques on Layte island. These Mosques are:

- 1.) Maasin Masjid and Muslim Center Southern Leyte, Philippines
- 2.) Lunang Islamic Community and Muslim Mosque Hilongos, Leyte, Philippines
- 3.) Hilongos Masjid and Islamiyyah Maranao Center Hilongos, Leyte, Philippines

At present, Prof Espiritu will work closely with our Center in Cagayan de Oro and also with our member Ustad Najeeb Rasool in Cebu.

Since Dr. Espiritu joined us, six of his students have taken the bait and joined the Lahore Ahmadiyya jamaat. He has another ten students, whom, he will, Inshallah, try to bring into the jamaat. We are very grateful to Prof Espiritu for trying to do so much for the jamaat. Our Cagayan Center would like to congratulate him for his hard dawah work. May Almighty Allah Bless him and Grant him with the best in this life and in the hereafter. Ameen!

### Publication in Philippines

The USA Jamaat has sent twelve thousand Holy Qurans to the Philippines for free distribution.

We thank the Fiji Jamaat for paying the cost for the printing of five thousand Holy Qurans for the Philippine jamaat. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward the Fiji Jamaat for their generous donation. The USA jamaat has printed thousands of books in Cagayan de Oro for free distribution.

- Islam the Religion of Humanity
- Prophet of Islam
- Meaning of Islam
- Introduction to Islam
- Islam and Christianity
- Ahmadiyyat vs Qadianiyat
- True Conception of the Ahmadiyya Movement
- Denials of Prophethood by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad

- Brief Survey of the Ahmadiyya Movement
- The Claim of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad as Mujaddid of the fourteenth Century
- The Claim of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad as the Promised Messiah
- The Claim of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad as Mehdi
- The Call of Islam

### Translation

We have translated the following booklets in tagalo, chevicano and bisayan :

- Islam the Religion of Humanity
- Prophet of Islam
- Introduction to Islam
- Islam the Religion of Humanity
- The Holy Quran from English into Tagalo is in process
- The Holy Quran from English into Bissayan is in process

### Meeting with the Ulema

On Fazeel's second visit in March, 2009, we all went to the main Mosque in Cebu City to meet the local Ustads and Ulema. The meeting had been arranged by our Lahore Ahmadi member Ustad Najeeb Rasool. The meeting went very well. We answered their questions about our jamaat and specific issues like the death of Hazrat Isa and his second coming. We made absolutely clear to them that we were separate from the Qadiani Jamaat and we firmly believe, as did Hazrat Mirza Sahib, in the finality of Prophethood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. The majority of the people present were satisfied with the fact that we believed in the absolute finality of Prophethood and that no prophet, either old or new, could now appear after Prophet Muhammad. The meeting concluded with the maghrib prayers.

### Weekly Radio Broadcasts from Cebu City

The USA jamaat continues to fund Brother Najeeb Rasool's daily radio programme. This is a very effective way of propagating the peaceful, tolerant and enlightened teachings of Islam, as taught by the Lahore Ahmadiyya

Movement. Noman, Fazeel and I appear on the radio program each time we are in Cebu. In every program, we have had the opportunity to talk about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, its role in defending Islam and removing misconceptions about subjects such as Jihad, apostasy, women's rights. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward Brother Najeeb Rasool for providing this valuable service in the Philippines.

In addition, portions of the Bisayan translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English translation of the Holy Quran with footnotes are broadcast every two weeks.

### Lahore Ahmadiyya Center established in Cebu

By the Grace of Almighty Allah, a center has been established in Cebu. As of September, 2009, Brother Najeeb has given two rooms in his house to serve as a meeting place. These rooms have a separate entrance and the larger room is ideal for use as a classroom. Both rooms have been painted and chairs for students have been purchased for the larger room. Classes on Islam are being held by Brother Najeeb Rasool. There is vacant land available adjacent to Brother Najeeb's house, and we are negotiating for the purchase of the land for building a Prayer Hall and Library.

### Television Program Interview

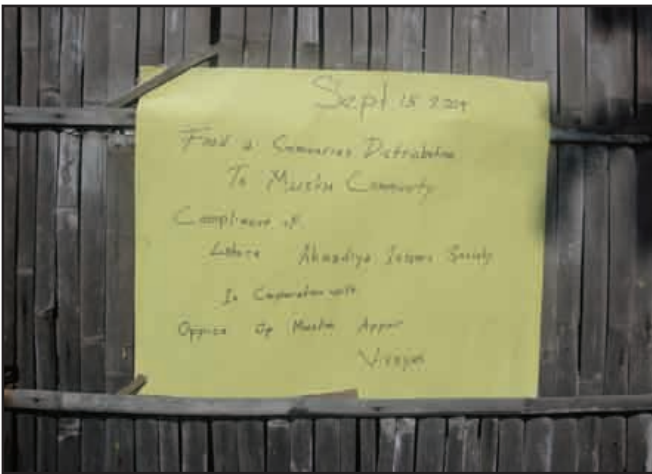
Another encouraging and exciting event in our second visit to Cebu in February, 2009, was a half an hour television interview on a popular TV Channel in which Fazeel, Noman, brother Najeeb Rasool, Director Harjan of the Office of Muslim Affairs and the Manager of the TV Channel in Cebu City participated. The questions were asked by Brother Najeeb Rasool and the Manager of the TV Channel. The issues discussed and highlighted included the history of our Jamaat, its objectives, our differences with the Qadiani Jamaat, and our peaceful, tolerant and enlightened view of Islam. We thank Director Harjan for arranging the TV program and introducing us to the Management of the TV Channel.



Noman and Fazeel speaking on Ahmadiyya movement live on the Radio in Cebu



Ustad Najeeb Rasool at his live Radio Program



Ramadan food distribution to the poor by USA jamaat



Director Harjan and Noman Malik ready to distribute the food



People lined up to receive the Ramadan food aid



Director Harjan, Noman and Samina with the recipients

**Ramadan food distribution through the Office on Muslim affairs, and Director Harjan**

During our visit to Cebu this Ramadan, we distributed food packages consisting

of Rice, cooking oil, noodles and tinned fish to poor Muslims in the city as we had done previously in Cagayan de Oro. As in Cagayan de Oro, we were very impressed by the discipline shown by the recipients of the food packages. We are very grateful to Director Harjan for making

the arrangements for the distribution. Funds for the food distribution program, both in Cagayan and Cebu, have been provided by Drs. Saira Rahman and Ayesha Khan. May Almighty Allah Reward and Bless them for their care and concern about the poor and dispossessed.

## Recording Lectures for Television

During our visit to Cebu this Ramadan in September, 2009, Noman recorded four lectures on video.

These were:

- 1) Peace and Tolerance in the Holy Quran, an effective Answer to Fanaticism and Militancy.
- 2) The Kalima Tayyiba
- 3) A guide to international relations, an Islamic perspective.
- 4) Sura Fatiha.

## Visit to Bacalod City

Thanks to Almighty Allah, a very successful symposium about Islam and the Prophet Muhammad was held in Bacalod city.

The Mayor of the City and the State Secretary also attended the program. The mayor opened the proceedings with a short speech. The Secretary also briefly addressed the audience.

Mr. Harjan welcomed us and spoke about the role of the Office of Muslim Affairs in promoting symposia such as these. I introduced the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, Noman spoke on the conception of God in Islam and Fazeel delivered the main speech about the Holy Prophet Muhammad as the final Prophet.

The speeches were followed by a question and answer session in which a group of Christian students participated enthusiastically. This question and answer session was a great opportunity to show the Muslim attendees how effective the views of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat are in clearing misconceptions about Islam.

Several thousand free booklets on Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement were also distributed during this symposium.

We thank director Harjan for arranging this symposium. May Almighty Allah Reward and Bless him.

We intend, Insha Allah, to hold such symposia in other Philippine cities which should, inshallah, give us wide publicity and recognition among Muslims and Christians.

## Zamboanga City

We arrived in Zamboanga City the morning of September 10 at 6a.m.

Prof Yusuf Morales and Mr. Musa were waiting for us at the Zamboanga airport.

Dr. Mendoza and Brother Alim had arrived in Zamboanga very early that morning from Cagayan de Oro by overnight bus. We all proceeded from our hotel to a scheduled meeting with the Silsila Movement, a Christian-Muslim interfaith group. The president and the founder of the movement is a Catholic priest from Italy. We had a very cordial

Muslims. Prior to the meeting, they had been told negative things about us but had chosen to ignore them till they met us. The president, Mr. Ali, said that there was great animosity against the Ahmadis among the Wahabis in the city due to the Qadiani belief of regarding Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad as prophet of God after the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

Noman explained to them in detail that we were not Qadiani Ahmadis, and how the split between us and the Qadianis had occurred. Also, Noman and I informed them that the objective of the Lahori jamaat was to spread the true, peaceful



First Interfaith meeting in Zamboanga

meeting with them and offered our help in any interfaith initiative.

This meeting was followed by an interview with a well known TV talk show host on a television station called Channel 11. The talk show was preceded by a short interview for the evening TV news. The talk show interview lasted for an hour. Noman, Dr. Mendoza and I were interviewed. The questions were wide ranging, covering the topics of Jihad, apostasy, inheritance, fasting and status of woman in Islam. Most of the questions were answered by Noman. It was a very good interview and was broadcast that week.

The same evening we met another interfaith group. This group was composed of very broadminded liberal

teachings of Islam, and that was our reason for being in the Philippines. They were very happy and satisfied by our answers. After the meeting, we broke our fast with them at iftar time.

## New members in Zamboanga

The next morning, while we were in the van, brother Jaafar and ustad Jamal and Professor Yusuf Morales expressed their desire to join the Lahore Ahmadiyya movement. We stopped the van, and they together with a young nephew of Professor Yusuf Morales, Nuhir, took the bait on Noman's hand. May Almighty Allah Bless them and give them the strength and fortitude to fulfill the conditions of the pledge.



First Interfaith meeting in Zamboanga



Dr. Noman malik and Samina Malik giving an interview for TV News



L to R: TV talk show Host, Dr. Noman Malik, Samina Malik and Dr. N. Mendoza



Dr. Noman Malik with the TV Talk Show Host



Second interfaith meeting in Zamboanga



New members taking the bait on Dr. Noman Malik's hand

## Manila

On our third visit to the Philippines, we landed in Manila on August 26, 2009. The next day, we met Professor Yusuf Morales, who works in the Asian Academy of Business and Computers.

He is the Professor of Sociology, Islamic studies and Geopolitics, and is very active in the educational field. He has designed the AB Islamic studies curriculum being mandated and implemented by the new memorandum from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Through his efforts, The National Anti-Terrorism Task Group ( a government body) has approved our books by Maulana Muhammad Ali to be distributed in government colleges, schools and other educational programs undertaken by the Government. He is currently investigating the feasibility of having our books approved by the Department on Muslim Affairs for the training program of imams.

During the recent hurricane which struck the Island of Luzon, Prof. Morales was our liaison in channeling the Lahore Ahmadiyya Society’s contribution to the Dept. on Muslim affairs.

Professor Morales is very committed to promoting the tolerant and peaceful teachings of Islam, as presented by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. He provided invaluable help in arranging contacts in Zamboanga. Several Muslims joined the Lahore Ahmadiyya Society after these meetings.

During our last stay in Manila this Ramadan, he arranged two very productive meetings of the Asian Academy of Business and Computers faculty and intellectuals with us. After the meetings, two persons, Dr. Menrado Martinez and Mr. Timhar Morales, joined the Lahore Ahmadiyya . Recently two more persons have joined the movement.

May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward Professor Yousef Morales for his dedication and service to Islam and the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. Ameen!



L to R: New members in Manila, including Professor Martinez in the middle



L to R: Samina Malik, members third from the left, Prof Yusuf Morales, Prof Martinaz, second from the right Member attorney John and Noman Malik



Samina with Muslim Sisters



Balingasag Mosque near Cagayan



A sister taking her Shahada in the Balingasag Mosque

## Balingasag

There is Muslim community with a mosque in Balingasag, a small town near Cagayan. Brother Jabbar is the Imam there. We had visited him and the community in September, 2009, during one of our tours in that area. Dr. Mendoza and Noman gave brief lectures on Islam

and a young girl accepted Islam by taking the shahada at Noman's hand. Most of the members are new converts to Islam and we had offered to help in educating them in Islam. Since then, Brother Jabbar, with about fifteen of his members, have visited the center in Cagayan. Dr. Mendoza and Sister Nena have made arrangements to give lessons on Islam twice a month in

the Balingasag Mosque . During Ramadan, we distributed food packets in Balingasag the same way that we did in Cagayan and Cebu. We look forward, Inshallah, to a very productive relationship with the community in Balingasag.



Muslim Sisters in the Balingasag Mosque



Noman giving a talk in the Balingasag Mosque

# Visit to the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Nigeria

By Mrs. Samina Malik

**N**oman and I were invited by the President and the executive of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Nigeria, to attend their 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on November 6, 2009.

The Ahmadiyya movement in Nigeria was established in 1916. At present, there are more than 30,000 bait members in Nigeria, and they have almost fifty mosques.

This would be our second visit to Nigeria. Fifteen years ago, Dr. Mohammad Ahmad, Dr. Zahid Aziz, Noman and I had visited the Nigeria Jamaat for the first time. Since then we had maintained some contact, which included the shipping of a consignment of books to Nigeria.

Two years ago, Brother Alhaji Lukman Adeyemi Adebisi, who had been the Vice-President at that time, had visited us in Columbus, Ohio, and we had discussed strengthening ties between the Nigeria and USA Jamaats. So we were delighted and honored when the President invited us to the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in Nigeria, and we gladly accepted their kind invitation.

We left Columbus on October 29<sup>th</sup> and arrived in Lagos Nigeria on 30<sup>th</sup>.

We were greeted at the airport by the National President, Al Haji Lukman Adeyemi Adebisi, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Al Haji A.S. Shekoni, Chief Imam Alhaji.H. Ibraheem, The National Secretary Al



President Al Haji Lukman Adeyemi being interviewed at the Lagos airport

Haji S.A. Ope and about fifty additional Ahmadi brothers and sisters, including the youth.

We were very happy and honored by this warm and enthusiastic reception. Our hosts had arranged a press conference for us at the airport. We were interviewed by reporters from one of the leading newspapers in the city. They asked questions about terrorism, jihad, women's right and the purpose of our visit. After the press conference, we departed for the residence of our hosts, Mr. and Mrs Oluwole Sodernde, accompanied by members of the executive. The members

of the executive stayed with us for an hour, during which we discussed the Ahmadiyya Movement and its work in Nigeria.

On Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> October and Sunday, November, 1<sup>st</sup>, we met each afternoon in the main Lagos Mosque with the executive and regional representatives of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Nigeria. During these sessions Dr. Noman Malik and I talked about the Ahmadiyya Movement and Islam. Each lecture was followed by a question and answer session.



Members greeting Noman at the airport



Noman being interviewed by TV Reporters at the airport



## Tour of Regional Missions

From Monday, November 2 to November 4, we were taken on a tour of the Ahmadi Mosques in the area surrounding Lagos. A team of about fifteen members from Lagos, which included the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Al Haji A.S. Shekoni and his wife, The National Secretary Al Haji S.A. Ope, The Chief Imam Alh.H. Ibraheem, and other members of the executive and youth, accompanied us on the tour. The entourage consisted of three vehicles, one of which was a van, the front of which was covered by a large banner of the Ahmadiyya Movement welcoming us. We visited the following mosques:

Otta Mission Mosque, Otun Otta Mission Mosque, Oju- Oore Mission Mosque, Ifo Mission Mosque and Abeokuta Mission Mosque in Ogun State. Idikan Mission Mosque, Odo-Ona Mission and Division Two Mosque in Oyo State. Ikire Mission Mosque in Osun State Imota Mission



Samina being interviewed by TV Reporters at the airport

Mosque, Ijede Mission Mosques and The first Mosque built outside Lagos Colony in 1926. We were very warmly and enthusiastically welcomed at all the

Mosques. On a visit to one of the Mosques, we were received at the State border by a Truck full of Ahmadi Members who were overjoyed to see us.



Noman and Samina with the President and members at the airport



Members are welcoming Dr Noman at the airport



Samina and Noman Malik with members at the airport



Samina Malik with Sisters of the Movement at the airport



Jamaat ladies welcoming Sister Samina

Mosque. All accommodations and food for the participants are provided by the Movement.

After the Asar prayers, we had the first session of the Conference. The National President welcomed us and the delegates. I was the main speaker and spoke for about an hour on Hazrat Mirza Sahib's love for the Holy Quran, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and women's issues. The speech was followed by a long question and answer session. Noman also gave a short speech expressing our appreciation for the warm welcome we received in Nigeria.

The following day, Saturday, November 7, non-Ahmadi Muslims were also invited to the Conference. The President, Al Haji Lukman Adeyemi Adebisi, welcomed the guests. This was followed by a Quran recitation and dua. The first speaker, Prof. Fatima Abdul Kareem, gave a short, but very informative, lecture on Tolerance in Islam. She was followed by Noman, who was the main speaker of the conference. He spoke for one hour on the subject of International Terrorism from an Islamic Perspective. The audience greatly appreciated the speech.

The speeches were followed by a fund raising session in which the National President appealed for funds for their planned new Center. The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in Nigeria is trying to build a new Center, as the present Center is small and cannot accommodate

The truck had large banners welcoming us to Nigeria and was equipped with loud speakers. They led us into town, a distance of twenty kilometers, singing religious songs in Arabic.

When we reached town, people on the road side also joined the procession and accompanied us for the last mile on foot, singing and dancing all the way.

Wherever we went, we received the same enthusiastic and warm welcome. We were very impressed by the dedication and sincerity of the members, their love for learning and desire to spread the true peaceful and tolerant teachings of Islam, according to the Ahmadiyya movement.

We met with two obas(kings) and a high government official on our tour and presented them with some of our books.

Our hosts took very good care of us on the tour. We all stayed at a very comfortable hotel in Ibadan, the second largest city in Nigeria. Our hosts were constantly inquiring about our well-being and catered to our every need.

We thank Almighty Allah for giving us the opportunity to visit all these Ahmadi Mosques and meet our Ahmadi Brothers and sisters. We will always remember their love and hospitality.

### Ninety third Annual Conference of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Nigeria

The Conference began with the Jumma Prayers on November 6.

The Conference participants had fasted three days prior to the conference. This three day voluntary fast before the convention has been a feature in the Nigeria jamaat from the earliest times.

Most of the delegates to the Conference had arrived by Thursday. They were housed in a building adjacent to the



Members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement singing Islamic songs and welcoming Samina and Noman



Members walking on foot for one mile to welcome Samina and Noman Malik



The truck which led Samina and Noman for twenty kilometers



Samina and Noman being welcomed at Ogun State Mosque



The secretary of the Ahmadiyya Movement welcoming Samina & Noman



Samina and Noman being interviewed by reporters



Samina and Noman with the members of the Nigeria Ahmadiyya Jamaat

a large gathering. The members responded generously to the appeal and a considerable amount of money was raised.

In the afternoon session, I also presided over a women's session in which an Ahmadiyya women's organization was inaugurated. We hope and pray that this organization will serve to utilize the talents of the ladies of the jamaat for the service of islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement. On Sunday, November 8, we

were invited to give a lecture in a non-Ahmadi Mosque. The people were very nice to us. Noman gave a lecture for forty five minutes on Jihad and International Terrorism from an Islamic perspective, which was greatly appreciated by the audience . The speech was followed by a one hour question and answer session. I also spoke for a few a minutes and thanked them for inviting us to the Mosque. The people were very open-minded and amenable to a discussion on the need for

the Ahmadiyya Movement. The meeting was followed by a delicious lunch prepared by the lady members. One feature which impressed us very much was the presence of many young people in the movement. We were very impressed by their discipline and dedication to Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement, and their enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge . The youth of the movement bode a bright future for the Ahmadiyya Movement in Nigeria, Inshallah!

On Sunday evening, the National President, the National Secretary, The National Vice-President, the Imam and other members came to our host's house to discuss matters relating to the Ahmadiyya Movement, and to explore the possibilities for future mutual cooperation and assistance, especially in the field of publishing the literature of the Jamaat.

The following books and booklets will be initially printed by the USA jamaat in Nigeria:

Islam the Religion of Humanity  
 Prophet of Islam  
 Muhammad the Prophet  
 Teachings of Islam  
 Introduction to Islam  
 True conception of the Ahmadiyya Movement  
 Brief Survey of the Ahmadiyya Movement  
 Ahmadiyyat vs. Quadianiyyat

Inshallah, we will print additional books in the near future.

It was hard to say good bye to our Ahmadi Brothers and Sisters. Over the ten days that we had stayed with them and experienced their love and hospitality and commitment to Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement, we had developed a deep sense of fellowship and friendship with them.

Noman and I would like to thank the National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, the Imams, and the members for inviting us to the 93<sup>rd</sup> Conference and also for taking such good care of us. We would also like to thank our hosts, Mr. and Mrs Oluwole Sodernde, for their generous hospitality and for looking after us so well.

May Almighty Allah Bless the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in Nigeria so it becomes a beacon of light for a peaceful, tolerant and enlightened Islam in Nigeria, and may He increase brotherly relations among us. Ameen!



Noman and Samina walking inside the Palace of the King



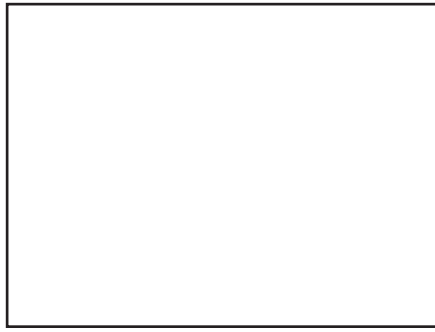
Noman and Samina sitting with the king



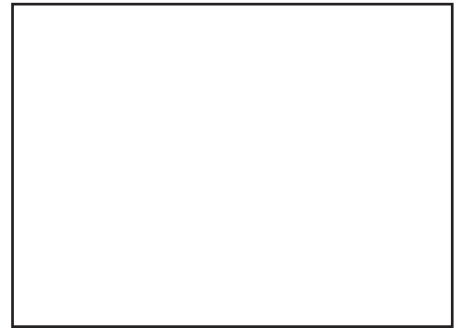
L to R: The Vice President, Samina, The King (Oba), Noman, the General Secretary and the Chief Imam inside the Palace



Young Ahmadi children welcoming Samina Malik by singing Arabic songs



Samina Malik talking to members in the Mosque



Members with Samina and Noman Malik outside the Mosque



First Mosque outside Lagos



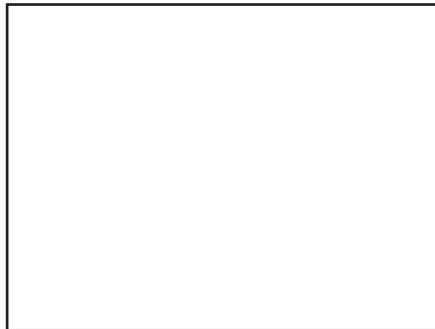
Samina and Noman Malik with female Ahmadiyya members



Young Ahmadi in the Mosque



Members welcoming Samina and Noman



The General Secretary and Noman Malik inside the Mosque



Noman Malik with members of the Mosque in Osun State



Noman and Samina Malik in Osun State Mosque



Members with Samina and Noman



The van of the Ahmadiyya movement in which fifteen members accompanied Samina and Noman for three days



Samina Malik introducing the book, "Survey of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement", in the Lagos Center



Samina Malik giving a lecture in the Center at Lagos



President Al Haji Likhman giving a lecture



Samina Malik discussing the Ahmadiyya Movement with President and Secretary of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Nigeria



Noman Malik giving a lecture in the Center in Lagos



L to R: Noman Malik, Imam Momdu Odebe and Al Haji Oluwole Sodernde



Samina talking to Members at jumah prayers



Ahmadiyya Convention banner in the main hall



Female audience at the Ahmadiyya Conference in Lagos



Noman's lecture at the Ahmadiyya Conference in Lagos



Male audience at the Ahmadiyya Conference in Lagos



Samina's lecture at the Ahmadiyya Conference in Lagos

# Visit to the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore, South Africa

By Dr. Noman Malik

Two memorable events took place when Samina and I visited the South Africa Jamaat. One was the first ever convention of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat to be held in Cape Town, and the other was the purchase of a center for the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam South Africa.

Samina and I arrived in Cape Town from Lagos Nigeria on November, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This visit was long overdue, and we were looking forward to attending the convention. We were received at the airport by Mr. Ebrahim Mohamed, the president of the South Africa Jamaat, Mrs Scheega Mohamed, Mr. Ismail Peck, Mr. Noor Mohamed, Mr. Yasin Begg, Mr. Abdul Kader and sister Beda Salie.

For Samina, this was a happy reunion with old friends she had known since the South Africa cases. For me, it was an honor to meet those people who had so courageously stood firm in their faith during that difficult time, and about whom I had heard so much.



Jumma prayers at Mr. Ebrahim's residence



Mr. Ebrahim Mohamed delivering the Jummah Khutba

For the next two days, we were busy, morning till evening, meeting members and looking around Cape Town with realtors for a suitable place for a center. On Friday, the Jummah prayer was held at Brother Ebrahim's residence. Brother Ebrahim gave a soul-stirring khutba in which he read out excerpts from Maulana Muhammad Ali's booklet, Instructions and Guidance to the Ahmadiyya Organization, about the need to propagate Islam, which brought tears to everyone's eyes.

## Lahore Ahmadiyya Convention Cape Town, November 15, 2009

The next day, Saturday, November 14, we attended the first ever Convention of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in Cape Town. Alhamdulillah, the convention was a great success. It was a whole day affair, starting at 10:30 am and finishing at 6:00 pm. Despite the short notice, about seventy people attended the convention.

The theme of the convention was **"Muhammad the Final Prophet and an icon of Universal Peace and Tolerance"**. The agenda covered the following items; The Universal message of Muhammad, by Mr. Abdul Kader Crombie  
The Finality of Prophethood, by Mr. Ebrahim Mohamed  
The significance and importance of the Bait in the current age, by Mr. Ebrahim Mohamed, Dr Noman Malik and Sister Samina Malik.  
Islam, Peace and Tolerance – an effective Answer to Fanaticism and Terrorism, by Dr Noman Malik.

The global missionary work of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, by Sister Samina Malik  
Prior to our visit, Islam was attacked in the local media as a Religion of intolerance after a local ulema body banned a CD on which the Fatihah and the Lord's prayer were recorded in succession to promote harmony between Islam and Christianity.



Mr. Ebrahim Mohamed delivering a speech at the Convention



Mr. Abdul Kader delivering a speech at the Convention

Prior to that, the same ulema body held a symposium in Cape Town on the subject of the Finality of Prophethood, trying to justify that the alleged appearance of prophet Jesus after prophet Muhammad does not nullify the finality of prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH). The topics were therefore carefully selected by Mr. Ebrahim Mohamed so as to address such problematic issues in the community. It was therefore relevant and important to deal with subjects such as, *“Belief in the absolute finality of prophethood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad-i.e. the belief that no new or old prophet can appear after the Holy Prophet Muhammad; “Belief in all the authenticated revelations of previous prophets; clarity on the subject of “Jihad”, “Punishment for Apostasy” ; “Muslim’s tolerance towards other Faiths” ; “Suicide vs Martyrdom” etc.* The first speaker, Mr Abdul Kader, emphasized the importance of Muslim belief in all the prophets of God and that Islam does not draw any distinction between any of them.

Mr. Ebrahim Mohamed explained that the finality of prophethood does not mean the finality of revelation which still continues to this day, in a limited sense, to non-prophets who closely follow the teachings of Muhammad. I explained at length that Islam does not preach intolerance and terror. I emphasized the true concept of Jihad as a peaceful struggle to control ones lower self and to promote the cause of Islam by making the Holy Quran available in all languages to all and sundry. I explained that a military



Dr. Noman Malik delivering a speech at the Convention



Mrs. Samina Malik delivering a speech at the Convention



Jihad is only allowed when Muslims face attack and possible extinction at the hands of a hostile enemy. I further elaborated that Muslims are enjoined in the Holy Quran to protect all places of worship such as Churches, Synagogues, Temples and Mosques. I explained that suicide is a sin in Islam and not a key to heaven as wrongly taught by misguided, politically motivated scholars.

Mrs. Samina Malik, illustrating her lecture with a power point presentation, informed the audience about the establishment of a Lahore Ahmadiyya Organization in the Philippines. She also highlighted the work being done in Russia, Central Asia, Turkey, Egypt and Jordan. She explained the significance of the Amman Message and gave an account of how she managed to get the Lahore Ahmadiyya Organization as one of the endorsing signatories on the Amman Message Website. She explained the importance of Sheikh Dr. Sayed Tantawi's foreword in the Arabic Religion of Islam in promoting acceptance of our literature among Muslims.



View of the Convention audience



Some stalwarts of the Ahmadiyya Movement



View of the Convention audience

### Members taking the bait

The highlight of the Convention was the taking of the Bait (pledge) by twenty five members of the audience.

Mr. Ebrahim Mohammad explained the historic revelation of the pledge with the reference to the pledge of Aqaba taken on the hand of the Holy Prophet himself. Then I read out the conditions of the Bait (pledge) a person takes when joining the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and

explained why it was necessary to take the Bait. It was Mrs Samina Malik's passionate plea, stressing the importance of serving the cause of Islam in a union of brotherhood with the Imam of the Age Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, which motivated members of the audience to step forward to take the pledge. She emphasized that the bait (pledge) is to be taken openly and not secretly, as the people are taking the bait (pledge) with Allah and this is very important.

Approximately 15 new members took the pledge at the hand of Dr. Noman Malik and 10 previous members renewed their pledges. After the Bait, the audience performed the Zuhur prayer, following which they were treated to a delicious lunch. The lectures continued after lunch, followed by a question and answer session. The meeting ended at 6.00p.m with a vote of thanks by Mr. Ebrahim Mohamed and a closing prayer by Mr Ismail Peck.



Members taking the Bait at the hand of Dr. Noman Malik



Members taking the Bait at the Convention



Ladies members taking the Bait at the Convention



L to R: Br. Begg, , Br Yusuf, Br. Peck, Br. Noman, and Br. Noor at the Sunday meeting



Members at the Sunday Meeting



Samina giving a talk at the Sunday meeting

We would especially like to thank Mrs. Scheega Mohamed for working so hard to make the convention a success. She was constantly on the phone reminding people to attend. The catering arrangements were excellent and the audience really enjoyed themselves.

Samina and I would like to thank and congratulate the President, Mr. Ebrahim Mohamed, and all the members of the South Africa Jamaat for holding this wonderful Ahmadiyya Convention.

**Purchase of a building for the South Africa Lahore Ahmadiyya Organization**

The AAAIL USA has purchased a property to be used as a Center for the South

Africa Lahore Ahmadiyya Organization. Thanks to Almighty Allah, the deed was signed on Nov 16, 2009, and Inshallah, in six to eight weeks time the South Africa Lahore Ahmadiyya Organization will have a very nice Center of their own for the propagation of Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement.

Everyone knows and appreciates the sacrifice that the South Africa Lahore Ahmadi's made in the South Africa Case. May Almighty Allah Bless them and make the Center a leader in combating bigotry, hate and intolerance in South Africa. Ameen! We would also like to thank all the Lahore Ahmadiyya Members who welcomed us in South Africa. We will always remember their love and hospitality shown to us.

We would especially like to thank Mr.

Ebrahim and Scheega Mohamed and their children, Faheem, Naeem, Siraj and Miesqa for having us in their house and looking after us so well. May Almighty Allah bless the family and reward them for their sacrifice, for the sake of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. Ameen!



Mr. Ebrahim Mohamed and Dr. Noman Malik in front of the new South African Jamaat Center



Members in front of the new South African Jamaat Center



Samina and Nomam in front of the new South African Jamaat Center



Inside view of the Center foyer



Inside view of the Center hallway

# Visit to Egypt and Jordan

By Mrs. Samina Malik

**A**lhamdulillah! Almighty Allah in His infinite Mercy continues to open ways for our literature to spread. The Al-Balqa Applied University in Amman Jordan has requested one thousand copies each of the Arabic translations of The Religion of Islam, Mohammad the Prophet, and The Living Thoughts of Prophet Muhammad. This signifies a new level of acceptance of the enlightened, rational and liberal interpretation of Islam espoused by the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore.

In April of this year (2009), I visited Amman, Jordan, and met Professor Abdullah Al-Zoubi, the Dean of the Engineering Faculty of Al-Balqa Applied

University and presented him with a set of our Arabic Books, which included the arabic translation of The Religion of Islam. He was very impressed by His Eminence Sheikh Dr. Sayed Tantawi's (Grand Imam of Alazhar) foreword in The Religion of Islam, praising the book and Maulana Muhammad Ali, and the certificate of approval by Alazhar University. He requested we send him one thousand copies each of our Arabic books, The Religion of Islam, Mohammad the Prophet, and Living Thoughts of Prophet Muhammad for free distribution to students in the University of Jordan. We thank Almighty Allah that our literature will be used in a Muslim University on a large scale.

In the last week of May of 2009, I went to Cairo to personally supervise the shipments of these books to Jordan. In Cairo, I had a very busy schedule; besides arranging for the book shipments, I reviewed our ongoing website and translation projects and initiated some new ones.

The entire Ahmadiyya Movement section of the website has been translated into Arabic and the translation of the Islam section is progressing well. Almost eleven additional books have been translated into Arabic, and the most important work, the translation of the commentary of the English Holy Quran into Arabic, is proceeding well. I also met with His



Sister Samina showing the copy of the title page of the Arabic Religion of Islam to Prof Abdullah Al-Zoubi.



Sister Fakhriyya and Sister Samina in front of the King Hussein Mosque



L to R: Mr. Mohammed Bashir, Mrs. Samina Malik and Mr. Mehmood Assaf at a lunch meeting



Sister Samina and the mufti at his residence



Office of Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs

Excellency, Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, and as usual, he was very happy to see me. Please pray for the success of our projects in Egypt.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, I revisited Amman, Jordan. Thanks to Almighty Allah, the trip was very successful, and I made many contacts in Amman on this second trip.

The most important of these was my meeting with His Excellency, the Minister of Religion, Dr. Abdul Fattah Salah. In spite of his busy schedule, he made time to see me. We talked at length, and I explained to him the difference between the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and the Qadian Ahmadiyya Jamaat. Most people in Jordan are aware of only one group, which is the Qadiani jamaat. I presented a set of all our books on Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement in Arabic to the Minister, including the Teachings of Islam. He was particularly impressed by the Religion of Islam, with Sheikh Dr. Sayed Tantawi's foreword, and requested

one thousand copies of the Religion of Islam for distribution to Government Officials. I also gave him a set of books for Prince Ghazi, together with a covering letter on our official letter head, requesting, in my capacity as Vice-President of the USA Lahore Ahmadiyya Society, that we be allowed to become a signatory on the Amman Message. In the letter I emphasized that we fully agreed with the ideals and objectives of the Amman message, and that we believed in the finality of Prophethood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad and considered all who recited the Kalima Tayyiba as Muslims. Please see the article on the Amman Message for further details. He also presented me with a very precious gift: the message of the Holy Prophet Muhammad to the Roman Emperor. This message was embossed on a beautifully colored stone and placed in a red velvet box. This gift is usually given by the King to all foreign dignitaries who visit Jordan. I felt extremely honored to receive this beautiful gift. I would especially like to say 'Jazak Allah' to Mr. Mohammad Bashir who is a Mayor, and Mr. Mehmood Assaf, who is a Minister in the Municipality and an Engineer. These two Muslim brothers helped me immensely in both of my trips to Jordan. I would also like to say 'Jazak Allah' to retired general Sami Al Anbar who arranged and accompanied me to the meeting with the Minister of Religious Affairs. Brother Mehmood Assaf and his family welcomed me into their home

as one of their own. They used to invite me at their home for dinner every night. I am grateful to Almighty Allah for their hospitality. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward all of them.

I also visited the Mufti of Jordan. His grandparents had migrated from Chechnya and settled in Amman, Jordan more than a hundred years ago. He invited me for tea at his place.

I had met the Mufti, Mr. Mehmood Assaf, and Mr. Mohammad Bashir on my previous visits to the Islamic Conferences in Chechnya.

I thank Almighty Allah for enabling me to get the certificates of approval for most of Maulana Muhamamd Ali's books, Hazrat Mirza Sahib's book, the Teachings of Islam, and Maulana Abdul Haq Vidhiyarti's First Volume of Muhammad in World Scriptures. Perhaps the most influential and effective of these endorsements in helping us gain acceptance of our literature in Muslim countries is the foreword by his Excellency, Sheikh Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, in Maulana Muhammad Ali's book, The Religion of Islam.

I have managed to find some Arabic translators for our books in Amman. We have already translated and printed the Ahmadiyya Movement, by Maulana Muhamamd Ali, into Arabic. We will inshallah, try to distribute it free to all Muslim Countries.

Both of my trips to Jordan were very successful, and I thank Almighty Allah for His help.



L to R: His Excellency Minister of Religion, Dr. Fattah Salah, Mrs. Samina Malik and retired General Sami Al Anbar. Samina accepting the gift from his excellency



His Excellency, Minister of Religion, Dr. Abdul Fattah Salah viewing the foreword by the Grand Imam Sheikh Dr Sayed Tantawi in The Religion of Islam

# Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society USA listed on the New Signatory List on the Amman Message official Website

By Mrs. Samina Malik

## Summary of the Amman message

The Amman Message started as a detailed statement released on the eve of the 27th of Ramadan 1425 AH / 9th November 2004 CE, by H.M. King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein in Amman, Jordan. It sought to declare what Islam is and what it is not, and what actions represent it and what actions do not. Its goal was to clarify to the modern world the true nature of Islam and the nature of true Islam. In order to give this statement more religious authority, H.M. King Abdullah II then sent the following three questions to 24 of the most senior religious scholars from all around the world, representing all the branches and schools of Islam: (1) Who is a Muslim? (2) Is it permissible to declare someone an apostate (takfir)? (3) Who has the right to undertake issuing fatwas (legal rulings)? Based on the fatwas provided by these great scholars (who included the Shaykh Al-Azhar; Ayatollah Sistani and Sheikh Qaradawi), in July, 2005 CE, H.M. King Abdullah II convened an international Islamic conference of 200 of the world's leading Islamic scholars (Ulama) from 50 countries. In Amman, the scholars unanimously issued a ruling on three fundamental issues (which became known as the 'Three Points of the Amman Message'):

1. They specifically recognized the validity of all 8 Mathhabs (legal schools) of Sunni, Shi'a and Ibadhi Islam; of traditional Islamic Theology (Ash'arism); of Islamic Mysticism (Sufism), and of true Salafi thought, and came to a precise definition of who is a Muslim.
2. Based upon this definition, they

forbade takfir (declarations of apostasy) between Muslims.

3. Based upon the Mathahib, they set forth the subjective and objective preconditions for the issuing of fatwas, thereby exposing ignorant and illegitimate edicts in the name of Islam.

These Three Points were then unanimously adopted by the Islamic World's political and temporal leaderships at the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit at Mecca in December, 2005. And over a period of one year, from July, 2005 to July, 2006, the Three Points were also unanimously adopted by six other international Islamic scholarly assemblies, culminating with the International Islamic Fiqh Academy of Jeddah, in July, 2006. In total, over 500 leading Muslim scholars worldwide can be seen on this website unanimously endorsing the Amman Message and

its Three Points. The above synopsis of the Amman Message has been copied from the internet.

Before my second visit to Amman, Jordan in June, 2009, Fazeel S Khan, the secretary of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society USA, suggested I try in my capacity as Vice President of the Lahore Ahmadiyya USA to become a signatory listed on the website, endorsing the Amman Message. Since 2006 only fifteen new signatories endorsing the message have been put on the website. I met the Minister of Religion, Dr. Abdul Fattah Saleh, in Jordan, and presented him with a set of our books for his Excellency Prince Ghazi together with a letter petitioning him to become one of the signatories listed on the Amman Message website. The books included the Religion of Islam with the foreword by Sheikh Sayyed Ahmad Tantawi praising the book and its author Maulana Muhammad Ali.



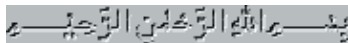
Sister Samina in front of the Al-Balqa Applied Univeristy

The letter to Prince Ghazi is reproduced below:

## LAHORE AHMADIYYA ISLAMIC SOCIETY

### Directors

Dr. Mohammed Ahmad  
Mrs. Samina Malik  
Dr. Noman Malik  
Fazeel S. Khan, Esq.  
Dr. Ersalan Rahman



*In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful*

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March 31, 2009

The Hashemite Royal Court  
His Royal Highness, Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad

RE: Official Endorsement of the Amman Message  
Your Royal Highness, Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad,

Assalamu aleikum! I pray this letter finds you in the best of health and iman by the Grace of Almighty Allah.

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter for your kind consideration. I am the Vice-President of the U.S. based Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society (originally known as "Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam, Lahore"). The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society is an Islamic organization that publishes literature on Islam, the Holy Prophet Muhammad as well as comparative religious studies. These literary works have received worldwide acclaim for their authenticity as well as scholarship. Most of these works have been certified by Al-Azhar University. In fact, His Highness, the Grand Imam, Sheikh Muhammad Tantawi has written the Preface for the Arabic translation of one of our primary texts, "The Religion of Islam" by Maulana Muhammad Ali. In addition to publishing the original texts, we devote much of our time to having these works translated into various languages and distributed for free to people around the world. The objective is to provide people with access to authentic Islamic material so that they may study Islam for themselves in their own language and be able to fully comprehend their deen to the best of their abilities.

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society fully recognizes the importance of unity among Muslims. The prevalent fatwas of kufr that are repeatedly declared over minor differences of opinion do nothing but cause damage to the progress of Islam. The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society firmly believes that anyone who recites the kalima tayyaba, "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah", must be accepted as a Muslim; as to whether he or she believes or practices correctly is a matter only between them and Almighty Allah (swt). We believe that Muslims must unite on this common ground and only then will it "prevail over all religions" (Holy Quran 9:33).

As for our beliefs, we unequivocally affirm:

"Allah - there is no god but He. His are the most beautiful names." (20:8);

"Say: He, Allah, is One. Allah is He on Whom all depend. He begets not, nor is He begotten, and none is like Him." (Ch. 112).

Accordingly, we believe that that there is one, and only one, God Who is the Creator and Controller of the entire universe. He is unique in every respect, and there is nothing which bears any likeness to Him. He is the Knower of all things, and has full power over the whole of creation. He does not stand in need of anything at all, while everything is totally dependent on Him. He possesses all the perfect qualities, and man should worship Him, and Him alone.

We also unequivocally affirm:

"Say: O Mankind, surely I am the Messenger of Allah to you all" (7:158);

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the last of the prophets" (33:40).

"Certainly you have in the Messenger of Allah an excellent exemplar" (33:21).

Accordingly, we believe that the Holy Prophet Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah for all mankind, that he was the last of the prophets (after whom no prophet may appear), and that it is by following his blessed example that one may attain closeness to Almighty Allah.

Because the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society works throughout the world to spread the true, peaceful teachings of Islam, it sees first hand the great need of unity amongst Muslims. It is with this understanding that we are so pleased with the efforts of all who contributed to the creation of the Amman Message. We fully support the Amman Message and would like to officially endorse it and became an official signatory to it. We would further like to assist in spreading the Amman Message to Muslim communities around the world. We firmly believe that the Amman Message is an instrument that can help Muslims the world over to put the following Quranic injunction into practice:

“And hold fast by the covenant of Allah all together and be not disunited. And remember Allah’s favour to you when you were enemies, then He united your hearts so by His favour you became brethren. And you were on the brink of a pit of fire, then He saved you from it. Thus Allah makes clear to you His messages that you may be guided.” (3:103)

May Almighty Allah continue to Bless you and Reward you for your efforts in this regard and Grant you many more opportunities to serve the cause of His deen. Ameen!

Wasalaam,

Samina Malik, Vice-President, Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society

Alhamdulillah, in July, 2009 my name together with the above letter was put on the Amman Message website as the sixteenth signatory. This signature may be viewed at the Amman Message website at:

[http://ammanmessage.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=83&Itemid=62](http://ammanmessage.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=83&Itemid=62)

On the home page click on new in the left hand column which will bring you to the list of the new signatories added since 2006. I am the sixteenth signatory on the list. By clicking on my name our letter requesting to be put on the website as a signatory will be displayed.

## Hindi Translation of the Holy Quran

By Mrs. Samina Malik

**A**lhamdulillah! The Hindi rendition of the Holy Quran translation by Maulana Muhammad Ali has now been completed.

The translation is the product of a labor of love, of more than a decade, by our eminent and learned brother, Dr. Khurshid Alam Tareen of Srinagar, Kashmir. May Allah Almighty Reward and Bless Dr. Tareen for this great service to Islam. Inshallah, this translation will be instrumental in generating a favorable view of Islam among Non-Muslims in India. The Hindi Quran translation is now in the process of being typeset, and should be printed in a few months time. Samina and I went to Delhi, India in August of 2009, to meet Dr. Tareen. We all went to see our Printer, Anurag Jain of

Excel books to discuss the printing of the Hindi Holy Quran. In addition to finishing the Hindi translation of the Holy Quran, Dr. Tareen had also translated into Hindi and typeset two other significant works of Maulana Muhammad Ali, the Manual of Hadith and the Muslim Prayer Book. We gave the typesets of these books, and of two other Hindi translations, *The Answer to Allama Niaz Fatehpuri and the Opponents of Ahmadiyyat*, and *Maqam-e-ibrat* to Mr. Anurag Jain for printing. These books, by the Grace of Almighty Allah have now been printed. The USA jamaat is honored to participate in this endeavor by bearing the cost of the printing. These books are a valuable addition to our Hindi literature which already includes important books about the Holy

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and other topics, all translated by Dr. Tareen. In addition to the Hindi books, Dr. Tareen has also produced many booklets in Urdu on different subject in Islam. May Almighty Allah Grant Dr. Tareen a long life with good health, so he continues this service to Islam. Ameen!

### Books donated to the India Jamaat

The USA jamaat has donated the following books to the India Jamaat in Dehli at the request of Mr. Shaukat Ali: Bayanul Quran, 1000 copies; Maaraful Quran, 700 copies and Mujjadid-e-Azam 300 three volume sets. We hope and pray that these books will be of help in the propagation of Islam in India.



# Conference on the Ahmadiyya Movement in Marmara University in Istanbul Turkey

A conference on the Ahmadiyya Movement was held in February 2009 at the Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey. The conference was sponsored by the Department of Theology, School of Divinity of Marmara University. The speakers at the conference were Mrs. Samina Malik and Dr. Noman Malik. Approximately one hundred students and faculty attended the Conference.

The Conference began with introductory remarks by Professor Mazlum Ayur and Mrs. Ayehsa Kucur about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and the speakers, Mrs. Samina Malik and Dr. Noman Malik.

Mrs Samina Malik spoke first. In her speech, she dealt with the need for Reform in Islam in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. At the beginning of her lecture, she introduced the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and spoke briefly about the circumstances which necessitated the break with the Qadiani Section. She stressed the point that the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement firmly believed, as did Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad himself, that the Holy Prophet Muhammad was the last and final prophet and that anyone professing the Kalima was a Muslim.

Dr. Noman Malik was the next speaker. Utilizing a power point presentation in the Turkish language, he spoke about Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and the reforms introduced by him.

His speech included a brief sketch of Hazrat Mirza Sahib's life, his service to Islam in countering the attacks on the Religion of Islam by the Christian Missionaries and the Arya Samaj and his literary works proving the superiority of Islam and its principles over other Religions. He discussed Hazrat Mirza Sahib's claim about being the Mujadidd, Promised Messiah and Mahdi . Dr. Malik showed how Mirza Sahib, by his personal experience, demonstrated, in a materialistic and atheistic age, that God still communicated with His saints. He enumerated the reforms introduced by Hazrat Mirza Sahib in areas such as Jihad, concept of after- life, heaven hell, etc. He also demonstrated the truthfulness of the Holy Prophet Muhammad by correctly interpreting the Holy Prophet's prophecies pertaining to the return of the Prophet Jesus, Dajjal (Antichrist) and the Gog and Magog, so that instead of appearing like fanciful stories they become powerful truths which are manifesting themselves in the present

age. The lecture was followed by a lively question and answer session, which came to an end only when the students had to go to their next class. We thank Allah Almighty for a successful conference about the Ahmadiyya Movement in Turkey at a prestigious University, for the first time in the history of the Movement. We would also like to say Jazak Allah to our dear brother, Professor Sadi Kucur, his wife, Ashe Kucur, and Professor Mazlum Ayur for arranging the lecture. May Allah Taala Bless and Reward them for their help.



Booklets on the Ahmadiyya Movement for free distribution



Prof Mazlum Ayur having a discussion with Noman Malik



L to R Prof Mazlum Ayur, Mrs. Ayse Kucur, Phd Student, Mr. Ismail Gulec and Prof Sadi Kucur



L to R Mr. Ismail Gulec, Prof Sadi Kucur and Mrs. Samina Malik



Mrs. Ayse Kucur introducing Dr. Noman Malik and Mrs. Samina Malik



Dr. Noman Malik giving his lecture



Mrs. Samina Malik giving her lecture



Question and answer session



Mrs. Samina Malik and Prof Mazlum Ayur



L to R: Prof. Sadi Kucur, Dr. Noman Malik, Mrs. Samina Malik and Mrs. Ayse Kucur

# 2009 International Convention of AAIIL, USA

**B**y the Grace of Almighty Allah, a very successful 2009 international convention of the USA jamaat was held in Columbus, Ohio from July 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The theme of the convention was Muhammad the last Prophet.

In addition to the USA members, delegates from Holland, Pakistan, Canada, Fiji, Australia, France, Australia and South Africa also attended the convention.

The convention was preceded by a three day course on the Ahmadiyya Movement which was attended by about thirty people. Mrs Sabiha Saeed from Pakistan lectured on Hazrat Mirza Sahib's life, and Dr. Noman Malik discussed Hazrat Mirza Sahib's claims as Mujaddid, Promised Messiah and Mahdi, his denials of claim to Prophethood and the related topics of the Dajjal, Gog and Magog.

Members were very pleased with the classes, and felt that they had greatly benefitted from the course. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward Mrs. Sabiha Saeed and Dr. Noman Malik for their hard work and dedication in conducting the course.

Daily congregational prayers were offered during the five days of the course and the Convention. A Quran Dars followed each Fajr Prayer. These inspiring Dars were delivered by Mrs. Sabiha Saeed, Mr. Ebrahim Muhammad from South Africa, Dr. Hamid Rahman and Mr. Abid Aziz. The meeting of one's Ahmadi brothers and sisters from all over the world, the renewing of old friendships, the Congregational prayers and the Quran Dars generated a spiritually charged atmosphere which revitalized and strengthened every one's faith and commitment to Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement.

The convention began with Jummah prayers in Masjid ul Uruj. Mr. Abid Aziz delivered the Khutba.

Below is a listing of the very edifying and educational speeches delivered at the convention:

## Saturday Morning Session

### **The Shafa'at of the Holy Prophet:**

An analysis of the true significance of the Holy Prophet Muhammad's intercession on behalf of believers.

By Mrs. Sabiha Saeed Secretary Tanzeem Khwateen Pakistan

**The Holy Prophet, in the Eyes of the Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad:** A review of the status of the Holy Prophet as expounded by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.

By Mr. Reza Ghafoerkhan, Stichting Ahmadiyya Jamaat Holland

**Hazrat Ayesha's Marriage to the Holy Prophet:** An assessment of the circumstances surrounding this holy union and a response to the common misunderstanding concerning Hazrat Ayesha's age.

By Mehboob Reza, Esq. General Secretary AAIIL Fiji

**Hazrat Ayesha's Role in the Education of Islam:** An assessment of Hazrat Ayesha's role in transmission of hadith and as serving as a leading educator to the Muslims about the Holy Prophet's character.

By Mr. Ebrahim Mohammed, President AAIIL South Africa

**The Battle of Badr:** An analysis of the defensive of nature of this war and the significance of this historic events.

By Dr. Hamid Rahman AAIIL USA

## Saturday Evening Session

Outside guests were invited to the Saturday evening session. These guests numbering about twenty, included members of interfaith groups, church groups and Islamic organizations. One notable guest was Professor Scott Alexander from Chicago. He is

a Professor of Islamic studies at the Catholic theological Union in Chicago, and is well known in interfaith circles.

**A Universal Prophet:** An introduction to the institution of prophethood in Islam and an analysis of the significance of the Holy Prophet Muhammad being the last prophet. By Fazeel S. Khan, Esq Secretary AAIIL USA

**An Exemplary Citizen:** A review of the Holy Prophet Muhammad's family life, community service work ethic and moral convictions.

By Sadr-u-Din Sahukhan, Esq.

**A Model Public Official:** An examination of the ethical rules of professional conduct instituted by the Holy Prophet Muhammad, and a review of the reforms he instituted to advance the rights of the historically weaker members of society.

By Maliha Ahmad MA

**A Guide for International Relations:** An analysis of the Holy Prophet Muhammad's lessons on peaceful coexistence, including an examination of the concept of a "just war".

By Dr. Noman Malik

**An Ideal Spiritual Reformer:** An assessment of the spiritual transformation produced by the Holy Prophet Muhammad during his lifetime, and a synthesis of the morality based civilization he created.

By Dr. Mohammed Ahmad

Mr. Nur Sardar, the Vice President of the Holland Stichting Jamaat, gave a brief history of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Holland, and showed the Braille edition of the Dutch Holy Quran as well as the pocket size and deluxe leather editions of the Dutch Holy Quran produced by the Stichting Jamaat.

Dr. Abdus Salaam of Specialty Promotions gave a preview of his

upcoming book about Elijah Muhammad, and the spread of Islam among the black community. This book mentions the role of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in that context.

### Sunday Morning Session

The Children Program was held on Sunday morning, July 19<sup>th</sup>, the last day of the convention. The members as usual greatly enjoyed the presentations by the children. The children recited short chapters from the Holy Quran. Miss Malaika Sahukhan recited the Sura Al-Teen, and sang a song about the months in the Islamic Calendar. The audience loved their performance, and especially enjoyed the perfect Arabic accent of Malaika's delivery. Mrs. Ayesha Sahukhan from Vancouver was in charge of the children's program.

She is to be congratulated for the excellent presentations made by the Children, and for her skill in conducting the session. May Almighty Allah Bless them all and Grant them success in this life and in the next.

After the children's program, Mr. Fazeel S. Khan reported on the activities of the USA Jamaat in USA. He also gave the audience the good news of our acceptance as signatories on the Amman Message website.

After the USA report, Mrs. Samina Malik gave an account of the Publication and Translation works of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat. She also told the members about her visits to various countries in the world to organize and register new Lahore Ahmadiyya jamaats which would, inshallah, serve as centers for spreading the tolerant and peaceful teachings of Islam. Her talk was illustrated with a power point

presentation of slides showing the new members and centers. The audience was very enthused and inspired by her speech and slide show.

Mrs. Samina Malik then appealed funds for the printing and translation projects, and for the establishment of the jamaats in the various countries of the world.

The members responded generously, and by the Grace of Almighty Allah, a total of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars was collected. The USA Jamaat thanks all the members for their generous donation. May Almighty Allah Reward and Bless them for their sacrifice in the cause of Islam and the Ahmadiyya movement.

One inspiring and moving event which took place in the convention was the taking of the bait by Brother Salahuddin on Saturday evening. May Almighty Allah Bless brother Salahuddin and Guide him on the right path. Ameen!

## Local activities of the AAII, USA

The USA Jamaat has been busy with numerous activities within the country as well. The various activities include active participation in inter-faith ventures, working with other faith groups in community service projects, and participating in coordinated projects with other Islamic organizations.

### Interfaith Work

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society initiated its involvement in the interfaith sphere several years ago. It took a more palpable form in the last couple of years with Dr. Ahmad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad's active participation in the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio's Spiritual Sharing Committee and Fazeel S. Khan's contributions as a board member of the Interfaith Center for Peace. As representatives of the Muslim community through these associations, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society has recently made some great achievements. In September of this year, the Lahore

Ahmadiyya Islamic Society hosted an Open House at Masjid-ul-Urooj through the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio's Spiritual Sharing Committee. Despite some initial opposition from some Muslim individuals (who tried to impose the archaic, discriminatory attitude towards Ahmadi-Muslims that is held in Pakistan to deprive us of this opportunity), alhamdulillah, eventually all obstacles were cleared and the event was set. By Allah's Grace, on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, approximately fifty members of the Interfaith community showed up at the doorsteps of Masjid-ul-Urooj. Sikhs, Hindus, Bahais, Christians, members of the Unitarian Universalist Church, and Non-Ahmadi Muslims arrived with the desire to learn and share. All guests were seated in a big circle to eat and introduce themselves. Fazeel S. Khan gave a very inspiring introduction to the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. The audience was informed of the Jamaat's historic achievements, current worldwide activities and contributions to the service

of Islam. Dr. Noman Malik gave the Azan, and explained the meaning and significance of the Sura Fatiha prior to the Asr prayers. A big crowd gathered in the back of the masjid, in pin drop silence, to observe the congregational prayer. Guests then divided themselves into one of three discussion groups of their choice: freedom of will, gender relationships/rights, and religious tolerance. Dr. Noman Malik, Dr. Mohammad Ahmad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad moderated these groups. Free literature and copies of the Holy Quran were given out to those interested. A library tour was conducted by Dr. Noman Malik, followed by the viewing of Maulana Muhammad Ali's original Holy Quran translation manuscript. The Open House concluded with desserts provided by Sr. Samina Malik and Sr. Naseera Ahmed, and a note of gratification from our guests. It was also a great honor for us to have Chaudhry Mansur Ahmed Sahib, former General Secretary of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Lahore, attend and participate in the event. We thank Allah Ta'ala for



Guests at the interfaith open house observing congregational prayers in Masjid-ul-Uruj



Guests at the interfaith open house observing congregational prayers in Masjid-ul-Uruj



Guests outside Masjid-ul-Uruj at the interfaith open house in Columbus, Ohio

His Mercy and the participation of our distinguished guests for making this Open House a successful reality. We learned a very important lesson from our own experience. Perseverance, prayer and patience, helped us achieve the right goal at the right time.

As a board member of the Interfaith Center for Peace, Fazeel S. Khan played a prominent role in organizing a day long event, titled "Children of Abraham", along with other local religious leaders this past October. In addition to making valuable connections and developing meaningful relationships with other religious communities, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society was recognized as an official sponsor of the event, which drew a large population of attendees from various faith traditions. This program was collaborated with the Ohio Humanities Council, of which Fazeel S. Khan is a "speaker" on their Speakers Bureau, offering presentations on Islam. The program was designed to bring together the Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities and focus on the commonalities between them, primary of which is the Patriarch Abraham. Unique from other interfaith events, this event offered workshops in which skill training workshops were offered to the participants. From "compassionate communication" to "effective listening", the participants were provided practical lessons from experts in the respective fields on how to implement skills that enhance peace and justice. Dr. Noman Malik, Sr. Samina Malik, Dr. Mohammed Ahmad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad participated in the event. As a representative of the Muslim community, Dr. Ahmad also delivered a brief, but inspirational, talk at the end of the evening on his reflections of the day's events and the importance of continued work in this regard.

In addition to these two events, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society also takes part in other inter-faith related projects. One such venture is the in-home dialogue offered through the Interfaith Association of Ohio's Spiritual Sharing Committee. Four host families rotate in serving lunch and introducing a topic of their choice. In our in-home dialogue, a Christian couple and a Cherokee Indian couple are participating with us. In

September, Dr. Mohammed Ahmad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad hosted and talked about the basic principles and teachings of Islam, through Quranic references. The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society also participates in the monthly, 'Feeding the Hungry' program at the YWCA Shelter for homeless women and children. This program is sponsored by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). Milk, juice, desserts and salads for about two hundred people, are provided by our Jamaat. Both Dr. Mohammad Ahmad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad have been helping the coordinators of this program in setting the tables, serving food and cleaning the kitchen afterwards. Sr. Lubna Ahmad is also working with Long Lasting Community Development Association (LLCDA), to conduct classes in English as secondary language (ESL), to the Ohio State University immigrant students and their spouses. Lessons in conversational English and comprehension, along with understanding of the Ohio Driving Digest, are offered twice a week, providing an excellent opportunity for international students to learn useful skills and also get to know us better.

Fazeel S. Khan represented the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society at an Iftar offered by the St. James Episcopal Church this past Ramadan. It was a wonderful opportunity to attend a gracious invitation by our Christian neighbors and foster meaningful relationships. Some of the new friends made at the Iftar reciprocated by attending our Open House, and are keenly awaiting participating in future events. Similarly, Fazeel S. Khan represented the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society at a Racial Diversity Taskforce event, hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church. The event provided an excellent opportunity to take part in a timely discussion about race and also present the Islamic position on the controversy involving race relations.

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society was also very grateful to participate in the interfaith convention in Florida this past October, under the banner of, 'The Islamic Sunrise'. Masha Allah, this event was a huge success. All due credit is extended to Brother Imtiaz Isakh and Sister Ameena Isakh for the monthly publication of, 'The Islamic Sunrise', and

making this Convention possible. The theme of the Convention was "Concept of God". The speakers were a balanced mix of all major faiths, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and Islam. Maulana Kamal Hydal delivered an extensive talk on the "Oneness of God." Fazeel S. Khan presented on the significance and importance of the "Finality of Prophethood." "Women's Rights" was well presented by an inspiring young Ahmadi sister. All of the speeches were very well received by everyone. The large turnout was well within expectations. Over one hundred and fifty guests were present. People from Trinidad, Guyana, Canada, Pakistan and USA attended this memorable event. The hospitality shown to all guests was exceptional. Many thanks for the graciousness of the local Muslim Community, which made the premises of their Masjid available. The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society distributed free literature, including copies of the Holy Quran and books on the Ahmadiyya Movement's work in the service of Islam. May Allah Ta'ala bless Brother Imtiaz Isakh and his family in taking this initiative to hold such an event for the spiritual benefit of members of all religious beliefs, and may this event be only the first of many future such initiatives. Such platforms provide our Jamaat with an excellent opportunity to propagate the message of Islam in a peaceful and civil manner.

### Work with Muslim Communities

In addition to working with individuals and groups of other faiths, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society has been engaged in working with other Muslim groups as well. The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society has built a strong alliance and a valuable partner with the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR). CAIR is a civil rights organization that furthers the rights of Muslims in America and responds to incidents in which Islam is being misrepresented. The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society co-sponsored CAIR's annual dinner and annual iftar. The annual dinner provides an excellent opportunity to develop relationships with other Muslims and have them learn about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat directly from us, rather than relying on

second-hand information that is usually not accurate. The annual iftar serves as a great way to not only interact with other Muslims but also with members of other faiths who attend to learn more about Ramadan. Recently, Fazeel S. Khan has been nominated to work with CAIR on a new radio project. Titled “Muslim Voice Radio” (MVR), the half-hour radio program is slated to take the airwaves every Friday starting at the beginning of 2010. MVR is intended to provide education to a non-Muslim audience about Islam, provide a platform from which differing views may be expressed and current events may be openly discussed.

Last summer, Fazeel S. Khan was invited by the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) to attend their annual convention. In Washington, D.C., Fazeel was invited to special by-invitation-only events, such as the recognition dinner and the interfaith symposium. Fazeel was also able to speak with ISNA leadership about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, its beliefs and practical work. In addition, Fazeel was able to meet and develop relationships with other leading Muslim figures, religious and political, and inform them about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society. Plans have been set for future meetings and discussions about our Jamaat and the issues we face as Muslims in America.

As part of President Obama’s “United We Serve” volunteer project initiative (and corresponding “Muslims Serve” subcommittee), the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society registered itself as a volunteer organization. The Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat conducted a book drive for several weeks. In addition to our local members, books for donation were acquired from friends, colleagues and contacts from other faith groups. The large quantity of books are donated to four (4) local organizations that forward the books to prisons and other places in which literature is very much needed. Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society is also donating a collection of its publications to several libraries in Central Ohio. The set of books that are being donated are: Holy Quran (English translation and commentary by M.M.Ali), Religion of Islam (by M.M.Ali), Manual of Hadith

(by M.M.Ali), Teachings of Islam (by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad). It is hoped that this contribution will provide a resource that can help bridge the informational divide between America and the Muslim world.

In response to the publicized Rifqa Bary case (in which a young Ohio girl from a Muslim family converted to Christianity, ran away from home and stayed with a Pastor in Florida, claiming that because she is an apostate her family will kill her), the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society prepared and published a Fact Sheet on Apostasy. The Fact Sheet addresses four (4) points that clarify that Islam mandates no punishment for apostasy and, rather, upholds complete freedom of religion. The Fact Sheet was widely distributed in print form as well as via e-mail lists belonging to local Muslim groups, and was appreciated by many, both Muslim and Non-Muslim alike. A copy of the

Fact Sheet is produced below. Jummah prayers and book packing is a regular practice on Fridays for the USA Jamaat. The month of Ramadan brought extra blessings for us. Approximately three thousand Holy Qurans were shipped to various distribution centers of major book stores in USA. By the Grace of Allah, we also continue to handle an abundance of free literature for all those who request it.

We cannot but be thankful to Allah Ta’ala for opening various avenues for the growth of Islam. May He continue to assist and protect all those who undertake this great responsibility. Ameen. “By those scattering broadcast! And those bearing the load! And those running easily! And those distributing the Affair!—What you are promised is surely true. And the Judgment will surely come to pass.”Ch.51:1-6



Guests outside Masjid-ul-Uruij at the interfaith open house in Columbus, Ohio

# FACT SHEET: APOSTASY ACCORDING TO ISLAM

There is a great misconception concerning the subject of apostasy in Islam. It is claimed that Islam considers apostasy as a crime. It is further alleged that Islam prescribes the penalty of death for apostasy. Some go so far as to contend that it is a duty incumbent upon each individual Muslim to kill apostates. In response to these grave misunderstandings, four facts clarifying this very important issue are presented below.

## #1. Fact: According to Islam, There is No Compulsion In Matters of Faith

The Holy Quran states in the clearest terms:

*There is no compulsion in religion (2:256)*

This verse, considered by many as the magna carta of religious freedom and tolerance, emphasizes the basic principle that matters of faith are a person's private concern.

The Quran further clarifies this principle by stating that people are provided freedom to choose belief or disbelief in the religion of Islam:

*We have truly shown him the way; he may be thankful or unthankful (76:3).*

*The Truth is from your Lord; so let him who please believe and let him who please disbelieve (18:29).*

*Clear proofs have indeed come to you from your Lord; so whoever sees, it is for his own good; and whoever is blind, it is to his own harm (6:104).*

## #2. Fact: According to the Quran, No Penalty is Imposed for Apostasy

There is no support whatsoever in the Quran for the belief that Muslims are to kill an apostate, or administer any form of punishment for that matter.

Rather, the Quran explicitly states that the consequence for apostasy is something that is to be determined by God in the next life:

*Whoso disbelieves in Allah after his belief—not he who is compelled while his heart is content with faith, but he who opens his breast for disbelief—on them is the wrath of Allah, and for them is a grievous chastisement (16:106).*

Moreover, the Quran relates that some people living under Muslim rule in Medina overtly planned to discredit Islam:

*And a party of the People of the Book say, Avow belief in that which has been revealed to those who believe, in the first part of the day, and disbelieve in the latter part of it (3:71).*

It is quite illogical to believe that such a plan could be conceived by people living under a Muslim government, if apostasy was punishable with death?

## #3. Fact: According to Hadith (Traditions), Only Apostates Who Became Enemies at War Were Punished

Various Hadith from the collection of Sahih Bukhari are often cited as proof that Islam prescribes death as the punishment for apostasy. A simple review of the context in which these traditions are reported clearly reveal that punishment in these cases were not due to the act of apostasy, but rather the act of treason.

Bukhari is explicit on this point. He has two collections of traditions dealing with apostates:

1. *Kitab al-mufari'n min ahl al-kufr wa-l-ridda*, or "The Book of Those Who Fight (Against the Muslims) From Among the Unbelievers and the Apostates".

2. *Kitab istitabat al-mu'anid'n wa-l-murtadd'n wa qitali-him*, or "The Book of Calling to Repentance of the Enemies and the Apostates and Fight with Them".

The headings of these collections speak for themselves: the first relates only to such apostates that engage in fighting against Muslims, and the second covers only such apostates that join the enemies of Islam.

The oft-quoted Hadith report in Bukhari, "Whoever changes his religion, kill him" (Bukhari 89:2), must be interpreted in this context. It is axiomatic that such a report refers to those apostates only who join enemy forces and fight against the Muslims. Interpreting this report literally leads to an absurd conclusion, not worthy of any serious consideration: it would necessitate the killing of all converts from any faith to any other faith, even those who converted to Islam.

## #4. Fact: The Quran and Hadith Relate Incidents of Apostasy Where No Punishment was Imposed

There are clear examples of apostasy related in the Quran and Hadith with no reference to the apostate receiving any form of punishment.

1. While permitting fighting apostates who joined enemy forces, the Quran cautions Muslims regarding those apostates who joined a tribe who were on friendly terms with the Muslims, and of others who withdrew from fighting altogether, siding neither with the Muslims nor with the enemies. As for these apostates, the Quran states:

*So if they withdraw from you and fight you not and offer you peace, then Allah allows you no way against them (4:90).*

2. In Bukhari 94:47, it is related that a man became a Muslim and the next day, upon getting a fever, left Islam under the superstitious belief that his becoming ill was due to his recent pledge to Islam. Nowhere is it related that anyone attempted to kill him; rather it is related that he went away completely unharmed.

3. In Bukhari 61:25, it is related that a Christian became a Muslim, and began performing the work of a scribe for the Holy Prophet Muhammad. He then apostasized, reverting to his Christian faith. After leaving Islam, he spoke of the Holy Prophet Muhammad in extremely derogatory terms, labeling him an imposter. Neither was this person killed nor was he punished in any way for his views.

If apostasy is to be punished by death, why weren't the apostates in these incidents killed?

### Conclusion

It is unfortunate that despite clear evidence to the contrary, some people maintain that Islam mandates the killing of apostates. Whether advocated by Muslim or non-Muslim, such a belief must be considered contrary to the clear teachings of Islam and dismissed as propaganda based on either ignorance or illegitimate motive.

### CONTACTS

*This Fact Sheet has been compiled using Maulana Muhammad Ali's "Religion of Islam" as a primary source. The chapter entitled "Jihad" in this masterful treatise, which includes a comprehensive discussion on the issue of apostasy, is published as a separate booklet for free distribution and is available online at the following url: <http://www.muslim.org/books/pdf/jihadinislam.pdf>. For more information, you may feel free to direct your inquiries to the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, Attention: Fazeel S. Khan, Esq., at [fazskhan@aol.com](mailto:fazskhan@aol.com) or (614) 873-1030. Free literature on Islam and comparative religions are available upon request.*