60th Anniversary of the passing of Allama Maulana Muhammad Ali

– See story, page 4

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As the year draws to a close, it is time to take stock of what has been accomplished and what remains to be done.

First and foremost, we thank Almighty Allah, the most Beneficent (Al-Rahman) and Merciful (Al-Raheem) for all the opportunities He has given us to serve His cause and for the resources He has bestowed upon us to accomplish that objective, and we beseech Him to Grant us the strength and resolve to utilize those resources in His service.

There is much talk these days about the role and objective of the Lahore Ahmadiyya jamaat. The role and objective of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement can be easily determined by examining the reason for its formation.

The Ahmadiyya jamaat is the organization founded by the Mujaddid of this age, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, to continue the mission entrusted by God to him. The mission of Hazrat Mirza Sahib as Mujaddid was to remove any wrong beliefs or practices which may have crept into the faith through the passage of time, to defend it from extraneous attacks, and to present the beautiful teachings of Islam to the world which would bring about the final triumph of the faith. This objective, as he proposes in his writings, was to be achieved peacefully, mainly by spreading literature containing the rational, tolerant and peaceful teachings of Islam. Maulana Muhammad Ali has expressed this idea beautifully in two short sentences: “Our work is to take the Holy Quran into the world. After that the Quran will do its own work”.

This, then, is the prime mission of the Ahmadiyya jamaat, and this is what the USA jamaat strives toward. All our activities, both at home in the United States, and in countries abroad, are geared to this objective. It is the duty of all ahmadis to take stock of the situation around them and to commit themselves whole-hearted-ly to any activity by which they can present Islam and Ahmadiyyat to people.

Innovation key to continued progress

Keeping in mind this need to make our books as widely available as possible, we have converted most of our major books into e-book format this year. This is especially important in view of the increasing popularity of e-readers. The initial response to our e-books has been very encouraging. The whole project has been conceived and directed by Samina Malik. In connection with the production of the e-books we would like to acknowledge Brother Shabbier Hoeseni and Reza Ghafoer Khan from Holland, Brother Ebrahim Mohammad from South Africa, and Dr. Mohammad Ahmad, Lubna Ahmad, Zainab Ahmad, Naseera Ahmad, Asad Ahmad and Halima Ahmad from the United States for patiently doing the arduous work of checking the e-book proofs. By the Grace of Almighty Allah, another milestone has been achieved in the multi-media presentation of our literature. The DVD audio recording of the English text and the footnotes of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s translation is now complete, and will be available for sale. Previously only the English text recording was available.

Conventional methods maintained

The free distribution of 6,000 copies of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s Arabic books in Egypt including the Religion of Islam is another such example. The credit for this also goes to Samina Malik, and we thank Allah Taala for this achievement in which our literature is being widely distributed in an important Muslim country such as Egypt. Over the past three years we have donated 15,000 Holy Quran to Nigeria, 10,000 Holy Quran to the Philippines, 1000 Holy Quran to South Africa and 200 Holy Quran to India. Tens of thousands of our other books have been distributed free in these and other countries as well. In addition, thousands of copies of the Holy Quran and our other books have been distributed free in the United States.

Similarly, all the symposia we hold in different countries have the same objective of promoting our literature. In these forums, the ideas presented and the speeches made on the basis of this literature receive accolades from Muslims and Non-Muslims alike, and this is evidence of the high spiritual, moral and intellectual caliber of the literature and the effectiveness of this method of propagation of the Islamic faith and ideals. The foreword to the Religion of Islam by the late Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, and the praise of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s work by Professor Koningsveld of Leiden University in Holland bear further testimony to the excellence of our literature.
INTERFAITH INITIATIVES

One of the key elements for success in this endeavor is to reach out to Muslim and Non-Muslim individuals and organizations in a spirit of friendship and sharing. Brother Fazeel Khan's success with this approach in forging relationships with other religious organizations as presented in the articles in this issue is a model for others to emulate. The success of this approach can be seen in the acquisition of a Lahore Ahmadiyya booth to display our books in the ISNA Convention, representation on ISNA's diversity committee, and the large attendance at our 2011 international convention by individuals from Christian churches and interfaith organizations. The attendance of Sheikh Omar Bastawisy and Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalek, both formerly of Al-Azhar, Cairo, Egypt, at the USA jamaat’s 2011 International Convention at the invitation of Samina Malik is another example.

OUR JAMAATS ABROAD

In our jamaats abroad also, we see the same dedication and zeal to promote our literature. An inspiring example of this dedication is demonstrated by the Stichting Jamaat of Holland and its members such as Brother Shabbier Hoeseni, Brother Nur Sardar, Brother Reza Ghafoerkhan and Brother Jerrel Sardar. Likewise Brother Ebrahim Muhammad and his wife Shegha Muhammad are working hard in South Africa representing the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in forums in and around Cape Town.

In the Philippines we have our dedicated and enthusiastic members in Cebu and Cagayan de Oro. Professor Abdil Ghafar Espiritu has held many symposia in Cebu City Universities, and Ustadz Najeeb Razul hosts a daily radio program in Cebu City which reaches the central and Southern Philippines. In Cagayan de Oro, Sister Nena Mendosa is managing jamaat affairs and building relationships with the neighborhood non-Muslims by inviting them to the Center. Imam Ramiz Manzano also is busy in dawah work, and he, together with Brother Jafar, a resident student, takes care of the Center and the Mosque.

Mention must also be made in this regard about Brother Mehboob Raza in Fiji and Brother Sadr-ud-dean Sahukhan in Australia. Brother Mehboob Raza is donating 50 sets of books consisting of the Holy Quran, Religion of Islam, and Manual of Hadith to libraries in New Zealand. Brother Sadr-ud-dean Sahukhan, in Canberra, Australia is busy in inter-faith activities and dawah work. In addition to these activities, he serves as Imam in Jummah services for the University’s Muslim students. Space does not permit me to name everyone who is engaged in this spiritual jihad. May Allah Taala Bless and Reward them all for their dedication and sacrifice.

OTHER JAMAAT ACTIVITIES IN THE USA

At home in the United States, we have started a weekly Quran dars series via internet which has proven to be very popular with members. Dr. Halima Saeed is doing a very credible job of organizing the dars sessions. Our devoted and enthusiastic members, Mr. Imtiyaz Ishakh and his wife Amina Ishakh, have been organizing a yearly half day interfaith conference for the past three years.

Since 1991 the USA jamaat has been publishing the Light and Islamic Review magazine. The magazine is sent free to more than 700 libraries in the United States. The current editor, Mr. Fazeel Khan, is doing an excellent job of maintaining the high standards of the publication. This excellent magazine may be viewed on our (under re-construction) website www.muslim.org.

Alhamdolillah! Zainab Ahmad is producing a popular quarterly children’s magazine, The Lighthouse Magazine, for the past several years. Almighty Allah reward her for this service to children.

All travel expenses incurred by USA directors are borne by the directors themselves.

FAZLUL BARI

Another significant accomplishment of the USA Jamaat has been a retypesetting of the Fazlul Bari, the Urdu translation of the Sahih Bukhari by Maulana Muhammad Ali, in a modern format. The new typesetting will make it easier for readers to access this two volume monumental work. Both volumes are available for viewing on www.muslim.org. The printed volume will be available shortly.

Last but not least, we are all grateful for the wise and understanding leadership of Dr. Muhammad Ahmad, the President of the USA jamaat. His modesty, sincerity and commitment to Islam and Ahmadiyat are inspiring. He, together with his wife Sister Lubna Ahmad, are involved in interfaith organizations and charitable programs such as feeding the poor, helping in free medical clinics and religious counseling in prisons. Besides these activities, they manually pack and ship book orders weekly. These qualities make him a model for those in leadership positions.

We pray that Allah Taala gives us the strength and fortitude to remain true to the conditions of the Bayat, and Grants us the strength to continue spreading the Holy Quran and other literature in the coming years. Ameen!

Wassalaam
Noman Malik
In Memory of Maulana Muhammad Ali

By Mrs Samina Malik

On October 13, 2011, it was 60 years since our dear and beloved Maulana Muhammad Ali went to his Maker. We remember him every day in our prayers, and ask Almighty Allah to Bless and Grant him a place in paradise.

The quotation inserted on this page was one of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s most loved and favourite and the prayer which he would recite after the Darood Sharif.

He was blessed by Almighty Allah to translate the Holy Quran into two major languages, English and Urdu. The translations and commentaries bear testimony to Maulana Muhammad Ali’s intellectual prowess and extensive knowledge of the subject. But it is the deep spiritual insight inspired by the Mujaddid of this age, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, displayed throughout the commentaries which make his works surpass other translations in explaining the meaning of the Holy Quran. In the preface to his revised edition of the Holy Quran he writes:

“And lastly, the greatest religious leader of the present time, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, has inspired me with all that is best in this work. I have drunk deep at the fountain of knowledge which this great Reformer — Mujaddid of the present century and founder of the Ahmadiyyah Movement — has made to flow. There is one more person whose name I must mention in this connection, the late Maulawala Hakim Nur-al-Din, who in his last long illness patiently went through much the greater part of the explanatory notes and made many valuable suggestions. To him, indeed, the Muslim world owes a deep debt of gratitude as the leader of the new turn given to the exposition of the Holy Quran. He has done his work and passed away silently, but it is a fact that he spent the whole of his life in studying the Holy Quran, and must be ranked with the greatest expositors of the Holy Book.”

Towards the end of his life he revised his English Translation and completed the proof-reading of the manuscript of the Holy Quran all by himself just a few days before his return to the Maker. Maulana Yakub Khan in his foreword to the second edition of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s English translation writes:

“About the closing years of his life, when the Translation had already run into three editions, and the Maulana was stepping into his seventies, he felt he owed it to the world to give it the fruit of his deeper insight into the Quranic truths, which more extensive study in the meantime, and advancing years, had brought him. Once more he plunged himself into another long spell of the most taxing labour to bring out a revised edition. This took him another five years (1946-1951). He forgot that he was no longer a young man. The strain proved too much for him, so that he had to do the proofreading in his sick-bed, which finally proved the death-bed.

“On arrival of the proofs from England,” write his biographers, “the Maulana would get his head raised in his bed, and with hands quivering would correct the proofs and give the final touches.” The final proofs were corrected on
October 8, 1951, and five days later he breathed his last. He died in harness in the service of the Quran.

“The Quran describes the battle for the minds of men as the highest jihad. Maulana Muhammad Ali was undoubtedly the greatest mujahid of his day in the cause of the Quran.”

Maulana Muhammad Ali in his excellent translation has given us the light and the spiritual food. How many millions read his translation of the Quran in the world today? His commentary of the Holy Quran is replete with references and explanation of Arabic words supporting his explanation and conclusion. Without this scholarly work it is almost impossible for anyone to fully understand the Quran. His scholarly translation is admitted by many as a seminal work in the field of Holy Quran translation.

He sacrificed everything in life for the Holy Quran and Islam. Hazrat Mirza Sahib only asked him once to join him in Qadian. At that time he had made all arrangements to start his law practice. But on Hazrat Mirza Sahib’s request, he forthwith abandoned his plans for the law practice and joined the Mujaddid of the age, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, in Qadian. For the next fifty years he wrote untiringly in the defense and exposition of Islam, until death, almost literally, snatched the pen from him. He lived a very simple, humble and caring life. He had completed law school, and in addition was a professor of mathematics in the Anglo-Oriental College. He was a model husband, father and grandfather. People who remember him, recall him with fondness.

I was told a great deal about Maulana Muhammad Ali and his activities in the Jamaat by our dear Janji, the late Dr. Saeed Ahmad Sahib, Mian Naseer Ahmad Farooqi Sahib and Ch. Mansur Ahmad Sahib, all of whom I respect very much.

After Maulana Muhammad Ali, perhaps Mr. Naseer Ahmad Farooqi Sahib had the most knowledge on the Quran in our jamaat.

The USA Jamaat, thanks to Almighty Allah has translated the Maulana’s revised version of the Holy Quran into seven languages: Spanish, French, Russian, Dutch, German, Italian and Turkish, and is working on six more languages.

I remember when Sheikh El Bastawisy from Alazhar and Mr. Ahmad Khalek came to the USA Jamaat convention, they were invited by Minister Louis Farahkhan to his mosque and schools. On our tour of the school, Minister Ismael Mohammad asked the first grade students “Who is Maulana Muhammad Ali?” and the students replied loudly “The translator of the Holy Quran”.

We thank Mrs. Akhtar Aziz for translating A Mighty Striving from Urdu into English and Dr. Zahid Aziz for proofreading and editing the translation. May Almighty Allah reward and bless them both for their hard work. We have also had A Mighty Striving translated into Arabic and will soon be putting this on our website and having it printed for the benefit of Arabic speaking people.

May Almighty Allah Grant our dear Maulana Muhammad Ali a place in Paradise and reward him for his great service to Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement.
By Mrs Samina Malik

The Late Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad Sahib of blessed memory, passed away at the age of 96 on November 15, 1996. In this tribute to Dr. Saeed Ahmad, I would like to emphasize the role he played in initiating and inspiring the publication and translation projects of the USA jamaat.

We, the Lahori Ahmadies are most fortunate in that we have had as an Ameer (President) in the person of Maulana Muhammad Ali, the Mansur — the general, prophesized in the army of the Mahdi by the holy prophet Muhammad. It states in the prophecy that the victory of Islam will come at this general’s hands. Muslims generally believe this will be a physical victory with physical wars and battles. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Mahdi himself, has corrected this misconception by interpreting the prophecy as a spiritual battle with the forces of materialism and atheism. The victory would be a spiritual and intellectual victory, and it would be due to the literature produced by the Mansur who, under the influence of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad’s inspirational writings and the enlightened interpretation of Islam, would present the true, tolerant, peaceful and rational principles of Islam which would attract people to it.

Fulfilling this prophecy, Maulana Muhammad Ali produced that much needed scholarly and inspiring literature. After Maulana Muhammad Ali’s demise in 1951, the publication and distribution of literature by the Lahore Ahmadiyya jamaat declined. However, following the disastrous events of 1974 and the period of persecution which followed, the printing and publication of our literature was moved to the USA jamaat by the Late Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad Sahib.

When I was put in charge of the Publication and Translation project by the USA jamaat, distribution of our books was sluggish, but since then, the USA jamaat has been able to print and distribute, world-wide, the bulk of that literature and has translated many of our books into different languages. The inspiration behind the printing and translation projects has been the late Hazrat Ameer Dr. Saeed Ahmad, and it was fitting that it would be him, because in one of his Ilhams, Maulana Muhammad Ali referred to Dr. Saeed Ahmad as “My beloved son Saeed”.

It was late Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad (referred affectionately as Jaanji) who encouraged and supported the USA Jamaat in the translation and printing projects. Without his prayers, support and inspiration, I would have not been able to bring these projects to a successful conclusion. It was a pleasure to behold his happiness and enthusiasm when he was informed about any publication or translation project.

The recent free distribution of the Arabic Religion of Islam, Muhammad the Prophet and The Living thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad on a large scale (a total of 6,000 books) in Egypt should be credited to his inspiration and prayers as well.

His inspirational leadership during the difficult period following 1974 kept the Jamaat intact, unified and functional. He was able to achieve this because of his high moral and spiritual caliber. He ran the affairs of the Anjuman with truth, integrity, love, and fair-mindedness that could only be expected from one who had taken the bayat at the hands of the Mujaddid, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, and who was also the recipient of Ilham and kashf himself.

May Almighty Allah Grant us the spirit to carry on the work of the Ahmadiyya Movement. We all miss him very much. I pray to Almighty Allah that He Grants our dear Jaanji a high place in paradise.

May Almighty Allah show us the way to serve Islam and the Quran with the same dedication as did this great man of Allah.

Noman and I have made a video recording of Jaanji relating his life history in his own words. In the video he tells how he together with his father Hakeem Mohammad Yahya and his uncle Hakeem Mohammad Yaqub, joined the Ahmadiyya Movement at the hand of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. He also gives details of his life with special reference to the Ahmadiyya Movement. To preserve his life history we are converting the video tape into DVD format.
By the Grace of Almighty Allah, the annual convention of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society USA (Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam, Lahore) was held in Dublin, Ohio, from July 7-10, 2011. In addition to the USA members, guests from Egypt, Pakistan, Fiji, Australia, Nigeria, Trinidad and Canada attended the convention.

The Convention was preceded by two days of educational courses conducted by Dr. Noman Malik, Mrs. Sabiha Saeed and Maulana Kemal Hydal, and a lecture by Brother Muhammad Sadiq.

Important guests from Egypt

This year we were honored by the attendance of two important guests from Cairo, Egypt. Sheikh Omar El Bastawisy and Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalek who arrived a week before the convention. Sheikh Omar El Bastawisy is the retired president of the office of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, and Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalek, also retired, served as interpreter to Grand imams of Al-Azhar for 34 years. He served as interpreter to their excellencies Dr. Sheikh Abul Haleem Mehmood, Dr. Sheikh Abul Rahmad Bisar, Dr. Sheikh Jad El Haq Ali and Dr. Sheikh Sayed Mohammad Tantawi. He also teaches English in Al-Azhar University.

Mrs. Samina Malik has known Sheikh Omar Bastawisy for more than 12 years at Al-Azhar, and has been very impressed by his piety, knowledge of Islam, and kind personality. She has also known Mr. Ahmad Abdel Khalek since his days in Al-Azhar as the interpreter of the late Grand Imam of Al-Azhar his Excellency Sheikh Sayed Muhammad Tantawi, and has found him to be very sincere, trustworthy and knowledgeable. Both gentlemen help her a great deal when she visits Cairo and Al-Azhar. We want to express our thanks to Mrs. Samina Malik for arranging their trip to attend the convention in Ohio.

A week before the Convention, we took Sheikh Bastawisy and Mr. Abdel Khalek to the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) annual conference in Chicago where, by the Grace of Almighty Allah, we had been allotted a booth in the convention hall to display our literature through the efforts of Fazeel S. Khan. Sheikh Omar and Mr. Khalek were very pleased with our efforts to propagate a liberal, rational and tolerant Islam in forums such as the ISNA convention.

Pre-convention educational courses

A series of short educational courses were held in the Masjid-ul-Urooj in Dublin in the two days preceding the convention.

The first presentation was by Dr. Noman Malik who spoke in the morning session about the age of Hazrat Ayesha at the time of her marriage to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Dr. Malik conducted this presentation in an interactive manner, giving all participants some sheets to fill in and mark dates on them in order to arrive at her correct age of marriage. He proved by extensive research conducted through the scholarly work of Maulana Muhammad Ali and also through the internet, that based on historical facts, it was impossible for Hazrat Ayesha to be 9 years old at the time of her marriage to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Most likely her age was 16 at the time of her betrothal and about 19 at the time of her marriage to the Holy Prophet. All participants greatly enjoyed the interactive teaching
style and felt that they had greatly benefitted from the presentation.

In the evening, Mrs. Sabiha Saeed gave an excellent presentation about the Anti Christ Gog and Magog. She used Maulana Muhammad Ali's book “Anti Christ, Gog and Magog” to explain the meaning and significance of the words Anti Christ, Gog and Magog, and showed how Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was the first person to identify these nations and alert us to the grave danger of the dajjal (Anti-Christ). A lively question and answer session followed her presentation. Mrs. Sabiha Saeed has been visiting Ohio from Pakistan, and has been giving regular dars in Masjid ul Urooj in Dublin, Ohio. May Almighty Allah Bless her for her sacrifice.

Brother Mohammad Sadiq from Columbus spoke about how, in contrast to other scriptures, the Quran is free of all contradictions. The members were very impressed by Brother Sadiq’s hard work and extensive research in preparing the lecture.

On the morning of Friday, July 8, before the juma prayers, Maulana Kemal Hydal conducted his class on the Ahmadiyya Movement. He talked about the Ahmadiyya Movement in detail and explained the need for, and relevance of, this movement in modern times. He also explained how the role of this movement should be expanded and adapted to meet the needs of the present time.

One of the highlights of the Convention was the Quran dars given by Sheikh Omar El Bastawisy after every Fajr prayer. He had been giving the dars since the beginning of the convention week. The Quran dars, all his speeches and khutba were delivered in Arabic and were very ably translated into English by Mr. Ahmad Abdel Khalek.

The Convention proper began with the Jummah prayers and khutba by Sheikh Bastawisy. The khutba, which dealt with the importance of Jummah prayers, was greatly appreciated by the congregation.

Friday evening session

The Friday evening session, which was preceded by dinner, was held in the Embassy Suites Hotel.

The session began with a Quran recitation of Surah Fatiha in perfectly accented Arabic by nine year old Miss Malaika Sahukhan from Vancouver, Canada. The recitation was followed by a welcome address by Dr. Muhammad Ahmad, president of the USA jamaat. Mrs. Samina Malik conducted the session.

The first speaker was Mr. Ziahoor ur Rahman, member of the Majlis-e-Muhtamadin, Central Anjuman, Pakistan, who spoke about the concept of jihad in Islam. He stressed that the Quran gives permission for fighting only as a last resort in self defense.

Mr. Sadru ud Dean Sahukhan, member and past president of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore, Australia, then spoke about the role of trials and tribulations in life and how they can help us gain nearness to Allah.

He was followed by Mr. Ahmad Abdel Khalek, retired interpreter of the office of the Grand Imam of
Alazhar, Cairo, Egypt who gave an account of the work of Al Azhar University, and how it was working to promote tolerance in the Islamic world. He expressed his thanks to the USA jamaat and specifically to Mrs. Samina and Dr. Noman Malik.

The next speaker was Mrs. Sabiha Saeed, secretary of the women's organization of the Central Anjuman in Lahore, Pakistan. She explained the meaning and significance of the *darood shareef* and its importance in our lives.

The session concluded with a speech by Mr. Umar Farooq, Vice-President Central Anjuman Pakistan, who spoke about the blessings and favors of Allah as reflected in Surah *Fatihah*.

**Saturday July 9, 2011**

A symposium entitled *The Quran: A response to recent controversies concerning Islam's Holy Book* was held in the Embassy Suite in the morning and afternoon (see page 12 for details). Approximately 70 guests, mainly Christian, attended the symposium in addition to the jamaat members. Most were there due to the efforts of Mr. Fazeel S. Khan. Brother Fazeel is very active in inter-faith affairs and issues, and it was due to his contacts in these organizations, that he was able to invite a large number of guests to the symposium.

**Saturday evening session**

The evening session began after dinner. Mr. Mehboob Reza Esq., secretary of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam, Fiji, was the first speaker. He gave an excellent speech about the correct interpretation of Quranic verses as expounded by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and Maulana Muhammad Ali. He proved that the Islamic world owes a great debt to Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad for showing that there is no contradiction in Quranic
verses and that many of the objectionable ideas such as death for apostasy and aggressive jihad are refuted by the Quran.

Sheikh Omar Bastawisy then spoke about Islam and human rights, explaining how Islam has been transformative in giving basic and vital human rights to even the most disadvantaged in society. Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalek translated his speech simultaneously into English.

Sheikh Omar Bastawisy was followed by Mrs. Nena Mendosa, Secretary of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, Philippines. She recounted her journey to Islam, and how she eventually joined the Ahmadiyya Movement. She spoke about the formation of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society in the Philippines.

Then, Maulana Kemal Hydal, Imam and Missionary of Trinidad and Tobago Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore and of the Toronto Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore addressed the audience. He spoke about the meaning of Surah Fatiha and its application in our lives.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed the eloquent and inspiring speeches. After the session, combined maghrib and isha prayers were performed in which we all thanked Allah Almighty for the wisdom and learning imparted in these sessions. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward the members for their hard work and effort in preparing the speeches for our benefit.

**Sunday session**

The Sunday program began with the children’s session which was conducted by Miss Ayesha Ishakh from Florida. She did a wonderful job conducting the program. Aafia and Aarif Ahmad, Malika and Alishba Sahukhan, Nafeezah Isakh, Zaigham Khalil, Aalim Ishakh, Ali and Haady Khalil, Nur Manahil and Omar Hayat Ahmad participated in the program. Everyone enjoyed listening to the youngsters who either recited the Holy Quran or gave short speeches. May Allah Almighty Bless them and Grant them all success in the future.

After the children’s program, Mrs. Samina Malik gave a slide show presentation of her visits to different parts of the world for the propagation of Islam and the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement.

She stressed the need for members to individually make efforts to propagate Islam and suggested ways in which they could become involved in jamaat activities. She said that one good way for members in the USA to become involved in the jamaat’s propagation effort would be to place the Holy Quran and our major books in libraries; the whole family could work on this project together. Another way would be for members to volunteer to proof-read our books. She also suggested that members should try keeping a daily diary in which they could note down
the time spent in jamaat and dawah related activities. This would allow them to evaluate the amount of time they were giving to the propagation work of the jamaat. The members enjoyed her presentation and the slide show and were very motivated by her efforts to spread Islam.

The convention ended with a fundraising session. Mrs. Samina Malik exhorted the members to contribute generously for the printing of the Holy Quran and our other translation and printing projects. She explained how important it was for us to disseminate the Holy Quran throughout the world. She also stressed the need for the Jamaat to work together to achieve this goal. Everyone responded generously and a total of approximately $102,000 was collected. Some money was also collected by the sale of handicrafts made and donat-
ed by members of USA jamaat. Sister Ghazala Farooq, wife of Mian Umar Farooq brought many beautiful handicrafts and clothes from Pakistan to sell and donate to the Quran fund. The morning session ended with a delicious meal which brought the convention to a close.

General impressions and observations

The congregational prayers, especially the Fajr prayers, were particularly moving experiences of spiritual bonding. The attendance of Sheikh Omar Bastawisy and Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalek from Al-Azhar Cairo, Egypt was extremely significant — indicating how Allah the most High is bringing about a change in attitude among Muslims about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, so that many Muslims now view this Movement as solidly-based on the principles of Islam. Both gentlemen have expressed admiration for the writings of Hazrat Mirza Sahib and Maulana Muhammad Ali and believe Lahori Ahmadis to be true Muslims. We thank them both for coming from Egypt to attend the Convention.

We would also like to thank all the members listed below who travelled from abroad to attend the Convention:

- Mr. Mehboob Raza and Mr. Sadar ud dean Sahukhan from Fiji and Australia. They regularly attend our conventions, and we thank Almighty Allah for the opportunity to meet them every year.
- Mian and Mrs. Umar Farooq, Mrs. Sabiha Saeed and Mr. and Mrs. Zahoor ur Rahman from Pakistan. We thank all of them for their participation.
- Mrs Nena Mendosa from the Philippines. She is the Secretary of the Philippine Jama’at. She is the widow of our dear departed brother, Prof. Nasser Abd Mendosa who passed away last year (May Almighty Allah Grant him Paradise). We thank her for her participation in the Convention.
- Maulana Kemal Hydal, Mrs. Nareeman Hydal, Mr. Farooq Hydal and Miss Zahida Hydal. We thank them all for their participation.

By Monday morning most of our members had left, and only a few stayed for another week. It is always sad to come to the end of our convention and part with our spiritual brothers and sisters. But we thank Almighty Allah, the most Merciful, for another successful convention and the opportunity to meet, renew and strengthen the bonds of spiritual brotherhood in Islam and Ahmadiyyat. Ameen!

May Allah Taala guide us all on the right path and enable us to attend the convention next year, inshallah. — Ameen!
On July 9th, held in conjunction with its 2011 Annual International Convention, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society hosted a Symposium entitled “The Quran: A Response to Recent Controversies Concerning Islam’s Holy Book”. Participants were from diverse backgrounds, including local Muslims, Hindus and a variety of different Christian denominations.

We were very grateful to have with us this year, Reverend Deborah Lindsay of the First Community Church, who spoke on the topic of “The Need for Understanding”. Rev. Lindsay became somewhat of an international celebrity last year due to her inspirational sermon on “Islamophobia”, which went viral on the internet (see: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aC-Ovex2o&feature=related).

We were also very fortunate to have Sheikh Omar Bastawisy (and Br. Khalek) of Al-Azhar with us, who spoke on “Tolerance and Mutual Respect in Islam”. Sheikh Omar Bastawisy’s support had a very positive impact, especially on our Muslim guests.

Below, we reproduce the first of a series of summaries on the presentations from the Symposium, authored by Steve Palm-Houser, a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church. Other summaries are available from the following web address: http://www.examiner.com/unitarian-universalism-in-national/lahore-ahmadiyya-islamic-society-hosts-symposium-on-the-quran#ixzz1eemLxFMt.


A DVD of the Symposium is available for those interested in obtaining a copy, and the recording will also be made available on www.muslim.org in the near future.

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QUR’AN SYMPOSIUM, PART 1: OPENING WORDS

By Steve Palm-Houser

On July 9th in Dublin, Ohio, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society hosted an interfaith symposium on The Qur’an: A Response to Recent Controversies Concerning Islam’s Holy Book. Many different faith traditions were repre-
THE QURAN: A RESPONSE TO RECENT CONTROVERSIES

View of the symposium audience, with superimposed images of (top row, L to R) Maulana Kemal Hydal reciting the Holy Quran; and speakers Dr. Noman Malik, Dr. Haleema Saeed, Sheikh Omar El Bastawisy, (bottom row, L to R) Fazeel S. Khan, Rev. Deborah Lindsay and Dr. Mohammad Ahmad

sent: Islam (Sunni, Shia, Ahmadiyya); Christianity (United Methodist, Baptist, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian); Hinduism; and Unitarian Universalism.

“This past year we’ve seen a national debate about whether Muslims should have a community center in downtown Manhattan,” said Fazeel S. Khan, attorney and editor of The Light and Islamic Review. “We’ve seen congressional hearings on radicalization in America, in which Muslims were singled out as the subjects. We’ve seen the creation of anti-Sharia laws in 13 states across the country.”

Khan also recalled the recent statements of some 2012 presidential hopefuls who said that they would not have Muslims work in their administration, or would require Muslims to take a special loyalty pledge before being given such an opportunity.
“The sentiments on which these incidents are based are founded upon the belief that the religion of Islam is inherently anti-American, and somehow poses a threat to the institutions of this country and its individual citizens,” Khan said.

“Probably the most bizarre event concerning this hysteria about Islam in recent times was the orchestrated burning of a copy of the holy Qur’an by Florida-based Pastor Jones,” Khan said. “The act of burning this source of the Islamic faith was symbolic of the attitudes of opposition to Muslims held by many.”

Thus the need for a symposium to examine what the Qur’an actually teaches about democracy, freedom, human rights, and religious tolerance.

Don Furbee (President, Cair/Ohio), Dr. Noman Malik, Sheikh Omar El Bastawisy, Mrs. Samina Malik, Mrs. Lubna Ahmad, Mr. Fazeel S Khan, Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalek.
The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society was a participant at the Islamic Society of North America’s 2011 Annual Convention, held in Chicago, Illinois at the Rosemont Convention Center from July 1-4. As part of the activities, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society stationed two booths in the Convention’s Bazaar. The response received from attendees was remarkable. Masha Allah, the literature produced by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society and the names of it authors, especially that of Maulana Muhammad Ali, are so well recognized and respected. We were overjoyed with the positive feedback given by the hundreds (if not thousands) of people that spoke with us over the four day event.

Obviously, the purpose of our participation in the bazaar is not simply to sell books. Rather, it is an opportunity to meet those interested in Islamic education, discuss issues concerning the propagation of Islam (especially in North America), and answer questions people may have about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. As we all know, there is so much misunderstanding about “Ahmadiyyat”. Most of the opposition to Ahmadiyyat is based on the particular beliefs held by the Qadian Jamaat.

Most people are not even aware that it was because of those particular beliefs (principally the belief in continuation of prophethood, that was generated after the death of Hazrat Mirza Sahib) that led to the split in the Ahmadiyya Movement and the creation of the Lahore Jamaat.

Many are similarly unaware that the Lahore Jamaat does not consider itself a separate sect in Islam, but rather simply a group of Muslims that devotes its time and energy in presenting the beauties of the religion of Islam to the world. Clarifying these issues builds a new-found sense of appreciation from individuals and groups that are devoted to the same cause, and the ISNA Convention is a wonderful forum to do this.

We were particularly impressed with the number of imams that were admirers of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s Holy Quran translation and commentary and his book *The Religion of Islam*. In fact, the recent Arabic version of *The Religion of Islam* with the certification from Al-Azhar University and a Foreword from the late Grand Imam, Sheikh Tantawi, was probably the most popular item.

We had imams excitedly taking pictures of the certification and the Sheikh’s foreword with their cell phone cameras and texting the images to their Mosque associates with messages of delight. Alhamdulillah, such incidents prove how
our work and achievements in other parts of the world impact the progress and success of our efforts in North America.

Another blessing from our participation at the convention this year was having the opportunity to meet and speak with Tariq Ramadan. Br. Ramadan is a very popular and respected scholar of Islam, who has done excellent work in spreading a tolerant, inspiring interpretation of Islam and developing a consciousness of “western” Muslims being a distinct group with its own cultural identity. Br. Ramadan expressed that he was aware of the Ahmadiyya Movement but did not know about the Lahore Jammat and the differences between the two groups. We were very privileged to be able to provide Br. Ramadan with insight into the essence of Ahmadiyyat, the true claims of Hazrat Mirza Sahib and the practical work performed by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society around the world.

We were very fortunate to have with us this year Sheikh Omar Bastawisy and Br. Khalek from Egypt who joined us at the Convention. Their attendance and support were not only a joy for us, but also had the effect of showing other participants the good relations we have with other Muslims and Islamic entities (like Al Azhar). We were also very pleased to have Br. Zuhoor Rahman of Pakistan join us. Br. Zuhoor proved to be an especially valuable resource in conversing with Pakistani attendees. His outgoing personality combined with his substantive knowledge of Ahmadiyyat were keys to productive dialogues with such persons.

We pray that these interactions will help the multitude of diverse Muslims and Islamic groups to unite under the banner of Islam and work together to further common causes. We are very grateful for the work ISNA and its leaders are doing in providing forums such as this Annual Convention.
Letters of Appreciation for USA Convention

Excerpted below are three letters received from attendees following the USA International Convention. Originally addressed to Samina and Noman Malik, they are shared here for the enjoyment of all.

Assalamu Alaikum,

We were very pleased to attend and participate in the convention in Ohio. All the speeches and discussions were very useful and fruitful.

From these speeches and discussions we learnt more about the moderate views of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore. We understood that the written works of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and Maulana Muhammad Ali which we read and discussed with Dr. Noman Malik were thoughtful and very important for those who would like to know about Islam in easily understood terms and clear language, especially in western societies.

We also are very grateful to Dr. Noman Malik for the accurate illustrations of many interesting issues, items and principles of Islam. We believe that we should all respect and appreciate the differences of opinions and thoughts either among the schools of thought in Islam or even among other religions, and we should avoid any fanaticism or abusing one another since we are all brothers and sisters in humanity and come from one father and one mother. Allah Subhanahu wa Taala says in the Holy Quran "O mankind, surely we have created you from a male and a female, and made you tribes and families that you may know each other".

We are very grateful to Dr Noman and Sister Samina for their kind hospitality when we were guests in their house for a couple of weeks. We also thank our dear friend Fazeel, Dr. Muhammad Ahmad and kind sister Lubna and Ayesha and her two children Malaika and Alishba for the care and hospitality they lavished on us during our stay.

Please accept our best regards and good wishes.

Sheikh Omar El Bastawisy
Mr. Ahmad Abdel Khalek
Cairo Egypt.

As Salaam Walaikum,

Hope you all are well by the grace of Almighty Allah.

It is a pleasure and privilege to be part of the USA convention, which is of a very high standard. It is something that should be experienced by all our members throughout the world. Also the quality of people that are chosen to speak at the symposiums make them a great learning experience.

Most notably you had an overwhelming number of Christians and Non-Ahmadis present at the Convention who really appreciated the Pristine Beauty of Islam.

Added to the above was the presence of two esteemed personalities from Egypt who were extremely impressed and really appreciated the teaching of the Ahmaddiyat. It was indeed music to our ears when they both said that "we are already half Ahmadis," after reading 120 pages of the Teachings of Islam by Hazrat Mirza Sahib.

Last but not least, I would appreciate if we could hear more from the Scholars of our Jammat, even giving them 2-3 lectures, as our true intentions are to learn from the Scholars such as Dr. Noman Malik, Dr. Mohammad Ahmed, Brother Fazeel Khan, Sister Lubuna Ahmad, Maulana Kamal Hydal etc., and other scholars rather than hearing from such novices as the writer.

Alternatively, I would appreciate if the members of our various Jamaats would talk about their respective Jamaats for the benefit of all.

Once again thanks for the tremendous convention.

Was-Salaam
Mehboob Raza.

Assalamu Alaikum

“...As always I found the convention spiritually satisfying. The courses were on important and very relevant topics. I thought the course on the age of Hazrat Aishah was very fitting and timely. The criticism on our Holy Prophet Muhammad that he married a ‘child’ has always been capitalized by the opponents. I am sure that those who attended, can now not only believe, but prove beyond doubt that she was between 19 and 21 when the marriage was consummated.

The other session by Dr. Noman Malik on Saturday, when people of other faiths attended, was an eye opener for many. This I gathered from my discussions with them during breaks. Hazrat Mirza Sahib stressed that to effectively propagate true Islam, one has to hold interfaith meetings and have the right audience — which you had.

Once again congratulations to Ohio for holding yet another successful convention. May Allah Almighty both Bless and Be with you always. Aameen”

Sadruddin Sahukhan
Australia
By Mrs. Nena Mendosa at the USA Convention

I begin in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam, Asalamo Alaikom.

First of all I would like to thank Almighty Allah for giving me this opportunity to be with you at this convention. It is a pleasure to spend time with fellow Muslims such as yourselves who are doing so much work in the service of Islam. Allah knows the deeds of each of His servants and He will reward them according to the best of their deeds. It is through the combined efforts and prayers of the members of this organization that the Jamaat of the Philippines was formed.

Conversion to Islam

Before I talk about the Philippine Jamaat, I would like to say something about my conversion to Islam. I first learned about one basic teaching of Islam from my late husband, Nasser Nathaniel Mendosa, which is to believe in one God, as I was a believer in the Holy Trinity. We often discussed the divinity of Jesus, (at the time, I believed that Jesus is God and at the same time a man and that he is the saviour of mankind through his death on the cross). Until I was convinced through some verses in the Bible in which Jesus himself reminded Israelites to worship and love only one God, who is also his God and that salvation is in knowing God and Jesus Christ who was sent by God. This is also consistent with the teachings of the prophets in the old testament of the bible. It then made sense to me, so I decided to accept Islam - that was in 2001. However, my full realization and appreciation of Islam as a way of life, not just a belief, was about 4 years later when I decided to study the religion and try to practice it sincerely. This happened when I started reading the English translation of the Qur’an and learned something about what believers should do and how they should behave.

My late husband was also a Christian before he embraced Islam in 1996. He was a PhD graduate from the University of Queensland, Australia in 1992 specializing in Oceanography. He had been doing research work in this field. His conversion to Islam was a result of his study of the Bible and science, but he told me that even when he was a Christian he never believed that Jesus is God. His friend gave him a booklet about Islam and after reading it he found what he had been searching for and embraced Islam.

He had been studying the Bible and found many contradictions in it and some statements that contradict scientific discoveries. From Islamic books he found many scientific discoveries which are revealed in the Qur’an and this became his favourite topic whenever he lectured about the Qur’an and science.

He had so much passion in dawah that he shared Islam with almost all people with whom he came in contact. At the age of 55, nine years after he became a Muslim, he decided to retire from work to dedicate his time to Islam. He was an active member of Muslim organizations doing propagation work and also a Muslim volunteer organization conducting seminars for young Muslims about the basics of Islam. The change in his life when he became a Muslim influenced his children and Allah heard his prayer when two of his children embraced Islam.

We have been exposed to other groups of Muslims such as the Jamaat Tabligh and their way of understanding and practising Islam has influenced us for a time.

Also, on the internet, we encountered Muslims who reject the Sunnah and Hadith, but use the Qur'an as the only basis to practice Islam. They only do the obligatory prayers, no Sunnah or extra prayers. Then we thought they may be right and tried to practice Islam that way. Then, in our search for more knowledge, we listened to lectures of various Muslims on the Internet like Bilal Philips, Sheik Jafar Idris, Dr. Zakir Naik, Yusof Estes and some videos from the work of Harun Yahya. From that exposure, we tried to weigh things and decided to reject the practise of not doing the Sunnah prayers and decided to practice Islam the way the majority of Muslims do.

Sister Samina’s visit to the Philippines

Going back to the formation of Jamaat in the Philippines, I would like to start from the time of Sister Samina’s first visit to Philippines in the early part of 2007. Prior to her visit, she corresponded with my husband by email. Sister Samina was introduced by Dawoud, a French Muslim who married a Filipino lady who happened to know Nathan. I think she gave Dawoud our contact information.

I was a bit worried when Nathan told me about the Ahmadiyya movement that he found on the internet and I thought it was another Muslim group that might influence us again and might change our way of understanding Islam. I told him to be very careful and should evaluate whether the beliefs of Ahmadiyya contradict the fundamentals of our belief in Islam, based on what we have learned from prior study. He told me he had checked and that the fundamentals are the same. We were excited to meet Sister Samina because of the dawah work she does, and the various literature
available for dawa’h, especially the English Translation of the Qur’an.

Sister Samina’s first visit was in Cagayan de Oro, in the southern part of the Philippines, where we live. Many muslims appreciated her courage, coming alone without any hesitation, in spite of being a stranger to a remote third world country. A woman at her age tirelessly spending her life to spread the Qur’an. During Sister Samina’s visit, a symposium was organized in Cagayan de Oro and places nearby with the help of local muslims. We also enjoyed close coordination with some Turkish muslims who actively do dawa’h work in the Philippines. Islamic booklets were distributed during those symposia.

Sister Samina also met other muslims in Manila, located in the Northern part of the country, and in Cebu, a city in the middle part of the Philippines, who assisted her in organizing symposia in those cities.

In the years that followed, and to this day, Sister Samina regularly visits the Philippines together with Dr. Malik. Also, Dr. Ahmad, Sister Lubna and Brother Fazeel have visited the Philippines and delivered lectures during symposia.

Formation of the Philippine Jamaat

In 2008, in co-ordination with Turkish muslims, a place was established that served as meeting place and office with enough space where the Qur’an and books for distribution could be stored. We called the place, Maulana Muhammad Ali Islamic Research and Library. But when Sister Samina left, the Turkish muslim with whom we had been coordinating tried to assume control of the place. He removed signage bearing the name and replaced it with another name. He told us he was establishing his office there. He sent an email to Sister Samina informing her of his plan. Without his knowledge, Sister Samina came back to recover the place. Sister Samina did everything she had to do and Alhamdulillah, the Turkish man gave up after two meetings, heated arguments and abusive words uttered by a man whom we considered someone with more knowledge of Islam.

The center then was opened with my husband in-charge.

During the visit of Dr. Malik and Sister Samina together with Dr. Ahmad and Sister Lubna, they invited muslims to formally take the pledge and possibly form an organization. Many muslims joined from Cagayan de Oro and other parts of the Philippines such as Manila and Cebu. Nathan’s focus was on promoting the propagation of Islam and since we had the same objective with the movement, he did not concern himself with any difference outside the fundamentals of belief. He just wanted to work together with muslims who had the same passion for dawa’h. I was not among those who joined because I had my reservations after finding all the negative comments and detailed writings against Ahmadiyya. I felt I needed to know more about the movement. At least I should know both sides before making my decision. Dr. Malik had a very informative lecture about the history of the movement from the time before British rule in India and it was made clear to me why Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was accused of being a British spy. I learned that it was during British rule that freedom of religion was restored from the previous Sikh rule. And Hazrat Mirza was misunderstood by many muslims when he sided with the British government, because for him the condition that required armed struggle or jihad was not present under the British government, but struggle should be by argument and by pen. I also wanted to know how Ahmadiyya differs from the majority muslims in terms of belief and when I read the

True Conception of the Ahmadiyya Movement, I found that most of the differences identified in the past like the concept of Jihad and Apostasy are now understood in the same way by a majority of muslims and the only ONE thing left to differ is the belief about Jesus Christ, which is outside the fundamentals of belief and practice, which means that you can neither be a good nor a bad muslim if you believe that Jesus is still alive or dead. With the intention to participate in the propagation of Islam, I decided to join the movement, though I felt the issue about Jesus was something to be studied further. Alhamdulillah, the organization was formally registered in December 2008. It was after reading a portion of the book, The Death of Jesus and after analyzing verses of the Qur’an on this issue that we found it rational to agree with the belief held by the Ahmadiyya movement regarding Jesus.

The place used as center was leased for one year with a plan to acquire property soon. A site was bought in 2009 and center building was constructed in the same year through donations made by Dr. Malik dedicated to his parents. It is a two storey building. The ground floor is used as a mosque and the second floor as a library and study area. A convention was held in the new center in February 2010 attended by local members and members from other parts of the Philippines.

Opposition faced by the Jamaat

As expected, some muslims are confused with Qadiani and Lahore jamaats and they are treating both as one, because both have only one founder. Those who care to listen and make verification of what they hear are enlightened. However, many muslims just rely on other muslims’ opinions especially from those they consider knowledgeable. Whenever there is a lecture by Dr.
Malik about the movement, Ustadz and other respected Muslims are invited but most of them are biased, with closed minds and do not care to attend. Aside from this, some traditional and tribal Muslims are prohibiting new Muslims and members from associating with us. Despite these difficulties, we continue to invite Muslims to visit the center and join our regular weekly taalim. We also continue to invite people to Islam, especially our neighbours, by explaining Islam to them, give them literature about Islam – like the small leaflet, *Islam in Brief* and a Fact Sheet on Apostasy, and to those who are interested, we give a copy of the Qur’an. We are now focusing more on conveying Islam to the residents near the center as it would be less costly for them to visit our center than more distance centres, which require the expenditure of high transportation costs.

**Projects and activities of the Philippine Jamaat**

Copies of the Qur’an, *Religion of Islam* and other literature are placed in libraries of schools and Universities in Cagayan de Oro.

Using the center as the venue, weekly meetings are held where we read the English translation of the Qur’an and hold discussions.

After the death of Mr. Mendosa in February this year, a new Imam from Manila is in-charge of the center. He is Brother Ramiz Manzano. The Imam is facilitating the reading by translating it into the local language and explaining the commentary in a local language as many find English difficult to understand.

Recently, Dr. Malik has been holding online lectures using the internet on Sunday afternoons, after the regular Qur’an reading.

Other Jamaat activities include:

- Conduct symposia annually – in Cagayan de Oro, Cebu and Zamboanga City
- Translation from English to Bisayan and Tagalog language
- Distribution of Holy Qur’an English translation by Maulana Muhammad Ali
- Distribution of booklets – Islam, the Religion of Humanity; Introduction to Islam; The Prophet of Islam
- Translation and distribution of leaflets – The Meaning of Islam; Islam in Brief

Alhamduillah, we praise and thank Allah for everything He has given us and we pray for His continuing guidance and protection. We also pray that He will continue to inspire each of us to do our duty to Him and participate in the work of conveying Islam to non-Muslims.

And once again, we appreciate all the help and sacrifices the USA Jamaat have done for the people of the Philippines.

We are grateful to Dr. Noman Malik and the USA Jamaat for building a Center and Mosque for our people of the Philippine in Cagayan de Oro.

May Allah increase your good deeds, and inshallah Allah will give you full reward for everything you have done for His sake. Please pray for us.

Thank you,
Asslamo Alaikom.

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**Professor Dr. Nathaniel Abd Nasser Mendosa**

1947-2011

Our dear and respected ahmadi brother, Professor Dr. Nathaniel Abd Nasser Mendosa, passed away on February 9, 2011. *Inna illahi wa inna ilaihi Raajioon*. He is survived by his wife Nena Mendosa, children and grandchildren.

Dr. Mendosa, a Christian by birth in 1947, obtained his PhD in Oceanography from Australia, and was professor of Oceanography at Mindanao State University when he took his *shahada*. After he accepted Islam, he took early retirement to devote himself full-time to promote a moderate and tolerant Islam in the Philippines. He was also the chairman of KI volunteers, an organization which helps Muslim youth. I met him when I visited the Philippines in 2007, and he helped me greatly in setting up the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement when there was opposition to it in the early stages. He joined the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat in 2008, and was the Secretary of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, Philippines and Imam of its Mosque in Cagayan de Oro. He was very active in *dawah* work, giving lectures and teaching at the center. He also helped organize symposia in Cagayan de Oro, and was responsible for widely distributing free literature. He was a very sincere and humble person, and together with his wife Nena, always tried to help the poor and needy. Without his supervision and help, it would not have been possible to build the Mosque in Cagayan de Oro. His untimely demise leaves a void in the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat which will be difficult to fill.

May Almighty Allah Reward and Bless Dr. Mendosa for his service to Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement, and Grant him a place in Paradise, and may He Grant his family the strength and fortitude to survive this great loss. Ameen! —

By Sister Samina Malik
On June 30, Fazeel S Khan, Noman Malik, Sheikh Omar Bastawisy, Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalek, Zahoor ur Rahman and I went to Chicago to attend the ISNA conference where we had a booth to display our books. We are very grateful to Fazeel S Khan for obtaining the booth for our jamaat. (see article on ISNA Conference on PageXX)

On Friday June 31, we were invited for Jummah prayers at the Maryam Mosque of Nation of Islam in Chicago. Minister Ishmael Mohammad and Brother Yasin Muhammad, sons of the Honorable Elijah Mohammad, with a group of their members welcomed us at the beautiful Maryam Mosque. They were very happy to meet us and Sheikh Omar El Bastawisy. They were also very happy to see Noman as they knew that he was Maulana Muhammad Ali’s grandson, and they revere Maulana Muhammad Ali greatly for producing the English translation of the Holy Quran and other books on Islam.

The visit began with a tour of the school attached to the Mosque. We were all very impressed by the school facilities, the teaching staff and the students. After the tour of the school, we went to the spacious Mosque for the jummah prayer. Sheikh Omar El Bastawisy delivered a very moving khutba which was simultaneously translated by
Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalek. After the Jummah Khutba, the Sheikh led the Jummah prayers.

After the jummah prayers, Minister Ishmael Mohammad introduced Sheikh Omar Bastawisy and Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalek to the congregation, and praised Al Azhar for the good work they were doing in propagating a liberal, tolerant and moderate Islam. Then he introduced Noman, Fazeel and me, and expressed his appreciation for the great work done by Maulana Muhammad Ali. He asked Noman to address the congregation as Maulana Muhammad Ali’s grandson. Noman thanked Minister Ishmael and the congregation, and told them that although he was Maulana Muhammad Ali’s grandson, the true grand-children of Maulana Muhammad Ali were his
spiritual grand-children who were people engaged in propagating the Holy Quran such as the members of the congregation. Fazeel and I also addressed the congregation briefly.

On Sunday July 2, we were all invited by the Minister Farrakhan to his farm house in Michigan. We had a long discussion with the Minister Farrakhan on various topics. He was very pleased to meet Sheikh Omar Bastawisy and Mr. Abdel Khalek again. He had met them several years ago in Cairo at Al Azhar. The Minister was also very pleased to see Noman, Fazeel and myself as we know him well. He was also very happy to meet Zahoor who was visiting from Pakistan. He thanked us for continuing to print Maulana Muhammad Ali’s original 1951 edition of the Holy Quran. The Minister also told Sheikh Omar Bastawisy and Mr. Khalek about the high esteem in which they held Maulana Muhammad Ali for translating the Holy Quran into English, and how they all came to accept Islam by reading the Quran translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali.

Sheikh Omar Bastawisy described briefly the work being done in Al Azhar and expressed his appreciation and admiration for the good work being done by Minister Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam in the USA. Before we departed, Minister Farrakhan gave us a tour of his beautiful eighty three acre farm, and presented us with a 50 pound bag of organic beans grown on his farm. We thank Almighty Allah for a very beneficial and productive meeting with the Honorable Minister Farrakhan.
VISIT TO THE NATION OF ISLAM MOSQUE &
THE HONORABLE MINISTER LOUIS FARRAKHAN

L to R: Mr. Fazeel Khan, Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalek, Sheikh Omar Bastawisy, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Mrs. Samina Malik, Dr. Noman Malik and Mr. Zahoor ur Rahman.

H. Minister Louis Farrakhan welcoming Sheikh Omar El Bastawisy.

H. Minister Louis Farrakhan greeting Dr. Noman Malik. Mr. Zahoor ur Rahman stands in foreground.

H. Minister Louis Farrakhan conversing with Mr. Fazeel Khan.

H. Minister Louis Farrakhan saying goodbye to Sheikh Omar Bastawisy.
oman and I were invited to attend an Interreligious symposium, *Dialogue Interreligieux Monastique* in France on October 27, 2011. As we also had important work to do in Holland, Turkey and Egypt, we decided to combine the visits to all these countries in one trip.

**HOLLAND**

We arrived in Holland on October 19 where we were guests of Mr. Hoeseni and Sister Safoora. On the evening of our arrival we had a dinner meeting in Den Haag with the board of the Stichting jamaat in which we discussed plans for future publication projects, and hosting joint symposia on Islam and Ahmadiyyat.

**Meeting with Professor Koningsveld**

The following day, we met with Prof. Koningsveld, the former head of the Department of Islamic Studies in Leiden University, at the Stichting Jamaat Center.

Brother Hoeseni and brother Noer Sardar were also present in the meeting. We presented Prof. Koningsveld with forty copies of *A Mighty Striving*, the life history of Maulana Muhammad Ali, for free distribution among his students who took a course on the Holy Quran with him early this year. Prof. Koningsveld had suggested that we should hold a symposium about Maulana Muhammad Ali, so in this meeting we made a plan to hold a joint USA and Stichting Jamaat symposium on Maulana Muhammad Ali in Holland, in May of 2012, Inshallah.

Both jamaat members and outside speakers will deliver speeches about the various facets of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s life and work. Outside speakers will include Prof. Koningsveld and another professor from Leiden University.

We also discussed distribution of the Holy Quran and other Islamic literature in various European languages, both in print and e-book formats. Another decision taken in the meeting was to jointly acquire a booth in the 2013 World Parliament of Religions meeting in Brussels to exhibit and promote our literature.

After the meeting, we had lunch at Brother Noer Sardar’s home. Following lunch, we returned to the center for jummah prayers in which Noman delivered the Jummah khutbah.

**Jalsa by the Stichting Jamaat**

Later in the evening, the Stichting Jamaat held a jalsa in which Noman delivered a lecture on modesty in a
woman’s attire and in social interaction between men and women in Islam. He showed how decorum in women’s attire and in social interaction between men and women recommended in the Holy Quran and Hadith was based on sound knowledge of gender physiology and psychology, the aim of which was to preserve the family unit and prevent the evils of fornication and adultery.

I gave a talk on the history of the repair of the Berlin Mosque since 1996 up to the last phase in 2008. My talk was illustrated by slides of the construction work during the various phases. I also gave a short review with slides showing some of the propagation and publication work being done in various countries by the USA jamaat. A lively question and answer session followed the presentations. A delicious dinner and tea were served at the event.

Publication Projects of the Stichting Jamaat

By the Grace of Almighty Allah, the Stichting jamaat has translated more than thirty books into the Dutch Language. Some of the major books such as Religion of Islam, Manual of Hadith, Living Thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad, and Muslim Prayer Book have been printed. The remaining titles, inshallah, will be published later. All these titles will, inshallah, be converted into e-books as well. Brother Hoeseni is the main person involved in proofreading and overseeing the production of all the books. He is assisted by Brother Reza Ghafoerkhan and
other members. The Stichting Jamaat has the distinction of being the jamaat in Holland which is doing most of the translation and publication work in Dutch.

Other news
Alhamdolillah! Mr. Jerrel Sardar of the Stichting jamaat has purchased 500 Dutch Qurans from the Stichting Jamaat and donated it to the Federation Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Netherlands.
We also met with Sheikh Kasiem the President of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Netherlands twice. We discussed various ways in which all jamaats could co-operate with each other in furthering the spread of Islam and the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. We were very pleased by his desire for inter-jamaat co-operation and his enthusiasm for the propagation of Ahmadiyyat and Islam.

Other Activities of the Stichting Jamaat
The Stichting jamaat is also very active in interfaith activities. Mr. Reza Ghafoerkhan, Mr. Noer Sardar, Haroen Habiboellah, Rudi Niamut, Arfa Shermohammad and others regularly give lectures and presentations in interfaith forums. Mr. Noer Sardar is very active in giving lectures in retirement homes and to church groups. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward the Stichting Jamaat for their hard work and great effort in spreading Islam and Ahmadiyyat in Europe. The Stichting Ahmadiyya Jamaat, mainly through Mr. Hoeseni, has been working very closely with the USA Jamaat in the publication and translation fields.

PARIS, FRANCE
Interfaith Symposium at the Center Vedantique Ramakrishna
On October 26, Brother Noer Sardar, Brother Hoeseni, Noman and I drove from Holland to Paris to attend the Interfaith Symposium organized by Center Vedantique Ramakrishna. Participants representing the Hindu, Christian and Buddhist faiths were present at the symposium. We represented the Islamic faith. Last spring we had visited Swami Veetamohananda, and he had invited us to participate in this Interfaith Symposium.
On the evening of our arrival we, together with the other symposium delegates and guests, attended the Prayer service led by Swami Veetamohananda. The prayer service was followed by a dinner served in the Center.

The Center is situated on a beautiful 48 acre property and has several guest houses in addition to the main building. All the delegates, including us, stayed in the guest houses. The accommodations were very comfortable and clean.

The next day the main program started at 9:15 am and ended at 4:30 p.m.

Noman and I were the second speakers in the morning session. We were allotted one hour to talk about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and its work and to demonstrate the Islamic Prayer and discuss its significance. I spoke first and gave a short introduction about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and its aims and objectives of promoting the true, peaceful, tolerant and inspiring teachings of Islam primarily through our publications.

Then Noman, Brother Noer Sardar and Brother Hoeseni demonstrated a rakat of prayer. First, Brother Noer Sardar delivered the Adzan in a very melodious voice which greatly moved the audience. Then they all performed one rakat of prayer with Noman explaining the significance of each bodily position assumed in the rakat and the meaning of the words uttered in those.
positions. At the end of the rakat, he gave a detailed explanation of the Surah Fatiha and its vital role in promoting spiritual development. An interpreter, who was a lady swami, was simultaneously translating our speeches for the benefit of French only speaking members of the audience. Brother Hoeseni ended our session with a short speech thanking the Swami Veetamohananda and his Center for inviting us to the interfaith conference.

The audience was very impressed by our presentation, and 30 people asked us for the French Quran after listening to our presentation. We took their mailing addresses and will send each a copy of the French Holy Quran as soon as we return home to the States, inshallah.

Symposia such as these are a very effective way of spreading the Holy Quran and our other literature among non-Muslims, which remains a prime objective of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement.

After lunch, presentations were made by representatives of the Christian and Buddhist traditions about their respective faiths. The participants learnt a great deal about each other’s faiths and were very pleased with the friendly and congenial atmosphere of the conference.

Several refreshment breaks and a delicious lunch were provided during the sessions.

We thank Almighty Allah that He gives us opportunities such as these for presenting the true, peaceful, and tolerant message of Islam. This is the first time that the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement has participated in an interreligious symposium in France. In the spring of next year Swamiji has invited us to another interfaith conference. We have asked Brother Noer Sardar and Brother Hoeseni to represent the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in that Conference.

May Almighty Allah Grant our jamaat many more opportunities like these in the future. — Ameen!
The Symposium delegates gathered outside Center.

Dr. Noman Malik introducing the Islamic prayer.

Mr. Noer Sardar giving the Azan.

Dr. Noman Malik, Mr. Noer Sardar and Mr. A.S. Hoeseni demonstrating a rakat of prayer.

Demonstration of the Sajda, prostration.

Dr. Noman Malik, Mr. Noer Sardar and Mr. A.S. Hoeseni demonstrating the jalsa position.

Samina Malik presenting a copy of the French Holy Quran to a Catholic priest.

The Symposium delegates gathered outside Center.
Noman and I arrived in Egypt on October 29. We were received at the airport by Sheikh El Bastawisy and his son Mohammad. The next morning we went to Al-Azhar accompanied by Mr. Ahmed Abdel Khalek. In the afternoon we were invited by Sheikh Alaa Abul Azaeim to have a meeting and dinner with him. He is the Tariqa Azmeya Sheikh, Member of the Sofi High Council, member of the World Islamic Leadership, and Chairman of Islam Wattan Magazine. Mr. Abdel Khalek and Sheikh El Bastawisy also accompanied us.

We had a very productive meeting in which it was decided to provide the Sheikh with 6,000 copies of the Arabic *Religion of Islam, Muhammad the Prophet* and *The Living Thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad*. Noman and I have paid the cost of these books in the name of late Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad (May Almighty Allah Grant him a place in Paradise). The books will be distributed free to the people attending the Eid ul Adha prayers at the main mosque in Cairo, and will also be sent to the Centers of the Sheikh’s organization and mosques throughout Egypt. The Sheikh has more than a million members in Egypt. We were very impressed by the Sheikh’s tolerant and peaceful views and his efforts in spreading a tolerant Islam in Egypt.

The next day we again went to the Sheikh’s center while the books were being transferred by truck to the Center from our printer’s warehouse. We were very happy at the thought that all these stacks of our books would soon be distributed free to the people of Egypt. Hazrat Mirza Sahib had made a reference while writing his book *Muwahib-Ur-Rahman* to the effect that a group of good people would separate and the truth would manifest itself in Egypt. Inshallah, we hope that the literature we are spreading in Egypt will bring about this change.

By the Grace of Almighty Allah, the USA Jamaat with this donation of books will have printed and distributed — free — more than 25,000 of our Arabic hard cover books in Egypt.

By the Grace of Almighty Allah,
I have also been able to obtain approval certificates for many of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s books and one of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad’s book, *the Teachings of Islam*, Maulana Abdul Haq Vidhiyarthi’s book, the 1st volume of *Muhammad in World Scriptures* and Khwaja Kamal ud Din’s book, *The Ideal Prophet*. Also, I was able to obtain a foreword by the late Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheikh Sayed Tantawi, for the *Religion of Islam* by Maulana Muhammad Ali. These approval certificates, and especially Late Sheikh Tantawi’s foreword to the *Religion of Islam*, greatly increase the prestige and value of our books in the eyes of Muslims who have a very high regard for the opinions of Grand Imam of Al Azhar.

By the Grace of Almighty Allah, our jamaat has accomplished all this without having any Center in Egypt.

**Visit to Holland & France March 2011**

**By Mrs Samina Malik**

We arrived in Holland on March 8 where we were guests of Mr. Shabbier and Mrs. Safoora Hoeseni. The next day Mr. and Mrs. Hoeseni drove us to Paris where we met with our French members, brother Daoud and his wife Sr. Nohrani. Allah Almighty has recently blessed them with a second beautiful baby girl. We discussed ways in which we could promote Islam and the Lahore Ahmadiyya movement in France. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward brother Daoud for his efforts to promote Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement in France.

**Visit to Swami Veetamohananda**

We had also been invited by Swami Veetamohananda of the Shri Rama Krishna Society for lunch in their Paris Center. Before lunch, we had a meeting with the Swami in which he informed us of an Interfaith conference scheduled in October 2011. He invited us to represent Islam in the interfaith Conference. We thanked him, and gladly accepted his invitation.

These conferences are attended by people who are active in interfaith dialogue and are opinion makers and leaders in promoting peace and tolerance among Religions. We thank Almighty Allah for this opportunity to present the true, peaceful and tolerant teachings of Islam in this conference. After spending the night in a nearby hotel we returned to Holland the next day.

**HOLLAND**

On Saturday March 12, we visited Mr. Noor Sardar, Jerrel Sardar and family and the senior Mr. and Mrs. Hoeseni. We also met Mr. Sheikh Kassim, President of the Hague Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat and Mr. Amir Aziz, Secretary of Central Anjuman at Mr. Hoeseni’s house.

On the next day, Sunday, the Stichting jamaat had arranged a Jalsa on our behalf.
At the start of the Jalsa, Mr. Hoeseni, the president of the Stitchting Jamaat, welcomed everyone to the meeting after which Mr. Reza Gafoorkhan gave a beautiful Quran recitation.

Noman then gave a one hour presentation on *Life After Death* which was greatly appreciated by the audience. Mr. Reza Gafoorkhan did an excellent job of translating Noman’s speech. We are very thankful to brother Reza for his help. The audience asked many questions which were answered by Noman in English and translated into Dutch by brother Reza.

After Noman’s speech, I gave a half hour power point presentation outlining jamaat activities and work being done in Nigeria, Philippines, Albania, Turkey, Egypt, France, Korea, USA and Jordan. The audience was very impressed by the progress being made in these countries.

**Talk to Professor Koningsveld Islamic Studies Class**

Prior to our visit, Brother Shabbier Husseni had arranged for Noman to give a brief talk to Prof. Koningsveld’s class about the legacy of Maulana Muhammad Ali. Dr. Koningsveld is the former head of the Department of Islamic studies at the University of Leiden, and after retirement still conducts yearly classes dealing with specific topics in Islam.

This year’s topic was *Women in Islam*. Professor Koningsveld uses the Religion of Islam and the Maulana Muhammad Ali Holy Quran translation in his classes. The students attending this very popular course are professionals and intellectuals who are well established in their careers and are interested in learning more about Islam.

There were forty students attending this course. When we all entered the classroom, Professor Koningsveld announced to the class that he had a surprise for them. He then introduced Noman as Maulana Muhammad Ali’s grandson, and said he would be speaking about the legacy of Maulana Muhammad Ali.

The people in the classroom were very happy and applauded Noman when he began his presentation. In his brief presentation Noman emphasized that Maulana Muhammad Ali’s work was in reality a projection of Hazrat Mirza Sahib’s concept of Islam. After his presentation they asked him questions regarding Islam and expressed their appreciation for his talk.

Brother Hoeseni had also made an appointment for us to see Prof. Umar Ryad who is teaching *Islam in the Modern World* at the Institute of Religious Studies in Leiden University. We had met Prof. Ryad several years ago at the launch of the Dutch Holy Quran by the Stitchting Jamaat. At that time Prof. Ryad was completing his PhD thesis in Leiden University.

After the lecture we all went down to the University coffee shop where we had coffee with Prof. Koningsveld, Prof. Umar Ryad and some of the students.

In our conversation we discussed the possibility of holding a conference in Leiden University on the achievements of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in interwar Europe. Prof. Ryad said that he would be very happy to organize the conference for us.

We are always struck by the respect and reverence shown by people for Maulana Muhammad Ali and the work done by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement when we go on our visits abroad. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and Maulana Muhammad Ali for their service to Islam, Ameen!

We would especially like to thank Mr. Hoeseni for arranging these talks and meetings in Leiden University which greatly contributed to the success of our visit.

The Stitchting Jamaat is very active in the publication field. They have translated and printed many titles in Dutch. Mr. Hoeseni and Reza Gafoorkhan are the main persons involved in this work. Mr. Hoeseni showed Noman many books which were either ready for printing or in the process of being reviewed.

The Stitchting Jamaat is also very active in dawah activities. Mr. Noer Sardar regularly visits retirement homes to teach and present Islam to Muslims and non-Muslims. They also hold religious discussions with Christians interested in interfaith dialogue. May Almighty Allah reward and bless them for this great jihad.

We also want to thank Mr Shabier and Safoora Hoeseni for their warm hospitality during our stay with them. May Allah Bless and Reward them, Ameen!

L to R: Mr. Hoeseni, Sister Sarada, Swami Vetamohananda, Dr. Malik and Sister Samina.
Visit to Egypt – May 2011

Meeting with
The Mufti of Egypt

Alhamdolillah! I was able to have a short meeting with the Mufti of Egypt, Sheikh Ali Gumma in May, 2011.

I had been scheduled to meet the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, but he fell ill, and the appointment was rescheduled for the coming Friday. Unfortunately, I had to leave on Thursday for a very important meeting with a book distributor in England and could not stay until Friday, so I thought I would try to meet the Mufti of Egypt instead. I obtained an introductory letter from our sincere and helpful brother Sheikh Bastawisy and proceeded to the Mufti’s office where I met the media advisor of the Mufti, Dr. Ibrahim Nagm. Dr. Nagm had obtained his PhD in Shariah Law and Islamic studies from the USA and speaks fluent English. I told him about myself, my relations with Al-Azhar, the late Grand Imam Sheikh Tantawi, and the work of the Lahore Ahmadiyya movement in the service of Islam. He told me that he was familiar with the Arabic books of Maulana Muhammad Ali which had been distributed in Al-Azhar, and that he greatly respected and admired his work. We talked for almost an hour and discussed ways in which our jamaat could help by providing its literature. I asked him if it was possible for me to meet the Mufti. He explained to me that the Mufti was very busy due to the current events in Egypt, but he would try his best to ask him to see me. Finally when the Mufti, Sheikh Ali Gumma, arrived in his office, Dr. Nagm asked the Mufti to see me for a few minutes, and he agreed. Dr. Najm then introduced me to him. The Mufti was very happy to see me, and told me that the next time, inshallah, I should give him advance notice so we could have a longer meeting. I gave him my card and thanked him for seeing me at such short notice and promised that next time I would give him advance notice of my visit.

I was very happy to meet Dr. Nagm in this visit. He is a very sincere, knowledgeable, and open-minded person. He told me that next time when I was in Egypt, I should come and meet him and his family. I hope and pray that we have a very productive relationship with him in the future. Ameen!

Meeting with Father Richard

The following day, I visited Father Richard, a Catholic priest, who heads an Institute of Islamic Studies. Our meeting was very cordial. I informed him about our jamaat and offered to give him our Arabic books for his classes. He very graciously accepted my offer.

I thank Almighty Allah that he opened all these doors of opportunity for me in this visit. I pray for his Help and Forgiveness and that He causes these visits to bear fruit. Ameen!

Visit to Egypt & Turkey – August 2011

By Mrs Samina Malik

A ten day visit to Cairo, Egypt and Istanbul, Turkey, commencing on August 2, 2011. was very productive. Alhamdolillah!

Cairo Egypt

In Cairo, I had very successful meetings with the directors of Al-Azhar Al Shareef.

In addition to my meetings in Al-Azhar, I had a very important meeting with the Sheikh Alaa Abul Azaeim, who is the Tariqa Azmeya Sheikh, Member of the Sofi High Council, member of the World Islamic Leadership, and Chairman of Islam Wattan Magazine. The World Islamic Leadership and Sufi High Council were established by his grandfather.

The Sheikh’s father built a very large mosque in Cairo with an attached center for the foundation. Thousands of people can pray in the Mosque at one time. The meeting was held in his office in the center, and later I also visited the mosque.

Samina Malik meeting Sheikh Alla Abul -Azrie
Sheikh Azaeim is a well-known religious leader, and his organization has over one million members in Egypt. He is a very good friend of Sheikh Omar Bastawisy who attended our convention in July 2011. It was Sheikh Bastawisy who arranged my meeting with Sheikh Azaeim, and he and Mr. Ahmad Abdel Khalek accompanied me to the meeting. By the Grace of Almighty Allah, it was a very productive meeting.

Sheikh Azaeim told me that he has Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Translation of the Holy Quran and he loves the footnotes and references in the translation. He said that he likes to read Maulana Muhammad Ali's translation, because its language is such that it makes him feel that he is reading a Holy Book, and he enjoys that. He said there is no other Quran translation with commentary which could be compared to Maulana Muhammad Ali's translation.

Sheikh Azaeim was given a copy of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English Translation of the Holy Quran (USA Edition) by the Honorable Minister Louis Farakhan, when he visited twenty years ago. I presented him with the Arabic translations of the Religion of Islam, Mohammad the Prophet, Living Thoughts of Prophet Muhammad, Teachings of Islam and The Ahmadiyya Movement. He was very pleased to receive them. He especially liked the Teachings of Islam by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. Inshaallah, we will have this book printed in Cairo, as I already have an approval certificate for it. Sheikh Azaeim asked me to send him a set of all our English books for his library.

I told the Sheikh that the USA Jamaat would, inshallah, donate one thousand copies each of The Arabic Religion of Islam, Muhammad the Prophet and Living Thoughts of Prophet Muhammad to his center. He felt blessed to receive these books in the month of Ramadan.

During the course of our meeting, Sheikh Omar Bastawisy and Mr. Khalek told him about their
This year, Br. Fazeel S. Khan was requested to be the “Amy Lecturer” for the Amy Lecture Series held annually at the Church of the Master United Methodist Church at Otterbein University. The Amy Lecture Series was established by the children of Dr. Bill and Flo Amy in honor of the ministry of their parents. Dr. Bill Amy was professor of World Religions at Otterbein College from 1962-1978 and 1993-2005. An advertisement for the event can be viewed at: http://www.chmaster.org/education/adult/amy_lecture.

The event was an entire day affair, lasting about 8 hours in total. The first two sessions comprised two separate lectures; the first was titled “Discovering Islam: An Introduction to the Basics of the Faith”, and the second was titled “Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam: An Introduction to the Institution of Prophethood in Islam”.

Fazeel’s lectures, with power point slides, were very effective in conveying the essential elements of the Religion of Islam and the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. The audience greatly appreciated the presentations and was impressed with not only with the substance but also the manner in which the information was presented. After each speech there was a lively question and answer session in which Fazeel clarified many of issues raised by audience members.

The last session was a one hour panel discussion in which Fazeel, Pastor Todd Anderson, two students from the seminary and Noman and Samina Malik participated. Pastor Todd moderated the panel discussion and asked very insightful and thought provoking questions regarding Inter-faith relations and ways in which the Abrahamic faiths could work together to promote peace in the world.

The conference ended on a very positive note with several proposals being made to make interfaith cooperation and harmony a practical reality by instituting joint projects to help the poor and disadvantaged. The forum also provided the opportunity to distribute free copies of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s English translation and commentary of the Holy Quran, Islam the Religion of Humanity and Prophet of Islam to the participants.

We were very impressed by the sincerity and open-mindedness of the Church members and their desire to make their Muslim neighbors feel part of this society. Their devotion to trying to understand others and build bridges is very commendable. May Almighty Allah bless and reward them for their good deeds.

“Islamophobia” Conference at Capital University

On March 15, Fazeel S. Khan was requested to speak at the opening session of a week-long conference on “Islamophobia”, organized by the Student Peace Alliance (a student organization at Capital University). Br. Fazeel spoke on the topic of “Issues concerning American Muslims Post-911”. Fazeel’s presentation and the responses he gave to questions following the presentation were greatly appreciated by faculty and students.

Many issues were discussed, including the controversy over the
“Ground Zero Mosque” in Manhattan. The participation of students in such a cause was truly inspiring; it was clear there was a genuine interest and desire to work with others towards establishing a more peaceful world. Fazeel was also able to coordinate with the organizers to have copies of the Holy Quran made available for free to all participants of the open house event later in the week.

Myths and Misconceptions About Islam

To correspond with the Interfaith Memorial of the 10th Anniversary of 9-11, the First Community Church’s Abrahamic Faiths Initiative held a Fall Series Program aimed at exploring Islam in depth. The Series began with a dialogue between Fazeel S. Khan and Rev. Deborah Lindsay (Minister of Spiritual Care) to discuss current myths and misconceptions about Islam.

The Program commenced with an introduction by the Senior Minister, Dick Wing, whose weekly sermon is televised locally. Fazeel then gave a short introduction about the essence of the Islamic faith. Then the conversation began between Rev. Lindsay and Br. Fazeel about current myths and misconceptions about Islam.

Discussion included topics of jihad, democracy, women in Islam, the “Ground Zero Mosque”, sharia, and being an “American” Muslim. Masha Allah, the information conveyed through the discussion was exceptional, a wonderful learning experience for all who participated. A question and answer session also took place, so the audience members could address specific issues that may have not have been addressed.

The event was very well attended, and hundreds more participated via the online live streaming that the Church had made available.

In addition to the “Myths and Misconceptions about Islam” dialogue between Br. Fazeel and Rev. Lindsay, the following three events were included in the Fall Series:

- “The Bible and the Quran: A Case Study”, by Dr. Rodney R. Hutton of the Trinity Lutheran Seminary;
- Eboo Patel of the Interfaith Youth Core (Chicago), speaking at Capital University;
- “Mosques and Muslims in America”, by Dr. Paul Numrich of the Methodist Theological School.

More detailed information about the Fall Series may be viewed on page 12 at the http://issuu.com/firstcommunitychurch/docs/september_firstnews_web.

Fazeel discussed these cases in detail and also explain the contributions made by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society to defuse negative impressions about Islam resulting from the hysteria, such as issuing press releases to clarify the true Islamic position relevant to these matters (for the Pastor Parsely matter, a rebuttal was formulated and he was personally invited to debate his views about Islam, and for the Rifqa Barry matter, a detailed exposition of “apostasy” in Islam was presented).

Fazeel also surveyed the various collaborative works between Christians and Muslims and the multitude of interfaith initiatives being undertaken locally. The audience was engaged throughout, and

USA JAMAAT LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Islam and Christianity in Columbus, A Case Study

The North Broadway Methodist Church also held an Interfaith Series in commemoration of the 10 year anniversary of 9-11. Fazeel S. Khan was requested to be the presenter at one of the events and speak on the topic of “Islam and Christianity in Columbus”. The forum provided a unique opportunity to highlight local events dealing with interactions between Christianity and Islam, some positive and some negative, which made national and even international headlines.

For instance, Pastor Rod Parsley is from the Columbus area, and his controversial views about Islam created a media frenzy during the 2008 presidential campaign. Rifqa Barry, also from the Columbus area, is a girl from a Muslim family that converted to Christianity, then traveled to Florida to be with another pastor because, she claims, her family was going to kill her; her case energized Evangelical groups, who rallied around her and made her the poster-child for the cause of opposing Muslims in general.

Fazeel discussed these cases in detail and also explain the contributions made by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society to defuse negative impressions about Islam resulting from the hysteria, such as issuing press releases to clarify the true Islamic position relevant to these matters (for the Pastor Parsely matter, a rebuttal was formulated and he was personally invited to debate his views about Islam, and for the Rifqa Barry matter, a detailed exposition of “apostasy” in Islam was presented).

Fazeel also surveyed the various collaborative works between Christians and Muslims and the multitude of interfaith initiatives being undertaken locally. The audience was engaged throughout, and
it was difficult to clear the hall due to participants not wanting the event to end.

Rotary Club Presentation

Fazeel S. Khan was asked to present before the Columbus Rotary Club at the downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel on November 21st. The presentation was aimed at providing insight into the contemporary Muslim world. This was a unique opportunity in that the audience, totaling about 150 people, was comprised of executives, business professionals and political figures, groups that we normally have difficulty reaching.

The presentation, masha Allah, was a success, some audience members going so far as to state it was the best of the year. After the presentation, Br. Fazeel fielded questions from the audience and provided responses that were very much appreciated. We thank Almighty Allah for continuing to open new doors for us to share the true spirit of Islam with others.

ISNA’s Diversity Forum

One of the highlights of the year was the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society’s participation at ISNA’s first ever “Diversity Forum”, held January 14-15 in Detroit, Michigan. The forum addressed key issues facing the Muslim community, such as: racial divisions, sectarianism, socioeconomic disparities and youth involvement. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in breakout sessions to discuss pertinent issues they faced as well as to hear captivating speeches by local and national leaders who spoke eloquently on the importance of diversity and unity.

Fazeel S. Khan was invited as a special guest of ISNA’s Secretary General, Safaa Zarzou. Masha Allah, the conference was filled with a spirit of appreciation for diversity within Islam, and, in particular, a genuine sense of acceptance by others of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society being a valued part of the Muslim community. As a very misunderstood group, even persecuted in many parts of the world, having Muslims genuinely want to learn about you first hand and sincerely appreciate what you bring to diversity within Islam was a remarkable experience, both inspirational and moving.

We are extremely grateful to Br. Safaa Zarzour for his efforts in providing opportunities for others to learn about us, including his own expositions to others clarifying the differences between the two Ahmadiyya groups.

A live telecast of an address by Tariq Ramadan was presented at the Grand Reception. Br. Ramadan’s address very eloquently reveals the sense of open-mindedness apparent throughout the Conference. In his address he states:

“Speaking about diversity from an Islamic point of view is an important topic and a very important challenge for us today. The only way to get unity is to deal with diversity. Universality in Islam is not uniformity, it is unity with diversity. To say that we are Muslims is to say that there is some common ground and to understand that there will be different interpretations on different issues is to accept diversity.”

We recommend all to view his entire address at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4IhrX6CwYs (Part 1) and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu9-2sOtxt8&feature=relmfu (Part 2). Masha Allah, at the Grand Reception, Br. Fazeel was seated at the head table along with ISNA’s President, Imam Mohammed Magid, Imam Feisal AbdulRauf, among others, which served as an excellent opportunity to get to know some of these American Muslim leaders on a personal level.

Another highpoint of the event was a conversation Br. Fazeel had with Imam Zaid Shakir. When Br. Fazeel mentioned the name of Maulana Muhammad Ali, Imam Shakir spent the next few minutes praising Maulana Muhammad Ali as a great scholar and explaining how valuable his translation/commentary of the Holy Quran is. He, in front of a crowd of others, perceptively pointed out how the Maulana’s commentary in the footnotes of his translation provided a detailed understanding of the verses, which includes diverse opinions so that the reader may benefit from differing views. Clearly this classic work of the dear Maulana (as well as his other literary treasures) continues to gain the respect and admiration of leaders of the USA JAMAAT LOCAL ACTIVITIES
American Muslim community.

Iftar at St. James Episcopal Church

Each year the St. James Episcopal Church offers an Iftar dinner during Ramadan for local Muslims. The purpose of the iftar dinner, as stated by Mother Lynn, is to display solidarity with Muslims in the holy month in which they stress achieving closeness to Almighty God. Because of the generous gesture of the Church, we make every attempt to participate. This year, Br. Zahoor ur Rahman and Sr. Afshan Rahman attended along with Br. Fazeel and Dr. Noman and Sr. Samina Malik.

The event also presents the opportunity to build bonds of friendship with other local Muslims. The generosity of the Church has inspired the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society to reciprocate in some way next year, possibly by offering a dinner for our Christian neighbors during the holiday season in which a short presentation may be made about Jesus Christ, not focusing on his status but rather on his teachings of goodness.

“Better Together”, Interfaith Youth Event

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society co-sponsored the interfaith youth event titled: Better Together—The Path to Peace and Justice: Faith, Service, and Unity. On September 11th, at Congregation Tifereth Israel, interfaith youth presented a conference to remember the sacrifices made on 9-11, and to honor community leaders who have striven to provide interfaith leadership and promote social justice in the past ten years. The conference was organized by youth and presented by youth.

The result of their hard work was an indication of the good hands in which our community will be in the future (God willing). Despite the sensational stories in the news that show a divided country based on faith, the interfaith youth showed a genuine sense of tolerance for differences and a true understanding of the benefits of diversity in our society. The youth were part of the Interfaith Action Movement of Youth (formerly Columbus Interfaith Youth) and “is comprised of youth from a variety of different racial and religious backgrounds, with these common goals: to better the relations of citizens of multi-faith backgrounds, and to lead our city to a brighter future of understanding, compassion, and social justice.”

Interfaith Center for Peace

Fazeel S. Khan is starting his second year as President of the Interfaith Center for Peace. This is a wonderful organization that combines interfaith initiatives with peace work. The focus in the past year and in the year ahead is on empowering youth of different faiths to work together to resolve conflicts and plan for peaceful coexistence in the future. This past year the organization has revamped its website and included a blog. This is another forum which provides opportunities to share the true, peaceful and insightful teachings of Islam, as espoused by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, to a large network of readers. A submission on “Ramadan: A Training for Non-Violent Activism” can be viewed at: http://www.interfaithcenterforpeace.org/2011/08/ramadan-training-violent-activism/, and a submission on “Courage as a Moral Quality” can be viewed at: http://www.interfaithcenterforpeace.org/2011/09/911-series-part-3-courage-moral/.

Project Sakinah

Members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society have supported “Project Sakinah” in various events. Project Sakinah engages in the effort to stimulate awareness in the Muslim community about the serious problem of domestic violence and to work towards changing this condition. Fazeel S. Khan was asked to pro-
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Br. Zuhoor and Sr. Afshan conversing with local missionary from Qadian Jamaat.

Fazeel S. Khan endorsing Project Sakinah at ISNA Conference.

vide a recorded promotional statement for Project Sakinah at the ISNA annual convention. More recently, Project Sakinah held a conference in Columbus and Dr. Noman and Sr. Samina participated. We hope to continue collaborative work with this national organization to address a very important issue, an issue that is causing much negative perception about the religion of Islam around the world.

Coincidentally, members of the USA Jamaat discussed the issue of "wife beating" in light of verses of the Holy Quran via email exchanges that coincided with the Project Sakinah conference and the month devoted to domestic violence awareness (October).

Collaboration with Local Muslim Groups

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society continues its collaborative work with other Muslim groups. A strong relationship has been developed with the civil rights group CAIR, the national umbrella organization ISNA, and local masjids. As we have done for the past several years, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society co-sponsors CAIR’s annual dinner and its annual iftar. This year, the Noor Masjid invited members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society to participate in its “Community Leaders” recognition dinner. Masha Allaha, these opportunities provide for building friendships and better understanding between different schools of thought. We are very grateful for the respectful relations that Muslim groups in Columbus have with one another – truly, it can serve as a model for the rest of the country.

Noor Community Medical Clinic

The Noor Community Medical Clinic (of the Noor Islamic Cultural Center) is operated by a group of volunteer doctors, nurses, medical students and others to serve all those who do not have any health coverage. This is one of the most remarkable things that the Muslim community has undertaken to serve Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Sr. Lubna Ahmad has been providing volunteer services to this clinic by handling phone calls, setting appointments for the patients and preparing the doctors’ schedule. The Medical Director of the clinic has expressed her gratitude on many occasions and Sr. Lubna, along with other volunteers, were publicly recognized at the CAIR Annual Iftar this past Ramadan.

Feed the Needy Program

The economic crisis in the country has triggered long periods of unemployment for a large segment of the population. There are many local shelters that help people in crisis. One such establishment is the YWCA. The shelter accommodates about 250 homeless women and children at a time. Various organizations supply food to the shelter on a daily basis. The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, in coordination with Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), is one such group.

Dr. Mohammad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad volunteer every month with a group of other Muslims to supply food items and services to the indigent. Tables are set, food is served and dishes are washed. Alhamdulillah, an average of 200 people are served every month.

Chillicothe Correctional Inst.

It is very fortunate that the USA Jamaat participates in a Rehabilitation Program at the Correctional Institution in Chillicothe, which is located about 90 minutes by car, from Columbus, Ohio. In collaboration with an interfaith group, Dr. Mohammad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad go, twice or three times every month, to attend the
Horizon Program at the institution. This program caters to the spiritual needs of about 70 inmates, including eight Muslims. Holy Qurans and Muslim Prayer books have been given to the Muslim inmates. This program is designed to teach inmates different techniques to help them develop a positive attitude towards life. Self-evaluation, identifying feelings, stress management, behavior modification and improved communication all contribute towards conflict management. Showing patience, fortitude and respect in dealing with prison authorities, sharing, caring, and guiding other inmates as a family unit, all lead to positive character development. According to statistics, the men who attend this program and follow the guidelines, once released, have a very low rate of return to the prison system. It is amazing how volunteers also assimilate similar ways of handling conflict and crisis in their own lives. The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society volunteers in this program so as to contribute to the betterment of society.

“Spiritual Sharing” Program

The Interfaith Association of Central Ohio sponsors the Spiritual Sharing Program at the Main Downtown Library of Columbus, Ohio. The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month. Members of different faiths and traditions participate. The atmosphere is extremely cordial, with the purpose of promoting respect, tolerance, mutual learning and understanding. Topics, anywhere from respect of parents to Existence and Attributes of God are handled. Dr. Mohammad and Sr. Lubna Ahmad have been attending these meetings on a regular basis for the last four or five years. References from the Holy Quran are always cited to support any discussion.

Interfaith dialogue offers an excellent platform for soul-searching and self-improvement. It serves as a constant reminder to us, as Lahore Ahmadi, for the need to bring about a spiritual change within ourselves. It is very encouraging to see how interfaith dialogue leads to interfaith friendships. One-on-one interaction has contributed extensively to healthy dialogue and communication. Misunderstandings about Islam are continuously dispelled, and the correct Islamic perspective is established.

As many interfaith commonalities are brought to the fore, appreciation of each other becomes apparent, and insecurities are lessened. As members of the Interfaith Association, we have realized that in order to establish world peace, all member faiths need to consolidate their commonalities rather than focus on differences.

Book Packing / Free Distribution

The USA Jamaat continues its book packing and distribution of Jamaat literature to bookstores, universities, libraries and individuals. Much of this work is devoted to free distribution. On average, 60 packages of free literature are mailed every month. These requests come through mail and e-mail. The small booklets ‘Islam the Religion of Humanity’ and ‘The Prophet of Islam’ are excellent resources for relating the gist of Islam and serve to answer many questions of Muslims and non-Muslims alike. In addition, copies of The Light and Islamic Review are sent to approximately 700 libraries and universities throughout the country.

Florida Interfaith Conference

The Interfaith Conference in Florida was attended by our members in October 2011. The theme addressed the issue of whether religion had failed man. Brother Imtiaz Isak, who is also the Editor of The Islamic Sunrise magazine, organized this one day event. Close to 100 guests attended. It was very inspiring to hear the Interfaith panel, comprising a Priest, a Jew, a Sikh, a Christian, a Brahma Kumari and Maulana Kemal Hydal (the main Muslim speaker).

Jazak Allah to Brother Imtiaz for planning this event on an annual basis and formulating a program that is beneficial to the community.

DVD Audio recording of the English Text and Footnotes of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s Translation Completed

Alhamdolillah! We are happy to announce that the DVD audio recording of the English text and footnotes of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s translation has been completed. The English text only DVD without footnotes, which was recorded by Mr. Robert Adams, a well known professional reader, had been available for the past several years, and this recording with the footnotes will be a welcome addition. People had loved the first audio DVD recorded by Mr. Adams in his pleasing voice, and we are thankful to him for another high quality product. The second audio recording will soon be available for sale. We especially want to thank Dr. Mohammad Ahmad and Lubna Ahmad for painstakingly reviewing the audio recording several times for accuracy.

May Almighty Allah bless and
Our visit to the Philippines began on a very sad note. We arrived in Manila from Pakistan on February 8. The next morning when we were preparing to leave for the airport to catch a flight for Cagayan de Oro, we received a call from Sister Nena Mendosa informing us that Dr. Mendosa had just died as a result of suffering a heart attack.

As soon as we landed at the Cagayan airport, we went straight to the center where people had gathered and Dr. Mendosa’s body had been laid in the Mosque. I led the funeral prayer at the request of his wife Sister Nena. After the funeral prayer we took the body for burial in a Muslim cemetery. Inna Lillahi wa inna ilaihi raajioon, May Allah Taala admit Dr. Mendosa to His mercy and Grant him paradise.

Brother Mendosa had been in apparent good health and had spoken to us the day before he died when we arrived in Manila from Pakistan. He said he would pick us up from the Cagayan de Oro Airport and that he was very happy at the prospect of seeing us again. We also talked at length about the upcoming symposium in Cagayan de Oro on Saturday February 12.

He was an extremely kind hearted, honest, and dedicated Muslim. He had a very firm belief in God and was always cheerful, even under the most adverse conditions. His demise leaves a large gap in our Movement in the Philippines. We are grateful to Almighty Allah that his wife Nena Mendosa, who serves as secretary of our Organization, is very dedicated and capable of handling the Anjuman affairs.

Thanks to Almighty Allah, we also have a new Imam, Brother Ramiz, and a University Student Brother Jafar, both of whom are staying in the Center and taking care of the mosque. Brother Ramiz is actively engaged in Dawah work in the community. May Allah Bless and Reward all those who are struggling in His way.

Noman and I will miss our dear Brother Dr. Mendosa very much. May Almighty Allah admit him to His Mercy and Grant him an abode in Paradise. Ameen! And May He Grant his wife and family patience (Sabr) and strength to bear this great loss.

Please see the report by Sister Nena Mendosa on page 47.

SYMPOSIUM IN CAGAYAN DE ORO

A very successful symposium was held at the Dynasty Hotel in Cagayan de Oro on February 12, 2011. Dr. Mendosa had taken care of most of the details of planning the symposium before his death, and Sister Nena Mendosa, Brother Jafar and Noman and I took care of the little that still needed to be done. Mrs. Nena Mendosa conducted the symposium proceedings.

I was the first speaker and I gave a short account of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and its aims and objectives.

Noman followed with a talk about Life after Death.

Noman then turned the dais over to Dr. Khalid who read out the late Dr. Mendosa’s written speech titled Quran and Science.

The next scheduled speaker, Father Jose Ramon Villarin, SJ, the President of Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro, was unable to attend due to a last minute emer-
The mixed Christian and Muslim audience greatly appreciated the speech and participated enthusiastically in the question and answer session. Our members from Padigian City also attended the symposium. Dr. Mendosa perhaps knew almost everybody at the convention, and we all missed him very much.

For the next few days Noman gave classes on Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement which were attended by our members including Brother Rameez.

FORUM ON ISLAM AT ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

We flew to Manila on February 16 where we were joined by Fazeel S. Khan. We had been invited by Professor Renato Oliveros to participate in a forum on Islam the following day at the prestigious Ateneo de Manila University. About 25 students of Islamic Studies attended the forum. They were a diverse group coming from France, Germany, USA, Korea and Japan. The majority were students from Professor Renato Oliveros’ class. Fazeel spoke on two topics suggested by the students. These were the post 9/11 situation for Muslims in the United States and the subject of translating the Holy Quran into other languages from the original Arabic. The students greatly enjoyed his presentation. The talk was followed by a long and lively question and answer session. Fazeel gave very good replies to the questions and was able to clarify many points relating to Islamic Shariah, and the need to translate the Holy Qur’an into other languages.

LAHORE AMYADIYYA ISLAMIC SOCIETY AND ITS ROLE IN ISLAMIC RENAISSANCE

By Dr. Noman Malik

Samina, Fazeel and I left Manila for Cebu on February 18 to attend a symposium arranged by Professor Henry Francis (Abdil Ghaffar) Espiritu. The symposium date and theme “Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society and its Role in Islamic Renaissance” had been featured in the Philippine Inquirer newspaper.
and on their local online web site a week previously.

The symposium ran from 1-5 pm on the 19th, in the University conference hall. It was jointly sponsored by the University of Philippines Social Sciences Division, the University of Philippines Political Science Society and the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society - Philippines.

The proceedings began with an inspiring welcome address by Prof. Dr. Rhodora Bucoy, Chairperson of the University of Philippines, Cebu Social Sciences Division. Prof. Dr. Bucoy emphasized the need for forums such as this in promoting tolerance, pluralism and peace-making in society.

She was followed by a prominent member of the Philippine Congress, Representative Teodoro Teddy Casino of the Bayan-Muna (Country First) Party who gave a solidarity message and an overview of the state of the political dialogue between Muslim groups and the Philippine Government to bring about peace in Southern Philippines.

The next speaker was Mrs Samina Malik, president of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society-Philippines. She gave a short introduction to the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement dealing with its formation, objectives, accomplishments, and its plans to promote understanding of Islam and interfaith harmony in the Philippines.

The next speech “Defining War and Peace in Islam” was delivered by Fazeel S Khan Esq., board member of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society-Philippines. He gave a very insightful and enlightening discussion of Peace in Islam and also discussed the concept of “Just War” in Islam in which he showed that the rules of war in Islam predated those present in modern war theories by many centuries.

I then spoke about International relations from an Islamic perspective, in which I emphasized that a lasting peace among nations can only be achieved if the nature of human beings is changed from the animal to divine by following the universal principles of spiritual development as espoused by Islam.

Professor Dr. Renato Oliveros was the next speaker. His speech dealt with the commonalities between Islam and Christianity. He showed how the ultimate goal of each religion is the same in that each promotes the development of the divine attributes present in all of us. His speech was very well received and was well-applauded by the audience.

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The next speaker was Professor Henry Francis (Abdil Malik).
Ghaffar) Espiritu, board member of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society- Philippines, who proved convincingly by quotations from the Holy Qur’an how Islam develops and promotes pluralism, inter-religious dialogue and interfaith tolerance. The title of his PowerPoint lecture is: “Religious Pluralism, Inter-religious Dialogue, and Interfaith Tolerance from an Islamic Perspective”. He spoke in three languages; English, Tagalog and Cebuano. The audience was greatly impressed by his speech and frequently burst into spontaneous applause.

The last speaker was Ustaz Najeeb Razool, board member of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society- Philippines, who discussed, based on his experiences as a da’ee (propagator), how the correct interpretation of the concepts of Jihad, Peace and Tolerance as understood by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement could bring about interfaith harmony and peace in the Philippines.

The keen interest of the audience in the topics discussed was apparent in the lively question and answer session which followed the speeches. Based on the registration list of the Cebu Conference, there were 369 participants.

The proceedings ended with presentation of certificates to the lecturers by Prof Dr. Madrilena de la Cerna, faculty of the Social Sciences Division, UP Cebu, and a very beautiful and insightful conference synthesis and closing remarks by Ms. Janneil Monica Morales, a Political Science college student. Prof Dr. Madrilena de la Cerna is translating the Maulana Muhammad Ali Holy Qur’an into the Cebuano language.

We are very grateful to Prof. Henry Francis Espiritu and his three faculty colleagues (Prof. Dr. Bucoy, Prof. Claire Jabines, and Prof. Dr. de la Cerna) who helped him arrange this symposium. May Almighty Bless and Reward them all. Ameen!

Following the symposium, Fazeel S. Khan was interviewed by Ustaz Najeeb Razool on his daily Islamic radio program which is heard throughout Central and Southern Philippines. The interview went so well that Fazeel was asked to continue the interview the next day in an extra session of the program. The interviews covered a wide range of topics including the symposium proceedings, current events in the Middle East and the state of Muslims in the United States.

Insha’Allah, in September of this year we will hold another large symposium in one of the leading state universities in the City in which we plan to invite University Professors, students and advocates who are working for the peace process in Muslim Mindanao.

We humbly thank Almighty Allah for a very productive and successful visit to Cebu.

**SYMPOSIA IN ZAMBOANGA**

On Monday morning February 21, Fazeel, Noman and I flew from Cebu, to the city of Zamboanga in Mindanao to attend two symposia arranged for us by Professor Dr. Bagyian Abdul Karim, Professor of Social Development in Western
Mindanao University, and her husband Professor Kamrudean Abdul Karim, the Head of Islamic Studies in Western Mindanao University, in Zamboanga, Cebu.

The first symposium was scheduled for the morning at Western Mindanao State University, and the second for the afternoon at the main campus of the region’s High School.

After arriving in Zamboanga we had a quick breakfast and were picked up from the hotel by Prof. Kamrudean Abdul Karim and taken to the West Mindanao State University Campus.

Despite the short notice, Prof. Bagyian Abdul Karim had managed to gather an audience of 200 students and faculty members to attend the symposium. The hall was packed and some students and faculty had to be seated in the corridor outside.

I spoke first and gave a short history of the Lahore Ahmadiyya and its aim and objective of promoting a liberal and tolerant Islam and removing misconceptions about Islam through its literature.

I was followed by Fazeel who was the main speaker. His speech, *Muhammad the last prophet* was greatly appreciated by the audience. We were all very impressed by the intelligent questions asked by students in the question and answer period which followed. Everybody felt that the speeches and replies to questions were very effective in removing misconceptions about Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement as well as improving understanding between Christians and Muslims. In my answers I stressed that we firmly believe in the finality of Prophethood, and gave a short account of how I single-handedly formed a Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat in the Philippines. In the question and answer session Dr. Ladja, the dean of Islamic Studies, specifically asked a question about the beliefs of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement regarding Prophethood. He said the reason he was asking this question was to give us an opportunity to make it clear that the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement believed in the absolute finality of Prophethood.

Fazeel delivered a very convincing answer, firmly reiterating our belief in the finality of prophethood. The broad-minded, liberal and tolerant views of Prof Eddie M. Ladja bode very well for the future of Islamic Studies and Christian Muslim relations in Western Mindanao State University.

We distributed free booklets and the Holy Qur'an among students and faculty following the lecture.

Prof. Bagiyan Abdul Karim, Prof. Kamrudean Abdul Karim and Dean Prof. Ladja were very enthusiastic about holding a similar symposium on a larger scale in the future. Inshallah, we will hold such a symposium in one of the larger hotels in the City, where we could invite community leaders, Ustadzs, city officials and journalists in addition to students and faculty from Western Mindanao State University and Ateneo De Zamboanga University.

The Second Symposium was held at the National High School Main Campus in the afternoon. 230 students and teachers attended the symposium. Fazeel was the main speaker and he spoke on *Peace in Islam*.

Noman also gave a short speech on the subject. Most of the time was reserved for the question and answer session. Questions were mainly directed to Fazeel as he was the main speaker. We were very pleased by the intelligent and perceptive questions asked by students. In spite of the fact an hour was spent in the question and answer session, it was not enough, as students were still raising their hands to ask more questions as the session ended.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Prof. Bagiyan Abdul Karim and Prof. Kamrudean Abdul Karim for arranging these two symposia for us. Their sincerity and devotion to Islam and to the fields of their study are indeed admirable. May Allah Almighty Bless and reward them for their efforts. We are very grateful to Almighty Allah for giving us this opportunity to spread the true teaching of Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement in this region.
Visit to the Philippines - September 2011

By Mrs. Samina Malik

Noman and I arrived in the Philippines on September 15 to attend symposia in Cebu and Pagadian cities. We first went to our center in Cagayan de Oro where we met with Sister Nena Mendosa, Brother Ramiz, Brother Jafar and our other members of our jamaat. We were very happy to see them and renew our ties of friendship. Noman gave lessons on various topics on Islam and the Ahmadiyya Movement while we were in Cagayan.

CEBU

We left Cagayan for Cebu on September 17 to attend a symposium arranged by our devoted and learned brother Professor Henry Francis Abdil Gafdar Espiritu in the Normal University of Cebu titled “A Forum on the Pluralistic Dimension of Islam: Tolerance, Interfaith Dialogue and Peacemaking”. Prof. Espiritu is our very valuable and learned member in Cebu who has a great passion for promoting the true, peaceful and tolerant teachings of Islam as espoused by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society. He is very keen about promoting interfaith peace and harmony. One of the ways he does this is by arranging symposia which can serve as forums for promoting peace and goodwill. A report about the symposium in the Normal University of Cebu by Noman is given below.

AHMADIYYA PHILIPPINES SPONSORS
PLURALISM, TOLERANCE AND PEACEMAKING FORUM
IN CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY

By Dr. Noman Malik

On September 19, 2011, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society (LAIS-Phil) conducted a symposium at the Cebu Normal University from 9-noon. The half-day forum was arranged by our dear brother, Prof. Henry Francis (Abdil Ghaffar) Espiritu. The theme of the symposium was: “A Forum on the Pluralistic Dimension of Islam: Tolerance, Interfaith Dialogue and Peacemaking”. The conference was held under the aegis of the Political Science Society and College of Arts and Sciences; the venue was situated at McClintock Hall which specifically caters to big seminar functions and academic forums.

The symposium proceedings began with an ecumenical prayer. Ustaz Najib Razul recited the Surah Fatihah with its translation as the Muslim prayer representative; and Ms. Mayren Cogtas delivered the Christian prayer. The prayers were then followed by the a cappella singing of the Philippine National Anthem by Ms. Luzelle Bliss Apduhan.

Dr. Merlea Cabalquinto, the Cebu Normal University Vice-President for Academic Affairs warmly welcomed participants to the Symposium.

Ms. Samina Malik was the first speaker. She gave a brief introduction to the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement by outlining its history, aims, objectives, and achievements. She talked about the work that Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society (LAIS-USA) is doing in the Philippines to promote interfaith dialogue, peace-making and inter-religious harmony in the country.

The second speaker was Mrs. Nena Mendosa who read out, in its entirety, Fazeel S. Khan Esq’s speech Islam’s Concept of Democracy and Consultative Governance. Due to his commitment to attend other Interfaith conferences in Ohio, Atty. Fazeel Khan could not attend the symposium in Cebu. Sister Nena then to delivered Atty. Fazeel’s speech on Democracy and Participatory Governance which was greatly appreciated by the audience. Many CNU professors who attended this forum asked for a copy of his speech. Sister Nena has translated this speech into Bisayan and we intend to publish the speech as a booklet in both English and Bisayan Inshallah.

After sister Nena, I spoke about the Islamic Understanding of Peace Making and the Limitation of Warfare. The audience listened with attention to my speech and appreciated points regarding peacemaking and the relevance of Islam to international relations.

The next speaker was Prof. Henry Francis (Abdil Ghaffar) Espiritu who lectured on Religious Pluralism, Inter-Religious Dialogue and Interfaith Tolerance: An Islamic Perspective. The audience greatly appreciated the insights provided by Prof. Espiritu in his very well researched and documented presentation. His viewpoints were met with rapt attention and interest.
The last speaker was Ustaz Najeeb Razul who spoke about his *Experiences in Peace Making and Interfaith Dialogue in Islamic Propagation*. As usual, his dynamic presentation and extensive knowledge of Muslim-Christian relations as well as his practical experience in peace-making in southern Philippines were greatly appreciated by the audience.

All speakers presented their viewpoints thoroughly and systematically. Throughout, the audience was very appreciative of the speakers’ knowledge and the effort taken in presenting their talks. Speeches were followed by a lively question and answer session (open forum) in which the audience participated enthusiastically with pertinent questions about Islam and the Lahore Ahmadiyya movement.

The open forum was followed by the awarding of certificates to the speakers by Prof. Teresa Dizon and the former Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Prof. Dr. Porponio T. Lapa. Prof. Henry Francis Espiritu presented Dr. Merlea Cabalquinto, Dr. Porponio Lapa, Prof. Teresa Dizon, and Prof Elma Villahermosa each a hard-bound copy of the Holy Quran.

The proceedings concluded with closing remarks by the former CNU Academic Vice-President Prof. Dr. Porponio T. Lapa; in which he expressed his appreciation for the symposium. Dr. Lapa stated that symposia like this should be held more frequently and on a larger scale. He also offered his assistance in holding future symposia and invited the speakers to hold their respective lectures in his Public Management masters class next year.

We thank Almighty Allah for the successful symposium. May Allahu Taala bless and reward all those who organized the symposium and made it a success. *Jazak’Allah* to our ever-enthusiastic board member, Prof. Henry Francis Espiritu for his hard work in planning and organizing the symposium. We also would like to thank Brother Rameez, the Imam of our Cagayan Center and sister Mrs. Nena Mendosa, Secretary of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society of the Philippines, for traveling all the way from Cagayan just to attend the symposium. May Allah Taala, the Beneficent and Merciful, Reward and Bless all those who made sacrifices for promoting the peaceful message of Islam. *Ameen*!

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### SYMPOSIUM IN PAGADIAN CITY, PHILIPPINES

**By Samina Malik**

A symposium with the theme *Muhammad the last Prophet* was held on September 25 in Pagadian City. The symposium was organized by Dr. Khalid de los Santos and Mrs. Nena Mendosa. Pagadian City is the capital of Region 9 and is situated in southwest Mindanao. It is a seven hour drive from Cagayan de Oro. We have had a jamaat there for the past two years and Dr. Khalid de los Santos is the Imam and its most active member.

Noman and I flew from Manila to Pagadian to attend the symposium, while Sister Nena, Imam Ramiz and Brother Jafar came by bus from Cagayan. By the Grace of Almighty Allah the symposium was very successful. Over 100 people attended the event held in a hotel.

The symposium began with a beautiful Holy Quran recitation by brother Jafar. He was followed by Dr. Khalid who delivered the welcome address. Next, I gave a speech introducing the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and stating its beliefs, aims and objectives. Next, Brother Ramiz, Dr. Noman Malik, Sister Nena Mendosa and Dr. Khalid de la Santos delivered lectures on various aspects of the Holy Prophet’s life.

Speeches were followed by a question and answer session in which questions about Islam in general and the Ahmadiyya Movement in particular were answered by the panel.

After the question and answer session, I spoke about the dawa work in which the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement was engaged in the Philippines and worldwide. I stressed the need for Muslims to join the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in order to propagate Islam.

Thirteen people came forward and took the *bayat* with Noman. They were family members of the five members from Pagidian who had initially joined the Movement two years ago by taking the pledge at the hand of Dr. Ahmad. The event ended with a delicious dinner.

The next day we visited the houses of Pagadian members and discussed ways in which we could propagate Islam in the region. It was proposed that Brother Ramiz, Sister Nena and Professor Abdil Gafar Espiritu would, inshallah, follow up with visits to Pagadian City for assisting in the propagation activities.

We are thankful to the late Dr. Mendosa who introduced the brothers in Pagadian to us two years ago.

We would also would like to thank Dr. Khalid, sister Nena Mendosa and her nephew for arranging the symposium and inviting people to the event.

We thank Almighty Allah for His help in establishing the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in the Philippines, and enabling us to hold more than 20 symposia in Universities and other public venues over the past four years.
Philippines Jamaat Activities

News By Sister Nena Mendoza
CAGAYAN DE ORO CENTER

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, Cagayan de Oro center, is actively involved in Islamic propagation work that includes the following activities:

The imam, Ramiz Manzano has been busy distributing free booklets on Islam to government offices, schools and to interested individuals. He has established contacts with Christian churches and organizations for involvement in inter-religious activities and discussions. He has also visited new Muslims who are interested in knowing more about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. In a nearby school, where muslim students are enrolled, Ramiz serves as the imam when they have jummah prayers, usually the last Friday of each month.

The imam has participated in religious discussions in public places such as plazas and parks where there are often weekend gatherings of people.

The Holy Qur’an and the booklets, Introduction to Islam, Islam the Religion of Humanity and Prophet of Islam are sent to individuals who request them through email and to those referred by members of the jamaat.

Symposia were conducted in Cagayan de Oro City at Dynasty Court Hotel in February 2011, in Cebu City at Cebu Normal University in September 2011 and Pagadian City at Springland Resort Hotel also in September 2011. Sister Samina Malik, President of the Philippine jamaat and Dr. Noman Malik, board member of the Philippine jamaat arrived a few days before the symposia and helped in making the necessary arrangements. These symposia were attended by mostly non-muslims.

Translation of booklets into the local language is among the priority projects of the Center. The leaflet Islam in Brief has been translated into Tagalog and The Meaning of Islam into Cebuano.

The jamaat has a 2-storey building where the ground floor is used as a mosque and the 2nd floor as a library and lecture area. This building was donated by Dr. Noman Malik in the memory of his parents through the USA jamaat. The adjacent center was donated by the USA jamaat. The members invite non-muslim friends to the center and discuss Islam with them.

For the continuing education of members, there is a regular gathering every Sunday afternoon for reading of Qur’an verses and commentary by Maulana Muhammad Ali. At least two sections are read at each meeting. Each participant reads on a rotating basis; then relevant points are translated and explained in the local language.

After the reading session, an online lecture by Dr. Noman Malik follows. It is a regular lecture held every Sunday afternoon. The lecture is about lessons from the Qur’an from Surah Fatiha to the succeeding chapters. It is very useful for the spiritual nourishment of new Muslims who need guidance in understanding the Qur’an.

Another regular lecture by Dr. Malik is conducted every Tuesday evening from 8-9 pm. The lectures focus on the Ahmadiyya Movement and other related topics such as the concept of mujaddid, the Dajjal, Anti-Christ and Gog and Magog. This is attended by imam Ramiz Manzano and Jafar, a working student of the organization in charge in maintaining the center. Other members also attend this lecture.

In July of 2011, I attended the International Convention of the USA jamaat at their invitation. I was very happy to meet my fellow sister and brother ahmadis. I was also very pleased to meet Sheikh Omar Bastawisy and Mr. Abdel Khalek, both retired sheikhs from Al-Azhar. My stay in the States was very pleasant as the guest of sister Samina and brother Noman Malik.

The Philippine Jamaat is very grateful to the USA jamaat for funding of the Philippine Jamaat and for the time devoted by Sister Samina Malik and Dr. Noman Malik in the propagation efforts in the Philippines.

Please pray that Allah Taala gives us the strength to carry on this work and to Guide us on the right path. Ameen!

News By Prof. Henry Francis (Abdil Ghaffar) Espiritu
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES CEBU CAMPUS

We are indeed very thankful to our Merciful Allah for having very fruitful jamaat activities in a prestigious university in Cebu City. The University of the Philippines students have celebrated the annual Eidil Fitr dinner under the sponsorship of Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society-Philippines for three consecutive years (2009-11). I thank Almighty Allah, that I was able to organize these events.

Furthermore, the literature of Maulana Muhammad Ali published by our USA Jamaat is freely available to interested university students in my office. I gave a set of books consisting of the Holy Quran, Religion of Islam, Introduction to Islam, and the Early Caliphate to...
the Student Council leaders of different universities in Cebu City during the Eidil Fitr Convocation of 2011 held at UP Cebu AVR August 30, 2011.

During the Eidil Fitr gathering of university students held at UP Cebu Arts and Sciences Blue Room, attendees received our academic journal *Light and Islamic Review*. In the past three years thousands of booklets have been freely distributed to students who are interested in the genuine teachings of Islam during these Eidil Fitr dinners.

I conduct a weekly study circle of 15-20 students who are seriously researching the real doctrines of Islam as expressed in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of our Holy Prophet. This study circle is regularly held Wednesdays after maghrib prayers for 90 minutes. The study circle is capped by a simple dinner for attendees. May most Merciful God Bless and Guide the university students, both Muslim and non-Muslim, to the beauty of authentic Islam. May He Bless the students so that they will be successful in this world and in the next World. Ameen, thumma Ameen!

**USTAZD NAJEEB RAZUL’S RADIO PROGRAM**

*By Dr. Noman Malik*

While in Cebu, Samina and I appeared three times on Ustadz Najeeb Razul’s radio program which is broadcast throughout central and southern Philippines. Selected topics on Islam and Ahmadiyyat were discussed. Ustadz Najeeb is also broadcasting Maulana Muhammad Ali’s English translation of the Holy Quran with footnotes on a regular basis. His radio program is a voice for peace and interfaith harmony in the Philippines. For our third appearance, Professor Espiritu accompanied us to the program where he was interviewed by the Ustadz. The program centred around the symposium, *A Forum on Islam, Tolerance and Peace-making* which had been held in Cebu on September 19. The solutions for promoting peace through Islam presented in the symposium were analyzed by Prof Espiritu. He will, inshallah, appear regularly on Ustad Najeeb Razul’s Radio program once a month.
Our first Eid ul Fitr was celebrated at the new centre in Cape Town, South Africa, in September 2011. The Khutba which was delivered by the writer touched on the universal moral and spiritual decay in the world and how the Holy Quran through its noble teachings and institutions such as fasting is able to restore faith in man’s ability to transform and grow morally and spiritually.

Fasting in Ramadan, it was explained, is not a ritual to appease an angry God, or to overcome the fear of evil spirits or to mourn some sorrow or loss. It is a disciplinary, moral action that helps the devotee to guard against evil and to seek a connection with Allah Almighty.

Abstaining from food and drink, it was emphasized, is not enough – abstention from foul manners and bad behaviour is the objective of fasting. A person who is proud, haughty, suspicious, rude, ill-mannered, or who engages in indecencies and vulgari-ties, and despairs at disappointments and failures, who opposes the doing of good and persists in the engagement of deception and mischief in the land, is one that is not conscious and fearful of Allah. The fast, it was explained, is meant to help us keep our weaknesses in check and develop a God Consciousness by awakening the spiritual seeds that lie dormant in us.

The full sermon was forwarded to the Editor of The Light and Islamic Review for publication. Copies were freely distributed to guests.

Although Eid fell midweek, attendance was good. After the sermon, the usual interaction with attendees who were served a sumptuous breakfast, took place. Our books were on display and several copies of the Holy Quran and Religion of Islam were purchased by enthusiasts who distribute it free to fellow associates and friends.

Everyone then departed to wish their families and loved ones an Eid Mubarak and spend the rest of the day with their close relatives and friends.

"May Allah’s unfailing love and mercy always surround us! May Allah be near us in this hour of need! May He, day by day and always, give us true joy in this life, and every blessing, peace and happiness in the life to come! — Ameen”

THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITY QURANIC CONFERENCE

By the Grace of Allah, I was invited to deliver a talk at a conference in Johannesburg September 10, 2011. This was the second conference I participated in this year, organized by two different Muslim groups in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The organizers, a free-thinking Muslim youth organization, reached me through knowledge of my participation at the first conference in May 2011. I was accompanied by my wife Scheega, Sister Ruwaida and her husband Br. Yusuf Zain from Johannesburg. The theme of this conference was “Conveying the Message of Quran in Word and Deed”.

I delivered a speech on the Universal nature of Revelation according to the Holy Quran. I explained the different modes of revelation and emphasized the point that revelation of a secondary nature continues and only prophetic revelation peculiar to
prophets of God has ended. My speech was well received and circulated widely by the organizers. A lively question and answer session followed.

During the breaks, many curious bystanders joined my discussion with interested parties on subjects such as the death of Jesus, the rules of interpretation, Jihad etc.

Some of the other speakers included:
- Farouk Peru, who spoke on "The Formation of a Quranist Identity". Mr. Peru is from the UK and his presentation was streamed in.
- Dr Yusuf Noor who spoke on, "The Beginning of the Universe and the ending of it"
- Mr Ahmed Moosa who spoke on, “Towards a Quranic Society”
- Iqbal Gafoor who spoke on "The Quran expects maximum financial and personal commitment to change society”.

After the convention, our Jamaat donated five copies of the Holy Quran and Religion of Islam by Maulana Muhammad Ali to the organizers, which was much appreciated by them, especially the English translation of the Holy Quran which is very popular amongst them.

Was Salaam

ENGAGEMENT WITH INTER-FAITH GROUP

Recently I met with Mohammed Kagee, a spiritual coordinator for an inter-faith group in South Africa. We had an interesting discussion at our centre as to what is happening in the community, “Inter-faith” wise. I explained our situation to him, as Ahmadis of the Lahore Section. He was very empathetic and expressed disgust at the so-called mainstream ulama who have subjected us to the worst kind of ostracism. He is a working member of the U3A, an affiliate of the inter-faith group. He invited me to attend their functions and explained U3A. University of the Third Age (U3A) is a worldwide organization in which groups meet to discuss topical issues. Essentially Third Age represents people over 60. Experts in their field are invited to lead discussion on relevant topics.

There are five branches in the Cape Town area. Mohammed Kagee is the course leader on inter-faith issues. He started a branch in Southern Suburbs a few years ago, dealing with Islam, perceptions of violence and terror, and was joined by a rabbi and priest about one year later, and they considered commonalities of Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

This year they dealt with religious tolerance/intolerance in Islam and other similar topics.

Talk on Islam and Pluralism by Imam Noor Salie, Cape Town

My wife Scheega and I attended. The topic was very well presented. All aspects of religious tolerance, apostasy, jihad etc. were in complete conformity with our understanding of the teachings of Islam as expounded by the pioneers of our Movement. This made his rendition readily acceptable to the attendees who consisted mostly of agnostics, Christians and Jews.

Several questions were put to the Imam, who answered adequately, but unfortunately had to leave early
to meet another commitment. The discussions continued and that’s when Scheega and I played a role in answering some of the questions.

To the question, does Islam support evolution? I answered that the very attribute of God in Islam, “Rabb”, contains the essence of evolutionary processes, with God, of course, as the Originator of creation. I explained the meaning of Rabb. The questioner, an admitted agnostic, answered, “I am very pleased with the answer”.

To the question “Why are there hardly any female religious scholars in Islam – does Islam teach gender inequality?” my answer was only those who have no knowledge of Islam hold such a view. The very first among religious scholars, mentors and teachers of Islam were none other than the prophet’s wives of whom his wife Ayesha played a major role. Ayesha’s testimony of the Holy Prophet’s actions and sayings are amongst the most reliable and widely used by religious scholars and legists, worldwide.

During the break, Scheega and I were approached on other aspects of Islam, such as the concept and existence of God. Before we left I handed the Founding member of the University of the Third Age, Yvonne Schirer, a copy of the Religion of Islam because I noticed a keen interest in Islam from her. She was thankful and soon I was approached by others who were interested in receiving a copy for themselves.

Eid prayers at the centre.

Nelson Mandela’s ex-spiritual confidant thankful for copy of Religion of Islam

Faheem Mohamed recently gave the Reverend Harry Wiggett, who was confidant to the former South African president Nelson Mandela during his incarceration in Robben Island, a copy of the Religion of Islam. He responded in an email transcribed below.

Dear Faheem,

I cannot tell you how touched I was to receive Maulana Muhammad Ali’s The Religion of Islam. It is a gift I shall treasure, and, although only receiving it on Wednesday, I have already read up to page 127!!

I feel sure I will learn much from this gift...not only to re-affirm my own faith in the Person of Jesus (and not necessarily the “religion” build around faith in Him!!), but also it will give me a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Islamic religion...for which I am most grateful.

It is your personal kindness that touches my heart and which matters the most. With my sincere prayers and blessings, — Fr. Harry

EID-UL-ADHA

We celebrated Eid ul Adha on November 6, 2011. The Khutba was delivered by Ebrahim Mohamed. It was taken from an article that appeared in the Light and Islamic Review in 1992 with some adaptation. It dealt with, “Lessons of the Pilgrimage”, with emphasis on calling mankind back to its original beliefs.

The underlying significance of the sacrifice was explained and a call was made to support our propagation efforts. News of progress made of efforts in Egypt, Turkey, Philippines,
Bangkok, by our US Jamaat was well received.

After the service, a breakfast was served and funds of approximately one thousand rand were collected to help with the upkeep of the Centre.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AFRICA JAMAAT

As Salamu Alaikum. As 2011 draws to a close, I am thankful to Almighty Allah for granting me the strength to continue with the work of the Anjuman. Last year was extremely challenging for me having undergone a multiple cardiac bypass operation and affected by corporate downsizing which led to early retirement. The Jamaat also bid farewell to our Brother Ismail Peck who returned to his Maker, Inna Lil Lahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Rajioon. Below is a summary of activities I would like to share;

New Center for South Africa Jaat

We thank Almighty Allah for providing us a center. We are grateful to the USA Jamaat for donating the Center. We have made some modifications in the center to make it more suitable for our jamaat work. All our meetings and other jamaat related activities now take place in the center.

Qurans and other literature

The US Jamaat has been supplying us with books for the last 25 years. The books serve as a life-blood and support for our missionary efforts and we are pleased this relationship with the US continues. We expect, soon, a consignment of 1,000 Qurans, the much needed “Ahmadiyyah Case” and several other books by the USA Jamaat. We will dedicate a selected few for the main libraries in Southern Africa.

Meetings and discussions

We have scheduled meetings on the first Sunday of every month. General meetings and religious discussions in which youth participate are held. Talks by selected outside parties are planned.

Friday Jumu’ah

We hold Jumu’ah prayers and Khutba every Friday at the center for those who can attend.

Eid celebrations

This year Eid celebrations were held at the center. After prayers and Khutba, light refreshments were served, funds were raised and book sales undertaken.

Quranic Conferences

A delegation from our Jamaat, headed by the writer, participated in two Quranic conferences in Johannesburg in May and September respectively. The conferences were organized by two separate non-conservative Muslim groups of the Ahle Sunnah School. The writer presented two papers which were well received and widely circulated by the organizers. The first paper entitled, “The Cosmopolitan Nature of Islam”, was published in the Light and Islamic Review. The second paper, “The Universal Nature of Revelation according to the Holy Quran”, will be published also. The organizers disclosed great admiration and respect for Maulana Muhammad Ali. Our Jamaat donated copies of the English Translation of the Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam to them.

Inter Faith Initiatives

We have made contact with a local inter-faith group and had some fruitful participation in some of their sessions.

Proofreading

We are honoured to participate in some proofreading of our Jamaat’s books for e-book publication for the USA jamaat. So far we have completed six booklets and a section of the Religion of Islam. The project is ongoing.

International Convention

In conjunction with our US Jamaat, we are planning the first ever International Convention in Cape Town South Africa in May 2013. This will be an historic occasion, and long overdue considering the worldwide impact of the Ahmadiyyah Case, which took place in Cape Town, South Africa in the eighties. It will also be a fitting tribute to the memories of Hazrat Ameer, Dr Saeed Ahmad Khan and the tireless efforts of the late Maulana Hafiz Sher Muhammad and our Brother Ismail Peck.
This year two conventions, one on Sirat-un Nabi (Qualities, character of the Holy Prophet), and the other on the Meraaj (ascension) of our Holy Prophet were organized.

The first was held on February 20, 2011 presided over by our board member Mr. Ramon Sardar. The main speakers, Mr. Reza Ghafoerkhan and Mr. R. Niamat, elaborated on different teachings of our Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Meraaj-un Nabi Jalsah took place on July 3, 2011 and was presided over by our secretary Mr. Setar Dost Mohamed. The speeches were delivered by Mr. Dawood Hoesenie of our youth organization and Mrs. Roexsana Sheikalibaks. These two youngsters are students of the course “Religion of Islam” at our Lahore Ahmadiyya Institute for Islamic Studies. They had prepared their speeches themselves under supervision of their teacher Mr. Reza Ghafoerkhan. The main speech of the day was delivered by our elder member Mr. Paul Ameerali in a very scholarly and spiritual way. All the speeches were in Dutch and very well prepared and provided spiritual sustenance for the audience. Both events were well attended by members and very much appreciated by all.

**Visit of general secretary AAIL, Mr. Amir Aziz**

On February 5, 2011 our organization invited Mr. Amir Aziz, General Secretary of AAIL, during his Holland visit to talk on the topics “Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam” and “Anti-Christ, Gog and Magog”. His power point presentation was very clear and appreciated by the audience. He also showed some recent television interviews of various scholars who by self-study had come to the same conclusion as the Lahore Ahmadiyya views on some important issues.

**Special course Religion of Islam at Leiden University**

The value and importance of the literature produced by Maulana Muhammad Ali and the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat came into the academic picture once again this year.

Hazarat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad himself had asked Maulana Muhammad Ali to write a comprehensive book on Islam. This book, ’The Religion of Islam’ by Maulana Muhammad Ali presents the true, rational, beautiful and tolerant teachings of Islam as expounded by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad the Mujaddid of this age.

The book has been used for decades as the premier text book in Islamic studies by the prestigious Leiden University in Holland.

In 2006, revised Dutch editions of this book were published almost simultaneously by two jamaats in Holland. The University, after comparison of both editions, selected the version published by the Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha’at-i-Islam for use in its Islamic studies program.

On February 1, 2011 a two month course conducted by Prof. Dr. P.S. van Koningsveld, was offered by the Hobo Institute of the University of Leiden. The course was organized specially for intellectuals and professionals such as lawyers, barristers, judges, medical doctors, people who have done social studies, etc., and who have been practising in their own field for a long time. Forty such individuals participated.

A translation of the course description put out by the University is reproduced below:

“The Religion of Islam, is certainly the best and most reliable scientific presentation on Islam by a Muslim author which is currently available in the Dutch language. As will be extensively discussed during the lectures, in his work the author is firmly planted in the tradition of modern Islamic reformism. He rejects all forms of extremism and advocates a moderate form of religious faith and practice that is relevant in the modern age. The author wrote his work especially for a western audience. Its study provides the basis of a thorough knowledge of the doctrine and institutions of Islam.”

In the bibliography for the course, the full title of the book Religion of Islam is mentioned in Dutch language along with its publisher Stichting Ahmadiyya.
Isha’at-i-Islam. In addition where the book is available, its price and ISBN number 978-90-5268-015-6 are also given.

I would further like to mention that in 2010 there was another special course of the same kind on Islam where the Dutch translation and commentary of the Holy Quran by Maulana Muhammad Ali was used. This course was also conducted by the same professor.

Many students who are enrolling in this new course on “The Religion of Islam” are also buying the translation and commentary of the Holy Quran in the Dutch language by Maulana Muhammad Ali.

Visit of Dr. Noman Malik and Mrs. Samina Malik

Sister Samina Malik and Dr. Noman Malik, board members of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha’at Islam Lahore (USA) visited our organization in March and a convention was organized on March 13, 2011. Dr. Malik dealt in depth on the topic Life after Death using a Powerpoint presentation. Reza Ghafoerkhan gave an excellent translation of the subject into the Dutch language. Sister Samina Malik explained about the work of AAIIL-USA in different countries and about its major translation projects of the literature of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement into several languages. The audience really enjoyed and appreciated their speeches. Dr. Malik and Sister Samina were very happy to hear that our Stichting jamaat was working on one of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s important works, A Manual of Hadith.

Dr. Malik invited by Prof. Van Koningsveld to the Class in Leiden University.

In March 2011, Prof. Van Koningsveld of Leiden University invited Dr. Noman Malik to address the 40 students participating in the course on ‘The Religion of Islam’ mentioned earlier. He was asked to speak on the “The Legacy of Maulana Muhammad Ali”. The students were very eager to know more about Maulana Muhammad Ali. Sister Samina Malik of AAIIL promised all the students a copy of the book “A Mighty Striving” through Prof. van Koningsveld. We also had a meeting with Dr. Umar Ryad of Leiden University and had some very useful discussions with him.

Copies of Mighty Striving presented to Prof. Koningsveld at the Stichting jamaat Center.

On October 23, Dr. Malik and Mrs. Samina Malik visited our jamaat. They presented 40 books, Mighty Striving (Life History of Maulana Muhammad Ali) to Prof. Koningsveld on behalf of the USA Jamaat.

The Stichting Jamaat again organized a convention for Dr. Noman Malik and Sister Samina. Dr. Noman Malik spoke on Modesty in a Woman’s Attire and social interaction between men and women in Islam. Mrs. Malik gave a slides presentation of all the renovation work on the Berlin Mosque during the period of her involvement with the project.

Mr. Hoeseni and Mr. N. Sardar accompanied Dr. Noman and Mrs. Samina Malik to attend a symposium organized by a Vedantic organization in Paris, which had Islamic topics in the program.

Interreligious Symposium: Jew, Christians and Muslims

Some of our people actively participate in interfaith meetings with Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, etc. These meetings are usu-
ally small gatherings, but sometimes large meetings take place.

On June 19, 2011 of this year one such meeting was organized in the form of a half-day symposium at our location, organized collectively by all the three religions. The topic chosen was “Jews, Christians and Muslims: What do we have in common with each other? Our common heritage!” After the opening of the session by Mr. R. Sardar on behalf of our organisation, Mr. Jan Goossensen, M.A., the editor of a Christian magazine presided over the meeting and led the discussion sessions in a very professional and interesting way.

Roman catholic Father Mr. Bosco Beijk gave a talk from a Christian point of view. From the Jewish perspective, well-known Rabbi Mr. Awraham Soetendorp addressed the audience and from the Muslims, Mr. R. Ghafoerkhan.

Social interaction during the break.

Mr. Jan Goossensen on the left, who moderated the symposium and discussion.
All the presentations were very well prepared by the knowledgeable speakers. After each speech there was a question and answer session on the particular topic presented and the symposium was closed with a general question and answer session.

Those who attended enjoyed all the presentations of the different religions, and a follow up is eagerly anticipated, which *Insha Allah* will be organized at a Christian or Jewish location.

Shortly after the symposium the sad message reached us that one of the driving forces of the Organizing Committee of this symposium Mr. Simon Boendermaker, M.A., had passed away. May God forgive him and give his soul the place he earned.

**Ramadaan with iftar**

During Ramadaan some members organized *iftar* for members of our Jamaat. Several members, young and old, had the opportunity to address the gathering on Islamics topic before Isha and Tarawih prayers.

On a weekend day during Ramadan our organization organized *iftar* for members and board members and members of all the other Lahore Ahmadiyya jamaats in the Netherlands. Board members of most of the invited Jamaats participated on this *iftar*, and they had the opportunity to address the gathering. Our Jamaat was also invited by other Jamaats which had organized similar public *iftar*, such as Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha’at Islam Lahore Nederland, Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha’at Islam Holland, Rotterdamse Islamitische Vereniging – AAII, Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha’at Islam Amsteram.

**Eid-ul Fitr**

Eid-ul Fitr salat was held in a large hall called Tropical, situated in The Hague. About 500 people participated. Eid Khutbah was delivered in Dutch by Dr. Paul Ameerali. At the end he specially addressed the youth to participate on a larger scale in all matters concerning
Islam. After Eid prayers those who had to go to work left, but the majority stayed behind and an early dinner was served for about 300 people. Our members living all over the Netherlands participated.

One week after Eid-ul Fitr our organization contributed in the program of an Eid-ul Fitr convention organized by the social and cultural organization EEEKTA of The Hague. About 250 people participated, among which were Hindus, Christians and Muslims. Some board members and members of our Lahore Ahmadiyya sister organisations participated also. The convention was presided over by Mr Basharat Boedhoe.

Mrs. Urmila Khodabaks, a respected member of the board of directors of EEEKTA welcomed the large gathering on behalf of Federation EEEKTA. Our Vice-President Mr. N. Sardar stressed this very noble initiative of EEEKTA and proceeded to address the audience on behalf of our organization and explained the meaning of fasting in Islam, showing that fasting is also found in some other great religions of the world. Board members and members of different organizations attended the Jalsah.

Visit of Hazrat Ameer and foreign delegate to the Stichting Jamaat.

Prior to the convention organized by AAILN, Hazrat Ameer Abdul Kareem, guests from Pakistan, Uk, and Suriname visited our organisation. The president of the Stichting Jamaat Mr. Hoeseni requested Hazrat Ameer, Senior vice-president Mr. Umar Farooq, Mrs. Sabiha Saeed and Mr. Amir Aziz to address the audience. Other guests were Dr. and Mrs. Jawad Ahmad and his sister Nagina from UK, Mrs. Gazala Farooq, Brig. Muhammad Saeed from Pakistan, Mr. Rafiek Moennoesing and Mrs. Badoellah from Surinam. President Mr. S. Kasiem, Imam Mohamedamin and some members of AAILN accompanied the guests.

Participation in convention of AAILN

AAILN organized an international convention on October 14-15. Members of our organization participated in both conventions held in the Tropical Hall. Representatives of our board also participated on the days previous to the convention.

Our imam, Mr. Reza Ghafoerkhan was put on the program to give a Dars-i Quran after Fajr prayers, which he did very well in English translating it into Dutch as well.

Our president Mr. Hoeseni congratulated the AAILN on its 35th Anniversary on behalf of Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha’at-i-Islam. He said that Stichting Jamaat was very appreciative of the title of the conference, because Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha’at-i-Islam in fact is doing the very work covered by the scope of the title since its inception.

This work was mainly in the form of translating and publishing the literature of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement into Dutch. The Stichting organization has donated several Dutch books such as *The Holy Quran, Religion of Islam, Islam Peace and Tolerance* and *The Ahmadiyya Movement of Lahore* to all the Cabinet Ministers and the members of the House of Commons and House of Lords of the country, University professors and libraries, and other officials.

Before closing the last session of the conference, which was very well attended by members of all the Jamaats in the Netherlands, the new President of AAILN, Mr. S. Kasiem, gave permission to Mr. Hoeseni to present the first copy of
the newly published Dutch translation of Manual of Hadith to Hazrat Ameer Abdul Kareem.

**Courses on Islam**

Ever since the inception of our organization we have been holding courses on Islam. The main course at the moment is on the *Religion of Islam*. In between there was a course on the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam and with the starting of the chapter on Prayer an imam course has been started simultaneously. All the courses are given by Mr. R. Ghafoer Khan in a very professional way. Most of the students are younger people.

**Eid-ul Adha**

Eid-ul Adha was celebrated on November 6 in the hall Tropical and was very well attended because it was on Sunday. The Khutbah was delivered in Dutch by Mr. Haroen Habiboellah. After the prayers the youth of our organization had a special program in the form of a quick course on Islam in our mosque building. Several important topics were explained and there were questions and answers in the form of a quiz. The young (as well as grown-ups) participated. This special youth session was very well attended.

**Book distribution to Surinam libraries with the help of Ivisep**

Before Ramadaan our organization started a book distribution campaign in Surinam with the co-operation of the Institute for Islamic Studies and Publications. Several books (*Holy Quran, Religion of Islam, Islam, Peace and Tolerance, Ahmadiyya Movement*) of Lahore were distributed free of charge to university, high school and public libraries, and also to some officials and institutions. A radio and television campaign was run concurrently to promote selling our books through bookshops in Surinam. We appreciate the cooperation of Ivisep.

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**News from the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Nigeria**

*Alhamdolillah!* The jamaat in Nigeria continues to do well. A list of activities is briefly outlined below:

**Distribution of the Holy Quran translation by Maulana Muhammad Ali.**

Altogether we received two consignments of 5,000 and 10,000.00 copies of the English translation of the Holy Quran by Maulana Muhammad Ali from the USA jamaat. From this stock, we sent 100 copies to Ghana and set aside another 1000 copies for South Africa.

The copies were delivered to our main Mosque in Lagos and many other Mosques far and wide. The Higher Institutions of Learning were also supplied with copies. Well known personalities and Christians as well received copies.

A senior lecturer from one of the Higher Institutions of Learning confirmed that Maulana Muhammad Ali’s English translation of the Holy Quran is included in their list of Islamic Books used for Lectures.

We still supply other Mosques and individuals on request. Maulana Muhammad Ali’s translation of the Holy Quran has been accepted as very authentic. The Book has been distributed among members and some admirers of the Ahmadiyya movement. Some copies were given to the Ahmadiyya (Qadiani) Jamaat. The distribution continues.

**The “Ahmadiyya Movement” and the “Split”**

Copies were distributed to the Ahmadiyya (Qadiani) Jamaat. Members of that Jamaat are very interested in the “Ahmadiyya Movement” and the “Split”.

**Other Pamphlets**

Other pamphlets on Islam are being regularly distributed.

**Our Activities**

In the last year we had the opportunity to “Turban” three Chief Imams for three of our Missions. There are regular Missionary activities resulting in converts joining our organization. Arrangements are being made for about 50 missionaries to attend classes by Dr. Noman Malik in January. The program will be finalized this December.

**Participants for the USA 2012 Convention.**

People are applying for visas for the USA 2012 convention. Members of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Nigeria residing in the United States have been regularly attending the USA annual convention for the past two years. Most have been family of Sister Rasheeda, the sister of the President of the Nigerian jamaat, Haji Lukhman Adebiyi. We are very impressed by her dedication to Islam and Ahmadiyyat. May Almighty Allah reward and bless all the people who sacrifice for Islam and ahmadiyyat.
Publication of A Manual of Hadith and other books by Maulana Muhammad Ali

The Dutch translation of A Manual of Hadith by Maulana Muhammad Ali has been printed and will be made available to the public through bookshops in the Netherlands, Belgium and Surinam as soon as possible. The Dutch version of Prayers from the Holy Quran has been printed as a pocket booklet. The Dutch version of Muslim Prayer Book was first published in 1995 and presently the third revised edition is being reprinted. There has been a long-standing demand for these books. Many more books are in the process of being checked and printed.