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Masjid Nasir Newsletter

Quran: *يٰۤاَيُّهَا اٰدَمُ خُذُوْا زِيْنَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَكُلُوْا وَاشْرَبُوْا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوْا ۗ اِنَّهٗ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِيْنَ (۷:۳۲)*

O children of Adam! take your adornment at every *time and* place of worship, and eat and drink, but be not immoderate; surely, He does not love those who are immoderate. (7:32)

Hadith: *عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عُمَرَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ :
الْإِقْتِصَادُ فِي النَّفَقَةِ نِصْفُ الْمَعِيشَةِ وَالتَّوَدُّدُ إِلَى النَّاسِ نِصْفُ الْعَقْلِ
وَ حُسْنُ السُّؤَالِ نِصْفُ الْعِلْمِ -*

'Abdullah bin 'Umar, may Allah be pleased with them, relates that the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:

"Moderation in spending is half the art of living; friendliness towards people is half of wisdom; and the right method of enquiry is half of learning." (Baihaqi)

Words of the Promised Messiah *as*:

"We are sent into the world with many faculties and every faculty demands that it should be used on its proper occasion."

Our spiritual life resembles our physical life to a large degree. It is our experience that the use of only one type of food and medicines would upset our health. If we were to confine ourselves over a period to the use of cooling articles of diet and refrain altogether from the use of warming articles, we would become a prey to some diseases like paralysis, Parkinson's disease or epilepsy. On the contrary, if we confine ourselves to warming articles of diet, so much so that even the water that we drink must be warm, then equally we would be liable to some other kind of disease. Consequently, in order to maintain our physical health we must keep a balance between hot and cold, hard and soft, and movement and rest. We should follow

the same rule in respect of our spiritual health. God has bestowed no evil faculty upon us. Indeed no faculty is evil in itself; it is the misuse of a faculty that is evil. For instance, envy is evil but if we use it for a good purpose, that is to say, as a competition in goodness, it becomes a high moral quality. The same is the case with all moral qualities. Their misuse renders them harmful and their use on proper occasion in a moderate manner makes them beneficial.

"Their misuse renders them harmful and their use on proper occasion in a moderate manner makes them beneficial."

Essence of Islam, Vol 1, p 13-4 (3rd Edition)

Abstracts from Huzur's Friday Sermon of August 24th, 2007

Increasing materialism, non-belief, natural disasters and Divine chastisement

Huzur said increasing materialism has taken mankind away from moral values, religion and God. There are very few people who appreciate that all the blessings in this world are from God and it is Him alone who has given man the capacity to invent things to facilitate convenience and safety. Rather than be grateful people are increasingly opting for self-gratification and religion and God are subject to open derision. Atheism is on the increase and books purporting it are best-sellers. Many of these people are helpless in the sense that their religion has not given them the inner-peace that can not be attained apart from the One, Living God. There is also a section of people who are so prejudiced against Islam that they daily churn out objections about Islam as well as the Holy Prophet (SAW) in avant-garde ways. They associate extremely far-fetched things with the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Prophet (SAW).

Huzur said it is the obligation of each Ahmadi to not only respond and refute the objections raised by the opponents but also to thank those

who still uphold high moral values. Huzur said the message of God should be taken to people and the reasons of the chaos in the world explained to them; it should be explained to them that peace of mind is not in the bedazzlement of this world, or in intoxicants, it is only to be found in turning to God. Those who exceed all limits and in particular show aggression to Islam should also be reached and told not to provoke the sense of honour of God. Explain to them the natural disasters occurring around the world are a warning that no one is safe in the world.

Huzur said the world is deeply absorbed in materialism, both in the East and the West, then there is the vulgarity. All this provokes the wrath of God. Each Ahmadi should take the message of Islam to the world, to the Muslims as well, who reject the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) despite the signs of his truthfulness. Huzur said a review of the last 100 years shows that natural disasters occurring in this period were far greater in number than natural disasters occurring in the previous 1,200 years. This year again, Huzur said there have been so many natural disasters. This is a

warning. An Ahmadi, having brought about a pure change in himself/herself, needs to take this message to the world. Huzur enumerated all the disaster occurring around the world in this year so far.

All this, Huzur said is indicative that Allah's decree is on in motion that that people should take note and not exceed limits, just as Huzur said the Quranic verse (16:46) he cited at the beginning of the sermon refers to. Lessons should be learnt from these relatively smaller natural disasters by people from the East and the West and people of all religions. Huzur said indeed the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) had said that had his advent not taken place the [natural] disasters could have been deferred, otherwise he had indeed declared that Europe, Asia or the Oceania, none were safe, that Allah was unhurried in His wrath and people should pay heed so that they are shown mercy.

Abstracts obtained from summary of khutba on alislam.org. Readers are encouraged to listen to the complete sermon for a thorough understanding.

Announcements from Sadr (President) Philadelphia Jamaat

- I would urge all members to continue the blessings of Ramadhan by regularly attending Jummah and continuing all good habits they attained during Ramadhan.
- Since the date of Khilafat Centenary is only months away (May 26th, 2008), we need to make extra special prayers as outlined by our beloved Imam.
- All members need to give urgent importance to paying in the Khilafat Centenary Fund. Philadelphia Jamaat has been given the target of collecting \$37,000. Many projects are depending on the collection of these funds, as Ameer sahib explained at the Jalsa Salana.

Remarks of Sadr Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, Nigeria

On the night of October 17, a unique gathering took place at Nasir Mosque. The National Sadr (President) of Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya in Nigeria addressed the Philadelphia Jamaat

and Khuddam in particular. His numerous advices should cause us to reflect at our past performance and the road ahead. He provided an unbiased critique of our progress as compared to the Jamaats in Nigeria. All who

attended were enlightened and felt spiritually uplifted upon receiving his advice on different aspects of carrying out our responsibilities as Ahmadies. Following are some notes to help us remember his words of encouragement and thus act upon his guidance:

-In the sphere of our professional life, we must go into our areas of specialization and interject Islam and spread Islam throughout our work force.

-He urged us to be well prepared for all circumstances, for when preparation meets opportunity, then success is achieved.

-We must not feel comfortable. We must strive because if we strive, then we will meet success.

-A Muslim should never quit.

-God advises us to strive

-He narrated a saying of Hazrat Ali, where he stated that if one really wants to achieve spirituality and save himself from the fire, then there is no way that he would sleep at night;

in other words, he would occupy himself in prayer during the hours when most rest.

-You are not the clothes you wear, you are not the image you present,



you are not what you say, you are not who you are because of your nation but rather you are what you put yourself to be.

-John Locke stated that we are dwarfs standing upon the shoulders of giants. Sadr sahib further elaborated upon this quote by pointing out that we Ahmadies are here in Philadelphia as a result of the great sacrifices made by our forefathers. We must pray for them and prepare ourselves to strive like them.

-He narrated to us a story about a British thinker who traveled to the Middle East. Upon returning from his travels this British man later on wrote about the Middle Eastern or Muslim people in a long poem wherein he said that Muslims are extremely strong in faith, steadfast and do not falter when a task is put upon them to perform. Saheed sahib, Sadr MKA Nigeria, urged that we should live up to this ideal of perseverance.

-In another example, Sadr MKA

Nigeria broke down the literal definition of Promised Messiah's name. He explained that "Ghulam Ahmad" means servant or student of Ahmad. Hazrat Masih Maud (as) is the student of Ahmad (an attribute of Holy Prophet). He is the boy of Ahmad; his father is the Holy Prophet (SAW). In this context, he urged all Khuddam to following the Promised Messiah by becoming the servant of Ahmad.

-God told us that we have two days in our lives, a day of good and a day of bad. On the day of bad, we begin lamenting and disbelieving in God. We must not do that. We must learn from the student of Ahmad to become the teacher of Ahmad.

-He asked, where is the American Jamaat? We have not been able to retain our American brothers. Why? We need to ask ourselves, are we true Ahmadies? Are we true representatives of Ahmad? Do we follow all the conditions of Ba'it? We



talk about the contribution of Jamaat, but we must ask about our contribution. We need to ask, how did I contribute to Jamaat today?

-He explained that Tabligh in Nigeria is to convert a friend. Our friends are sometimes the hardest to convince,

Continued on Page 4

Cont. Remarks of Sadr MKA, Nigeria

but we have their love and respect and we must convert them. We must show them the light in us. We must show them our spirituality.

-Sadr Sahib met with a famous Professor of Religion at Temple University who wrote over 75 books in fifty years and all he knows about Ahmadiyya Jamaat is one thing: one of our members won the Nobel Prize. That one thing explains it all, he said. But, we need to focus on them and show them Ahmadiyyat. It looks like we are not doing our job if a Professor of Religion for the past 50 years in this city does not know about Ahmadiyyat.

We must not feel comfortable. We must strive because if we strive, then we will meet success.

-Throughout his speech he reminded us that, as Khuddam, these are challenges we must meet.

-He concluded his lecture with a quote from Jesus (a.s.), "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now."

Brief bio of Saheed sahib, Sadr MKA Nigeria:

-He is part of a Fulbright Program for the Center of International A Scholars by the Department of State. He filed for his application back in January and was among 700 applicants for 10 scholar spots to come to the USA to discuss inter-religious dialogue and conflict resolution. When the selection process narrowed down to 100, he started to pray. It reduced to 50, 25 and then at 13, he knew he was going to get it. At the end, he was the only person chosen from all of Africa, the one person

who is an Ahmadi, to be a scholar in this matter. He gave talks all over the country, at different synagogues, churches and Mosques. He gave presentations at schools and conducted research.

- Although he is Professor of Arabic Literature and Sadr MKA Nigeria, he is still able to captivate the attention of his audience for prolonged periods of time which was full of humorous moments.

- He received his PhD from the oldest university in Nigeria and now teaches at Lagos State University.

-For tabligh in Nigeria, he routinely goes to different towns with a loudspeaker and draws people out of their homes to sit in front of him and discusses Islam and Ahmadiyyat. He faces no clashes, but faces interest.

We would like thank Safer Bhatti sahib and Asad Chaudhary sahib for compiling the notes from this meeting.

Tabligh Tips

By: Sister Nusrat Rashid sahib

"And abuse not those whom they call upon besides Allah, lest they, out of spite, abuse Allah in their ignorance..." Al-Anam, verse 109.

During his Khutba on June 22, 2007, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V discusses this verse, summarized as follows by Alislam.org: "... Allah has taught us profound ways of courtesy and consideration to keep peace by enjoining not to revile the idols of the idolaters lest they insult Allah in response. This despite the Islamic philosophy which holds idols as incapable of anything. To respond each insult with an insult is to invite insult. Therefore our response

should be sagacious. A Muslim has a most heightened sense of honour for Allah therefore in reviling the idols of others if a Muslim invites insult to Allah then he/she is responsible for it. Muslims today should make this teaching widespread, as for those [non-Muslims] who do not desist under any circumstances; it is their misfortune that their deeds are made attractive to them. However, eventually they have to return to God and will get their recompense."

Whenever we talk to non-Muslims about Islam, we should remember

this verse of the Holy Qur'an – we should never ridicule or demean the teachings of another religion. We should present clear argument about the truth of Islam, always remembering to treat the doctrines of other religions with respect, even though we may disagree with them. We should develop a manner of dialogue that is honest, candid and straightforward, yet does not insult the other religion or the person who believes in that religion. In this way, we ensure that we always serve as examples of the loving and peaceful nature of Islam.

"To respond each insult with an insult is to invite insult."

Tabligh Update

By the grace and mercy of Allah, Tabligh efforts in Philadelphia are at 100 percent. We are utilizing all forms of communication to spread the beautiful, peaceful, and loving message of Ahmadiyyat, the true Islam.



Besides the routine tabligh trailer outings, we have also scheduled a program to feed the elderly at a location nearby the Masjid on November 22nd, Thanksgiving day. The administration of the shelter has published the Jamaat's name on their calendar for that day.

For the first 2 Tuesdays of November, we have planned to conduct a live radio broadcast in the city of Philadelphia. This will be a test run to see the feasibility of such programs for the purpose of Tabligh. It is scheduled for Tuesdays from 7pm to 8pm on

900 am WURD. For listeners outside of Philadelphia, live audio streaming will be available online at www.900amwurd.com. The program is titled: "Voice from Heaven" by Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Another project, that is in the planning stage, is advertising using SEPTA signage inside buses, trains, and trolleys. Further updates on this project will be provided in future "Tabligh Update."

Ishaat (Publication) Department Update

The Ishaat Department team welcomes all your comments and recommendations regarding the Jamaat's newsletter. The feedback we have received has been a tremendous help in improving the quality of articles and regularity of this newsletter.



One of our goals is to inspire Ahmadi youth to become great writers. Soon these youths will have the tremendous responsibility of defending Islam using all forms of media, including print. Please contact your Nazim Atfal or Secretary Nasirat for ideas and topics to write about.

Our goal is to keep you informed of Jamaat activities coming up along with providing a complete report on what has been happening in Philadelphia Jamaat. Al-Hamdu-lillah, our Jamaat is very active and has numerous programs lined up throughout the year. We want to encourage you to take active part in as many of these programs as possible. There is sure to be a program every week/month to arouse your interest.

For the month of December, we are trying a new approach to increase involvement from members that are artistically talented. Insha-Allah, we plan to have a drawing competition related to the theme of December issue, which is Hajj and Eid-ul-Adhia.

As a convenience to our readers, we are in

the process of updating our online site at www.ahmadiyya.us under the Philadelphia chapter page. Soon, insha-Allah, you will be able to see the most up-to-date schedule of events for Philadelphia Jamaat along with access to view/download pictures from most major programs. We also plan to have PDF versions of this and future newsletters and Jamaat program flyers made available online. In the meantime, as a test-run, 113 pictures from our Eid-ul-Fitr 2007 program are made available on our temporary site: www.phillyjamaat.googlepages.com



Humanity First Philadelphia Report on Meal Program/Soup Kitchen

By: Saadat Abdullah

At Ansarullah Ijtema 2005 respected Amir sahib instructed us to start this program. We pitched in the meal program at Eastern Delaware Life Center's Adult Shelter at Upper Darby, Pa and also provided free food in Philadelphia's streets to less fortunate. We started this program at the beginning of Ramadhan 2005 (October 2005)

Meal program at adult shelter feeds hungry people every day for free.

About 50 to 100 people are served at lunch time and 200 to 300 at dinner time.

About 50 different organizations take part in this program.

Last year in 2006 about 75,000 meal were served without spending a penny of tax payers.

We generally provide 500 to 800 servings every month.

Many members of Philadelphia Jamaat have participated in this program.

President, Mujeeb Chaudhary sahib personally supervised this program.

Zaim Ansarullah, Fazal Ahmed Sahib, Qaid Kuddam Madeel Abdullah, social sectary Khuddam, Maqbool Ahmed Bhatti Sahib and Social Sectary Lajna, Shafiqah Haroon



Sahiba have provided great support.

From time to time different volunteers have helped us.

On average we have had 4 to 8 volunteers at a time. The include:

1. Chaudhary Mujeeb Sahib
2. Syed Fazal Ahmed Sahib
3. Madeel Abdullah sahib
4. Maqbool Ahmed Bhatti sahib
5. Sister Shafiqah Haroon sahiba
6. Br. Hussain Abdul Aziz sahib
7. Br. Masroor Ahmed Sahib
8. Br. Yayah Mohammad Nashid Sahib.
9. Br. William Sahib
10. Br. Yousaf Habib Sahib
11. Br. Rafique Ahmed Sahib
12. Tillal Ahmed
13. Khwaja Mohsin sahib
14. Malik Naweed sahib
15. Malik Sohail Ahmed sahib
16. Mr. Fuji (non muslim friend)
17. Tariq Shaheen (non Ahmadi friend)
18. Sabahat Abdullah

Calendar of Events: November 2007

Post this calendar at your work & home.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Fajr 6:03 Zuhr 12:45 Asr 4:23 Maghrib 6:04 Isha 7:19				1	2	3 Regional Waqfe Nau Ijtima at York	
Fajr 5:11 Zuhr 11:45 Asr 3:15 Maghrib 4:56 Isha 6:12	4 Daylight Saving Time Ends Jamaat General Meeting at 11am	5	6 Talim ul Qur'an & Arabic class 6:30pm to 8:30pm	7 Da'een Tabligh Meeting 7pm to 8:30pm.	8	9	10 Class with Imam Kausar: 4pm to 6:30pm
Fajr 5:19 Zuhr 11:45 Asr 3:08 Maghrib 4:49 Isha 6:06	11	12	13 Talim ul Qur'an & Arabic class 6:30pm to 8:30pm	14 Da'een Tabligh Meeting 7pm to 8:30pm.	15	16	17
Fajr 5:27 Zuhr 11:46 Asr 3:03 Maghrib 4:43 Isha 6:01	18 Starting at 11am: All Auxiliary Meetings & Classes.	19	20 Talim ul Qur'an & Arabic class 6:30pm to 8:30pm	21 Da'een Tabligh Meeting 7pm to 8:30pm.	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24 Class with Imam Kausar: 4pm to 6:30pm
Fajr 5:35 Zuhr 11:48 Asr 2:59 Maghrib 4:39 Isha 5:58	25 Waqf-e-Nau Class at 11am	26	27 Talim ul Qur'an & Arabic class 6:30pm to 8:30pm	28 Da'een Tabligh Meeting 7pm to 8:30pm.	29 Monthly Jamaat Fasting	30	Every Sunday: Quran Class 10am