

*Bait-uz-Zafar Envoy* and *Nawae Zafar* is a monthly bilingual newsletter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of New York. For further information contact:  
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VOLUME 27, ISSUE IV

# Bait-uz-Zafar Envoy

JAMADI-UL-AKHIR / RAJAB 1436AH

## Up Coming programs

**APRIL 2015**

### Masih Maud day in Bait-uz-Zafar

**April 5 - Sunday** - Local Lajna meeting, Regional Ansar Ijtema

**April 11—Saturday**—MKA regional Ijtema

**April 12— Sunday**—Lajna Ijtema & Blood drive at 11am

**April 18— Saturday-** Regional Meena bazar

**April 19— Sunday**—Talim ul Quran at 5:45pm

**April 24 - 26** National Shura USA

**May 1st—3rd**—MKA Shura in Maryland

Tahir Academy and Gym Every Saturday 9:30am. No class on April 4<sup>th</sup>.



Masih e Maoood day was commemorated on Sunday March 22 at 5.30 PM. The day was rejoiced with a remarkable attendance which exceeded three hundred members, Alhamdulillah, Soon after Imam Daud Hanif led Asr

prayer the program started with the recitation of Holy Quran and translation by Waheed Ahmad. A melodious poem from Durr E Samin was tuned in a voice, by Hameed Ahmad sahib which reminded everyone of Late Saqib Zeervi sahab. Poem translation was given by Danial Ahmad

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A very interesting interactive program encompassing Promised Masiah AS in several aspects was conducted by Ahmad Mubarak sahab which he began establishing the truthfulness of Promised Masiah Alehissalam at the outset with Quranic and Hadith references and later opened it to the audience with meaningful questions which were responded very well, there were several participants:

- 1-Shoeb AbulKalam answered "What are some prophecies of the Promised Messiah (as) that have been fulfilled?"
- 2- Ghulam Rabbi Sahib threw light on " Is Ahmadiyyat a new religion as per the Promised Messiah?"
- 3-Nabeel Munir sahib came up with " What was the Promised Messiah's (as) vision about the spread of Ahmadiyyat

and victory of Islam through his community?"

5- Zulfiqar Sikder sahib gave his thought on 1. Is it true that saintly people do not exist in America? 2. What are the characteristics of saintly people? 3. Will this person recognize a saintly person if he/she came across one?

If yes, why? If no, why not?

6-Mahmood Bhutta sahib narrated the love of Promised Messiah with Holy Prophet peace and blessings be on him

7- Ahmad Mahmood Sahib promised gave brief description of Messiah's date of birth , date of his announcement regarding his claim of Mehdi e Maud, and about his truthfulness

8. Hadi Nasir sahib presented Zikr e Habib

Ahmad Mubarak sahib moderated it very sweet and short and finished in given time.

The only and elaborative concluding speech was delivered by Daud Hanif sahib who gave a satisfying account of the undeniable prophecies of Kasuf o Khasuf ( The eclipse of Sun & Moon in the month of Ramadhan, he answered questions as well and led both silent prayers, Salat Maghrib and Isha were offered, Ziafat team putting a lot of effort and time served a well prepared dinner to a full house.

-Ahmad Mubarak



Assalaam O Alikum

Our Beloved Huzoor (aba) wanted all Atfal & Nasirat born in 2005 or later, parents must contribute towards the blessed scheme of Therik-e Jadid for their child/ children. Parent must make a payment of \$10.00 to enroll in the Daftar Punjum. Whoever child/children did not received a letter can contact( President Sahib), or Secretary or Tehrik-e-Jadid at 917-822-5466, to get a copy of the letter.

Children born in 2005 and after are taking group photo in Bait-uz-Zafar

## **Ansar General Meeting:**



This month regular Majlis monthly meeting was held on Sunday March 1 at Bait-uz-Zafar. The theme of this month meeting: "Are we helping or hurting the standard of Purdah in our family?" The recitation of Holy Quran was done by Rashid Ahmad sahib from Chapter 24 Verse 32, Ansar Pledge by Zaeem sahib. The Hadith and its explanation related to the topic were explained by Mu-barak Ahmad Jamil sahib. The tafseer related to the topic from the writing of the Promised Messiah (AS) and Khalifa ul Massih religious guidelines were presented by Iqbal Ahmad sahib. Zaeem sahib along with Abdul Ghafoor and Mohammad Ahmad Choudry sahib discussed the questions relating to Tarbiyyat by holding the interactive discussion with all the members present and dis-

cussed their opinion of the topic of discussion. The discussion about the health was discussed by Atta ul Hasan sahib regarding the Obesity. The memorizations of the Holy Quran verses were taught by Rashid Ahmad sahibs which are part of syllabus to memorize.

All members present were reminded to offer congregational prayers at the mosque, Listening Hazoor Khutba, memorization of Sura Al-Naba, getting ready for Ijtema 2015, Paying Ansar chanda, Tahrik Jadid and Waqfe Jadid chanda, participation in Jama'at programs and distribution of the book "World crisis and pathway to Peace", also mention the medical services that Jama'at provide for the Jama'at members. The USA jalsa salana will be held on August 14, 15 and 16 in Harrisburg PA and national Ansarullah ijtema 2015 will take place from September 18 to 20.

The members are reminded about the Tabligh activity to participate in the Ghana day parade.

The meeting concluded with silent prayers and after Zuhr prayers lunch was serve to the members.

### Medical services

If you need to contact an Ahmadi doctor for prescription or second opinion about medical treatment please call 716-800-1889.

### Feed the hungry program:

During the month of March Ansar members volunteered for Feed the Hungry program at SNAP Center. SNAP is a social services agency providing for the needs of the senior citizens residing in the borough of Queens. Along with other services they are delivering 2700 meals a month. 15 man hours were spent.

The next local majlis Ijtema will be on Sunday April 5at 9:30 AM. Please plan to attend.

## **Jumma**

Jumma at Bait-uz-Zafar starts with first Azan at 1;00pm and second Azan at 1:15. Please by the second Azan as Sermon is part of the Jumma.

Isha is one hour after Maghrib as per Jama'at Salat timings. For other prayer timings please follow Calendar timings and kindly a habit to say at least one prayer in congregation along with your family at Bait-uz-Zafar.

## Tabligh Report

On March 4<sup>th</sup> a Christian group from Mormon faith visited Bait-Uz-Zafar. They were researching about Ahmadiyya in Islam. Jama'at gave a full detail of what Ahmadiyyat is in Islam. The meeting was very encouraging and interesting that it went on going for about two hours and at the end of the meeting they wanted to hold an interfaith meeting in the future with the Jama'at. They offered us to hold an interfaith meeting anytime in the month of May.

On March 13<sup>th</sup> an interfaith council held a conference on a small scale where clergy's from different faiths were invited to promote peace and the harmony in society. Jama'at presented their views and activities on the promotion of peace. All clergy's received a copy of Hu-zoor's book (World Crisis and Pathway to Peace).

On March 20<sup>th</sup> a group of West Indian imam and priest invited Jama'at to participate in the discussion. The topic of the discussion was on the status of woman in religion. Jama'at fully participated and handed each guest present a copy of "Muhammad (saw) Liberal for woman".

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> an interfaith council held a program at York College to celebrate Woman history month. In this event they had elected official's Queens Boro president State Congressman and local council members attend. Jama'at was assigned to welcome every guest by introducing the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Jama'at made many new contacts through this event. Each guest was given a Jama'at introductory card.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, New York chapter, organized an event to celebrate the 58th anniversary of independence of Ghana. This was an initiative of the National Tabligh department at the directives of Naib Amir Mahdi Sahib of USA. The event was held on Saturday, March 7th in the Bronx. The theme for the event was Freedom, Justice and the contribution of the Ahmadiyya community to the development of Ghana over its 58years of independence. Present at the event were dignitaries from the Bronx Borough President's office, Ghana Mission to the UN and Presidents of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community sub chapters from Brooklyn, Bronx and Queens. There was also a huge representation of the Ghanaian Ahmadiyya community with their friends and families. The chairman of the event Mr. Mahmud Ennin, started by inviting Mr. Majid Yanful to recite a portion of the Holy Quran followed by the National Anthem of Ghana and USA, led by Mr. Ahmad Kusi, head of the organizing committee.

Brother Ali Murtaza of Brooklyn gave a speech on Freedom and Justice with reference to the independence of Ghana. He emphasized on significance of the fight for independence by the great leaders of Ghana which brought about the freedom of the people of Ghana and motivated other African countries to also strive for their freedom. Brother Ali further highlighted the importance of freedom and Justice for all Humanity. Next was a presentation by the representative of the Bronx Borough President, Madam Aurelia Greene. She expressed her gratitude to the organizers for the invitation and proceeded to read an excerpt of the Independence Day message sent by President Obama to the Ghanaian President: Mr. John Mahama. Madam Greene ended her presentation by declaring that the doors of the office are open to serve all Ghanaians as well as the Ahmadiyya community in New York.



## Tabligh Report

Mr. Ahmad Kusi of Connecticut gave an elaborate account of the Contributions made by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Ghana. He laid emphasis on the socio-economic development of Ghana with reference to the building of multiple health centers and schools and other social amenities in the deprived areas of the country. He made mention of the immense contribution made by the first Amir and missionary-in-charge of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Ghana; Maulvi Wahab Adam of blessed memory to the Peaceful Democratic atmosphere that Ghana enjoys and is known for, all around the world.

The representative of the Ghana Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Harry Reynolds also graced the occasion and encouraged member of the Ghanaian community to consider investing in business opportunities present in Ghana.

He said his office has experts on various investments avenues in Ghana and there are no service fees. The Vice President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA Maulvi Daud Hanif, gave his final remarks for the event by reiterating the importance of Freedom and Justice for all mankind and encouraged all to strive and contribute in their own small ways to the benefit of all Mankind. Mr. Mahmud Ennin, the chairman of the event proceeded to read an excerpt of the Independence Day Speech delivered by the First President of Ghana Dr. Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah on the occasion of Ghana's historic Freedom and liberation from colonial rule.

The event came to an end with Mr. Nazir Ayaz, President of the Queens chapter, expressing his thanks and appreciation to all present and encouraged members to attend future occasions in their numbers. Imam Daud Hanif led the closing prayer and refreshments were served afterwards.

The event was covered by a media representative from AFRIC VISION NETWORK TV. Full coverage is available at <http://www.avntv.net/aramata-kone-marakalou-remix>.

## Registration for Ameen Ceremony held during Jalsa Salana USA 2015

- 1) Ameen Registration will close at end of day April 25th, 2015. Names will not be accepted after the deadline has passed.
- 2) The Department will assign mentors/teachers to the registered children. By April 30th, 2015 assigned mentors/teachers will contact parents to listen to the recitation of the registered children. Mentors will schedule mandatory practice time for each child.
- 3) It is the parents' responsibility to make sure their child has completed the first recitation of the Holy Qur'an by July 20th, 2015. The mentor/teacher will only help in correcting the pronunciation by reviewing basic rules and listening to short portions. The mentor/teacher will decide by July 20th, 2015 whether the child is ready for Ameen Ceremony or not and will inform parents accordingly.

## Khutba:

Do you listen to Hazoor's Friday sermon on regular basis. It is repeated several times on Friday and over the weekend. You can use your Mobile phone to listen to Kuthba as well and if you miss all that, you can retrieve Kuthba from archive on Alislam.org.

Congregation prayers in Manhattan:

Mohsin Shahid has arranged Saturday Fajr prayers in congregation at his apartment. Please contact him for details and attend.

## Jamia Awareness

On Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Queens Jama'at held a Jamia Awareness and Career Planning Workshop. Many people came to take part in this auspicious event and we also learned many new things about Jamia and how we can serve the Jama'at. The tilawat was recited by Danial Mahmood, which was followed by an introduction by Rizwan Alladin Saab. Rizwan Alladin Saab reminded us the importance of being waqf-e-nau and giving back to the Jama'at. However he also mentioned that non-waqf can give back to the Jama'at as well.

Following this introduction, we had a discussion on whether it made a difference of being waqf-e-nau and giving back to the Jama'at. As we all know waqf-e-nau children are specified to work in the Jama'at, however it is important for non-waqf children to also give back to the Jama'at because as whole we are Ahamdi. Additionally it was also argued that when it comes to career choosing it does not matter if you are waqf or non-waqf as long as you give back to the Jama'at in the end. Missionary Saab also added that a waqf-e-nau child couldn't deny working for the Jama'at, as it is a part of our duty.

Some of the parents also gave comments about parental involvement in their waqf-e-nau child's life. One parent pointed out that as a waqf-e-nau parent you must also dedicate yourself just as you dedicated your son or daughter. Additionally, although all parents are responsible for their children, waqf-e-nau parents have more responsibilities than that of a non-waqf parent.

As the program winded down to the jamia program, many of the boys took interest. One of the Jamia students who came to visit explained that we must learn religious knowledge and teach others. He further explained that there are so many problems in this world because people do now know religious knowledge and they do not know Islam. As we all know, Islam can bring peace throughout the world by teaching religious knowledge; this is why Jamia was created. Jamia was created to help prepare the young men of the Jama'at to spread their knowledge to the rest of the world. Additionally, Jamia is not only for waqf-e-nau boys, but for all boys. Huzoor also stated that the majority of waqf should join Jamia because we need to spread the message of Islam in every country, town and city. Jamia is a very large responsibility that comes with many blessings.

A fifth year Jamia student also came up and shared his story. The young man from Jamia gave great advice to the young men and also reminded everyone the importance of Salaat. He stated: namaz is like a car that takes you to Allah. He continued by saying that when man walks towards Allah; Allah runs towards him. He recalled that when he was younger, his mother would force him to read Quran and to pray, and it was during this path of walking to Allah that allowed Allah to run to him.

Another Jamia student explained that dedicating yourself to this religion would be the greatest career, regardless of what you become when you are older. He continued by saying that when he was a 11<sup>th</sup> grader, he had not interest in joining Jamia. However, with time and guidance from Allah he decided to take on the 7-year task of Jamia.

There was also a video on the everyday life of a Jamia student, which showed which type of environment, the boys of Jamia are growing up in. The link is as follows <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKe3QUBJ-EY>.

There was then a discussion on how to "survive school". In this segment the girls sent their advice to the mens side and it was discussed between both the men and women. The even closed with some closing remarks, and silent prayer.

*By: Mohammed Mahmood and Amara Mahmood*

## Finance

Following up on Huzur ABA's guidelines and National Ameer sahib USA's instructions, the Finance Department is observing March as the "Lazmi Chanda Collection Month". March 2015 is the third quarter of this fiscal year 2014-15. The Finance Department is requesting all membership to make every effort this month to fulfill at least 75% of their yearly budget in all 3 categories (Wassiyat, Chanda Aam & Jalsa Salana) by the end of the month. Please feel free to reach out to either Muhammad Goraya or Tahir Sheikh, if you have any questions regarding this.

The March 2015 meeting started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Rehana Shehzad. It was followed by a Hadith read by Mahwish Ahmad. After the opening session, Tahmina Rafiq, our Taleem secretary, discussed the Annual Lajna Imaillah Taleem test for the year 2015. She discussed the content of the test and further elaborated by showing Lajna members how to go about completing the test online.

The Taleem program continued with Tahmina Rafiq reading the translation of Surah Al-Isra, verse 31. "And do not kill your children for fear of poverty. We provide for them and for you. Indeed their killing is ever great sin" She also explained, the best legacy from a mother to a child is Taqwa. As mothers have the responsibility of training the future generations, they should instill Taqwa in their kids. She stated that many people are entering the fold of Ahmadiyyat. It this becomes our responsibility to become examples and show them through our actions what Ahmadiyyat really is.

Afterwards, Alina Ahmad shared some important points taken from the Friday Sermon of July 27, 1991 by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (ra). She summarized it by stating that the Love of God is the solution to all problems. The Tarbiyyat program was then led by Farah Ahmad. She discussed the Friday sermon delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V on February 13, 2015. "Essence of Conscious Nation Building". She explained that an individual is only an element of a community and a communal shortcoming cannot be rectified by reformation of just one element. Our surroundings impact on our actions; different individuals are affected in different ways. While it is important for each individual to self-reflect, it is also important to reflect on communal shortcomings and rectify them. Hazrat Musleh Maud (may Allah be pleased with him) said that with reference to Ahmadiyya Jama'at it can be beneficial if the Jama'at reflects over the nation's shortcomings and remedies them.

After the Tarbiyat Program, Sadr sahiba made some announcements about the upcoming events. The Nasirat Ijtema was held on March 15th. There was a successful Interfaith program on March 21st and the annual local Lajna Ijtema will be held on April 12th. The syllabus for the Lajna Ijtema was handed out. She also announced that a bi-weekly Quran Tajweed class will be held. Every Saturday the class will be conducted by Rashida Momin and every Thursday, Rehana Ahmed will conduct the class after Maghrib prayer. The final announcement was that Lajna members are able to use the gym that will be available for their use on every 2nd and 4th week of the month. The meeting concluded with silent prayer led by Sadr sahiba.

By: Homaa Hamid

## **Lajna Interfaith 2015: The Pathway to Peace**

By the grace of God, the Queens Lajna held their annual Interfaith program at Bait-u-Zafar on March 21st, 2015. All Lajna members were encouraged to invite guests of various faiths to this program. The Lajna had invited six guest speakers of different faiths and denominations to give their input on the theme of the event which was, "The Pathway to Peace". Speakers were asked to share their views on how we can achieve peace in our lives and in the world through religion.

Our first speaker was Dr. Sumita Kaufhold who has worked as an educator for over 34 years. She is the director of Curriculum and School Improvement in a New Jersey school district and has been recognized for her achievements in her area by the Associate Commissioner of Academics at the New Jersey State Education Department. Dr. Kaufhold spoke primarily about how women can achieve peace. One of the many points she made was that both inner peace and community peace come from creating a strong union with God. She also mentioned that conflict exists because people do not want to understand others and that tolerating others is not enough to move towards a peaceful world.

Our next speaker was Rabbi Randy Ellen Sheinberg, who serves as the rabbinic leader of Temple Tikvah and has served as a rabbi in New York for the past 15 years. She spoke about how women can work on maintaining peace within themselves and their families. Rabbi Sheinberg expressed her belief that no religion can expand or succeed unless there are women who teach it to their offspring and pass its lessons on to future generations.

The third speaker was Remi Alapo who works as the Director of the Institute for Peace and Transformational Leadership. Along with working with a number of various Interfaith groups in New York and the United Nations, Remi is the Interreligious Ambassador and U.S. country representative for the Global Education for All Initiative Working on Peace Education and Muslim/Christian conflict resolution in Nigeria. Her work is focused on issues dealing with gender based equality and helping the girl child. She emphasized that women must support one another and move beyond color and financial gains in order to create an environment where women can help establish peace.

The next speaker was Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely, a highly regarded Educator and Stateswoman in Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States of America. Throughout her life she has worked diligently on empowering women, battling racism and discrimination, and solving problems faced by the impoverished. Dr. Blakely has continuously worked with the United Nations in dealing with issues regarding women, children, and human rights. She expressed that women can excel on the Pathway to Peace by balancing the family. She also made a point that a mother must be at peace with herself and the world to bring about life.

Next, speaker Joyce A. Denny, started by explaining how we as women have always been leaders in our communities and that we have a lot of power we don't use. She also emphasized that women have the power to foster peace in this world as long as we understand and respect other women and their religions and cultures.

Our final speaker was our own Regional Lajna Sadr, Bushra Butt. Sister Bushra Butt is a librarian at Stony Brook University in the capacity of Head of Cataloguing and Metadata Services. She has served the Ahmadiyya Muslim community for the past 31 years in the varying roles of local president, local vice-president, regional president, social secretary, handicraft secretary, and education secretary. She is also involved with the Women's Concern's Committee of Stony Brook University where she educates women of their rights and how they can cope with various issues. Sister Bushra Butt concluded the discussion by discussing the view of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community on achieving peace in the world. She referred to Friday sermons and the advising's of our beloved Huzur (aba) to convey her point that peace and justice go hand in hand and that recently the balance between the two has been disturbed, leading to a tumultuous society.

The meeting concluded with snacks and refreshments prepared by the Lajna Ziafat. Jazakallah to all of the volunteers who made this event possible.

### **Financial statements:**

The Finance Secretary sent out statements to all earning members. Please review and act accordingly. We are in the last quarter of the fiscal year and need to complete our pledges. Pay particular attention to Jalsa Salana fund. It is also obligatory Chanda along with Wasiyyat/ Chanda Aam.

### **Jama'at Shura USA:**

The Shura is due to take place towards the end of April and the following will represent our Jama'at along with Imam Daud Hanif sahib and the president: Ahmad Mubarak, Aslam Mohammad and Nabeel Munir. If anyone would like to attend shura as observer, please obtain form to seek Amir sahib's permission.

One corporation has donated computers to our Jama'at that mostly will be used in Tahir Academy. Each class will have computers in their classes for research purposes only. We are grateful to Kashif Chaudhry to make this donation possible.

### **Community awareness:**

Do you have smoke detector in your home that is working and please do not leave open flame at any time. If you are giving bath to infant never leave the infant unattended, not even for few seconds. Never leave children under 12 years old alone without adult supervision.





### Khuddam Report:

1. Sunday, March 29, 2015 Atfal and Khuddam held local Ijtema where attendance was more than 65
2. Sunday, March 29, 2015 talim workshop was held
3. Sports are held every Saturday after Tahir academy. – 4 times a week
4. Atfal class is held once a month – 1st Saturday and 3rd Saturday
5. Soccer, race, basketball, tug of war was held during Ijtema for Khuddam and atfal
6. Fajr Fit – On Sunday mornings followed by Dars
7. Security Awareness program was held in masjid where NYPD Udnan Ahmad, and Ali Naeem, who works as TSA supervisor gave talk on how to conduct security in masjid.
8. Provided security during Jumma, and other Jama'at events
9. Held Tarbiyyat discussion in Khuddam meeting
10. One Khadim was helped in getting a permanent official job from doing low pay job.
11. Khuddam donated food in a local church
12. Provided job openings to all Khuddam via email.
13. Held clothing drive in masjid
14. Book study club held on 3 Fridays in February, where How to be Free from Sin, Victory of Islam was completed and started reading Three questions by a Christian.
15. Tarbiyyat discussions on various topics were discussed and the importance of Friday sermon was discussed in the Khuddam general meeting.
16. Khuddam visited fellow khadim who was hospitalized.

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